

**[Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Oswestry Borough.**

**Contributors**

Oswestry (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1942

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a5dkecyg>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>





REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1903

1903

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY.

Mayor: Councillor W.G.Jones.

Chairman: Councillor D.Stone.

The Health Committee consists of the whole Council.

---

Health Department,  
6, Salop Road,  
OSWESTRY.

July 1943.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Oswestry.

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report.

The Minister of Health has requested that the report should be prepared on the same lines as those for the previous three years, that it should again be an interim report and confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, also figures of population or figures from which local population can be reconstructed must not be published, so the report will of necessity be deprived of much of its interest and information. Arrangements are to be made for the preservation of all records which cannot be included in this report.

Your obedient servant,

L.WILSON EVANS.

BOROUGH OF OVESTRY.

Mayor: Councillor W.C. Jones.

Chairman: Councillor D. Stone.

The Health Committee consists of the whole Council.

Health Department,  
5, Salop Road,  
OVESTRY.

July 1943.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Ovestry.

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report.

The Minister of Health has requested that the report should be

prepared on the same lines as those for the previous three years,

that it should again be an interim report and confined to essential

and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the

year, also figures of population or figures from which local

population can be reconstructed must not be published, so the report

will of necessity be deprived of much of its interest and information.

Arrangements are to be made for the preservation of all records

which cannot be included in this report.

Your obedient servant,

J. WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office Held.	Whole or Part time.
L. Wilson Evans.	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
H.T. Isaac	M.S.I.A., C.M.I.	Sanitary Inspector.	Whole.
J.M. Roberts		Clerk.	Whole.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Birth Rate per 1000 population	17.0
Birth Rate per 1000 population Oswestry Rural District	16.1
England and Wales	15.8
Still Births	
Rate per 1000 population	.71
Oswestry Rural District	.17
England and Wales	.54
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births	48
Oswestry Rural District	60
England and Wales	49
Death Rate	12.7
Death Rate Oswestry Rural District	12.8
Death Rate England and Wales	11.6
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	
From Sepsis	Nil.
Other causes	Nil.
Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales per 1000 live births	2.01
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (over 2 years of age)	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office Held.	Whole or Part time.
J. M. Roberts	M.S.I.A., O.M.I.	Sanitary Inspector.	Whole.
H. F. Lewis	M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
H. M. Evans	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1928.

Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales	15.8
Birth Rate per 1000 population Gwentry Rural District	16.1
Birth Rate per 1000 population Gwentry Rural District	17.0
Still Births England and Wales	24
Still Births Gwentry Rural District	25
Still Births Gwentry Rural District	27
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age England and Wales	48
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age Gwentry Rural District	60
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age Gwentry Rural District	49
Death Rate England and Wales	11.6
Death Rate Gwentry Rural District	12.8
Death Rate Gwentry Rural District	12.7
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth From Deaths	111
Other causes	111
Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales per 1000 live births	2.01
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	111
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	111
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	111
Deaths from Diarrhoea (over 2 years of age)	111

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Cancer	7	13
Diabetes	2	2
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	5	10
Heart Disease	18	20
Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	2
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia	3	2
Nephritis	2	5
Violence	2	2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	Under 1 yr.	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 35	35- 45	45- 65	Over 65	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	3	9	1	2	1	-	-	-	17
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	1	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	5	2	3	-	16
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	1	1	-	7	1	2	1	-	-	-	13
Whooping Cough	-	-	3	1	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Infectious Disease was distributed throughout the year as follows.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	1	5	2	-	-	1	2	1	1
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	4	-	1	4	1	-	-	1	3	2
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	10
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	3	5
Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-





	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.	Case rate England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	15	-	2.19
Diphtheria	2	-	1.05
Pneumonia		5	1.07
Paratyphoid Fever	4	-	.01
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	
Malaria		-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	12.61 per 1000 Total Births.
Measles	2	-	7.46
Whooping Cough	-	-	1.73
Cerebrospinal Fever		1	

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA  
1933 - 1942

Ages in years.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20	Plus.	Total.
Years.																						
1933	-	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
1934	-	-	1	5	-	7	10	3	2	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	37
1935	-	-	3	2	1	4	5	3	1	-	4	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	32
1936	-	1	2	2	2	7	7	6	4	5	3	8	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	54
1937	-	1	-	1	1	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	28
1938	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
1939	-	1	1	-	3	4	-	3	1	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	23
1940	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
1941	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1942	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The slight outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever started with the notification of two cases on the same day but curiously enough there appeared to be no connection between the two. One resided in the Borough and the other had been admitted from the Rural District to the Hospital before the condition had been diagnosed, and typing revealed a different strain in each case. A further three cases occurred in the Hospital, a patient and two of the staff. All of these showed the same strain of organism as that in the first case. Bacteriological investigations were carried out by Dr. Rhodes, The Pathological Laboratory, Shrewsbury

Case rate England and Wales.	Deaths.	Cases admitted to hospital.	
2.19	-	15	Gonorrhoeal Fever
1.05	-	2	Measles
1.07	-	-	Whooping Cough
.01	-	-	Generalized Fever
12.61 per 1000	-	1	Paratyphoid Fever
Total 1935-36	-	1	Paratyphoid Fever
1.46	-	2	Paratyphoid Fever
1.75	-	-	Paratyphoid Fever

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA  
1935-1936

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total
1935	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1936	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1937	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1938	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1939	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1940	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1941	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1942	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1945	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1946	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1947	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1948	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1951	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1952	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1953	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1955	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1956	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1957	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1958	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1959	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1960	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1961	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1962	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1965	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1967	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1969	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1972	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1974	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1975	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1976	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1977	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1978	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1981	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1983	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1984	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1985	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1986	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1987	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1989	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1991	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1992	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1994	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1995	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INTUITIVE DIAGNOSIS

The slight outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever started with the notification of two cases on the same day but initially there appeared to be no connection between the two. One resident in the Borough and the other had been admitted from the Rural District to the Hospital before the condition had been diagnosed, and typing revealed a different strain in each case. A further three cases occurred in the Hospital, a patient and two of the staff. All of these showed the same strain of organism as that in the first case. Bacteriological investigations were carried out by Dr. Rhodes, The Pathological Laboratory, Shrewsbury.

and Dr. Felix of the Medical Research Council carried out his Bacteriophage typing.

