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NEW FOREST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

on

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions

of the

New Forest Rural District

for the Year 1945

Submitted to the Rural District Council

by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council.

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NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1945.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the New Forest Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1945.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	94,957
Estimate of Resident Population, 1945	...	...	...	37,510
Estimated number of inhabited houses (end of 1945)	...	...	...	11,466
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1945	...	...	...	£256,351
Sum represented by a penny rate (1st April, 1945)	...	...	...	£1,035

Social Conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the Area.

The largest area of the district is the ancient Crown Forest. Forestry is, therefore, an important industry and represents in many direct and indirect ways the occupations of the inhabitants inside the waterside parishes. There are also a considerable number of smallholders having Forest Rights, who are engaged in calf-rearing and pig-keeping. The areas bordering the Forest on the North, East and South are, except actually on the waterside, agricultural whilst the waterside portions of the parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley are principally industrial, which includes timber works, tar distilling, motor boat works, flying-boat works, a large petroleum refinery and other light industries. These parishes are therefore mainly inhabited by industrial workers.

No occupation has had any adverse effect on public health, so far as is known.

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births :	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—18.39.
Legitimate	601	314	287	
Illegitimate	89	52	37	
Total	690	366	324	

Stillbirths :				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)—18.84.
Legitimate	15	9	6	
Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	16.1

Deaths :	Total	M.	F.	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —10.34.
	388	204	184	

Death rate for England and Wales 11.4

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30
of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

Deaths :

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	1	Death rate per 1,000 births
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	0	—1.23 (live and still).

	M.	F.
Deaths of infants under one year of age	17	13
Legitimate	15	13
Illegitimate	2	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	43.47
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46.66
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	22.47
Death rate for England and Wales	46
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	69
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4
Deaths from Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1

No causes of sickness or invalidity have been specially noteworthy during the year ; no conditions of occupation or environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

G. Habgood, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).

O. E. Brown, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., Senior Sanitary Inspector.

W. B. Prior, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.

E. H. J. Clarke, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., Additional Sanitary Inspector.

G. Topham, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., Additional Sanitary Inspector,

Mr. M. Wells, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., was appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector on May 1st, 1945, and resigned on 30th June, 1945, and Mr. Topham was appointed in his place.

A moiety of the salaries of all these Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

Mr. H. W. Plowman, Rodent Officer, devotes the whole of his time to his duties and works under the general supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Legislation in Force.

The following adoptive portion of the Public Health Acts ; and Bye-laws and Regulations are in force in the district :—

Public Health Act, 1925—Sections 17, 18 and 19.			
Bye-laws with respect to :—			
New Buildings	...	...	1939
New Streets	...	...	1933
Slaughter-houses	...	...	1932
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures			1935
The Keeping of Animals	...	...	1936
Emission of Smoke	...	...	1940

Regulations as to :—

Connections of Drains to Sewers. (Parishes of Eling, Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst only.)

The Council accepted delegation of powers under The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, as from 1st October, 1938, and are under direction of the Ministry of Food in carrying out "The Rat and Mouse Infestation Order, 1943".

Laboratory Facilities.

Continue as in previous years, for all purposes, at the County Laboratories and an emergency Public Health Laboratory established during the war now at the Royal County Hospital, Winchester.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases, by arrangement with the Southampton Borough Council.
- (b) For other cases, ambulances provided by the St. John Ambulance Association and British Red Cross Society, kept at Totton, Brockenhurst and Fawley.

Nursing in the Home.

- (a) No changes have occurred in the area for general nursing.
- (b) The isolation and treatment of infectious cases is carried out in the Isolation Hospital of the Southampton Borough Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Ante-natal Clinics have been provided by the County Council at Totton, and Lyndhurst—now closed.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at :—

Boldre	Fritham
Bramshaw	Lyndhurst
Brockenhurst	Marchwood
Copythorne	Minstead
Dibden Purlieu	Sway
East Boldre	Totton
Fawley	

Consultations only at these centres. They are supported by voluntary contributions, with help from the County Council.

