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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.



I N T E R I M

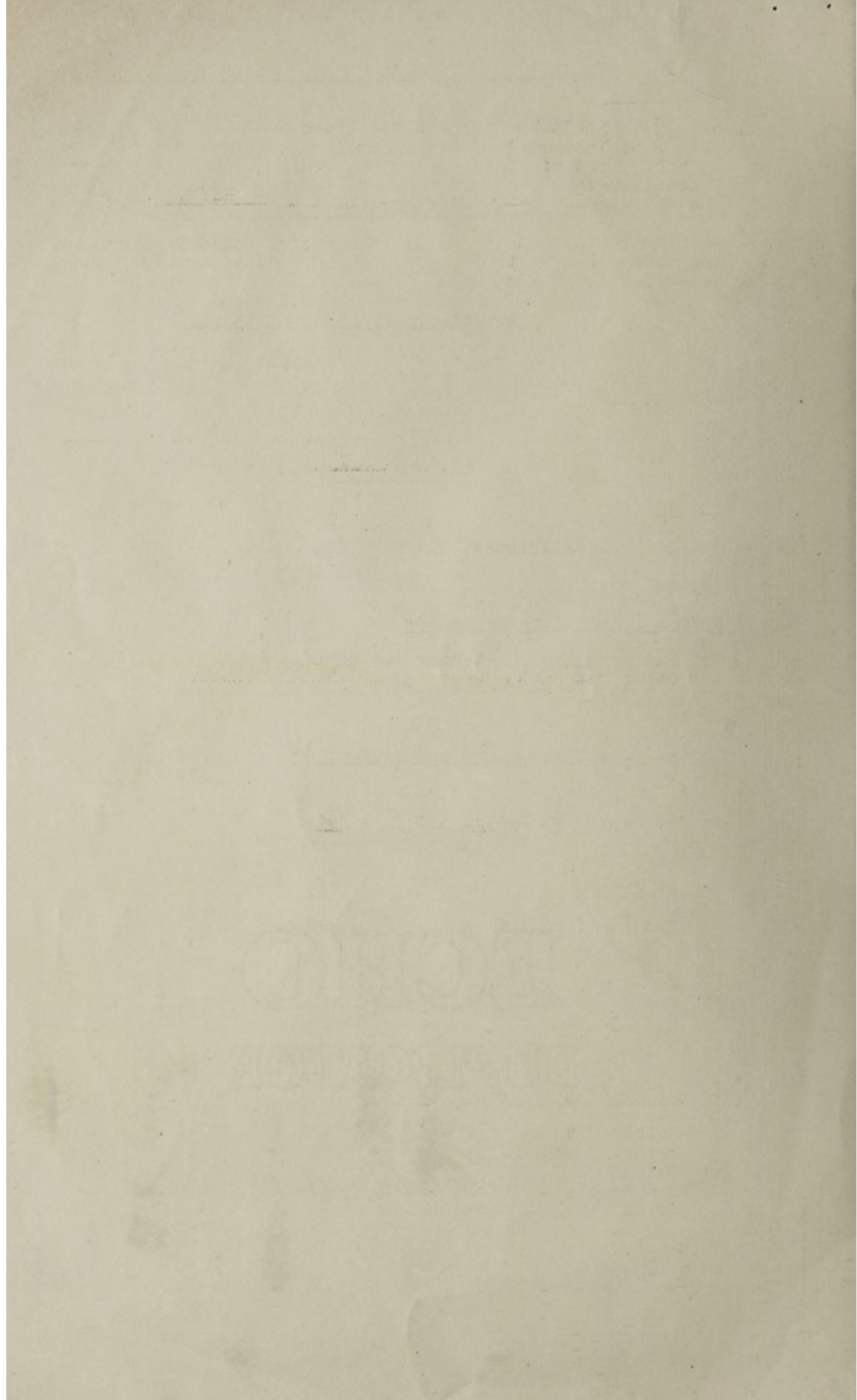
R E P O R T

- of -

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER, 1943.



1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area (not including foreshore) in acres	3,665
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books (end of 1943)	10,682
Rateable Value	£293,745
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,190

The social conditions are those of a holiday resort and are well described in the special brochure "The Morecambe and Heysham Holiday Pictorial."

