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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF GLOUCESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the District

For the Year

1945


BY

M. L. SUTCLIFFE,

T.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

W. R. WHEELER,
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Rural District Council of Gloucester

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Hygiene conditions and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1945.

This report incorporates the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors, and is compiled to conform with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 ; Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926, and incorporates the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circulars 49/45, dated 19th March, 1945, and 28/46, dated 11th February, 1946. (This latter Circular deals mainly with the provision of water supplies in the District).

This is my first Annual Report since 1938, and I am much indebted to the Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyor for their assistance to me in compiling it, as I only carried out duties for a short period of the year after being demobilised in September, 1945.

I was fortunate in my war service as I was Hygiene Specialist attached to 1st Division, B.E.F., in 1939-40, and later Hygiene Specialist to 1st Corps which served in France from D-day in 1944. The intervening time was spent in training units in hygiene and preventive medicine, and we had a close liaison with the Civil Health Authorities. As I had units scattered from the North of Scotland down to Devonshire I was able to familiarise myself with methods of Public Health administration of widely differing types of Local Authorities, and have learned a good many lessons from war experience which will undoubtedly be of value to me in civilian life.

During the war the predominant factor in the Army was manpower, and any measures which could reduce sickness and invalidity among fighting troops were readily sanctioned. Generals and Senior Officers attach enormous importance to matters of preventive

medicine and Hygiene, and it is no exaggeration to say that unless military reasons forbid, all recommendations for improving the health of the troops were passed, and any expense was regarded as thoroughly justified.

This leads one to ask the question whether the health of the people in peace time should not really be considered as being a matter of equal importance with that of the fighting man in war; and whether expense does not sometimes loom a little too large in schemes for keeping and getting people fit for constructive work as civilians, when it is not allowed to stand in the way of providing healthy conditions in the Services, for the purposes of war.

The most noticeable changes in the District during the war years, from the Public Health aspect are, I think, three. Firstly, very considerable strides have been made in the provision of main water supplies, especially to the South part of the District; and even larger schemes are envisaged in the very near future. Secondly, the completion of the new modern sewage disposal plant at Longford has been invaluable in providing adequate sewage purification for most of the Parishes adjoining the City boundary, and has dealt very satisfactorily with the increase of factories and dwelling houses in the area it serves.

Thirdly, the great increase of population, nearly a 50% increase on the 1938 figures, compared with an increase of about 17% in the number of houses. This has been of course inevitable owing to the practical cessation of house building during the war and the great influx of war workers; but it shows the urgency of the housing problem in the District.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE,

Medical Officer of Health.

August 26th, 1946.

Public Health Staff of the Authority.

- C. D. OUTRED, D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (Eng.), Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Charlton Kings Urban District, Cheltenham Rural, Gloucester Rural and Newent Rural (Medical Officer of Health) Committee (resigned 31.10.45).
- M. L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Gloucester Rural and Newent Rural (Medical Officer of Health) Committee and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for the County of Gloucestershire (resumed duties 10.9.45).
- O. M. HALE, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other foods.
- H. E. W. HOOK, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other foods.
- H. F. FREEMAN, C.R.S.I., Surveyor, and Water and Sanitary Engineer.
- A. C. GOULTER, Assistant Surveyor.
- E. A. ROBINSON, Building Inspector and Surveying Assistant.
- L. JERVIS, Purification Works Superintendent.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area, in acres, 71,490.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid 1945), 31,480. (Pop. 1938, 23,130).

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to rate books, 8,136. (1938, 7034).

Rateable Value (12.11.45), £205,027 (R.V. 1938, £113,109).

Sum represented by a penny rate (31.12.45), £810 (1938, £450).

This Rural District, although its main acreage remains agricultural; has as was envisaged in the last report that I submitted in 1938, become in parts largely semi-Urban, and industrial in its characteristics; with fortunately, however, both rural and urban amenities.

The essential services such as water, sewerage and electric power are readily available in the semi-urban parishes both for present needs and also for expansion; but certain improvements, as in connection with refuse collection are needed and are under consideration.

It is of importance to note that out of 38 Parishes in the District, the following six, e.g. Barnwood, Brockworth, Churchdown, Hucclecote, Longford, and Longlevens have a Rateable Value of over half the district, e.g. £107,744, and there appears to be no likelihood of any change in these proportions.

Industry in the District.

