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NEWPORT (SALOP) URBAN DISTRICT

I N T E R I M R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- on the -

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

for the year

1944.





## I N T E R I M   R E P O R T

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the  
Urban District of Newport (Salop) for the year 1944.

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As in other war years, this Report is presented in an abbreviated interim form as required by the Ministry of Health.

Infectious disease manifested itself in considerable variety but in no case was there any approach to epidemic conditions. There was a rise in the frequency of Whooping Cough but this was compensated, in some measure, by the almost complete absence of Measles. Sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever occurred slightly more frequently than in 1943, but there was a complete absence of Diphtheria. There were no deaths from any of the above conditions.

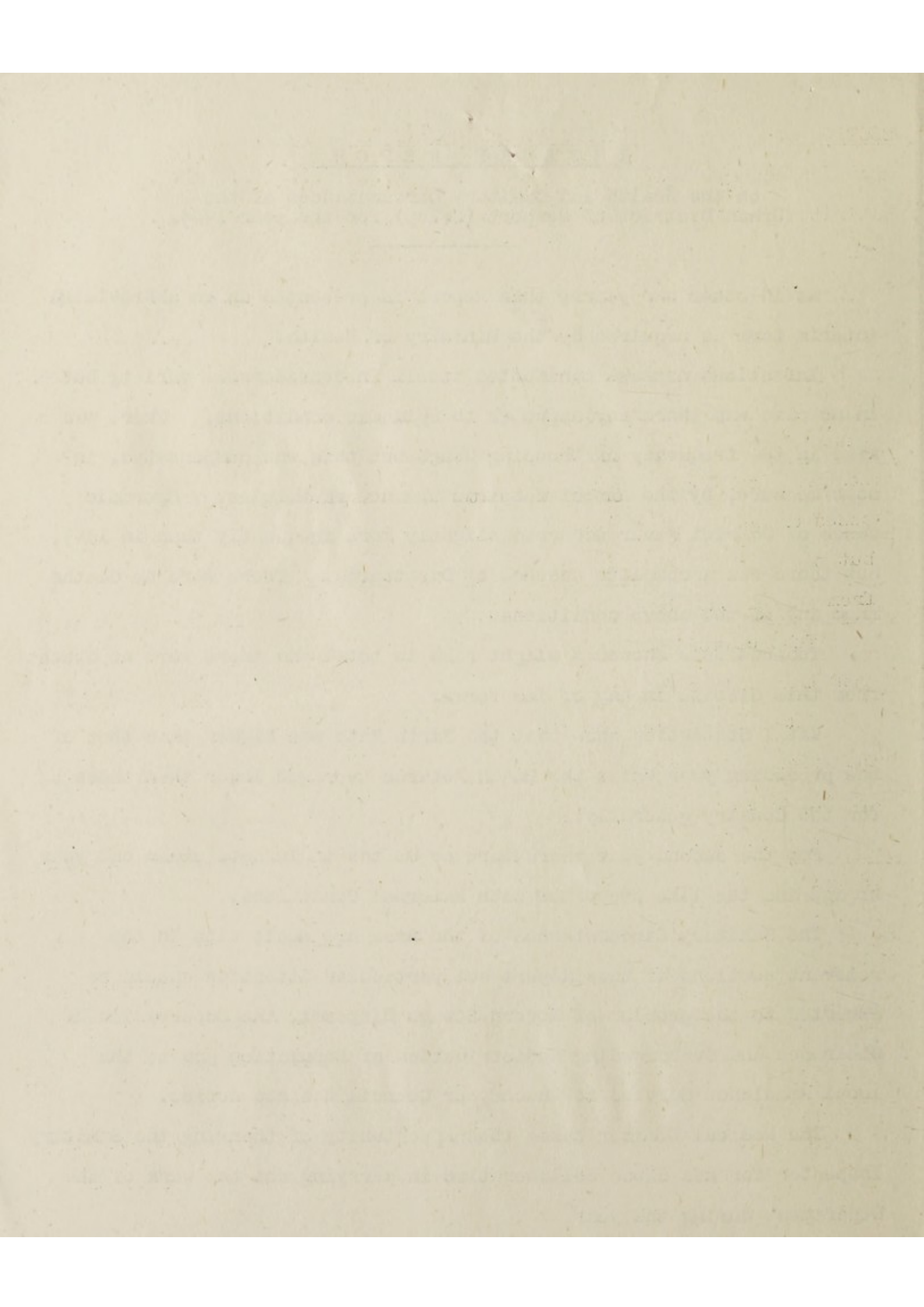
Tuberculosis showed a slight rise in total and there were no deaths from this disease in any of its forms.

Vital Statistics show that the Birth Rate was higher than that of the preceding year while the Death Returns averaged lower than those for the Country generally.

