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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

NORTH-WEST SHROPSHIRE HEALTH DISTRICTS.

With the Compliments of
The Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
6, SALOP ROAD,
OSWESTRY.

TELEPHONE 388

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BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY.

Mayor: Councillor H.E.Pritchard.

Chairman of the Health Committee: Councillor Emily Rogers.

Members of the Health Committee: The Mayor; Aldermen Byrne and Stone; Councillors Bowcock; Edwards; Hundley; T. Jones; W.G.Jones; Morley; Woodhead.

Health Department,
6, Salop Road,
Oswestry.

September 1947.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1946. The Minister of Health has directed that the report should be prepared on the lines of that for 1945, so much of the detail contained in reports before the war is omitted.

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

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	Cert.R.S.I.,C.M.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector.	Whole.
J.M.Roberts		Clerk.	Whole.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough	2,180 acres.
Population Figure given by Registrar	10,950
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	2,982
Rateable Value	£78,562
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£314

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births	Legitimate	83	90	173
	Illegitimate	14	8	22
		97	98	195

Birth Rate per 1000 population (Civilian)		17.8
Birth Rate per 1000 population (Civilian)	Oswestry R.D.	18.0
Birth Rate per 1000 population (Civilian)	England & Wales	19.1

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths	60	70	130

Death Rate per 1000 population (Civilian)		11.9
Death Rate per 1000 population (Civilian)	Oswestry R.D.	11.8
Death Rate per 1000 population (Civilian)	England & Wales	11.5

		Male.	Female.	Total
Still Births	Legitimate	5	2	7
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		5	2	7

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population (Civilian) .64
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population (Civilian) Oswestry R.D. .59
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales .53

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	7	4	11

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births 56
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age Oswestry R.D. 36
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age England and Wales 43

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT MORTALITY.

0-1day.	2-6days.	1 mth.	3 mths.	4mths.	6mths.	10mths.	11mths.
2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1

NEO-MORTALITY RATE 1936-1946.

Year.	Number of deaths of infants under 1 month.	Rate per 1000 births.
1936	1	7
1937	5	34
1938	6	44
1939	5	35
1940	4	21
1941	5	25
1942	6	32
1943	4	30
1944	9	43
1945	2	11
1946	5	26

Number of women dying in consequence of childbirth
From Sepsis Nil.
From other causes Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 births Nil.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths from Measles (Allages)	-	-	-
Death from Whooping Cough (All ages)	1	-	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea(Under 2 yrs. of age)	2	1	3

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total.
Heart Disease	21	23	44
Other diseases of Circulatory System	1	3	4
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	9	9	18
Cancer	9	8	17
Nephritis	3	3	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	1	3
Congenital Malformations; birth injuries; infant diseases	1	2	3
Premature Birth	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodemum	1	1	2
Other digestive Diseases	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Violent causes	2	2	4
All other causes	4	10	14
	60	70	130

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES.

Aged.	M.	F.	Total.
Under 1 year.	7	4	11
1-5 years.	1	-	1
5-10 years.	-	-	-
10-15 years.	-	-	-
15-20 years.	-	-	-
20-25 years.	-	1	1
25-30 years.	-	1	1
30-35 years.	1	1	2
35-40 years.	-	-	-
40-45 years.	1	1	2
45-50 years.	4	2	6
50-55 years.	3	4	7
55-60 years.	9	1	10
60-65 years.	4	4	8
65-70 years.	7	8	15
70-75 years.	8	14	22
75-80 years.	6	10	16
Over 80 years.	9	18	27
Total	60	69	129

CANCER.

Part Affected.	All ages.		Ages. 0-30		30-40		40-50		50-60		60-65		65-70		70-75		75-80		80 & Over.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Buccal Cavity & Pharynx	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Digestive Organs and peritoneum.	6	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	1
Respiratory Organs	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uterus	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other or unspecified organs	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9	8	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	3	4	3	-	-	-	-	1

Cancer rate per 1000 population Oswestry Borough 1946 1.6
Cancer rate per 1000 population England and Wales 1945 1.9

The estimated population shows an increase of 200, and with 195 births and 130 deaths there was a natural increase in the population of 65. On the whole the statistics as far as they can be taken as an indication of the state of health of the Borough are favourable. There were 22 more births and 12 fewer deaths than last year. There were three deaths from diarrhoea in children under 2 years. This is the same number as last year and although the figures are small they are significant in that for years we have had no deaths due to this cause, and it is in keeping with the general tendancy indicated in recent years for an increase in cases of illnesses of which the cause is probably food infection. The scrupulous cleanliness in the handling and storage of food necessary to maintain a high standard of purity and wholesomeness is not sufficiently appreciated, nor are flies properly recognised for the dangerous carriers of disease that they are. The prevalence of these pests about food is evidence of uncleanliness and lack of care, whether it is in the restaurant, shop or home, modern knowledge and methods make their eradication a comparatively easy one. Times are difficult, insufficient and untrained staff, shortage of cleansing material such as soap, the effect of fuel restrictions on maintaining a good hot water supply may be contributory causes but it behoves all those in charge of the preparation and storage of food and the housewife to ensure that every possible precaution is taken to prevent contamination of the food either by the human handlers or the maurauding insect. The public should demand clean and wholesome food. The long and continued shortages and the difficulty in obtaining the food they