This has changed very little in character during the war, but naturally more personnel have been employed. The increase of population, combined with provision of hostels and housing in connection with the enlarged factories, involved greater demands on water supplies (Gloucester Corporation, new works in conjunction with Cheltenham Corporation completed June 1940), sewage disposal (New Rural District Sewage disposal plant at Longford completed May, 1940) and ancillary services. These services functioned without any major troubles throughout the war and the foresight shown by the Council in providing new sewage works has been amply justified.

Factories in the district employing over 1,000 personnel.

Gloster Aircraft Co. ...	Approx.	No. of employees	31.12.45	5,000
Brockworth	Max.	"	1945	7,000
A. W. Hawkesley Ltd.	Approx.	"	31.12.45	1,400
Hucclecote	Max.	"	1945	1,700
Rotol Airscrews Ltd.,	Approx.	"	31.12.45	2,900
Churchdown ...	Max.	"	1945	4,800

Adoptive Legislation in force in the District.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, so far as not repealed by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part 3, Sections 28-31).

Public Health Act, 1925 (Part 2, Sections 13, 14, 15, 26 and 29).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1 (adoptive).

Bye-Laws as to :

1. New buildings and certain matters in connection with buildings (adopted 1.4.37).
2. Streets (adopted 1.4.37).
3. Tents, Vans and Similar Structures (adopted 1.9.38).

Vital Statistics.

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the district, and a complete list of the causes of death will be found in Table 22 at the end of the report.

Where possible, a comparison is shown between the Rates in this District and England and Wales.

Table 1.

Infantile Births and Deaths.

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Combined Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births	241	259	500	25	31	56	556
Still Births	6	8	14	3	2	5	19
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	12	9	21	—	1	1	22

Table 2.

Deaths.

Total Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	146	164	310
Deaths included in the above from :—			
Measles (all ages)	1
Whooping cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea under two years of age	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	3

Table 3.

Births and Death Rates.

	Gloucester Rural District	England & Wales
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	17.3	16.1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	0.6	0.46
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	9.8	} 11.4
*Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	not available	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births ...	39.6	46.0
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ...	42.0	} not available
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ...	17.8	
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 total births ...	5.4	1.99

*Note.—Prior to the War the Statistical Branch of the General Register Office issued Districts with their comparability factor. This figure (0.78 in 1938) is used for multiplying the Crude Death Rate, in order to get a Corrected Death Rate. This Corrected Death Rate is then comparable with the Death Rate for England and Wales or with the Death Rates for other Districts who have had their Crude Death Rates similarly modified. The "comparability factor" for 1945 is not being issued by the General Register Office owing to the war-time variety and magnitude of local population movements.

General Provision of Health Services in the District.

Laboratory Facilities.

As there is no County Laboratory in Gloucestershire, analyses of water, milk and medical specimens, etc., are carried out as follows :—

Water, sewage, etc., by Rowland H. Ellis—County and Council Analyst, Gloucester.

Milk samples. These are now mainly taken by the County Sampling Officer. Samples taken by this Authority are examined at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary.

Medical, Bacteriological and Pathological examinations at the Laboratory of the Gloucester Royal Infirmary.

Table 4. Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses of Water Supplies serving the District.

Source of Supply	Total No. of Analyses	Bacteriological		Chemical	
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Gloucester Corporation Mains (City Analyst) ...	106	106	—	106	—
Stroud Waterworks (Works Analyst) ...	9	9	—	—	—
Newnham Waterworks (Council Analyst) ...	4	4	—	—	—
Wells, etc. (Council Analyst) ...	13	—	13	—	13

I have to acknowledge with thanks the reports on the City and the Stroud water analyses, which are sent to this Department by the courtesy of the City Surveyor and Water Engineer, and the Stroud Water Co.'s Engineer respectively.

A report on the Newnham Waterworks will be found on page 8.

Analyses of Trade Waste Effluents, etc.

Analyses of Sewage :—Longford Sewage Works, biological oxygen tests of the effluent are carried out daily and are generally satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Main Supplies in the District.

GLOUCESTER CORPORATION WATERWORKS.

During the war, partly owing to the requirements of the Services, considerable extensions of Gloucester Corporation water-mains have been carried out in the District, and a number of parishes urgently in need of a pure water supply have now a main supply available.

A total of 26 parishes now have Public mains available within their boundaries, but in some of these, additional branch and service mains are required in order to cover the parishes more completely, e.g. 2 parishes have only 1 house each, connected to the mains.

