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NEWTON ABBOT

URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

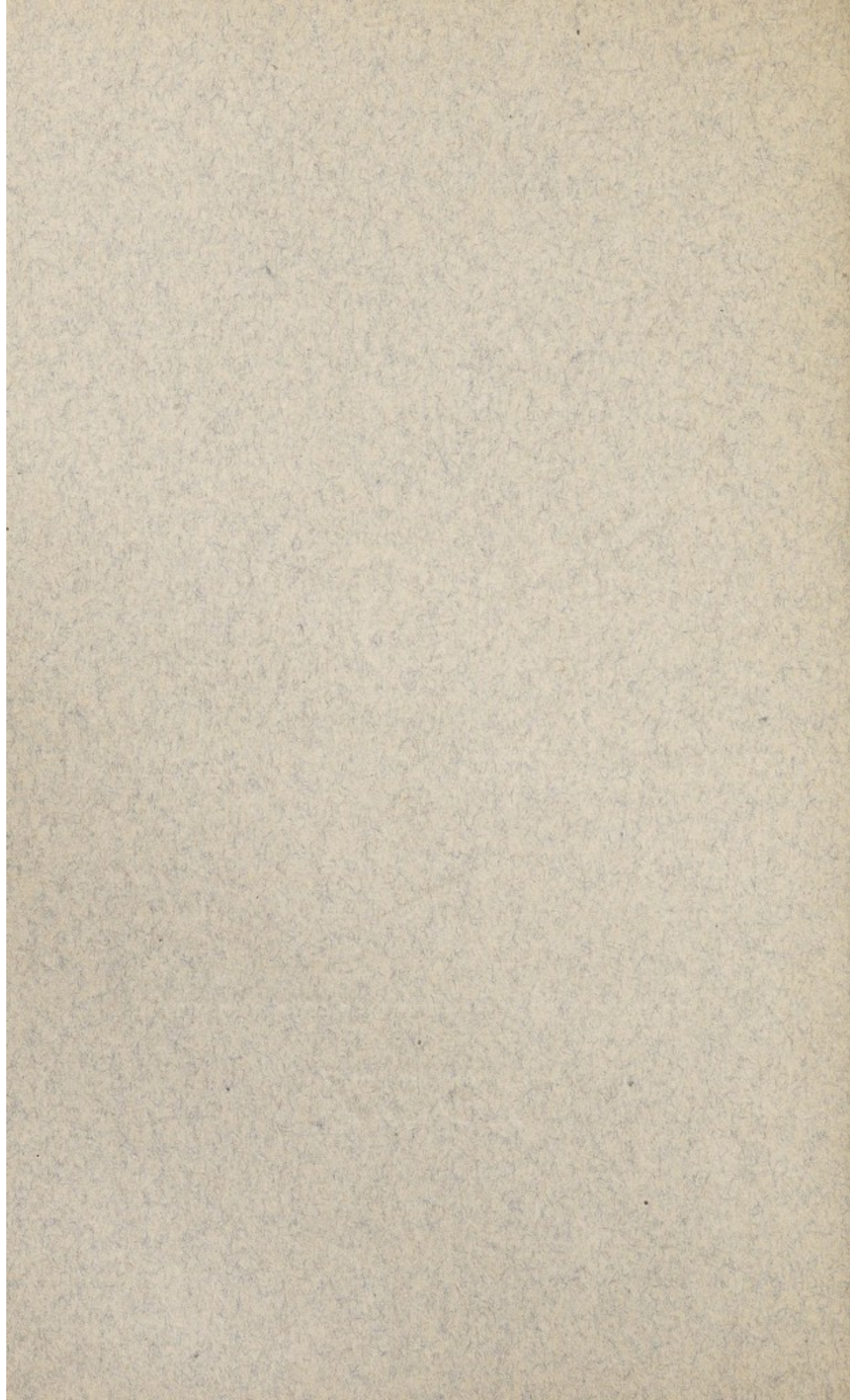
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SURVEYOR

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1937



Newton Abbot
Urban District Council.
1937.

STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

*†DR. W. H. SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

†C. E. PETHICK, M.S.I.A.

Junior Clerk :

E. A. HOLMES.

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

Surveyor :

MR. C. D. WHITE.

