## Contributors

Oswestry (England). Borough Council.

## **Publication/Creation**

1944

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## BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

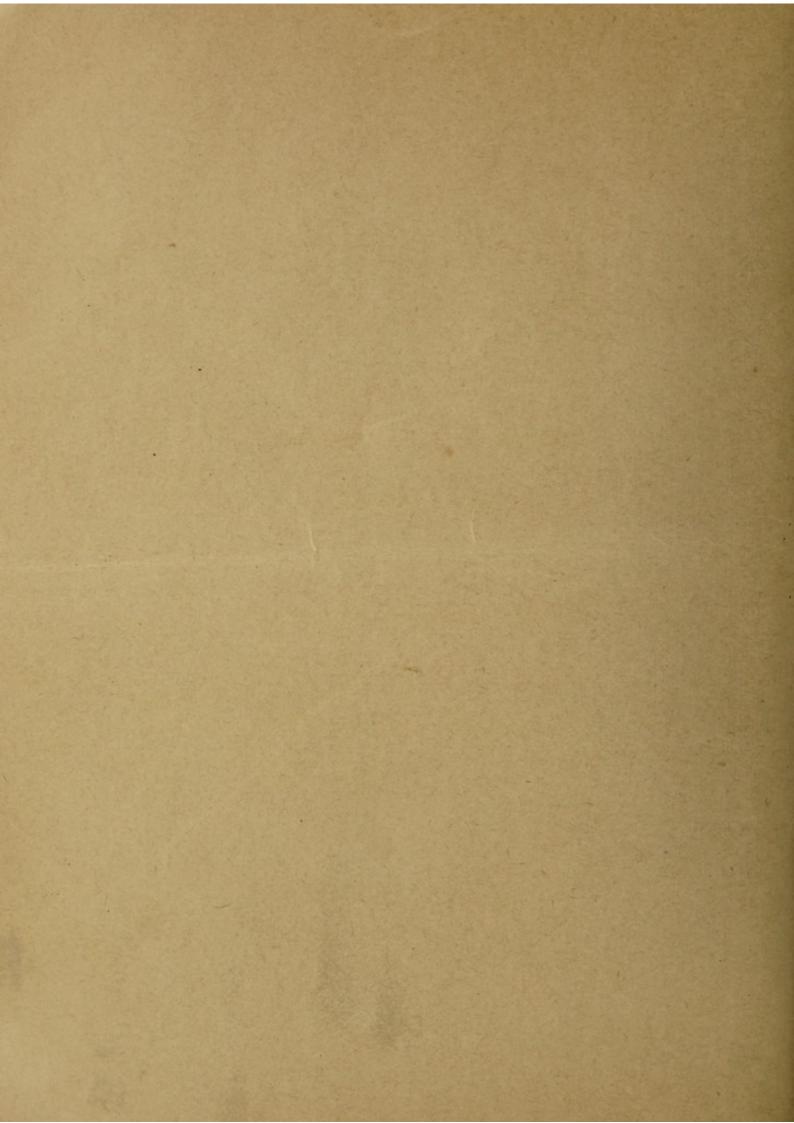
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1944



#### BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY.

Mayor: Councillor D. Stone. Chairman of Health Committee: Councillor D. Stone The Health Committee consists of the whole Council.

> Health Department, 6,Salop Road, OSWESTRY.

> > August 1945.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Oswestry. Mr. Mayor, Madam, and Gentlemen,

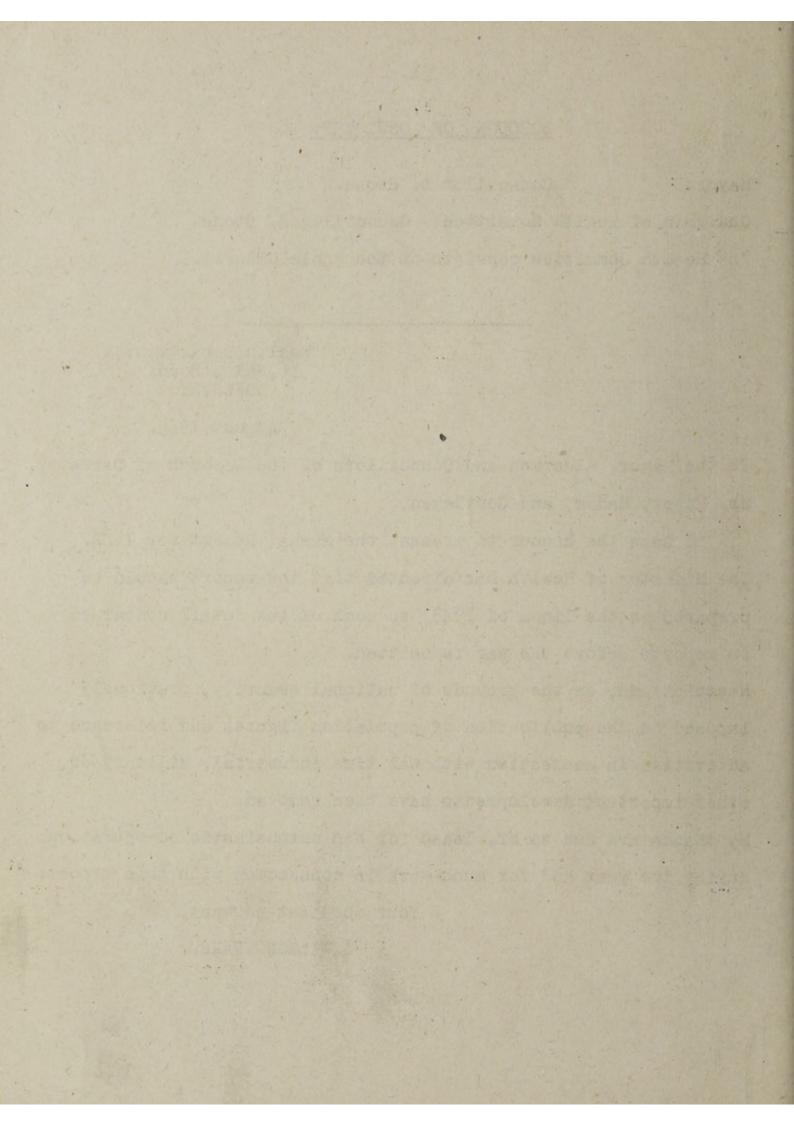
I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1944. The Minister of Health has directed that the report should be prepared on the lines of 1943, so much of the detail contained in reports before the war is omitted.

Restrictions, on the grounds of national security, previously imposed on the publication of population figures and reference to activities in connection with war time industrial, military or other important developments have been removed.

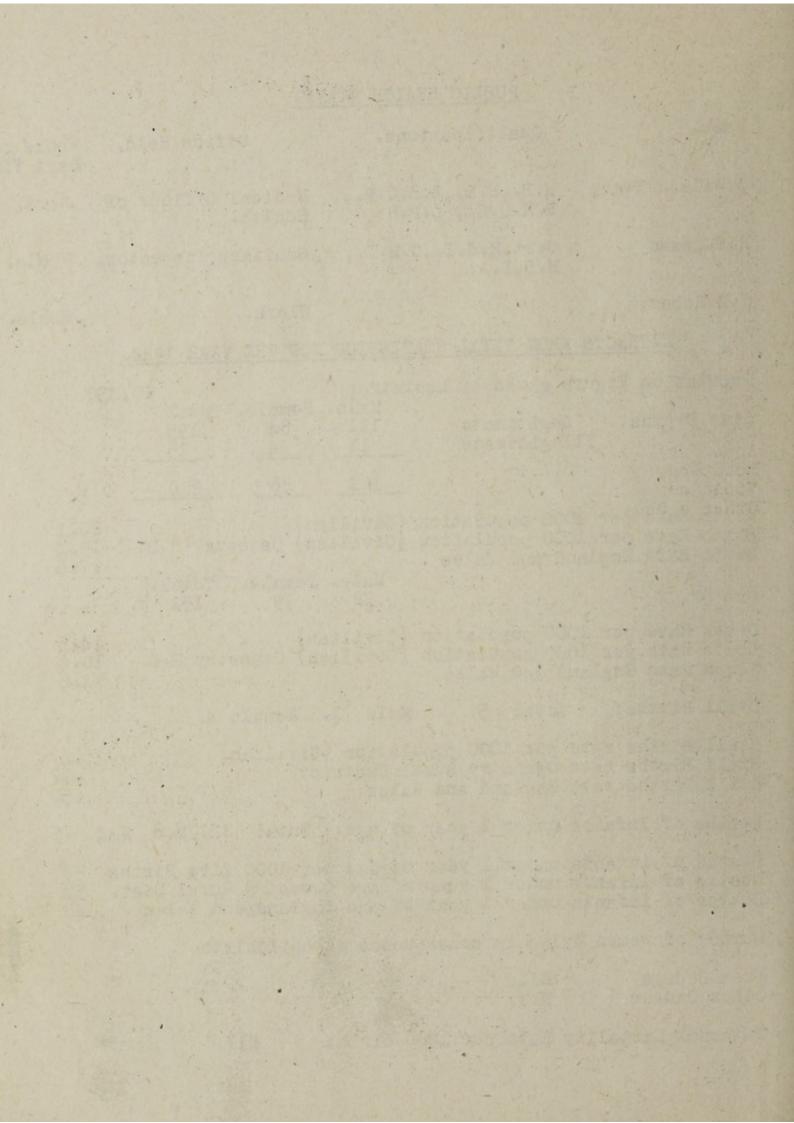
My thanks are due to Mr. Isaac for his enthusiastic co-operation. during the year and for much work in connection with this report.

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.



Name.	Qualifications.		
	guarrineations.	Office Hel	d. Whole or Part Time.
L.Wilson Evans	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer Health.	of Part.
H.T.Isaac	Cert.R.S.I., C.M.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspec	tor. Whole.
J.M.Roberts		Clerk.	Whole.
EXTRACTS	FROM VITAL STATISTICS	FOR THE YEAR 194	4.
Live Births:	e given by Registrar Male Legitimate 111 legitimate 11	. Female. Total 84 195 _4 15	0,450
		88 210	-
Birth Rate per 1 Birth Rate per 1 Birth Rate Engla	nd and Wales	ian) Oswestry R.D.	20.1 19.4 17.6
Deaths	Male. 72	Female. Total. .79 151	
Death Rate per 1 Death Rate per 1 Death Rate Engla	000 population (Civil: 000 population (Civil: nd and Wales	ian) ian) Oswestry R.D.	14.5 10.6 11.6
Still Births:	Total 5. Male :	L. Female 4.	
Still Births rat	e per 1000 population e Oswestry Rural Distr e England and Wales	(Civilian) rict	• 47 • 72 • 50
Deaths of Infant	s under 1 year of age:	Total 12. M.8	F.4.
Deaths of infant	s under 1 year of age s under 1 year of age s under 1 year of age	Oswestry Rural Di	st. 34
Number of women	dying in consequence of	of childbirth	
From Sepsis Other Causes	Nil Nil.		
Maternal Mortali	ty Rate per 1000 birth	ns Nil.	



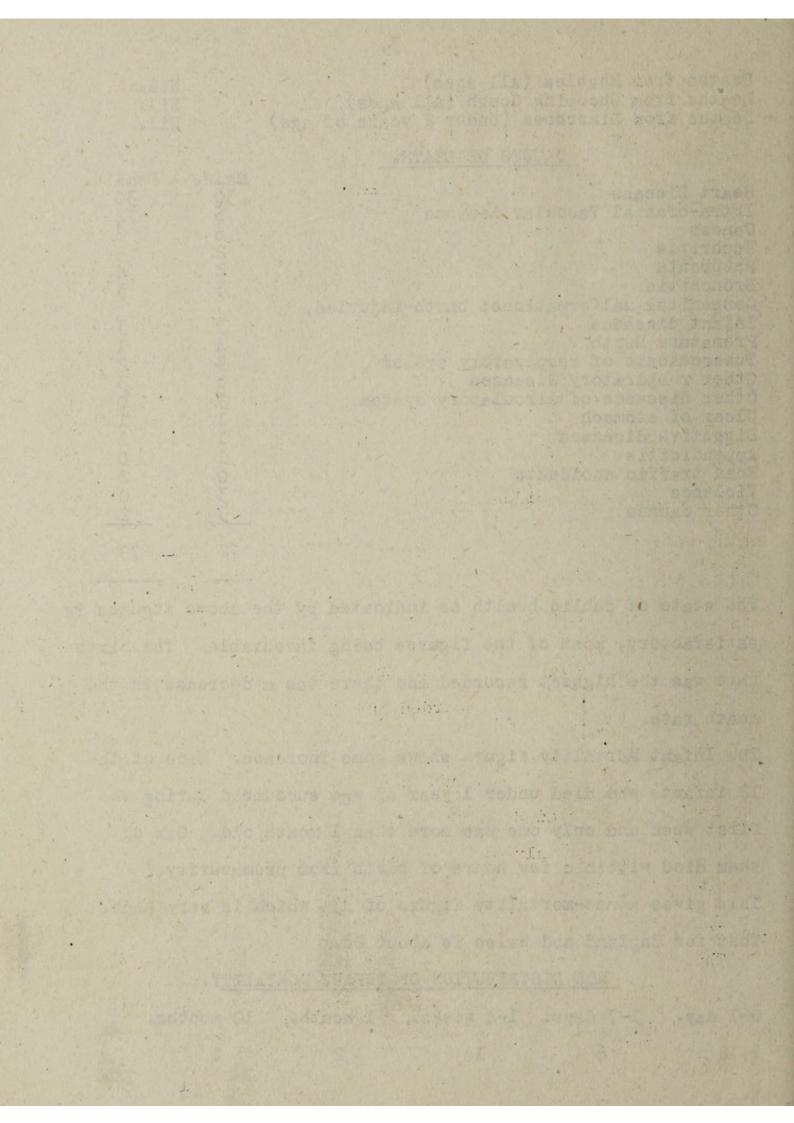
Deaths from Measles (All ages) Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages) Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age)		Nil. Nil. Nil.
<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u> Heart Disease Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions Cancer Nephritis Pheumonia Bronchitis Congenital malformations; birth injuries, Infant diseases Premature Birth Tuberculosis of respiratory system Cher diseases of circulatory system Digestive diseases Appendicitis Road traffic accidents Violence Other causes	Male. 3066223 34313111033	Female. 30 14 54 37 712 30 110 20 2
	72	79

The state of public health as indicated by the above figures is satisfactory, most of the figures being favourable. The birth rate was the highest recorded and there was a decrease in the death rate.