want may have tended to make the vendors careless and casual, and the purchaser less particular than she should be. Clean conditions of storage, cleanliness of the place of preparation, cleanliness of the utensils, cleanliness of the persons handling the food, and most important of all the frequent and thorough washing of the hands must be insisted upon if risks from dangerous diseases are to be avoided. In some parts of the Country investigations in kitchens and places where foods are prepared show that appreciation of the importance of these things is lacking and increased supervision by the Health Authorities is needed to maintain a standard of safety for the public. There was a marked decrease of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis, 3 in 1946, 8 in 1945. The number of deaths from Cancer showed a slight decrease. For the third consecutive year there were no deaths of mothers as a result of childbirth. The only figures which compare unfavourably with last year are those for infant mortality. Last year the figures were below the average, this year they are rather above. Five of the eleven infants died within a week of birth, four of them were born in hospital. The most frequent cause of death in the early weeks of life is prematurity and to reduce the mortality in these infants great care in handling is necessary and special precautions against infection is essential. Where the proper facilities and nursing technique are available hospital is the best place for these cases, but if there is any prospect of overcrowding and insufficient air space they probably do better at home.

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

Ages.	Scarlet Fever.		Measles.		Pneumonia.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.		Erysipelas.		Cerebro-Spinal Fever.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Enteric Fever.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1-	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3-	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5-	1	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
10-	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15-	–	–	–	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25-	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–
45-	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	1
65 & over.	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	1	3	–	3	4	4	–	1	–	2	–	1	–	3	–	1

Ages.	Poliomyelitis.		Whooping Cough.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	–	–	3	–
1-	–	–	6	3
3-	1	–	2	1
5-	–	–	4	6
10-	–	–	–	–
15-	–	–	–	–
25-	–	–	–	–
45-	–	–	–	–
65 & Over.	–	–	–	–
Total	1	–	15	10

INFECTIOUS DISEASE WAS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS FOLLOWS.

	Jann	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet Fever.	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	4
Measles	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	3
Pneumonia	3	3	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Cerebrospinal Fever	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	3
Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Enteric Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Whooping Cough	–	–	–	–	2	1	4	4	3	5	4	2	25
Total	6	3	1	–	4	4	6	6	4	5	5	5	49

	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	2	Nil
Cerebrospinal Fever	1	Nil
Measles	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil
Pneumonia	1	2
Poliomyelitis	-	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-
Enteric Fever	1	Nil
Erysipelas	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	1*

*This one death was included in the Registrar's return and was not a notified case.

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA 1937-1946.

Year.	Age in years.																				Total.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20-	
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
1943	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1944	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1945	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1946	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were few cases of Infectioud Disease during the year, four cases of Scarlet Fever compared with 55 the previous year and other diseases showed a reduction, except Whooping Cough of which there were 25 cases distributed throughout the last seven months of the year with one death. There was again no case of Diphtheria. There was one case of Typhoid Fever infected in Aberystwyth at the time of the outbreak of the disease there during the Summer caused by consumption of ice cream. Two other families who had

stayed in houses where cases had occurred and also a certain number of persons who were known to have eaten ice cream from the vendor whose ice cream was suspected as being the source of infection were kept under observation. No further cases occurred and the patient made a good recovery.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The figures for immunisation against Diphtheria are about the same as last year. The percentage of children between 5 years and 15 years is very high, and though that for the children under 5 years is considerably less it is slightly higher than the average for the County. All the various means of bringing the information about the necessity for protection of young children against this serious disease, and the means by which parents could have their children immunised were used and there can be very few, if any, parents not aware of the need or the means of taking this safe and simple precaution to save their children from this easily preventable disease. Those parents who do not like their little ones taken to a crowded clinic or school can have them done by their own doctors, so every facility is offered to them.

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

Under 5 years of age.

No. of children who received immunising injections January 1st to December 31st, 1946.	116.
Percentage of child population under 5 years of age considered immunised at December 31st, 1946.	53%

5-15 years of age.

No. of children who received immunising injections January 1st to December 31st, 1946. 57.

Percentage of child population 5-15 years of age considered immunised at December 31st, 1946. 96%

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 obtainable from the Health Offices, 6, Salop Road, Oswestry 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. to 2p.m. Women 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

SCABIES.

During the year 20 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department. These cases occurred in 12 families as follows:-

8 families with one case in each family.
2 families with two cases in each family.
1 family with three cases.
1 family with five cases.

