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BOROUGH OF NELSON

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

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G. J. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF NELSON

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR W. PENNINGTON (Vice-Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR J. WIDDUP).

ALDERMAN W. BANNISTER.

„ F. CORK.

„ A. SMITH.

„ H. W. THROUP.

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD.

„ E. BYWATER.

„ H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE.

„ MRS. E. KAY.

„ A. SHACKLETON.

„ S. SHAW.

„ F. TAYLOR.

„ H. H. URSELL.

„ R. WILCOCK.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN R. BLAND (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR J. WIDDUP).

ALDERMAN A. SMITH.

„ H. W. THROUP.

COUNCILLOR J. W. BUTTERFIELD.

„ H. HAYTHORNTHWAITE.

„ 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. †°
Acting Medical Officer of Health	R. E. ROBINSON, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	J. W. INGHAM, C.R.S.I.
Assistant Inspector (Retired 30/4/46) ...	S. GRINDROD, C.R.S.I.
Assistant Inspector (from 1/5/46)	S. HAYDOCK, C.R.S.I.
Assistant Inspector and Chief Clerk (to 30/4/46)	S. HAYDOCK, C.R.S.I.
Chief Clerk (from 1/5/46)	A. WILDMAN.
Clerk (to 30/4/46)	A. WILDMAN.
Clerk (from 1/5/46)	N. GRIFFITHS.
Housing Records Supervisor (to 30/4/46)	N. GRIFFITHS†
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.

° Resumed Duty 1/9/46. Resigned 31/10/46.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
21 CARR ROAD, NELSON.

SEPTEMBER, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department during 1946. Dr. Roberts was away in the first part of the year and I was Acting Medical Officer of Health; although Dr. Roberts returned to duty for September and October he then left to take up the post of County Medical Officer of Health, Angelsey, and I continued as Acting Medical Officer of Health.

The report shows that the birth rate, although lower than the national rate, is the highest since 1914, the infantile mortality rate is lower than the national rate; births outnumber deaths thus reversing the trend of recent years, 1944 being an exception. There was a large number of cases of measles during the year, but other infectious diseases showed a reduction on the low figures for 1945.

The end of the year brought the closure of the Grove House Nursery, which had been open since July 1943, and though this may be regretted, financial considerations made the decision necessary.

During the year the department lost a very valuable member of the staff when Mr. S. Grindrod, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, retired. He was an able colleague who had served Nelson Corporation for over 25 years and I hope that he will continue to have good health in order to enjoy the period of retirement he has earned by his devotion to duty whilst in the service of the Nelson Corporation.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the assistance they rendered and also wish to acknowledge the good services of members of the staff. Thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer of Health and other officials mentioned in the report who have kindly supplied statistics relating to the work of their particular departments.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. ROBINSON.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY—1946

Area in acres	3,466
Population—Census, 1931	38,306
Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population— mid-year, 1946	32,650
Number of inhabited houses—	
(a) Census, 1931	11,128
(b) End of 1946, according to rate books	12,107
Rate	16s. 4d. in the £
Rateable value	£245,546
Sum represented by a penny rate	£997-13-11

The cost of the Health Services for the financial year 1946-47 was estimated at £14,295 which is equivalent to a rate of 14.30d. in the £.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :	Males	Females	Total	Rate.
Total	270	261	531	16.2 per thousand of population.
Illegitimate	19	15	34	
Still Births :				
Total	11	17	28	50 per thousand births (live and still).
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Deaths	254	240	494	15.1 per thousand of population.
Death of Infants under 1 year of age :				
Total	10	5	15	28 per thousand live births.
Legitimate	9	3	12	24 per thousand legitimate births.
Illegitimate	1	2	3	88 per thousand illegitimate births.
Maternal Deaths :				
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	—	—	—	Nil.

There was an increase of 112 births in 1946 on the number occurring in 1945, and the Birth Rate of 16.2 per thousand of population is the highest recorded since 1914.

Deaths numbered 412, 26 of these non-residents. 108 deaths of Nelson residents occurred in other districts, the corrected total of 494 giving a local death rate of 15.1 per 1,000 inhabitants. The Birth and Death Rates are calculated on an assumed population of 32,650, an increase of 1,550 on the assumed population at mid-year 1945.

There were 15 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 28 per 1,000 live births.