Assistant Surveyor :

MR. J. A. HUTCHINSON.

*Part time.

†Salary contributed to by Exchequer grants.



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Newton Abbot Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA AND POPULATION: The District comprises the parishes of Wolborough, Highweek and Milber, with a total acreage of 4,132.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population (mid-year) is (14,660, an increase of 20).

The number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) is 4,213, an increase of 71, and gives an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house.

The population is partly industrial (wool mill, railway repairing shops, clay mining) and partly residential. There is a large and important market and the town is generally a shopping centre for the surrounding agricultural district.

Rateable Value: June, 1937, £128,804. A penny rate produces £509 8s. 8d.

A fractional decrease on the previous year and the lowest yet recorded.

England and Wales birth rate (1937): 14.9.

Legitimate	—	6	6) = Rate of 38.2 per 1,000
Illegitimate	—	—	—) births (live and still)

*Corrected Death rate: 11.8

England and Wales Death Rate: 12.4

Maternal Mortality (childbirth)—I = rate of 6 per 1,000 births (Live and Still).

Infantile Mortality (under 1 year).

Death rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births: 66.2.

Ditto England and Wales : 58.

Deaths from Measles 0, Whooping Cough 0, Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 0, Cancer 31.

*Correcting factor .76.

Causes of Death in 1937, as supplied by the Registrar-General	M.	F.
All Causes	101	128
Diphtheria	0	2
Influenza	3	6
Encephalitis lethargica	0	1
Phthisis	5	3
Other tubercular disease	1	0
Cancer	17	14
Diabetes	3	3
Cerebral haemorrhage	9	10
Heart disease	29	29
* Other circulatory disease	8	20
Bronchitis	5	14
Pneumonia	2	5
Other respiratory disease	1	0
Appendicitis	1	0
Cirrhosis of liver	1	1
Digestion disease	3	0
Nephritis	1	4
Puerperal sepsis	—	1
Premature birth	3	2
Suicide	1	1
Other Violence	4	4
Other defined diseases	4	7
Ill-defined diseases	0	1

Health Services of the Town.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. The Newton Abbot Joint Isolation Hospital serves the combined area of Newton Abbot Urban and Rural Districts and is supported by local rates. Patients are also taken on payment from Totnes Urban and Rural, Ashburton Urban, and Buckfastleigh Urban Districts. It contains 34 beds. During the year 93 patients were admitted, of whom 12 were from the Newton Urban District.

NEWTON ABBOT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY provides about 56 beds (including private wards) for patients from Newton and the surrounding district. It is supported by voluntary effort. Its 65th Annual Report records another successful year's work and the opening of a beautifully equipped Nurses' Home which must add greatly to the attractiveness of the life from a nurse's point of view. During the year 615 patients were admitted to the General Wards, 44 to the semi-private wards and 78 to the private wards. The daily average number of in-patients was 38. Out-patients attendances numbered 4,759. In addition to the above, the Infirmary of the Public Assistance Institution maintains about 170 beds

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The acquisition of another vehicle brings the number of Ambulances maintained and staffed by the local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade up to three. They are available day or night, and distance is no object. The Urban Council contributes £20 a year to their upkeep. In addition to the above, there is an Ambulance for Infectious Diseases attached to the Isolation Hospital and doctors are asked to note that should they require the removal of a patient to this hospital the name and address telephoned to Newton Abbot 70 will bring the Ambulance forthwith.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Bacteriological Laboratory of the Devon County Council at Exeter examines free of charge all clinical material such as throat swabs, sputum, blood, etc., and also samples of water from public water supplies and milk.

SCHOOL CLINIC. This is administered by the Medical Department of the County Council. Sessions are held every Monday at the Town Hall. The School Doctor and School Nurse are in attendance and it maintains a service of great value to the Elementary School children of the town. During the year there were 1,348 attendances, an average attendance of 31 per session.

HEALTH VISITING of children under school age is carried out by Miss Parsons, the County School Nurse, who is also in charge of the Welfare Centre and School Clinic. During the year 210 new babies were visited, 708 visits were paid to Infants up to one year old and 2,489 visits to children between the ages of one and five.