Water supplies are obtained from two pumping stations in the Newent Rural District; the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Boards' reservoir at Churchdown; and Witcombe reservoir. Supplies are adequate and bacteriological and chemical analyses shew that it is a perfectly satisfactory supply for drinking purposes.

CHELTENHAM WATERWORKS.

Part of Downhatherley parish is supplied from this source and an extension of mains is under consideration.

The parishes of Norton, Downhatherley, Tirley, Forthampton, Hasfield and Chaceley are in this undertaking's area of supply, and as present well supplies are inadequate and unsatisfactory an extension of mains to these parishes appears very advisable.

NEWNHAM WATERWORKS.

These works, owned by the Council are totally inadequate as far as quantity is concerned and during a large part of the year supplies have had to be cut off for up to 23 hours a day.

This most unsatisfactory condition is being remedied by the extension of the Gloucester Corporation mains to the town, which work should be completed in 1946/47. This extension will also provide main supplies for the parishes of Minsterworth and Westbury-on-Severn.

STROUD DISTRICT WATER BOARD.

These works supply a considerable part of Eastington and a few houses in Frocester. Analyses are invariably satisfactory and quantity is adequate.

It is emphasised that Public Main water supplies are now available in 26 out of the 38 parishes in the District. This is *over* double the number of parishes (13) supplied in 1939, and shows that exceedingly satisfactory progress has been made during the War years.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/46, Table 5 shows parishes with a main supply together with the number of houses and population served.

Table 6 shows the water supplies to schools in the district.

Well Supplies.

These supplies remain generally unsatisfactory; always in quality and frequently in quantity, and there appears to be no satisfactory solution except the gradual extension where possible of main supplies. In the meantime householders are warned that well supplies should be boiled before being used for drinking purposes.

Table 5. Main Water Supplies in the District showing the Number of Houses and Population Served.

Parish	Main Water Supply	Main Supply in House	Pop.	Stand-Pipes (Main)	No. of Houses	Pop.
Arlingham	Gloucester Corp.	1	2	—	—	—
Ashleworth	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Barnwood	Gloucester Corp.	241	940	—	—	—
Brockworth	"	397	1548	—	—	—
Brookthorpe	"	27	105	1	15	59
Chaceley	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Churchdown	Gloucester Corp.	1129	4403	—	—	—
Down Hatherley	{ " Cheltenham Corp.	3	12	—	—	—
Eastington	Stroud District Water Board	4	35	—	—	—
Elmore	Stroud District Water Board	332	1295	—	—	—
Forthampton	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Frampton-on-Severn	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Fretherne-with-Saul	Gloucester Corp.	68	265	—	—	—
Frocester	"	30	117	—	—	—
Hardwicke	Stroud District Water Board	8	31	—	—	—
Harescombe	Gloucester Corp.	59	230	—	—	—
Haresfield	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Hasfield	Gloucester Corp.	7	27	—	—	—
Hempsted	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Highnam	Gloucester Corp.	100	390	2	18	70
Hucclecote	"	42	164	1	1	20
	"	576	2246	1	6	23

Table 5 (continued)

Longford	Gloucester Corp.	181	706	—	—	—
Longlevens	"	592	2309	1	3	12
Longney	"	20	78	1	1	4
Maisemore	"	54	211	—	—	—
Minsterworth	NIL	—	—	—	—	—
Moreton Valence	{ Gloucester Cor.	39	152	—	—	—
	{ Gos. County					
	{ Council	1	4	—	—	—
Newnham	Newnham Water-					
	works	159	620	—	—	—
Norton	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Quedgeley	Gloucester Corp.	134	523	—	—	—
Sandhurst	"	1	12	—	—	—
Standish	Glos. County					
	Council	69	269	—	—	—
Tirley	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Twigworth	Gloucester Corp.	8	31	—	—	—
Upton-St.-						
Leonards	"	21	82	—	—	—
Westbury-on-						
Severn	nil	—	—	—	—	—
Whitminster	{ Gos. Corp.	25	98	—	—	—
	{ Gos. County					
	{ Council	9	35	—	—	—
Wotton Vill	Gloucester Corp.	4	15	—	—	—
Total		4341	16933	7	44	188

In addition to the above, patients and cases at the following Institutions are provided with main water supplies :—

County Mental Hospitals at Wotton Vill and Barnwood; Standish House Sanatorium; Over Isolation Hospital; Wallsworth Hall Children's Nursery Home.

Table 6. Water Supplies and Sanitary Accommodation in Schools.

