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DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

J. E. ROBINSON, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.),

For the Year, 1923,

with Abstracts of Reports of  
District Medical Officers of Health.

## VITAL STATISTICS. (See Table I.)

**Population.** The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Administrative County, in the middle of 1923 at 220,012, and this figure has been used as the basis of calculations in the Report, although I believe it to be an under-estimate of the population of the County. The population of the **Urban Districts** he estimates at 117,172 and of the **Rural Districts** at 102,840.

**Birth-Rate.** The nett number of births registered in the County was 3847, and the *nett* birth rate was 17.1. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 19.7.

<i>Rates in previous decennium :—</i>										
Year ..	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Birth-rate	18.9	18.1	18.6	19.1	15.8	15.9	16.	22.3	19.4	18.1

**Death-Rate.** The nett number of deaths registered in the County was 2520 and the *nett death rate* was 11.4. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

<i>Rates in previous decennium.</i>										
Year ..	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Death-Rate	11.6	11.5	14.2	13.9	14.7	15.2	13.7	11.8	11.4	12.7

**Chief causes of death in County.** These are :—Organic Heart-Disease, 398 ; Cancer, 324 ; Cerebral haemorrhage (apoplexy) 209 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 168 ; Bronchitis, 124 ; Influenza, 46 ; Arterio-sclerosis, 96.

**Infantile Mortality.** The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 222, a decrease of sixteen below the previous year. The infant death-rate is measured by the number of deaths per 1000 births. The number of births in 1923 was 3,847, and the infant death-rate was therefore 57. The rate for England and Wales was 69.

<i>Rates in previous decennium.</i>										
Year ..	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Infantile Mortality	72.	66.	81.	67.	68.	63.	66.	57.	53.	58.

The Infant Death-rate for the County is 12 below that of England and Wales, but a much lower figure should be reached. In the Urban Districts, the rate for Bridport is remarkably low, only two infants having died in the Town during the year. It is also very low at Swanage, where only three infant deaths occurred. Weymouth again shews a very low mortality. I consider the low rate in these districts is largely due to efficient health visiting. In the Rural Districts the lowest rate is in the Bridport Rural District, and there is also a very low rate in the Weymouth Rural District. There were no infant deaths in the small boroughs of Lyme Regis and Shaftesbury.

**Deaths among Illegitimate Infants.** The illegitimate births numbered 157. The deaths among illegitimate infants numbered 22 for the whole County, a death-rate of 140. Nine of the deaths of illegitimate infants occurred in the Borough of Poole (the illegitimate births were 28) and the remainder in the rest of the County, excepting the Borough of Weymouth, where not a single illegitimate infant died of the 18 who were born. This is a very remarkable achievement, and testifies to the great efficiency of the Infant welfare work in the Weymouth Borough. In the County area, exclusive of Poole and Weymouth, the illegitimate births numbered 111, and the deaths of illegitimate infants numbered 13, as compared with 9 in the previous year.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### NOTIFICATIONS.

Excluding duplicate notifications and cases previously notified, the number of *primary* notifications in 1923 was 330.

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis.** The primary cases, notified in 1923, numbered 274.

**Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.** The number of primary cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1923 was 56.

Age-periods	0 to 1	1 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 25	25 35	35 45	45 55	55 65	65 & upwards	Total Primary Notifications
Pulmonary Males .. ..	..	3	5	3	8	12	39	24	20	8	4	126
Pulmonary Females .. ..	..	1	3	5	14	23	39	30	20	7	6	148
Non-pulmonary Males .. ..	..	1	1	3	3	5	4	3	1	—	—	22
Non-pulmonary Females .. ..	..	3	6	8	3	5	6	1	—	1	1	34

DEATHS. The total number of deaths in the County from all forms of Tuberculosis during 1923, was 213, of these 168 were from pulmonary tuberculosis (phthisis) and 45 from other forms such as hip and spinal disease, tuberculosis, peritonitis, tabes mesenterica, etc.

	1911	*1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Notifications (Pulmonary) .. ..	..	369	320	234	201	222	179	358	275	326	402	289	274
Deaths (Pulmonary) .. ..	175	141	148	144	157	167	173	214	204	166	142	174	168

\*First year all pulmonary cases compulsorily notifiable.

The Local Sanitary Authorities are responsible for enforcing the notification of cases of tuberculosis. The County Council have no power in the matter. The responsibility for any laxity in notification therefore rests with the Borough and District Councils. The Borough or District Medical Officer of Health is required to send a weekly statement of the notifications received to the County Medical Officer, who sends to the notifying doctor for each case particulars of the treatment available under the County Scheme. A considerable number of cases of tuberculosis are not notified before death, and some are notified very late in the disease. Several of the District Medical Officers of Health, in their Annual Reports, comment on the matter, and on the efforts made to secure effective notification.

Dr. Horne, Medical Officer of Health, Poole Borough, states that of the 45 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1923, 18 had not been previously notified, and two were notified on the day of death. He further states that of 11 deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 6 were not notified previous to death.

Dr. Barclay, Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth Borough, states that the notification has improved. In only one case was the death registration the first notification of the disease, this being a case of tubercular meningitis in which the notification was doubtful. Dr. Barclay has for a number of years worked to secure effective notification of the disease in Weymouth, and it is obvious that his efforts have been successful.

#### TREATMENT UNDER THE COUNTY SCHEME. (See Table IV).

**Applications.** The number of new applications for treatment was 291 (137 from insured persons, and 154 from non-insured persons). Upwards of 700 persons received treatment under the County Scheme. The number of persons treated at the Dispensaries was 468, at the Sanatoria 123, at the Home for advanced cases 63, and at the Hospitals for surgical cases, 46.

**Dispensary Treatment.** Besides acting as diagnostic centres, the Dispensaries provide systematic examination and systematic treatment for a very large number of patients, who would otherwise receive little if any, examination or treatment. Nearly all the notified cases attend the Dispensaries for examination, and fifty per cent. attend for treatment. The Dispensaries enable the Tuberculosis Officers to keep in touch with the majority of the cases.

#### Resident Institutional Treatment.

*The "Nirvana" Home, Parkstone.* This is the County Home for the more advanced cases of the disease. Sixty-one patients were admitted during 1923. The average duration of stay was 118.7 days. Average number under treatment 20.1.

*The "Beckford Home" Sanatorium, Warminster.* This is the County Home for early and intermediate cases. It is approved for 27 patients. Ninety-five cases were admitted during the year. The average duration of stay was 92.4 days. Average number under treatment 24.7.

Children suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis are sent to the Church Army Sanatoria at Fleet and Heath End and also the St. Catherine's Home at Ventnor. *Pretubercular* children are sent to Swanage Children's Hospital.

As regards *non-pulmonary* tuberculosis, adults are sent under the County Scheme to the Weymouth & District Hospital, the Dorset County Hospital, the Yeatman Hospital and the Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate. Children are chiefly sent to the Treloar Hospital at Alton, the Red Cross Memorial Hospital at Swanage and the Dorset County Hospital.

**Tuberculosis Health-Visiting.** The whole County is covered by the Scheme. It is carried out chiefly by the whole-time Nurses, but the District Nurses also assist. Quarterly routine reports are made, in which definite information is required on important matters affecting patients. Interim special visits and reports are also made. The number reported on during the year was 1267.

Table—Analysis of Health Visitors' Reports on Patients.

