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BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FOR 1946

BY

JOHN WARRACK

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.,

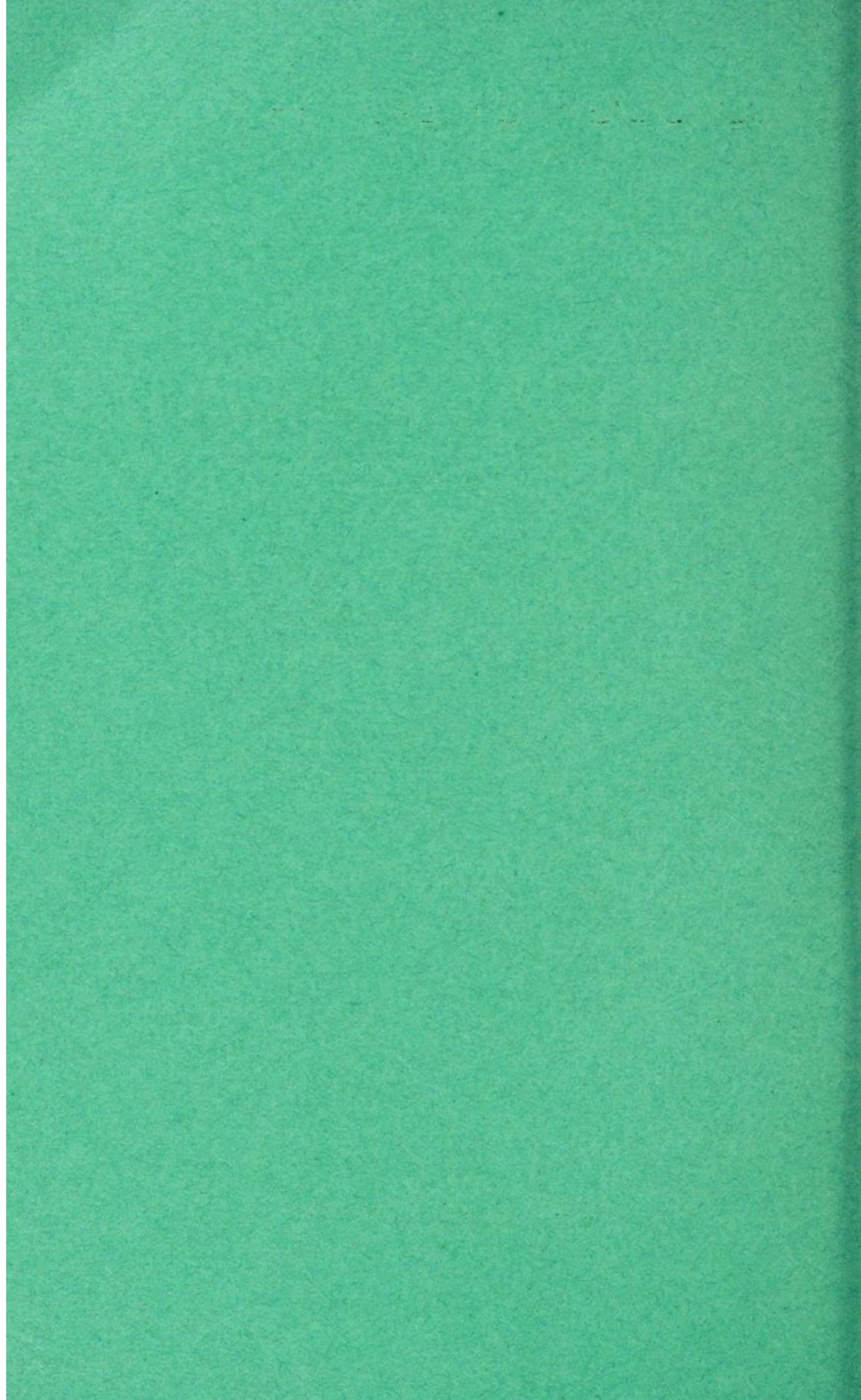
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

RETFORD

WINTER AND SON, GROVE STREET

1947





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**BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD  
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as at 31st December, 1946)

ALDERMAN A. WILSON (*Chairman*)  
ALDERMAN J. R. WATERFIELD (*Vice-Chairman*)  
ALDERMAN F. NETTLETON  
ALDERMAN E. E. SUTTON  
COUNCILLOR J. W. PEATFIELD (*Mayor*)  
COUNCILLOR L. TANNER  
COUNCILLOR R. WILSON  
COUNCILLOR B. POLLARD