In addition, 146 visits were paid to boarded-out children under Infant Life Protection (Children and Young Persons Act, 1932).

ORTHOPOEDIC TREATMENT is provided by the Devon Association for Cripples Aid. With a central Hospital at Exeter, there are out-patient clinics in various parts of the County, the nearest being Torquay. Its work is continually increasing and of the great possible benefit to all in need of it.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. Including the Matrons of the two registered Nursing Homes, there are five practising Midwives in the District, two of whom are District Nurses.

The Infant Welfare Centre is administered by the County Council aided by a local Committee composed of certain members of the Urban Council with others. Held at the Town Hall, placed at its disposal by the Urban Council, it is open from 2-30 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays throughout the year except at holiday times and during the Session is under the direction of Miss Parsons the County Health Visitor. Weighing of the babies is done by the two District Nurses and their services in this respect are voluntary and very much appreciated. Tea is provided for the waiting mothers during the session and their comfort and entertainment is ably supervised by Mrs. S. G. Holmes, the Honorary Secretary.

Again the Centre can record a successful year's work.

Forty-seven sessions were held and at the end of the year there were on the books 144 Mothers, 90 Infants and 80 Toddlers. The total number of attendances were: Mothers, 1,220; Infants, 744; Toddlers, 714; and the average attendance per session was: Mothers, 25; Infants, 15; Toddlers, 15.

Four children were referred for treatment, two to the Orthopaedic Clinic, one to a private doctor and one to the Public Assistance Institution.

The Christmas Tea and Entertainment owing to an epidemic of measles was postponed to February 3rd of this year when as usual it was a great success.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY is good, both in quantity and quality and is derived from the Torquay Corporation Waterworks at Hennock. I am indebted to Dr. Dunlop, Medical Officer of Health, Torquay, for the following analytical report:—

CHEMICAL : (Results expressed as parts per 100,000).

Hardness, as calcium carbonate.

Temporary, 0.8 ; Permanent, 4.8 ; Total	.....	5.6
Chlorides, as Chlorine	.....	1.8
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	.....	Nil.
Ammonia, albuminoid, as nitrogen	.....	0.0042
Nitrates, as nitrogen	.....	0.4
Nitrites, as nitrogen	.....	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed 3 hrs. at 47°C.)	.....	0.105
Metals : Lead, copper, zinc—absent.		
Remarks : Sample clear and free from sediment.		

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Total Organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37°C) 2 per c.c.

Total Organisms growing on agar (3 days at 20°C) 40 per c.c.

B. Coli absent in 100 c.c.

Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—Nil.

CONCLUSIONS

This sample is of an excellent degree of organic and bacterial purity.

SEWERAGE. The system is working satisfactorily and no alterations or extensions were made during the year.

REFUSE REMOVAL is by horsed vehicles twice weekly.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. It was recorded in the last Annual Report that the Council having bought some of the Earl of Devon's property in the neighbourhood decided to use a portion of it as a refuse tip, to be worked on the Bradford System. It was therefore a matter of great disappointment to hear that owing to its liability to flooding it was not considered a suitable site. No other land being available it remains to make the best use of the present site and by redistribution and covering of the refuse it is hoped that the past somewhat unsatisfactory state of affairs will be considerably ameliorated.

SCHOOLS. There are eight Public Elementary Schools in the town with an average attendance of about 1,500 children. All are provided with sufficient sanitary accommodation, and generally speaking, are well kept. A large extension including a central assembly hall, kitchen and canteen was added to Highweek Senior School during the year. One school (Bearne's) was closed for two weeks owing to a case of Infantile Paralysis in one of the scholars, and the children from Denbury were excluded from Highweek Senior School for a similar reason.

SWIMMING BATH. Owing to inclement weather the season was rather a short one. Three samples of the water were taken for analysis. The first revealed that the number of germs per cubic centimetre was much too high for safety. This was at once reported to the makers of the purification plant who forthwith sent instructions for dealing with the matter. These were carried out and the subsequent samples were quite satisfactory. This is a good example of the vigilance which it is necessary to maintain over a bath of this sort and, incidently, of the high efficiency of the purification process when properly managed.

The analytical results of the two successive samples are as follows, and the difference in the number of germs is obvious.

