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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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G. J. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health



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BOROUGH OF NELSON

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR W. PENNINGTON (Vice-Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR H. HAYTHORNTHTWAITE).

ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER.

„ F. CORK.

„ W. H. HINDLE.

„ A. SMITH.

„ H. W. THROUP.

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD.

„ E. BYWATER.

„ MRS. E. KAY.

„ A. SHACKLETON.

„ S. SHAW.

„ F. TAYLOR.

„ H. H. URSELL.

„ J. WIDDUP.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR H. HAYTHORNTHTWAITE).

ALDERMAN W. H. HINDLE.

„ A. SMITH.

„ H. W. THROUP.

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD.

„ MRS. E. KAY.

„ W. PENNINGTON.

„ S. SHAW.

MRS. V. WESTWELL.

MRS. V. WALKER.

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. †

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 †

Temporary Junior Clerk G. WALTON.

Health Visitors :

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

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

MISS M. TORKINGTON, S.R.N., S.C.M.*

Matron, Maternity Home :

MRS. P. M. BALLARD, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Matron, Grove House War-time Nursery :

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

Consultant for Puerperal Pyrexia and Obstetrics :

A. CALLAM, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

* Part-time. † In H.M.F.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

21 CARR ROAD,

NELSON.

SEPTEMBER, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR MRS. KAY AND GENTLEMEN,

The Annual Report on the work of the Health Department during 1945, which is now presented, covers a period during almost the whole of which I was away on active service. In my absence the department was in the charge of Dr. R. E. Robinson to whom credit is due for the efficient running of the Service and he has been ably assisted by Mr. J. W. Ingham, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The report shows that the birth rate, consistently lower locally than the national rate, is down on last year and is approximately that of 1943; the infantile mortality rate, though higher than the low record of last year, is less than in 1943; deaths outnumber births thus maintaining the trend of recent years, 1944 being an exception; there was a marked decline in the incidence of infectious disease.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health records his thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support extended to him and wishes to acknowledge the good services of members of the staff and also the help of the County Medical Officer of Health (who arranged for one of his Assistant Medical Officers to conduct the Infant Welfare Sessions) and to other officials mentioned in the report who have kindly supplied certain statistics.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

G. J. ROBERTS.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY—1945.

Area in acres	3,466
Population—Census, 1931	38,306
Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population— mid-year, 1945	31,100
Number of inhabited houses—	
(a) Census, 1931	11,128
(b) End of 1945, according to rate books	11,946
Rate	15s. 2d. in the £
Rateable value	£245,553
Sum represented by a penny rate	£961-19-1

The cost of the Health Services for the financial year 1945-46 was estimated at £12,462 which is equivalent to a rate of 12.95d. in the £.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate.
Live Births :				
Total	206	213	419	13.4 per thousand of population.
Illegitimate	19	21	40	
Still Births :				
Total	9	10	19	43 per thousand births (live and still).
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths	234	244	478	15.3 per thousand of population.
Death of Infants under 1 year of age :				
Total	9	8	17	40 per thousand live births.
Legitimate	6	6	12	31 per thousand legitimate births.
Illegitimate	3	2	5	125 per thousand illegitimate births.
Maternal Deaths :				
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	—	1	1	2.38 per 1,000 live births. 2.28 per 1,000 total births.

There was a decrease of 73 births in 1945 on the number occurring in 1944, the high number of that year being contributed to materially by the presence locally of evacuee mothers from London.

Deaths numbered 389, 18 of these non-residents. 107 deaths of Nelson residents occurred in other districts, the corrected total of 478 giving a local death rate of 15.3 per 1,000 inhabitants.. The Birth and Death Rates are calculated on an assumed population of 31,100, a reduction of 320 on the assumed population at mid-year 1944.

There were 17 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 40 per 1,000 live births.