Benzyl Benzoate lotion with instructions in the method of carrying out the treatment was supplied to those not having treatment. There were a few more cases of Scabies than last

year but the measures taken effectively prevented the spread of the disease where it did occur.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

New Cases	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Civilian Cases	3	1	3	2	6	3
Service Cases	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	1	3	2	6	3
Transfers	2	2	-	-	2	2

	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Deaths	1	4	-	-	1	4
Admitted to Sanatorium	3	1	-	-	3	1

The number of cases on the Register at the end of 1946 was:-

Males.		Females.		Total.
Respiratory.	Non-respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-respiratory.	
44	21	25	22	112

There was a considerably reduction in the number of new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis, slightly less than a third of last years figures. There were markedly fewer deaths among the men.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water has been satisfactory in quality except for the presence of lead which has been found in small quantities in samples after the water had been standing in the pipes for some hours, and, with the additional supply provided by the Liverpool Corporation, in quantity.

To obviate this plumbo-solvency permission has been received

Sample T/NW/74 continued.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, and has faint colour. It is acid in reaction, soft in character, deficient in alkalinity and a corrosive tendency towards metals would be anticipated. The water contains comparatively little saline matter in solution, is of passable organic quality and of satisfactory bacterial purity.
These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Sample of water taken from tap after standing in lead service pipe for 24 hours 19.3.45. T/NW/75.

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	4	2

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	-	Absent 100 cc.
Bact. Coli	Present	-	Absent 100 cc.
C. Welchii Reaction	Present	-	Absent 100 cc.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and has faint colour. The water is acid in reaction, soft in character and contains comparatively little saline matter in solution.
It is of passable organic quality, satisfactory bacterial purity and in these respects is considered wholesome in character.
The water is, however, unwholesome and unsuitable for drinking purposes on account of the presence of lead.

Sample of water from Reservoir taken 6.11.45. U/ET/73

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
	4	90	450

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present 20cc	Absent 10 cc.
Bact. Coli Type I	Present 20cc	Absent 10 cc.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present 100cc	Absent 10 cc.

This sample has faint opalescence and slight deposit but is not unduly turbid. The water is acid in reaction, soft in character and deficient in alkalinity. A corrosive tendency towards metals and plumbo-solvent action would be anticipated.
It has a relatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron.
The water has distinct colour and organic content due chiefly to matter of vegetable origin and it shows bacterial impurity including organisms of execremental type.
Treatment is therefore required to render the water suitable for public supply purposes.

Sample B/WW/14. Filtered water.
Not given.

Colour.

A/RY/41	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.
Yellow-brown	Yellow-brown	Yellow-brown	Yellow-brown
Hazen 40.	Hazen 30.	Hazen 50.	Hazen 30.

B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
Yellow-brown	Yellow-brown
Hazen 25.	Hazen 23.

Reaction pH.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.
On acid side of neutrality 6.9	On acid side of neutrality 6.9	On acid side of neutrality 6.9

A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
On acid side of neutrality 6.7	On acid side of Neutrality 6.9	On acid side of Neutrality 6.9

Electric conductivity at 20°C

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
69	70	68	69	70	65

Chlorine in Chlorides.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6

Hardness.

	A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
Total.	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.0
Temporary.	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.5	0.8	0.9
Permanent.	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	2.2	2.1

Odour.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
Faint Earthy.	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.

Total Solids dried at 180°C

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.0

Free carbonic Acid.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
0.3	0.3	Trace.	0.4	Trace.	Trace.

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
1.6	1.6	1.2	1.5	.8	.9

Nitrogen.

	A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
in Nitrates	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.08
in Nitrites	Less than 0.001	Absent	Absent	0.001	Absent	Less than 0.001

Free Ammonia.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
0.0022	0.0002	0.0012	0.012	0.0028	0.014

Albuminoid Ammonia.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
0.017	0.011	0.017	0.012	0.0048	0.0048

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
0.530	0.460	0.660	0.550	0.225	0.205

Metals.

	A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
Iron	0.012	0.006	0.014	0.0100	0.005	0.003
Other metals.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.

Free Chlorine Reaction.

A/RY/41.	A/RY/42.	A/RY/43.	A/RY/44.	B/WW/13.	B/WW/14.
-	-	-	Absent	Absent	0.1

Bacteriological Results.

Sample A/RY/41. Unfiltered water.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	6	24	120

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in 10 c.c.	Absent from 1 c.c.
Bact. Coli Type I	Present in 10 c.c.	Absent from 1 c.c.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present in 100c.c.	Absent from 10.c.c.

This sample has faint opalescence and a trace of matter in suspension including low forms of life normal to surface water but the turbidity

is not marked. The water is practically neutral in reaction but it is soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity. It contains comparatively little mineral constituents in solution and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water has very distinct colour and is of a low grade of organic quality. It shows slight bacterial impurity indicative of contamination by matter of excremental origin since Bact. Coli are present in appreciable number. Treatment is therefore required to render the water suitable for public supply purposes.