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE**

(as at 31st December, 1946)

ALDERMAN J. R. WATERFIELD (*Chairman*)  
COUNCILLOR J. W. PEATFIELD (*Mayor*)  
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. WILLIAMSON (*Vice-Chairman*)  
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. WALKER  
COUNCILLOR W. B. VICKERS  
COUNCILLOR C. R. GLADISH  
COUNCILLOR DR. K. WANT  
MISS G. BRADSHAW (*Co-opted Member*)  
MRS. CLARKE (*Co-opted Member*)

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

(as at 31st December, 1946)

*Medical Officer of Health :*

J. WARRACK, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., M.R.SAN.I.

*Dental Officer (part time)*

H. HAWORTH, L.D.S.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

F. R. SMITH, CERT. ROY. SAN. INST., CERT. INSP. OF MEAT

*Health Visitor (temporary)*

MISS S. WATSON, C.M.B.

*Chief Clerk :*

MISS A. J. DICK

*Clerks :*

MISS M. E. WHITE ; MISS I. HALL

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area .. .. .	4,657 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-year, 1946 .. .. .	15,400
Number of inhabited houses, mid-year, 1946 ..	4,423
Rateable Value, mid-year, 1947 .. .. .	£99,277
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st April, 1947	£394 6d. 3d.

### VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS—	Total	M	F	
Legitimate .. .. .	299	166	133	
Illegitimate .. .. .	20	10	10	
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population .. .. .				20.71
Birth Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population .. .. .				19.1
STILL BIRTHS—	Total	M	F	
Legitimate .. .. .	7	2	5	
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 total births .. .. .				21.47
Rate per 1,000 estimated population .. .. .				0.45
Rate per 1,000 population of England and Wales ..				0.53
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Deaths from Puerperal Causes .. .. .				Nil
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis .. .. .				Nil
Other Maternal Causes .. .. .				Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .				Nil
Maternal Mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births .. .. .				43.00
INFANTILE MORTALITY—	Total	M	F	
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year .. .. .	10	9	1	
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year .. .. .	1	—	1	
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .				33.44
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .				50.00
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births .. ..				34.48
Infantile Mortality Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 live births .. .. .				43.00
DEATHS—	Total	M	F	
	181	91	90	



Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	11.75
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population in England and Wales .. .. .	11.5

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

#### MORTALITY—

The deaths include those of 48 persons in institutions outside the Borough ; 31 males and 17 females.

The causes of death were :—

Whooping Cough .. .. .	0
Diphtheria .. .. .	0
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	0
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system .. .. .	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	1
Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	1
Influenza .. .. .	0
Measles .. .. .	0
Cancer of the buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f) .. .. .	6
Cancer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	11
Cancer of breast .. .. .	4
Cancer of all other sites .. .. .	11
Diabetes .. .. .	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions .. .. .	20
Heart disease .. .. .	32
Other diseases of circulatory system .. .. .	5
Bronchitis .. .. .	15
Pneumonia .. .. .	7
Other respiratory diseases .. .. .	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .. .. .	5
Diarrhoea, under 2 years .. .. .	2
Appendicitis .. .. .	0
Other digestive diseases .. .. .	5
Nephritis .. .. .	3
Premature Birth .. .. .	3
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases .. .. .	3
Other maternal causes .. .. .	0
Suicide .. .. .	1
Road Traffic Accidents .. .. .	0
Other violent causes .. .. .	8
All other causes .. .. .	30



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK BUILDINGS,  
MARKET SQUARE,  
RETFORD.

*September, 1947.*

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the report for the year 1946 on the Health Services and Health of the Borough.

The Registrar General's estimated resident population shows an increase from the figure of 15,260 for 1945, although it is still under that for the war years when the population was 15,900.

In common with the rest of the country there has been a marked increase in the number of births in the Borough during the year under review. As can be seen from the Vital Statistics the total number of legitimate births for 1946 has been 319 compared with 1945's total of 277. In spite of this increase it is gratifying to record that the number of still-births has been halved compared with the previous years' total, so that the still-birth rate per 1,000 estimated population is now considerably less than that for England and Wales. This I think is in no small degree due to the improved Maternity and Child Welfare Services available in the Borough, especially the constant supervision which is given to expectant and nursing mothers and also to the "Care of Premature Infants" scheme.

The Infantile Mortality rate has also shewn a considerable decrease during 1946 and continues to be much less than the rate for England and Wales.