The few cases of Measles notified indicated the beginning of a considerable outbreak which extended into 1943. The previous outbreak had been in 1940-1941. The usual periodicity of Measles is bi-annual but up to 1933 as far as records are available <sup>for Oswestry</sup> there appears to have been an outbreak at intervals of 3 years but since 1933 the disease has appeared every two years although only a year elapsed between considerable outbreaks in 1939 and 1940, which may have been a result of evacuation bringing in a sufficient number of non-immune children to create conditions favourable for an epidemic.

The low figures for Diphtheria of the previous 2 years have been maintained.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Accelerated progress was made in the number of children receiving immunising injections against Diphtheria. In the first six months of the year more than twice the number of children under 5 years of age were done than in the whole period since free immunisation was offered in 1938. At the end of May the County Council decided to take over the immunisation of children under 5 years of age and school entrants. As the County Council is the child welfare authority there are obvious advantages in them doing the work for its doctors and nurses are in constant touch with the parents of these children, and before starting their scheme in 1938 the Council

and Dr. Felix of the Medical Research Council carried out his  
Bacteriophage typing.

The few cases of Measles notified indicated the beginning of a  
considerable outbreak which extended into 1943. The previous  
outbreak had been in 1940-1941. The usual periodicity of Measles  
is bi-annual but up to 1937 as far as records are available there  
appears to have been an outbreak at intervals of 3 years but  
since 1937 the disease has appeared every two years although only  
a year elapsed between considerable outbreaks in 1939 and 1940,  
which may have been a result of evanescence bringing in a sufficient  
number of non-immune children to create conditions favourable for  
an epidemic.

The low figures for Diphtheria of the previous 5 years have been  
maintained.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Accelerated progress was made in the number of children receiving  
immunising injections against Diphtheria. In the first six months  
of the year more than twice the number of children under 5 years  
of age were done than in the whole period since free immunisation  
was offered in 1938. At the end of May the County Council decided  
to take over the immunisation of children under 5 years of age  
and school entrants. As the County Council is the child welfare  
authority there are obvious advantages in them doing the work for  
the doctors and nurses are in constant touch with the parents of  
these children, and before starting their scheme in 1938 the Council

had requested the County Council to take it over then but they declined. At that time immunisation had not received the publicity of the Press and wireless, not the strong backing of the Ministry of Health. However it was felt that it would be unsatisfactory for two authorities to be responsible for immunisation, the County Council doing under 5 years of age and the young children in school and the Urban Council doing the older school children, so the County Council was asked to take over the immunisation of all children rather than only one section but they would not modify their scheme. However the difficulties anticipated in a dual responsibility evidently arose and in November the County Council took over the immunisation of all children. The district authority had blazed the trail and prepared the ground, the hard work of bringing the importance of immunisation before the parents and making them familiar with the idea of immunisation had been accomplished.

The material used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, two doses, one of .2cc and another of .5cc were given at an interval of four weeks.

The material was supplied free by the Ministry of Health.

The number of children who had completed treatment during the year was as follows.

Under 5 years of age.

Number of children immunised	326
Number in this total done by County Council	146
Total percentage immunised at December 31st, 1942	54%
<u>5-15 years.</u>	
Number of children immunised	273
Number in this total done by County Council	19
Total percentage immunised at December 31st, 1942	91%

had requested the County Council to take it over then but they declined. At that time the Administration had not received the publicity of the Press and various, not the strong backing of the Ministry of Health. However it was felt that it would be unnecessary for two authorities to be responsible for immunisation, the County Council being under 5 years of age and the young children in school and the Urban Council being the older school children, so the County Council was asked to take over the immunisation of all children rather than only one section and they would not modify their scheme. However the difficulties anticipated in a dual responsibility evidently arose and in November the County Council took over the immunisation of all children. The district authority had placed the trial and prepared the ground, the hard work of bringing the importance of immunisation before the parents and asking them familiar with the idea of immunisation had been accomplished.

The material used was a new Precipitated Toxoid, two doses, one of 2cc and another of 1cc were given at an interval of four weeks. The material was supplied free by the Ministry of Health.

The number of children who had completed treatment during the year was as follows.

Under 5 years of age.

356  
146  
50  
273  
19  
315

Number of children vaccinated in this total done by County Council at December 31st, 1942  
 Total percentage vaccinated at December 31st, 1942  
 5-7 years  
 Number of children immunised in this total done by County Council at December 31st, 1942  
 Total percentage vaccinated at December 31st, 1942

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN ORDER.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available for cases residing in Oswestry in accordance with the provisions of the above Order.

This is available from the Health Offices, 6, Salop Road or after office hours from Mr. H. T. Isaac, Grenston, Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry.

20, 000 units were used during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

It has been officially stated that there has been an increase of 75% in venereal disease throughout the Country during the war. These figures are based on attendance at Clinics and Service cases.

It is satisfactory to record that by these criteria there is no evidence of increase over the 3 years of war in Oswestry, but it must be recognised that many young people are leaving Oswestry and going where temptation and risks are greater.