Sample A/RY/42. Filtered water.

	1 day	2 days.	3 days.
No. of colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	at 37°C 13	at 37°C 28	at 20°C 70

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	* Present in 20 cc.	Absent from 10 cc.
Bact. Coli	Present in -	Absent from 100 cc.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present in 100cc.	Absent from 10 cc.

*Due to Coliform Bacteria of Intermediate Type II and Aerogenes Type I.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is almost neutral in reaction but it is soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity; a corrosive tendancy towards metals would be anticipated. It has comparatively small amount of mineral constituents in solution. Compared with the raw supply the water shows only a small reduction in organic content and it retains distinct colour. It is not of a high standard of bacterial purity since coliform organisms are present and, although, in the absence of bacteria of excremental type, the water may not be unwholesome, it is not of the high standard required in a public supply.

Sample of water A/RY/43. Unfiltered.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	12	38	160

Presumptive Coliform Reaction.	Present in 10 cc.	Absent from 1 cc.
Bact. Coli Type I	Present in 10 cc.	Absent from 1 cc.
Cl.Welchii Reaction	Present in 100 cc.	Absent from 10 cc.

This sample has faint opalescence and a trace of matter in suspension, including low forms of life normal to surface water, but the turbidity is not marked. The water is practically neutral in reaction but it is soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity; a corrosive tendency towards metals would be anticipated. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water has very distinct colour and is of a low grade of organic quality. It shows Bacterial impurity since Bact. Coli are present in small numbers being indicative of slight contamination by matter of excremental origin. Treatment is therefore required to render the water suitable for public supply purposes.

Sample of water A/RY/44. Filtered.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	0	1	1

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in -	Absent from 100cc.
Bact. Coli	Present in -	Absent from 100cc.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present in 100cc.	Absent from 10cc.

This sample is bright and clear in appearance and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is on the acid side of neutrality, is soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity; a corrosive tendency towards metals would be anticipated. It contains a comparatively small amount of mineral constituents in solution. Compared with the raw supplies the water retains distinct colour and shows only a small reduction in organic content. It is, however, of very satisfactory bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Sample of water B/WW/13. Unfiltered.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1	4	90

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	*Present in 50 ml.	Absent from 10 ml.
Bact. Coli Type I	Present in 100 ml.	Absent from 50 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present in 100 ml.	Absent from 10 ml.

* False Presumptive Reaction.

This sample is bright in appearance and contains only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is practically neutral in reaction, it is very soft in character, has a low content of alkalinity and a corrosive tendency towards metals would be anticipated. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It shows distinct but not excessive colour and is of satisfactory organic quality for a surface supply. The water shows slight bacterial impurity since Bact. Coli and Cl. Welchii are present in minimal number, but the degree of contamination is not marked. The water should be readily amenable to treatment for the production of a public supply.

Sample of water B/WW/14. Filtered.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1	1	3

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present -	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli	Present -	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in 100 ml.	Absent from 10 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance. The water is practically neutral in reaction, but it is very soft in character, has a low content of alkalinity and a tendancy to be corrosive towards metals would be anticipated. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water shows distinct but not excessive colour, is of fairly satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.
The water is considered wholesome in character and 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 Chloramine system. The water supply to all parts of the Town is constant and more than 99% of all dwelling houses have direct supplies or stand pipes within easy reach.

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

During the year two inspections were made, one in May-June, the other November-December. At each clinical inspection 1,095 cows were examined, 181 of which were housed inside the Borough, the others, 914, were housed outside the Borough Boundary, but whose milk was sold retail in Oswestry.

Despite the food shortage the animals were in a good state of health, and the cleanliness of the premises especially those inside the Borough boundary was quite satisfactory. About 40 samples were taken from animals showing abnormality of the udder and those were examined microscopically but in no case was

Tubercle Bacilli found in the milk. Most of the samples showed the presence of Streptococci and in all cases the animals were isolated and were not allowed to re-enter the herd until treatment had been applied and the mastitis cleared up. In addition two animals which although showing no sign of tuberculosis of the udder had a chronic cough with a sputum positive to Tubercle Bacilli. These were taken under the Tuberculosis Order and at post mortem showed lesions of Tuberculosis in the thoracic cavity and glands.

There are noweleven of the biggest herds tuberculin tested producing almost 50% of the total milk retailed in the Borough, this being a great improvement in the production of a clean healthy supply.

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

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

The cows which supply 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.

Year.	No. of Samples Taken.	No. showing presence of Tubercle Bacilli.	No. of cows found to be Tubercular at Bi-annual Veterinary Inspection.
1931	23	3	3
1932	18	3	1
1933	13	0	1
1934	9	1	1
1935	12	1	1
1936	18	0	0
1937	5	0	3
1938	18	0	3
1939	17	1	2
1940	12	2	3

1941	0	0	0
1942	18	2	2
1943	19	0	4
1944	11	2	3
1945	14	0	5
1946	5	0	2
Total	215	15	34

Milk.