Inquiries made by Health Visitors.	Affirmative Replies	Negative Replies.
Is (s)he observing rules for <i>Treatment</i> satisfactorily ..	1123	14
Does (s)he take proper <i>precautions</i> .. ..	1151	18
Does (s)he use a <i>sputum flask</i> .. ..	658	609§
Does (s)he sleep alone in a <i>separate bedroom</i> ..	633	264*
Has (s)he sufficient nourishment .. ..	1131	20
Is (s)he properly <i>looked after</i> , and by whom ..	1166	5
Does (s)he require special <i>nursing</i> .. ..	23	1156

\* 245 of these had no sputum and were therefore probably *non-infective*.

§ No Sputum.

Inquiries are also made as to evening temperature, need of a shelter, if confined to bed, if desirous of entering a Sanatorium or Home.

It will be observed that the reports on specific matters inquired into are generally favourable, and that the conditions of tuberculosis patients under treatment in their own homes is better than is usually supposed. The number who do not sleep alone is large—264—but of these 245 were reported to have no sputum, and so were presumably non-infective.

**Examination of Contacts.** Provision has been made for the examination of contacts of all cases with tubercle bacilli in their sputum.

**Milk Grants.** 80 daily grants of one pint of milk were available for patients during the year.

**Shelters.** Fifty shelters have been provided and the Health Visitors report quarterly whether the patients are using them regularly, whether the patients require them, and whether repairs are needed.

**Laboratory Examinations.** These are carried out by Dr. Mackintosh at the County Laboratory at Sturminster Newton. During 1923 the number of Specimens of sputum examined by him for Tubercle Bacilli were 530. Bacilli were found present in 39 per cent. of the specimens of sputum examined.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**Scheme.** The whole County is covered by the County Scheme *except the Boroughs of Poole and Weymouth*, which have their own Schemes. The County area is divided into eleven districts, five of which are worked by the County Council Nurses, and the remaining six by the County Nursing Superintendent, and her Assistant Health Visitors assisted by 40 district nurses. About 40 per cent. of the Health Visitors' time is allotted to Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare was adopted in 1916, and since 1915 there has been a marked fall in the infantile mortality in the area of the County covered by the County Scheme, as well as in the areas covered by the Poole and Weymouth Schemes.

**Infantile Mortality** in area covered by County Scheme 1911-1922 :—

Year	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Infantile Death-rate	78	54	70	65	77	61	65	57	61	54	46	54

**Notification of Births Acts.** In view of the large number of births which were not notified and the waste of time and money involved, in duplicate notifications and postages, the Minister of Health made an Order transferring the administration of the Acts to the County Council as from 1st August, 1922.

### Infant Visiting during 1923.

(exclusive of Boroughs of Poole and Weymouth).

*Infants Deaths.*

Number of Births Registered—	Legitimate, 2570. Illegitimate, 111. Total, 2681.	Legitimate 146
Number of Births Notified—	Live Births, 2637. Stillbirths, 85. Total, 2722.	Illegitimate 13
(By Midwives, 1222. By Parents and Doctors 1500).		

Total 159

(Note.—Particulars are also obtained from the Registrar's returns of births registered but not notified).

Summary.				
No. of Cards issued to Health Visitors during 1923	(births)	..	..	2722
	(inward transfers)	..	..	48
				<hr/> 2770
Left District	}	690		
Not traceable				
Over Rental limit				
Objections to visits				
No. of Infants reported on, born during 1923	..	..	..	2077
Total number of infants visited during 1923	..	..	..	3900
Total number of visits	..	..	..	20960
Average number of Visits to each Infant	..	..	..	5

#### Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The attendances at the Centres during the Year ended 31st December, 1923, were as follows. :

	Date of opening.	Number of Persons.	Attendances.	Number of times opened.
*Dorchester	15th April, 1919	.. 130	.. 650	.. 48
Beaminster	25th Oct., 1917	.. 38	.. 358	.. 52
Blandford	15th Aug., 1918	.. 74	.. 410	.. 24
Lyme Regis	14th May, 1918	.. 50	.. 479	.. 38
Sherborne	31st Oct., 1918	.. 45	.. 646	.. 51
*Bridport	Jan., 1920	.. 55	.. 255	.. 26
*Swanage	10th Dec., 1920	.. 53	.. 195	.. 25
Gillingham	Jan., 1921	.. 34	.. 520	.. 51
Wareham	April, 1923	.. 89	.. 592	.. 48

\* County Council Centres. The others are Voluntary Centres receiving a grant in aid.

The Assistant Medical Officers attend at the County Council Centres and also at the Lyme Regis and Wareham Centres. At the other Voluntary centres arrangements have been made with local medical practitioners.

#### Provision of Midwives.

**Urban Districts.** The County Council pay a direct subsidy at the rate annually of £45 to the support of a qualified midwife at each of the Boroughs of Dorchester and Lyme Regis, and a similar subsidy to a qualified midwife in the parish of Kinson in the Poole Rural District.

**Rural Districts.** The County Council have made a grant of £1030 to the County Nursing Association to aid in the establishment and maintenance of nurse-midwives in the county districts.

#### Lying-in Accommodation.

As from 1st January, 1922, Agreements were entered into with the Committees of Management of the Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester, and the Weymouth and District Hospital, for the admission of 12 Maternity cases yearly, for the payment of a sum of £112 10s. per annum to each Hospital. The number of cases at the Weymouth Hospital are to be reduced with a view to provision being made for the admission of cases to the Cornelia Hospital, Poole.

During the year 1923, the following cases were admitted to Hospital :—

Name of Hospital	No. Admitted	Average Length of stay	Total cost	Contributions by patients according to scale
Weymouth and District	6	30 days	£ s. d. 112 10 0	£ s. d. 11 0 0
Dorset County	13	25 ..	112 10 0	32 5 0

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE MIDWIVES ACT.

The administration of the Midwives Act is under the Public Health and Housing Committee. A special Sub-Committee of this has been appointed to deal with urgent cases. The Local Sanitary Authorities are asked to co-operate with the supervising Authority by reporting cases of malpractice, negligence or misconduct, and in furnishing information where a midwife has been exposed to infection, or a case of puerperal fever has occurred in her practice.

The number of certified midwives on the County Register at the end of the year was 103. Of these, 93 had been certified by examination and 10 by reason of having been in *bona-fide* practice prior to the passing of the Act.

During the year 284 visits were made for inspection purposes, 272 being routine and 12 special visits, instructions were issued to 75 Midwives respecting the keeping of their registers and the conditions of their instruments and appliances, several uncertificated women who were suspected of having acted as Midwives habitually

and for gain, were warned. In certain districts there has been uncertified practice. The recent High Court decision on this question will enable this irregular practice to be dealt with.

The inspections have been carried out partly by the County Nursing Superintendent and County Health Visitors, and partly by the Assistant Medical Officers. All Midwives known to be practising in the County are provided with a supply of forms for the various notifications which they are required to send to the Supervising Authority, under the rules of the Central Midwives' Board. They are also supplied with a Register.

The notifications received during 1923 were as follows :—

Of sending for medical help	..	..	..	..	..	324
Of still-birth	..	..	..	..	..	28
Of the death of mother	..	..	..	..	..	1
Of the death of child	..	..	..	..	..	3
Of laying out of dead	..	..	..	..	..	43
Of liability to be a source of infection	..	..	..	..	..	15
Of artificial feeding	..	..	..	..	..	26
Of disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	30

*Midwives Act, 1918.* The effect of Section 14, has been excellent. This section requires a midwife in any emergency (as defined in the Rules) to call in to her assistance a registered medical practitioner whose *fee will be paid* (according to a scale) by the County Council, who may recover the fee from the patient or husband, or other person liable to maintain the patient, unless these persons are by reason of poverty unable to pay.