28th August, 1937.

Sample of water from open-air Swimming Bath.

	Lab. Ref. : W.1171.	Lab. Ref. : W.1170.
	Deep End.	Shallow end.
B. Coli.	Absent in 100 c.c.	Present in 50 c.c.
Organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37°C)	7,200	16,000
Organisms growing on agar (3 days at 22°C)	8,000	27,200
Streptococci absent in	10 c.c.	10 c.c.
B. Welchii absent in	25 c.c.	25 c.c.

The sample is satisfactory as regards the content of *Bacillus Coli*, but it is to be noted that the total counts are excessive.

(Signed) T. LAWSON McEWAN,
County Bacteriologist.

14th September, 1937.

Samples of water from open-air Swimming Bath.

	Lab. Ref. : W.1193.	Lab. Ref. : W.1194.
	Deep end.	Shallow end.
B. Coli.	Absent in 100 c.c.	Absent in 100 c.c.
Organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37°C)	6	11
Organisms growing on agar (3 days at 22°C)	4	5
Streptococci present in	10 c.c.	10 c.c.
Streptococci absent in	1.0 c.c.	1.0 c.c.
B. Welchii absent in	50 c.c.	50 c.c.

These results are satisfactory.

(Signed) T. LAWSON MCEWAN,

County Bacteriologist.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The food shops of the Town and other places where food is prepared and stored are frequently visited and on the whole are found to be good, some very good. There is evidence that in most cases considerable care is taken both in handling and storing.

The single public slaughterhouse makes the daily inspection of freshly killed meat comparatively easy but its capacity has for the last year or two been much overtaxed and plans for an extension to the present building or even an entirely new one are now being considered.

THE MILK SUPPLY. On the results of the tests for cleanliness the past year made a very poor showing. Details will be found on another page. These tests have now been in operation for six years and the results make it possible to divide the 17 producers who sell milk in the District into three groups :—

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Those who will almost certainly produce
a clean sample of milk | 3 |
| 2. | Those who will almost certainly produce
a dirty sample | 7 |
| 3. | Those who may produce either the one or
the other | 7 |

Until there is a change in the personnel the above groupings and figures are likely to remain fairly constant.

It is hardly necessary to say that much time and patience has been expended on Groups 2 and 3, without it must be confessed, any obvious result. As regards the origin of the trouble, this is apparent to even an untrained observer if a visit is paid at milking time; at the same time suggestions for obviating it are always politely received. It is true these suggestions, if adopted, would entail a small amount of trouble being taken and consequently, in Group 2 at any rate, go unheeded. To find a successful remedy for this state of things is very difficult. It is not an offence in law to produce dirty milk and even if it were there are cases where the customs and habits of a lifetime make it quite impossible for the producer to produce anything else. To sum up I think it can be fairly said that if the importance of a clean and safe milk supply is such as to warrant the great expenditure of time and money now being lavished on it all over the country, then the only certain method which will accomplish this object, namely pasteurisation, should be made compulsory without delay.

Housing.

Since the 12 two-bedroom type houses were completed in Brookings Meadow in the first half of the year, no others have been constructed. The scheme of building 50 houses on the recently purchased site near Forde House to provide accommodation for overcrowded families was deferred in view of the sudden and alarming increase in the cost of everything in the building trade. There can be no doubt, however, that more houses will be needed in the not very distant future not only to abate overcrowding but to replace the old properties in the Town which are rapidly becoming past repair.

The Surveyor's Department has supplied the following list of plans passed :—

Layouts of Land	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Bungalows	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42
Garages	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Wash-houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Additions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
W.C.s.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Sheds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
New road amendments	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Public House	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Alterations	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Amendment of Block Plan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Hospital additions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Amendment of W.C.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Temporary Lavatory	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Skittle Alley	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Conservatory	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Hopper	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sewer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

INFECTIONOUS DISEASE

Once again the District was fortunate in its freedom from any extensive outbreak of serious infectious disease.