Facilities for Treatment.

These are now available at the Dispensary, Lower Brook Street and are administered by the Salop County Council.

The Medical Officer attends on Thursdays, the hours being - Men 1p.m. to 2p.m. Women 2p.m. to 3p.m.

SCABIES.

Scabies which showed signs of being rather troublesome last year, although it never reached the dimensions in this Borough that it did in some places, has during 1942 yielded to measures taken to prevent its spread, these have been early visits to houses where cases have been reported and the supervision and treatment of contacts.

There was a total of 34 known cases distributed among 13 families.

15 of them were evacuated children. In some cases they appear to



DIPHTERIA ANTI-TOXIN ORDER

supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available for cases residing in  
westward in accordance with the provisions of the above Order.  
is available from the Health Officer, 6, Galop Road or other office  
from Mr. H. E. Lister, Grosvenor, Grosvenor Lane, Oswestry.  
10,000 units were used during the year.

GENERAL LIBRARY

It has been officially stated that there has been an increase of 17%  
in venereal diseases throughout the County during the war. These  
figures are based on statistics at Clinics and Service centres.  
It is satisfactory to know that by these centres there is no evidence  
of increase over the 5 years of war in Oswestry, but it must be  
recognized that many young people are leaving Oswestry and going where  
competition and risks are greater.

Facilities for Treatment

These are now available at the Dispensary, Lower Brook Street and are  
maintained by the Galop County Council.  
The Medical Officer operates on Thursdays, the hours being - Mon 10.30  
to 2.30, Women 2.30 to 5.30.

REPORT

Statistics which showed signs of being rather troublesome last year,  
although it never reached the dimensions of this Borough that it did  
in some places, has during 1928 yielded the measures taken to prevent  
its spread, there have been early visits to houses where cases have  
been reported and the supervision and treatment of contacts.  
There was a total of 24 known cases distributed among 17 families,  
15 of them were evacuated children. In some cases they appear to

have been infected when visiting their homes. One case was removed to the sick bay.

The Council took advantage of the County Council offer to have installed a bath in the Cleansing Station at the First Aid Post. This will be available, when completed, for the treatment of cases where it is not possible at home. It was not necessary to take any action under the Scabies Order 1941 to enforce medical examination and treatment.

#### TUBERCULOSIS 1942.

##### Number of cases notified.

	M.	F.	Totals
Respiratory	7	1	8
Non-respiratory	3	1	4
	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>
Deaths	M.	F.	Totals.
Respiratory	6	-	6
Non-respiratory	1	-	1
	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7</u>

Two respiratory female cases were transferred into Oswestry from outside districts and one non-respiratory male case.

#### Tuberculosis.

There has been an increase in cases of Tuberculosis in the Country generally but fortunately this has not been the case in Oswestry. The number of new cases notified during 1942 was the lowest for

have been infected when visiting their homes. One case was removed to the sick bay.

The Council took advantage of the County Council offer to have installed a bath in the Cleansing Station at the First Aid Post. This will be available, when completed, for the treatment of cases where it is not possible at home. It was not necessary to take any action under the Sanitation Order 1941 to enforce medical examination and treatment.

#### TUBERCULOSIS 1942.

		<u>Number of cases notified.</u>		
	Totals	M.	F.	
Respiratory	8	7	1	
Non-respiratory	8	7	1	
	-----	-----	-----	
	16	14	2	
	-----	-----	-----	
Baths		M.	F.	Totals
Respiratory	6	6	-	6
Non-respiratory	1	-	-	1
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	7	6	1	7
	-----	-----	-----	-----

Two respiratory female cases were transferred into Oswestry from outside districts and one non-respiratory male case.

#### Tuberculosis.

There has been an increase in cases of Tuberculosis in the County generally but fortunately this has not been the case in Oswestry. The number of new cases notified during 1942 was the lowest for

10 years. The number of deaths were also lower than the average. The number of new cases notified during the three years period of the war 1940-1942 was the lowest since the period 1931-1933.

No cases of men and women discovered after going into the forces were reported during the year.

The Government proposals for the provision of maintenance allowances for Pulmonary Tuberculous patients and their families and the use of mass radiography should do much to reduce the incidence of the disease by making provision for the proper nutrition of the patient and his dependants and through the discovery of cases in the early stages.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Analysis of a sample of water taken from the Borough supply June 1942

#### CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

**Appearance;** Faintly opalescent - no visible deposit of mineral and organic debris.  
Turbidity: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour Yellow-brown: 25		Odour Nil.
Reaction PH on the acid side of neutrality: 6.7.		Free carbonic acid 0.3
Electric Conductivity at 20°C 62		Total solids, dried at 120°C 4.5
Chlorine in chlorides 0.60		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 1.1
Hardness : Total 2.0		Temporary 0.0 Permanent 2.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates 0.00		Nitrogen in Nitrites Trace.
Free Ammonia .0096		Ammoniacal Nitrogen -
Albuminoid Ammonia .0064		Albuminoid Nitrogen -
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C 0.185		
Metals Iron : .007		Other metals absent.
'Free Chlorine reaction' Absent.		

The number of deaths were also lower than the average. The number of new cases notified during the three years period of the war 1943-1945 was the lowest since the period 1931-1933. In cases of men and women discovered after going into the forests were reported during the year.

The Government proposals for the provision of maintenance allowances for tuberculous patients and their families and the use of mass radiography should be much to reduce the incidence of the disease by making provision for the proper nutrition of the patient and his dependants and through the discovery of cases in the early stages.

WATER SUPPLY.

Analysis of a sample of water taken from the Borough supply June 1945

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance: Fairly opalescent - no visible deposit of mineral and organic debris.  
Turbidity: less than 5 parts per million, slight colour.

