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Contributors

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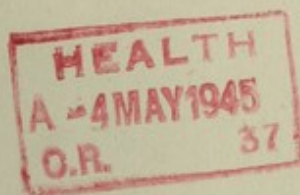
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EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

for

the year 1944.



Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

This abbreviated Annual Report is in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health. All records are preserved, however, and a comprehensive survey of the period covered by hostilities will be available shortly after the war ends.

General Health.

In common with the rest of the country, the Urban District suffered from an epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough during the winter months. No deaths were reported as a result of these infectious diseases. This may be the result of a change in the attitude of parents towards the care of children suffering from febrile infectious diseases. At one time it was the custom to exclude all fresh air, to encumber the patient with too many bedclothes, and to heat the room in which the patient lay. Now, the general public is adopting the common sense practice of allowing unlimited fresh air when the weather permits, and it is beginning to appreciate that sufficient warmth to make the patient comfortable is all that is required.

In other respects the health of the district remained good.

Cleanliness.

The supervision and inspection of school children has been continued throughout the year by the Health Visitor and the school nurses, and parents are encouraged to devote more attention to detail when such encouragement is needed.

A nurse devotes her whole time to the examination and treatment of children's heads. During the past year she has used Benzyl Benzoate emulsion instead of Lethane in treating cases, and approves the change. She finds that nits are more easily dislodged from the hair, that there is no skin reaction, and that when treatment is completed the hair is left in a pleasing state and does not show evidence of interference. This consideration may be of psychological value, for the child will no longer fear disparaging remarks from its fellow scholars. During the year 10,575 inspections were made and 737 cases were found to require treatment.

School Clinic.

This is still held on Monday and Thursday mornings during each week and is kept open once a week during school holidays.

In the past, trifling ailments only have been treated. It may be that, as the New Education Act requires the County Council to be responsible for all but the domiciliary treatment of school children, the school clinic will gradually evolve into a school dispensary. If this should happen, the premises which even now are inadequate would then be almost impossible. The Clinic seems to be increasingly popular with parents, for the number of mothers who accompany their children is steadily growing. They are encouraged in this as it offers an excellent opportunity for breaking down superstitions and replacing 'old wives tales' by elementary education in homely remedies and simple rules of health.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A clinic is held once a month. Propaganda is still maintained by poster, advertisement and by personal appeal. The result is satisfactory, and speaking generally, mothers need little encouragement, for they come forward eagerly to avail themselves of the service.

3. The following figures are for the year 1944.

	<u>Under 5</u> <u>years.</u>	<u>Over 5 yrs.</u> <u>& under 15.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of children who completed the full course	282	23	285
Estimated percentage of children completely immunised.	69.3%	90.8%	

The percentage estimation of the number of children immunised has been rendered difficult by the sudden influx of evacuees during the year and, later, by the steady trickle of children back to the areas from which they came.

St Luke's. Hospital.

Resident children, and evacuee children from any part of the county, are admitted on request, but the bulk of admissions are from Exmouth. Although primarily intended for the treatment of minor infectious diseases, the hospital provides help in ridding children of troublesome skin affections. There is accommodation for 22 patients but as there are four small wards only available, the different types of infectious disease that can be admitted at any one time is necessarily limited to that number. The following table gives numbers of the various diseases admitted during the year:-

Impetigo	61	Jaundice	1
Scabies (complicated)	24	Ringworm	2
Whooping Cough	9	Stomatitis	2
Measles	27	Boils	2
German Measles	8	Septic throat	4
Chicken-pox	28	Abscess	1
Mumps.	14	Fractures	2
		Observation	7
		Total	192.

4.

Scabies is treated in the outpatient department. Children are bathed and painted with Benzyl Benzoate emulsion. The treatment is repeated after seven days. Children are returned home on the day they are treated and allowed to return to school on the following day. There is no evidence that this procedure contributes to the spread of the infestation.

Cases of Scabies treated as outpatients at St. Luke's Hospital during the past year.

<u>Exmouth.</u>	<u>St Thomas R.D.C.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
533	119	652

Hostels.

The second evacuation of children from London required the provision of more hostel accommodation, and 33 Morton Rd. and 5 Morton Crescent were re-opened. Both are used for Enuretic and difficult children, the former for girls and the latter for boys, and together provide accommodation for 35 children. Two hostels that have been occupied since the beginning of the war accommodate difficult children. 7 Morton Crescent is reserved for 20 difficult boys, and 2 Trefusis Terrace 20 difficult girls.

Sickbay.