Comparable 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	138 ...	27.9 ...	4.22
Cancer	67 ...	13.5 ...	2.05
Intracranial vascular lesions	76 ...	15.3 ...	2.32
Respiratory diseases excluding tuberculosis	61 ...	12.3 ...	1.86
Tuberculosis, all forms	15 ...	3.0 ...	0.45
Infectious diseases including influenza but not tuberculosis ...	6 ...	1.2 ...	0.18
Violent causes	18 ...	3.6 ...	0.55

Of deaths from all causes 51.6% were in respect of persons of 70 years and over compared with 42.4% in 1945. In contrast the deaths of children under 5 years of age were only 3.6% of the total.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

General hospital accommodation remains unchanged.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

During the year no cases were visited by the District Nurses under the existing arrangements with the local Nursing Association.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

Records taken at the Meteorological Station show that rain fell on 218 days, the total rainfall for the year being 50.67 inches (41.41 inches in 1945). The wettest month was September with 7.53 inches and the driest October with 0.94 inches.

Bright sunshine was recorded on 285 days, totalling 1110.6 hours, a daily average of 3.0 hours. In 1945, 1041.2 hours of sunshine were recorded, with a daily average of 2.9 hours. The mean temperature for the year was 47.0°.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the source of public water supply during the year.

The average daily consumption of water in the Waterworks area of supply was 2,242,236 gallons (which includes the compensation water discharged from the Coldwell Reservoir), averaging 49.3 gallons per head. There was no curtailment of supply during 1946.

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 37 for bacteriological and 19 for chemical analysis, all being satisfactory.

In 221 houses old joint service pipes were replaced by new mains with separate service pipes to each house; since the inception of this scheme 458 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.

Is supply to all parts of district satisfactory?

- (a) in quality—Yes.
- (b) in quantity—Yes.

If piped supply, examinations made during the year of

- (a) the raw water

Bacteriological examinations

Number 46. Results Good.

Chemical analyses

Number 5. Results Good.

- (b) water going into supply, where treatment is installed

Bacteriological examinations

Number 46. Results Satisfactory.

Chemical analyses

Number 5. Results Satisfactory.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action? Nil.

If so, give facts as to contamination by lead and the precautions taken, including number and results of analyses.

Routine lead tests carried out as a check.

Analyses

Number 50. Results Satisfactory.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination

Precautions are taken against contamination by inspection of gathering grounds, etc.

Supplies to houses:

From public mains:

Direct to houses (Nelson only)

Number of houses	12,107
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Population	32,650
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By means of standpipe	None
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DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New sewerage works have been completed during the year in respect of Edward Street main sewer, Leeds Road and Walton Lane sewers. Two percolating filters at the Sewage Works have been demolished and a new one constructed.

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	5092
Number of Waste Water Closets	7623
Number of Dry Ashpits, excluding Middens	20
Number of Portable Receptacles for refuse	12320
Conversions:	
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	85

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All household refuse is collected weekly from dustbins and removed in covered vehicles to the Destructor Works, Charles Street, Nelson. Refuse disposal is by separation and incineration, afterwards the screened dust and clinker residue are tipped.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1946

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors is summarised as follows:

No. of complaints of nuisances received and investigated	161
No. of premises in general inspected	1996
No. of premises in general re-inspected	156
No. of premises in general visited	291
No. of inspections: Stables	88
Licensed premises	21
Bakehouses—Power	69
Non-power	34
Meat stalls	223
Dairies and cowsheds	24
Housing	217
No. of visits—Infectious diseases	427
Total No. of defects or nuisances discovered	393
Total No. of defects or nuisances abated	361
Verbal notices given	124
Informal notices sent.....	54
Legal notices sent	7
Smoke observations	115

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

115 smoke observations were made during the year affecting 36 chimneys. In 89 instances no black smoke was emitted during the time of observation; in 23 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.

In each of the latter 3 cases, further observations showed a satisfactory improvement.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

At the end of 1946 the register showed 278 factories with mechanical power and 69 without; 127 visits being made to the former and 11 to the latter. 44 defects were recorded of which 12 were notified by H.M. Factory Inspector.

HOUSING.

Two new houses were erected during 1946. 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 210 permanent and 100 temporary houses.

Verbal or informal notices, following a complaint, were issued in respect of 96 houses; the matters dealt with in the notices included structural defects 244, defective sanitary accommodation 59, defective waste pipes 16, defective drains 36, lack of cleanliness 30, water supply 1, other conditions 5.