The Infant Mortality figure shows some increase. Nine of the 12 infants who died under 1 year of age succumbed during the first week and only one was more than 1 month old. Six of them died within a few hours of birth from prematurity. This gives a neo-mortality figure of 43, which is very high. That for England and Wales is about 28.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT MORTALITY.

0-1 day.	1-7 days.	1-4 weeks.	1 month.	10	months.
2	6	1	2	•	1



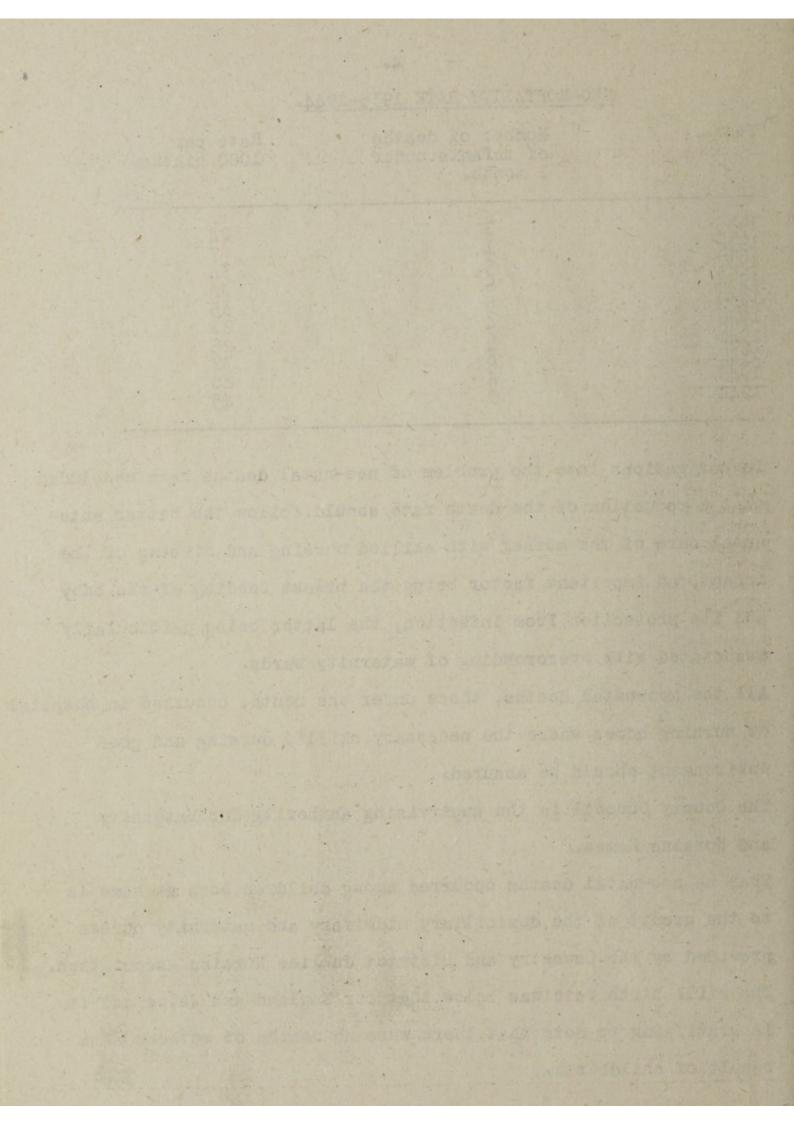
Year.	NEO-MORTALITY RATE 1935-1944. Number of deaths of infants under 1 month.	Rate per 1000 births.
1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944	71570574570 49	24 7 3445 252 2320 43

Investigations into the problem of neo-natal deaths have concluded that a reduction of the death rate should follow the better antenatal care of the mother with skilled nursing and dieting of the infant, an important factor being the breast feeding of the baby and its protection from infection, the latter being particularly associated with overcrowding of maternity wards.

All the neo-natal deaths, those under one month, occurred in hospital or nursing homes where the necessary skilled nursing and good environment should be assured.

The County Council is the supervising authority for Maternity and Nursing Homes.

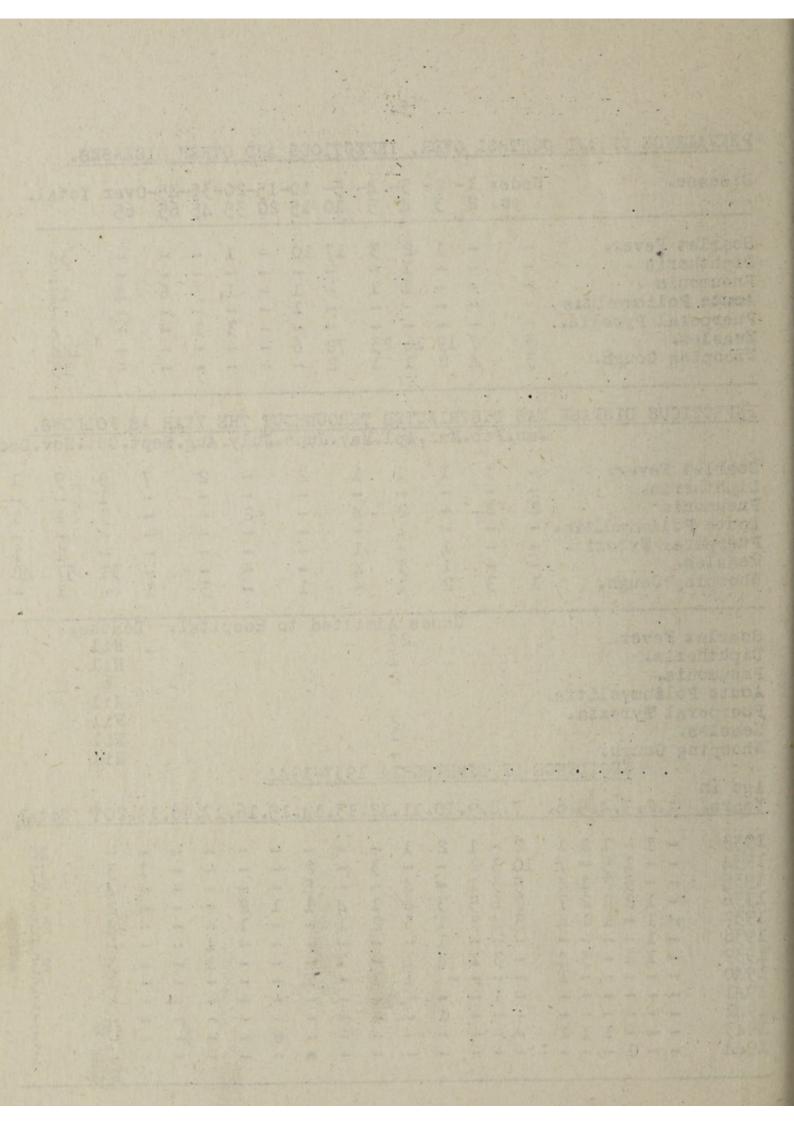
That no neo-natal deaths occurred among children born at home is to the credit of the domiciliary midwifery and maternity nurses provided by the Oswestry and District Jubliee Nursing Association. The still birth rate was below that for England and Wales and it is gratifying to note that there were no deaths of mothers as a result of childbirth.



PREVALENCE OF AND	CONTROL	OVER.	INFECTI	OUS AL	ND OTHER	R DISEAS	E8.
Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1- 2- 2	3- 4- 5-	10-1	5-20-35-	45-0ver 65 65	Total.
Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria . Pneumonia . Acute Policmyelitis Puerperal Pyrexia. Measles. Whooping Cough.			2 3 17 1 1 - 6 23 70 1 1 2	1		114111	34 1 17 1 4 144 13
INFECTIOUS DISEASE							OLLOWS. ct.Nov.Dec,
Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria. Pneumonia: Acute Poliomyelitis Puerperal Pyrexia. Measles. Whooping Cough. Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria.	- 1	1	1 1 2 4 1 - 3	2	- 2	7 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	9 9 1 1
Pneumonia. Acute Poliomyeliti Puerperal Pyrexia. Measles. Whooping Cough. <u>INCIDE</u>		DIPHTH	2 3 1 ERIA 193	3-1944	1	N N N	6 11 11 11
Age in Years. 1.2.3.4.5.	6. 7.8	.9.10.	11.12.13	.14.1	5.16.17.	18.19.20	total
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	1 205731-1-1 17474-41-1-1	2 1	1 3 403				10724003351131

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1 - -



#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There was some increase in Scarlet Fever cases at the end of the year. The disease was of a mild form. The total for the year was one less than last year.

The number of cases of Pneumonia showed a big decrease and returned to normal after last year's high figure.

The one notification of Dhphtheria maintained the low figure of the previous four years.

#### DIPETHERIA IMMUNISATION.

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

#### Under 5 years of age.

No. of children receiving immunising injections January 1st - December 31st, 1944 171

Percentage of child population under 5 years considered immunised at December 31st, 1944 62%

#### 5 - 15 years.

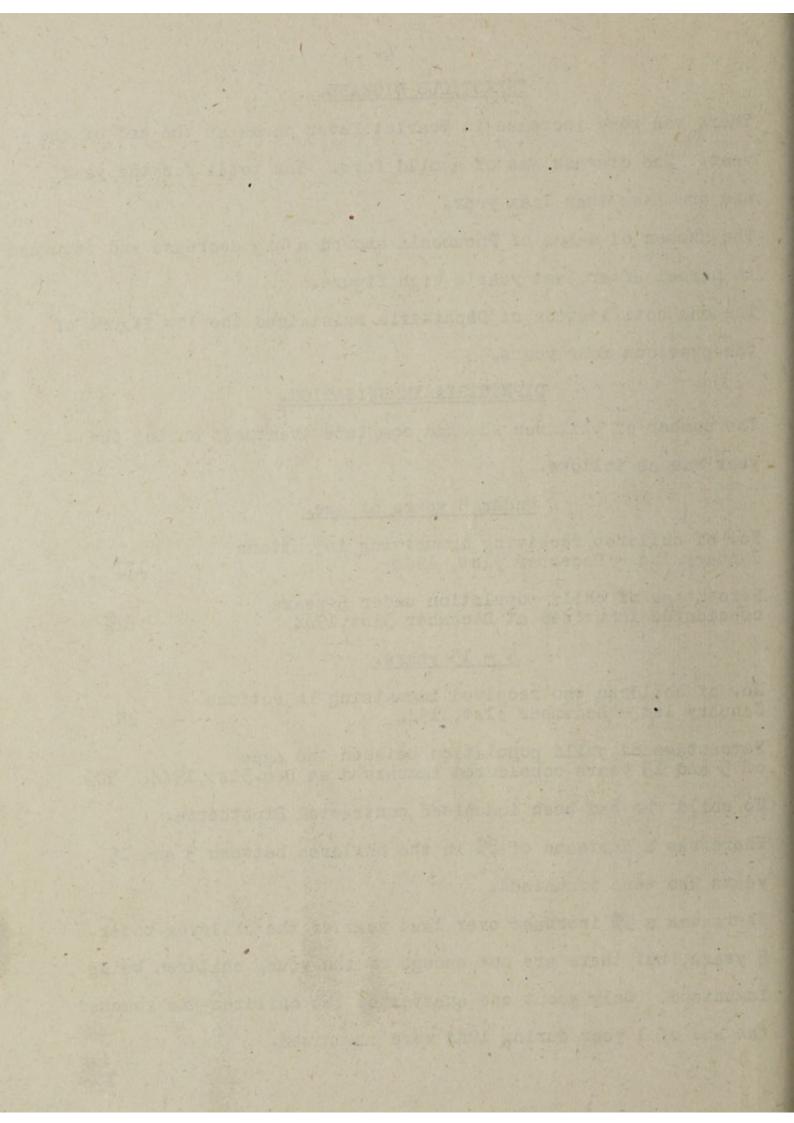
No. of children who received immunising injections January 1st - December 31st, 1944 45

Percentage of child population between the ages of 5 and 15 years considered immunised at Dec.31st,1944. 90%

No child who had been immunised contracted Diphtheria.

There was a decrease of 8% in the children between 5 and 15 years who were immunised.

There was a 3% increase over last year of the children under 5 years, but there are not enough of the young children being immunised. Only about one quarter of the children who reached the age of 1 year during 1944 were immunised.



#### DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN ORDER.

7.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available for cases residing in Oswestry in accordance with the provisions of the above Order. This is obtainable from the Health Offices,6,Salop Road, or after office hours from Mr.H.T.Isaac,Grenston,Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry. None was used during the year.

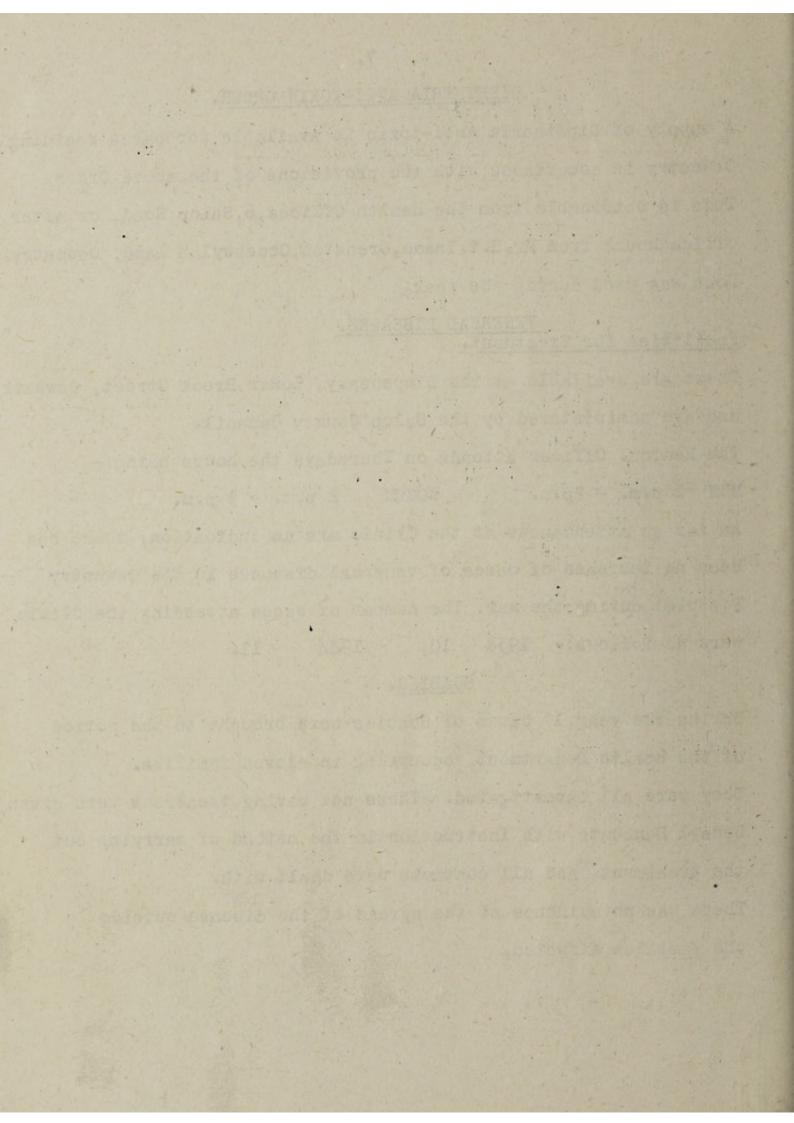
#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

#### Facilities for Treatment.

These are available at the Dispensary, Lower Brook Street, Oswestry and are administered by the Salop County Council. The Medical Officer attends on Thursdays the hours being:-MEN 1 p.m. - 2p.m. WOMEN 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. As far as attendances at the Clinic are an indication, there has been no increase of cases of venereal diseases in the Oswestry District during the war. The number of cases attending the Clinic were as follows:- 1938 10; 1944 11.

#### SCABIES.

During the year 19 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department, occurring in eleven families. They were all investigated. Those not having treatment were given Benzyl Benzoate with instruction in the method of carrying out the treatment, and all contacts were dealt with. There was no evidence of the spread of the disease outside the families affected.



#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Number	of ca	ses not	ified du	ring th	ne year.		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Resp	iratory	· · ·	Non-rea	spiratory	. Tot	al
	м.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Civilian Cases	1	2		l	î	2	3
Service Cases	4	-		-	-	4	-
Transfers	1	2		-		l	2
	6	4		1		_7_	5
Deaths	3	3		1	-	3	3
The number of o		on the	register			1944 was	:-
Ma	Males. Females.						

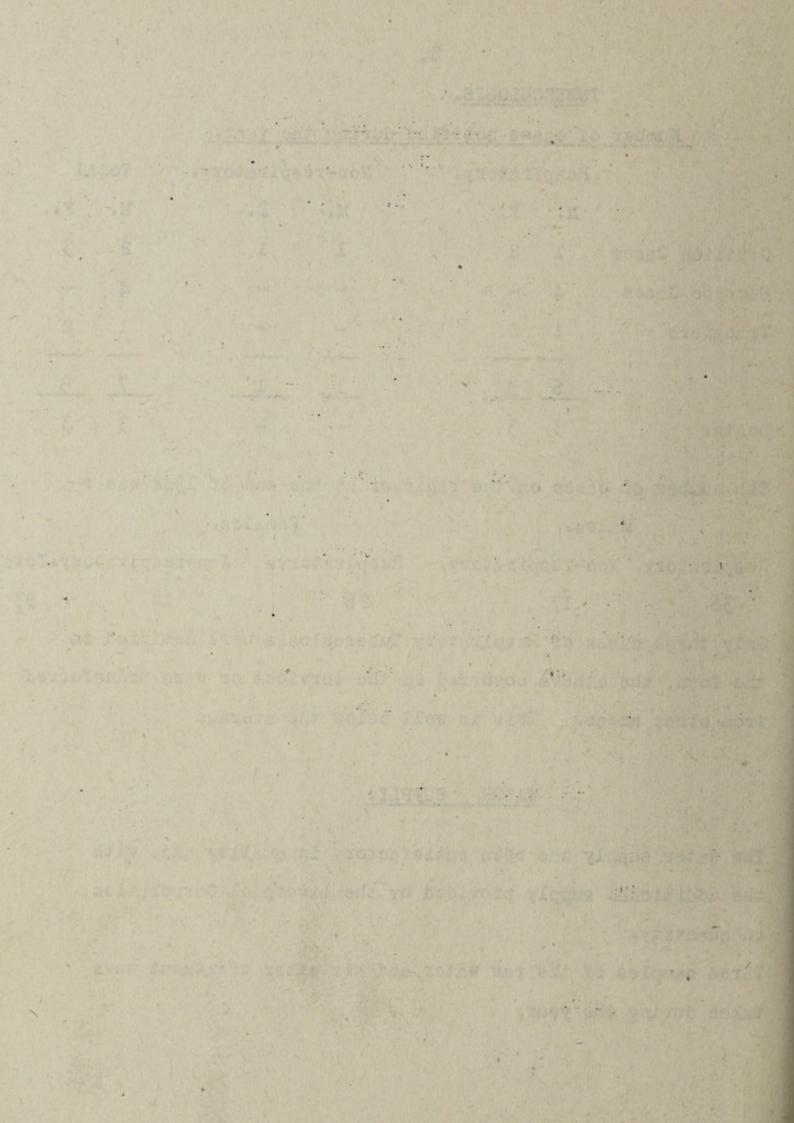
Respiratory. Non-respiratory. Respiratory. Non-respiratory. Total.

36 17 26 18 97 Only three cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified in the Town, the other's occurred in the services or were transferred from other areas. This is well below the average

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and, with the additional supply provided by the Liverpool Corporation, in quantity.

Three samples of the raw water and six after treatment were taken during the year,



Appearance: Faint opalescence-distinct flocculent deposit of

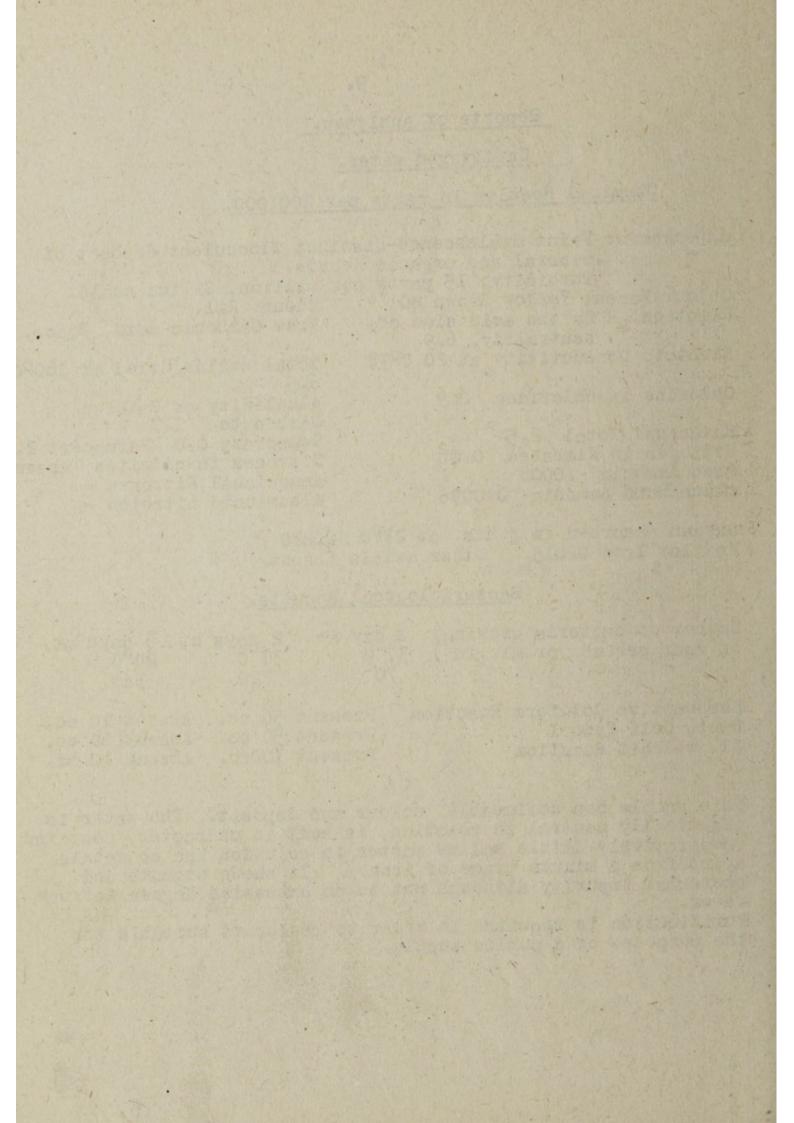
## Reports of analyses.

## Unfiltered water.

## Chemical Results in parts per 100,000.

mineral and organic debris. Turbidity: 15 parts per million, Silica scale. Colour Hazen: Yellow Brown 40 Odour: Nil. Reaction pH On the acid side of Free Carbonic Acid Trace. neutrality. 6.9 Electric Conductivity at 20 C°78 Total solids dried at 180°C 6.5 Chlorine in chlorides 0.9 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 1.1 Temporary 0.0 Permanent 2.5 Hardness: Total 2.5 Nitrogen in Nitrates Nitrogen in nitrites absent. 0.06 Free Ammonia .0008 Ammoniacal Nitrogen -Albuminoid Ammonia 0.0096 Albuminoid nitrogen ~ Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C 0.420 Metals: Iron 0.015. Other metals absent. Bacteriological Results. 2 days at 3 days at 370 200 Number of bacteria growing) on Agar per cc. or ml. in ) 1 day at 340 120 70 Presumptive Coliform Reaction Present 50 cc. Absent 10 cc. Bact. Coli Type I Present 50 cc. Absent 10 cc. Ol. welchii Reaction Present 100cc. Absent 10 cc. This sample has noticeable colour and deposit. The water is practically neutral in reaction, is soft in character, contains comparatively little saline matter in solution and no metals apart from a minute trace of iron. It shows organic and bacterial impurity although not to an excessive degree for raw water. Purification is required in order to render it suitable for

the purposes of a public supply.



#### Filtered Water from Tap.

# Chemical Results in parts per 100,000

Appearance: Very faint opalescence-no visible deposit. Turbidity: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica Scale.

Colour Hazen: Yellow Brown 40 Reaction pH On the acid side of neutrality: 6.8 Electric conductivity at 20°C 78 Chlorine in chlorides 0.9

Hardness: Total 2.5 Nitrogen in Nitrates 0.10

Free Ammonia 0.0050 Albuminoid Ammonia 0.0072 Odour Nil. Free carbonic acid 0.3

Total solids dried at 180°0 6.5 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 1.1 Temporary 0.0 Permanent 2.5 Nitrogen in Nitrites Less than 0.001 Ammoniacal Nitrogen -Albuminoid Nitrogen -

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°0 0.380 Metals Iron 0.005. Other metals absent.