Templetown Lodge has been opened for aged sick evacuees from London. 18 beds are provided, but the difficulty of securing sufficient nursing staff has resulted in a limited number only being admitted so far. At the moment there are 9 patients in residence, but even this small number is proving almost more than the very limited staff can deal with and nurses have been transferred temporarily from St Luke's Hospital to assist the depleted staff.

5. Maternity and Child Welfare.

This service comes under the control of the County Council. A weekly clinic is held each Thursday afternoon, at which the Medical Officer of Health and a local practitioner attend. 4,742 attendances were made by mothers and their children during the past year. The service is ^{be} coming increasingly popular and larger premises, giving more waiting-room accommodation, are urgently needed.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	<u>No:</u>	<u>No: of Inspections.</u>
Premises visited	652	
New drains	6	10
Drains repaired	112	190
Nuisances abated	226	376
W.C's reconstructed	3	7
Disinfection of bedding (lots)	55	
Disinfection of houses	45	45
Common lodging houses	1	5
Food Shops		364
Bakehouses	20	22
Dairies and cowsheds	46	100
Ashbins provided	10	10
House roofs repaired	92	127
House yard paving repaired	4	6
House walls and floors repaired	28	37
Other house repairs	143	169
Factories	45	60
	Total Inspections	1723.

Number of Informal notices served (general) 42

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses (other than Council) found to be infested	5
Number of houses " disinfectated	5

Housing.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	124
Number of inspections made for the purpose	236
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	47
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action.	47

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The 26 cowsheds and 25 milk shops in the area have been systematically inspected, samples were taken by myself and tested by the County Bacteriologist with the following results:-

<u>Description of milk.</u>	<u>NO: of Samples.</u>	<u>Passed Accredited Standard.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>
Accredited Repeats.	38	32	6
1st.	6	3	3
2nd.	3	3	-
3rd.			
Ordinary Repeats	43	30	13
1st.	13	10	3
2nd.	3	2	1
3rd.	1	-	1
4th.	1	1	-

Meat and other Foods.

Regular visits were paid to meat shops and cooked meat shops and fish shops where food is sold or prepared, visits were also paid to the provision stores and the amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year was 1 ton - 4 cwts. - 3 qrs. - 17 lbs.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No: of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	30	6	
Workshops. (including workshop) Laundries)	15	2	

Water Supply.

The water supply is from two sources.

Squabmoor - a catchment area for surface water.

Dotton- a bore hole, yielding the main supply.

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality, but difficulties have been experienced in providing sufficient quantity to meet the demand. The reasons for this are:-

(a) a marked diminution of rainfall.

(b) the machinery at Dotton pumping station, being heavily overworked, has suffered in efficiency.

7.

(c) the considerably increased consumption over normal years owing to the presence of troops and evacuees.

Monthly bacteriological examinations of the water both before and after treatment have been made. Results show that the water from Squabmoor is satisfactory after treatment, and that from Dotton is satisfactory at all times.

The Squabmoor water has a strong plumbo solvent action and, consequently, the Council have always insisted that all water piping in Exmouth is of galvanised iron. It has not been considered necessary to make any analysis in this connection.

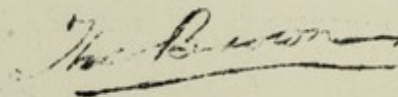
No action has been necessary for any form of contamination.

The whole of the dwelling houses supplied from public mains have supplies piped direct to the houses.

Appended is the latest chemical analysis of the town's supplies.

