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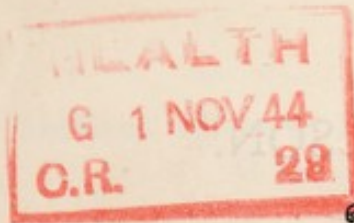
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BOROUGH OF NELSON

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1943

G. J. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF NELSON.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE (Vice-Chairman)

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR F. CORK).

ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER

„ R. J. HUSBAND

„ A. SMITH

„ H. W. THROUP

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD

„ W. H. HINDLE

„ W. HOPKINSON

„ W. PENNINGTON

„ A. SHACKLETON

„ S. SHAW

„ D. J. SPEAK

„ H. H. URSELL

„ J. WIDDUP

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR F. CORK).

ALDERMAN A. SMITH

„ H. W. THROUP

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD

„ H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE

„ W. H. HINDLE

„ W. HOPKINSON

„ W. PENNINGTON

„ S. SHAW

MRS. V. WESTWELL

MISS S. E. WHITTAKER

Medical Officer of Health G. J. ROBERTS,
M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Consultants for Puerperal Pyrexia and Consultant
Obstetricians :

J. H. WATSON, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

A. CALLAM, M.D., F.R.C.S.E. (from December, 1943)

Chief Sanitary Inspector J. W. INGHAM, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Inspector S. GRINDROD, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Inspector and Chief Clerk S. HAYDOCK, C.R.S.I.

Clerk A. WILDMAN.

Housing Records Supervisor N. GRIFFITHS
(on active service).

Temporary Junior Clerk L. HOWARTH.
(until 11th July, 1943)

G. WALTON
(from 19th July, 1943)

Health Visitors :

MISS F. M. FARRAR, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS H. HARGREAVES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MRS. A. H. FRANKLAND, S.R.N., C.M.B. *

Matron, Maternity Home Miss I. BARKER, S.R.N., S.C.M.
(until 31st August, 1943)

Miss N. COOK, S.R.N., S.C.M.
(from 4th September, 1943)

Matron, Grove House War-time Nursery

MRS. M. SWINSON, S.R.N.

* Part-time.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
21, CARR ROAD, NELSON.

AUGUST, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough during 1943, which is again confined to essential and urgent matters.

My thanks are extended to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their continued support, the members of the Department for their co-operation, and the County Medical Officer and a number of Corporation Officials for their kindness in supplying certain statistics quoted in this report.

I am, your obedient Servant,

G. J. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY — 1943.

Area in acres	3,466
Population—Census, 1931	38,306
Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population— mid-year, 1943	31,590
Number of inhabited houses—	
(a) Census, 1931	11,128
(b) End of 1943, according to rate books	11,932
Rate	14s. 10d. in the £
Rateable value	£242,830
Sum represented by a penny rate	£980-4-10

The cost of the Health Services for the financial year 1943-44 was estimated at £10,044, which is equivalent to a rate of 10d. in the £.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate
Live Births :				
Total	212	208	420	13.3 per thousand of population.
Illegitimate	14	9	23	
Still Births :				
Total	10	8	18	41.1 per thousand births (live and still).
Illegitimate	1	1	2	
Deaths	260	249	509	16.1 per thousand of population.
Death of Infants under 1 year of age :				
Total	9	11	20	48 per thousand live births.
Legitimate	9	10	19	48
Illegitimate	—	1	1	43
Maternal Deaths :				
Puerperal sepsis	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes ...	—	Nil	Nil	Nil

There were 420 births registered in Nelson, giving a birth rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of the population (13.8 in 1942), which is lower than that of 16.5 (15.8 in 1942) for England and Wales.

There were 509 deaths of Nelson residents, giving a local death rate of 16.1 per 1,000 (the crude death rate in 1942 was

15.1), which is substantially higher than the national rate of 12.1 (11.6 in 1942). The Comparability Factor is not at present being supplied by the Registrar-General and therefore a comparison of death rates in areas similarly constituted regarding age and sex is not possible. The annual excess of deaths over births, involving a natural decrease in the population, has continued since 1929.