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Live Births</u> - Legitimate	428	222	206
Illegitimate	37	20	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	465	242	223

<u>Stillbirths</u>	8	3	5
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Of the stillbirths, all were legitimate.

<u>Deaths</u>	552	275	277
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Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1
Other maternal causes	<u>3</u>

Total 4

Deaths of infants under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	14	14
Legitimate	12	14
Illegitimate	2	-

Deaths from Cancer

Cancer of buccal cavity; oesophagus;		
uterus	3	5
" of stomach and duodenum	12	5
" of breast	-	9
" of all other sites	16	16

Total 31 35

Deaths from Infective Diseases

Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping cough	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	13	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	2
Syphilitic diseases	-	-
Influenza	6	4
Measles	-	-

Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	-	-
<u>Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents.</u>	2	-

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no change except that the provision for smallpox cases at Littlefell, Lancaster, was superseded by an agreement with the Fylde Joint Hospital Board, whereby the latter will accept any cases occurring in the borough or imported into Heysham harbour.

Nursing Homes.

There were 7 nursing homes registered in the borough at the end of the year, providing 25 beds, of which 17 were available for maternity cases.

All were inspected at intervals and found to be satisfactorily conducted.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity. 20 chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out during the year with satisfactory results. The degree of permanent hardness is 5 (Clarks method). There is no lead solvent action.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following information has been supplied by the courtesy of Mr. W. Kilvington of the Sewerage Department:-

Most of the main dykes within the borough have again been cleaned and re-graded by the Sewerage Dept. employees, and the lack of nuisance by flooding during an extremely rainy autumn and early winter bears good testimony to the necessity and the efficiency of the work done on the main dykes.

The County Council have been responsible for the cleaning of the new watercourse known as the main dyke to the Lune.

Foul sewers have been cleaned wherever the necessity arose.

Work on the new sewerage system has been confined to that at Schola Green Lane, viz:- the part completion and making safe of the main Pump Chamber No.1 of the New Pumping Station. The scheduling of the site under the Essential Works Order in January, 1943, stimulated progress, and the past year has undoubtedly seen the best work and progress since the works commenced.

Unfortunately, because of wartime circumstances, the Ministry of Health directed the works to close as soon as a condition of safety for both new and existing works was reached. This condition is now regarded as achieved, and the many smaller works necessary to ensure economical and convenient working conditions by the existing pump house attendants have been carried out.

Nothing short of the end of hostilities, the re-commencement of the contract, and the completion of the works, can ensure completely satisfactory reception and disposal conditions.

Rivers and Streams.

There have been no developments during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of houses on water carriage system	10,679
Number of fresh water closets	12,000
Number of waste water closets	36
Number of closets attached to middens	5

Sanitary Inspections during 1943.

Number of premises visited	1,576
Defects or nuisances discovered	438
" " " abated	389
Number of notices served:	
Informal	181
Statutory	6

No legal proceedings were taken.

Public Cleansing.

The system used was the same as in previous years, but the borough's excellent standard becomes more and more difficult to maintain as the problems raised by war conditions accumulate.

Shortage of labour and the higher age level of the labour available (with a consequent increase in sickness rates), the ageing of plant and machinery and the restrictions on petrol consumption, have all to be taken into account in assessing the results achieved, and the results, under such handicaps, have been very good.

For some years it has been evident that the work of the Public Cleansing Service had so increased that it required the full time attention of a senior officer, and that its administration by the Health Department was enforcing an undesirable restriction of the public health work of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff.

It had been thought that any alteration might be postponed until the war was over, but such postponement was becoming more and more harmful, and at the end of the year the Council decided to establish a separate Public Cleansing Department, under a Cleansing Superintendent, as early as possible in 1944.

The following table gives an account of useful materials salvaged during the year.

<u>Material</u>	<u>Weight</u>			<u>Value</u>		
	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	382	7	56	2471.	16.	7.
"Black" Scrap	8	19	-	21.	11.	1.
Baled Scrap	145	13	56	269.	14.	7.
Non Ferrous Metals	2	16	28	84.	5.	0.
Textiles (including string)	30	1	84	526.	6.	5.
Bottles and Jars (695½ doz)	7	-	28	39.	11.	8.
Rubber - All classes	3	11	28	3.	19.	0.
Miscellaneous	7	2	28	4.	3.	0.
Bones	19	11	-	91.	3.	4.
Fertiliser	48	3	56	616.	4.	2.
	<u>655</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>£4,128.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>10.</u>

Amount of salvage sold by other Departments:-

Weight 1 ton 8 cwts. Value £2. 0. 0.