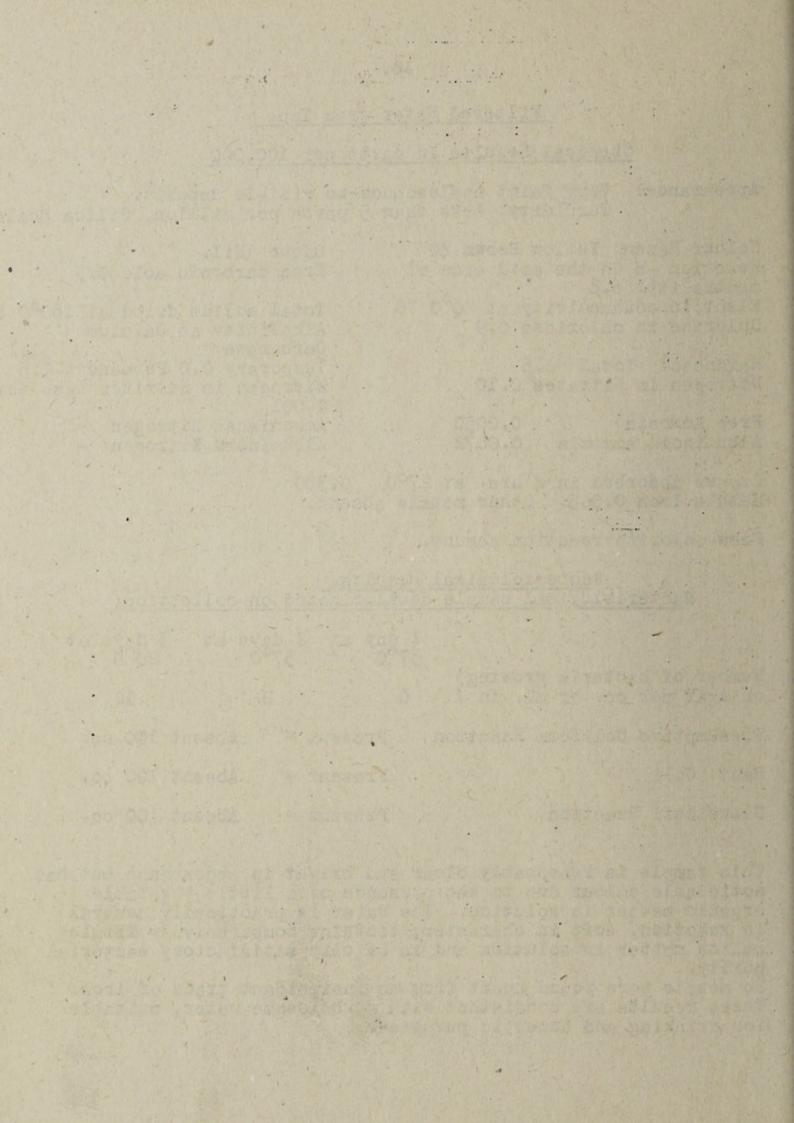
Free chlorine reaction absent.

#### Bacteriological Results. Bacteriological sample dechlorinated on collection.

	1 day at 3700	2 days 3700	at :	3 days	at
Number of bacteria growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in )	0	2		12	
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Presen	t -	Absent	100 c	c.
Bact. Coli	Presen	t -	Absent	100 0	•
Cl.welchii Reaction	Presen	t -	Absent	100 0	c.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance but has noticeable colour due to the presence of a little vegetable organic matter in solution. The water is practically neutral in reaction, soft in character, contains comparatively little saline matter in solution and is of very satisfactory bacterial purity.

No metals were found apart from an insignifant trace of iron. These results are consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



Proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains.

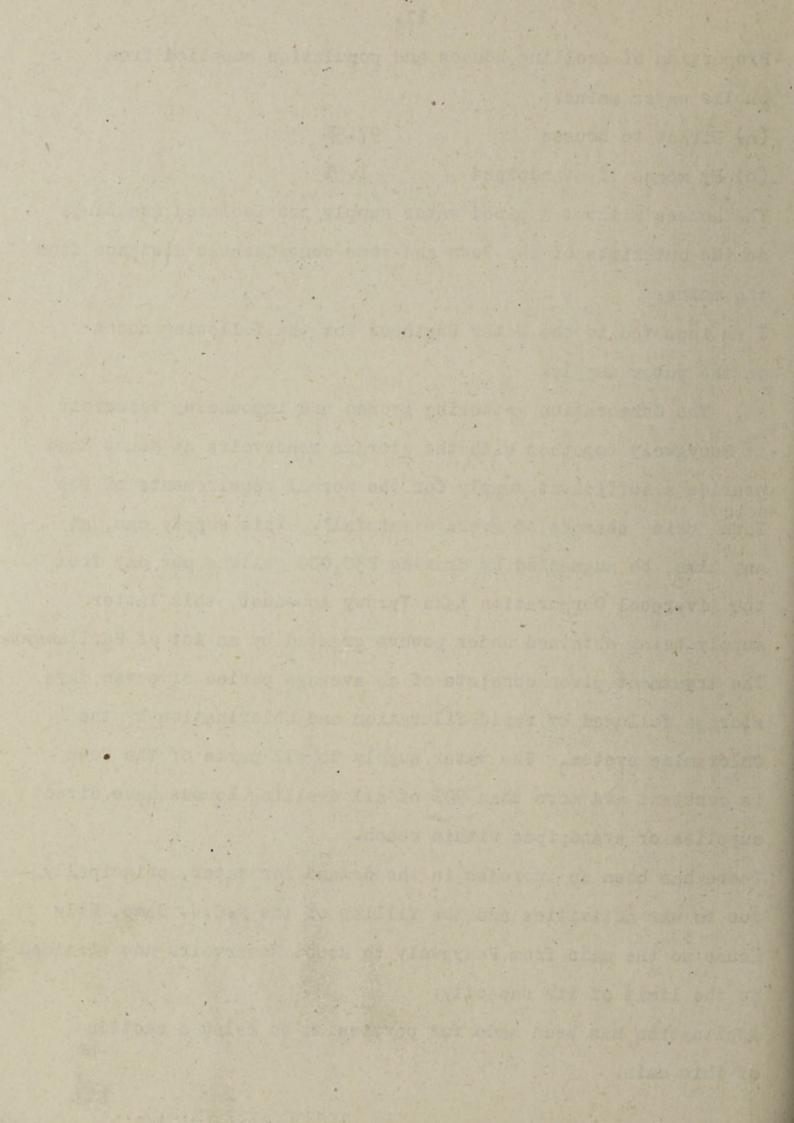
(a) Direct to houses 97.5%
(b) By means of standpipes 1.5%
The houses without a piped water supply are isolated dwellings on the outskirts of the Town and some considerable distance from the mains.

I am indebted to the Water Engineer for the following notes on the water supply.

The Corporation gathering ground and impounding reservoir at Penygwely together with the storage reservoirs at Mount Road provide a sufficient supply for the normal requirements of the Town during seasons of average rainfall. This supply can, at any time, be augmented by drawing 250,000 gallons per day from the Liverpool Corporation Lake Vyrnwy Aqueduct, this latter supply being obtained under powers granted by an Act of Parliament, The treatment given consists of an average period of seven days storage followed by rapid filtration and chlorination by the Ohloramine system. The water supply to all parts of the Town is constant and more than 99% of all dwelling houses have direct supplies or standpipes within reach.

There has been an increase in the demand for water, principally due to war activities and the filling of the P.O.W. Camp, Mile House so the main from Penygwely to Mount Reservoirs now strained to the limit of its capacity.

Application has been made for permission to relay a section of this main.



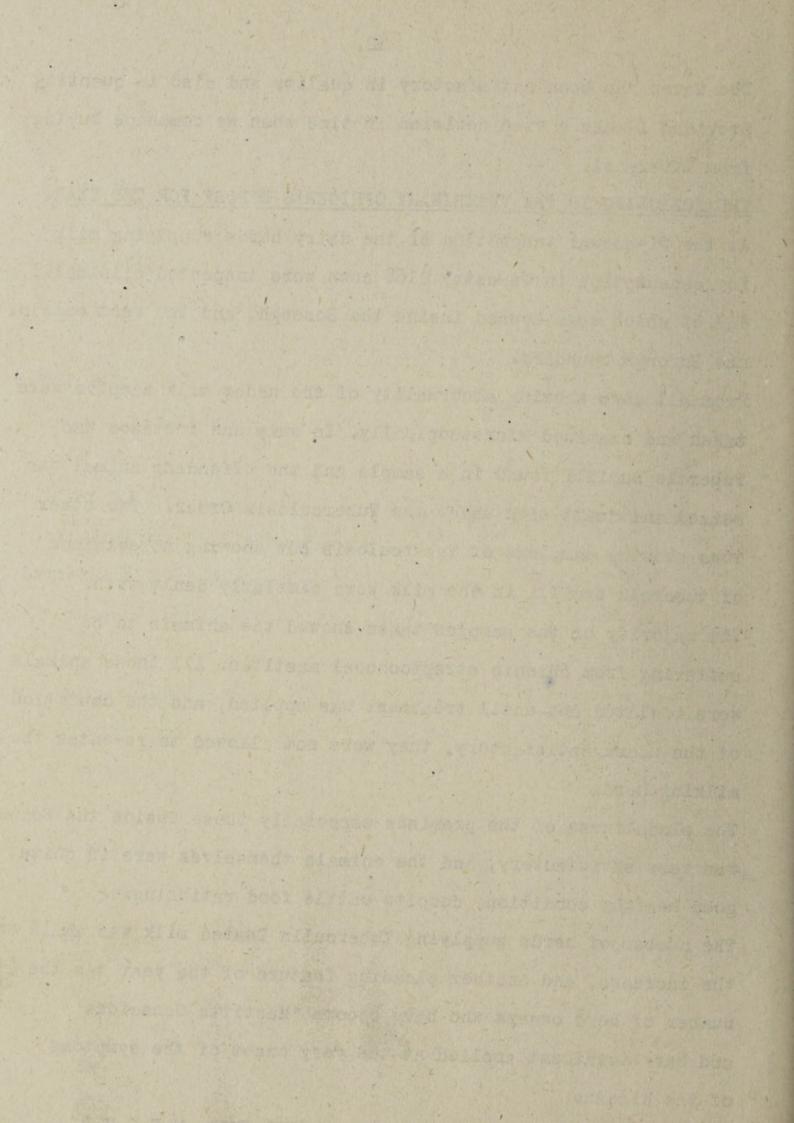
The water has been satisfactory in quality and also in quantity provided I make a wise decision in time when we commence buying from Liverpool.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE VEMERINARY OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR. At the bi-annual inspection of the dairy herds supplying milk for consumption in Oswestry 2168 cows were inspected clinically, 262 of which were housed inside the Borough, and the rest outside the Borough boundary.

From all cows showing abnormality of the udder milk samples were taken and examined microscopically. In only one instance was Tubercle Bacilli found in a sample and the offending animal was seized and dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order. Two other cows showing symptoms of Tuberculosis but showing no evidence of tubercle bacilli in the milk were similarly dealt with. The majority of the samples taken showed the animals to be suffering from chronic streptococcal mastitis. All those animals were isolated and until treatment was applied, and the condition of the udder satisfactory, they were not allowed to re-enter the milking herd.

The claanliness of the premises especially those inside the Borough was very satisfactory, and the animals themselves were in quite good healthy condition, despite cattle food rationing. The number of herds supplying Tuberculin Tested milk was again on the increase, and another pleasing feature of the year was the number of herd owners who have become "Mastitis Conscious" and have treatment applied at the very onset of the symptoms of the disease.

GEORGE WYSE, M.R.C.V.S.



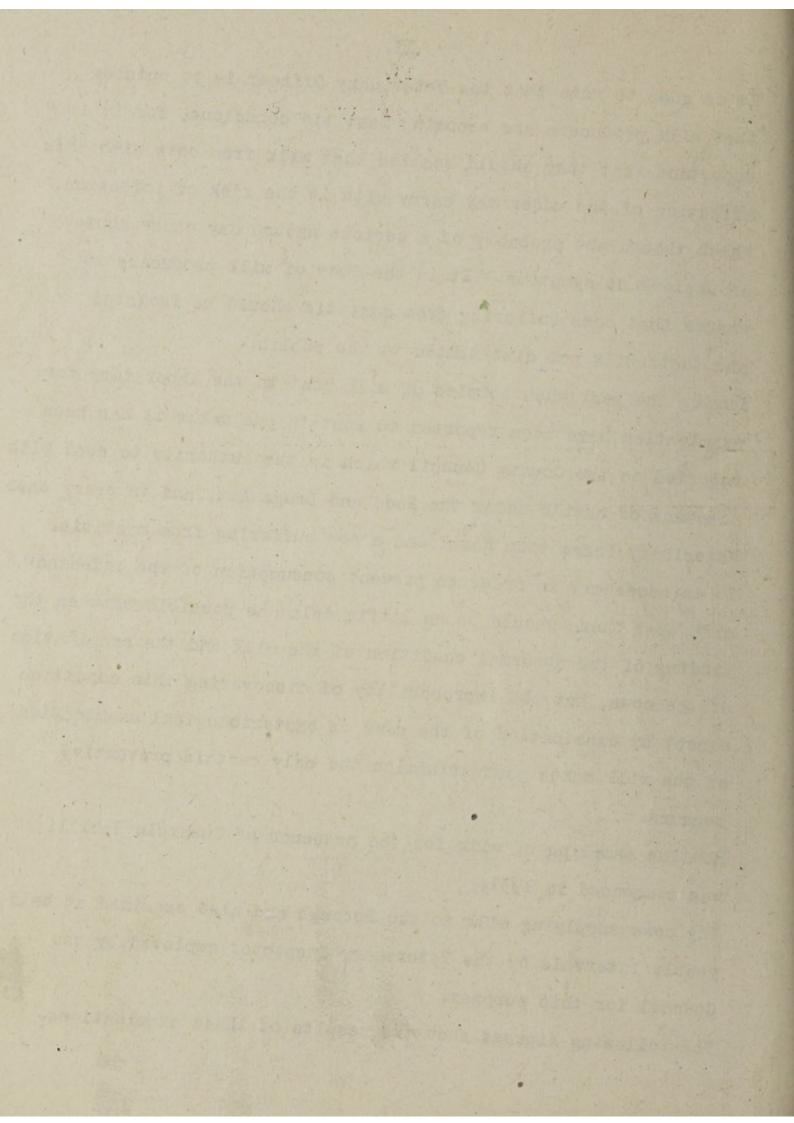
It is good to note that the Veterinary Officer is of opinion that milk producers are becoming mastitis conscious, for it is important that they should realise that milk from cows with this affection of the udder may carry with it the risk of infection, which though not probably of a serious nature may cause acute an unpleasant symptoms. It is the duty of milk producers to ensure that cows suffering from mastitis should be isolated and their milk not distributed to the public.