Previous to this Act, a midwife not infrequently hesitated to advise that medical help be obtained with occasional disastrous results to the mother and child, and with the result to herself that she was reported to Central Midwives Board and her name removed from the Roll.

The cost to the rates of this Act is comparatively trifling, being about £40 a year, since, in five-sixths of the cases the doctor is paid direct by the patient.

A scrutiny of the reasons for sending for medical help demonstrates that in few, if any instances is the doctor sent for without good reasons. In view of the smallness of the cost under the present working, the Council decided not to adopt an insurance scheme similar to the one that exists in Somerset.

## **VENEREAL DISEASES.**

### **Existing Facilities for Treatment and Diagnosis.**

*Centres* are available for Dorset patients at the following places :—Bournemouth (Boscombe Hospital) ; Yeovil (Yeovil Hospital) ; Salisbury (Salisbury Infirmary) ; Dorchester (Dorset County Hospital) ; Wyke Regis (Port Sanitary Hospital).

The provision of additional Centres at Weymouth (Weymouth and District Hospital) and Poole (Cornelia Hospital) is not being undertaken.

*Laboratory Examinations.*—Arrangements have been made with the Hampshire County Laboratory for examination of specimens from cases and suspected cases of venereal disease.

*Propaganda Work.* This is undertaken by the County Branch of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. The County Branch was formed in July, 1919, and an Executive Committee was appointed and a Secretary. A number of Lectures have been given in various parts of the County.

*Publicity arrangements.* Advertisements are inserted from time to time in local papers. Circulars are sent to Local Authorities, Medical Officers of Health, Medical Practitioners, Midwives, Chemists, Clerks to Magistrates, and Social Workers. Information as to the Clinics is also given by placards.

*Attendances at Clinics.* The total number of patients was 226 as compared with 214 in 1922, and the number of attendances was 2797 ; in the year previous they were 2935. The actual number of persons suffering from venereal disease, however, was 145 only, as compared with 140 in 1922. The remaining patients were found not to be suffering from venereal disease.

**Table of Numbers Treated and Attendances at Treatment Centres during 1923.**

TREATMENT CENTRE.	Dorchester	Wyke Regis (civil cases)	Bournemouth	Yeovil	Salisbury	Weymouth Port Cases	TOTAL
Number of persons dealt with during the year at or in connection with the <i>Out-patient Clinic for the first time</i> and found to be suffering from :—							
Syphilis .. .. .	22	32	19	1	2	6	82
Soft chancre .. .. .	0	2	0	0	0	3	5
Gonorrhoea .. .. .	12	22	19	0	1	4	58
Conditions other than Venereal .. .. .	20	25	34	0	2	0	81
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>54</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>226</b>
Total number of <i>attendances</i> at the <i>Out-patient Clinic</i> of all patients residing in the County .. .. .	423	1515	784	3	26	46	2797
Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in the County .. .. .	308	324	167	2	—	110	911
Number of doses 1. <i>Out-patient Clinic</i> .. .. .	104	305	234	3	—	15	733
of Salvarsan substitutes given in the :— 2. <i>In-patient Dept.</i> .. .. .	6	55		0	—	11	
To patients residing in the County .. .. .							

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

**General.** In the whole county there are 287 beds available for isolating cases of infectious disease occurring within the county, and in addition there are 45 beds available for port cases. The total accommodation is greatly in excess of probable requirements, but some of the accommodation is unsatisfactory and does not comply with the requirements as to space. Weymouth and Poole Boroughs possess large hospitals which are little used, owing to the efficient sanitary administration as regards infectious diseases. Much economy would be effected if neighbouring districts would send their infectious cases to these hospitals and several of the smaller hospitals could be closed, or used for other purposes.

**Hospital Accommodation for Small-pox.** The position is much the same as last year. Shaftesbury Borough and Dorchester Rural District have since made an arrangement with Poole Borough for the admission of their cases to the Baiter Hospital. Portland Urban District Council have made no provision, and in an emergency the Port Sanitary Hospital would probably have to be used. The Cerne Rural District Council propose to isolate any emergency cases in a wing of the Workhouse. The Bridport Joint Hospital Board, and the Weymouth Rural District have each provided Huts; in neither instance can the accommodation provided be regarded as suitable.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Considering the County as a whole, there has been a remarkably low prevalence of the ordinary notifiable infectious diseases. The Borough of Poole in particular shews a diminished incidence which is extraordinary having regard to its size, the overcrowding which exists in many of the houses, and the number of visitors and temporary residents who may introduce these diseases from elsewhere. Only six cases of Diphtheria and nine cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the Borough during the year, which constitutes a record for the past de-cennium.

**Small-Pox.** One case of small-pox, a child in the scabbing stage, was found at Weymouth as a result of information sent by the Medical Officer of Health of Gloucester. It was sent back at once to Gloucester in a motor ambulance. The County Medical Staff were consulted as to several suspicious cases in various parts of the County; two of these were cases of chicken-pox, and one of an unusual form of skin disease.

**Chicken-pox.** This disease has been notifiable in the Poole Borough for several years, and the Borough Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Horne, has been accustomed to visit every case notified. Since 270 cases were notified during 1923, it is obvious that the duty undertaken by Dr. Horne was a very onerous one, and represents a high standard of preventive efficiency. No cases of small-pox occurred in the Borough, although, owing to its position, constant watchfulness is essential. In two of the Rural Districts, Beaminster and Wimborne, chicken-pox has been made compulsorily notifiable. Both these Districts have boundaries extensively contiguous to adjoining counties, and so the risk of introduction of these diseases is perhaps greater.

**Vaccination.** The proportion of unvaccinated population to vaccinated in this County has greatly increased during the last 14 years. The percentage of school children found to be vaccinated in 1910 was 85; it is now under 45 per cent. This is not due to any disbelief on the part of the parents generally as to the efficacy of vaccination, but to their disinclination to the temporary inconvenience caused by a child's vaccination. If an epidemic threatened in their locality, there is no doubt they would at once take their children to be vaccinated. Unfortunately, there would be some victims of this belated step. Small-pox is a disease which frequently causes terrible disfigurement, and children may live to reproach their parents in after-life for their failure to have them vaccinated in infancy. The extensive, though mild, epidemics which have occurred at Gloucester and Doncaster, have once again served to prove the efficacy of vaccination. In both these outbreaks no cases occurred among persons under 25 years of age who shewed evidence of having been efficiently vaccinated in infancy. This period of immunity is much longer than that usually obtaining from one vaccination, and is apparently due to the mild character of the infection in the outbreaks referred to.

**Diphtheria.** No important outbreak occurred.

**Scarlet Fever.** No serious outbreak occurred. The Dorchester Borough and Sherborne and Swanage Urban Districts were chiefly affected. In the Dorchester District, the cases were at first due to mild cases at the Girls' School. The greater number of cases in the Rural Districts were from the Districts of Poole, Weymouth and Wimborne.

**Enteric Fever.** Only 10 cases occurred throughout the County. Poole Borough, which used in former years to have six or seven cases yearly, had only one case last year. The diminished cases may be regarded as a result of the efficient chlorination of the water-supply which has been carried out for several years.