Value of steam raised from refuse: £335. 0. 0.

Swimming Baths.

Number of persons using the baths during the season 1943 was 180,955, of whom approximately 60% were juniors.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

32 premises were dealt with during the year by means of fumigation with sulphur and spraying with proprietary insecticides.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of and water supply to the schools are satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.

Number of premises registered - 4, namely, 2 tripe dressers, 1 gut scraper and 1 fat melter.

Factories Act, 1937.

Little action possible during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

None on the register.

Houses let in lodgings.

None on the register.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

38 inspections were made during the year.

Underground sleeping rooms.

No action required.

Overcrowding.

Population movements as a result of war provide difficulties that must be accepted for the time being.

Clearance and improvement areas.

No action taken.

4. HOUSING.

1.	(a)	No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	130
	(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	226
2.		No. of houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation	78

3. No. of defective houses rendered fit by informal action 62

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 6

No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice 6

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

During the year 1 licence was issued for bottling and 2 for distribution of accredited milk, and 1 licence for the retail of pasteurised milk. There were no dealers' licences issued for tuberculin tested milk.

Number of Dairy Farms	14
Approximate number of cows in the district	350
Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms)	17
Number of inspections during the year (excluding visits by the Veterinary Inspector)	55
Number of dairymen or milk purveyors, other than cowkeepers	130

The condition of dairies, cowsheds and milk shops was fair.

Analyses of Milk Samples.

Samples were taken for bacteriological, biological (tuberculosis) and Lovibond phosphatase tests and the results were satisfactory. No tubercle bacilli were found.

Food & Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Under these Acts 52 samples were taken of which 45 were milk samples: of these 10 were found to be deficient in solids not fat.

None of the defective milk samples was considered to be due to malpractice and no legal action was required.

The samples of foods other than milk were sugar, butter, lard, flour, jam, coffee and coffee extract: all were genuine.

Meat Inspection.

Number of animals inspected at the slaughterhouse:-

Beasts	2,277
Calves	551
Pigs	51
Sheep	10,431
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Total	13,310
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Meat condemned during 1943:-

Bovine Carcasses and Offals	Generalised Tuberculosis	8
" Forequarters	Tuberculosis	2
" Hindquarters	"	1
" Lungs	"	102
" Livers	"	68
" Heads and Tongues	"	116
" Stomachs	"	26
" Skirts	"	28
" Hearts	"	20
" Udders	"	8
" Fat	"	104 lbs.
Pig Heads	"	4
" Plucks	"	3
" Mesentery	"	1
" Stomach	"	1
" Intestines	"	1
Bovine Forequarters	Bruising	2
" Hindquarters	Mastitis	2
" "	Bruising	4
" Part Ribs	Injury	4
" Shoulders and Necks	Bruising	3
" Lungs	Abscesses	19
" "	Encysted	27
" Livers	Cirrhosis & Distomatosis	686
" "	Abscesses	51
" "	Cavernous Angioma	9
" Intestines	Oesophagostoma Colum- bianum	367
" Udders	Mammitis	12
Calf Carcasses and Offals	Malnutrition	4
	Immature	3
Sheep Carcasses and Offals	Oedema	10
" " " "	Insufficiently bled	12
" " " "	Moribund	3
" " " "	Found dead	1
" Forequarters	Injury	2
" Legs	"	3
" Livers	Distomatosis	1174
" Intestines	Oesophagostoma Columbianum	261

Unsound Foods (other than meat) Surrendered.

	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Ham			106
Bacon	3	3	8½
Butter	1	1	5
Cheese	2	1	7½
Sausages		2	15½
Flour			8
Fish	90	stones	
Fish Cakes	952		
Swiss Rolls	264		
Pickles	6	Jars	
Sauce	5	Bottles	
Cocoa	67	2 oz. Packets	
Cornflour	64	2 oz. "	
Chocolate	10	doz. Blocks	
Dried Eggs	3	Pkts.	