There were 20 deaths of infants under 1 year old, giving an infant mortality rate of 48 per 1,000 births (56 in 1942), as compared with the national rate of 49 (as in 1942).

Comparative vital statistics are given in Appendix II.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death are summarised in Appendix I. Of deaths from all causes 44.5 per cent. were in respect of persons of 70 years and over as compared with 39.6 per cent. last year.

Cancer accounted for 70 deaths, i.e., 2.22 per 1,000 of population, chest diseases (excluding tuberculosis) for 65 (2.06), all forms of tuberculosis for 18 (0.57), and violent causes for 14 (0.44). The number of deaths from respiratory diseases (excluding influenza and tuberculosis) was 12.77 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages, a figure considerably in excess of last year (7.96) and of the national figure of 7.7 per cent. in 1939.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

General hospital accommodation remains unchanged.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

Records of readings taken at the Meteorological Station show that rain fell on 231 days, the total annual rainfall being 44.00 inches (43.55 in 1942), the wettest month being August (6.88) and the driest March (1.35). Bright sunshine was recorded on 278 days, totalling 1203.8 hours—a daily average of 3.3 hours (3.1 hours in 1942). The mean temperature for the year was 48.0°.

WATER SUPPLY.

There was no change in the source of public supply. On the 1st August, 1942, the owners closed Coldwell Inn and

Farm, which since that date have been under the control of the Corporation so that risk of pollution from dwellings and farming in the Coldwell catchment area is now eliminated except for the presence of trespassing sheep. During the year evidence was found of minor contamination of the Ogden gathering grounds due to farming and also to other temporary and unavoidable causes; negotiations have taken place with the owner of the farm with a view to acquiring control of the land involved and the extra precautions taken include more frequent surveys of the catchment area and water-sampling at shorter intervals. As self-purification is restricted by the limited storage capacity of the reservoirs, reliance on chlorination for the safety of the supply is correspondingly greater.

The average daily consumption of water in the Waterworks area of supply was 1,904,780 gallons (which includes the compensation water discharge from the Coldwell Reservoir), averaging 40.5 gallons per head. There was no curtailment of the supply during 1943.

Routine tests are carried out by the Water Engineer to ascertain the purity of the water and samples are submitted at regular intervals to a public analyst for complete analysis and examination.

In two houses old joint service pipes were replaced by new mains with separate service pipes to each house; since the inception of this scheme 421 rows of houses have been dealt with.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There has been no change during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers Pollution Acts are administered by the Ribble Joint Committee.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens (in town)	1
Number of Pail Closets	46
Number of Fresh Water Closets	4,899
Number of Waste Water Closets	7,816
Number of Dry Ashpits, excluding Middens	20
Number of Portable Receptacles for refuse	12,320
Conversions :	
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	35

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The arrangements remain as reported last year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

3,081 premises have been visited at which 125 defects or nuisances were discovered, 119 of which were abated.

The number of notices served comprised: Informal—verbal 70, written 35; Statutory—7, no legal proceedings being taken.

Detailed records continue to be kept as previously.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections to factories with mechanical power (264) and without (82) total 135 and 17 respectively; 9 defects were found, 4 being notified by H.M. Factory Inspector.

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during 1943. The latest estimate regarding types of houses is as follows:—Through (terrace) 10,072, semi-detached 1,325, bungalow 298, back-to-back 107, single 85, detached 60, flats 22, and cellars 6; total 11,975.

Housing conditions generally are fairly satisfactory, some 50 of the most unsatisfactory houses having been requisitioned from time to time for evacuees and war workers and rendered habitable. The position regarding dilapidated and insanitary houses will be considerably improved in 1944 and 1945 with the powers granted by the Ministry of Health (Circular 2871/1944) enabling local authorities to requisition and repair houses for the accommodation of families inadequately housed; thus a considerable number of houses have been or will be put into service some of which in normal times would probably have been scheduled for demolition.

