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## INTERIM REPORT

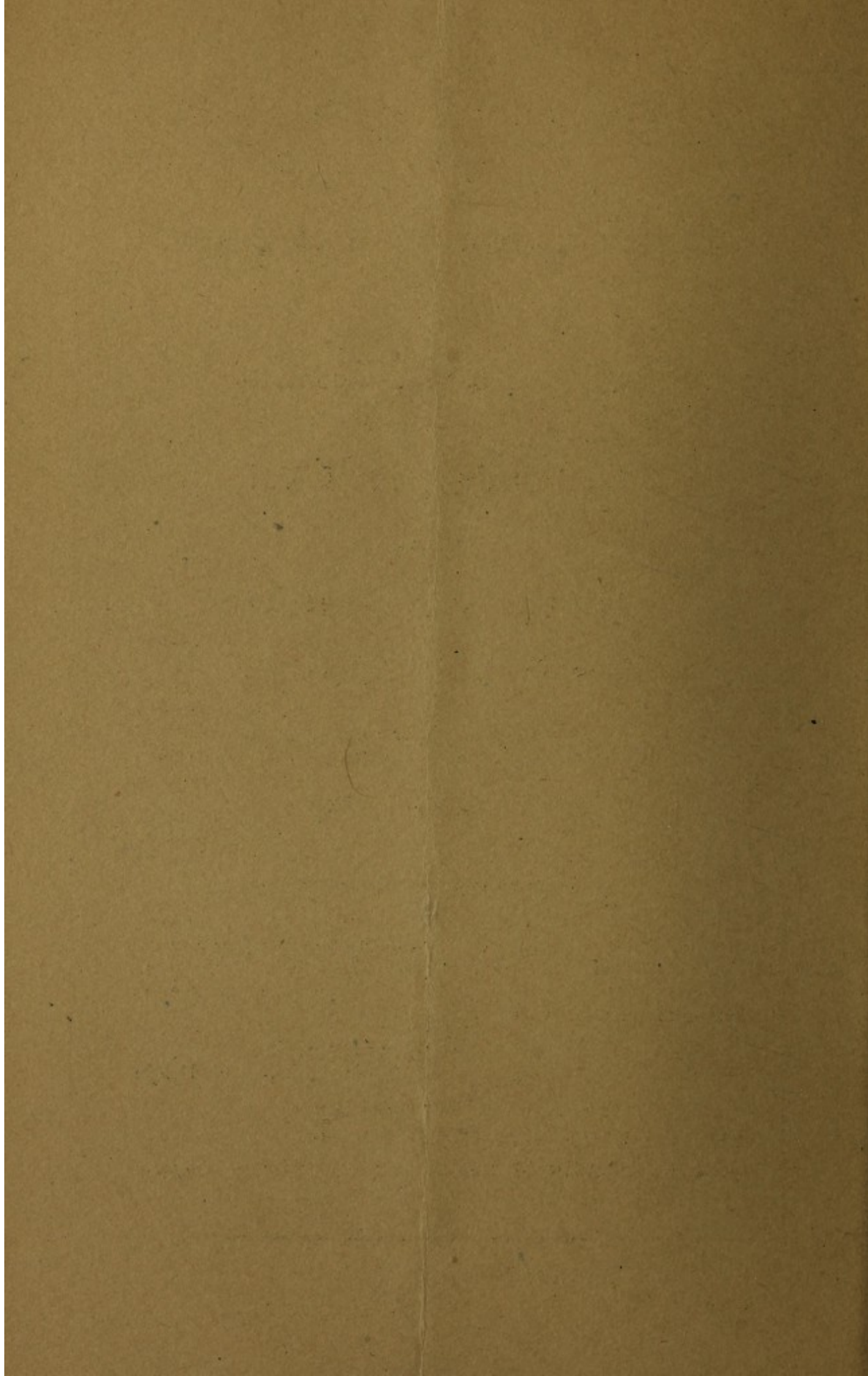
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HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CIRCUMSTANCES of the  
DAWLEY URBAN AREA

:: for the year 1945 ::

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Dawley Urban District Council

Despite the cessation of hostilities no change has been made by the Ministry of Health, and so this Report is again presented in an abbreviated interim form.

While there was a rise in the incidence and variety of infectious diseases over the year preceding, there was no approach to epidemicity, even in the case of Measles. This disease, which might have been expected to follow its biennial practice, evidenced itself with some frequency but, for this type of complaint, was limited in its proportions. Whooping Cough showed a marked decline but there were two deaths attributable to this infection. Scarlet Fever was present and showed a marked rise, due mainly to an outbreak which could be traced to a central focus in a school. Of the other diseases notified all were infrequent and do not justify comment.