Comparative vital statistics are given in Appendices II and III.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death are summarised in Appendix I, a summary of the chief being:—

Cause of Death.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of total deaths.	Death Rate
Heart disease	139	29.0	4.46
Cancer	61	12.7	1.96
Intracranial vascular lesions	60	12.5	1.92
Respiratory diseases excluding tuberculosis	55	11.5	1.76
Tuberculosis, all forms	16	3.3	0.51
Infectious diseases including influenza but not tuberculosis	5	1.0	0.16
Violent causes	24	5.0	0.77

Of deaths from all causes 40.6% of the male deaths and 44.3% of the female deaths were in respect of persons of 70 years and over. Combined, the percentage is 42.4% of the total deaths, compared with 46.7% in 1944.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

General hospital accommodation remains unchanged.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

During the year 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was visited by the District Nurses under the existing arrangements with the local Nursing Association, 14 visits being made.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

Records taken at the Meteorological Station show that rain fell on 191 days, the total rainfall for the year being 41.41 inches (50.67 inches in 1944). The wettest month was October with 5.98 inches and the driest November with 0.56 inches.

Bright sunshine was recorded on 279 days, totalling 1041.2 hours, a daily average of 2.9 hours. In 1944, 946.6 hours of sunshine were recorded, with a daily average of 2.6 hours. The mean temperature for the year was 48.5°.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the source of public water supply during the year but an extension of the main was made to Lomeshaye, an area previously on a private supply of spring water.

The average daily consumption of water in the Waterworks area of supply was 2,412,074 gallons (which includes the compensation water discharged from the Coldwell Reservoir), averaging 46.2 gallons per head. There was no curtailment of supply during 1945.

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 examination; these comprised 46 for bacteriological and 4 for chemical analysis, all being satisfactory.

In 148 houses old joint service pipes were replaced by new mains with separate service pipes to each house; since the inception of this scheme 438 rows of houses have been dealt with.

There are approximately 275 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.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

An extension of the sewer has been carried out to serve 100 temporary houses on the Hole House Estate and the existing filters at the town's sewage disposal works have been reconditioned.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

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

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens (in town)	None
Number of Pail Closets	46
Number of Fresh Water Closets	5007
Number of Waste Water Closets	7708
Number of Dry Ashpits, excluding Middens	20
Number of Portable Receptacles for refuse	12320
Conversions :	
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	63

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Director of Public Cleansing; there are no changes in procedure to report.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1945.

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors is summarised as follows :

No. of complaints of nuisances received and investigated	150
No. of premises in general inspected	2102
No. of premises in general re-inspected	132
No. of premises in general visited	175
No. of inspections : Stables	40
Licensed premises	34
Bakehouses—Power	117
Non-power	61
Meat stalls	207
Dairies and cowsheds	48
Housing	167

No. of visits—Infectious diseases	234
Total No. of defects or matters requiring attention found	225
Verbal notices given	134
Informal notices sent	41
Informal and verbal notices complied with	136
Legal notices sent	1
Legal notices complied with	1
Smoke observations	74

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

74 smoke observations were made during the year affecting 28 chimneys. In 49 instances no black smoke was emitted during the time of observation; in 22 instances the emission of black smoke was under the prescribed limit (i.e. 5 minutes in 30 minutes) and in 3 instances the emission of black smoke was excessive, the attention of the owners of the chimney being drawn to the result of the observation with the request to take all possible steps to minimise the nuisance.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

At the end of 1945 the register showed 263 factories with mechanical power and 71 without; 150 visits being made to the former and 79 to the latter. 12 defects were recorded of which 6 were notified by H.M. Factory Inspector.

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during 1945. Housing conditions generally are reasonably satisfactory from a sanitary point of view but property is naturally in a poorer state of repair than formerly. The shortage of two and three bedroom types and aged persons' bungalows is estimated at 400. The housing scheme in hand or contemplated relates to 220 permanent and 100 temporary houses.

Verbal or informal notices, following a complaint, were issued in respect of 80 houses; the matters dealt with in the notices included defective sanitary accommodation 22, defective waste pipes 10, defective drains 12, defective roofs, troughing or fall-pipes 46, internal structural defects 22, lack of cleanliness 8, water leakage 11, dry rot 2, other conditions 6.