There were three cases in the Dorchester Rural District, all three at the County Mental Hospital. The well supplying the Asylum is liable to pollution from the institution's drains, and possibly to intermittent infection by the specific bacillus, although there is some doubt as to how far this operates. In 1919 I advised chlorination of the water supply in order to remove any possible risk of danger from this source, but the Board of Control's Medical Officer reported against it and advised that the drains be put in thorough order. The difficulty is that, although the drains may be put in order, the long continued pollution of the subsoil over many years may still prove a source of contamination of the present well. The ideal plan would be to sink a new well in the neighbourhood of the present reservoir, and to re-construct the latter, and to provide for chlorination at the new source.

**Puerperal Fever.** Only 11 cases were notified. Of these, 4 occurred in the Borough of Poole, and all were removed to Hospital.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.** The number of cases notified was 15. Of these, 5 occurred in Poole Borough and 2 in Weymouth. The smallness of the number of cases of the disease is very satisfactory.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

The action which has been taken by Local Sanitary Authorities is shown in Table VII.

In my Annual Report for 1922, I stated :—" There is acute housing scarcity in all the boroughs and districts in the county, and besides the absolute scarcity which exists, many of the old dwellings and cottages require replacement. There is no prospect that private enterprise will meet the housing requirements in this county, even with the enhanced rents which would be obtainable as a consequence of decontrol. Local Authorities should draw up Housing Schemes with the construction spread over a period of from five to ten years, building a minimum number of houses each year, e.g., one house per 1000 of population, and increasing the number when conditions are favourable."

Since writing the above, the Census figures for the county have become available, and they strongly confirm the opinions expressed.

According to the Census Report, in 1921 the number of *private families* in the county was 53,629, as compared with 49,866 in 1911, an increase of 3,763. The number of cases in which dwellings are occupied by more than one family has greatly increased. In 1911 the excess was 1,301, and in 1921 it was 2,711. The number of private families each living more than two persons to a room was 974 in 1921, and the population of such families was 7,029. In 1911, the figures were respectively 778 and 6,473. Since the usually accepted limit of overcrowding is two persons or more to a room, it follows that 7,029 persons are living in this county under conditions of overcrowding, and that if the law were strictly enforced, upwards of 3,000 persons would be rendered homeless. In 1921 there were 1,211 fewer vacant dwellings than in 1911.

The districts chiefly affected by the increase in overcrowding (this is, the increase in the population living more than two persons to a room) are as follows :—

			1921	1911
Poole Borough	..	..	1564	714
Portland Urban District	..	..	294	222
Weymouth Borough	..	..	717	484
Dorchester Rural District	..	..	459	427
Wareham Rural District	..	..	545	463
		8		

**Long Period Housing Schemes.** In the new housing proposals which have been presented to Parliament, there has been adopted the principle which I advocated in my Annual Report for last year, viz.—the drawing up of Housing Schemes with the construction spread over a term of years. It is only by building steadily a number of houses each year that the housing arrears can be overtaken without unduly disorganising the laws of supply and demand, and providing for the necessary labour. Where acute scarcity exists, some form of rapid construction with semi-skilled labour may be required.

**Estimated number of houses now required.** With some exceptions, I consider the number of houses estimated by the Local Authorities of the different districts in 1919 is the most reliable standard to adopt, and with certain reservations should be the figure to be aimed at.

Taking the County as a whole, I estimate that provision should be made under Housing Schemes for the construction of 4500 houses during the next ten years. About 1500 are required now to meet present actual shortage, and for urgent replacements, and 3000 will be required for gradual replacements. These figures may require revision in the light of subsequent experience. An additional number will be needed to meet the natural increase of population. The new Housing Bill contemplates a 15 years' programme.

The number of houses which should now be constructed under housing schemes to meet present urgent requirements:—

<i>Urban.</i>	<i>No. now required</i>	<i>Proposed under present schemes.</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>No. now required</i>	<i>Proposed under present schemes.</i>
Blandford	40	—	Beaminster	56	—
Bridport	60	30	Blandford	50	—
Dorchester	70	24	Bridport	40	—
Lyme Regis	20	—	Cerne	60	—
Poole	300	80	Dorchester	80	40
Portland	70	—	Poole	20	—
Shaftesbury	20	—	Shaftesbury	80	—
Sherborne	60	40	Sherborne	50	—
Swanage	70	50	Sturminster	40	—
Wareham	20	—	Wareham	80	—
Weymouth	150	50	Weymouth	46	—
Wimborne	30	—	Wimborne	30	—
	910			622	

These are the number of houses which should be provided by Local Authorities *under housing Schemes of their own*, under the Housing Acts within the next three years. It is impossible to calculate to what extent the houses provided by private enterprise aided by subsidy under Section 2 of the 1923 Act will meet the housing requirements of the poorer classes.

The immediate need in most districts appears to be for the five-roomed (non-parlour) house. Many of the houses built under former, and being built under the present, schemes are of an unnecessarily extravagant character. The schemes are non-utilitarian and do not meet the needs of the poorer classes. Space is wasted, which should be devoted to living and sleeping rooms. The third bedroom is usually without a chimney, and in some cases the small space in it is encroached upon in order to make headway for the staircase. In Urban Districts and the larger villages, houses could well be built in blocks of six instead of two.

Number of Houses in each District being erected by Building Societies, Builders, and Private Persons, by aid of grant under Section 2 of the 1923 Act—

<i>Urban Districts.</i>			<i>Rural Districts.</i>		
Blandford	..	—	Beaminster	..	—
Bridport	..	30	Blandford	..	—
Dorchester	..	24	Bridport	..	—
Lyme Regis	..	—	Cerne	..	—
Poole	..	133	Dorchester	..	6
Portland	..	—	Poole	..	100
Shaftesbury	..	1	Shaftesbury	..	4
Sherborne	..	—	Sherborne	..	5
Swanage	..	1	Sturminster	..	—
Wareham	..	12	Wareham	—	—
Weymouth	..	21	Weymouth	..	18
Wimborne	..	20	Wimborne	..	43

**Individual Districts.** The building problem is one for special serious consideration in those districts mentioned above which shew a marked increase in overcrowding.

**Poole.** Until 1918, Poole Borough did not undertake a housing scheme of their own. Under Dr. Addison's Ministry, the Borough provided 133 houses at a cost of about £1000 apiece. Under the 1923 Act, they are proposing to build 80.

Dr. Horne, Borough Medical Officer of Health, in his Annual Report for 1923, has made a very careful analysis of the housing position in the Borough.

He shews that in 1921 the Borough was 824 houses short as compared with 1911. That, since 1921, 870 houses have been built, which more than neutralises the shortage, but as against that the increase of population since 1921, has to be considered.

Quoting from Dr. Horne's Report :—

" But at December, 1923, the population of 1921 has by " natural increase " been added to by approximately 1,300 people, and this is equivalent to a demand for about 290 more houses.

Adding these to the shortage of 824 and deducting the 870 provided for, brings us to this point, that we still require about 250 houses in the Borough to have the housing conditions of 1911 in the year 1924.