During the year when samples of milk sent to the laboratory for examination have been reported to contain pus cells it has been reported to the County Council which is the authority to deal with diseases of cattle under the Food and Drugs Act, and in every case Veterinary Inspection has found a cow suffering from mastitis. It is necessary in order to prevent consumption of the infected milk that there should be as little delay as possible between the finding of the abnormal condition of the milk and the examination of the cows, but the improbability of discovering this condition except by examination of the cows or bacteriological examination of the milk makes pasteurisation the only certain preventive measure.

Routine sampling of milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli was commenced in 1931.

The cows supplying milk to the Borough are also examined at half yearly intervals by the Veterinary Inspector employed by the Council for this purpose.

The following figures show the results of these examinations.



			and the second se
Year.	No. of samples taken.	No. showing Presence of Tubercle Bacilli.	No. of cows found to be Tubercular at Bi-annual Veterinary Inspection.
1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944	23 18 13 9 12 18 5 18 5 18 17 12 18 19 11	MM011000120202	311110000000
Total	193	15	27

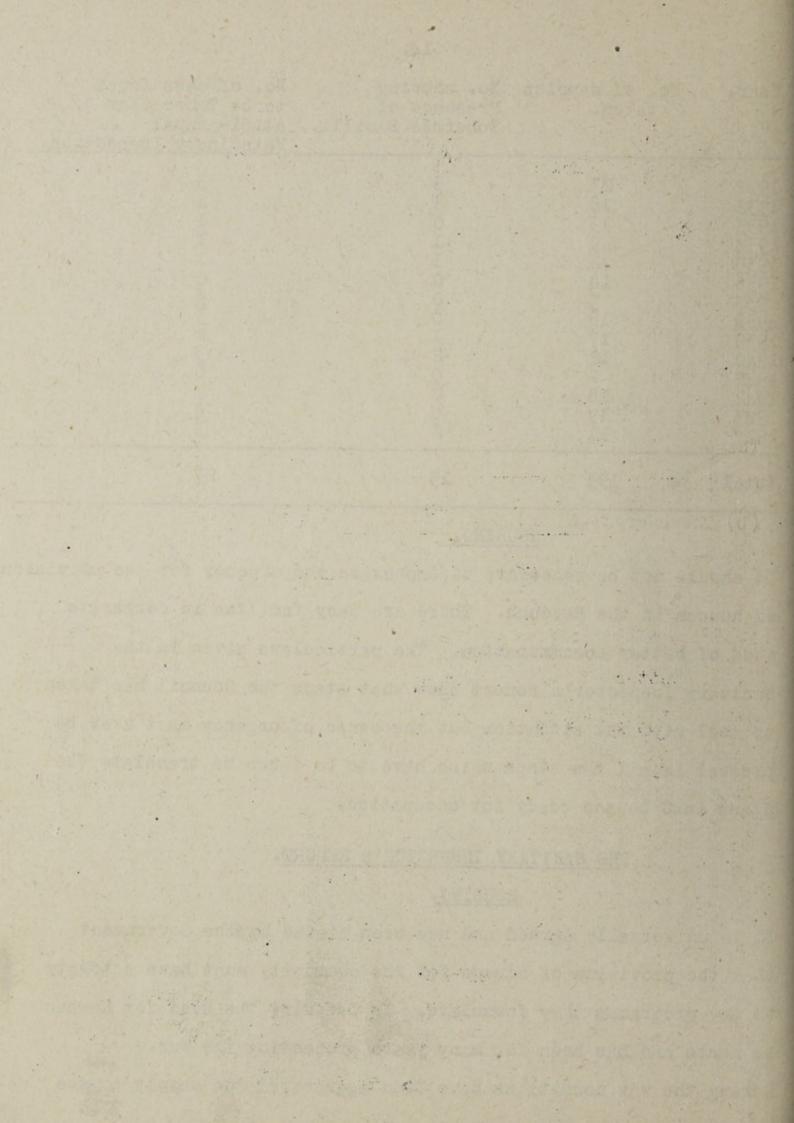
#### HOUSING.

It should not be necessary to emphasise the urgency for the provision of houses in the Borough. There are many families in desperate need of better accommodation. The particulars given in the Sanitary Inspector's report show what steps the Council has taken to deal with the situation but the sense of urgency must ever be present in all the steps which have to be taken to translate the plans into houses ready for occupation.

## THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

### HOUSING.

It is universally agreed and has been stated by the Government that the provision of houses for the community must have priority in any programme they formulate. In Oswestry the need for houses is acute and has been for many years preceeding the war. During the war conditions have been aggravated due mainly to the



fact that building ceased during the last six years, the large number of houses that must be considered for demolition and the number of people who have married during the war and require homes of their own, and the relief of overcrowding. During the ten years 1920-1929 two hundred and ninety eight houses were erected in the Borough, 144 by the Local Authority and 154 by private enterprise.

Since 1929 up to the end of 1939 the number of houses erected was three hundred and seventy seven.

These houses may be divided into three groups.

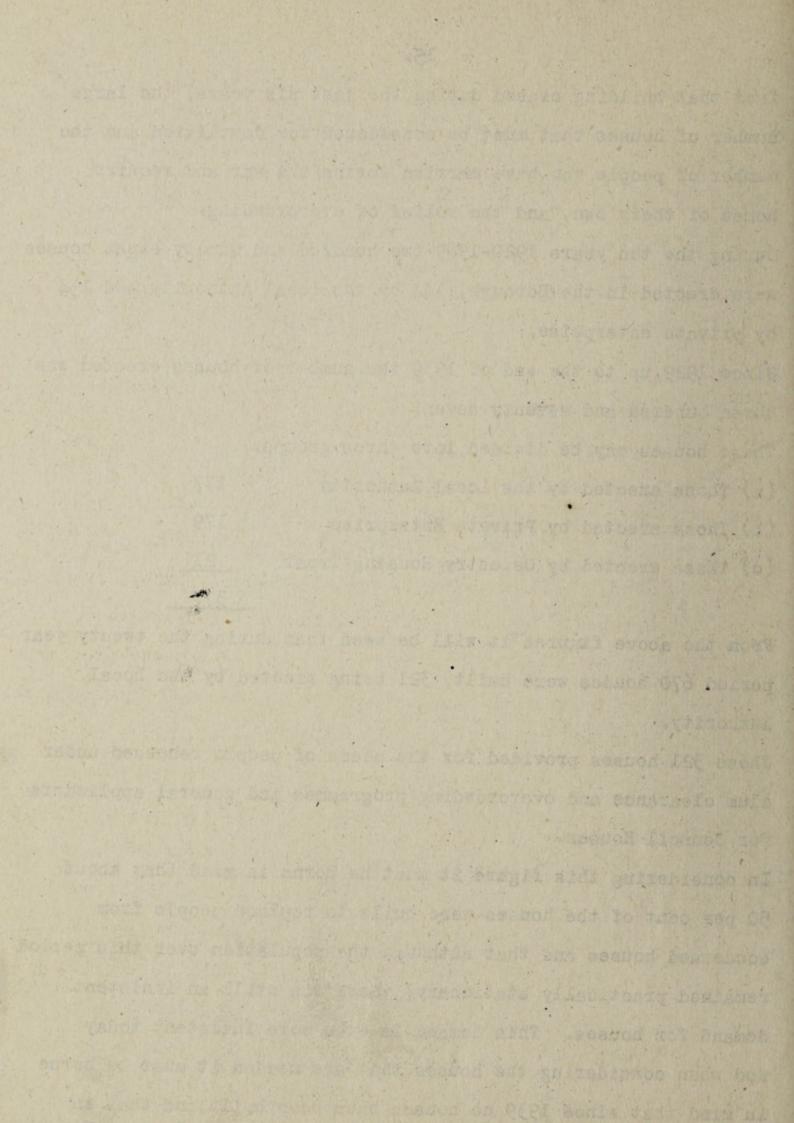
(a)	Those	erected	by	the Local Authority	177
(b)	Those	erected	by	Private Enterprise	179
(c)	Those	erected	by	Oswestry Housing Trust	_21_

From the above figures it will be seen that during the twenty year period 670 houses were built, 321 being erected by the Local Authority.

377

These 321 houses provided for the needs of people rehoused under slum clearance and overcrowding programmes and general applicants for Council Houses.

In considering this figure it must be borne in mind that about 50 per cent of the houses were built to replace people from condemned houses and that although the population over this period remained practically stationary, there was still an insistent demand for houses. This demand is even more insistent today and when considering the houses that are needed it must be borne in mind that since 1939 no houses have been built and that in



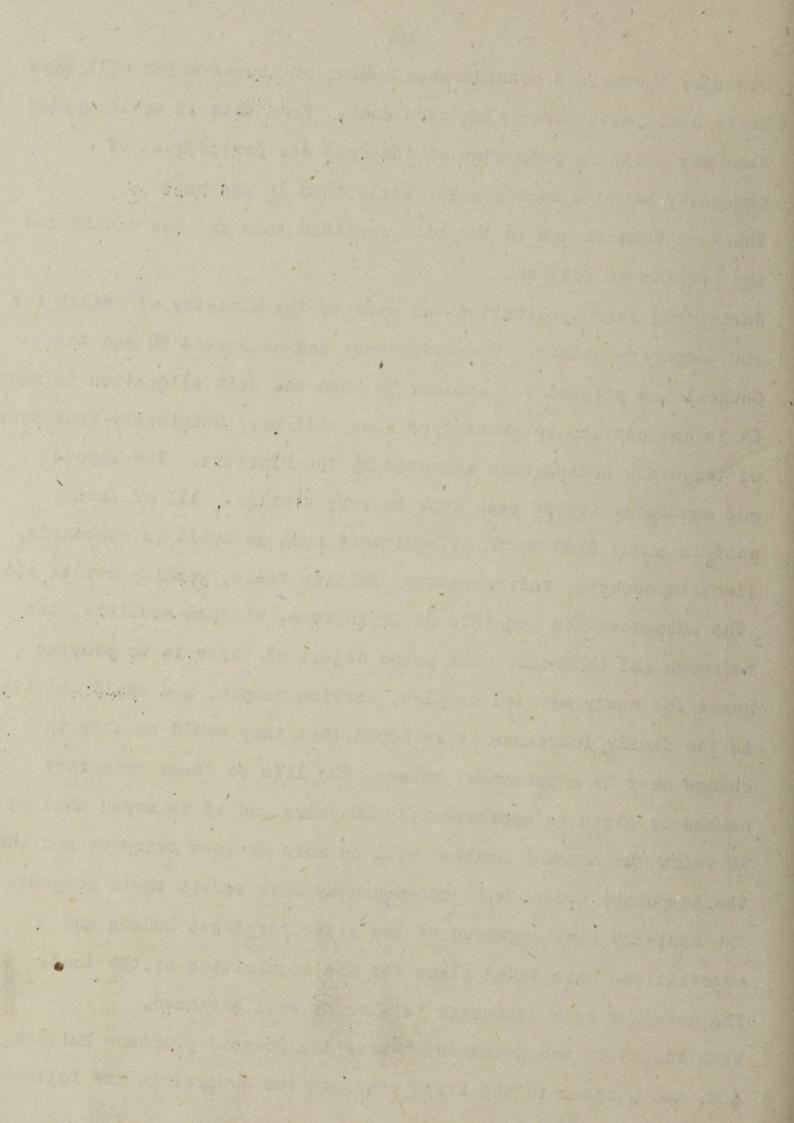
Oswestry there is a considerable number of houses which will have to be dealt with under slum clearance. From this it would appear that any building programme of the Post War period must of necessity be on a much greater scale than in the past. The Town Council has in the main realised this and has considered the problem as follows.

During the year application was made to the Ministry of Health for 100 temporary houses. The Government has allocated 50 and the Council has pressed for another 50 when the next allocation is made. It is not certain yet what type they will be. Originally four types of temporary houses were approved by the Ministry. The layout and accommodation of each type is very similar. All of them contain about £140 worth of equipment such as built in cupboards, electric cookers, refrigerators, folding table, washing boiler etc. The accommodation consists of livingroom, kitchen-scullery, two bedrooms and bathroom. The prime object of these is to provide homes for newly married couples, service people, and small families. As the family increases it is hoped that they would be able to change over to a permanent house. The life of these temporary houses is given as approximately 10 years and it is hoped that in 10 years the housing problem will be more or less overcome and that the temporary houses will consequently have served their purpose. The Ministry have approved of the sites for these houses and

negotiations have taken place for the acquisition of the land. The detailed work necessary is already well advanced.

With regard to the permanent houses the Council proposes building 400, two hundred in the first year and two hundred in the following

year.