One complaint of overcrowding was investigated during the year.

BUG ERADICATION.

Sulphur dioxide fumigation or Zaldecide spray were used for disinfection in the first nine months, being then superseded by D.D.T. spray. 25 houses were dealt with (involving 139 rooms) in 59 visits.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register shows that there are 4 dairy cowkeepers who retail milk outside the town, 7 who are wholesalers, 15 with premises in the town who retail milk locally, 35 with premises outside the town who retail milk locally and 8 who are purveyors only.

There are two dairies within the borough at which bottling is undertaken. Only one farm in the borough produces designated milk (T.T.), this being sold wholesale. A quantity of T.T. milk, accredited milk and pasteurised milk is retailed locally; there is no local pasteurising plant. Routine testing of informal samples of milk is carried out in the Public Health Laboratory, and a report sent to the vendors of the milk giving the result of the various tests carried out. This procedure is considered an excellent means of educating milk dealers in sound methods of production and distribution.

MILK TESTING.

Below are appended details of examinations carried out by Mr. J. W. Ingham, Senior Sanitary Inspector, in the laboratory.

Total number of samples tested	539
Of these 101 were samples of school milk and 164 samples taken from individual cows.	
(a) Milk Fat:	
Total number tested	539
Number found below standard	146
Of these 17 were general samples, 11 were school samples, 27 were from kits containing school milk and 91 were samples from individual cows.	

(b) Non-fatty Solids :

Total number tested	386
Number found below standard	9
Of these 4 were general samples and 5 were samples from individual cows.	
Three general samples were found to be deficient in both milk fat and non-fatty solids.	

(c) Resazurin Test :

Total number tested	351
Excellent	101
Very good	140
Good	64
Fair	30
Poor	8
Bad	1
Very bad	7
Samples showing a bad or very bad result were 3 general samples and 5 school samples.	

(d) Methylene Blue Test :

Total number tested	346
Failed to satisfy the test	35
Of these 22 were general samples and 13 school samples.	

(e) Coliform Test :

Total number tested	345
Number showing coliform bacilli present in 0.01 c.c.	73
Of these 59 were general samples and 14 school samples.	

(f) Tubercle Bacilli :

Total number tested, all found to be negative	44
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In the early months of the year the quality of the milk supplied to certain schools in the borough was found to be unsatisfactory. A special investigation was carried out in which the supplier of the milk fully co-operated; two accountable factors were found, namely, a spell of very severe weather which caused a temporary interference with the sterilizing and cooling apparatus, and secondly the failure of a number of animals in the herd to give milk with a 3% fat content. Changes were thereupon made by the supplier of the milk and a satisfactory supply effected and maintained.

OTHER FOODS.

Controlled centralised slaughtering (at Colne) has continued throughout the year, but 30 pigs were killed privately on farm premises, permission for such being granted through the Food Office. These carcasses were all examined and passed by the Sanitary Inspector.

Inspection of shops, stalls and vehicles where meat or prepared food is sold has been carried out in routine duties.

Food stuffs are submitted, as necessary, and if found unfit for human consumption are condemned (being of course salvaged wherever possible). The following list gives details of food condemned during the year:

Bacon	26 lbs.
Brussels sprouts	160 lbs.
Butter	43 lbs.
Cheese	1 lb.
Chocolate	11 cwts.
Dates	119 lbs.
Fish	445 lbs.
Jam	9 lbs.
Leeks	3 tons 18½ cwts.
Margarine	16 lbs.
Onions	84 lbs.
Pickles	1 lb.
Raisins	140 lbs.
Rice flour	1 ton 10 cwts.
Salad dressing	3 lbs.
Vinegar	1 pint.
Watercress	8 lbs.