The Veterinary Inspector's statement that 50% of the milk retailed in Oswestry is from Tuberculin Tested Herds is of great importance; in addition a considerable proportion of the remaining milk supply is pasteurised or heat treated, so most of the people in Oswestry are in the happy position of knowing that there has been a big step forward in ensuring them a safe milk supply.

HOUSING.

In the Sanitary Inspector's report the housing situation has been set forth. There is little further than can be said on this subject. Some relief has arrived with the temporary bungalows, more appears to be on its way as the houses on the new site slowly progress to completion. The shortage continues to be acute and the housing conditions of many families in the Town is pathetic and for the majority the hope of anything better seems remote and even likely to recede.

The reference in the Sanitary Inspector's report to the appointment of a Housing Manager reminds me that I mentioned the advantages of such an appointment in my Annual Report for 1931. I suppose any member of the Council who may have read those remarks has long

forgotten them; there may be some melancholy satisfaction in being only 16 years in advance of the event. The Health Department wishes the new Housing Manager well, he will no doubt relieve it of some of its worries, and at least a proportion of the heartrending tales to which we have listened with much sympathy but with frustrating impotence for some years will now be poured into his ears.

THE CENTRAL SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The improvements in the slaughterhouses mentioned in the Meat Inspector's report had not materialised at the end of the year, though some progress was evident in the New Year. There is considerable room for improvement in the conditions under which animals are slaughtered and dressed and in the matter of containers for offal, the disposal of the stomach contents, skins etc., better protection from flies, and amenities for the washing of hands, tools, cloths, and for better sanitary accommodation.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

HOUSING.

During the year a contract was signed for the erection of the first 102 permanent houses, 82 houses and 20 flats. The building of the houses started in October. It was unfortunate that owing to various reasons the commencement of the building was delayed until late in the year, the chief reason being that when the tender was originally advertised there was no response owing to the fact that the Federation of Master Builders had decided that none of their members would tender for any contract unless it was based upon bills of quantities. This meant securing the services of a quantity surveyor

and readvertising the contract, thereby incurring a delay of two months. Owing to the lateness of the start progress was inevitably slowed down as a result of unfavourable weather conditions which were worse than usual so there was complete cessation of work for 6 or 7 weeks, consequently the prospect of having the 102 houses for 1947 has receded and the most that can be hoped for is about 50, and even this is doubtful. The negotiations referred to in my last report have been completed and the purchase of the further 51 acres has been approved of by the Ministry of Health. As regards the project of the St.Oswald's Housing Society for the building of houses, it may be said that up to the present the Minister of Health has withheld his sanction until more progress is made by the Council with their own scheme. The Council has agreed to renew the Whittington Road to Shrewsbury Road sewer, the first portion to be carried out from Shrewsbury Road to Middleton Road. This will enable the Council to proceed with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th stages of its housing programme and also the St. Oswalds Housing Society's Scheme referred to in my last report. Detailed proposals of this sewerage scheme have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval which is now awaited.
With reference to the second stage of the programme the Architect has been instructed to prepare plans for approximately 160 houses, 30% of which are to be of the duplex type. This will provide further accommodation for approximately 200 families. In view of the fact that there is a large percentage of applicants who are 2 to 4 in family and mostly living in rooms it was decided to fix on 30% to meet this need, the object being to rehouse as many

families as possible in the shortest time. There were approximately 750 applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1946 of which over 50% are families of 2 and 3 persons, i.e. Man and Wife or Man, Wife and 1 child.

Prefabricated Houses.

About March 1946 it was decided to allocate the 50 temporary houses (Aluminium Type) on a points system. This system worked with commendable success. In some instances there has been an increase in the families which necessitates their removal to a larger house. The highest proportion of families occupying these houses are families of 4. In view of this tendancy to increase, the Council will probably have to consider some policy of transfer. The condition of the houses and gardens reflects creditably upon their occupiers. Complaints were received and investigated of excessive dampness in some of the houses. This was due to condensation. The matter was attended to and generally the results are satisfactory.

House Management.

The Council has decided upon the appointment of a qualified Housing Manager. The duties of this appointment include the organisation and control of a separate Housing Estates Office, the collection of rents, investigation of requests for repairs and the issuing of instructions where necessary, and the maintenance of a link between the Council and the Council tenants, this last duty being a very important one in promoting an interest for the comfort and well-being of the tenants.

Overcrowding.

Under the present conditions there has 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. Firm action was necessary in a few cases where the overcrowding was glaring and there was no reasonable excuse. The return of demobilised ex-service men somewhat aggravates the condition, nevertheless it can be said that already the Council has shown a great leaning towards this section of the community in the allocation of houses and there is little doubt that this policy will continue in the future.