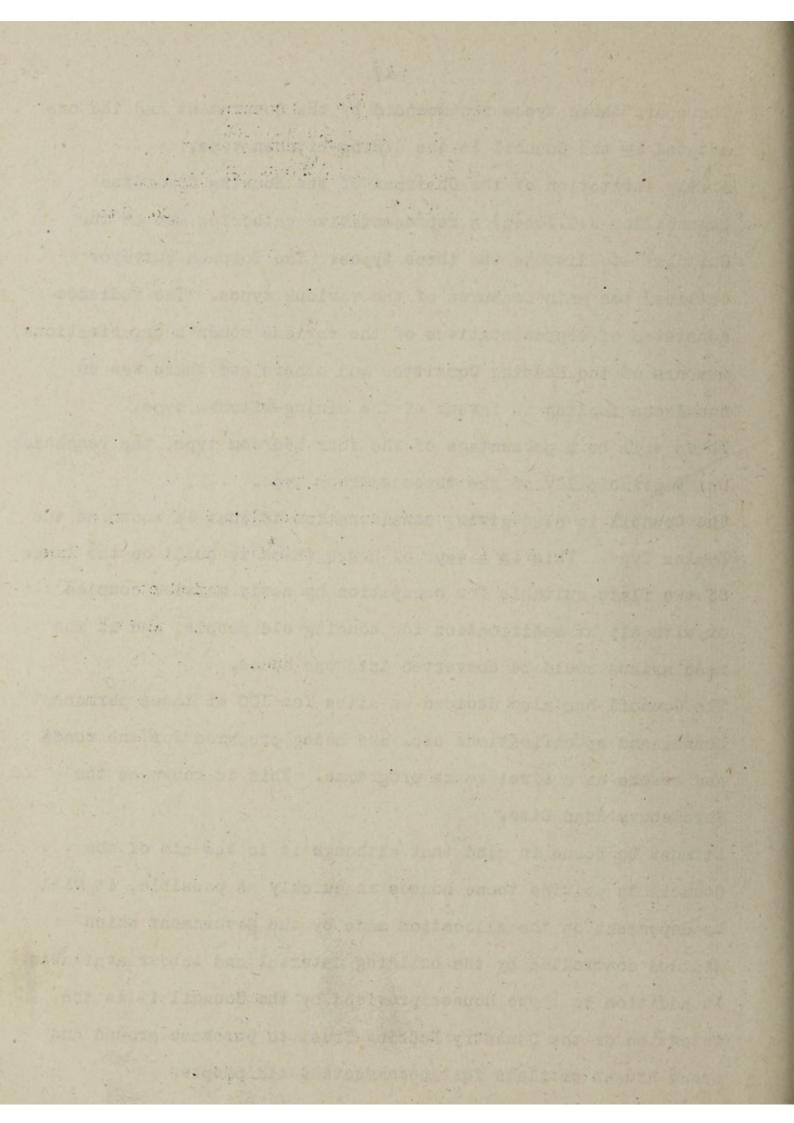


There are three types recommended by the Government and the one adopted by the Council is the dining-kitchen type. At the invitation of the Chairman of the Housing Committee (Councillor W.G.Jones) a representative gathering met at the Guildhall to discuss the three types. The Borough Surveyor outlined the main features of the various types. The audience consisted of representatives of the various women's organisations, members of the Housing Committee and others and there was an unanimous feeling in favour of the dining-kitchen type. There will be a percentage of the four bedroom type, the remainder being principally of the three bedroom type.

The Council is also giving consideration to what is known as the Duplex Type. This is a type of house which is built on the lines of two flats suitable for occupation by newly married couples or with slight modification for housing old people, and if the need arises could be converted into one house.

The Council has also decided on sites for 100 of these permanent houses and specifications etc. are being prepared for the roads and sewers as a first years programme. This is known as the Shrewsbury Road Site.

It must be borne in mind that although it is the aim of the Gouncil to provide these houses as quickly as possible, it will be dependent on the allocation made by the Government which will be controlled by the building material and labour available. In addition to these houses provided by the Council it is the intention of the Oswestry Housing Trust to purchase ground and erect houses or flats for accommodating old people.



#### OVERCROWDING.

At the present time, as it has been since the outbreak of war, it would be unreasonable to expect the stringent enforcement of the Housing Act 1936 with regard to overcrowding.

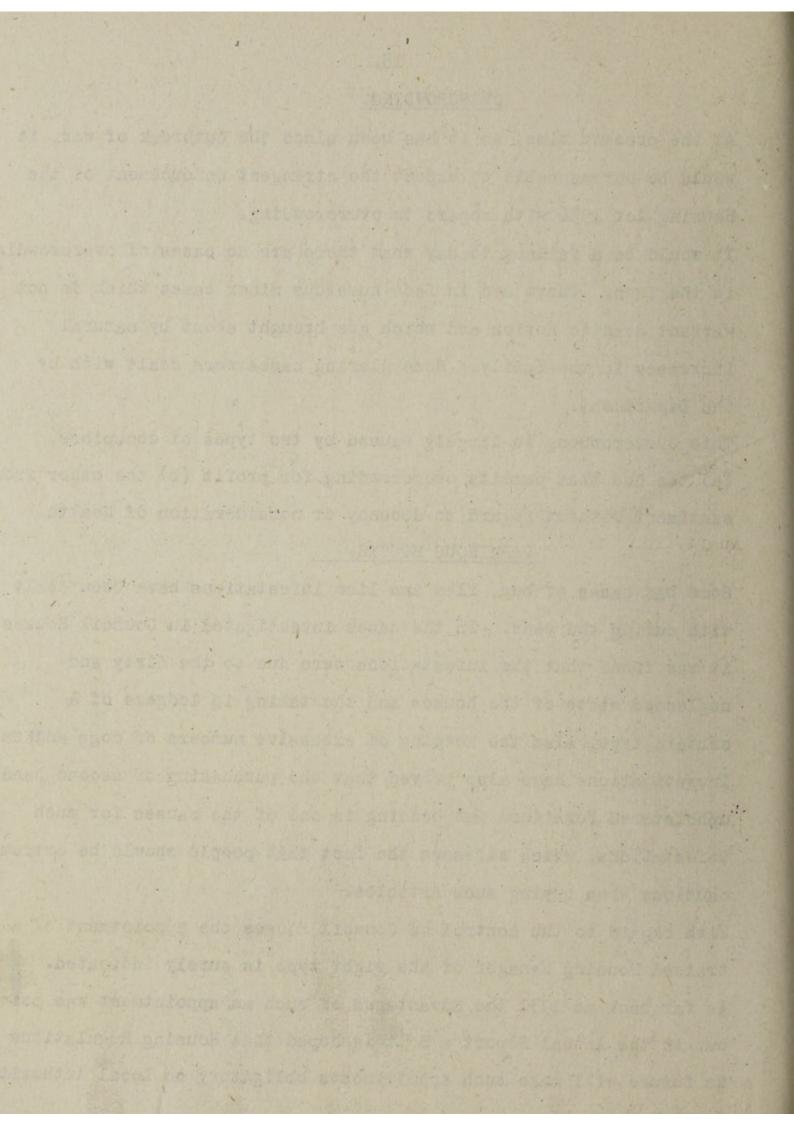
It would be a fallacy to say that there are no cases of overcrowding in the Town. There are in fact numerous minor cases which do not warrant drastic action and which are brought about by natural increases in the family. Some glaring cases were dealt with by the Department.

This overcrowding is largely caused by two types of occupiers, (a) the one that permits overcrowding for profit (b) the other from sentiment without regard to decency or consideration of health.

### VERMINOUS HOUSES.

Some bad cases of bug, flea and lice infestations have been dealt with during the year. In the cases investigated in Council Houses it was found that the infestations were due to the dirty and neglected state of the houses and the taking in lodgers of a certain type, also the keeping of excessive numbers of dogs and cats. Investigations have also proved that the purchasing of second hand upholstered furniture and bedding is one of the causes for such infestations, which stresses the fact that people should be extremely cautious when buying such articles.

With regard to the control of Council Houses the appointment of a trained Housing Manager of the right type is surely indicated. As far back as 1931 the advantages of such an appointment was pointed out in the Annual Report and it is hoped that Housing Regulations in future will make such appointments obligatory on Local Authorities.



The great advantage to both property and tenants is 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 and friendly manager. In this respect it must be regognised that there do exist problem families usually of a 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 houses and such families as those mentioned should be housed in clean reconditioned property when possible.

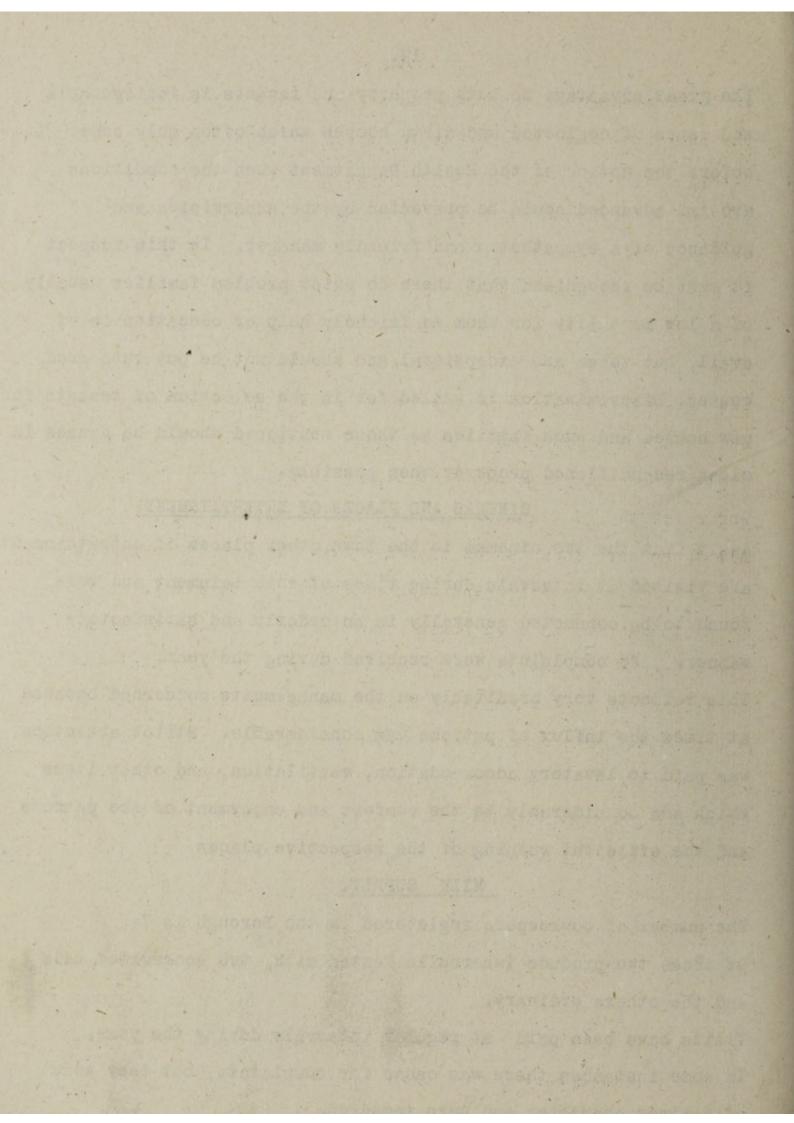
#### CINEMAS AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

Apart from the two cinemas in the Town other places of entertainment are visited at intervals during times of entertainment and were found to be conducted generally in an orderly and satisfactory manner. No complaints were received during the year. This reflects very creditably on the managements concerned because at times the influx of patrons was considerable. Strict attention was paid to lavatory accommodation, ventilation, and other items which add considerably to the comfort and enjoyment of the patrons and the efficient running of the respective places.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

The number of cowkeepers registered in the Borough is 7. Of these two produce Tuberculin Tested milk, two Accredited milk and the others ordinary.

Visits have been paid at regular intervals during the year. In some instances there was cause for complaints, but they were of a minor character and were remedied.

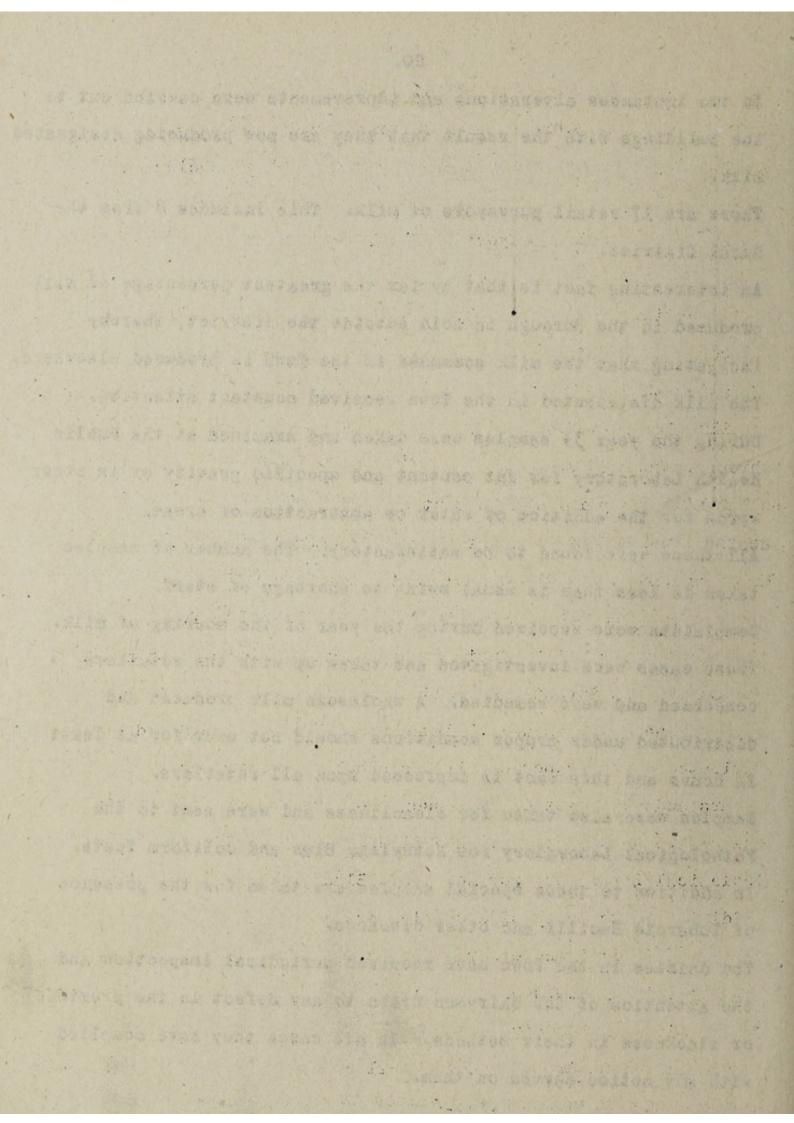


In two instances alterations and improvements were carried out to the buildings with the result that they are now producing designated milk.