School	Water Supply	Remarks re Water Supply	Type of Closet
Arlingham	Pump	Pump in School House	Bucket
Ashleworth	Pump	Pump in School House	Bucket
Barnwood	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Brockworth	Pump	Supply condemned and drinking water taken to school by Education Committee	Bucket
Churchdown	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Down Hatherley	Rain water	Extension of Cheltenham Corporation Mains proposed	Bucket
Eastington	Main	Stroud District Water Board	W.C.'s
Elmore	Pump	300 yards from school in private house. Shortage in dry weather.	Bucket

Table 6 (continued)

Frampton	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket
Saul (Council)	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket
Saul (C. of E.)	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket
Hardwicke	Rain water	Adjacent farm	Bucket
Haresfield	Main	Local piped supply	Bucket
Hempsted	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket
Highnam	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket
Hucclecote	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Longlevens, Sen.	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Longlevens, Jnr.	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Longney	Pump	As main is available, school has been asked to provide supply, as analysis in Dec. 1945, was unsatisfactory	
Maisemore	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket
Minsterworth	Pump	Pump in School House	W.C.'s
Newnham	Main	Considerable shortage	Bucket
Norton	Pump	Pump in School House	W.C.'s
Quedgeley	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket
Sandhurst	Pump	Main supply expected shortly	W.C.'s
Standish	Main	Local supply	E.C.'s
Tirley	Pump	Adequate	W.C.'s
Twigworth	Pump	Adequate	Bucket
Upton St.Leonards	Pump	Main supply expected shortly	
Westbury-on-Severn	Pump	Main supply expected shortly	Bucket
Walmore Hill	Pump	Main supply expected shortly	Privy
Whitminster	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Bucket

Of the 32 schools in the District, 17 now have main water supplies; this compares with only 12 in 1938. Improvements necessary in connection with both water supplies and closet accommodation have been reported to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Public Cleansing.

Twenty parishes are scavenged for house refuse, no cleansing of privies, septic tanks, etc., being undertaken by the Council.

The refuse is removed under contract (cost as at 31.3.46, £1,738 per annum). This is only just over a 2d. rate compared with over 1/- in some Districts. The refuse is dealt with by tipping. The tips at present in use are :—

- i. City Corporation tip, St. Oswalds Road (controlled tipping, Bradford System).
- ii. Frampton-on-Severn.
- iii. Arlingham.

Every effort is made to prevent nuisances at the two latter tips, but supervision is not easy. When the Council can obtain labour for the regular cleansing of the sewer ditches in these areas, arrangements should be made for these personnel to supervise and control these tips.

Table 7.

Parishes Scavenged.

North District	South District
**Barnwood *Brockworth *Brookthorpe *Churchdown *Hempsted **Hucclecote **Longford **Longlevens *Quedgeley Upton-St.-Leonards (Parish arrangements) Wotton Vill (County arrangements)	*Arlingham *Eastington *Frampton-on-Severn *Fretherne-with-Saul *Frocester *Hardwicke *Haresfield *Newnham *Whitminster

*Fortnightly collection.

**Weekly collection.

Now that more labour is becoming available it is hoped to increase the frequency of collection to weekly in the more thickly populated parishes which at present only have a fortnightly collection ; and also to increase the number of parishes scavenged. The importance of refuse collection is stressed by the Minister of Health who states : " An increasing number of Rural District Councils are providing refuse collections for their districts. Conditions of nuisance, and infestation by rats, which are apt to occur where quantities of refuse accumulate near houses, are avoided where house refuse collection is undertaken."

Drainage and Sewerage.

Since the last comprehensive Report in 1938, the sewerage position in the North-Eastern Parishes of the District has completely changed due to the construction of a modern Works designed on the Activated Sludge principle located in the parish of Longlevens approximately half a mile north-east of the parish of Longford.

The old Longford Sewerage Works was for many years totally inadequate to deal with the increased flow of sewage occasioned by the large amount of housing development in the area and Col. W. Herbert Bateman of Batheaston was engaged as Consulting Engineer to co-operate with the Council's Surveyor in the preparation of a scheme for the more efficient drainage and disposal of sewage from the area served by the Longford and Churchdown Works.