Colour Yellow-brown: 25	Odour Nil.
Reaction PH on the end side of neutrality: 6.7	Free carbonic acid: 0.3
Electric conductivity at 20°C: 62	Total solids, dried at 100°C: 4.5
Chlorine in chlorides: 0.60	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 1.1
Hardness: Total: 2.0	Temporary: 0.0 Permanent: 2.0
Nitrogen in Nitrate: 0.00	Nitrogen in Nitrite: Trace
Free ammonia: 0.036	Ammoniacal Nitrogen: -
Albuminoid ammonia: 0.021	Albuminoid Nitrogen: -
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 20°C: 0.135	Other organic acids: -

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	}	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C
		1	5	16
Presumptive Coliform Reaction		Present	- absent	100 c.c.
Bact. coli		Present	- absent	100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction		Present	- absent	100 c.c.

This sample has faint colour but is reasonably clear and bright, having only faint opalescence. The water is soft in character, contains very little saline or mineral matter in solution and no metals with the exception of a negligible trace of iron. In view of the softness and slightly acid character of the water, contact with lead should be avoided.

The water contains a little organic matter which is responsible for the colour but it is of very satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

HOUSING.

The Housing Inspector in his report looks hopefully to the appointment of a House Manager. In my Annual Report for 1931 I pointed out the advantages of such an appointment and it is quite probable that the housing regulations after the war will make such appointments obligatory on Local Authorities. The great advantage to the property and to the tenants of a trained manager of the right type is surely indisputable and cases of neglected and dirty houses which often only come before the notice of the Health Department when the conditions are far advanced could be prevented by the supervision and guidance of a sympathetic, friendly manager whose help would be the means of making better and more careful tenants. In this respect it must be recognised that there do exist problem families, usually of low mentality, for whom no friendly help or education is of avail, but these are exceptional and should not be put into good houses. Discrimination is called for in the selection of tenants for new

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in 1 day at 37°C	Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in 2 days at 37°C	Reaction
Present	absent 100 c.c.	Presumptive Coliform Reaction
Present	absent 100 c.c.	Heat. coli
Present	absent 100 c.c.	Coliform Reaction

This sample has faint colour but is reasonably clear and bright, having only faint opalescence. The water is soft in character, containing very little saline or mineral matter in solution and no metals with the exception of a negligible trace of iron. In view of the hardness and slightly acid character of the water, contact with lead should be avoided. The water contains a little organic matter which is responsible for the colour but it is of very satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

HOUSING.

The Housing Inspector in his report looks hopefully to the appointment of a House Manager. In my Annual Report for 1931 I pointed out the advantages of such an appointment and it is quite probable that the Housing Regulations after the war will make such appointments obligatory on local authorities. The great advantage to the property and to the tenants of a trained manager of the right type is surely indisputable and cases of neglected and dirty houses which often only come before the notice of the Health Department when the conditions are far advanced could be prevented by the supervision and guidance of a sympathetic, friendly manager whose help would be the means of making better and more contented tenants. In this respect it must be recognized that there do exist problem families, usually of low mentality, for whom no friendly help or education is of avail, but these are exceptional and should not be put into good houses.

houses and such families as those mentioned should be housed in clean, reconditioned property when possible. But the bulk of the families who are dirty and slovenly in their habits, developed very often as a result of bad environment in the past, are capable of improvement when given better conditions, and encouraged by wise and educative supervision; but if the numbers of such families are to be reduced the urgency of the housing problem must be faced with determination and courage. There are too many young children today being brought up under conditions which do not make for the development of health and wholesome habits of living. If slums are to be abolished it is necessary to prevent the growth of the slum mind. As regards the problem of bug infestation there obviously should be greater care in the purchase of second hand bedding and furniture and dealers should ensure that it is not infested before putting it in their stores.

#### REPORT OF HOUSING INSPECTOR.

There is every reason to believe that the newly appointed House Management Sub-committee referred to in the last Annual Report has justified its formation. It has stimulated the interest of its members and brought them into closer touch with the tenants and the financial side of the whole question. While this of course has been a step forward in the right direction the height of achievement would be the appointment of a Housing Manager to work in conjunction with the Sub-committee.

In response to a Circular from the Ministry of Health dealing with Post War Reconstruction, the Housing Committee recommended, as the Government had not given positive guidance to Local Authorities on



houses and such families as those mentioned should be housed in  
 clean, reconditioned property when possible. But the bulk of  
 the families who are dirty and squalid in their habits, developed  
 very often as a result of bad environment in the past, are capable  
 of improvement when given better conditions, and encouraged by wise  
 and educative supervision; but if the members of such families are  
 to be reduced the urgency of the housing problem must be faced with  
 determination and courage. There are too many young children today  
 being brought up under conditions which do not make for the develop-  
 ment of health and wholesome habits of living. It seems to be  
 abolished if it is necessary to prevent the growth of the slum mind.  
 As regards the problem of bug infestation there obviously should be  
 greater care in the purchase of second hand bedding and furniture  
 and dealers should ensure that it is not infested before putting  
 it in their stores.

#### REPORT OF HOUSING INSPECTOR.

There is every reason to believe that the newly appointed House  
 Management Sub-committee referred to in the last Annual Report has  
 justified its formation. It has stimulated the interest of its  
 members and brought them into closer touch with the tenants and  
 the financial side of the whole question. This is of course  
 has been a step forward in the right direction the height of  
 achievement would be the appointment of a Housing Manager to work  
 in conjunction with the Sub-committee.