There are 17 retail purveyors of milk. This includes 8 from the Rural District.

An interesting fact is that by far the greatest percentage of milk produced in the Borough is sold outside the district, thereby indicating that the milk consumed in the Town is produced elsewhere. The milk distributed in the Town received constant attention. During the year 33 samples were taken and examined at the Public Health Laboratory for fat content and specific gravity or in other words for the addition of water or abstraction of cream. All these were found to be satisfactory. The number of samples taken is less than is usual owing to shortage of staff. Complaints were received during the year of the souring of milk. These cases were investigated and taken up with the retailers concerned and were remedied. A wholesome milk produced and distributed under proper conditions should not sour for at least 24 hours and this fact is impressed upon all retailers. Samples were also taken for cleanliness and were sent to the Pathological Laboratory for Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests. In addition to these special samples are taken for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and other diseases.

The dairies in the Town have received periodical inspection and the attention of the dairymen drawn to any defect in the premises or slackness in their methods. In all cases they have complied with any notice served on them.



### 21.

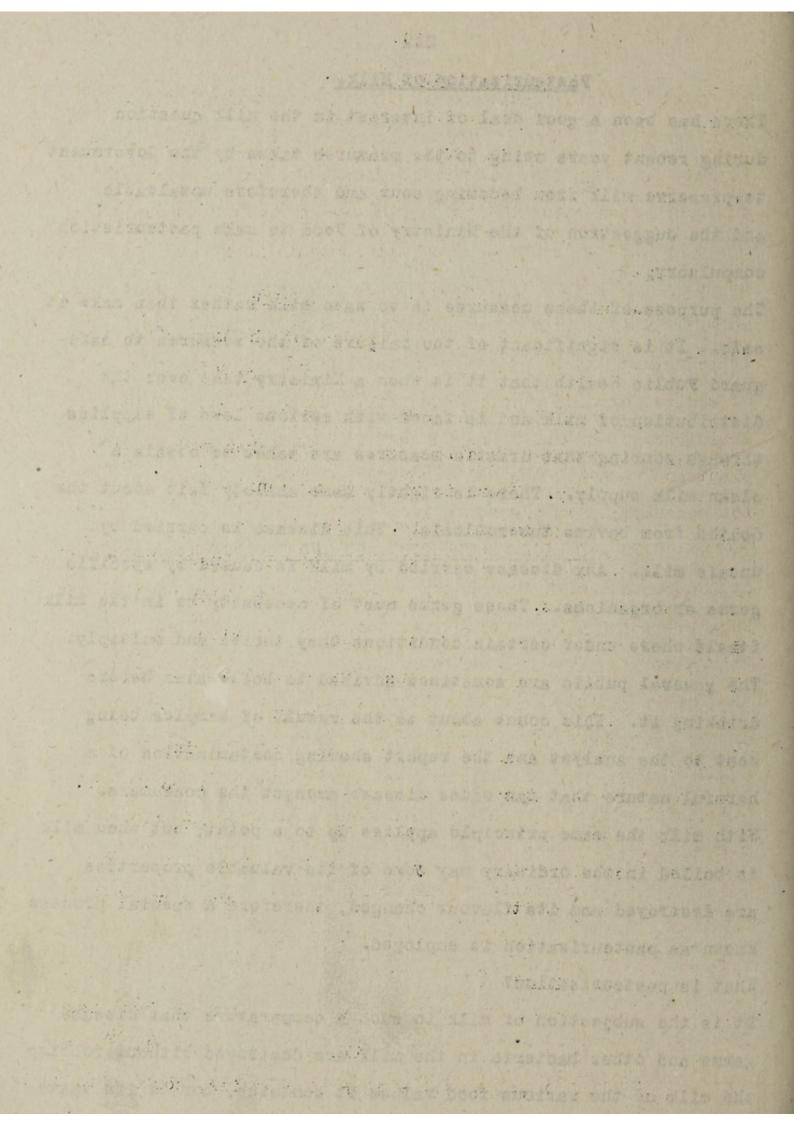
# Pasteurisation of Milk.

There has been a good deal of interest in the milk question during recent years owing to the measures taken by the Government to preserve milk from becoming sour and therefore unsaleable and the suggestion of the Ministry of Food to make pasteuristion compulsory.

The purpose of these measures is to save milk rather than make it safe. It is significant of the failure of the measures to safeguard 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. There is rightly some anxiety felt about the deaths from bovine tuberculosis. This disease is carried by unsafe milk. Any disease carried by milk is caused by specific germs or organisms. These germs must of necessity be in the milk itself where under certain conditions they thrive and multiply. The general public are sometimes advised to boil water before drinking it. This comes about as the result of samples being sent to the analyst and the report showing contamination of a harmful nature that can cause disease amongst the consumers. With milk the same principle applies up to a point, but when milk is boiled in the ordinary way some of its valuable properties are destroyed and its flavour changed, therefore a special process known as pasteurisation is employed.

# What is pasteurisation?

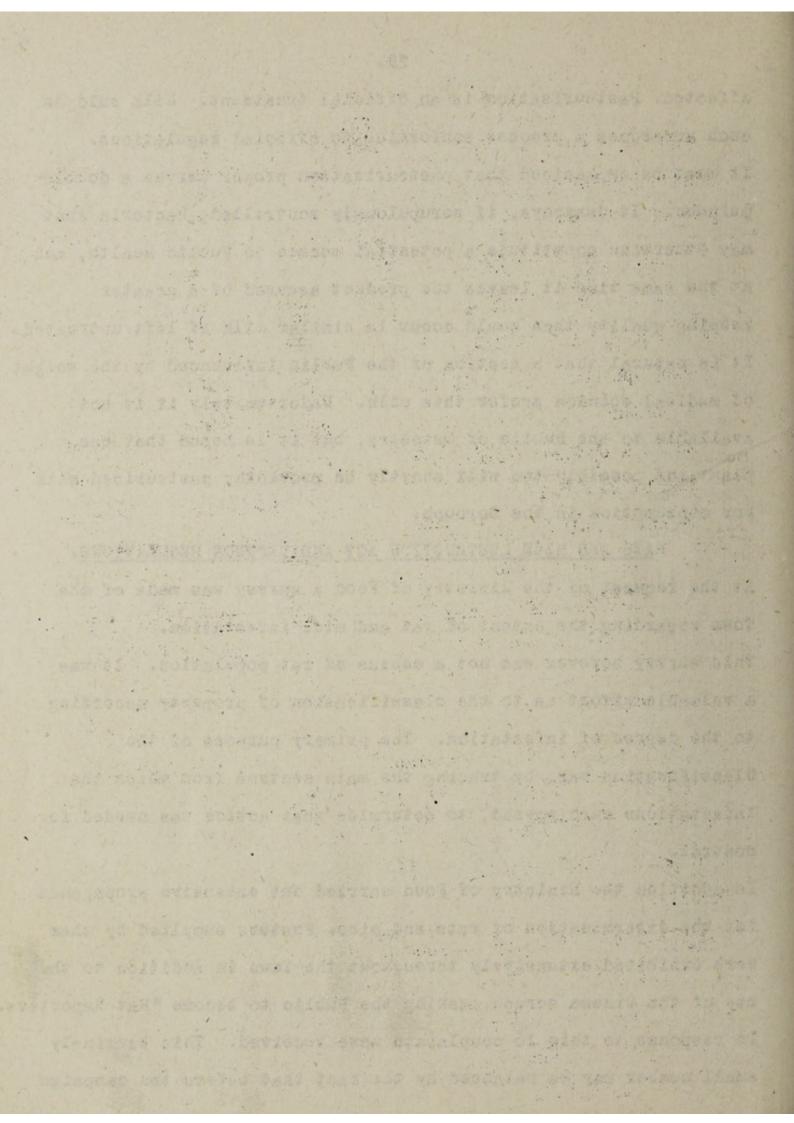
It is the subjection of milk to such a temperature that disease germs and other bacteria in the milk are destroyed without robbing the milk of the various food values it contains, nor is its taste



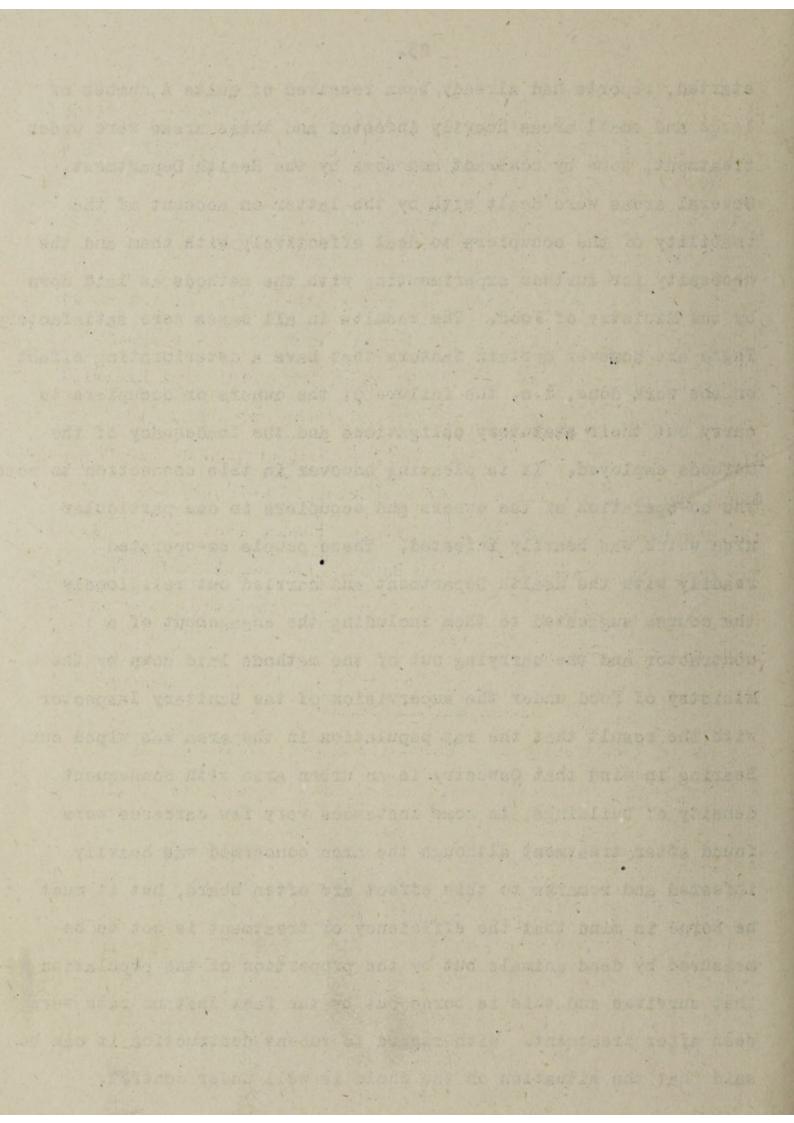
affected. Pasteurisation is an official treatment. Milk sold as such undergoes a process conforming to official regulations. It must be emphasised that pasteurisation proper serves a double purpose. It destroys, if scrupulously controlled, bacteria that may otherwise constitute a potential menace to Public Health, and at the same time it leaves the product assured of a greater keeping quality than would occur in similar milk if left untreated. It is natural that a section of the Public influenced by the weight of medical opinion prefer this milk. Unfortunately it is not available to the Public of Oswestry, but it is hoped that one plant and possibly two will shortly be providing pasteurised milk for consumption in the Borough.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT AND DEFENCE REGULATIONS. At the request of the Ministry of Food a survey was made of the Town regarding the extent of rat and mice infestation. This survey however was not a census of rat population. It was a valuable effort as to the classification of property according to the degree of infestation. The primary purpose of the Olassification was, by tracing the main centres from which the infestations were spread, to determine what action was needed for control.