Of the minor infectious ailments, influenza colds were very prevalent in the first quarter of the year in persons of all ages. It was of a mild type but pneumonia followed in a few cases. Measles occurred in Wolborough Junior, Bearne's and Marsh Schools, Chicken-pox in Highweek Junior and Bearne's Schools, Mumps in the Decoy School.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tubercuolsis) during the Year :—

Disease	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Totals	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	2
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	1	7	7	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4	3	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
												22	16	2

DIPHTHERIA. The four cases were widely separated both as regards time and place and so gave no opportunity of introducing to parents the subject of protective inoculation for their children. The Council have agreed that this shall be done free of charge when the time is ripe.

SCARLET FEVER. The cases were of the usual mild type and few appeared to have any connection with one another.

DYSENTERY. During the last month or two of the year in common with the rest of the country a certain amount of infective diarrhoea occurred in the District. It was mostly of a mild type, lasting usually three or four days. The one case notified was found on bacteriological examination to be due to Sonne's bacillus.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS. (Infantile Paralysis). The existence of this grave disease in the surrounding Rural District had put everyone on the alert and when the one and only case in the town did occur no time was lost in taking action. The school implicated (Bearne's) was closed, the immediate contacts kept under observation and a "stand still" order given to the rest of the children. I should here like to express my thanks to the Head Teacher and Staff of Bearne's School for their valuable help, especially in the matter of picketing the Cinemas, and also to the Cinema proprietors for their willing co-operation. The local papers also were very helpful in publishing warnings and advice to the parents.

I am happy to say that the one case made a perfect recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS

Seventeen cases were notified during the year, of which twelve were lung cases. Four have since died. At the end of the year there were about 158 tuberculosis persons living in the District, of whom 114 were lung cases. This is a decrease of 5 on the previous year.

There were 12 deaths from the disease, 11 being from lung trouble.

In 1927 with a population of 14,550 there were 175 tuberculosis persons living in the district, 135 being lung cases. New cases on notification are visited at their homes, in order that housing conditions may be inspected and to advise other inmates of the infectious nature of the disease. Disinfection of rooms (including where possible stripping of walls or re-colour washing) is done after a death.

Analysis of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1								
1-5								
5-15			1				1	
15-25	2	2	1		2	1		
25-35	1	2		1	2	2		
35-45	1	1	1	1				
45-55		1			1			
55-65	2				2			
65 and over						1		
TOTALS	6	6	3	2	7	4	1	—

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Newton Abbot Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,—

I submit herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

DRAINAGE.

During the year the drainage systems and sanitary fittings of new houses erected or under erection have been tested and inspected before occupation of the premises.

In addition, new baths, W.C.'s, etc., have been fitted, and a number of alterations and additions to existing premises made. In these cases the drainage work and sanitary fittings have been tested and supervised.

A total of 481 visits have been made in this connection and 263 tests applied.

SHOPS

A number of inspections have been made under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, with respect to the ventilation, temperature, and sanitary accommodation.

Certificates of exemption from the provisions of Section 10 (2) as to Sanitary Conveniences have been granted in three cases.

Where the sanitary accommodation or ventilation were insufficient notices were served, in two cases to provide sufficient ventilation and in one case to provide separate sanitary accommodation for each sex.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During the year 6 Council houses and 2 other houses have been found to be infested with vermin, and in these cases spraying with insecticide and fumigation with Sulphur Dioxide gas has been carried out.

As far as is practicable, the practice has been continued of visiting all prospective tenants before going to the Council's housing estate and making an examination to be satisfied that the belongings are free from vermin before removal.

When vermin was found in Council houses the work of disinfestation has been carried out by the Public Health Department.

In the case of other houses, disinfestation is carried out privately, and every assistance possible is given by the Public Health Department.

Where vermin has been found, efforts are made to point out likely sources of infestation and the co-operation of tenants invited to prevent any re-infestation.

HOUSING

Below will be found a tabular statement, in the form required by the Minister of Health, of the housing work done during the year.

As from 1st January, 1937, the Housing Acts of 1925 to 1935 were consolidated and replaced by the Housing Act, 1936.

With the demolition of Nos. 10a and 10b, Highweek Street, the Council's original programme under the 1930 Act was completed, and during the year defects were remedied as a result of complaint or where defective conditions were found whilst measuring houses.