The scheme as submitted to the Council was, briefly, to lay a new trunk sewer from Brockworth to a suitable site near the existing works following the valley of the Horsebere Brook through Hucle-

cote, Barnwood and Longlevens, with another main to take the flow from Churchdown, by-passing the existing Churchdown Works. A suitable site for a purification plant was found and the design suggested was the "Simplex Aeration" system of Activated Sludge manufactured by Messrs. Ames Crosta Mills Ltd. of Heywood, Lanes.

This scheme was approved by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Health for approval which was granted following a Public Enquiry held on the 4th April, 1939.

The scheme was sub-divided into three contracts and work was commenced just prior to the outbreak of War and in spite of manifold difficulties was sufficiently advanced to allow the plant to come into operation at the end of 1940.

Unfortunately, due to war-time circumstances, it was not possible to complete the scheme *in toto* and, consequently, the old Works have had to be retained to deal with a small flow from a part of the Longlevens area. The Ministry of Health has now approved the installation of additional pumping plant which will enable the whole of the flow to be treated at the new Works. Owing to shortage of labour and materials it will probably be some months before this can be done but every endeavour is being made to expedite the matter which will enable the Council to close down the old Works.

The new Works was constructed on the "unit" principle and it is the first unit estimated to deal with 600,000 gallons D.W.F. per day which has been installed. During the War this figure was exceeded by over 100,000 gallons but nevertheless the Works proved capable of dealing with this amount and producing an effluent up to Royal Commission standard.

Daily chemical tests are carried out at the Works and at approximately three-monthly periods samples of the effluent are submitted to the County Analyst for his observations.

It is satisfactory to note that after the first 6 months of operations when initial tests and adjustments were being made, the daily examinations and the routine analyses have given results in conformity with the Royal Commission standards. On the very few occasions when the results have not been entirely satisfactory the cause has been traced to abnormal conditions (e.g. unusually severe storm-water excess) or trade waste pollution. With regard to the latter at one time the plant was subjected to periodic doses of chromic waste which was eventually traced to a local factory. Steps have been taken to reduce this deleterious matter and recent analyses show that on the few occasions when chromium compounds have been present in the sewage they have not been in sufficient quantity to adversely affect the effluent.

CHURCHDOWN SEWERAGE WORKS.

The above Works have now been closed down and the sewage of the parish is now purified at the new undertaking at Longlevens.

NEWNHAM.

There are no outfall works in this parish, the town sewers discharging into the River Severn which is tidal at this point. No major complaints in connection with this method of disposal have been received.

EASTINGTON.

There is a small sewage works not entirely of a satisfactory type taking the sewer from about 70 houses in the parish. The parish is included in the scheme now under consideration and mentioned below.

GENERAL.

At the moment the Council's Consulting Engineer is preparing sewerage schemes in connection with Ashleworth and the group of parishes at the southern extremity of the District.

EXTENSIONS OF SEWERS.

There were no extensions during the year but the following extensions are proposed in the immediate future :—

- i. To serve northern group of Council Houses at Hempsted.
- ii. To site for new Council Houses at Newnham.
- iii. To new private Housing Estate at Innsworth.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A summary of the work done in the Public Health Department is tabulated below :—

Table 8.

	No. of Inspections	Notices served		Nuisances abated after Notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses ...	1715	83	—	69	—
Cow Sheds and Dairies...	702	27	—	27	—
*Slaughter Houses ...	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	56	7	—	7	—
Factories and Work-shops ...	36	10	—	10	—
Infectious Disease cases	152	In all cases disinfection of the premises was carried out.			

*There are no slaughter-houses in use in the District as since the outbreak of the War, slaughtering has been carried out at Central Abattoirs at Gloucester and Ebley.

Shops Acts 1912–1945.

Most of the provisions of these Acts are administered by the County Council. No action has been taken by this Department.

Camping Sites.

- i. No. of sites in the area used for camping purposes in 1945 ... 6
- ii. No. of licences issued by this Authority for camping sites ... 2
- iii. Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time ... about 200

Complaints about the behaviour of campers, mostly those of the gipsy class, have been received, and every effort is made by this Department to prevent the use of unlicensed sites. As however, according to the Public Health Act, 1936, a site may be used for up to 42 days consecutively or 60 days intermittently in any 12 consecutive months, without a licence being required, control is very difficult.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints have been received, and no action has been necessary. The fact that coal, of a much poorer quality than pre-war, is being issued to factories, is, it is to be hoped a temporary measure, and there is little doubt that conditions, as regards factories consuming their own smoke, will improve, as soon as they obtain coal suitable for their furnaces.