The total in the Tuberculosis Register shows little change from preceding years. The Death Rate from this infection presents a marked fall and is lower than that of the country generally. Vital Statistics show that the Birth Rate is still higher than that of the country despite that the total number of births has fallen considerably. Returns show a number of illegitimate births, which may be accounted for by the presence of an Institution in the area, but this total also shows a decline. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the twelve months is almost double that of England and Wales. The General Death Rate maintains almost complete parity with that generally prevailing.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the area are dealt with in the relevant sections of this Report. Attention may here be directed to the progress in Housing and to the improvements made in the Scavenging and Ambulance Services.

The Medical Officer takes this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector for his close collaboration and loyalty in the working of the Health Department; this despite the many calls on his Office and the difficulty he experiences in keeping abreast of his clerical work.

W. A. M. STEWART,
M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

W. A. M. STEWART, *Medical Officer of Health.*

GEORGE P. TANNER, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., *Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.*

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	3,000
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ..	7,860
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to rate-books	2,278
Rateable Value	£18,960
Sum represented by one penny rate	£74
Persons per acre	2.32

POPULATION.

It will be noted from the Registrar General's Return that the estimated population remains stable. It is felt, however, that the close association of the Town with large industrial enterprises should lead to growth, given housing facilities. Not only does this apply to such industries as are within the compass of the Urban Area but also those in close proximity within the authority of neighbouring districts.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS.	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	68	64	132
Illegitimate	4	10	14
Totals	72	74	146

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)	16.1

STILL BIRTHS.	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20
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DEATHS.	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Total number of deaths	52	39	91
Death Rate per 1,000 population			11.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			11.4

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	89
All Infants, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales)	46

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live legitimate births ..	76
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births ..	214

TOTAL NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS.

Legitimate	10
Illegitimate	3
Total	13

DEATHS. From

Cancer (all ages)	10
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tuberculosis (all forms)	2
Cancer	10
Intracranial vascular lesions	14
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	30
Respiratory Diseases	7
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	9
Violence	3

Section B.

General Provision for Health Services in the District

AMBULANCE.

As the result of a bequest to the Town a new ambulance, embodying all modern equipment, was acquired and came into use in the Midsummer. This vehicle is a considerable acquisition and offers to users the maximum comfort. In maintaining this service some difficulty has been experienced in providing drivers and also in maintaining running and repair work. Garaging also has presented a problem. As the County Authority are anxious to establish a service forming a unit for the whole of their administrative area and as preliminary talks are in progress on the matter of the formation of a larger ambulance authority locally, *i.e.*, by several authorities combining, it is hoped that such difficulties as have been met with in the Town will be overcome by such merger. It is confidently anticipated that, in addition, greater efficiency will be the result. At the moment the ambulance is being used not only by the townsfolk but also on calls from neighbouring authorities in close proximity. Little change has been made in the charges, with the exception of

instituting a cost for waiting — a department of the service which was liable to abuse.

MORTUARY.

The present facilities are of a make-shift character. At one time postmortems were conducted in an anteroom of the local hall and now in premises originally used for A.R.P. purposes. A small sum is given by the County Authority for maintenance. It is hoped that better facilities will be able to be offered and adequate accommodation provided — if need be by Joint Authority effort.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

SCAVENGING.

There are two vehicles in use for refuse collection ; both motor driven. As one of these has been added in the current year this addition has reflected itself in a speeding up of the collections. A complete service is now given every 10 days. To meet the difficulties of night-soil collection, again, a new metal-container waggon has been bought. This is a great improvement on its predecessor. As in the war years labour difficulties have been the main problem and this particularly in relationship to night soil collection. It is, however, satisfactory to note that on the estimation of work completed at the end of the year the total showed considerable increase.

As has been stated before the Authority has extended its area of service beyond that of its boundary to meet the need of a neighbouring Authority and this service is still being maintained. At the moment there are four major areas for tipping and with this number of tips there is difficulty in giving a controlled service as is desired. An additional handicap is the disposal on the sites of rubbish by unauthorised persons. This has presented a considerable problem to the Council where the tip is situated close to the Town centre. The Authority is doing all that it can to enforce a standard type of dustbin and to accelerate this is purchasing a stock of receptacles which householders can buy at reasonable rates. It is hoped that advantage will be taken of this or steps may have to be taken to make the dustbin an additional authority controlled service and have it paid for from an additional rate collection.

SALVAGE.

This is under the control of the Council who receive co-operation from the Women's Voluntary Service. These collections are limited and are largely made up from rags, bones and paper.