The prevailing defects of houses can be summarised as follows:—Structural 70, drainage 18, waste-pipes 13, w.c.'s and w.w.c's. 21, inadequate water supply 1.

It is estimated that 40 houses have no separate w.c. or other adequate sanitary accommodation. There are approximately 430 houses in the town with inadequate internal water-supply due to defective (joint) service piping—the latter being the owner's responsibility although the local authority gives

financial assistance in providing a separate service pipe to each property—and there are two groups, comprising 58 houses, with insufficient internal water-supply (not town's water), although during 1944 they have been put on the town's supply.

1,735 inspections were made of 1,591 houses, of which 98 were found not to be in all respects reasonably habitable, and 86 were rendered fit following informal action.

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, 7 statutory notices were served regarding defective houses, 4 properties being remedied, 2 becoming vacant shortly after the service of the notice (not to be re-let until rendered fit), and 1 changing ownership just before the end of the year. The main difficulty in securing fit houses under the Public Health or Housing Acts continues to be shortage of labour and building materials.

There is no accurate up-to-date information on the extent of overcrowding, since for some time past it has been recognised that the problem was not one which could easily be rectified in the present circumstances; one complaint of overcrowding involving 5 persons was reported and was relieved.

It is difficult to determine precisely the extent of the local demand for houses and to know how many applicants for Council houses there would be on a "live" register; prospective tenants are divided into two main groups, namely, tenants of terrace houses and those in lodgings with inadequate bedroom accommodation.

BUG ERADICATION.

Disinfestation procedure is as described in previous reports, 27 houses (involving 107 rooms) having been disinfested during 58 visits.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

31 dairy farms (30 cowkeepers) were subjected to 32 inspections, and 5 inspections were made to 2 bottling establishments. There are 8 milk purveyors but no milk shops in the town.

One farm only in the borough produces designated milk (this milk (T.T.) being sold wholesale) and there are no pasteurising plants, although a large amount of T.T. milk and a limited quantity of pasteurised milk is retailed locally.

43 samples of milk have been submitted for biological test in the local laboratory, none of which contained tubercle bacilli. Further, 293 informal samples were tested in the department for (a) milk fat—287 being genuine and 6 showing a deficiency; (b) solids not fat—1 showed a slight deficiency; (c) methylene blue test—228 were not decolourised in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours, 31 were decolourised between $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours, 28 between 2 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and 6 under 2 hours; (d) presence of coliform organisms in 0.01 c.c. (Accredited milk standard)—144 were negative and 94 positive; (e) sediment test (visible cleanliness)—199 were satisfactory, 38 showed slight deposit and 2 were unsatisfactory; (f) resazurin test—34 were excellent, 131 very good, 76 good, 35 fair, 11 poor, 2 bad and 4 very bad. The results were communicated to the vendors, and steps suggested to improve methods of production when the milk examination revealed negligence. A bacterial count was carried out on 17 samples, the results being as follows: Under 10,000 organisms per c.c.—3; 10,000 to 100,000 organisms per c.c.—11; 100,000 to 200,000 organisms per c.c.—1; 200,000 to 1,000,000 organisms per c.c.—1; and over 1,000,000 organisms per c.c.—1.

MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

No public slaughtering has been carried out in the town since controlled slaughtering came into operation; 20 pigs were privately killed during the year, all the carcasses being passed, but one head was condemned by the Sanitary Inspector. Routine inspection of shops, stalls and vehicles where meat or prepared food is sold has continued.