Swimming Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

There are natural facilities in the River Severn, notably at Wainlode, Norton ; and at Rodley Sands, Westbury. Neither of these sites are particularly safe, and the water is unlikely to be of a satisfactory degree of purity owing to the discharge of sewage effluents from a number of towns into the river.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.

One Council House and four private houses were found to be infested, and were disinfested by this Department (Zaldecide Spray). In future, it is proposed to use D.D.T. preparations now that supplies have been released for civilian use.

Offensive Trades.

The only offensive trades (Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 107) in the District are Knackers' Yards of which there are two.

They are situated well away from human habitation and are well kept.

Two informal notices with regard to the provision of impervious floors and latrine accommodation were issued and complied with.

Rodent Control.

During the year, surveys were carried out by the County Pests Officer, who reports they were carried out in the Churchdown and Brockworth areas preparatory to treatment being given. There were a number of minor infestations in the Churchdown area. These are being dealt with.

Housing.

Number of houses erected during 1945 :

By the Local Authority	...	...	Nil
By other Authorities	...	...	Nil
By Gloucester Garden Village	...	...	10
By Upper Pirton Court Estates	...	...	1
			—
Total	...	...	11

Present housing proposals of the Council :—

The immediate proposals for the erection of houses are as follows :—

Brockworth	...	10	Longford	...	...	10
Eastington	...	2	Newnham	...	...	18
Frampton-on-Severn	...	22	Tirley	...	...	2
Total 64.						

A scheme was submitted by the Surveyor in March, 1945, suggesting a total of 229 houses for the first and second years of the initial post-war programme.

Rural Housing Survey.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circulars 64/44 and 67/45 and the recommendations of the Gloucestershire Rural Housing Joint Committee, a survey of the houses in the District with a rateable value of £16 or under was commenced on 23rd July, 1945, two housing inspectors with a knowledge of building construction being especially appointed for this purpose.

The Council is to be congratulated on their realisation of the need of such a survey after six war years and also on the promptitude with which they carried out the recommendations of the Ministry.

The survey is proceeding very satisfactorily, and at the end of the year 1,674 out of a total of 5,500 houses in the scope of the survey had been inspected.

The houses were classified as follows :—

Category 1.	Satisfactory in all respects	...	...	181
„ 2.	Minor defects only	...	...	863
„ 3.	Repairable at reasonable cost	...	...	287
„ 4.	Suitable for re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers' Acts)	...	...	33
	(The operation of these Acts ceased to have effect as from 30.9.45).			
„ 5.	Totally unfit, and only suitable for demolition	...	...	310
				—
				1,674
				—

In 182 of these houses there was overcrowding, or more than one family in the house.

The survey when completed will be of great value to the Council in estimating the needs of the District, which are very great. A rough estimate of the final total number of houses only fit for demolition being in the neighbourhood of 1,000.

The medico-social aspect of disease is becoming of great importance, and excluding poverty and malnutrition, which nowadays are both relatively rare factors, bad housing and environment are probably the most potent causes of diseases which are probably largely preventable such as minor illnesses (coughs and colds) infectious diseases, tuberculosis, rheumatism, etc.

Ambitious housing schemes will do much to improve the health of the population and are urgently needed in the District.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1715
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	1715
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	1674
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	1674
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	310
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1181

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

(5)		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	36
-----	--	--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(6)	(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
	(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	83

- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
- (7) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

- (8) Overcrowding has increased inevitably during the War years. At the end of 1938, 58 houses in the District were reported overcrowded but a conservative estimate is that now there are over 300 overcrowded houses in the District.

The Rural Housing Survey now being carried out will, when completed, give the total of overcrowded families.

War Damage.

Fourteen houses in the District were damaged beyond repair by bombing. This is fortunately a very low figure, and when compared with the damage in many other areas, cannot be said to have had any effect on the present housing position.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supplies.

A considerable amount of milk is produced in the District, but it is mostly purchased by wholesalers, either for sale outside the District, or conversion into milk chocolate at Messrs. Cadbury's factory at Frampton-on-Severn. This factory is capable of dealing with 50,000 gallons per day and the average daily consumption during the year was 25,000 gallons.

During the year 702 inspections of dairy farm premises were carried out by this Department and as a result of informal action a good deal has been done to improve conditions under which milk is produced, especially in connection with the improvement or reconstruction of cow-sheds and improvements in water supply and drainage.