At the time of writing this report, Demolition Orders have become operative with respect to Nos. 105, 107, 107a, and 107b, East Street.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	85
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	176
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	34
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	80

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	43
---	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4. <i>Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding:—</i>	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	36
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	36
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	264
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	9
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	22
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	151
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops. The following are particulars from the Register kept in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Order.

Retailers in the District	22
Retailers from outside the District	17
Retailers with Cowsheds and Dairies in the District	6
Wholesale Producers in the District	12

Two producers in the District are licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk, namely:—

Mr. Stanbury, Hele Park, Highweek.

Seale-Hayne College, Highweek.

Five producers in the Urban District have been licensed under the Accredited Scheme, namely:—

Mr. Newcombe, Greenhill Farm, Highweek.

Mr. Lambshead, Castle Dyke Farm, Highweek.

Mr. Dolbear, Kings Mews, Highweek.

Mr. Blackmore, Oakmead, Highweek.

Mr. Codd, Mead Farm, Highweek.

At the end of the year nine retailers were licensed by the Council to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk and one retailer was licensed to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk. One retailer was also granted a Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk.

Three retailers and one producer have been added to the register during the year.

Periodical visits have been paid to the farms and dairies in the District, as follows: 67 visits to farms, and 71 visits to dairies.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

From the 1st January, 1937, the Methylene Blue Test instead of the Plate Count Test was used for examining samples of Designated milks, and this test was also applied to samples of milk sent to the County Laboratories for cleanliness test under the County Council Scheme.

The organisms in milk are capable of destroying the colour imparted to milk by the addition of methylene blue more or less rapidly, according to the number of living organisms present, and the time required to render the milk colourless is directly proportionate to the number of organisms present in the milk.

During the year 119 samples of milk were forwarded to the County Bacteriologist for cleanliness test, of which only 40 passed.

The following table gives details of the results:—

Month	No. of samples taken	No. passed
January	8	2
February	9	2
March	9	7
April	13	—
May	10	1
June	11	3
July	11	1
August	6	2
September	12	4
October	14	4
November	9	8
December	7	6
	119	40

All the samples submitted for tubercle test proved negative.

The results of the tests for cleanliness show a much less satisfactory result than last year, namely 33.7 per cent. passed as against 63 per cent. in 1936.

Of the 40 satisfactory tests for cleanliness, 27 were produced in the District and 13 outside the District.

Of the 79 unsatisfactory tests for cleanliness, 47 were produced in the District and 32 outside the District.

The results since the inception of the scheme in 1932 are as follows :—

Satisfactory results 1932 39.4 per cent. of total

„	„	1933	40.7	„	„	„	„
„	„	1934	50.7	„	„	„	„
„	„	1935	64.3	„	„	„	„
„	„	1936	63.0	„	„	„	„
„	„	1937	33.7	„	„	„	„

Meat and Other Foods.

Shops, market stalls, and other places where food is sold or prepared for sale are periodically visited and conditions are usually found to be satisfactory.

In this connection 906 visits were made during the year.

Public Abattoir.

During the year a total of 5,504 animals have been slaughtered, as compared with 5,075 during 1936, an increase of 429 animals. A considerable part of this increase in killing has taken place during the second half of the year, the average number of animals killed per week being 129, as compared with 101 during the second half of 1936.

Particulars of the number of animals killed are as follows :

			1937	1936
Bullocks	.....	.....	1,029	885
Sheep	.....	.....	2,328	2,679
Calves	.....	.....	249	234
Pigs	.....	.....	1,898	1,277
			5,504	5,075

The following table, in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives particulars of carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle, including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1,029	249	2,328	1,898
Number inspected	1,029	249	2,328	2,183*
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	7	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	49	3	155	79
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	4.8	1.6	6.7	3.6
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	5	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	123	—	—	228
Percentage of the number inspected with tuber- culosis	12.4	—	—	10.5

*This figure includes pigs killed outside the District for sale in butchers' shops in the town.

The increase in killing at the abattoir during the year has accentuated the very unsatisfactory conditions under which the killing and hanging of carcasses takes place.

At the time of writing this report, plans of additions and alterations to the abattoir have been forwarded to the Live-stock Commission, and it is to be hoped that the work of making the abattoir fit for the hygienic handling of food will not be further delayed.

Unsound Food.