Day Nurseries	} These services are under the control of the County Council.
School Clinics	
Orthopaedic	
Artificial Light	

Tuberculosis Dispensaries : Totton, 77, Rumbridge Street, provided by the County Council.

Venereal Clinic : Outside the District in Southampton, provided by the County Council.

Scabies Clinics : Totton and Hythe until September 19th when these clinics were closed down. The clinic at Lymington was closed at the end of 1944.

Since closing these clinics, arrangements have been made whereby patients are supplied with emulsion free of charge on production of a doctor's certificate. Instructions for the use of the emulsion are issued at the same time.

74 cases were treated at Totton and 11 at Hythe. A total of 182 treatments were given.

Hospitals.

- (1) Until May 31st, fever cases were treated at Langley House and when closed they were treated by arrangement with the Southampton Borough Council at their Isolation Hospital at Shirley.
- (2) Small-pox—at the County Council Small-pox Hospital at Crabwood, Winchester.
- (3) Tuberculosis—County Council Hospitals at Chandlers Ford and Bishopstoke.
- (4) Maternity—beds are available at the Royal Hants Hospital at Winchester and Hill Rise, Lyndhurst.
- (5) Children—Borough Hospital, Southampton.

- (6) Orthopaedic—Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples' Home, Alton.
- (7) Other—Cottage Hospitals at Lyndhurst and Hythe, purely private subscription. Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, and homeless children at The Home, Ashurst.

Emergency Hospital Accommodation.

Langley House, Totton—Infectious Diseases—21 beds, (Closed—May 31st, 1945).

Setley House, Brockenhurst—Minor Infectious Diseases—24 beds. (Closed—October 1945).

Bench View, Lyndhurst—Sick Bay—Sleeping accommodation 40 children. (Closed—March, 1945).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) Water.

No. of samples of Water taken	Result of Exam.		Remedial Work Done			Remarks
	Fit	Unfit	Piped service installed	Wells improved and water made fit	Remain unfit	
37	18	19	10	3	6	Unfit wells are in hand.

During the year the Council have pursued the question of providing the parishes of Minstead, Bramshaw and parts of Copythorne with a piped water supply.

It is imperative that such a supply should be provided and it is hoped that this matter will be cleared up very soon.

The extension of a piped water supply in the parishes of Denny Lodge, Dibden, Marchwood and Netley Marsh have also been under review during the year.

37 samples of well water supplies have been taken ; 19 of these showed evidence of pollution. In 10 cases the premises concerned have been connected to the main water supply. In 3 of the remaining cases a main supply was not available and in the remaining six the work of connecting to the main supply had not been done at the end of the year. The total number of premises throughout the district connected to the main water supply during the year numbered 45.

Difficulty has again been experienced in carrying out the work of connecting houses to the main supply due to shortage of labour and materials.

The district is supplied by water from the Southampton Corporation and the West Hampshire Water Company. The supply is constant and the quality satisfactory.

In the parishes of Minstead, Bramshaw and parts of Copythorne the supply of water is dependent solely upon wells as the parishes lie without the statutory limits of supply of the Southampton Corporation.

The parishes of Beaulieu and Exbury are supplied privately by the Beaulieu Manor and Exbury Estate.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The parishes of Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and Eling are provided with main drainage and, considering the shortage of labour and materials, some progress has been made in connecting properties to the sewer in these parishes.

The number connected are as follows :—

Parish of Lyndhurst	...	...	2
Parish of Brockenhurst	...	...	1
Parish of Eling	...	...	60

A great deal of work, however, remains to be done to improve house drainage conditions, particularly in the parish of Eling, where a number of Building Estates were granted waiver of Bye-Laws in regard to cesspit drainage and in a large number of properties where insufficient and inadequate drainage arrangements still give rise to insanitary conditions.