Squatters.

The Council had decided that their policy was to be that when a licensed condemned house had served its purpose for providing temporary accommodation for families whose homes had been destroyed by enemy action and the families had vacated, it was to be closed and no longer used for human habitation. In September there was a wave of squatting in the Town and during the month 6 empty condemned houses and 2 huts formerly occupied by the Military were taken over by squatters. In all cases the persons were ex-service men who were living under overcrowded conditions or paying excessive rents for furnished rooms. At the end of the year all empty condemned houses were occupied bringing the total number of squatters in these houses up to 14.

House Repairs.

During the last few years the shortage of men and materials seems to have been justified in some cases for owners of property not

carrying out house repairs. At present while the shortage still exists it has eased and the Health Department has experienced little difficulty on the whole in getting the necessary work done, but it may be mentioned that only essential work is carried out and that under licence.

INFESTATIONS.

Bug Infestation.

No. of bug infested houses dealt with:-

Privately owned houses.....	5
Council Houses.....	Nil.
Total	5

Other Vermin (Fleas)

Privately owned houses.....	2
Council Houses.....	Nil.
Total	2

Methods Used.

Gaseous disinfestation after removal of wall papers, releasing picture rails, skirtings, including space under roof.

The houses are sealed and the whole subjected to as high as possible a concentration of "Fumoids" for 6 to 8 hours plus a thorough spraying with a D.D.T. insecticide.

All dilapidated upholstered furniture and mattresses are burned and such articles known to be infested and practically useless.

The work of disinfestation is usually carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing:-
They are advised to report immediately the first evidence of any infestation and are warned to be careful in the purchase of second hand upholstered furniture and bedding.

Bug infestation is one of the most difficult and humiliating of all infestations which comes under the control of the Health Department. With the exception of cottage property where their existence has been known for some years cases of infestation arise through the purchase of second hand furniture and bedding and upholstery. Owing to the difficulty of purchasing new furnitire occupiers of good class houses have had this humiliating experience. These infestations could be minimised if the matter is immediately reported to the local sanitary authority and the public is warned especially in these times to be cautious in the purchase of second hand upholstered furnitire and bedding.

VERMINOUS PERSONS.

No person was dealt with during the year.

There is no cleansing station for verminous persons in the Borough nor a disinfector for bedding etc.; an arrangement however exists whereby verminous persons may be cleansed at the Public Assistance Institution Morda.

RATS AND MICE.

Private Dwellings-Special Scheme 1946-1947.

It was considered by the Ministry of Food in a circular letter dated May 10th, 1946 sent to all local authorities that the cost of systematic rat control carried out by them at private dwellings should be borne by national and local rate funds and was not to be charged to the occupiers for special reasons. A conference was held at Shrewsbury to discuss the practical means of administering the scheme when Sanitary Inspectors of the County were predominant.

An urgent appeal was made for an all out drive for the eradication of rats and mice especially in view of the damage to foodstuffs and the loss sustained throughout the Country.

In consequence of this a complete survey was made of the Town by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant under the terms and conditions of Circular N.S.12 and completed by November 4th,1946. Owing to the consistent attention given to this subject over a number of years the work of the survey was made very much lighter. While the survey was in progress the Sanitary Inspector was available to confirm all suspected and doubtful cases and where there was evidence of the presence of rats the particulars were noted with remarks as to the relationship to other infested premises and their past history etc. An advertisement was inserted in the Local Press preceeding the survey requiring the public to assist in the carrying out of the scheme by reporting immediately the presence of rats and also emphasising the fact that the local authority would make charges and endeavour to recover the cost from householders whose neglect caused infestation. The survey has shown that the only type of infestation in Oswestry is the Minor Secondary Type as defined in I/R/363 Memo. J.S.C.C.1. issued by the Infestation Control Branch of the Ministry of Food. The operation of pre-baiting and poisoning immediately followed and according to the terms of the scheme will continue for a year. The County Council has under contract all the Council's refuse tips and premises adjacent and also private shops and blocks of buildings known to have been infested from time to time. In addition the sewers have had attention and

the procedure as laid down in the Ministry of Food Local Authority Circular N.S.13 is being carried out. From observations made it would appear that the special scheme has had beneficial results.

CINEMAS AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

The two cinemas in the Town are visited at frequent intervals during times of entertainment. Other places of entertainment are also visited from time to time. No complaints were received during the year. On the whole they were found to be conducted in an orderly and satisfactory manner. 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. At one place however the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire was not fully realised and the notice of the owner was drawn to this fact and the matter rectified.

LICENSED HOUSES.