Two complaints of overcrowding were investigated during the year.

BUG ERADICATION.

D.D.T. spray was used for disinfestation with satisfactory results. 23 houses were dealt with (involving 77 rooms) in 32 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, 33 with premises outside the town who retail milk locally and 9 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 308

Of these 52 were samples of school milk, 36 were samples submitted for examination and 20 were samples taken from individual cows.

(a) Milk Fat :

Total number tested 308

Number found below standard 16

(b) Non-fatty Solids :

Total number tested 307

Number found below standard 4

(c) Visible Cleanliness :

Total number tested 287

Number found not satisfactory 2

(d) Resazurin Test :

Total number tested	285
Excellent	68
Very good	126
Good	66
Fair	12
Poor	4
Bad	1
Very bad	8

(e) Methylene Blue Test :

Total number tested	285
Failed to satisfy the test	31

(f) Coliform Test :

Total number tested	285
Number showing coliform bacilli present in 0.01 c.c.	73

(g) Tubercle Bacilli :

Total number tested	33
Number found to be positive	1

OTHER FOODS.

Controlled centralised slaughtering (at Colne) has continued throughout the year, but 26 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	52 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Beef	4 "
Beef fat	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Bones	3 "
Brisket	16 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Butter	2 "

Codfish	196	„
Cornflour	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	tons.
Crabs	112	lbs.
Fish, fillets	42	„
Flour	21	„
Hake	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Ham	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Heart, beast	2	„
Jam	25	„
Lamb	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Ling	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Margarine	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Plaice	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Raisins	58	„
Skate	70	„
Sultanas	60	„

Tinned goods:

Apricots	150 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Baked beans	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Crawfish	$\frac{1}{4}$	„
Fruit cocktail	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Ham, chopped	19	„
Lemon curd	7	„
Luncheon meat	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Meat loaf	$\frac{3}{4}$	„
Meat and vegetables	5	„
Milk	78 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Pears	5	„
Peas	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Pilchards	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Plums	50	„
Pork	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Pork sausage meat	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Salmon	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Sardines	$\frac{1}{4}$	„
Sausage meat	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Soup	20	„
Steak, stewed	55	„

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 42 samples of milk and 32 other samples. The latter comprised 4 lard, 1 syrup, 2 cheese, 5 tea, 2 sugar, 3 whisky, 1 gin, 1 treacle, 5 butter, 1 cooking fat, 2 margarine, 2 coffee and 3 canned fish.

All were found to be genuine with the exception of 4 milks which were deficient of 1 per cent, 3 per cent, 11 per cent and 16 per cent of fat respectively. In the case of the first two samples, the County Sanitary Officer was instructed to obtain further samples, whilst letters of caution were addressed to the vendors of the last two.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year a total of 465 cases were notified, an increase of 171 on the number notified in 1945 and accounted for by an increase in the number of cases of measles.

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

Disease.	Cases notified.		Cases removed to Hospital		Deaths	
	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945
Scarlet fever	17	57	...	8	35	...
Diphtheria	1	22	...	1	22	...
Enteric fever	—	—	...	—	—	...
Measles	341	108	...	3	1	...
Whooping cough	32	40	...	—	—	...
Pneumonia	21	17	...	1	—	...
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	...	1	1	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	—	...	2	—	...
Poliomyelitis	—	—	...	—	—	...
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	...	—	—	...
Dysentery	1	—	...	—	—	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum...	2	3	...	2	1	...
Erysipelas	7	9	...	—	3	...
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	28	24	...	24	16	...
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	12	13	...	1	8	...

Scarlet Fever showed a marked reduction as compared with 1945, only 17 cases being notified of which 8 cases were removed to hospital. Generally the type of infection was mild and no deaths occurred; 82% of the cases were children who attended school.

Only one case of **Diphtheria** was notified during the year. The patient, an adult, was removed to hospital and recovered.

Under the diphtheria immunisation scheme 268 pre-school children and 23 school children have completed treatment during the year, giving a total of 4,745 (all ages) who have been immunised since the inauguration of the scheme in 1941. At the end of the year it was estimated that 51.6% of children under 5 years and 79.0% between the ages of 5 and 15 years had been immunised. (See Table on page 16).

Measles incidence was almost confined to the four months September—December and the number of cases, 341, indicates that the disease was having a peak period as it continued into the early months of 1947. No deaths occurred from this disease, nor were any cases reported with complications requiring nursing assistance.