The remaining parishes depend upon cesspool drainage and conservancy methods.

I would again specially mention the urgent necessity for main drainage schemes in the parishes of Dibden and Fawley. The conditions here have been **unsatisfactory** for a very long time.

The work of improving the sewage works at Lyndhurst has been under review during the year.

Two samples of the effluent from these works were taken in December. They were not up to the standard required owing to the low dilution afforded by the Longwater Stream into which it discharges.

No extensions of the existing sewers in the parishes of Eling, Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst have been made.

Rivers and Streams.

Action has been taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams during the year. In some cases where it has been found that sewage has been discharged into streams the person responsible has been requested to abate the nuisance.

In a number of cases it was found that some streams and ditches had become choked and overgrown causing flooding to properties. The necessary action was taken with persons responsible.

During the year a number of houses situated in Rumbridge Street, Totton, were periodically flooded by the Bartley River. Representations made to the Rivers Catchment Board resulted in the dredging and lowering of the river bed and the removal of sluice gates at the Eling Mill, which alleviated the flooding to the houses.

The future flooding of these houses depends upon the rate of silting taking place and it will no doubt be found necessary to dredge the river periodically.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse from the parishes of Eling, Dibden, Fawley and Lyndhurst is collected and disposed of by the Council's own plant and staff under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage is also collected in these parishes and deposited at the Council's salvage centres at Fawley, Totton and Lyndhurst.

Disposal of house refuse is by controlled tipping. In the parishes of Fawley, Dibden and Lyndhurst an ample supply of covering material is available on site. At Totton, covering material presents a difficult problem, the material having to be hauled from Lyndhurst or other available places.

During the year, despite the many drawbacks associated with labour and mechanical defects of transport, the schedule of collection has been satisfactorily maintained.

In September a new Dennis 10-cubic yard vehicle was purchased to replace a Morris 7-cubic yard vehicle which was beyond repair.

A scheme for collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse and the collection of salvage for the whole of the area with the Council's own staff and plant, was prepared and approved by the District Council and by the Parish Councils. It is intended to put the scheme into operation as and when the labour and plant becomes available. Disposal will be by controlled tipping. (It can now be added that the extension of this scheme was commenced in January, 1946).

In the parishes of Bramshaw, East Boldre, Minstead and Sway pits are provided for refuse, primarily under the control of the Parish Councils, but during the year the control of the pits was transferred from the Parish Councils to the District Council. At Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst the pits are under the control of the District Council.

The disposal of material from earth closets and privies is left to the individual householders who usually use their gardens.

The cleansing of cesspools is also left to the individual householders with the exception of:—

- (a) Council Houses not provided with facilities of main drainage.
- (b) Properties in those parishes where main drainage is provided which are not connected to a sewer owing to engineering difficulties.

The emptying of cesspits at (a) and (b) is carried out with the Council's cesspit emptier under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. The contents are disposed of on selected land by permission of the farmers and is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Acts.

Collection and Disposal of Salvage.

The following salvage was collected and disposed of by the Council and Voluntary Organisations.

Articles	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	125	9	3	859	6	11
Iron	33	7	—	78	2	4
Non-Ferrous	—	3	11	2	12	8
Textiles	13	8	53	193	17	0
Bones	6	19	84	41	5	0
Kitchen Waste	10	6	—	10	6	0
Bottles	3	3	—	21	13	7
Total	192	16	39	1207	3	6

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary of Inspections made.

Nature of Inspections	No. made
Infectious Diseases	162
Nuisances	611
Water Supply	95
Housing (other than Hobhouse Report)	292
Retail Meat and Food Shops	301
Food Premises	42
Milk and Dairies	225
Milk Samples (Special Designations Order)	15
Factories and Workshops	53
Refuse Collection and Disposal	251
Verminous Premises	23
Schools	22
Moveable Dwellings	45
Miscellaneous	135
Total	2,272

Verminous Premises.