The following is the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed during the year :—

Bullock Carcases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Pig Carcases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Calf Carcases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sheep Carcases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Forequarters of Beef	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Bullocks' heads	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Pigs' heads	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	231
Diseased Organs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	597
Pork	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	146 lbs.
Mutton	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75 lbs.
Veal	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17 lbs.
Beef	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	381 lbs.
Tinned Meat	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46 lbs.
Shrimps	.....	.....	.....	.....	approx.	12 lbs.

The weight of unsound food destroyed during the year was approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 13 bakehouses in the District, and all are inspected periodically, 30 inspections being made during the year. The general condition was found to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Administration of these Acts is carried out by the Police, to whom I am indebted for the following information :—

During the year 23 samples were taken in the Urban District, with the following results —

	No. Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
New Milk	19	11	8
Scalded Milk	1	1	—
Fresh Dairy Butter	1	1	—
Pure Table Vinegar	2	1	1

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES

During the year 57 visits have been paid, as follows :—

Factories	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Workshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Workplaces	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

Particulars	Number of defects	
	Found	Remedied
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :		
Want of Cleanliness	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation unsuitable or defective	I	I

STAFF

During the year a Junior Clerk has been appointed to my office, which appointment has freed me from a great deal of the clerical work and enabled me to devote more time to the continually increasing duties of the Department.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Members of the Council for the support and consideration given to me, and to record my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given to me by my colleagues throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. PETHICK, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for 1937

made at

SEALE-HAYNE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON

Situation.

The Station is situate at 375.15 feet above Mean Sea Level ; Latitude 50 degrees, 33 minutes ; Longitude 3-degrees, 38 minutes. It can be inspected at any time by appointment with the Observer.

Instruments.

The figures in the tables were obtained from observations made by the use of the following instruments :—

For Maximum and Minimum Temperatures.

Thermometers exposed in a Stevenson Screen at 4ft. 6ins. above ground level.

For Rainfall.

A 5-inch diameter rain-gauge with rim 12 inches above ground level at 375.15 feet above Mean Sea Level.

For Sunshine.

A Campbell-Stokes Sunshine Recorder.

For Wind.

A Vane on the North Block of the College at 44 feet above ground level in conjunction with the Beaufort Scale for use on land.

All instruments are approved and periodically inspected by The Meteorological Office.

H. McCLELLAND, *Observer.*

February, 1938.

TABLE I.
Sunshine in Hours for 1937.

Month.	Total Hours.	Daily Mean.	Sunless Days.	Sunniest Day with number of hours.
January	30.9	1.0	9	7th, with 6.5 hours.
February	65.7	2.3	8	17th ,, 8.0 ,,
March	135.0	4.3	5	26th, ,, 11.3 ,,
April	120.5	4.0	4	26th, ,, 11.1 ,,
May	194.1	6.3	4	31st, ,, 13.8 ,,
June	183.8	6.1	0	14th, ,, 12.2 ,,
July	125.2	4.0	3	30th, ,, 12.3 ,,
August	220.9	7.1	0	1st, ,, 12.0 ,,
September	159.6	5.3	3	11th, ,, 11.3 ,,
October	103.6	3.3	6	4th, ,, 10.1 ,,
November	74.6	2.5	12	2nd, ,, 8.4 ,,
December	54.0	1.7	10	17th, ,, 6.2 ,,

NOTE :—There is no official definition of “ A Sunny Day.”

TABLE II.
Rainfall in Inches for 1937.

Month.	Total fall.	No. of Rain Days	Greatest fall in 24 hours on date.
January	7.37	26	0.97 inch on the 12th.
February	7.39	23	1.10 " " 2nd.
March	6.01	20	0.92 " " 13th.
April	3.61	16	0.71 " " 10th.
May	2.98	14	0.76 " " 8th.
June	1.22	8	0.35 " " 18th.
July	0.72	13	0.30 " " 5th.
August	1.70	6	0.82 " " 13th.
September	2.14	15	0.46 " " 9th.
October	3.69	14	1.14 " " 24th.
November	3.07	11	1.01 " " 17th.
December	3.46	18	0.62 " " 1st.