During 1946 an inspection was made of the 38 licensed houses in the Town. With the new legislation and the advance of Public Administration wider scope is given to deal with these matters. It is good that proprietors of such places realise that the Sanitary Inspector's duties embrace every aspect of hygiene in relation to public health. It must be said however that the licensees are only too willing to carry out suggestions made by the Department. Practically every house required some attention. The defects included in many cases antiquated pipes and pumps; inadequate drip sinks deficient

of hot and cold running water and insufficient ventilation etc. to cellars. With regard to sanitary conveniences some of the houses had no satisfactory provision for both sexes.

A large proportion required repair and cleansing and other should be pulled down and reconstructed on approved sites. Many of the licensed rooms required cleansing and redecorating. Some progress has been made especially with the more urgent requirements and while owners have been prepared to carry out the requirements to the full the question of priorities has retarded progress for the time being.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of registered producers in the Borough.....	7
Number of accredited producers in the Borough.....	1
Number of T.T.producers in the Borough.....	2
Number of registered retailers in the Borough.....	13
Number of accredited retailers in the Borough.....	Nil.
Number of T.T.retailers in the Borough.....	3

There is one licensed Pasteurising Plant in the Borough.

Visits were made at regular intervals during the year to the farms and dairies. In some instances there was cause for complaints but they were of a minor character and were remedied, excepting perhaps the abnormal number with reference to dirty milk bottles. While much has been accomplished by visits to the dairies to minimise this evil, it may be said that the root of the evil rests with the housewife or otherwise people who retain these bottles for indefinite preiods or, as has been known, in many cases to use the bottles for other purposes than that intended. A safe remedy would be for the trade to adopt the following slogan and act on it namely, "No Bottles!NoMilk!".

The bulk of the milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the Town. Out of the 7 producers in the Borough 3 are designated two of them being Tuberculin Tested farms and the other accredited. Samples of milk retailed in the town were taken during the year and tested at the Health Department laboratory for specific gravity, fat and non-fatty solids. These were found to be satisfactory. Other samples were sent to the Pathological Laboratories, Shrewsbury for methylene blue and phosphatase tests and these too were satisfactory. It is a routine practice to take samples of milk supplied to homes where cases of non-respiratory Tuberculosis are notified. Such samples as were taken in 1946 were negative.

HEAT TREATMENT OF MILK.

At present three classes of milk are retailed in the Town, i.e. Heat Treated, Tuberculin Tested, and Ordinary. Two local firms produce and supply the Heat Treated milk. These are the two largest retailers so it is safe to assume that the greater proportion of the population is getting this Heat Treated milk. Milk sold as such undergoes a process conforming with official regulations. It destroys, if scrupulously controlled, bacteria which 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 encouraging to note that samples taken of this milk have shown that it has reached the standard required by official regulations.

No. of samples tested at Health Department laboratory for Specific Gravity, Fat and Non-fatty solids..... 30

No. satisfactory..... 30

No. of samples tested at Pathological Laboratories for Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests..... 30

No. satisfactory..... 30

MEAT.

Number of animals killed at the Slaughterhouses during the year 1946.

	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Calves.
Graded animals	1710	189	5923	1309
Casualty animals	180	42	267	48
Total	1890	231	6190	1357

The total number of all animals killed during the year was 9668

Number of animals inspected by Borough Meat Inspector during 1946.

	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Calves.
Graded animals	1220	147	3963	976
Casualty animals	127	33	174	30
Total	1347	180	4137	1006

Condemnations.

	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Calves.
Whole carcases and offals condemned.	30	3	20	36
Parts of carcases condemned.				
Hearts	24	2	-	-
Livers	345	6	85	3
Plucks	-	5	13	-
Spleens	23	-	-	-
Heads and tongues	56	3	2	1
Tripes	24	-	-	-
Lungs	147	2	-	-
Diaphragms	14	-	-	-

In addition 736 lbs of beef; 121 lbs. of mutton; 28 lbs of pork; and 28 lbs. of veal were condemned.

The total number of animals inspected during the year by the Borough Meat Inspector was 6670. The remaining animals slaughtered during the year were the responsibility of the Oswestry Rural District Sanitary Inspector.

The arrangements for inspection and distribution remain unchanged, the two private slaughterhouses in Willow Street still functioning for the slaughter and distribution of meat including frozen and tinned meat for the Borough, Oswestry Rural District and part of Montgomeryshire under the direct control of the Ministry of Food. The inspections are carried out by the Borough and Rural District Sanitary Inspectors, the latter doing the inspections one week in every three. Since the centralisation of slaughtering in Oswestry which has continued since 1940 the need for the provision of a Public Abattoir has become even more apparent. There is a growing interest and demand for a Public Abattoir in Oswestry particularly on the part of the butchers who at one time were opposed to the measure. The Ministry of Food has realised this and made provisional arrangements for alterations and additions to the two slaughterhouses used by them in Willow Street. These alterations and additions while improving the conditions at these places do not do away with the main causes of complaints and locally nothing short of the provision of an up-to-date abattoir will do this.

OTHER FOODS.