Deaths from all causes show an increase of 22 over the previous year's figure of 159. The largest increase has been in deaths from heart disease and cancer of the stomach and duodenum but it is gratifying to note that deaths due to pulmonary tuberculosis have decreased from 10 in 1945 to 4 in 1946.

You will also be pleased to learn that no case of Diphtheria occurred in the town during the year. I consider that this is the fruit of the labour and time spent in carrying out diphtheria immunisation. Immunisation has continued at special sessions at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic. During the year 205 children received protection including 22 by General Practitioners. In addition, 219 children have received boosting doses in order to maintain their immunity at a high level. Once again I must appeal to all parents in the Borough to take advantage of



the facilities offered, and I would also ask the members of the Council to do all in their power to encourage those parents who have not so far had their children immunised, to come forward immediately so that the risk of an outbreak of this fatal disease can be finally removed from the town.

The percentage of children under the age of 5 years who have so far been immunised is 73.51, which in my opinion is lower than should be the case. The percentage of children over the age of 5 years and under 15 so far dealt with is practically 100.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

**Ambulance Services.** As reported last year, infectious disease cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital at North Carlton whence they are transported by one of the ambulances maintained, by the North Notts. Joint Hospital Board, at that Institution.

Accident and illness cases, other than infectious diseases, are conveyed to hospital by ambulances which are maintained by the Retford and District Ambulance Association, or in the event of these not being available, by the ambulance maintained by the Borough Council.

**Laboratory Services.** As in previous years, specimens of milk, throat swabs, etc., and also samples of ice cream were sent for examination either to the City Laboratory, Nottingham, or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme, County Offices, Lincoln, or to the Public Analyst at Sheffield.

**Hospitals and Nursing Services.** Home Nursing continues to be provided by the District Nurses maintained by the Retford Nursing Association, which relies for its existence on public subscription.

**Tuberculosis.** The diagnosis, treatment and after-care of cases of tuberculosis in the Borough is one of the public health services provided by the Notts. County Council. Tuberculosis Clinics are held at the Retford and District Hospital, every Tuesday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

**Venereal Diseases.** The treatment of Venereal Disease is the responsibility of the County Council. Clinics are held as hereunder :—

Mansfield		West Hill Drive	
Men	..	Tuesday	.. 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon
		Thursday	.. 6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.



Women ..	Tuesday ..	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
	Wednesday	6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.

**Workshop                      Dispensary Buildings, Watson Road.**

Men ..	Thursday ..	10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Women ..	Wednesday	10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

There are also available the following Venereal Disease Clinics in adjacent towns :—

**Doncaster**

**Royal Infirmary**

Men ..	Tuesday ..	5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
	Friday ..	9.0 a.m. to 11.0 a.m.
	Friday ..	4.0 p.m. to 6.0 p.m.
Women ..	Monday ..	4.0 p.m. to 6.0 p.m.
	Friday ..	6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.

**Gainsborough**

**141, Bridge Street**

Men ..	Wednesday	6.0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.
Women ..	Monday ..	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon

**Sheffield**

**Royal Infirmary**

Men ..	Tuesday ..	5.0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.
	Wednesday	6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.
	Friday ..	5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Women ..	Tuesday ..	1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

**Royal Hospital**

Men ..	Tuesday ..	7.0 p.m. to 9.0 p.m.
	Thursday ..	6.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.
	Friday ..	7.0 p.m. to 9.0 p.m.
Women ..	Thursday ..	11.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m.

**Jessop Hospital for Women**

Women ..	Tuesday and Thursday	4.0 p.m. to 6.0 p.m.
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**Scabies Order, 1941.** 1946 shewed a return in the number of cases notified for treatment under the above Order to practically the 1944 level. This apparent increase is not due to the infestation becoming more widespread; it is due to the fact that practically in every instance whole families were infested, and therefore, considerable numbers of patients had to be dealt with.

Given hereunder are the figures for the year in question, along with the two previous years for comparison :—

	1946	1945	1944
Number of cases notified .. ..	130	65	134
Cases treated at home .. ..	Nil	1	Nil
Cases treated at Cleansing Station ..	130	64	133
Cases receiving institutional treatment	Nil	Nil	1



Treatment continues to be provided at the Cleansing Centre in Brewery Lane, and as can be seen, all cases were treated there, and in no instance had compulsory cleansing to be resorted to.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

As can be seen from the statistics given towards the beginning of this report, 1946 has been a most successful year from the Maternity and Child Welfare point of view.