Food has been submitted, found unfit for human consumption, and certified, as follows:—460 lbs. imported beef, 1 pig's head, $47\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. bacon, 7 lbs. ham, 42 lbs. haddock, 28 lbs. cod fish, $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. plaice, 84 lbs. kippers, 2 bags mussels, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. butter, $66\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. cheese, 73 lbs. rusks (for sausages), 50 lbs. prunes, 52 lbs. sweets, 4 lbs. jam, 6 jars (2 lbs.), 8 jars (1 lb.), and 24 small jars pickled beetroot, 1 jar pickled red cabbage, 164 bottles horseradish cream, 4 tins (6 lbs.) and 2 tins (4 lbs.), corned beef, 2 tins (12 oz.) meat loaf, 67 tins (1s) stewed steak,

1 tin (6 lbs.) tongue, 17 tins (6 lbs.) 32 tins ($2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.), 1 tin ($1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) and 6 tins (12 oz.) pork luncheon meat, 14 tins (6 lbs.), 6 tins ($2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.), and 28 tins (12 oz.) chopped ham, 26 tins ($1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs) pork sausage meat, 1 tin ($2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) chicken and ham, 1 tin (2 lbs.) rabbit, 1 tin liver, 4 tins (1s) steak and vegetable, 8 tins (1s), 32 tins ($\frac{1}{2}$ s) and 1 tin ($\frac{1}{4}$ s) salmon, 5 tins (1s) and 1 tin ($\frac{1}{4}$ s) pilchards, 144 tins ($3\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) sardines, 2 tins (8 ozs.) crawfish, 6 tins (30 lbs.) eggs, 20 tins ($1\frac{3}{4}$ pint) condensed sweetened milk, 5,801 ($14\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) evaporated milk, 2 tins machine-skimmed milk, 17 tins (1s) and 3 tins (2s) peas, 19 tins (1s) and 2 tins ($\frac{1}{2}$ s) beans, 1 tin (19 ozs.) tomatoes, 361 tins (6 lbs. 15 ozs.) tomato puree, 1 tin (2s) and 1 tin (1s) carrots, 1 tin kidney soup, 16 tins (1s) and 4 tins ($\frac{1}{2}$ s) vegetable soup, 2 tins (1s) Scotch broth, 26 tins ($2\frac{1}{2}$ s) and 6 tins (2s) plums, 2 tins ($2\frac{1}{2}$ s) pears, 1 tin ($1\frac{1}{2}$ s) and 1 tin (1s) damsons, 7 tins ($3\frac{1}{2}$ s) and 2 tins ($\frac{1}{2}$ s) pineapple, 5 tins ($2\frac{1}{2}$ s) peaches, 1 tin (1s) apples.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Lancashire County Council, the authority administering the above Act, reports that of 9 formal samples of milk obtained by the County Sanitary Officer, one proved to be 16% deficient in milk fat, the vendor being prosecuted and fined £2 and costs. In addition, the following samples, all found to be genuine, were obtained for analysis:—Butter, tea, jam, self-raising flour, margarine, sugar, bread, lard, cheese, fish-paste, and tinned salmon.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The summary below refers to notifiable infectious diseases. (In brackets are the corresponding figures for 1942):

Disease.	Cases notified in 1943.	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Scarlet fever	202 (154)	142 (87)	1 (—)
Diphtheria	8 (39)	7 (39)	— (2)
Enteric fever	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Puerperal pyrexia	2 (2)	1 (1)	— (—)
Erysipelas	10 (8)	1 (2)	— (1)
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	2 (1)	— (—)	— (—)
Acute poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Encephalitis lethargica	— (—)	— (—)	*1 (*2)
Cerebro-spinal fever	2 (6)	2 (6)	— (—)

Disease	Cases notified in 1943.	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	26 (34)	— (—)	†13 (7)
Malaria	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Dysentery	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Measles	442 (21)	2 (—)	— (—)
Whooping cough	97 (26)	— (—)	— (—)
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	22 (27)	15 (17)	12 (10)
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	17 (15)	5 (10)	6 (4)
Totals	831 (333)	176 (162)	33 (26)

* Previously notified chronic cases.

† All forms.