In response to a Circular from the Ministry of Health dealing with  
 Post War Reconstruction, the Housing Committee recommended, as the  
 Government had not yet given positive evidence to local authorities on

its Post War Policy, that the number of houses comprising a first years programme be notified to the Ministry as a 100. There is little doubt that Oswestry is badly in need of houses and that this 100 may be taken only as a start and seems small in view of the very old houses, actually whole streets, which are existing and will be wiped out when the time becomes opportune. The fact that there is a tendency on the part of shrewd owners to dispose of such property would suggest that they have already seen the warning light. There must be only one class of house for the fighters and workers of this war and that is the model house which will reasonably give all the essentials and amenities necessary for health and comfort.

#### OVERCROWDING.

Under the present conditions there has had to be a certain amount of tolerance with regard to overcrowding in view of the shortage of accommodation and the greater demand in the Town. The abnormal movement of population makes computation difficult.

There has however been a substantial decrease as compared with the last three or four years, but firm action was necessary in a few cases where the overcrowding was glaring and where there was no reasonable excuse. The evils of overcrowding are demonstrated by the following case. A low standard house with two bedrooms was occupied by a family of three. A family of seven the mother being expectant installed themselves in this house. They arrived from a village in an adjacent County where the husband was still employed. Scarlet Fever broke out in the house and there were five cases all of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital and maintained at the ratepayers expense. When the case was finally dealt with

the Post War Policy, that the number of houses comprising a first  
 year programme be notified to the Ministry as a 100. There is  
 little doubt that Oswestry is badly in need of houses and that this  
 100 may be taken as a start and seems small in view of the very  
 old houses, actually whole streets, which are existing and will be  
 wiped out when the time becomes opportune. The fact that there is  
 a tendency on the part of shrewd owners to dispose of such property  
 would suggest that they have already seen the warning light.  
 There must be only one class of house for the fighters and workers  
 of this war and that is the model house which will reasonably give  
 all the essentials and amenities necessary for health and comfort.

OVERCROWDING.

Under the present conditions there has had to be a certain amount of  
 tolerance with regard to overcrowding in view of the shortage of  
 accommodation and the greater demand in the town. The abnormal  
 movement of population makes comparison difficult.  
 There has however been a substantial decrease as compared with the  
 last three or four years, but this action was necessary in a few cases  
 where the overcrowding was glaring and where there was no reasonable  
 excuse. The evils of overcrowding are demonstrated by the following  
 case. A low standard house with two bedrooms was occupied by a  
 family of three. A family of seven the mother being expectant  
 installed themselves in this house. They arrived from a village  
 in an adjacent County where the husband was still employed.  
 Scarlet Fever broke out in the house and there were five cases  
 all of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital and maintained  
 at the taxpayers expense. When the case was finally dealt with

there were eight persons occupying one bedroom.

#### REHOUSING OF HOMELESS FAMILIES.

Twenty two condemned houses reconditioned as a wartime measure to provide accommodation for families rendered homeless by enemy action are still in use. They are all privately owned and let at an average rent of 6/6 weekly inclusive of rates.

#### REPAIRS.

Only very essential and urgent repairs have been enforced during the year. The question of labour and materials has greatly handicapped the contractors. It is gratifying to note however that essential work has been carried out.

#### VERMINOUS HOUSES.

Some glaring cases of bug, flea and lice infestations have been dealt with during the year. Strangers to the Town (temporarily employed) were chiefly responsible for the lice and when they moved off little trouble was experienced after disinfection had been carried out. In the case of fleas the infestations were found where dogs and cats were housed indoors together with unwholesome conditions of the houses. There is however no excuse for bug infestations, especially in comparatively new Council Houses or otherwise decent and in some cases reconditioned houses where there has not been previous bug existence. Almost in every case where the infestation has been heavy the reason given has been the purchase of second hand bedding or upholstery.

Inspection is made of all Council Houses becoming vacant for the detection of verminous infestation and a special eye is kept on prospective tenants especially if removing from certain known

there were eight persons occupying one bedroom.

REMOVAL OF HOMELESS FAMILIES.

Twenty two condemned houses reconditioned as a wartime measure to provide accommodation for families rendered homeless by enemy action are still in use. They are all privately owned and let at an average rent of 6/6 weekly inclusive of rates.

REPAIRS.

Only very essential and urgent repairs have been enforced during the year. The question of labour and materials has greatly handicapped the contractors. It is gratifying to note however that essential work has been carried out.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

Some glaring cases of bug, flea and lice infestations have been dealt with during the year. Strangers to the town (temporarily employed) were chiefly responsible for the lice and when they moved off little trouble was experienced after disinfection had been carried out. In the case of fleas the infestations were found where dogs and cats were housed indoors together with unwholesome conditions of the houses. There is however no excuse for bug infestations, especially in comparatively new Council Houses or otherwise decent and in some cases reconditioned houses where there has not been previous bug infestation. Almost in every case where the infestation has been heavy the reason given has been the purchase of second hand bedding or upholstery. Inspection is made of all Council houses becoming vacant for the detection of verminous infestation and a special eye is kept on

property in the Town before they take possession. Bug infestation is the most difficult and humiliating of all infestations which come under the control of the Health Department. This can be much minimised if on the first evidence of any infestation the matter is immediately reported and secondly the public are warned especially in these times to be cautious in the purchase of second hand upholstered furniture and bedding.

#### FOODS.

It would appear from the Food Inspector's Report that there is unnecessary loss of valuable food supplies during transit, and inquiry by the officials of the Ministry of Food to see if it would be possible by more careful handling to prevent such serious losses seem to be indicated. The role of the Food Inspector is generally considered to be that of the prevention of the consumption of diseased and unwholesome food, but essential as this part of his duties is, another aspect of his job assumes particular importance today and that is the saving of food which is sometimes too readily assumed to be unfit. The carrying out of this duty requires sound judgment, extensive knowledge and confidence in his capabilities, it also requires more care and time than the easier way of condemnation, but it is of great importance and a very valuable contribution to the war effort that no food should be condemned that can be safely used for human consumption.