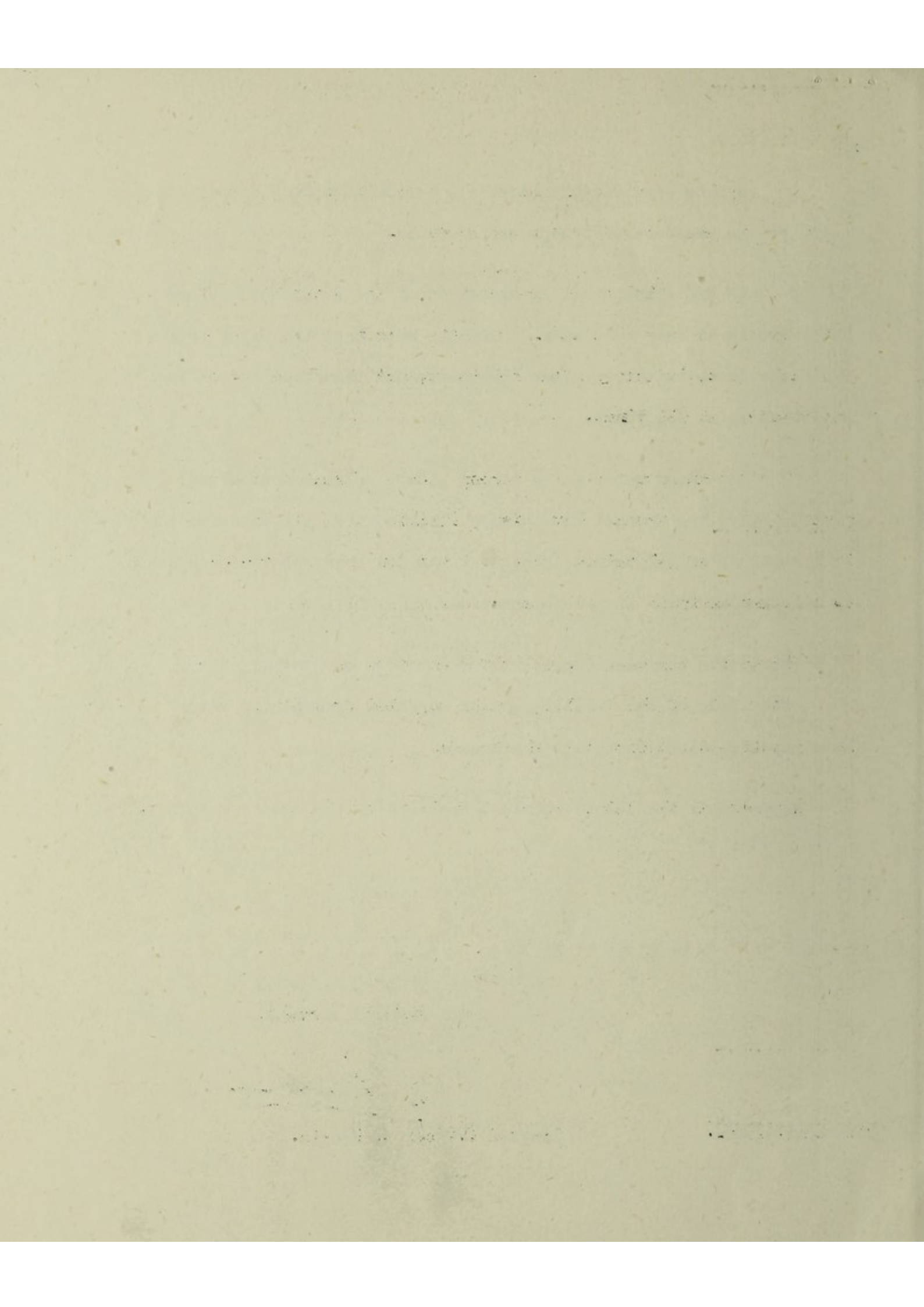
I am,

Your obedient servant,



30th April, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.



CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES.

Characters:

Lr. Filter Beds.

Squabmoor.

Dotton.

Characters:	<u>Lr. Filter Beds.</u>	<u>Squabmoor.</u>	<u>Dotton.</u>
Colour	colourless	yellowtint	colourless
Turbidity	clear	clear	clear
Taste	natural	natural	natural
Odour	none	none	none
Suspended matters	small amt. sand and organic detritus.	small amt. organic detritus diatoms.	none

Analysis.

Chlorine present as Chlorides	2.4	2.4	2.4
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	trace	0	0
" " " Nitrates	0.56	0.025	0.62
Phosphates	0	0	0
Sulphates SO ₄	1.36	0.95	1.9
Free Carbon Dioxide	0.45	0.2	0.75
Total hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	14.5	2.9	19.2
Temp. Hardness (annulled by boiling)	11.6	1.4	14.3
Perm. Hardness (not altered by boiling)	2.9	1.5	3.9
Saline Ammonia	0.0070	0.0032	0.0052
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0028	0.0048	0.0042
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27 deg. C.	0.03	0.16	0.02
Oxygen Absorbed Immediately	-	-	-
Lead	0	0	0
Copper	0	0	0
Zinc	0	0	0
Iron	0	0	0
Total Solid Constituents	23.0	9.8	25.5
Organic Matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	Trace	trace	none
Hydrogen Ion Concentration equiv. to p.H.	7.7	6.8	7.5
Inc. calcium carbonate parts per 100,000 and Magnesium Carbonate parts per 100,000.	11.8 2.25	0.5 2.0	14.8 2.85