Tinned goods:

Army biscuits	1 ton 14 cwts. 25 lbs.
Baked beans	82 tins ... 13 lbs.
Carrots	5 tins ... 1 lb.
Fish	73 tins ... 40 lbs.
Fruit	29 tins ... 54 lbs.
Marmalade	4 tins ... 4 lbs.
Meat	408 tins ... 1546 lbs.
Meat & vegetables..	3 tins ... 3 lbs.
Milk	40 tins ... 35 lbs.
Peas	6 tins ... 6 lbs.
Soup	100 tins ... 103 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The administration of this Act is carried out by the Lancashire County Council; Dr. Hall, the County Medical Officer of Health, informs me that during the year his officer obtained locally 9 samples of milk (all of which on analysis were found to be genuine) and 2 samples of whisky, 1 of gin and 4 of sherry; the gin was found to be adulterated, the vendor being successfully prosecuted and fined £1 and £1-1-0 costs. One sample of whisky was slightly adulterated, and a letter of warning sent to the vendor.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year a total of 294 cases were notified, a decrease of 153 on the number notified during 1944 and mainly accounted for by decreases in the number of cases of scarlet fever and whooping cough.

Details of the notifications for this and the previous year are:—

Disease.	Cases notified		Cases removed to Hospital		Deaths	
	1945.	1944.	1945.	1944.	1945.	1944.
Scarlet fever	57	137	...	35	84	...
Diphtheria	22	37	...	22	37	...
Enteric fever	—	1	...	—	1	...
Measles	108	111	...	1	—	...
Whooping cough	40	78	...	—	1	...
Pneumonia	17	26	...	—	—	...
Puerperal pyrexia	1	5	...	1	2	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	...	—	—	...
Encephalitis lethargica	—	1	...	—	—	...
Dysentery	—	—	...	—	—	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	3	4	...	1	—	...
Erysipelas	9	9	...	3	1	...
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	24	24	...	16	22	...
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	13	14	...	8	6	...

Scarlet Fever showed a marked reduction as compared with 1944, rather more cases being notified in the first six months. 35 cases were removed to hospital and there was one "return case." Generally the type of infection was mild and no deaths occurred; 72% of the cases were children of school age.

There was a decrease in cases of **Diphtheria** compared with the previous year; all were removed to hospital. 1 death occurred (giving a case mortality rate for the year of 4.5%)—that of an immunised boy of 13 years who suffered from heart disease and who succumbed three months after contracting diphtheria. Details of the 22 cases show 1 unimmunised patient in the under 5 age-group; 8 patients between the ages of 5 and 15 years (4 immunised and 4 unimmunised), and 13 patients of 15 years of age and over, none of whom had been immunised.

Under the diphtheria immunisation scheme 309 pre-school children, 27 school children and 2 over school age have completed treatment during the year, giving a total of 4,454 (all ages) who have been immunised since the inauguration of the scheme in 1941. At the end of the year it was estimated that 55% of children under 5 years and 74% between the ages of 5 and 15 years had been immunised.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of persons inoculated annually 1941-1945.

Ages	Year					Total inoculated in each Group at 31/12/1945
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	
0 —	4	7	1	—	—	Under 5 years old on 31/12/1945 : 1119
1 —	41	216	192	186	205	
2 —	58	128	39	125	74	
3 —	67	134	27	40	20	
4 —	100	112	45	35	10	
5 —	156	149	29	24	14	Over 5 but under 15 years on 31/12/1945 : 2718
6 —	153	93	18	22	5	
7 —	167	80	20	11	2	
8 —	172	102	16	13	1	
9 —	168	96	8	14	1	
10—	182	104	12	7	1	15 years and over on 31/12/1945 : 617
11—	153	84	10	9	2	
12—	129	91	17	5	1	
13—	118	75	9	3	—	
14—	3	12	4	10	—	
15 and over	—	—	—	11	2	All ages : 4454
Totals	1671	1483	447	515	338	

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Police Station and is available to local practitioners at all times. During the year 32 phials, each of 8,000 units, have been requisitioned.

Measles incidence was almost confined to the six months March-August, approximately 64% of cases being notified in June and July. No cases were notified in the last two months of the year. No deaths occurred from this disease, nor were any cases reported with complications requiring nursing assistance.