The points remaining to be considered are :—

1. What improvement on the condition of 1911 is to be aimed at ?
2. To what extent, if any, will a Municipal Scheme still be necessary to augment private enterprise in the provision of working-class houses, on an economically sound basis ? "

As regards Dr. Horne's first question, it must be noted that in 1911 there was a population of 714 living more than two persons to a room, so that to merely attain to the conditions obtaining in 1911 would be absolutely unsatisfactory, as there was then a shortage of houses in the Borough of about 100 houses, besides a number requiring replacement.

**Weymouth Borough.** The overcrowding in the Borough of Weymouth has greatly increased during the decennial period between the Censuses, and the proposed numbers under the 1923 Act are quite insufficient.

**Portland Urban District.** The overcrowding in Portland shewed a marked increase in the years between the Censuses. The Portland Town Council have been discussing the housing question for the past 15 years, but they have built no houses under a housing scheme of their own, in spite of the very unsatisfactory housing conditions existing in the Island.

#### **WATER SUPPLY.**

**Lyme Regis Borough.** Some additional supply appears advisable to meet the insufficiency during the summer season.

**Poole Borough.** An additional pumping plant is being installed at the Corfe Mullen Water Works. An additional Reservoir of 5,000,000 gallons is being provided near Lytchett.

**Shaftesbury Borough.** A new main has been provided for top of Great Lane.

**Sherborne Urban District.** A new main has been provided for Marston Road.

**Swanage Urban District.** The town is now provided with an ample and excellent supply from a well at Corfe Castle, and the analyses and bacteriological reports are good.

**Sherborne Rural District.** There is insufficiency at Holwell, Bishops Down, and Great and Higher Lillington. A new supply is proposed for Trent.

**Sturminster Newton.** There is insufficiency at Stalbridge and Lydlinch. A new supply is proposed for Stalbridge.

#### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

**Poole Borough.** The Hamworthy and Sandbanks Scheme is completed.

**Shaftesbury Borough.** The Bimport and St. John's Hall Extension Scheme has been approved.

**Sherborne Urban District.** New sewer laid in Marston Road.

**Poole Rural District.** The Broadstone Sewerage Scheme has been completed.

#### **POLLUTION OF STREAMS.**

**Pollution of Brit.** Complaints were received as to the pollution of the Stream by washings from the Milk Factory at Beaminster. I inspected the stream with the Medical Officer of Health of the District, and made representation to the owners of the Factory, who agreed to carry out work to mitigate the nuisance.

**Stream at Wool.** Complaints were received of a nuisance caused owing to the silting up of the stream and the accumulation of offensive matters. I inspected the stream, and communicated with the Wareham District Council, who took steps which resulted in the abatement of the nuisance.

**Pollution of Wey.** I noted that this Stream was being polluted with petrol. I made representation to the persons apparently responsible, with the result that the nuisance has been for the time abated.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

In the majority of districts the Dairies and Cowsheds are not being inspected with sufficient regularity, (See Table V.). A number of cowsheds are defective as regards construction, drainage and water supply.

Owing to pressure of other work, I have been obliged to suspend the systematic inspection I was carrying out of the cowsheds in the County. During the years 1921 and 1922 I visited 218, and reported the defective conditions in 88 of the sheds to the local authority concerned.

There are at least 1500 Dairy Farms in the County, and the number inspected in 1923 as reported numbered 672. Each cowshed should be inspected at least twice yearly so that the inspections are inadequate in number. (Five districts have failed to furnish particulars of the numbers inspected).

**Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1922.** The necessary instructions have been given by the Council with respect to this order.

**Certified Milk.** There are at present only two Producers of Certified Milk in Dorset (Mr. Symes, Manor Farm, Fordington, and Mr. Tamplin, Green World Dairy Wareham).

This milk is fetching a price equal to approximately double that of the ordinary milk.

On the whole, the bacteriological reports on the samples have been remarkably good, the number of baccilli being well within the limit.

No applications have been received by the Council for "Grade A" Licences.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 TO 1907.

The administration of these Acts is in the hands of the Public Health and Housing Committee. The Chief Constable is the Chief Inspector, and the Sergeants of the police have been appointed Inspectors. The Chief Inspector reports quarterly to the Committee. The Joint County Analysts, Mr. C. G. Moor and Mr. W. Partridge (30, Great James Street, Bedford Row, W.C.) report annually.

### Annual Report of the Joint County Analyst, Mr. W. Partridge, F.I.C.

In the absence of Capt. C. G. Moor, I beg to lay before you a Report on my work as Joint Public Analyst for the year 1923.

Two hundred and thirty four samples were submitted under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, this total being made up as follows :—

Milk 92, Butter 21, Margarine 7, Cheese 4, Lard 4, Bread 3, Plain Flour 4, Self-raising Flour 5, Arrowroot, 2, Oatmeal 1, Tapioca 3, Rice 2, Baking Powder 4, Egg Substitute Powder 1, Coffee 3, Tea 4, Cocoa 3, Sugar 4, Marmalade 4, Jam 11, Pickles 7, Curry Powder 1, Pepper 1, Olive Oil 2, Cream of Tartar 3, Lime Water 2, Gregory's Powder 2, Compound Liquorice Powder 4, Bicarbonate of Soda 3, Epsom Salts 5, Camphorated Oil 4, Castor Oil 11, Magnesia and Preparations thereof 5, Quinine 2.

Twelve samples were reported as adulterated, a percentage of adulteration of 5.13. Four of these samples were of milk, two were of butter, three were of magnesia, and one each of margarine, camphorated oil and castor oil.

Milk contained an average of 3.89 per cent. of fat, but one very extraordinary sample which contained 21.5 per cent. is materially responsible for the high average. The average solids-not-fat was 8.85 per cent. One sample of milk contained added colour, namely annatto, one had a small fat deficiency of 3 per cent., and two contained added water (10 per cent. and 4 per cent.).

Six samples of butter contained no preservative; these averaged 13.9 per cent. of water. The average of water in the fifteen samples containing preservative was 15.14 per cent. Boric Acid in the latter ranged from 0.03 per cent. to 0.55 per cent. with an average of 0.16 per cent. A certificate of adulteration was given in respect of a sample containing 0.55 per cent. of boric acid and another in respect of a sample containing 17 per cent. of water.

Margarine contained, on an average, 14.89 per cent. of water and 0.280 per cent. of boric acid. One sample which contained 16.4 per cent. of water was returned as adulterated.

Cheese remains as good in quality as ever. The samples analysed last year ranged in water content from 24.3 to 32.5, with an average of 28.03 per cent.

Marmalade with an average of 71.0 per cent. of "water soluble extract" was of higher food value than jam with an average of 68.6

A sample of castor oil was returned as adulterated on account of a high content, 6.6 per cent. of free fatty acids. The two other samples of this article had free fatty acid contents ranging from 0.57 to 1.99 with an average of 1.206 per cent. In this respect there was great improvement over samples of the previous year.

One sample submitted as "Magnesia" consisted of Carbonate of Magnesia, a sample of Calcined Magnesia contained one-tenth of one per cent of iron, and a sample sold as "Carbonate of Magnesia" had not been properly washed after manufacture so that 2.5 per cent. of sulphates of sodium and magnesium remained in the article when sold.

A sample of Camphorated Oil which ought to contain 20 per cent. of camphor, actually contained 19.2 per cent. It was returned as deficient in camphor to the extent of 4 per cent. Another containing more camphor (23.5 per cent.) was the subject of an "Observation" when reporting. The two samples returned as genuine contained 20.47 and 20.41 per cent respectively.