Constant supervision has been provided for both expectant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years, at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic in Wharf Road.

Clinics are held as follows :—

MONDAYS	Babies up to 18 months old.
TUESDAYS	Ante-natal and Post-natal cases.
WEDNESDAYS	Babies up to 18 months old.
THURSDAYS	Children 18 months to 5 years.

The following summarises the work done at the Clinic during the year :—

Number of sessions held during 1946	.. .. .	200
Number of sessions attended by Medical Officer	..	62
Number of examinations made (children)	.. .. .	584
Number of examinations made (mothers)	.. .. .	959
Average number of children and mothers examined per session	.. .. .	7
Number of individual children who attended Centre	..	829
Number of visits paid by children to the Centre :—		
Under 1 year	5,998	
1 to 5 years	6,717	Total 12,715
Number of individual Ante-natal cases who attended	..	246
Number of individual Post-natal cases who attended	..	4

Infant foods and vitamin products are still available for purchasing at cost price, and arrangements are also in existence for the provision of dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and young children, and for the attending of orthopaedic cases at the Worksop and District Cripples' Guild.

During the year, 29 children attended under the last mentioned scheme, making in all 209 attendances at the Clinic.

Ophthalmic cases have also been seen by appointment by the specialist in Sheffield, and during 1946, 4 cases have been examined by him.

Eight children suffering from enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids have been operated upon at the Retford and District Hospital during the year.



Provision is also made through the Clinic for expectant mothers and young children to receive treatment by Ultra-Violet Rays. During 1946, 1 expectant mother and 27 children have been dealt with, with very marked beneficial results to their general health. This service is provided entirely free of cost to the patients.

Five cases of complicated pregnancy have been seen by the Obstetrical Specialist in Sheffield during the period under review.

During the year, the following confinements have taken place in the Institutions mentioned :—

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Days in Hospital</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Jessop Hospital, Sheffield	8	48	£ 32 10 0
County General Hospital, Worksop	42	506	£ 391 4 0
	50	554	£ 423 14 0

Mothers who can, and wish to be confined at home are attended by the County Midwives of which there are three resident in the Borough as follows :—

NURSE E. A. HARDY and NURSE F. E. HARDY, "Widdicombe", Welham Road, Retford. Phone Retford 51.

NURSE M. I. WHITTINGTON, "Netherwoods," Devonshire Road, Retford. Phone Retford 530.

In spite of continued efforts, it has been found impossible to fill the vacancy of Health Visitor, and during 1946 Miss Watson has continued to carry on the duties of both Health Visitor and Clinic Nurse.

During the year, she has visited 1,416 children under the age of one year, and 1,433 children between 1 and 5 years of age, giving a total of 2,849 visits paid during 1946.

**Home and Domestic Help Schemes.** As mentioned in the report for 1945, the above-mentioned schemes ceased to be, owing to the resignation of the Helpers, towards the end of the year, and it was found impossible to recommence the work until July, 1946, when a part-time worker was obtained.

**Care of Premature Infants Scheme.** This scheme continued to function satisfactorily during the year. In all, 9 infants and their mothers were admitted to the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, for special care. On one occasion during the period, the draught-proof cot and other equipment which is available under this scheme, was in use in the Borough.

**Care of Illegitimate Children Scheme.** Owing to difficulties experienced in obtaining the necessary trained staff



by the County Almoner's Department during 1946, the supervision and assistance which it had been intended to be made available to mothers of illegitimate children, could not be continued to the same extent as had been expected.

Eight cases were interviewed and advice given where necessary by the Almoner from Nottingham.

**Child Life Protection.** During the year, the home conditions in 7 cases in which Adoption Orders had been applied for, were investigated, and in all except one case the order was granted. The acting Health Visitor carried out during the year the necessary supervision of the only child in Retford coming under the requirements of the Public Health Act regarding Child Life Protection.

**Day Nursery.** The Day Nursery in the Square which had provided a much needed want during the war years was closed on the 31st March, on which date the Ministry of Health ceased to be responsible for its maintenance. After much deliberation, the Council decided that the necessity for the continuance of the Nursery no longer existed, in view of the indication that within a short time most of the mothers would have returned from industry, and would be able to look after their young children at home.

#### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

The Notts. County Council, being the Local Education Authority are responsible for providing this service.