32 cases of **Whooping Cough** occurred in the early and late parts of the year, 8 fewer than in 1945.

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 26 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary (totalling 37), and of 160 new patients—156 of whom were examined at the Dispensary and 4 at their homes—36 were found to be suffering from some form of tuberculosis, the remainder being discharged after observation as non-tuberculous; there were 380 re-examinations of "old" cases. With regard to treatment 17 "early" cases were admitted to sanatorium, 16 advanced cases to hospital and 9 cases of surgical tuberculosis to general or special hospitals; X-ray examinations totalled 252. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor made 37 primary and 767 subsequent visits to patients. During the year 6 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary cases were written off as "recovered."

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of persons inoculated annually 1941-1946.

Ages	Year						Total inoculated in each Group at 31/12/1946
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
0 —	4	7	1	—	—	—	Under 5 years old on 31/12/1946 :
1 —	41	216	192	186	205	168	
2 —	58	128	39	125	74	74	
3 —	67	134	27	40	20	13	
4 —	100	112	45	35	10	13	
5 —	156	149	29	24	14	9	Over 5 but under 15 years on 31/12/1946 :
6 —	153	93	18	22	5	9	
7 —	167	80	20	11	2	2	
8 —	172	102	16	13	1	2	
9 —	168	96	8	14	1	—	
10—	182	104	12	7	1	1	15 years and over on 31/12/1946 :
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	—	15 years and over on 31/12/1946 : 903
Totals	1671	1483	447	515	338	291	All ages : 4745

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

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

A total of 526 specimens were obtained or submitted for examination during the year, consisting of throat swabs 73, nasal swabs 1, eye swabs 15, urine 114, sputum 30, pus 43, blood 17, fæces 5, pathological specimens 37, milk deposits 69, animal tissue 102, other specimens 20. Included in these figures are 1 cerebro-spinal fluid, 4 blood, 5 fæces, 1 urine, 2 throat swabs and 3 other swabs sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Burnley, and 4 urines sent to Edinburgh University for the Ascheim-Zondek reaction test.

DISINFECTION.

200 rooms were fumigated for all purposes, 54 being disinfected by formalin vapour and spray following infectious disease; 147 articles of clothing, 890 articles of bedding and 17 miscellaneous articles were treated in the steam disinfectors and 76 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 455. Still births 20. Total 475.

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	247
Total visits	447
(ii) to children under 1 year of age—First visits	520
Total visits	2298
(iii) to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years—	
Total visits	3015

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	280
(ii) over 1 year of age	63

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	247
(ii) over 1 year of age	362

Number of doctor's sessions during the year 35

Number of consultations—

(i) under 1 year of age	223
(ii) over 1 year of age	179

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES.

Number of Clinics provided and maintained by the Council open at 31st December, 1946 1

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 376

Abnormal obstetrical cases seen at the ante-natal clinic by the Matron of the Municipal Maternity Home are referred to the patient's 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 26 occasions, 23 to the home of patients (16 being admitted to hospital) and 1 at Fern Lea, 1 at Langroyd and 1 at Monkholme.

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	224
No. of these women admitted from the Council's area ...	206
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 ante-natal beds	—
Average duration of stay of cases in the lying-in wards	12 days
No. of cases delivered by	
(a) Midwives	206
(b) Doctors	17
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	47
No. of cases admitted after delivery	1
No. of cases notified as puerperal pyrexia	None
No. of cases of pemphigus neonatorum	None
No. of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complementary feed whilst in the institution	11
No. of infants wholly breast fed up to leaving the institution	205
Average No. of patients in residence per day	7.1
Total No. of patient days	2594
Percentage of patients not residents of Nelson ..	8.0
Percentage of total births in Fern Lea to notified births in Nelson	47.2
Excluding births relative to out-of-borough patients, percentage of births in Fern Lea	43.4

The arrangements for the reception of patients with obstetrical abnormalities into Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley, have worked smoothly. 25 women were sent to the latter institution, the abnormalities being toxæmia 6, persistent occipito-posterior position 3, extended breech 2, history of previous abnormal confinement 2, abnormal living conditions 2, transverse lie 1, ante-partum hemorrhage 1, cardiac disease 1, delayed labour 1, threatened abortion 1, placenta prævia 1, intestinal obstruction 1, query Cæsarean section 1, hyperemesis gravidarum 1, infective condition 1. In addition 2 cases of incomplete abortion were admitted to the Municipal General Hospital, Burnley.