There are 32 T.T. milk producers, 68 Accredited milk producers and 292 producers of non-designated milk in the District. Of these producers 13 have certificates of Attestation under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme.

Supervision of "Designated" milk production is mainly carried out by the County Staff and Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in their inspections of designated producers and herds.

No samples of milk were taken by this department during the year, but the results of samples taken by the County Staff are forwarded to this Department, when any necessary action is taken.

During the year there were three suspected cases of anthrax in animals, but none were confirmed.

There were no cases of foot and mouth disease during the year.

Bakehouses.

There are 12 bakehouses in the District. 56 inspections were made, and informal action with regard to cleanliness was necessary in 7 cases. They are, on the whole satisfactory and well kept.

Adulteration.

The Acts under this heading are administered by the County Council.

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat.

Slaughterhouses in the District ceased to function on the outbreak of War in 1939, and slaughtering was centralised as far as this District was concerned, in Gloucester, Ebley and Cinderford.

Other Foods.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Condemnation of foodstuffs.

This Department is notified when shops, canteens, etc., suspect that articles of food are unfit for human consumption. Table 9 shows the foodstuffs condemned during the year, and it will be seen that it is an infinitesimal amount compared with the consumption in the District.

Table 9.

Article	Non-preserved	Preserved (tinned)
Meat	486 lbs.	522 lbs.
Fish	224 lbs.	257 lbs.
Milk	—	41 lbs.
Cheese	65½ lbs.	—
Eggs	6½ doz.	—
Flours	534 lbs.	—
Sweets	37 lbs.	—
Jam	44 lbs.	—
Fruit	30 lbs.	32 lbs.
Vegetables	—	52 lbs.
Marmite	3½ lbs.	—

A certain amount of condemned food was handed over to the County Pests Officer for use as rat bait.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Table 10.

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	14	6	—
Factories without „ „ ...	22	4	—
Other premises, e.g. works of building engineering, etc., construction ...	—	—	—
Outworkers' premises	—	—	—
Total ...	36	10	—

(2) Defects found.

Table 11.

Particulars	No. of Defects Found	No. of Defects Remedied	No. of Defects Referred to H.M.I.	No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	3	3	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient	—	—	—	—
Conveniences { defective ...	7	6	—	—
{ not separate	—	—	—	—
{ for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total ...	11	10	—	—

(3) Homework.

Table 12.

Lists received from Employers.

Nature of Work	Once in the year		Twice in the year	
	Lists	Out-Workers	Lists	Out-Workers
Wearing Apparel (making) ...	—	—	—	—
Notified from other Authorities	1	1	—	—

No cases were referred to H.M. Inspector, and no prosecutions were instituted.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health (Circular 193/45, dated 14 November, 1945)—individual record cards of diphtheria immunisation in children up to the age of 15 years will as from 1 January, 1946, be kept by the Public Health Department of the Local Authority. Until this date records were mainly held by the County Public Health Department, who provided the Medical Officer of Health with certain returns which were required for his compilation of the statistics to be submitted to the Ministry. This assistance and the records have been most useful, and the latter have now been transferred to this Authority.

As from and including the year 1945, it is laid down that the whole responsibility for statistical returns is on the Local Authority, the following tables are included in my report.

Table 13. Child Population Immunised during year ending 31.12.45.

	Age at date of final injection		Total under 15
	0-4 years	5-14 years	
Number of children who completed a full course of immunisation during 1945	432	59	491

Note.—This table is a consolidation of the half-yearly returns which have been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Table 14. Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Children aged 0-14 years Immunised up to 31 December, 1945.

Age 31.12.45 i.e. born in year	0 + 1945	1 + 1944	2 + 1943	3 + 1942	4 + 1941	5-9 1936-40	10-14 1931-35	Total under 15
No. Immunised ...		223	285	267	256	1609	1351	3991
Est. Mid-year pop. '45	2930					4380		7310
Percentage Immunised...	35.2%					67.6%		54.6%

**Table 15. Diphtheria notifications and Deaths in relation to
 Immunisation.**

(Children under 15 years only)

Notifications		Deaths	
Cases Notified	Cases Immunised	Immunised	Not Immunised
27	14	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table 16. New Cases and Mortality in 1945.

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1+	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10+	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15+	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
20+	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25+	7	4	1	2	1	2	—	—
35+	8	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
45+	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
55+	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65+	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age N.K.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Total	29	17	5	2	3	4	1	3

**Table 17. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register as at
 31st December, for the last two years.**

(Figures for 1938, the last pre-War year are included for comparison)

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1938	35	32	35	30	132
1944	124	57	80	52	313
1945	84	59	26	34	203

Table 18. Number of New Cases and Deaths in the last two years.