NOTE :—A " Rain Day " is one on which 0.01 inch or more rain is recorded. " Rain " includes all measurable precipitation whether in the form of rain, hail, snow, fog, or dew.

TABLE III.

Temperatures in Degrees Fahr. for 1937.

Month.	Mean Max.	Highest Max. on date.	Mean Min.	Lowest Min. on date.	Mean of Max. and Min.	Gr'nd Frosts.
January	48.1	54 on 3rd.	38.8	28 on 30th	43.4	9
February	45.6	57 „ 14th	40.7	29 „ 28th	43.1	4
March	46.1	53 „ 19th	34.8	28 „ 10th	40.4	16
April	56.5	65 „ 23rd	44.9	35 „ 19th	50.7	1
May	61.9	72 „ 29th	46.4	39 „ 10th	54.1	0
June	66.5	72 „ 14th	49.9	43 „ 2nd and 3rd	58.2	0
July	68.6	76 „ 20th	54.4	45 „ 5th and 8th	61.5	0
August	75.1	79 „ 8th	53.9	48 „ 4th	64.5	0
September	65.8	75 „ 6th and 27th	49.2	41 „ 12th and 21st	57.5	0
October	58.6	67 „ 4th	46.1	38 „ 17th	52.3	0
November	50.5	59 „ 2nd	38.2	28 „ 21st	44.3	11
December	45.0	54 „ 23rd and 25th	42.1	27 „ 10th and 18th	43.5	16

NOTE :—(1) Air Temperatures in Shade at $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. above ground level.

(2) "Ground Frost" is recorded when the temperature in the open at ground level falls to 30.4 degrees Fahr. or below.

TABLE IV.

Wind at 9 hours Observation.

Month.	Force.				From Direction.			
	0-5	6	7	8 or more	N.- N.E.	E.- S.E.	S.- S.W.	W.- N.W.
January	29	2	0	0	8	2	17	4
February	26	2	0	0	0	3	13	12
March	31	0	0	0	14	2	9	6
April	30	0	0	0	7	8	7	8
May	31	0	0	0	9	8	11	3
June	30	0	0	0	8	1	14	7
July	31	0	0	0	1	4	17	9
August	31	0	0	0	11	5	8	7
September	30	0	0	0	5	3	12	10
October	31	0	0	0	18	3	4	6
November	30	0	0	0	16	4	4	6
December	31	0	0	0	9	1	12	9

NOTE :—(1) Forces 0—5 —Calm to Fresh Breeze (0 to 21 miles per hour).

Force 6 —Strong Breeze (27 miles per hour).

Force 7 —Moderate Gale (35 miles per hour).

Force 8 or more—Fresh Gale (42 miles per hour) or stronger.

(2) During the Year the wind reached Force 8 at hours other than the 9 hour observation the following number of days :—January 5, February 1, April 1.

SUMMARY FOR YEAR 1937.

Temperature (Fahr.)

Mean Maximum	57.4 degrees
Mean Minimum	44.9 "
Mean Temperature (Mean of Max. and Min. means)	51.1 "
Warmest Month, August, with mean temperature of	64.5 "
Coldest month, March, with mean temperature of	40.4 "
Warmest Day (Highest Max.) August 8th, with	79 "
Coldest Day (Lowest Max.) December 7th, with	35 "
Warmest Night (Highest Min.) July 13th, with	63 "
Coldest Night (Lowest Min.) December 10th and 18th, with	27 "
Number of Ground Frosts	57 frosts

Rainfall.

Total	43.36 inches
Number of Rain Days	184 days
Wettest Month, February, with	7.39 inches
Driest Month, July, with	0.72 inch
Wettest Day, October 24th, with	1.14 inches

The total fall was 2.99 inches more than the total for 1936 and it was 3.62 inches more than the average for the past 16 years.

Sunshine.

Total	1467.9 hours
Daily Mean	4.0 hours
Sunless Days	64 days.
Sunniest Month, August, with	220.9 hours
Sunniest Day, May 31st, with	13.8 hours

The total sunshine was 130 hours more than that for 1936, but it was 117.3 hours less than the average for the past 13 years.

I am indebted for the above report to Mr. H. McClelland, Meteorologist, to Seale-Hayne College.

W. H. SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