40 cases of **Whooping Cough** occurred throughout the year, 38 fewer than in 1944.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. G. Barker Charnock, the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area, has kindly supplied the following particulars relating to Nelson patients:

Notifications of new cases number 15 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary (totalling 27), and of 129 new patients—120 of whom were examined at the Dispensary and 9 at their homes—33 were found to be suffering from some form of tuberculosis, the remainder being discharged after observation as non-tuberculous; there were 360 re-examinations of "old" cases. With regard to treatment, 10 "early" cases were admitted to sanatorium, 9 advanced cases to hospital and 15 cases of surgical tuberculosis to general or special hospitals; X-ray examinations totalled 187. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor made 27 primary and 250 subsequent visits to patients. During the year 10 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary cases were written off as "recovered."

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The increase of venereal disease, considered in conjunction with local illegitimacy figures, reflects the prevalence of extramarital sex relations.

The Centre provided for this area by the Lancashire County Council is at Burnley, by arrangement with the County Borough of Burnley. Dr. Lamont, the Medical Officer of Health for Burnley, has kindly submitted the following figures relative to persons giving a Nelson address:—

Classification	Males			Females		
	Patients on Register at beginning of 1945	New Cases	Total	Patients on Register at beginning of 1945	New Cases	Total
Syphilis, primary.....	3	2	5	—	—	—
.. secondary	1	1	2	5	6	11
.. latent in first year of infection	—	—	—	1	1	2
.. all later stages.....	2	—	2	12	2	14
.. congenital.....	2	—	2	4	—	4
Gonorrhoea, 1st year of infection	5	10	15	5	11	16
.. later	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-venereal or undiagnosed conditions	2	14	16	3	11	14
Totals	15	27	42	30	31	61

VACCINATION.

The Public Vaccinator has kindly supplied figures showing that only 33 infants and 4 adults were successfully vaccinated by him in 1945, these indicating the continued aversion to vaccination in the area.

SCABIES.

There was a decrease in the incidence of scabies, as shown by the number of children attending for treatment at the School Clinic. New cases found during the year amongst school or pre-school children numbered 70 and in addition 4 adults received treatment, against 110 children and 4 adults in 1944.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

A total of 636 specimens were obtained or submitted for examination during the year, consisting of throat swabs 112, nasal swabs 1, eye swabs 34, urine 74, sputum 31, pus for gonococci 19, pus for other organisms 10, cerebro-spinal fluid 1, blood 3, blood films 11, faeces 6, semen 7, hair for ringworm 2, human milk 1, pathological specimens 24, milk deposits 82, animal tissue 190, animal pus 14, other specimens 14. Included in these figures are 1 cerebro-spinal fluid, 3 blood, 5 faeces, 8 throat swabs and 1 other swab sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Burnley, and 2 urines sent to Edinburgh University for the Ascheim-Zondek reaction test.

DISINFECTION.

503 rooms were fumigated for all purposes, 131 being disinfected by formalin vapour and spray following infectious disease; 226 articles of clothing, 4,030 articles of bedding and 160 miscellaneous articles were treated in the steam disinfectors and 113 in the formalin-vapour chamber.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

No changes in the general arrangements have taken place during the year.

Number of births notified in the area served by the Council as Welfare Authority during the year:—

Live births 393. Still births 12. Total 405.

HEALTH VISITORS.

No. of Health Visitors employed at the end of the year 3
(One Health Visitor is engaged half-time on School Medical Service activities).

No. of visits paid during the year by all Health Visitors:—

(i) to expectant mothers—First visits	302
Total visits	429
(ii) to children under 1 year of age—First visits	432
Total visits	2277
(iii) to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years—	
Total visits	3618

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Address of Centre: 9 Carr Road.

Days and times open—

Non-medical, Wednesday afternoon, 2 to 5 p.m.

Medical, Friday afternoon, 2 to 5 p.m.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the Centre during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were

(i) under 1 year of age	234
(ii) over 1 year of age	82

Total number of children under 5 years who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were

(i) Under 1 year of age	151
(ii) over 1 year of age	436
Number of doctor's sessions during the year	39
Number of consultations—	
(i) under 1 year of age	179
(ii) over 1 year of age	177

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES.