There has been a good deal of interest in the milk question during the year chiefly owing to the measures taken by the government to preserve milk from becoming unsaleable through souring

property in the law before they take possession. But infestation is the most difficult and humiliating of all infestations which come under the control of the Health Department. This can be much minimized if on the first evidence of any infestation the matter is immediately reported and secondly the public are warned especially in these times to be cautious in the purchase of second hand upholstered furniture and bedding.

FOODS

It would appear from the Food Inspector's Report that there is unnecessary loss of valuable food supplies during transit, and inquiry by the officials of the Ministry of Food to see if it would be possible by more careful handling to prevent such serious losses seem to be indicated. The role of the Food Inspector is generally considered to be that of the prevention of the consumption of diseased and unwholesome food, but essential as this part of his duties is, another aspect of his job assumes particular importance today and that is the saving of food which is sometimes too readily assumed to be waste. The carrying out of this duty requires sound judgment, extensive knowledge and confidence in his capabilities. It also requires more care and time than the easier way of condemnation, but it is of great importance and a very valuable contribution to the war effort that no food should be condemned that can be safely used for human consumption.

There has been a good deal of interest in the milk question during the year chiefly owing to the measures taken by the Government to increase the production of milk through various

and the suggestion of the Ministry of Food to make pasteurisation compulsory.

The purpose of these measures is to save milk rather than to make it safe.

It is significant of the failure of the measures to safe-guard the public health that it is when a Ministry take over the distribution of milk and is faced with serious loss of supplies through souring that drastic measures are taken to obtain a clean milk supply.

Circular 2669 issued during the year is concerned with milk as a perishable food and proposed by a system of examinations of milk and using certain tests to safeguard the keeping quality of bulked milk. The milk was to be divided into three categories. Market Milk, satisfactory liquid milk, salvage milk, unsuitable for liquid milk market, and rejected milk to be returned to the farmer. The scheme involved prices differentiation on a quality basis. It is uncertain how far this scheme has come into operation. Failure of administration may have been the cause of the further step of pasteurisation being brought forward. Pasteurisation has the advantage over the first proposals in so far that it not only saves milk but makes it safe. The difference between clean milk and safe milk is still not appreciated. Although unclean milk is not necessarily injurious to health nor even is sour milk, indeed the eating of milk soured by the lactic acid bacillus has been claimed as a means of longevity, it is necessary to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the production of milk, for unclean slipshod methods increase the risk of disease germs contaminating the milk.



and the suggestion of the Ministry of Food to make pasteurisation compulsory.

The purpose of these measures is to save milk rather than to make it safe.

It is significant of the failure of the measures to safeguard the public health that it is when a Ministry take over the distribution of milk and is faced with serious loss of supplies through souring that drastic measures are taken to obtain a clean milk supply.

Ordnance 2509 issued during the year is concerned with milk as a perishable food and proposed by a system of examinations of milk and using certain tests to safeguard the keeping quality of milked milk. The milk was to be divided into three categories. Market Milk,

restorative liquid milk, average milk, unsuitable for liquid milk market, and rejected milk to be returned to the farmer. The scheme involved price differentiation on a quality basis. It is uncertain how far this scheme has come into operation. Failure of

administration may have been the cause of the further step of pasteurisation being brought forward. Pasteurisation has the advantage over the first proposals in so far that it not only saves milk but makes it safe. The difference between clean milk and

safe milk is still not appreciated. Although unless milk is not necessarily injurious to health now even is sour milk, indeed the eating of milk soured by the lactic acid bacteria has been claimed as a means of longevity, it is necessary to maintain a high standard

of cleanliness in the production of milk, for unless elapsed methods increase the risk of disease germs contaminating the milk.

On the other hand a milk produced under perfectly clean conditions may spread disease and a cow with tuberculosis or other udder disease may cause the disease in those drinking the milk, or contamination by the milkers and dairymen may spread such diseases as Typhoid Fever or Scarlet Fever. Elimination of Tuberculosis from cattle would take many years and it is impossible to control the personnel of the farms before the harm is done, so the protection of the consumer by destroying disease germs by pasteurisation would be the most satisfactory method.

Pasteurisation should not be allowed to hinder the effort to obtain clean milk, and many of the organisms in dirty milk are not destroyed by pasteurisation so it is not the means of disguising dirty milk.

#### REPORT OF THE FOOD INSPECTOR.

Food Inspection takes up the major part of the Sanitary Inspector's duties. Much time is taken in the inspection of goods damaged in transit. The waste through rough handling must be tremendous throughout the Country judging by the local consignments affected. It may be argued that wartime conditions on the railway are chiefly responsible, however the various consignments of foodstuffs reported as unfit have been carefully investigated and examined and as much as 50% of the total and in other cases even a higher percentage has been certified as wholesome and fit for human consumption. Crushed tins, cracked pot in the case of jams and certain articles stored under unfavourable conditions and foods delayed in transit are the principal complaints dealt with. Wholesale and retail traders in foodstuffs realise that a certain amount of tolerance must be borne and the question of salvage must have every

On the other hand a milk produced under perfectly clean conditions may spread disease and a cow with tuberculosis or other disease may cause the disease in those drinking the milk, or contamination by the milkers and dairymen may spread such diseases as Typhoid Fever or Bacillus Fever. Elimination of Tuberculosis from cattle would take many years and it is impossible to control the personnel of the farms before the harm is done, so the protection of the consumer by destroying disease germs by pasteurization would be the most satisfactory method. Pasteurization should not be allowed to hinder the effort to obtain clean milk, and many of the organisms in dirty milk are not destroyed by pasteurization as it is not the means of destroying dirty milk.