Action has been taken for the eradication of bed bugs and fleas.

The infested houses numbered six.

One Council House was involved.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools open to the public in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

Twenty-five smoke observations were made during the year in the parish of Eling.

The observations revealed the necessity for improvement.

Interviews with the management resulted in smoke-detecting devices being installed and other improvements to feed filters, etc., which has met with success. The management were also asked to impress upon the boiler personnel the need of care and attention.

Smoke Prevention and Housing Schemes.

The Council were asked to consider the installation of certain types of heating appliances in their new housing schemes without delay, as it is considered that action at a later date to prevent smoke would be difficult if not impossible.

Shops.

No inspections have been carried out during the year under the Shops Act, 1934.

Schools.

The schools in the area number 26.

The new Senior School at Testwood, reported upon last year, has been derequisitioned and used for school purposes. This has relieved, materially, the overcrowding of schools in the parish of Eling.

During the year 22 inspections were made.

A number of the older schools in the district require modernising, especially in regard to sanitation.

Observations have been submitted to the County Medical Officer from time to time and interviews have taken place with the County Architect. It is understood that the County Education Authority are dealing with all these schools under the Education Act, 1944 (Development Plan).

At Brockenhurst, Emery Down, Lyndhurst and Totton the school premises are connected to the main sewers. In the remaining parishes, main sewerage facilities are not available, there being earth closets provided except in the case of Exbury, Hardley (Senior School) and South Baddesley Schools which have water closets connected to disposal systems. Colbury School is also provided with water closets connected to a disposal system but in this case a main sewer is available if required.

A number of improvements to drainage and sanitation at some schools have been carried out during the year.

Some difficulty has been experienced in maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in a few schools, due to the shortage of caretakers. The position improved during the year. Too much stress cannot be laid on cleanliness and it is hoped that all schools will be provided with sufficient and suitable caretakers to maintain a maximum standard of cleanliness as soon as circumstances permit.

Nearly all the schools in the district are provided with a piped water supply. The only schools where a main supply is not available and rely upon wells are Bramshaw and Minstead. Beaulieu school is provided from the Beaulieu Manor by pipe and Exbury school from the Exbury Estate supply by pipe.

Samples have been taken periodically for examination.

The wells supplying the Bramshaw and Minstead schools are subject to intermittent pollution and, although samples taken during the late part of the year proved satisfactory, it is considered that a piped supply should be afforded these schools as soon as possible.

The kitchen and dining halls providing school meals have been given attention and can be considered satisfactory.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools by reason of infectious disease during the year.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

There have been a number of changes in the proprietorship of dairy farms during the year and the number is now 362.

There are 12 retailers who are not producers registered in the district. The milk produced in the district is very largely sent to Southampton and Bournemouth.

Twenty-three producers in the district are licensed to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk, whilst 33 producers hold licences to produce "Accredited" milk; the licences being granted by the County Council.

Two firms licensed in the Borough of Southampton hold "supplementary licences" to sell designated milk in the district, whilst three dairymen hold "dealers' licences" in respect of designated milk.

Fifteen samples of pasteurised milk were taken in the course of delivery during the year all of which complied with the regulations.

It has only been found possible to carry out 225 inspections during the the year, due principally to the work involved in carrying out the Housing Survey and other work which has increased materially.

The work carried out during the year, whilst considered to be unsatisfactory for the above reasons, has resulted in the following improvements being made :—

Construction of new cowsheds	...	...	1
Construction of new dairies	...	...	6
Reconstruction of cowshed floors	...	...	11
Reconstruction of drainage systems	...	...	5
Improved lighting and ventilation of cowsheds and dairies	...	...	3
Provision of a piped water supply	...	...	2

A number of minor defects have been remedied and a number also remain outstanding at the end of the year.

The principles of clean milk production have been given first consideration and good results have been maintained generally.