Number of Clinics provided and maintained by the Council open at 31st December, 1945	2
Address of Clinic	Maternity Home, Fern Lea
Days and times open—Monday, 2-0 to 4-0 and 6-0 to 8-0 p.m. Thursday, 2-0 to 4-0 p.m.	
Total number of women who attended at the Clinics during the year	398

Abnormal obstetrical cases seen at the ante-natal clinic by the Matron of the Municipal Maternity Home are referred to the patients' own doctor.

Additional Ante-Natal Clinics are held weekly at the Infant Welfare Centre premises, but these are conducted by the two district midwives employed by the Lancashire County Council, attendances being confined to expectant mothers who have made arrangements with these midwives for their services.

During the year the services of the obstetric consultant were called upon on 10 occasions, 8 to the home of patients (5 being admitted to hospital) and 2 at Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley.

MATERNITY HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

Number of separate maternity institutions provided by the Council	1
Name and address of institution—	
Fern Lea Maternity Home, Netherfield Road, Nelson.	
No. of maternity beds (exclusive of isolation and labour beds)	10
Total No. of women admitted to these beds during the year	221
No. of these women admitted from the Council's area ...	192

No. of beds (included in the figures above) reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment	None
Total No. of expectant mothers treated in these beds during the year	—
Average duration of stay of expectant mothers in antenatal beds	—
Average duration of stay of cases in the lying-in-wards 12 days	
No. of cases delivered by	
(a) Midwives	207
(b) Doctors	10
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	40
No. of cases admitted after delivery	1
No. of cases notified as puerperal pyrexia	None
No. of cases of pemphigus neonatorum	1
No. of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complementary feed whilst in the institution	3
No. of infants wholly breast fed up to leaving the institution	203
Average No. of patients in residence per day	7.2
Total No. of patient days	2635
Percentage of patients not residents of Nelson	13.1
Percentage of total births in Fern Lea to notified births in Nelson	53.6
Excluding births relative to out-of-borough patients, percentage of births in Fern Lea	46.4

The arrangements for the reception of patients with obstetrical abnormalities into Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley, have worked smoothly. 13 women were sent to the latter institution, the abnormalities being toxæmia 3; malpresentation 3; ante-partum hæmorrhage 2; hyperemesis gravidarum 1; disproportion 1; failed forceps 1; previous Caesarean section 1; following precipitate labour 1.

In the last quarter of the year, in view of the greatly increased demand for institutional confinement, an agreement was made with the West Riding County Council to accept maternity cases at the Langroyd Hall Maternity Home, Colne, subject to accommodation being available; 5 mothers were admitted.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Bearing in mind that 9.5% of Nelson births were illegitimate and that the infant mortality rate of illegitimate babies is four times that of the legitimate offspring, there would appear to be adequate evidence for sharing in the joint scheme of the County Medical Officer of Health (Ministry of Health Circular 2866) for the care of illegitimate children in which this Welfare Authority decided not to participate in 1943.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

During the year the births of 29 premature babies were notified, 9 being born at home and 20 in hospital; of the former 8 were nursed entirely at home and all were surviving at the end of one month, whilst of those born in hospital 2 died during the first 24 hours and 17 survived at the end of one month.

The special arrangements for the hospitalisation, transport and follow-up on discharge of premature infants and the home care (including the services of a Home Help) are as outlined in last year's report. The reporting of prematurity on the birth notification cards appears to be satisfactory.

HOME HELPS.

In May a second full-time home help was appointed and the original home help then spent half her time as welfare worker for the aged; later still she was employed as home help only when needed, another full-time home help having been appointed in October. During the year the services of a home help were provided in 38 cases, all the latter being maternity cases.