For the second year there were no Deaths in Infants under one year of age and the like prevailed with Maternal Conditions.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the Area are dealt with in the relevant sections of this Report but particular attention should be directed to the problem of Modern Sewage Disposal, the Supervision of Clearance and Overcrowding Redistribution of Population and to the local Ambulance Service to which your Council has had notice.

The Medical Officer takes this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector for his close collaboration in carrying out the work of the Department during the year.



## SECTION A.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) ... ..	768.
Estimated population (mid year 1945)...	3545.
Number of Inhabited Houses as at 31st December, 1944 (according to Rate Book) ... ..	976.
Rateable Value ... ..	£18,920.
Sum represented by one penny rate ... ..	£73.
Persons per acre (calculated on population) ... ..	4.61.

POPULATION. The Estimated Population shows a slight decrease which can probably be accounted for in the return of displaced persons to their homes.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births:-</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate ... ..	36.	32.	68.
Illegitimate ... ..	6.	1.	7.
Total	<u>42.</u>	<u>33.</u>	<u>75.</u>
Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population ... ..			21.1.
" " " " " " " " England and Wales			17.6.
<u>Still Births:-</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate ... ..	1.	1.	2.
Illegitimate ... ..	1.	-	1.
Total	<u>2.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>3.</u>
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ..			38.4.
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths ... ..	22.	17.	39.
Death Rate per 1000 of population ... ..			11.0.
" " " " " " " " England and Wales			11.6.



Infantile Mortality:-

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	-
" " " " " " (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	46.

There were no deaths recorded, of infants under 1 year.

Deaths from:	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	6.
	Measles (all ages)	...	...	-
	Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	-
	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	-

Maternal Mortality:-

Under this heading there were no deaths.

Chief causes of death:-

Cancer	...	...	...	6.
Intra Cranial Lesions	...	...	...	6.
Heart Disease and other vascular disturbances	...	...	...	16.
Influenza	...	...	...	2.

SECTION B. General Provision for Health Services in District.

AMBULANCE. This continues to centre on the facilities offered by a private undertaking in the Town as has been the case for many years. As this service may finish in the incoming year some alternative form of transport for patients will require to be arranged and with this end in view the Medical Officer of Health has directed the attention of the Council to this matter. Three schemes have been considered, continuance of a privately owned vehicle, the use of a converted vehicle formerly used in Civil Defence or the combining with Neighbouring Authorities with the aim of pooling resources and acquiring better ambulances with improved attendance. In the last it would seem that there would be greatly increased efficiency, a comfort suitable to the condition of the patient and the whole an economy.



## SECTION C.


SCAVENGING. No change has been made in this service which gives a fortnightly collection with horsedrawn carts. The Authority are, however, considering the change to the more modern method of mechanical transport and some discussion on this subject has taken place. The same tipping site is in use and is controlled and supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

War conditions have created a dearth of receptacles for the collection of refuse from the individual homes and, with dust bins of various shapes and sizes and weights, the work of the collectors is hampered. There is a great need for a standardisation of the type of dust bin to be used and also an education of the householders in what constitutes legitimate refuse. Too much organic and combustible material is disposed of through the refuse collection and the wetness of the former leads, among other things, to a rapid deterioration in the metal containers. In these days of salvage collection little need be sent to the dust bin beyond well burnt ashes and broken crocks.

SALVAGE. While there has been some decrease in the quantity of salvage collected this service still shews a profit. The work is in the hands of the Women's Voluntary Service and collections are made at regular intervals.

DISINFESTATION AND CONTROL OF VERMIN. The Authority has an arrangement with the County Council for the extermination of rats while infestations on privately owned properties and lands are dealt with by private contract between such owners and the County Rat Officer. Under the former scheme work has been carried out at the tipping centre and the sewage outfalls.

Such rat nuisance as has been met with at the Central Slaughter House has been controlled by an arrangement between that body and the



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Ministry of Food.

Where bedding and clothing require attention recourse is had to the use of the disinfection plant at the Poor Law Institution; this by arrangement with the County Authority.

There have been no cases of homes requiring major disinfection during the year.

WATER SUPPLY. Following the unsatisfactory water conditions experienced in 1943 the cleansing of the borehole and reconditioning of the machinery was nearing completion at the beginning of the Year. By the Spring the pumps had been replaced and were supplying the Town again. From that time no difficulties have been experienced and the water delivered has been of consistently good quality. Tests in the raw state have been made at monthly intervals and these have been found to give satisfactory results.

The water to the consumer is chlorinated. No change has been made in the number of standpipes on which some 100 of the Town's householders are dependent.

It has been decided that the storage capacity of this service was insufficient and talks have taken place with the Consulting Engineer with the view to providing an auxiliary reservoir, additional to that which has been in use for many years. The Town is dependent, primarily, on its main borehole but additional supplies are available from a reserve bore and well, situated in the neighbourhood; the quality of this water, however, is variable. In addition, authorities adjacent give service in close proximity to the environs of the Town and a linkage with such is practicable.