The following table gives the particulars relating to action taken during the year :—

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

Inspections made.				Milk Samples.			
No.	Defects Found	Remedied	Defects outstanding	Total taken	Designation	Complied with Regulations	
						Yes	No
225	54	49	5	15	Pasteurised	15	—

The defects found consisted of want of cleanliness in respect of cows, cowsheds and utensils ; neglect of limewashing ; unclean milking stools and floors ; defective floor drainage, etc.

HOUSING.

All work has been carried out so far as prevailing circumstances allow. The labour and materials situation in the building trade being still difficult, considerable delay in getting repairs and other work carried out has been inevitable.

Cases of overcrowding and other unhealthy housing conditions were referred to the Housing Committee and are being dealt with as accommodation becomes available.

(1) **Inspection of Dwelling-houses, etc.** (other than Rural Housing Survey) :

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected	82
(b) Number of inspections made	292

(2) **Summary of Defects remedied during the Year :**

(a) Defective roofs repaired	29
(b) Defective floors taken up and renewed ...	18
(c) Extensive general repairs	7
(d) Dampness abated	10

Housing conditions in the area are still far from satisfactory due, very largely, to the building and repairs difficulties and the absence of new housing arising from the war. The position gives cause for some concern as many people are living under overcrowded and other unsatisfactory housing conditions.

During the year two licences under the Defence Regulations, 1939, and Housing Act, 1932 (Sec. 155) have been granted for the temporary use of cottages subject to a demolition order.

Number of Houses erected during the Year.

Boldre	1
Eling	1
Fawley	1
Rhinefield	1

No houses were erected by the District Council during the year.

Particulars of Houses owned by the Local Authority.

Boldre	24
Brockenhurst	40
Copythorne	26
Dibden	22
East Boldre	22
Eling	28
Fawley	22
Marchwood	21
Netley Marsh	8
Sway	14

FACTORIES.

Inspections.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	41	} 28	—
Factories without mechanical power	12		—
	53	28	—

Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Defects entailing Prosecution
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	10	10	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	6	6	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	8	5	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply	2	2	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total ...	28	25	—	—

Meat, Slaughter-houses, Food Stores, etc.

Number of inspections at food shops ... 291

Number of inspections at cottage killings ... 10

There are 12 registered and 5 licensed slaughter-houses in the District. The Ministry of Food have not used any for centralised slaughtering.

Practically all home-killed meat sold in this district is from animals slaughtered in the Southampton area where the meat is subject to inspection prior to delivery to the butchers' shops.

Considerable time was spent in the examination of foodstuffs and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption :

78½ lbs. H.Q. (Imported)	...	Bone Taint
740¾ lbs. Beef (English)	...	do. do.
Top piece Beef (English)	...	Muscular Fibrosis
4½ lbs.—one Sheep's Head	...	Decomposition
49 lbs. Boneless Pork	...	Unwholesome
50 lbs. Pigs' Tongues (Imported)	...	Decomposition
70½ lbs. Bacon	...	do.
1 set Pig's Lungs	...	Pneumonia
1 Pig's Liver	...	Necrosis
37 Tins Meat	...	Decomposition
325 Tins Corned Beef	...	do.
2 Stones Fish	...	do.
42 Tins Fish	...	do.
1 Pot Meat Paste	...	do.
47 Tins Beans	...	do.
12 Tins Peas	...	do.
8 Tins Jam, Marmalade, etc.	...	do.
5 Tins Fruit	...	do.
101 Tins Milk	...	do.
2 Tins Soup	...	do.
2 Cwts. Beetroot	...	do.
11 Cwts. Potatoes	...	do.
769 Eggs	...	do.
36¾ lbs. Tea and 8 packets Tea	...	Mouldy
2 Cwts. and 12 packets Oats	...	Rat contamination
35 lbs. Butter (Danish)	...	Rancid
99¾ lbs. Margarine	...	Out of condition
56 lbs. Raisins	...	Fermentation
9 Packets Cake Flour	...	Out of condition

All fats unfit for human consumption and all meats (other than tinned) were returned to the wholesalers as required by the Ministry of Food. Where possible other condemned food was used for animal feeding.