In addition to those mentioned above, the following cases were removed to hospital: 1 acute poliomyelitis, final diagnosis spastic paresis; 1 measles contact suffering from tubercular peritonitis; 1 as cerebro-spinal fever—a diagnosis not confirmed.

This year a still further increase in the incidence of **Scarlet Fever** was experienced, the 202 cases (of whom 142, i.e., 70.3%, were removed to hospital) being spread over the year, the fewest cases occurring in June, July and December; there was one death. 132 cases (65.4%) were in children between 5 and 15 years of age, and there were 12 "return cases." The infection was, in general, of a mild type.

There was a marked decrease of **Diphtheria** (8 cases—none immunised) as compared with the experience of 1941 and 1942 when the figures were 19 and 39 respectively. There were no deaths this year; 5 of the 8 cases were children under 15. Diphtheria antitoxin continues to be kept at the Police Station and is available to local practitioners at all times.

Under the scheme for *Preventive Inoculation* against diphtheria 143 school children and 304 pre-school children were immunised during the year, making a grand total of 2,429 school children and 1,172 pre-school children immunised during the years 1941-1943. It is therefore estimated that 51% of the pre-school and 68% of the school child population have now been protected. As it is unusual to immunise children under one year old, 80 represents the approximate optimum percentage of inoculations in the pre-school group, as against a possible (but hardly attainable) 100% in school children.

An outbreak of **Measles** (442 notified cases during the year) commencing in January, assumed epidemic proportions in February, reached its peak during March, abated in April, and rapidly declined in May. There were no cases notified after July, and no deaths from the disease. The age distribution was 0-5 years 244, 5-15 years 193, and over 15 years 5 cases.

Whooping Cough notifications numbered 97 (no deaths) the incidence being rather higher during the 6 months June to November. The age distribution was 0-5 years 71, 5-15 years 25, and over 15 years 1 case.

There were 2 cases (no deaths) of **Cerebro-Spinal Fever** during the year, as compared with 6 cases (no deaths) in 1942.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. Scott C. Adam, the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area, has kindly supplied the following particulars relating to Nelson patients:—

Notifications of new cases number 22 pulmonary and 17 non-pulmonary (totalling 39), and of 243 new patients—130 of whom were examined at the Dispensary and 113 at their homes—78 were found to be suffering from some form of tuberculosis, the remainder being discharged after observation as non-tuberculous. There were 332 re-examinations of "old" cases and with regard to treatment 16 "early" cases were admitted to sanatorium, 10 advanced cases to hospital and 12 cases of surgical tuberculosis to general or special hospitals; X-ray examinations totalled 168. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor made 39 primary and 750 subsequent visits to patients. During the year 2 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary cases were written off as "recovered."

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Although possibly sufferers from venereal disease seeking treatment may attend further afield, it is probable that most attend the Burnley Venereal Diseases Clinic, the Centre provided for this area by the Lancashire County Council by arrangement with the County Borough of Burnley, whose Medical Officer of Health has kindly submitted the following figures relating to persons giving a Nelson address:—

Classification	Males			Females		
	Patients on Register at beginning of 1943	New Cases	Total	Patients on Register at beginning of 1943	New Cases	Total
Syphilis, primary.....	1	3	4	—	—	—
„ secondary	2	1	3	2	2	4
„ latent in first year of infection	—	—	—	—	1	1
„ all later stages.....	3	3	6	11	3	14
„ congenital.....	1	1	2	2	2	4
Gonorrhoea, 1st year of infection	5	9	14	1	4	5
„ later	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-venereal conditions.....	—	8	8	—	20	20
Totals	12	25	37	16	32	48

VACCINATION.

Preventive treatment against smallpox is negligible in the town and the marked public aversion to vaccination is indicated by the fact that only 36 infants (and 3 adults) were successfully vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator in 1943.

SCABIES.