School Clinics are held in Chancery Lane on Mondays, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, when a Medical Officer attached to the County School Medical Staff attends, and on Thursdays from 9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Dental Clinics are also held in the same building on Fridays from 9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon, and from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Retford Borough obtains its water supply from deep wells situated on land adjacent to Ordsall Road. At the present moment, no surface storage is available and, therefore, continuous pumping is necessary. All houses are supplied directly with piped water. No stand-pipes are used anywhere.

In all, 121 samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination during the year, and of this number only 3 were found to be unsatisfactory. In the suspicious cases, further samples revealed that the contamination was of a temporary nature only, and had probably arisen during the taking of the samples.



The following gives details of samples sent for examination :  
*Before*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chlorinated</i>	<i>Chlorination</i>	<i>Result (Class No.)</i>
2.	1.	46 2 -	1
12.	1.	46 4 -	1
18.	1.	46 1 1	1
25.	1.	46 1 1	1 sample 1, and 1 sample 3
1.	2.	46 - 2	1 sample 1, and 1 sample 3
9.	2.	46 - 2	1
15.	2.	46 2 -	1
22.	2.	46 1 2	1
1.	3.	46 - 2	1
5.	3.	46 2 -	1
15.	3.	46 - 2	1
22.	3.	46 2 -	1
29.	3.	46 1 -	1
5.	4.	46 2 -	1
12.	4.	46 - 2	1
18.	4.	46 3 -	1
2.	5.	46 2 -	1
10.	5.	46 - 2	1
16.	5.	46 2 -	1
25.	5.	46 - 2	1
31.	5.	46 2 -	1
6.	6.	46 - 2	1
17.	6.	46 2 -	1
21.	6.	46 - 2	1
28.	6.	46 2 -	1
5.	7.	46 - 2	1
19.	7.	46 1 2	2 samples 1 and 1 sample 2
26.	7.	46 2 -	1
2.	8.	46 3 -	1
12.	8.	46 - 3	1
12.	8.	46 - 2	1 sample 1 and 1 sample 3
16.	8.	46 3 -	1
23.	8.	46 - 2	1
29.	8.	46 3 -	2 samples 1 and 1 sample 2
6.	9.	46 - 2	1
12.	9.	46 2 -	1
20.	9.	46 - 2	1
27.	9.	46 3 -	1
4.	10.	46 - 2	1
8.	10.	46 3 -	2 samples 1 and 1 sample 2

17.	10.	46	—	2	1
21.	10.	46	3	—	1
29.	10.	46	—	2	1
8.	11.	46	3	—	1
14.	11.	46	—	2	1
21.	11.	46	3	—	1
30.	11.	46	—	2	1
6.	12.	46	4	—	1
12.	12.	46	—	2	1
20.	12.	46	3	—	1
27.	12.	46	—	2	1
31.	12.	46	3	—	1

The grading in column 4 is that given in the Ministry of Health report No. 71, 1939, "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies", as follows :—

	Presumptive Coliform Count per 100 ml.
Class 1..Highly Satisfactory	less than 1
„ 2..Satisfactory	1-2
„ 3..Suspicious	3-10
„ 4..Unsatisfactory	greater than 10

Three samples of water direct from Bore-holes were sent for full chemical analysis during 1946, and the Analyst's reports are as follows :—

Mark	No. 1 Well Works Untreated	No. 2 Well Works Untreated	No. 3 Oval Well Works Untreated
------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

#### PHYSICAL CHARACTERS

Suspended Matter ..	faint trace	trace	heavy trace
Appearance of a column 2 ft. long ..	clear ; colourless	slightly cloudy ; very faintly yellowish	clear colourless
Taste .. .. .	normal	normal	normal
Odour .. .. .	None	None	None

#### CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

	Parts per 100,000		
Total Solids dried at 180 deg C	20.8	21.5	22.0
Chloride in terms of Chlorine	2.35	2.80	2.60
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	3.86	4.61	4.26
Nitrates .. .. .	None	None	None
Nitrates as Nitrogen ..	0.32	0.32	0.32
Poisonous Metals (Lead, etc.)	None	None	None
Total Hardness .. ..	15.0	15.0	15.0



Temporary Hardness ..	11.0	10.5	10.8
Permanent Hardness ..	4.0	4.5	4.2
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg. F. ....	0.042	0.038	0.037
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.0004	0.0004	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.0010	0.0008	0.0008
pH Value ..	8.0	8.6	7.8

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Temperature on arrival .. 19 deg. C 19 deg. C 19 deg. C

Number of colonies per ml.

developing on Agar in :—

3 days at 22 deg. C .. 1 2 2

48 hours at 36 deg. C .. 0 0 1

**B. Coli Test** (MacConkey's

Bile Salt Lactose Broth)

Probable number of Coliform

Organisms per 100 ml. 0 0 0

**Remarks**

**All Satisfactory**

As in previous years, there is no evidence of Plumbo Solvency.