RURAL HOUSING.

Ministry of Health Circular 64/44.

The Housing Survey called for by the Ministry of Health under Circular 64/44 and recommended in the 'Hobhouse Report', was started in the second week of May.

Prior to the Survey, the Council's Senior Sanitary Inspector as a member of the County Technical Sub-Committee, spent a considerable amount of time and energy in assisting to prepare a standard "scheme" for the County. The Senior Inspector was also elected a member of the Hampshire Joint Rural Committee.

On the whole the Survey has progressed fairly smoothly. In just a few cases entry was refused at the first time of asking, being mainly Owner-Occupiers who were under the impression that housing inspection did not apply to them. The majority of the householders welcomed the Survey but the absence of an answer to the numerous questions of "when will the work be done?" and "when will there be a house for my daughter?" at times proved embarrassing.

The total number of houses to be inspected is 9,145 of which 2,242 were inspected during the year—mainly in the parishes of Brockenhurst, Eling, Fawley and Sway. It was hoped that this figure would have been exceeded very considerably but, owing to the large amount of work in other directions, it was only found possible to engage one Inspector on this work whole time and the other two Inspectors part time.

The following is a detailed list giving the number inspected in each parish together with their categories and groups:—

PARISH OF BROCKENHURST.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	5	144	141	2	26	318
	B	1	13	19	5	8	46
	C	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total		6	157	160	7	35	365

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 9.6

PARISH OF FAWLEY.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	58	40	130	7	63	298
	C	—	1	14	2	7	24
Total		58	41	144	9	70	322

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 21.7

PARISH OF ELING.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	96	895	156	9	21	1177
	B	—	2	1	2	—	5
	C	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		96	897	157	11	21	1182

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 1.9

PARISH OF SWAY.

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	58	139	105	19	52	373
	C	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		58	139	105	19	52	373

Category 5 houses as percentage of number inspected 13.9

Category 5 houses as percentage of total number of
houses inspected in 1945 7.9

Explanation of Groups and Categories.**Groups.**

GROUP A. "Services available, i.e. piped water supply, water carriage sewerage system, gas or electricity" denoting that these services are available but not necessarily connected.

GROUP B. "Restricted number of services available, others likely to be available in the near future" denoting that one or several of the above services are available, but not necessarily connected, and that those not at present available may become so in the near future.

GROUP C. "Rural conditions only ; services not available or anticipated to be available in the near future" denoting that these conditions are not likely to be varied.

Categories.

CATEGORY 1. Denotes dwelling satisfactory in all respects.

CATEGORY 2. Denotes minor defects only.

CATEGORY 3. Denotes requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements.

CATEGORY 4. Denotes appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

CATEGORY 5. Denotes unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

Prevention of Mosquito Breeding.

Static water tanks placed around the district were found to be breeding mosquitoes.

Measures were taken to prevent this by spraying, which proved to be very effective.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Under directions from the Ministry of Food, a staff of one Rodent Officer and five Operators are engaged on this work.

Until September 1st all work of disinfection was charged for but it was found that this practice was not conducive to the destruction of rats, the public objecting very strongly to paying for this service. By agreement with this Council and the Ministry, a free service (other than business premises) was commenced on the 1st September, the Council bearing 50% of the cost and the Ministry the other 50%. A comparison of the figures (appended) for the first eight months of the year when a charge was made and the remaining four months when the service was free, will reveal the success of a free service from the point of destroying rats and mice.

The only effective method of destroying rats is by the Block Control Scheme, that is going through every building and premises in the district systematically. This was not possible under the payment scheme, owing to the objections and refusals to carry out the work. It was only found practicable to carry out Block Control when the free service was introduced. This was pointed out to the Ministry from time to time and it is interesting to note that this was the first Council to come to such an agreement with them. This method has since been introduced throughout England and Wales with one deviation in that the Ministry now pay 60% of the cost.