A decrease in the incidence of scabies was reported in the School Medical Officer's Report, 98 school children (as against 210 in 1942) being involved, who were treated at the School Clinic. Although home visits and enquiries at the place of work of contacts were carried out, only 8 individuals other than school children attended for treatment.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

The work done included the following 589 examinations :— diphtheria swabs 88, urine 91, sputum 41, pus for gonococci 23, pus for other organisms 48, eye swabs 21, blood films 14, pathological specimens 27, milk deposits 73, hair for ringworm 1, animal tissues 136, faeces 5, cerebro-spinal fluid 2, other examinations 15. One blood specimen was submitted for Widal reaction and three for Wassermann reaction to the Public Health Laboratory, Burnley. One specimen of urine was submitted for Ascheim-Zondek reaction to Edinburgh University and one insect sent to Manchester University for identification.

DISINFECTION.

389 rooms were fumigated for all purposes, 222 being disinfected by formalin vapour and spray following infectious disease; 463 articles of clothing, 2,380 articles of bedding and 143 miscellaneous articles were treated in the steam disinfectors and 163 in the formalin-vapour chamber.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The general arrangements, except for the provision of accommodation for abnormal maternity cases, remain as hitherto outlined.

MATERNAL WELFARE.

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Supervising Authority and employs two district midwives locally.

MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION.

Prior to December there was no arrangement for the accommodation of Nelson patients with obstetrical abnormalities, although patients requiring Caesarean section could be operated upon at Reedyford Memorial Hospital. As there are no facilities for natural delivery at the latter hospital an agreement was made with Burnley Corporation for the admission of abnormal cases to Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, such patients usually being seen without charge by one or other of the consultant obstetricians before being recommended for transfer. Admission to hospital owing to abnormality will not in general involve the patient in greater expense than a normal confinement at the Municipal Maternity Home. One such patient (contracted pelvis) was admitted to Bank Hall.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

355 expectant mothers made 1,569 attendances at the Antenatal Clinic, which is conducted by the Matron of the Maternity Home, abnormal cases being referred to the Obstetric Consultant who attends at specified times. Expectant mothers employed in industry during the day can be seen by the Matron at an evening session held at the Maternity Home.

MUNICIPAL MATERNITY HOME (10 BEDS).

During 1943 there were unprecedented difficulties both with nursing and domestic staff at the Home, and whereas in

the first six months the nursing staff consisted of 4 midwives (including the Matron) and 1 assistant nurse, there were latterly only 3 midwives and 2 assistant nurses. Such a deficiency of midwives, in association with a lack of resident domestic staff and an increase in admissions, inevitably leads to disaffection and the situation is aggravated by inadequate off-duty and occasional extra duty during busy periods or when other members of the staff are on leave or indisposed.

230 maternity cases (201 in 1942) were admitted to the Home during the year, the average duration of stay being 14 days; admissions included 3 women entering for ante-natal treatment, the average duration of stay being 9 days. 76 patients were delivered by midwives and 150 by doctors, medical aid being sought in 27 cases. There were no puerperal deaths in the Home. 186 infants were wholly breast-fed on leaving the Home and 28 received a supplementary or complementary feed whilst there. There were 219 live births, 8 still births and 4 deaths of infants within 10 days of birth. The causes of still birth were maceration 6, anencephalus 1, not known 1; the causes of death were prematurity 3 and icterus gravis neonatorum 1. One ante-natal mother was transferred to hospital for Caesarean operation and one patient with a persistent occipito-posterior presentation was transferred to Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley. One patient was notified as suffering from puerperal pyrexia.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Two cases of puerperal pyrexia (including one in the Maternity Home) have been notified.

HOME HELPS.

During the year an increasing number of expectant mothers made enquiries regarding the existing scheme for which there had previously been little demand and which was ineffective for lack of registered helps.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

There are arrangements for the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers by local dentists, although

none availed herself of this scheme, presumably such treatment being generally secured either privately or as an additional benefit under National Health Insurance. Dental treatment on medical grounds is provided for pre-school children by the School Dentists.