(Figures for 1938, the last pre-War year are included for comparison)

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1938	7	13	7	4	5	11	2	1
1944	35	28	3	8	16	4	3	2
1945	29	17	5	2	3	4	1	3

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172).

No action has been necessary under the Regulations and Act.

Table 19.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases by Parishes.

(Northern Area)

Infectious Diseases	Ashleworth	Barnwood	Brockworth	Brookthorpe	Chaceley	Churchdown	Down Hatherley	Forhampton	Harescombe	Hasfield	Hempsted	Higbam	Huclecote	Longford	Longlevens	Maisemore	Norton	Quedgeley	Sandhurst	Tirley	Twiggworth	Upton-St.-Leonards	Wotton Vill	Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	
Scarlet Fever	...	2	12	5	...	28	2	...	...	...	...	...	21	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	81	49	...
Whooping Cough	63	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	76	...	...
Ac. Polio-myelitis...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ac. Polio-enceph.	
Measles (excl. G.M.)	...	7	11	27	...	207	6	5	4	...	5	...	15	6	26	3	2	5	...	...	1	7	...	337	1	1
Diphtheria	...	14	4	1	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	43	41	1
Ac. Pneumonia	...	6	...	...	...	23	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	38	3	11
Dysentery	...	3	...	1	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	31	31	...
Small Pox	
Ac. Enceph. Leth....	
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
Para-typhoid Fever	
Erysipelas	...	3	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Puerp. Pyrexia	
Ophth.	
Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
Malaria	
(contr. E.W.)	
Total	...	36	27	34	...	359	14	5	4	1	5	2	45	13	37	3	3	17	4	1	1	621	131	13

Table 20.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases by Parishes.
(Southern Area).

Infectious Diseases	Arlingham	Eastington	Elmore	Frampton-on-Severn	Fretherne-with-Saul	Procester	Hardwicke	Haresfield	Longney	Minsterworth	Moreton Valence	Newnham-on-Severn	Standish	Westbury-on-Severn	Whitminster	Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	14	14	...
Whooping Cough	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	...
Ac. Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Polio-enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excl. G.M.)	2	27	3	16	18	3	3	18	...	1	7	77	2	4	2	183	...	...
Diphtheria ...	2	5	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	12	12	2
Ac. Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	3	...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Enceph. Leth.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para-typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerp. Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophth. Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...
Malaria (contr. E.W.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	6	35	7	22	18	3	3	19	2	1	10	79	8	9	4	224	31	3

Table 21. Notifiable Infectious Disease in 1945 by Age Groups.

Disease	0 +		1 +		3 +		5 +		10 +		15 +		25 +		45 +		65 +		Age N.K.		Total		Cases to Hosp.		Deaths	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	1	...	5	5	7	10	22	21	3	8	1	7	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	41	54	22	41	...	...
Whooping Cough	6	...	10	14	5	14	11	13	2	2	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	34	46	...	...	...	...
Ac. Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Ac. Polio-enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excl. G.M.)	8	12	52	48	51	49	131	107	20	21	3	8	3	3	...	3	1	...	...	...	268	252	1	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	3	3	9	10	...	1	2	7	2	5	...	8	1	1	2	1	18	37	16	37	1	2
Ac. Pneumonia	2	2	2	1	2	3	4	1	1	1	...	...	8	4	4	5	2	1	...	...	25	18	3	...	5	7
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	15	6	2	...	...	...	...	2	6	11	23	11	23	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Enceph. Leth.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Para-typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	3	...	...	...	5	7	1	1	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerp. Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophth. Neonatorum	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Malaria (contr. E.W.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	20	14	70	68	68	79	178	152	24	33	10	39	24	21	7	19	2	6	3	8	406	439	57	104	6	10

Table 22.

Causes of Death.

in the Rural District of Gloucester, 1945.

(classified according to the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes).

Causes of Death							Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Parat. fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
6	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
9	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
11	Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	Ac. inf. enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
13	Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph. (M.) uterus (F.)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	20	28
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	42	43
20	Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	...	...	2	7
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	8	4
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
25	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other digestive disorders	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
29	Puer. and post-abortion. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
32	Con. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
34	Road traffic accident	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
36	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	12	16
Total Deaths							146	164