Some curry powder not only contained the usual turmeric as colouring matter but 0.7 per cent of iron as well. It was returned as being of "poor quality"

Of two samples of milk received from persons other than Inspectors to the County Council, one was genuine and one showed 2 per cent of added water.

In addition to samples received under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, forty-four samples of milk and three samples of cream were received under the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations.

(Signed) WILLIAM PARTRIDGE, F.I.C.  
Joint Public Analyst.

Table showing samples taken in separate Districts and Results.

	URBAN DISTRICTS.													RURAL DISTRICTS.										TOTALS
	Blandford	Bridport	Dorchester	Lyme Regis	Poole	Portland	Shaftesbury	Sherborne	Swanage	Wareham	Weymouth	Wimborne	Beaminster	Blandford	Bridport	Cerne	Dorchester	Poole	Shaftesbury	Sherborne	Sturminster	Wareham	Weymouth	
Arrowroot ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Baking Powder ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bread ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Butter ..	..	1	1	2	..	9	2	1	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	1	..	30
Camphorated Oil ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Carbonate of Magnesia ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Carbonate of Soda ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Castor Oil ..	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	11
Cheese ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Cocoa ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Coffee ..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Curry Powder ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cream of Tartar ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Citrate of Magnesia ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dripping ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Egg Powder ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Epsom Salts ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	5
Flour ..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	5
Gregory's Powder ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ground Rice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Jam ..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	..	..	11
Lard ..	..	..	..	..	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	12
Lime Water ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Liquorice Powder ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	..	1	..	4
Margarine ..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	8
Marmalade ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Milk ..	5	3	10	5	87	9	3	4	7	227	6	1	2	5	..	6	..	9	1	8	..	8	1	209*
Mixed Pickles ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Oatmeal ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Olive Oil ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Piccalilli ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Pepper ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Preserved Cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	6
Quinine ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Sausages ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Self-Raising Flour ..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	4
Sugar ..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tea ..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Tapioca ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
	15	12	23	8	107	23	7	11	19	234	18	3	4	5	2	15	..	28	1	22	..	18	1	378

\* 3 samples of milk were broken in transit.

## ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

URBAN	BRIDPORT	..	Magnesia	Vendor Cautioned
	DORCHESTER	..	Magnesia	do.
	do.	..	Milk	do.
	POOLE	..	Milk (6)	Vendors Cautioned
	do.	..	Milk (1)	Vendor Prosecuted
	do.	..	Lard	Action dropped owing to Technical Clerical error.
	PORTLAND	..	Magnesia	Vendor Cautioned
	do.	..	Margarine	do.
	do.	..	Milk	do.
	SWANAGE	..	Butter	No action
RURAL	WEYMOUTH	..	Ground Rice	Vendor Cautioned
	do.	..	Milk (3)	Vendors Cautioned
	WIMBORNE	..	Castor Oil	Vendor advised to withdraw present stock from sale.
	do.	..	Milk	Vendor Cautioned
	SHAFTESBURY	..	Butter	Vendor Cautioned
	do.	..	Camphorated Oil	do.
	WEYMOUTH	..	Milk	Dismissed on payment of costs.

NOTE.—A number of informal samples were taken in the Borough of Weymouth.

**Public Health, Milk and Cream Regulations (1912 and 1917).**—From the **County Districts** 44 samples of milk and 3 of cream were examined for preservative. Two samples of cream contained 0.3% and 0.2% respectively of boric acid. One sample was not labelled as required by the Regulations, proceedings were instituted and the case was dismissed on payment of costs. In the **Borough of Weymouth** 27 samples of milk and 1 of cream were examined, but no preservative was found in any of them. In five samples of preserved cream the amount of preservative was found to be within the amount permitted. In the **Borough of Poole** no samples of milk and of cream were reported as containing preservative.

TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE COUNTY AND SEPARATE DISTRICTS DURING 1923.

	Population estimated to Middle of 1923	NETT BIRTHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age		At all ages.	
				Number	Rate per 1000 Nett	Number	Rate
WHOLE COUNTY	220012	3847	17.1	222	57	2520	11.4
URBAN DISTRICTS.							
Blandford ..	3209	51	15.8	7	137	47	14.6
Bridport ..	5812	88	15.1	2	20	77	13.2
Dorchester ..	9764	181	18.4	15	82	108	11.06
Lyme Regis ..	2277	29	12.7	Nil	Nil	31	13.6
Poole ..	43860	829	18.9	50	60	499	11.3
Portland ..	10002	183	14.4	9	49	91	9.09
Shaftesbury ..	2385	34	14.2	Nil	Nil	23	9.6
Sherborne ..	6386	82	12.8	8	97	81	12.6
Swanage ..	5526	86	15.5	2	23	52	9.4
Wareham ..	2028	40	19.7	4	100	30	14.7
Weymouth ..	22260	337	15.1	13	38	230	10.3
Wimborne ..	3663	57	15.5	3	52	43	11.7
TOTAL OF URBAN DISTRICTS	117172	1997	16.6	113	56	1312	11.1
RURAL DISTRICTS.							
Beaminster ..	8354	152	18.1	11	72	107	12.8
Blandford ..	8124	143	17.6	10	69	109	13.4
Bridport ..	6793	115	16.9	3	26	79	11.7
Cerne ..	4528	82	18.1	6	73	56	12.3
Dorchester ..	8793	142	16.1	10	70	98	11.1
Poole ..	7523	118	15.6	8	67	73	9.8
Shaftesbury ..	9591	184	19.1	14	76	113	11.7
Sherborne ..	5470	102	18.6	4	39	51	9.3
Sturminster ..	7926	135	17.03	9	66	87	10.9
Wareham ..	11840	256	18.5	10	39	128	10.8
Weymouth ..	8798	148	16.8	4	27	114	12.9
Wimborne ..	15100	273	18.07	20	73	193	12.7
Total of Rural Districts	102840	1850	17.6	109	58	1208	11.7
England and Wales			19.7		69		11.6

\* For calculating this rate the Registrar-General has supplied another population figure (224600) to allow for abnormalities of population in Portland Urban District and Wareham Rural District.

**TABLE II.**  
**Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1923 and number of Cases removed to Hospital.**  
**URBAN DISTRICTS.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	BLANDFORD		BRIDPORT		DORCHESTER		LYME REGIS		POOLE		PORTLAND		SHAFTESBURY		SHERBORNE		SWANAGE		WAREHAM		WEYMOUTH		WIMBORNE		Total Cases Notified.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed		
Pneumonia ..	10		1		4				12		6				4		1				14				52	
Chicken-Pox ..									270																270	
Dysentery ..											1										1	1			2	1
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	1	1			15	14			6	6	8	7					1				1	1	2	1	34	30
Erysipelas ..					10		1		12		3				2		1				1	1	2		32	1
Scarlet Fever ..	2	2			38	37			9	11	2	2	1	1	17	16	29	1			21	21	2	2	121	118
German Measles ..																										
Enteric Fever ..			1	1	1				1	1					1										4	2
Puerperal Fever ..									4	4	1	1			1		1				1	1			8	6
Encephalitis Lethargica ..																										
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..			1						3		1														5	
Poliomyelitis ..									1		1		1								1				1	
Whooping Cough ..																									3	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	2		8	4	11		2		78		18				2		6		2		26		4		159	4*
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1		5		5				12		6				1						7				37	*
Measles ..			1																				2		3	
Small Pox ..																										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..					2				5	1					1		2				2				12	1
Malaria ..																	1		1						1	
Other conditions ..									3								1								4	
TOTALS ..	16	3	17	5	86	51	3		416	23	47	10	2	1	29	16	42	27	4		74	24	12	3	748	163