Despite the severity of the winter the service to the consumer has been well maintained, minor repairs being carried out as they occurred.



BATHS. There are no Public Baths in the Town.

SEWAGE AND DISPOSAL. The Authority had, prior to the War, taken up the matter of a new sewage disposal plant for the area but, beyond a report from the Engineer, nothing had been done. With the reasonable prospect of proceeding with this work the time is now opportune to put in hand the undertaking of this very necessary enterprise. In considering such plant thought will be given to the possibility of a Neighbouring Authority requiring facilities for part of its district and also for additions to the present sewerage and drainage of the Town but this should not hinder or retard the Council from proceeding with due speed.

A Report has been made by the Engineer on the drainage of the outlying hamlet of Church Aston (mentioned in the Annual Report of 1943) and this is being considered by the Council's concerned.

Such disrepair and stoppages of the service as have been met with in the Year have had immediate attention.

SECTION D. HOUSING AND COUNCIL PROPERTIES IN THE TOWN.

HOUSING. In the twelve months no new houses have been erected. Urgent and minor repairs have been effected but such have been limited to absolute necessity.

No change has been made in the relicencing of condemned properties.

Much of this Committee's thought and time has been directed to post-war development and the planning of the estate at Victoria Park. This Estate, when completed, will provide some sixty homes for the overcrowded and those living in unfit houses. The Architect has prepared plans and an improved type of home should be anticipated. The care and supervision of Council Property is in the hands of the Surveyor and regular inspections are made. Assistance is given, from time to time, by the local Health Visitor.



For long it has been felt that in certain areas an improvement should be effected in the living conditions in the home and in the care of their surrounds. With this in mind it seems to the writer that it would be a mistake to allow new estates to be housed by tenants of a type as would cause these properties to deteriorate as rapidly as others have in the area. For such backward tenants it would appear that there is need of feminine help and influence to guide and advise them in the use and maintenance of the houses given to their care.

SECTION E.

<u>MILK AND DAIRIES.</u>	Number of Accredited Producers	...	...	0.
	Number of Tuberculin-Tested Producers	...	...	1.
	Number of Pasteurised Producers	...	...	1.

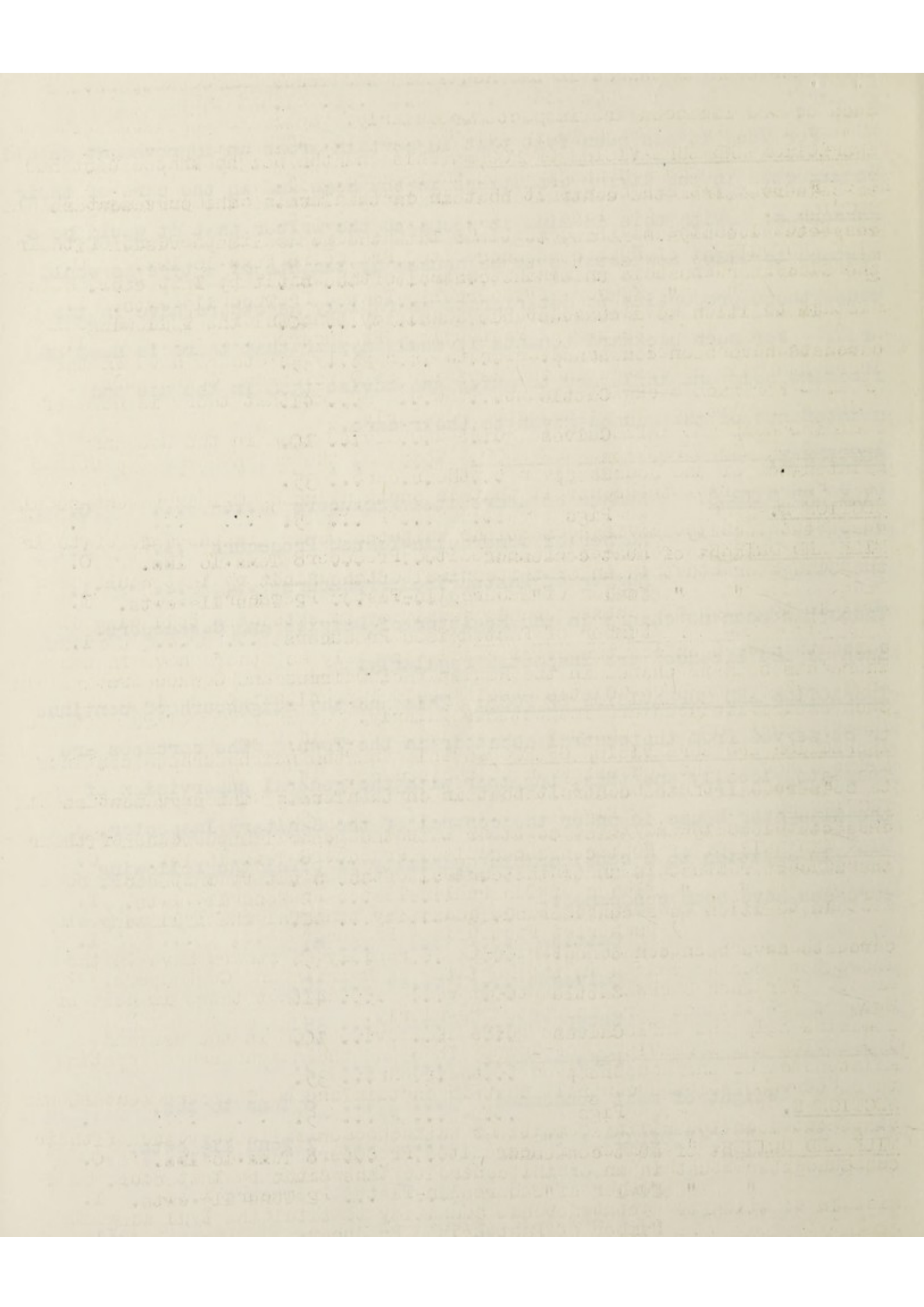
There has been no change in the Register of Dairies and Cowkeepers. Such as are licenced are inspected regularly.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. This and the neighbourhood continue to be served from the central abattoir in the Town. The carcasses are inspected locally and this, together with the general supervision of the Slaughter House is under the control of the Sanitary Inspector.