In addition the Ministry of Food carried out extensive propaganda for the extermination of rats and mice. Posters supplied by them were exhibited extensively throughout the Town in addition to the use of the Cinema screen, asking the Public to become "Rat Reporters." In response to this 16 complaints were received. This seemingly small number may be balanced by the fact that before the campaign



started, reports had already been received of quite a number of large and small areas heavily infested and these areas were under treatment, some by contract and some by the Health Department. Several areas were dealt with by the latter on account of the inability of the occupiers to deal effectively with them and the necessity for further experimenting with the methods as laid down by the Ministry of Food. The results in all cases were satisfactory. There are however certain factors that have a deteriorating effect on the work done, i.e. the failure of the owners or occupiers to carry out their statutory obligations and the inadequacy of the methods employed. It is pleasing however in this connection to note the co-operation of the owners and occupiers in one particular area which was heavily infested. These people co-operated readily with the Health Department and carried out religiously the course suggested to them including the engagement of a contractor and the carrying out of the methods laid down by the Ministry of Food under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector with the result that the rat population in the area was wiped out. Bearing in mind that OsWestry is an urban area with consequent density of buildings, in some instances very few carcases were found after treatment although the area concerned was heavily infested and remarks to this effect are often heard, but it must be borne in mind that the efficiency of treatment is not to be measured by dead animals but by the proportion of the population that survives and this is borne out by the fact that no rats were seen after treatment. With regard to rodent destruction it can be said that the situation on the whole is well under control.



The size of the rat population in the Town as measured by figures is of limited interest however, the main thing is to kill all the rats - and it can be done.

FOODS.

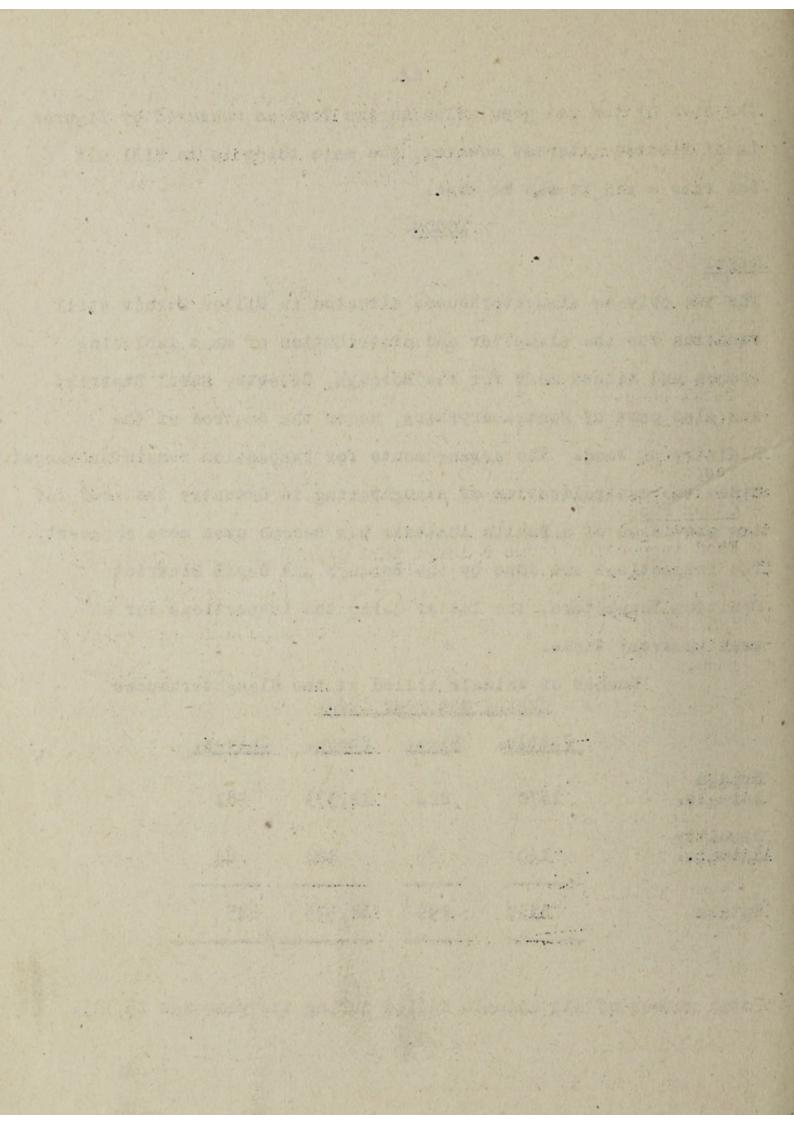
## Meat.

The two private slaughterhouses situated in Willow Street still function for the slaughter and distribution of meat including frozen and tinned meat for the Borough, Oswestry Rural District and also part of Montgomeryshire, under the control of the Ministry of Food. The arrangements for inspection remain unchanged. Since the centralisation of slaughtering in Oswestry the need for the provision of a Public Abattoir has become even more apparent. The inspections are done by the Borough and Rural District Sanitary Inspectors, the latter doing the inspections for one week in every three.

8

•	Number of animals killed at the Slaughterhous during the year 1944.					
	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Calves.		
Graded Animals.	1670	224	12,373	581		
Casualty Animals.	140	75	202	. 64		
Totals	1810	299	12,575	645		
1						

Total number of all animals killed during the year was 15,329.

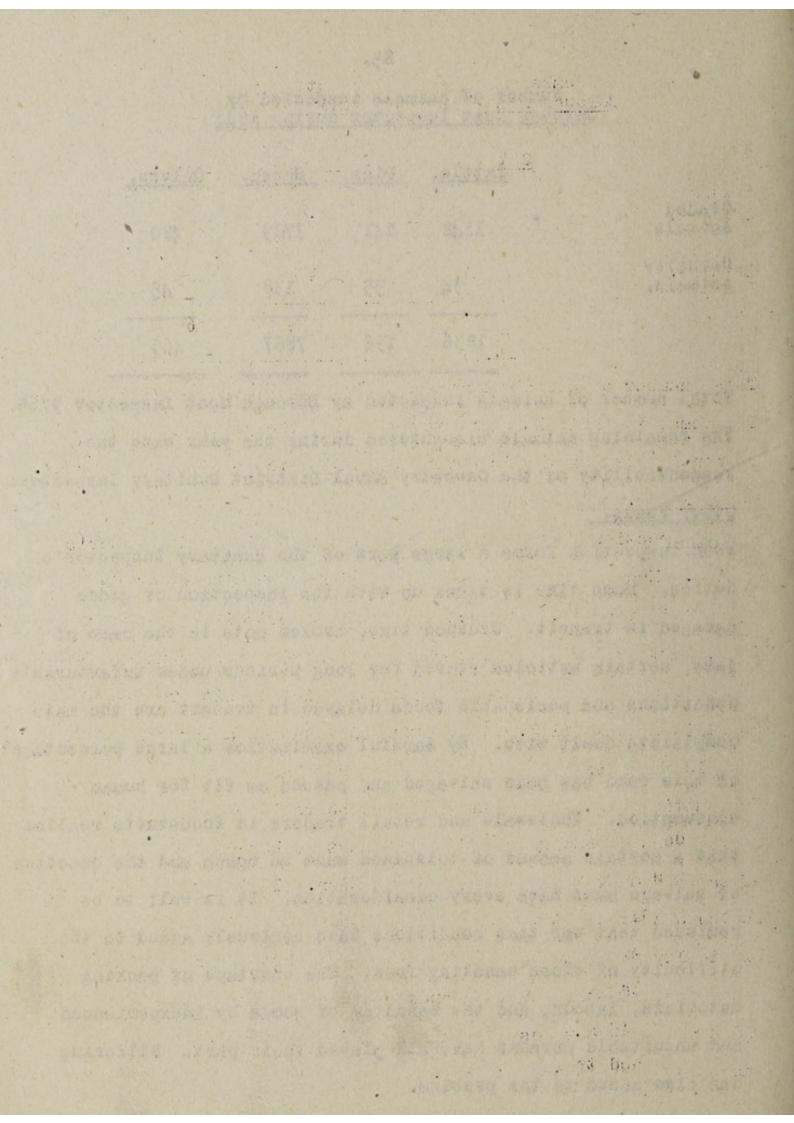


Number of animals inspected by Borough Meat Inspector during 1944

· · ·	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Calves.
Graded Animals.	1142	141	7729	420 /
Casualty Animals.	94	55	138	45
-	1236	196	7867	465

Total number of animals inspected by Borough Meat Inspector 9765. The remaining animals slaughtered during the year were the responsibility of the Oswestry Rural District Sanitary Inspector. Other Foods.

Food inspection forms a large part of the Sanitary Inspector's duties. Much time is taken up with the inspection of goods damaged in transit. Crushed tins, broken pots in the case of jams, certain articles stored for long periods under unfavourable conditions and perishable foods delayed in transit are the main complaints dealt with. By careful examination a large percentage of this food has been salvaged and passed as fit for human consumption. Wholesale and retail traders in foodstuffs realise that a certain amount of tolerance must be borne and the question of salvage must have every consideration. It is well to be reminded that war time conditions have seriously added to the difficulty of those handling food. The shortage of packing materials, labour, and the handling of goods by inexperienced and unsuitable persons have all played their part. Pilfering has also added to the problem.



The produce market has also received close attention, inspections being made on each day of opening. Below are some of the articles of food condemned during the year. 65 tins of soup and vegetables; 105 tins of meat; 234 tins of milk; 79 tins fish; 81 packets biscuits and cereals; 207 tins cake and pudding mixtures; 116 tins sauce; 73 lbs. sweets; 4 boxes fresh herrings; 70 lb. cod; 13 bottles bovril; 5 lbs. custard powder; 42 packets custard powder; 3t lbs. tea; 8 lbs. raisins; 228 lb. marmalade\*; 164 lb. jam\*.

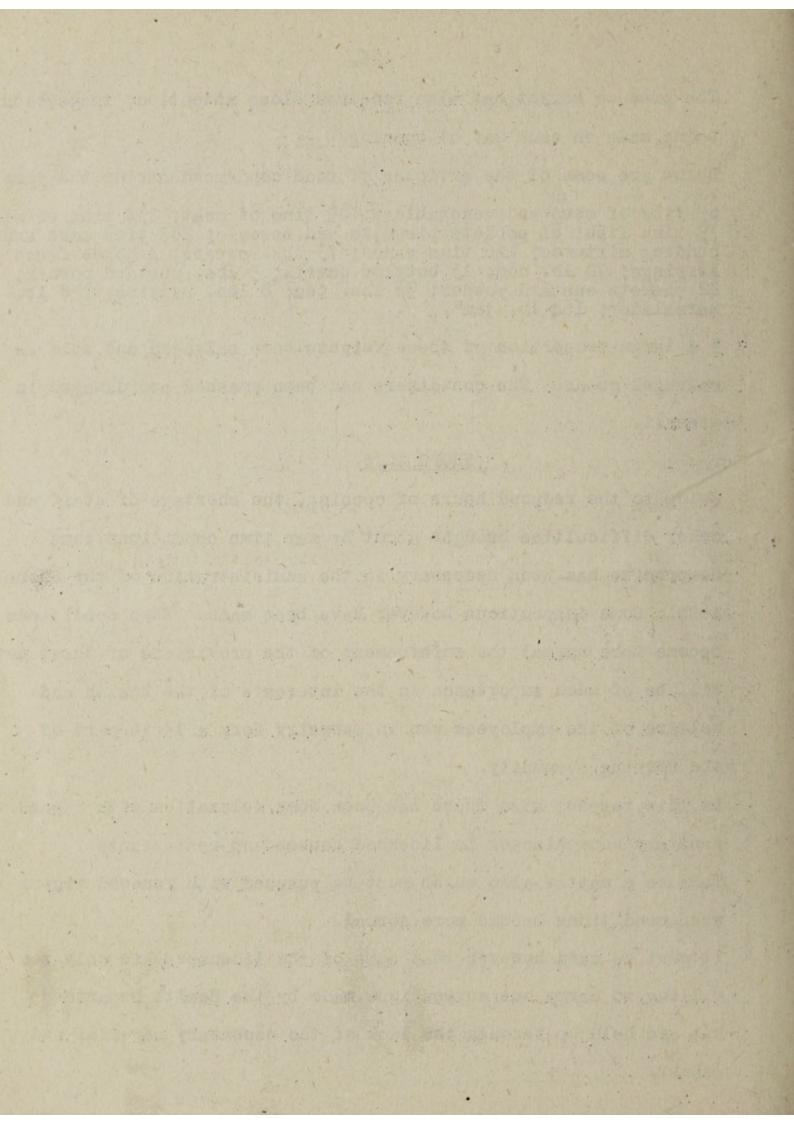
\* A large proportion of these weights were salvaged and sold ab salvaged goods. The containers had been smashed and damaged in transit.

## SHOPS ACTS.

Owing to the reduced hours of opening, the shortage of staff and other difficulties brought about by war time conditions some compromise has been necessary in the administration of the Shops Acts. Some inspections however have been made. When conditions become more normal the enforcement of the provisions of these Auts will be of much importance in the interests of the health and welfare of the employees who in Oswestry form a large part of the working community.

In this respect also there has been some relaxation with regard to sanitary conveniences in licensed houses and restaurants. This is a matter also which must be pursued with renewed vigour when conditions become more normal.

It must be said however that some of the licensees are only too willing to carry out suggestions made by the Health Department but are held up through the lack of the necessary material and labour.



### DISINFECTION.

### VERMINOUS HOUSES AND PERSONS.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT. DEFENCE REGULATIONS.

## NUISANCES.

All received the satisfactory attention of the persons concerned.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