### Corporation Swimming Bath.

During 1946, four samples of water from the Corporation Swimming Bath were sent for bacteriological examination. All proved satisfactory from a bacteriological point of view, although in each case the quantity of residual chlorine was lower than the desired level.

### Public Cleansing.

Until September, 1946, Public Cleansing was supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. On that date the work was transferred to the Borough Surveyor's Department.

The following is the report which I have received from the Sanitary Inspector on the work up to the time of transfer :—

"The collection of refuse was carried out by two gangs of men loading into covered motor lorries, and the refuse was collected at intervals of from seven to ten days. There was a gradual improvement in the labour position during the year, and by the end of 1946 the regular weekly collection was restored. During the nine months of the year when I controlled the work, 1,457 loads of house refuse and 177 loads of street sweepings were taken to the tip".

He also reports that :—

"The streets were swept on the 'beat' system, each man being responsible for a fixed area. This enables the more im-



portant streets to be swept each morning, and also it was easy for the foreman to control the men because the results of any idleness were soon apparent.

The collection of salvage is an important feature of Public Cleansing, and during 1946, 119 tons of paper,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons of textiles,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  tons of glass,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons of iron, 39 tons of kitchen waste and 32 cwts. of bones were sold for £921 15s. 0d. There has been a steady reduction in salvage ever since 1942 when 502 tons were sold, but the total salvage collected and sold by the Corporation since the scheme commenced in 1940 is 2,081 tons".

The refuse is tipped at Ordsall into a derelict gravel quarry which by this means is being gradually filled in and will eventually be made available for building or other purposes.

### **Vermin.**

The Sanitary Inspector reports:—"During the year, 7 houses were found to be infested with bugs or fleas, and were treated by the department. The advent of the new insecticide 'DDT' has simplified procedure, and in all cases we were able to clear the vermin. In addition to these, a considerable amount of work was done to destroy beetles, ants and fleas. The destruction of ants presents some difficulty and we were not able to clear all the infested houses of this pest. Three houses were found to be infested with a small ant known as the 'Egyptian House Ant', and although two treatments with arsenical syrup and 'DDT' were given, the pest was still present in small numbers".

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

The only Lodging House in the Borough was inspected at intervals by the Sanitary Inspector, who states that "The standard has deteriorated during the war particularly in the bedding. There is accommodation for 41 people and the house is usually full. Limewashing has been carried out at the times prescribed under the Bye-laws".

### **Rodent Control.**

A Rodent Operator was appointed during 1946, and received training at a Centre organised by the Ministry of Food.

A Survey of the town was made, and 8 separate infestations with rats were found to be present, necessitating 160 visits to premises in order to carry out the work. The results obtained were excellent. The foul water sewers were proved to be free from rats, but some vermin are at present in the old top-water sewers in the centre of the town.



## Milk.

During 1946, 194 visits were paid to dairies and cowsheds by the Sanitary Inspector, who states that on two occasions contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Orders were found and remedied after warnings.

Only one alteration to the list of retailers on the register was made during the year, this was in respect of a cowkeeper-retailer who gave up his business which was taken over by a retailer whose premises are outside the Borough.

One licence for the production and sale of pasteurised milk has been issued in the Borough. Samples of this milk were taken for examination on 85 days during 1946, and in every case the milk was found to comply with the conditions of the licence. The same firm also holds a licence for the bottling and sale of Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested milk, this licence being granted during the latter half of the year. The milk was examined on five days, and was found to comply with the licence. Of the total of 24 retailers in the Borough, seven sell Accredited milk, which is examined monthly by the Notts. County Council staff.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that *some* retailers sell milk which *has* been pasteurised, but the greater number of producer-retailers sell their milk ungraded.

Samples of non-graded milk were obtained by both the Sanitary Inspector and the Notts. War Agricultural Department staff during the year. This work is carried out under the Ministry of Agriculture's National Milk Testing and Advisory Service, and much has been done to raise the standard of the milk produced in this country by this means. During 1946, 93 samples of milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspector, under this scheme, and the results were found to be as follows :—

'A'	..	85
'B'	..	7
'C'	..	1

From this it will be seen that all milk both graded and non-graded which is sold in the Borough is up to the standard required of its class, but it would be preferred that all milk should be 'Tuberculin Tested' or 'Pasteurised' or 'Accredited' and it should be sold in closed bottles or other sealed containers.