**RURAL DISTRICTS.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	BEAMINSTER		BLANDFORD		BRIDPORT		CERNE		DORCHESTER		POOLE		SHAFTESBURY		SHERBORNE		STURMINSTER		WAREHAM		WEYMOUTH		WIMBORNE		Total Cases Notified.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed	No. of Cases	No. removed		
Pneumonia ..			9	9									5				4				1		2		21	9
Chicken pox ..	10																								10	
Dysentery ..																										
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	6		1	1					7	2	1	1	2				2	2	1		5	3	9	9	34	18
Erysipelas ..			1				1		1		1		3		1				2		6				16	
Scarlet Fever ..	2	1	10	10	5	3			7	6	19	18			3	2	11	3	3		17	17	24	4	106	64
German Measles ..																										
Enteric Fever ..									3	3	2	2									1	1			6	6
Puerperal Fever ..							1												1						3	
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	2		2	2																	1				5	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..																									1	
Poliomyelitis ..	2												1								1					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	6		15		6		2		17		7		5		4		17				20		27		126	*
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..			3		2				1		7				3						5		3		24	*
Measles ..																										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..			1										1								1				3	
Malaria ..									1																1	
Influenza ..																	1	1								
Other conditions ..																									1	1
TOTALS ..	28	1	42	22	13	3	4		37	11	37	21	17		11	2	35	6	12		59	21	65	13	360	100

\*The number of cases admitted to Sanatoria and Hospitals under County Scheme in 1923 was 232

TABLE III. (a).  
Causes of and Ages at Death during the year 1923.  
WHOLE COUNTY.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS OF "RESIDENTS," WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	under 75 years	75 and upwards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes.	2520	222	29	31	43	81	237	568	550	759
1. Enteric Fever ..	2						1	1		
2. Small-pox ..										
3. Measles ..	5	2	3							
4. Scarlet Fever ..	1				1					
5. Whooping Cough ..	16	10	4	2						
6. Diphtheria ..	1		1							
7. Influenza ..	46	1	1	1	2	2	8	11	9	11
8. Encephalitis Lethargica ..	7				1	1	4	1		
9. Meningococcal Meningitis ..	2			1			1			
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ..	168			1	1	30	77	46	10	3
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	45	6	2	3	5	6	13	7	2	1
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	324			2	2		24	114	115	67
13. Rheumatic Fever ..	9				3	1	2	3		
14. Diabetes ..	29					1	3	11	8	6
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ..	209						2	50	65	92
16. Organic Heart Disease ..	398				1	4	13	96	136	148
17. Arterio Sclerosis ..	96							10	31	55
18. Bronchitis ..	124	7	3		1		1	11	24	77
19. Pneumonia (all forms) ..	80	16	7	6	3	2	11	14	9	12
20. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	34		1		1	2	1	12	11	6
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duode- num ..	18	1					2	11	4	
22. Diarrhoea, etc. ..	23	9	1	2	1		1		3	6
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	14					2	3	7	2	
24. Cirrhosis of Liver ..	15							7	5	3
25. Acute & Chronic Nephritis ..	65	1		1	1	4	9	20	14	15
26. Puerperal Sepsis ..	1					1				
27. Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Partu- rition ..	9					1	8			
28. Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Pre- mature Birth ..	130	128		2						
29. Suicide ..	16					2	3	7	3	1
30. Other deaths from violence ..	75	3	3	6	7	8	12	25	3	8
31. Other Defined Diseases ..	553	38	3	4	13	14	36	102	96	247
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown ..	5						2	2		1
TOTALS.	2520	222	29	31	43	81	237	568	550	759

TABLE III. (b).  
Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the year 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		URBAN DISTRICTS														RURAL DISTRICTS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24		25		26		27		28																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
All Causes		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

a Under 2 years of age.

**TABLE IV. TUBERCULOSIS. STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.**  
NEW APPLICATIONS.

	Insured	Non-Insured	Total	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pre-tubercular	Ob-servation	Total
Number of new applications for treatment	137	154	291	Insured 83 Non-insured 52	12 21	20 47	22 34	137 154
				135	33	67	56	291

**DISPENSARY RETURNS FOR 1923.**

Dispensary	Total Persons registered for 1923.						
	Insured Cases. <i>a</i>			Non-insured Cases <i>b</i>			Total Insured & Non-Insured
	Old	New	Total	Old	New	Total	
Bridport ..	15	16	31	23	22	45	76
Weymouth ..	58	57	115	81	81	162	277
Poole ..	113	80	193	81	75	156	349
Sturminster ..	9	14	23	6	22	28	51
Totals	195	167	362	191	200	391	753

Dispensary	Total attendances for examinations only during 1923						
	Insured Cases.			Non-insured Cases.			Total Insured & Non-Insured
	Old	New	Total	Old	New	Total	
Bridport ..	21	18	39	47	7	54	93
Weymouth ..	54	37	91	44	30	74	165
Poole ..	236	95	331	79	52	131	462
Sturminster ..	36	16	52	21	30	51	103
Totals	347	166	513	191	119	310	823

Dispensary	Total attendances for treatment during 1923						
	Insured Cases			Non-Insured Cases.			Total Insured & Non-Insured
	Old	New	Total	Old	New	Total	
Bridport ..	319	47	366	360	83	443	809
Weymouth ..	1240	178	1418	1453	222	1675	3093
Poole ..	1865	120	1985	1186	178	1364	3349
Sturminster ..	36	4	40	29	8	37	77
Totals	3460	349	3809	3028	491	3519	7328

*a*201 received treatment.  
*b*267 received treatment.

**SANATORIA.**

<i>Early Cases</i>	<i>Insured</i>	<i>Non-Insured.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number admitted ..	90	33	123
Number discharged ..	84	36	120

**HOSPITALS.**

<i>Advanced Cases.</i>				
Number admitted	..	42	21	63
Number discharged	..	46	22	68
<i>Surgical Cases.</i>				
Number admitted	..	19	27	46
Number discharged	..	20	27	47

Name and situation of Institutions to which patients were sent by the Council.

Adults.	Number Admitted	
	Ins	Non Ins
Nirvana Home, Parkstone ..	40	20
Beckford Home, Warminster ..	71	24
Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth ..	12	—
Preston Hall, Aylesford, Kent ..	6	—
Weymouth and District Hospital ..	7	1
Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate ..	1	—
Bridport Hospital ..	2	—
Dorset County Hospital Dorchester ..	8	5
Hermitage, Ventnor, I.O.W. ..	1	—
Brompton Hospital, London ..	1	—
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, I.O.W. ..	1	—
Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne ..	1	—
Children		
Nirvana Home, Parkstone ..	—	1
Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples ..	—	—
Hospital, Alton Hants. ..	—	1
St. Catherine's Home, Ventnor ..	—	4
Swanage Red Cross Children's Hospital ..	—	4
Weymouth and District Hospital ..	—	5
Church Army San., Fleet, Hants. ..	—	2
Church Army, Heathend, Farnham, Surrey ..	—	2
Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester ..	—	11
Bridport Hospital ..	—	1
	151	81
Total	232	

	Insured	Non-insured	Total
Deaths in 1923 ..	65	29	94
Recoveries (full work)	8	84	92
Recoveries (Light work)	3	25	28

Total Recoveries 120

# REPORTS of District Medical Officers of Health.

(Abstract of Returns from County Districts).