In 1945, 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; 52 mothers were admitted during 1946.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The Health Visitors gave special attention to illegitimate children and although Nelson does not participate in the County scheme for the care of these children, should special provision be required this could be arranged.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

During the year the births of 14 premature babies were notified, 5 being born at home and 9 in hospital; of the former 4 were nursed entirely at home and all were surviving at the end of one month, whilst of those born in hospital 9 survived at the end of one month. One premature baby born at home was later transferred to Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley, and died there when six days old.

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 the report for 1945. The reporting of prematurity on the birth notification cards appears to be satisfactory.

HOME HELPS.

The home help service was greatly extended during 1946 and at the end of the year five full-time home helps were working. During the year the services of a home help were provided in 104 cases, all the latter being maternity cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Pemphigus neonatorum	Puerperal fever	Puerperal pyrexia	
No. of cases notified during the year	2	...	—	...	1
No. of cases visited by officers of the Council ...	2	...	—	...	—
No. of cases for whom home nursing was provided by the Council	—	...	—	...	—
No. of cases removed to hospital	2	...	—	...	—

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

MATERNAL DEATHS.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

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

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

The following particulars relate to the work of the Orthopædic 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	22
New cases admitted during the year	32
Cases discharged during the year	17
Cases transferred to the School Medical Section	7
No. of cases on books at end of the year	30
Total number of attendances	101
No. of cases admitted to hospital	—
No. of cases discharged from hospital	—
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 20,688 miles in the removal of 3,454 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.	254	240	494	15.13
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	—	—	—	0.00
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	9	3	12	0.36
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	1	3	0.09
8. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	0.00
9. Influenza	2	3	5	0.15
10. Measles	—	—	—	0.00
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	1	—	1	0.03
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	0.00
13M. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	2	—	2	0.06
13F. Cancer of uterus	—	4	4	0.12
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	10	8	18	0.55
15. Cancer of breast	—	5	5	0.15
16. Cancer of all other sites	17	21	38	1.16
17. Diabetes	1	6	7	0.21
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	30	46	76	2.32
19. Heart disease	79	59	138	4.22
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	8	11	19	0.58
21. Bronchitis	21	18	39	1.19
22. Pneumonia	6	7	13	0.39
23. Other respiratory diseases	6	3	9	0.27
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	4	1	5	0.15
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	—	—	—	0.00
26. Appendicitis	2	—	2	0.06
27. Other digestive diseases	3	6	9	0.27
28. Nephritis	6	10	16	0.49
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	0.00
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—	0.00
31. Premature birth	3	2	5	0.15
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	5	1	6	0.18
33. Suicide	2	4	6	0.18
34. Road traffic accidents	5	—	5	0.15
35. Other violent causes	3	4	7	0.21
36. All other causes	27	17	44	1.34

APPENDIX II.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1946.

	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	19.1	22.2	21.3	21.5	16.2
Still births	0.53	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.85
Deaths :					
All causes	11.5	12.7	11.7	12.7	15.1
Typhoid & paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00

RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Deaths under one year of age	43	45	37	41	28
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis, under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	0.0

RATES PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Notifications :					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.06
Scarlet fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	0.52
Whooping cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	0.98
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	0.03
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.21
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	10.44
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.64

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 }	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62	1.78
Puerperal pyrexia }				*9.68	

* Including puerperal fever.

(b) Maternal Mortality :

	Abortion with sepsis	Abortion without sepsis	Puerperal infections	Other
England and Wales	0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06
Nelson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45.

	With sepsis	Without sepsis
England and Wales	11	5

APPENDIX III.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.
	Live birth rate.	Crude death rate.	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Death rate from cancer.	Per 1,000 live births.	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	
1946	16.2	15.1	0.36	2.05	Nil	Nil	28
1945	13.4	15.3	0.41	1.96	2.38	2.28	40
Increase or decrease in 1946 on previous year	+2.8	-0.2	-0.05	+0.09	-2.38	-2.28	-12
Mean of five years, 1941-1945	13.2	15.2	0.42	2.15	1.95	1.86	43
Increase or decrease in 1946 on 5 years' average, 1941-1945	+3.0	-0.1	-0.06	-0.10	-1.95	-1.86	-15