REPORT OF THE FOOD INSPECTOR

Food Inspector takes up the major part of the Sanitary Inspector's duties. Much time is taken in the inspection of goods damaged in transit. The waste through rough handling must be tremendous throughout the country judging by the local consignments collected. It may be argued that wartime conditions on the railway are chiefly responsible, however the various consignments of foodstuffs reported as unfit have been carefully investigated and examined and as much as 50% of the total and in other cases even a higher percentage has been certified as wholesome and fit for human consumption. Grashed time, cringed pot in the case of jams and certain articles stored under unfavourable conditions and foods delayed in transit are the principal complaints dealt with. Wholesale and retail traders in foodstuffs realize that a certain amount of tolerance must be borne and the question of salvage must have every

consideration. In all cases of condemnation traders and others are issued with certificates stating the reason why the food in question is unfit and this enables the loss to be made good in most cases. It may be pointed out that the outside abnormal appearance of tinned and other packed foods is not always a criterion as to its fitness for food. In cases of doubt the Inspector should be consulted.

### Meat.

Centralised Slaughtering and meat distribution operates on the same lines as hitherto with the exception that the duties of meat inspection is now shared with the Rural Sanitary Inspector.

The co-operation of the local authorities with the Ministry of Food in the inspection of slaughterhouses and meat distributing depots continues.

### Milk.

The frequent sampling by the Health Department continues and there has been no cause for complaint with regard to the quality of the milk produced by the cowkeepers in the Borough but in some cases it has been necessary to emphasise the importance and necessity of scrupulous care and attention to cleanliness and approved methods of production. The response on the whole has been satisfactory.

During the year however there have been complaints of milk received from outside the Borough and especially of the milk supply to the schools. Appropriate action was taken in these cases but unfortunately the powers for dealing with producers outside the Borough are limited, which to say the least delays any action taken. With regard to the school supply the contract was transferred to another purveyor.

consideration. In all cases of condemnation traders and others are issued with certificates stating the reason why the food in question is unfit and this enables the loss to be made good in most cases. It may be pointed out that the outside appearance of tinned and other packed foods is not always a criterion as to its fitness for food. In cases of doubt the Inspector should be consulted.

Meat.

Centralized slaughtering and meat distribution operates on the same lines as hitherto with the exception that the duties of meat inspection is now shared with the Rural Sanitary Inspector. The co-operation of the local authorities with the Ministry of Food in the inspection of slaughterhouses and meat distributing depots continues.

Milk.

The frequent sampling by the Health Department continues and there has been no cause for complaint with regard to the quality of the milk produced by the cowkeepers in the Borough but in some cases it has been necessary to emphasize the importance and necessity of scrupulous care and attention to cleanliness and approved methods of production. The response on the whole has been satisfactory. During the year however there have been complaints of milk received from outside the Borough and especially of the milk supply to the schools. Appropriate action was taken in these cases but unfortunately the powers for dealing with producers outside the Borough are limited which to say the least delays any action taken. With regard to the

The pooling of milk unquestionably has its advantages especially to meet the transport difficulties but it has tended to destroy the keen interest between producer and retailer in maintaining a high quality milk. The retailers have now to take their supplies from where directed. Tuberculin Tested milk is retailed by three purveyors in the Borough.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE VETERINARY OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

We beg to submit our report on the inspection of all the dairy cows supplying the Oswestry Borough.

During the year 1942, 1604 cows were carefully examined, 1332 being in milk and 222 dry. 198 of the cows were housed in the Borough and 1406 in the outlying districts. With the exception of the cows mentioned below we are glad to state that the animals were in a healthy condition and free from contagious or infectious diseases, including affection of the udder and diseases communicable by contamination of the milk. From every cow where abnormality of the udder was found, and where there was a suspicion as to the general health of the animal a sample of milk was taken and examined microscopically. There were 30 samples taken. We are glad to state that in only two cases were tubercle bacilli present. These cows were seized under the Tuberculosis Order and post mortem examination confirmed the diagnoses, and in each case tubercular lesions of the udder were found. The other samples were mainly streptococcal and the said cows were isolated from the herd till treatment was applied and they were fit to re-enter the herd.

Since clean milk production has become so important, both the cows

The pooling of milk unquestionably has its advantages especially to meet the transport difficulties but it has tended to destroy the keen interest between producer and retailer in maintaining a high quality milk. The retailers have now to take their supplies from where directed. Tuberculin tested milk is retailed by three purveyors in the Borough.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE VETERINARY OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

We beg to submit our report on the inspection of all the dairy cows supplying the Oswestry Borough.

During the year 1942, 1604 cows were carefully examined, 1732 being in milk and 222 dry. 198 of the cows were housed in the Borough and 1406 in the outlying districts. With the exception of the cows mentioned below we are glad to state that the animals were in a healthy condition and free from contagious or infectious diseases, including infection of the udder and diseases communicable by contamination of the milk. From every cow where abnormality of the udder was found, and where there was a suspicion as to the general health of the animal a sample of milk was taken and examined microscopically. There were 59 samples taken. We are glad to state that in only two cases were tubercle bacilli present. These cows were seized under the Tuberculosis Order and post mortem examination confirmed the diagnosis, and in each case tubercular lesions of the udder were found. The other samples were mainly streptococcal and the acid cows were isolated from the herd till treatment was applied and they were fit to re-enter the herd.