In addition to a considerable quantity of offal the following carcasses have been condemned:-

Cattle	...	...	...	41.
Calves	...	...	...	10.
Sheep	...	...	...	35.
Pigs	...	...	...	5.

Weight of meat condemned	...	...	8 Tons 16 lbs.
" " offal "	...	...	2 Tons 11½ cwts.



Inspection of other foodstuffs has been carried out and the following articles have been condemned and destroyed:-

Eggs	...	...	...	...	39.
Tins (meat)	...	...	...	...	63.
Tins (milk)	...	...	...	...	128.
Tins (fish)	...	...	...	...	74.
Tins (veg)	...	...	...	...	8.
Tins (fruit)	...	...	...	...	8.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	2 cwts. 1 qr. 7 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Dates	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	88 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	2½ lbs.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Allied Diseases.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the Year, together with the number of deaths from such:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>
	1944.	1943.	
Scarlet Fever	7.	4.	-
Whooping Cough	33.	10.	-
Measles	2.	38.	-
Pneumonia	7.	12.	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1.	4.	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1.	2.	-
Dysentery	1.	-	-
Erysipelas	2.	-	-

No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

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Incidence of disease in the various age groups.

Years.	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	-	1	2	-	-
1	-	-	6	5	1	1
3	-	1	4	6	-	-
5	-	2	6	2	-	-
10	3	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	1	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-

Years.	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	1	-	2
65	1	1	-	-	-	-

SCABIES. The number of patients treated at the Local Centre was one in-patient and 106 out-patients making a total of 107. 306 individual treatments were required for these cases. The Centre continues to serve the North East Area and the facilities offered are a great convenience. Generally it may be said that the incidence of the disease is on the decline.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The bi-annual return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the period ending 31st December 1944 was as follows:-

	Age under 5 years.	5 years and over but under 15.	Total.
Number of children including temporary residents who completed the full course of immunisation up to 31st December, 1944.	37.	1.	38.
Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's Area at 31st December 1944.	326.	589.	915.
Percentage of child population considered to be immunised at 31st December 1944.	55%	64%	

No change has been made in the dual administration of this scheme.

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TUBERCULOSIS. The number of notified cases on the register at 31st December 1944, and the comparative figures for 1943 and 1942 are as follows:-

	Males.		Females.		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1944	9	12	8	23	52
1943	10	11	6	23	50
1942	11	11	5	23	50

		<u>New Cases.</u>		Total
Pulmonary		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
	2		1	3

		<u>Death Rates.</u>	
		Newport	England & Wales.
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population		(no deaths)	.50 (1943)
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population		(no deaths)	.11 (1943)

Age Group - New Cases.

Years.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female.	Male	Female.
0- 5	-	-	1	-
5-15	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	1	-	-
25-35	-	1	-	-
Total	-	2	1	-

There were no deaths from any form of tuberculosis.

Cancer. The number of deaths from Cancer in 1944 was 6.  
(three males and three females).

Death Rate per 1000000 population living 1692. England & Wales  
1723 (1943)

(SIGNED) W.A.M. STEWART.

Medical Officer of Health.

31st July, 1945.

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