## Ice Cream.

This commodity has figured largely in the public eye during 1946 principally owing to the outbreaks of food poisoning which have been traceable to its consumption. Three firms manufacture ice cream in the Borough, and four sell ice-cream



manufactured outside the Borough. During the year, 24 samples were taken and submitted for examination, and of these, 12 were regarded as satisfactory, and 12 unsatisfactory. Ice Cream with less than 100,000 bacteria per ml. and with no B. Coli present were classified as satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector says :—

“The traders concerned take a very healthy interest in the results of the samples and they are just as anxious as the Health Department that their products shall be of good quality. Practically all the bad samples were in the early summer, and greater care in manufacture enabled the ice-cream to pass the test. There is need for constant supervision over the production of this food as the least carelessness in hygiene can have disastrous results”.

## FOOD INSPECTION

### Meat.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that :—

“This work is very heavy, as the meat for a population of about 85,000 is distributed from Retford under my supervision. I receive assistance from the staff of the Retford Rural District Council in the work of meat inspection, whilst the staffs of the Ministry of Food, the Wholesale Meat Supply Association, and the Butcher's Buying Groups are all most helpful in their collaboration with me.

All carcasses and organs are inspected at the slaughterhouses before removal, although this means long hours of work, many in the early morning or late evening. I made 442 visits to the slaughterhouses for the purpose of inspecting home-killed meat and 98 visits to the cold store for inspection of imported meat”.

The number of animals slaughtered in Retford during 1946 and previous years were as follows :—

			<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
1946	..	..	3,395	1,209	11,198	180
1945	..	..	3,503	759	10,152	335
1944	..	..	3,132	718	11,628	369
1943	..	..	2,905	559	16,431	385
1942	..	..	3,038	393	13,794	343
1941	..	..	3,335	448	11,986	886
1940	..	..	3,677	159	19,131	2,822

The percentages of animals in which visible tuberculosis lesions were found either in the carcasses or organs, during the past six years have been :—



	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cattle .. ..	22.5	23.4	31.1	32.8	27.0	25.8
Pigs .. ..	8.8	11.9	17.4	16.1	8.06	11.1
Calves .. ..	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.5

Tuberculosis is still by far the worst disease amongst cattle, and is responsible for a large proportion of the meat which is condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The total weight of meat regarded as unfit for human food for the past seven years is as follows :—

1946 ..	132,871 lbs.
1945 ..	119,110 lbs.
1944 ..	139,145 lbs.
1943 ..	165,120 lbs.
1942 ..	118,608 lbs.
1941 ..	100,226 lbs.
1940 ..	89,817 lbs.

All condemned meat is sent to a recovery plant where it is sterilized and converted into cattle food, fertilizer, etc. The public can rest assured that the meat issued to them is free from disease.

### Other Food.

The foodstuffs in the shops and warehouses are submitted to the Sanitary Inspector when any doubt as to their quality exists, and routine examinations are made from time to time. During 1946 there was a very varied amount of foods found to be unsatisfactory mostly on account of decomposition. The list is as follows :—

Canned corned beef and tongue (6lb. tins)	675 tins
Other tinned foods .. ..	433 tins
Lard .. ..	2½ lbs.
Flour .. ..	72 lbs.
Spaghetti .. ..	56 lbs.
Prunes .. ..	25 lbs.
Jam .. ..	28 lbs.
Marmite .. ..	4 ozs.
Pickles .. ..	3 bottles
Bacon and Ham .. ..	107 lbs.
Rye Meal .. ..	272 cwts.
Cheese .. ..	24½ lbs.
Sultanas .. ..	64 lbs.
Sugar .. ..	23 lbs.
Biscuit Meal .. ..	2 cwts.
Dripping .. ..	432 lbs.

Semolina .. .. .	14 lbs.
Eggs .. .. .	409
Raisins .. .. .	65 lbs.
Beef Cubes .. .. .	8 ozs.
Sausage Rusks .. .. .	1 cwt.
Lemon Squash .. .. .	1 bottle

## HOUSING

Retford, in common with the rest of the country is still suffering from an acute shortage of houses, and overcrowding is consequently still present. The exact number of overcrowded houses is not known, but at the end of the year, 11 cases of legal overcrowding were on the register.