The periods of collection vary from fortnightly to monthly, depending on the districts. On special request private collections of salvage are received at once. The total expense incurred is almost balanced by the receipts from sale of the collections.

VERMIN.

Attention has been directed chiefly to sewer infestations where, on the order of the Ministry of Food, an onslaught was made and the results were reported as highly satisfactory. While no major infestation of rats has been reported such evidences of their presence in lesser numbers is reported to the Sanitary Inspector, who in turn advises the County Authority who deal with this problem. Your Officer has attended meetings at Shrewsbury, where instruction has been given on methods of control and the eradication of these pests as they arise.

No actual cases of bug-infested houses have been reported. Attention has, however, been directed to homes invaded by fleas and these outbreaks have been dealt with and the invaders eliminated.

On a number of occasions clothing and soft goods have been reported for cleansing and freeing from vermin, and resort has had to be made to the use of an insecticide. At the moment there is no disinfection plant in the area and dependence has to be placed on the courtesy offered by the County Authority of their service in Wellington. This lack of service might, advantageously, be removed by collaboration with neighbouring districts with the introduction of a station, jointly owned.

WATER.

The total water brought into the District during the year was 57,521,000 gallons, and this provided 20.05 gallons per person per day. The quality has been satisfactory as has been shown by sampling — one only being doubtful. The quantity has been short at times and this recurrence of an old difficulty gives rise to concern and dissatisfaction. This difficulty in flow can be accounted for by the pumping at the bore-holes in the neighbouring district from which the water is brought. In an effort to avoid a repetition of this trouble talks have taken place with another water-producing Authority with the view to introducing an additional service, and it is expected that this will be able to be carried into effect. With this addition areas not already provided would be served and, in addition, the general supply would be augmented. At the pumping station a change is to be made from the use of gas to electricity in driving the engines. The water is chlorinated before its entry into this area. Very few new connections have been made and no change can be reported in the number of standpipe users.

SEWERAGE AND DISPOSAL.

The method of disposal remains unchanged. At the Stirchley works some difficulty was experienced but, on attention, the effluent was reported as satisfactory with the exception of a high manganese content; the presence of this chemical could not be explained. Despite the continuance of the present arrangements it is confidently expected that the new works will be able to be started very shortly, as the retarding influences are lack of labour and material. With privies, again the exigencies of the times preclude their abolition but this is a work which is much in mind and will be undertaken as soon as permissible. It is fully appreciated locally that privies are liable to become a nuisance, a fruitful ground for fly-breeding and also a means to food infection, with consequent ill effects on consumers.

Section D.

Housing

The Council decided, finally, to take no measures to provide temporary houses. In this they were actuated by the lack of provision for solid fuel consumption, the homes being dependent on gas or electricity. In the matter of permanent houses plans have been passed and preliminary steps taken, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, to provide 40 homes immediately — these out of a group of 130 which are to be built at Malinslee. While none are as yet ready it is hoped that they will all be completed in the incoming year. In all, the Authority intends to build over 600 new houses within the next few years which should bring the total property Council-owned to some 1,100 dwellings. Of the aforesaid 600 houses tenants will be provided from a waiting list of applicants, of which there are now some 500, while the remainder will be of displaced persons from homes scheduled for slum-clearance or demolition. Shortage of labour and material still hinders repairs. Although the Council Property has been well served by reason of the use of direct labour and some degree of priority in obtaining replacements private owners have been more badly affected. With this position the service and enforcement of notices has been greatly impeded.

There are a few caravans and shed dwellings scattered over the District, but few complaints have arisen as a result of these. It is felt, however, that the adoption of standard byelaws would facilitate administration in this connection and give the control needed.

In response to the request of the Ministry of Health notice was given of the need of registration of rooms for persons without homes, but no replies were received. This would seem to indicate

that the maximum capacity of housing of the populace has been reached and it may be that a truer position is that the present dwellings are very considerably overtaxed.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

No change has been made in the service of meat to the District, which still comes from the Central Abattoir at Shrewsbury.

The Sanitary Inspector herewith appends a list of other foods which have been brought to his notice and which on examination has been found unfit for human consumption and so has been condemned and confiscated :—

Bacon and Ham	100½ lbs.
Butter	44½ lbs.
Cereals	67 lbs.
Cheese	16¼ lbs.
Meat and Offals	6½ lbs.
Pulses	80 lbs.
Sugar	42 lbs.
Tinned Goods	597 lbs.
Total		953¾ lbs.

FOOD CENTRE.