Food inspection in its multiple and varied branches takes up a considerable proportion of the Inspector's time. Damage in transit and certain deteriorating effects through storage have been the chief causes of complaint. Much of this is due to careless handling

in transit and the proportion of bulged and broken tins is considerable. However where possible the maximum quantity is salvaged. The markets have received regular inspections. The present improvised accommodation in Church Street has served a useful purpose but the return to the Cross Market will be eagerly looked forward to.

Foods other than meat condemned during the year included:-

34 tins beans; 51 tins peas;21 tins fruit;247 tins milk;162 tins meat; 50 lbs. dried fruit; 31 lbs. tomatoes; 15 lbs.margarine; 34lbs.marcaroni; 147 lbs. fish; 47 tins fish; 88 tins mixed vegetables;17 tins soup; 95 lbs. jam; 30 lbs sweets;72 lbs. dried egg; 78 lbs. bacon; 14 lbs.suet; 1 case oranges; 69 lbs. almond substitute; 21 lbs. cheese; 100 oxo cubes; 40 lbs. oats; 17 packets cereals.

ICE CREAM.

Since the ban on the manufacture of ice cream was lifted a vigilant eye has been kept on this trade. Samples of the product have been taken from all vendors of ice cream in Oswestry. With one exception the samples taken were of a satisfactory bacteriological standard. The necessary action was taken and the sale of the ice cream in this case was stopped. The case was followed up by taking samples of the ingredients and it was found that milk used in the manufacture of the ice cream was heavily contaminated. It may be stated that the milk in question was produced outside the district and the necessary action was taken to deal with it. The normal products for the manufacture of ice cream, namely, milk, cream, butter or vegetable fat and sugar which are the bases, are not now available to the trade thereby reduding the ice cream in value as a food and all that can be claimed for it is that it is a pleasant and palatable confection.

There is no legal standard for ice cream but pressure is being brought to bear to establish this. While a large proportion of this confection is manufactured in other towns and retailed in Oswestry, it is more satisfactory from the standpoint of the Health Department that all ice cream sold in the Borough should be under the supervision of the local Food Inspector, especially in regard to the premises used, equipment, manufacture and personal cleanliness.

SHOPS.

Shop assistants in Oswestry form a large part of the working community. The administration of the Shop Hours Act and conditions of employment have caused very little trouble and where infringements have occurred interviews with the employers have put matters right. There were a few occasions where action had to be taken. Provisions under the Shops Act 1934, i.e. sanitary conveniences etc. and matters pertaining to the health and comfort of employees have been closely observed. Inspections have shown that employers are conscious of their obligations.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

The administration of the above Act relating to the provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences at factories, also the provisions regarding cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors has received attention during the year. New factories are developing in the Town and while these buildings will be constructed on modern lines and should conform will all requirements of the Act, some of those already in existence fall short of the standard required. Inspections have been made and the attention of the occupiers drawn to such matters as deficiency of sanitary conveniences and general repair. During the war years there has

obviously been relaxation also with regard to limewashing and standard of cleanliness. Notices were sent and while there is no assurance of the major requirements being attended to immediately the more urgent work was carried out promptly.

In one case there was no fire escape provided but on the necessary action being taken the full requirements were carried out.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

Number of inspections made during the year..... 52

There were complaints of a very minor character and when these were brought to the notice of the keeper they were attended to promptly.

NUISANCES.

Number of complaints received during the year..... 286

These nuisances included obstructions to drains, defective W.C.'s and defects to houses. Visits of inspection were made in all cases and all received the attention of the persons concerned.

No. of visits in connection with these complaints..... 653.

DISINFECTION.

During the year the number of disinfections carried out after infectious disease was..... 9

Books from schools and libraries were disinfected at the Health Department. Wards at the Oswestry and District Hospital were also disinfected.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During the year it was necessary to institute legal proceedings in four cases in order to enforce notices served by the Department.

1. The defendant was charged with a contravention of Section 66 of the Housing Act 1936 by permitting the dwelling house he occupied

to become overcrowded. The overcrowding was abated before the time of the Court and the summons was withdrawn, the defendant paying the costs of the Court.

2. The defendant was charged with keeping a dwellinghouse in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health and a nuisance. The Magistrates made an order that the nuisance was to be abated within 28 days and that the defendant was to pay the costs of the Court. It was necessary at a later Court to charge this person with non-compliance of the Magistrates Order. At this Court she was given further time to abate the nuisance and this time the Order of the Court was complied with.

3. In this case the defendant was charged with keeping pigs in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health and a nuisance. He was ordered to abate the nuisance within 28 days.

4. The defendant was charged with non-compliance with a notice of the Local Authority to provide 5 dwelling houses with adequate waterclosets under Section 44 of the Public Health Act 1936. The Magistrates made an Order that the work was to be carried out within 56 days. The defendant failed to do this and was further charged with non-compliance with a Magistrates Order. In this case he was fined £2 and ordered to do the work within 28 days.