INFANT WELFARE.

391 live births and 13 still births were notified, 394 by midwives and maternity nurses, 2 by doctors and 8 by the Registrar. There were 420 registered live births (23 illegitimate and 18 registered still births (two illegitimate). The **Birth Rate** was 13.3 per 1,000 of the population and the **Infant Mortality Rate** 48 per 1000 live births—as calculated from the 20 infant deaths during the year. Of these deaths 11 were in infants under one month old, thus giving a **Neonatal Mortality Rate** of 26 per 1000 births; the causes of neonatal death were prematurity 7, congenital malformation 1, infant diseases 2, and birth injury 1.

Regarding **Young Child Mortality** there were 6 deaths of children from one to five years old, the causes being scarlet fever 1, acute miliary tuberculosis 1, tubercular meningitis 2, broncho-pneumonia 1 and acute mastoiditis 1.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations 1926-1937, 2 cases of **Ophthalmia neonatorum** were notified, both being treated at home; the vision was unimpaired in one case and the other patient was still under treatment at the end of the year.

WELFARE CENTRE.

At the weekly Infant Clinic sessions 257 children under one year made 1761 attendances and 443 children aged one to five made 1090 attendances with an average attendance per session of 19.8 infants and 12.2 young children.

19 children under five years of age were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, 35 to the Ophthalmic Clinic and 27 to the Aural Clinic.

DISTRIBUTION OF FRUIT JUICE, COD LIVER OIL, ETC.

On behalf of the Ministry of Food 5123 bottles (1472 free) and 1079 packets of tablets (242 free) of cod liver oil and 32,911 bottles (5569 free) of orange juice, were distributed from the Clinic premises,

The response by the priority classes concerned indicates that 69% of orange juice and 25% of National cod liver oil are being supplied, the former figure being considerably in excess of that for the North-Western Region generally. Undoubtedly the long maintained advertising of proprietary brands of vitamin preparations tends to favour their continued use; their greater cost as compared with National cod liver oil may well represent a greater value in the public mind. The high percentage of children under 5 years (attending the War-time Nurseries, Nursery School and public elementary schools locally) receiving orange juice and cod liver oil free of charge under the Ministry of Education scheme (Administrative Memorandum No. 485), namely, 91% and 86% respectively, seems to suggest that when administered by a third party cod liver oil does not appear to be as distasteful as the parent supposes.

Proprietary brands of dried food (9118 packets) and cod liver oil emulsion (1152 bottles) were sold at cost price at the Health Department.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

Day nursery accommodation for 40 children at the Local Authority's Nursery School was provided until August, when it was increased to 60 by the erection of a pre-fabricated hut adjoining the school premises; this class is being administered by the Local Education Authority.

The 24-hour War-time Nursery at Grove House, Barrowford, was opened on July 5th, and has accommodation for 50 day children (37 resident). The nursery was established to accommodate pre-school children so as to enable their mothers to engage in industry. The building was previously a private nursing home and lent itself admirably to conversion. The premises, which face south, include 3 nursery rooms, one for 10 babies, another for 10 tweenies, and a third for 30 toddlers, together with night nurseries, isolation room and a playground.

The staff at the end of the year consisted of the Matron, Deputy Matron, a Warden, a nursery nurse, 3 nursery assistants and 4 probationers.

In October the Nursery was approved for affiliation to the National Society of Children's Nurseries and as a Training School (Parts I and II).

The average daily attendances (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) for the half-year ending December 31st were: Day (including those remaining at night)—8.6 (0-2 years), 14.2 (2-5 years); night—7.8 (0-2 years), 12.3 (2-5 years). In December there was an outbreak of whooping cough, 6 infants being affected. The nursery was put in quarantine for 3 weeks.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

There were two nurse children on the Register at the end of the year.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR 2866.