TABLE V. SANITARY INSPECTIONS (SEPARATE DISTRICTS).

	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS.				
	No. of Inspections	No. of Informal Notices	No. complied with	No. of Statutory Notices	No. complied with.		No. of Inspections.	No. of Informal Notices.	No. complied with.	No. of Statutory Notices	No. complied with.
BLANDFORD ..	153	57	57	—	—	BEAMINSTER ..	139	3	3	—	—
BRIDPORT ..	23	15	15	—	—	BLANDFORD ..	127	14	13	—	—
DORCHESTER ..	3270	84	82	178	142	BRIDPORT ..	499	11	9	2	1
LYME REGIS ..	169	27	27	10	10	CERNE ..	84	14	14	—	—
POOLE ..	4870	196	174	22	17	DORCHESTER ..	58	12	12	1	1
PORTLAND ..	2729	261	231	9	5	POOLE ..	855	47	45	4	4
SHAFTESBURY ..	20	11	8	4	—	SHAFTESBURY ..	89	—	—	14	12
SHERBORNE ..	549	10	10	—	—	SHERBORNE ..	9	7	6	1	1
*SWANAGE ..	—	—	—	—	—	STURMINSTER ..	302	2	2	29	23
WAREHAM ..	32	16	16	—	—	WAREHAM ..	134	22	22	—	—
WEYMOUTH ..	2423	98	96	10	6	WEYMOUTH ..	783	32	32	4	4
WIMBORNE ..	171	33	33	23	23	WIMBORNE ..	387	86	86	—	—

TABLE VI. COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES (SEPARATE DISTRICTS).

	URBAN DISTRICTS.							RURAL DISTRICTS.					
	No. of Dairymen Cowkeepers & Milk sellers on Register.	No. of Cowsheds in District	No. Inspected during 1923.	No. of Inspections during 1923.	No. of Notices served.	No. complied with.		No. of Dairymen Cowkeepers & Milk sellers on Register.	No. of Cowsheds in District.	No. Inspected during 1923.	No. of Inspections during 1923.	No. of Notices served.	No. complied with.
BLANDFORD ..	9	—	—	9	—	—	BEAMINSTER ..	47	—	120	120	—	—
BRIDPORT ..	18	3	3	sev'l	—	—	BLANDFORD ..	102	126	47	50	—	—
DORCHESTER ..	24	7	7	59	—	—	BRIDPORT ..	125	—	28	40	—	—
LYME REGIS ..	7	6	6	21	—	—	CERNE ..	96	—	73	103	—	—
POOLE ..	—	—	8	95	—	—	DORCHESTER ..	79	120	—	27	4	4
PORTLAND ..	25	23	23	97	4	4	POOLE ..	60	60	60	65	1	1
SHAFTESBURY ..	—	7	7	7	—	—	SHAFTESBURY ..	108	266	32	—	—	—
SHERBORNE ..	6	6	14	14	—	—	SHERBORNE ..	188	211	109	126	26	26
*SWANAGE ..	17	12	—	—	—	—	STURMINSTER ..	311	—	39	39	15	9
WAREHAM ..	3	3	3	12	—	—	WAREHAM ..	101	94	32	32	1	1
WEYMOUTH ..	56	6	6	143	—	—	WEYMOUTH ..	92	73	69	237	11	9
WIMBORNE ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	WIMBORNE ..	181	181	—	144	—	—

\*Information not available.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

TABLE VII. HOUSING																							
Abstract of Returns from County Districts																							
General:—																							
Number of new houses erected during the year																							
(a) Total																							
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts 1919 or 1923																							
(1) By the Local Authority																							
(2) By other bodies or persons																							
I. Inspections:—																							
(1) Under P.H. or H. Acts																							
(2) Under Housing Regulations, 1910																							
(3) Unfit for Habitation																							
(4) Not reasonably fit																							
II. Rendered fit by informal action of L.A.:—																							
III. Unfit Dwellings (Action under Statutes):—																							
A.—Under Section 28, Act 1919:—																							
(1) Repair-notices served																							
(2) Rendered fit																							
(a) By Owners																							
(b) By L.A., in default																							
(3) Closing Orders Operative																							
B.—Under Public Health Acts:—																							
(1) Notices re Defect																							
(2) Defects remedied																							
(a) by Owners																							
(b) by L.A. in default																							
C.—Under Sect. 17, 18, Act 1909:—																							
(1) Representations (view CO																							
(2) Closing Orders made																							
(3) Closing Orders determined (Houses rendered fit)																							
(4) Demolition Orders made																							
(5) Houses demolished																							

a. Cannot close as no available house. b. In course of erection. c. 1 Cottage, 1 Bungalow. d. Full information not available. e. 3 unfinished at end of year. f. not all erected.

## PORT SANITARY DISTRICTS.

### PORT OF BRIDPORT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—A. B. MACCARTHY,  
L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

No. of coastwise vessels entering port in 1923	20
No. of vessels entering port from foreign	16

### PORT OF LYME REGIS.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—Dr. P. N. COOK.

No. of coastwise vessels entering port in 1923	nil
No. of vessels entering port from foreign	nil

### PORT OF WEYMOUTH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—THOMAS HOWARD,  
M.D.

(The Port of Weymouth includes Portland Roads and Weymouth Harbour).

The following table shows the number and registered tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entering Portland Roads and Weymouth Harbour during 1923:—

		No.	Tonnage.
Portland Roads .. ..		753	656633
Weymouth Harbour .. ..		883	193358
Total		1636	849991

Port Sanitary Hospital—Cases admitted during 1923.  
From Shipboard                      From Portland.

			Urban District
Dysentery .. ..	1		
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1		6
Enteric Fever .. ..	1		1
Erysipelas .. ..	1		

Supervision of Foodstuffs.—The following represents the principal Unsound Foodstuffs destroyed during the year:—

Corned Beef ..	24lbs. Bacon ..	32½lbs.
Biscuits ..	20lbs.*Animal Fat ..	5½cwts
Pork ..	18lbs.*Dripping ..	1cwt.
Boiled Ham ..	16lbs. Luncheon Sausage ..	28lbs.
Cooked Tongue ..	5lbs. Liquid Eggs ..	2½cwts
Cake Powder ..	60pkts Canned Milk ..	22 tins

\* Released under guarantee for soap making.

STATEMENT FROM REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
MR. EDWIN NEWBOULD.

Number of Ships inspected in the Port during the year 1923.

Where Inspected.	No. of	No. com-
Weymouth.      Portland	Notices served	plied with
170                      421		
Informal Notices	87	75
Statutory Notices	0	0
Total served	87 —	75

(In Many Cases one Notice covered Several Nuisances.)

### PORT OF POOLE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—R. J. MAULE  
HORNE, M.B., D.P.H.

During the year 847 vessels entered the Port of Poole from home ports; and 240 from foreign ports (including Channel Islands).

No vessels have arrived at the port during the year from any suspected or infected port. One case of Venereal infection voluntarily reported to the Medical Officer and was referred to the proper centre for treatment.

Sanitary Defects were found on board 6 vessels. In all cases the defects were remedied after verbal notice.

All ships visiting the port were clear of rats when inspected.