	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Potatoes	6	-	-
Apples	24	-	16
Pears			48
Prunes			49
Raspberries	1	1	22
Mixed Sweets	1	-	-
Lettuce			18 bundles
Leeks			80 "

Tins of Meat	386:	Fish	106:	Salmon	12
" " Sardines	5:	Milk	267:	Vegetables	129
" " Fruit	109:	Soup	16:	Ham	1
" " Beans	30:	Jam	33:	Syrup	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	Under 1	AGE PERIOD IN YEARS										65 and over	Total cases	Cases removed to hospital	Deaths in hospital	Total deaths
		1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-					
Scarlet Fever			5	5	7	47	18	6	6	1	2		97	88		
Diphtheria						4	2	4	5	1	1		17	15		
Measles (excluding German Measles.)	1	21	10	15	18	49	7	1	1	1			124	6		
Whooping Cough	7	10	7	14	16	17	4		1				76	2		3
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)						4					3	4	6	17	2	3
Puerperal Pyrexia									2					2		
Encephalitis Lethargica									1					1		
Dysentery									1					1		
Erysipelas							1	1	1	4	4	2	11	5		
Malaria (contracted abroad)								1								
TOTALS	8	31	22	34	41	121	32	12	17	10	11	8	347	118	0	6

The total of notified cases of infectious disease was notably lower than that for the previous year, 347 cases as against 545 for 1942.

This fall was largely attributable to a reduction in the number of cases of measles as the epidemic of 1942 died down.

There was some increase in the incidence of scarlet fever and whooping cough, a fall in the figures for pneumonia, and an absence of cerebro-spinal fever, of which we had 9 cases in 1942.

Diphtheria figures remained low, with no cases among children under 5 years of age, and no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table that follows is in the form requested by the Regional Medical Officer. It shows only the children immunised under the authority's scheme, which started in 1941.

In addition to the children recorded in the table there were approximately 800 children under 5 years of age and 900 between 5 and 15 who had been immunised by private arrangement. Details of the ages of these children are not obtainable.

Age in years on 31st December of correspond- ing year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1934/1943.										
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	
0-								2	3	-	Total inoculated aged under 5 yrs. on 31st. December, 1943. 659
1-								65	90	203	
2-								70	61	54	
3-								80	42	34	
4-								95	42	35	
5-								206	70	47	Total inoculated aged 5-14 years on 31st. December, 1943. 2,334
6-								222	33	13	
7-								231	26	11	
8-								221	20	10	
9-								214	18	6	
10-								230	26	11	
11-								204	25	3	
12-								212	32	7	
13-								227	15	4	
14-								148	8	-	
15 and over								60	32	-	Total inoculated aged 15 yrs. and over on 31st. December, 1943. 475
Total each year								2487	543	438	Grand Total 1934/43 3,468

(In calculating the totals at the end of 1943 no account is taken of deaths which may have occurred since immunisation)

Further information about the approximate number of children in the borough (and the percentage immunised) is information of the kind that the government does not consider it desirable to publish during the war, but it may be said that the proportion whose parents have availed themselves of this protective measure is not unsatisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	<u>YEARS</u>							
0 - 1							1	
1 - 5	2							
5 - 10			2					
10 - 15			1	1			1	
15 - 20				2				1
20 - 25	4	1						
25 - 35	3	6	1	1			1	1
35 - 45	6	2		1	3	1		
45 - 55	2			1	2			
55 - 65	3	1			2			
65 and upwards	5				5			
TOTALS	25	10	4	6	12	1	3	2
	35		10		13		5	

FIVE YEAR TABLE OF NOTIFICATIONS OF AND DEATHS FROM
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		
	New Notifi- cations	Deaths	New Notifi- cations	Deaths	New Notifi- cations	Deaths	New Notifi- cations	Deaths	New Notifi- cations	Deaths
M.	7	9	17	6	27	13	20	12	25	12
F.	16	5	15	4	19	3	7	3	10	1
Total	23	14	32	10	46	16	27	15	35	13

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The general administrative arrangements were unchanged. The usual work was satisfactorily carried out.

All foreign going vessels were boarded and inspected. There were no cases of infectious disease found.

Measures against Rodents.

In co-operation with the railway company's staff, the search for and destruction of rats was maintained.