This Authority has decided that there is at the present time no necessity in this area for a joint scheme as formulated by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CLEANLINESS OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR 2831.

This Circular, issued in July, refers to the need for educating mothers in clean habits and freedom from head-louse infestation of young children. The Health Visitors examined the heads of 1065 pre-school children and found 24 with nits and 4 with live vermin; liaison with the School Nurses has enabled them to secure fuller information regarding less satisfactory homes. In their lectures on "Mothercraft" to girl school-leavers the Health Visitors include instruction in the care of the hair.

HOME VISITING.

The two whole-time and one half-time Health Visitors made 226 first and 127 subsequent visits to expectant mothers, 442 first and 1805 subsequent visits to children under one year of age, an average of 5.1 per infant, and 2707 visits to children from one to five years old.

ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES.

Excellent work continues to be done through the Mayor's War Emergency Fund and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association in assisting in the provision, *inter alia*, of footwear, clothing and bedding for young children.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Medical Officer made 32 examinations and 16 re-examinations of workmen, 1 examination as to fitness for further service, and 2 as to fitness to take up employment and for Superannuation purposes.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death with Corresponding Rates.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
All causes.	260	249	509	16.11
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	0.00
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	0.00
3. Scarlet fever	—	1	1	0.03
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—	0.00
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	0.00
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	7	5	12	0.38
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	5	1	6	0.19
8. Syphilitic disease	—	2	2	0.06
9. Influenza	5	3	8	0.25
10. Measles	—	—	—	0.00
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	1	1	0.03
13M. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	7	—	7	0.22
13F. Cancer of uterus	—	5	5	0.16
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	8	3	11	0.35
15. Cancer of breast	—	7	7	0.22
16. Cancer of all other sites	19	21	40	1.27
17. Diabetes	4	8	12	0.38
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	27	31	58	1.84
19. Heart disease	71	56	127	4.02
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	7	—	7	0.22
21. Bronchitis	22	27	49	1.55
22. Pneumonia	3	10	13	0.41
23. Other respiratory diseases	0	3	3	0.09
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	3	3	6	0.19
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	1	—	1	0.03
26. Appendicitis	1	—	1	0.03
27. Other digestive diseases	8	5	13	0.41
28. Nephritis	12	10	22	0.70
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	0.00
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—	0.00
31. Premature birth	4	3	7	0.22
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	2	4	6	0.19
33. Suicide	4	1	5	0.16
34. Road traffic accidents	3	—	3	0.09
35. Other violent causes	2	6	8	0.25
36. All other causes	35	33	68	2.15

APPENDIX II.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1943.

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
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RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Live births	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	13.3
Still births	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.57
Deaths :					
All causes	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	16.1
Typhoid & paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Whooping cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.00
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.25
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00

RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Deaths under one year of age	49	58	46	58	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis, under 2 years of age	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4	2.4

RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Notifications :					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.06
Scarlet fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	6.39
Whooping cough	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	3.07
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	0.25
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.32
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	13.99
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	0.82

APPENDIX II. (Contd.)

RATES PER 1000 TOTAL BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

	England and Wales	126 County boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson
(a) Notifications :					
Puerperal fever	11.68	15.11	9.26	3.05	4.76
Puerperal pyrexia				15.23*	

* Including puerperal fever.

(b) Maternal Mortality :

	Abortion with sepsis	Abortion without sepsis	Puerperal infections	Other
England and Wales	0.34	0.11	0.39	1.45
Nelson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45.

	With sepsis	Without sepsis
England and Wales	25	8

APPENDIX II. (Contd.)

TABLE FOR 1000 TOTAL INHABITANTS (LIVE AND DEAD)

1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)
11.63	12.11	0.78	2.02	2.12	

including population

1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)
0.71	0.79	0.71	0.79	0.71	0.79

Abstract: Monthly per million women aged 15-45

1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)	1000 Total Inhabitants (Live and Dead)
0.71	0.79	0.71	0.79	0.71	0.79