The danger of rats in relation to health and food cannot be too strongly emphasised and it can be said that rat infestation in this district is very extensive and, whilst good work is being done, it is inevitable that there are more cases of re-infestation than is desirable and will continue so long as there is a large increasing rat population in this Country.

It has been assumed that the rat population in this Country is somewhere in the region of 40,000,000. If it is possible to reduce this figure by half, the rat population would still be able to regain its lost numbers within 7 years (it is calculated that a pair of rats would produce 3,050 descendants in fourteen months and in three years a total of 253,762), if efforts and vigilance were relaxed.

I think it is clear from the work carried out in this District to date, that each campaign for the destruction of rats and mice must be followed up by another.

The following indicates action which has been taken during the period (A) when charges were made and (B) when a free service was introduced.

(A) Before Free Service.

Parish	No. of Premises Dealt with	No. of Dead Recovered		Approximate Kill	
		Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
Bramshaw	2	18	—	75	—
Copythorne	6	34	—	610	—
Lyndhurst	19	29	5	330	—
Eling	90	74	10	1380	170
Fawley	19	58	—	610	00
Brockenhurst	15	28	—	582	—
Netley Marsh	3	29	—	225	25
Boldre	9	43	—	475	—
Marchwood	18	209	—	4000	—
Rhinefield	2	5	—	65	—
Beaulieu	2	18	—	225	—
Exbury	1	42	—	200	—
Dibden	6	29	—	250	—
Sway, East Boldre, Minstead and Denny Lodge	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	192	616	15	9027	195

(B) Block Control Free Service.

Eling (approx. half) ...	2255	315	158	9090	2846
Totals for year	2447	931	173	18117	2861

The above includes action taken at Council owned premises including Sewage Disposal works and Refuse Disposal sites. A number of major infestations at poultry farms, etc., have been dealt with successfully. Service has also been carried out at Military Camps, in particular one camp covering a wide area was found to be heavily infested and rats invading adjacent property. A thorough Survey was carried out and it was evident that, to make a good clearance it was necessary to bring in three farms, thirteen private dwellings and a boat yard. Good results were obtained—more than 200 dead rats were recovered and the approximate kill was assessed at 4,000. Post-baiting proved that the work was most successful and that only a very minor infestation existed.

The public sewers in the parishes of Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and Eling are generally free from infestation.

The disinfection of agricultural land and holdings is administered by the War Agricultural Executive Committee through the County Pests Officer. All cases of infestation involving agricultural holdings are brought to the notice of the Pests Officer.

The Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Notifiable cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year :—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	883	—	3
Whooping Cough ...	139	—	12
Scarlet Fever	33	8	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	1
Pneumonia	14	—	18
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	7	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
	(non-civilian)		
Anterio-Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	—
Malarial Relapse	1	—	—
	(non-civilian)		
Food Poisoning	3	—	—
Totals	1089	12	35

Measles was prevalent from March to August—883 cases being notified. During the year there have been three deaths. There was a case of Measles and Encephalitis—a boy—he recovered.

During the same period Whooping Cough was prevalent, 139 cases being notified and two deaths reported.

The Diphtheria case was notified from a R.A.F. Station.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The progress in the treatment against Diphtheria achieved during the previous year has been maintained. From the Council's records it is known that at the 31st December, 1945, the following children had received the full course of treatment :—

Ages 1 to 5 years	...	60%
„ 5 to 15 years	...	50%

In both age groups the percentage is actually higher as very many children have received treatment privately of which the Council has received no record.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15	...	...	2	4	—	—	2	1	1	—
25	...	...	5	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
35	...	...	4	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	...	...	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	1
55	...	...	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	and upwards		1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	...		12	13	1	—	11	3	3	1

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. HABGOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

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Date	Description	Amount

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