As a result of repeated representations from this Authority the County Council has now provided adequate sewerage and disposal to this Centre which supplies midday meals to schools in the neighbourhood. It still remains for additions and improvements to be carried out on the main building, but it is expected that these will be undertaken within the next few months.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The following is a list of the various producers and retailers in the area :—

Producers (Accredited)	5
Producers (Ordinary)	20
Retailers (Accredited)	5
Retailers (Pasteurised)	1
Retailers (Ordinary)	23

During the course of the year meetings were held at which the County Medical Officer attended to discuss the formation of a common system of conditions under which producers required to make improvements would, in making such changes, be able to satisfy not only the Local Authority but also that of the County and, in so doing, would in many instances be able to make direct application on such changes for a licence to produce a designated quality of milk. The conditions being formulated, a printed form of such was prepared.

FACTORIES.

These are subject to regular inspection. As a result of co-operation with the Factory Inspector, work has been able to be advanced in a local industrial establishment in the change from dry closet accommodation to the water carriage system. It is desirable that all works employing a quota of workmen should provide such facilities as standard. There have been no other complaints.

Section F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Allied Diseases

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of deaths :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Cases notified</i>		<i>Deaths</i>
	<i>1945</i>	<i>1944</i>	
Scarlet Fever	17	2	—
Whooping Cough	11	34	2
Measles	50	2	—
Pneumonia	7	9	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	1	—	—
Malaria (Recurrent) ..	1	—	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

Years	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Measles</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0	—	—	—	1	1	1
1	—	—	2	—	5	2
3	—	2	1	3	4	6
5	5	6	2	2	13	18
10	2	2	—	—	—	—

Years	<i>Pneumonia</i>		<i>Erysipelas</i>		<i>Cerebro-Spinal Fever</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0	1	2	—	—	1	—
5	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—

It is to be noted that during the year no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

SCABIES.

During the course of the year 23 cases have reported for special treatment, and of these 22 were dealt with at Newport, while the other reported to a military station. The convenience of the Centre at Newport has been greatly appreciated.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The annual return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the period ending December 31st, 1945, was as follows:—

	<i>Age over 1 year but under 5</i>	<i>5 years and over but under 15</i>
Number of Children immunised up to December, 1945 ..	106	25
Number of Children in District ..	717	1,260
Approximate percentage immunised	83%	87.3%

During the course of the year a change was made in the forms of return to the Ministry of Health. In place of the biannual percentage estimation a simplified return, disregarding percentages and taking notice of cases treated during the six months, has been adopted and, together with this, a complete estimation of the total protection provided in the area is required to be given. This change should lead to more accurate registration of this work and should, under a card-index system, be less liable to error.

The clinical administration is under the control of the County Authority, which advises the District of each case immunised and the latter are responsible for statistics and returns.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st, 1945, and the comparative figures for 1943 and 1944 are as follows :—

Year	Males		Females		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1945	37	38	39	32	146
1944	34	36	37	35	142
1943	36	36	38	34	144

New Cases: Pulmonary, 7; Non-Pulmonary, 2. Total, 9.

DEATH RATES.

	<i>Dawley</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population25	.47
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	—	.1
Total Death Rate (all forms)25	.57

There were two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (one male and one female).

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1945.

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25-35	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	2	—	1	1	—	—

CANCER.

The number of Deaths from Cancer in 1945 was 10 (5 males and 5 females).

	<i>Dawley</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
Death Rate per 1,000,000 living was ..	1272	1699
Death Rate per 1,000,000 living, 1944 ..	2669	1723

W. A. M. STEWART,

Medical Officer of Health.

17/7/46.

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1900-1950

Year	Male	Female	Total
1900	15.2	12.8	14.0
1905	14.5	12.2	13.4
1910	13.8	11.5	12.7
1915	13.1	10.8	12.0
1920	12.4	10.1	11.3
1925	11.7	9.4	10.6
1930	11.0	8.7	9.9
1935	10.3	8.0	9.2
1940	9.6	7.3	8.5
1945	8.9	6.6	7.8
1950	8.2	5.9	7.1

The number of deaths from cancer in 1945 was 10 1/2 million.

Year	Male	Female	Total
1900	15.2	12.8	14.0
1905	14.5	12.2	13.4
1910	13.8	11.5	12.7
1915	13.1	10.8	12.0
1920	12.4	10.1	11.3
1925	11.7	9.4	10.6
1930	11.0	8.7	9.9
1935	10.3	8.0	9.2
1940	9.6	7.3	8.5
1945	8.9	6.6	7.8
1950	8.2	5.9	7.1

W. A. M. STEWART

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1900-1950

The number of deaths from cancer in 1945 was 10 1/2 million.