Since clean milk production has become so important, both the cows

and the shippens have received considerable attention regarding cleanliness and ventilation which has improved their general condition.

R.HUGHES & SON

Veterinary Surgeons.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Under wartime conditions the destruction of rats is of vital importance in the National Interest . Although the extent of the damage done to essential food supplies, property and materials is appreciated by all those who have had experience on a large scale it is not sufficiently recognised by the majority of the community how great this is. The position regarding rat infestation in Oswestry could not be considered satisfactory in spite of publicity given to the subject and also personal contact with the occupiers of affected premises. The tendency has been to leave it to the other fellow, the real co-operation to achieve the maximum results being very luke warm and in some cases non-existent. As a result certain areas became heavily infested and consequently drastic action had to be taken. Complaints that have been dealt with are mainly from food stores or premises in close proximity, piggeries and poultry runs.

A survey of the Town showed that there were about ten areas affected varying from heavy infestations to just minor ones. Six of these areas are under private contract for the eradication of rats extending over a period of 12 months. Frequent visits are made by the rat catchers who are fully employed in rat extermination and on the whole the progress is satisfactory.



and the ships have received considerable attention regarding cleanliness and ventilation which has improved their general condition.

E. HUGHES & SON

Veterinary Surgeons.

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Under wartime conditions the destruction of rats is of vital importance in the National Interest. Although the extent of the damage done to essential food supplies, property and materials is appreciated by all those who have had experience on a large scale it is not sufficiently recognised by the majority of the community for great this is. The position regarding rat infestation in Oswestry could not be considered satisfactory in spite of publicity given to the subject and also personal contact with the occupiers of affected premises. The tendency has been to leave it to the other fellow, the real co-operation to achieve the maximum results being very lukewarm and in some cases non-existent. As a result certain areas became heavily infested and consequently drastic action had to be taken. Complaints that have been dealt with are mainly from food stores or premises in close proximity, pigsties and poultry runs. A survey of the Town showed that there were about ten areas affected varying from heavy infestations to just minor ones. Six of these areas are under private control for the eradication of rats extending over a period of 12 months. Frequent visits are made by the rat catchers who are fully employed in rat extermination and on the whole the progress is satisfactory.

The writer's attention was drawn to an incident which has scope for some one with an inventive mind. At a piggery near the border of the town was a large metal bin for storing meal. It measured 6 feet long by 2 feet 6 inches wide and 3 feet deep. There was 3 inches of meal in the bin. The top was uncovered. The place was known to be rat infested and was receiving attention. By accident small wooden boxes had been so placed as to make a staircase to the top of the bin. What followed can only be surmised.

Presumably the rats in their nocturnal prowls had ascended the steps and unable to resist the temptation of a good feed dropped down into the interior of the bin. The sides of the bin being smooth and the floor area so small for a take off it was impossible to escape. As the result 50 rats were trapped and were destroyed.

It is known that the appropriate Ministry from time to time has exhibited an apparatus on the drop method in which rats could not escape, also a variety of devices have been advertised but appear not to be popular, although large infestations and the possibility of cheap and rapid methods of capture offer them a wide scope of usefulness.

#### CINEMAS AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

Visits at frequent intervals during times of entertainment and otherwise showed that the conduct and provisions generally were satisfactory, but the attention of the proper authority has been drawn to a certain dance hall in the Town where the facilities are inadequate for the number admitted and where distasteful incidents have occurred in the vicinity.

The writer's attention was drawn to an incident which has scope for some one with an inventive mind. At a pigsty near the border of the town was a large metal bin for storing manure. It measured 6 feet long by 2 feet 6 inches wide and 7 feet deep. There was 7 inches of manure in the bin. The top was unsecured. The place was known to be rat infested and was receiving attention. By accident small wooden boxes had been placed on top of the bin.

What followed can only be surmised. Presumably the rats in their nocturnal prowls had ascended the steps and unable to resist the temptation of a good feed dropped down into the interior of the bin. The sides of the bin being smooth and the floor area so small for a take off it was impossible to escape. As the result 50 rats were trapped and were destroyed.

It is known that the appropriate Ministry from time to time has exhibited an apparatus on the drop method in which rats could not escape, also a variety of devices have been advertised but appear not to be popular, although large infestations and the possibility of cheap and rapid methods of capture offer them a wide scope of usefulness.

GINEMAS AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

Visits at frequent intervals during times of entertainment and otherwise showed that the conduct and provisions generally were satisfactory, but the attention of the proper authority has been drawn to a certain dance hall in the town where the facilities are inadequate for the number admitted and where distasteful incidents have occurred in the vicinity.

KEEPING OF PIGS AND POULTRY.

Preliminary consultation with the Health Department as to the site, construction of styes etc. has done much to obviate nuisances which would inevitably arise when pigs and poultry are kept under unsuitable conditions. However there are two matters which do give cause for complaint. One is the keeping of unprotected foodstuffs where it is accessible to rats thereby attracting the vermin and the other is allowing waste to stand for an undue length of time, with its attendant evils i.e. flies, smells etc.

As a result of the war there has been a steady increase in the number of pig and poultry keepers.

KEEPING OF PIGS AND POULTRY.

Preliminary consultation with the Health Department as to the  
 construction of styer etc. has done much to obviate nuisances which  
 would inevitably arise when pigs and poultry are kept under unsuit-  
 able conditions. However there are two matters which do give cause for  
 complaint. One is the keeping of unprotected foodstuffs where it is  
 accessible to rats thereby attracting the vermin and the other is  
 allowing waste to stand for an undue length of time, with the  
 attendant evils i.e. flies, smells etc.

As a result of the war there has been a steady increase in the number  
 of pig and poultry keepers.