The making of a Survey of the town was considered with a view to ascertaining the housing needs in the Borough, but owing to staff shortage the idea was not carried through.

The following summarises the work undertaken in respect of housing matters during 1946 :—

### 1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .   | 301 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .   | 482 |
| 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .          | 4   |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .   | 12  |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .   | 4   |
| 4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. . | 210 |

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .	102
---	-----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—



(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—(i) by owners .. .. .	Nil
	(ii) by Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	85
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(i) by owners .. .. .	54
	(ii) by Local Authorities in default of owners .. .. .	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	Nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	Nil

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936 — Overcrowding.

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year .. .. .	11
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein ..	24
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	89
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	13
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	2
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	21

- (d) Particulars of any cases of which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. Nil

The following summary shows the visits made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, and nuisances, etc., dealt with :—

Houses inspected —Public Health Acts	..	..	164
Housing Acts	..	..	67
Complaints investigated	..	..	151
Properties re Nuisances	..	..	262
Slaughterhouses	..	..	442
Shops and Stalls re Food Inspection	..	..	414
Properties under notice	..	..	1,014
Dairies and Cowsheds	..	..	194
Factories and Workshops	..	..	39
Bakehouses	..	..	40
Petrol and Carbide Stores	..	..	6
Premises re infectious diseases	..	..	75
Offensive Trades	..	..	13
Premises re rats	..	..	160
Interviews with owners, etc., on site	..	..	61
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	17
Shops Act	..	..	24
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	50
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	205
Total			3,398

#### Contravention of Bye-laws, Orders, etc.

Food Shops	..	..	14
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	..	..	2
Bakehouses	..	..	1
Factories and Workshops	..	..	1
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	2
Slaughterhouses	..	..	3
			23

The following tables show the work carried out in respect of the Factory and Workshops Act 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937, which applies from 1st July, 1938 :—



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c Line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c Line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	11	14	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 .. .. .	2					2
(b) Others .. .. .	3	73	65	2	Nil	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	4					4
TOTAL ..		84	79	2	Nil	

## 2. CASES in which defects were found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prose- cutions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found (3)	Rem'd'd (4)	To H.M. Inspection (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspection (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5	1	1				5
Overcrowding .. .. .	6						6
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	7						7
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	8						8
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	9						9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient .. .. .	10	1	Nil		1		10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	11						11
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	12						12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ..	13						13
TOTAL ..	60	2	1		1		60



At the end of this report will be found tables showing the 'Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases', 'Infectious Diseases According to Age', 'Infectious Diseases Notified Month by Month', 'Tuberculosis', etc.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the continued interest in Public Health matters shown by the various Committees with which I come into contact, and also to thank the other departments for the co-operation which they have afforded me during the year, with especial mention of the ready assistance which I have always obtained from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. R. Smith, Nurse Watson, and the office staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN WARRACK,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1946

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	17	17 (a)	-	6	2	9
Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles .. .. .	14	-	-	5	4	5
Whooping Cough .. .. .	67	-	-	18	12	37
Erysipelas .. .. .	7	1	-	1	2	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	33 (1 N.C.)	-	7	11	11	11 (1 N.C.)
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	14	7 (b)	4	4	4	6
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	-	1	2	1	2
Malaria .. .. .	2	-	-	1	-	1
	160 (1 N.C.)	25	12	48	37	75 (1 N.C.)

(a) North Carlton Isolation Hospital

(b) Ransom Sanatorium, Rainworth

Pneumonia — N.C. 1 Case Non-civilian



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE, 1946

Disease	At all Ages	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	17	—	—	—	1	1	4	7	1	2	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	14	1	2	—	3	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	67	10	6	9	7	9	23	3	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	33 (1x)	5	2	4	2	—	2	—	1 (1x)	1	4	8	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	1	4	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
Malaria	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	160 1x	16	10	13	13	14	34	11	3 1x	19	6	14	7

(x — Non-Civilian)

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH, 1946

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ..	1	2	—	1	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	7	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	11	17	5	8	9	—	4	5	1	—	2	5
Erysipelas ..	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	5	13 (1x)	3	—	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	—	1	2	2	1	2	3	—	1	1	1	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	27	36 1x	12	13	17	7	13	11	6	4	6	8

(x — Non-Civilian)



## TUBERCULOSIS, 1946

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—35 ..	3	5	2	1	2	1	—	1
35—45 ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—65 ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	6	8	4	1	3	1	—	1