Although the Ministry of Health in Circular 179/44 authorises local authorities to provide domestic assistance for sick or infirm persons, no application for such home help has been received up to the present and indeed only very exceptionally could such service be supplied since the home helps are fully engaged in the homes of lying-in mothers. The welfare workers employed by this authority do, however, endeavour to find casual domestic helpers to assist in the homes of old age pensioners and the Assistance Board may give financial assistance to the latter to help meet the cost,

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Pemphigus neonatorum	Puerperal fever	Puerperal pyrexia			
No. of cases notified during the year	3	...	1	...	—	...	1
No. of cases visited by officers of the Council ...	3	...	—	...	—	...	1
No. of cases for whom home nursing was provided by the Council	1	...	—	...	—	...	—
No. of cases removed to hospital	1	...	1	...	—	...	1

With regard to the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, recovery was complete in each case, and there was no impairment of vision.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

One woman died in consequence of pregnancy; the death occurred in Reedyford Memorial Hospital and the cause was certified as post-operative shock following operation for ruptured ectopic gestation. Based on the number of notified births this death represents a maternal mortality rate of 2.38 per 1,000 live births and 2.28 per 1,000 total births live and still.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

There was one nurse child on the register at the end of the year.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

The following particulars relate to the work of the Orthopaedic Clinic (administered by the Lancashire County Council) in respect of Nelson children under school age:—

No. of cases on books at commencement of the year	49
New cases admitted during the year	10
Cases discharged during the year	30
Cases transferred to the School Medical Section	7
No. of cases on books at end of the year	22
Total number of attendances	105
No. of cases admitted to hospital	2
No. of cases discharged from hospital	1
No. of cases receiving hospital treatment at end of year	1

CLEANLINESS OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

The Health Visitors have continued to stress the importance of cleanliness in young children during home visits, at the welfare centre, and in lectures to school leavers and have taken active steps to remedy unsatisfactory personal hygiene.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

During the year the ambulance vehicles, of which there are three, travelled 48,485 miles in the removal of 2,974 patients. A free service is maintained for accident cases and for the removal of patients to and from local hospitals, but a charge is made for long distance journeys according to the mileage covered.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death with Corresponding Rates.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
All causes.	234	244	478	15.30
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	0.00
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	0.00
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—	0.00
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—	0.00
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1	0.03
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	10	3	13	0.41
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	3	3	0.09
8. Syphilitic disease	4	—	4	0.12
9. Influenza	1	—	1	0.03
10. Measles	—	—	—	0.00
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	2	1	3	0.09
13M. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	1	—	1	0.03
13F. Cancer of uterus	—	7	7	0.22
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	8	5	13	0.41
15. Cancer of breast	—	7	7	0.22
16. Cancer of all other sites	19	14	33	1.06
17. Diabetes	1	1	2	0.06
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	22	38	60	1.92
19. Heart disease	71	68	139	4.46
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	6	5	11	0.35
21. Bronchitis	22	19	41	1.31
22. Pneumonia	1	5	6	0.19
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	6	8	0.25
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	6	1	7	0.22
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	—	—	—	0.00
26. Appendicitis	—	2	2	0.06
27. Other digestive diseases	6	10	16	0.51
28. Nephritis	6	5	11	0.35
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	0.00
30. Other maternal causes	—	1	1	0.03
31. Premature birth	—	2	2	0.06
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	6	2	8	0.25
33. Suicide	5	2	7	0.22
34. Road traffic accidents	1	—	1	0.03
35. Other violent causes	8	8	16	0.51
36. All other causes	25	29	54	1.73

APPENDIX II.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1945.

	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	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7	13.4
Still births	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40	0.61
Deaths :					
All causes	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8	15.3
Typhoid & paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.03
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00

RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Deaths under one year of age	46	54	43	53	40
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis, under 2 years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	0.0

RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Notifications :					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	1.83
Whooping cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	1.28
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.70
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.28
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	3.47
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.54

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	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60	2.28
Puerperal pyrexia				*15.87	

* Including puerperal fever.

(b) Maternal Mortality :

	Abortion with sepsis	Abortion without sepsis	Puerperal infections	Other
England and Wales	0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22
Nelson	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.28

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45.

	With sepsis	Without sepsis
England and Wales	18	6







