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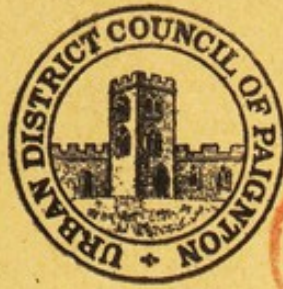
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PAIGNTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1941

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health


Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital

A. DICK, M.D., Ch. B., D.P.H.

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FREDK. J. THICK, F.S.I.A.



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Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for 1941

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PAIGNTON URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,—

I have the honour to submit my Report for 1941. In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report for this year is again confined chiefly to statistics.

A few matters, connected with war-time conditions in relation to the reception and billeting of large numbers of evacuated people and foreign refugees in the town and district during the late Summer of 1940, call for record and note.

During November, 1940, a special Hostel—"Atherfield," Cleveland Road—was opened and staffed for the treatment of Scabies and Impetigo, both of which conditions were seen to be fairly common, at first among the evacuated children and, later, spreading to the native resident children of the town.

The following number of cases were treated at "Atherfield" during 1941:—

			EVACUEES.		DEVON RES'DTS.		Totals
			Children.	Adults.	Children.	Adults.	
Scabies	...	...	200	7	33	2	242
Impetigo	...	...	27	—	2	—	29
Dermatitis	...	...	5	—	—	—	5
Other skin diseases, mostly septic in character	...	...	56	—	—	—	56
TOTALS	...	...	288	7	35	2	332

D. T. WARD, Matron.

At the end of December, 1940, an Auxiliary Isolation Hospital was opened at "Dunedin," Polsham Park, primarily for the treatment of minor infectious conditions occurring among evacuees.

It was soon found, however, that in order to supplement the limited isolation facilities at King's Ash Isolation Hospital so that practical use should be made of all isolation accommodation—and because of the prevalence of Diphtheria chiefly in a neighbouring area—native residents and conditions other than the minor infections, would have to be accommodated in the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital also; and this has been done.

During the year 41 cases—evacuees 27, native residents 14—were treated in this Hospital.

The following table gives the details :—

“ DUNEDIN ” AUXILIARY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

DISEASE.	PAIGNTON.	BRIXHAM.	DARTMOUTH.	TOTNES R.D.C.
Scarlet Fever ...	16	6	5	4
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ...	2	1	—	—
Measles ...	4	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	24	8	5	4

E. HARRISON, Matron.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Dr. Muriel Morris has continued her good service during the year of advising and carrying out preventive inoculation at the Child Welfare Clinic. Two hundred and sixty children, aged 1 to 5 years, have thus been protected.

Thanks are also due to Dr. Edith Davies, of the Devon County Council Medical Staff, for her great help with the inoculation of school children, 585 of whom completed immunisation.

Isolation Hospital.

It will be seen from the table that, with the exception of two cases of Typhoid Fever and one of Scarlet Fever, the isolation accommodation was to an unusual degree (for a period the normal complement of patients being exceeded) entirely required for the treatment of Diphtheria, of which there were 57 cases (death occurring in one case). For a time this caused unusually tiring demands on the attention and services of the Matron and Nursing Staff, and I have to record my best thanks to them for their unfailing, willing and skilful work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DICK. Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

1—

Area (acres)	5,177
Population—Census 1939 (September)	22,510
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1940 ...	26,960
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1941 ...	30,710
Number of inhabited houses :—1940, 8,320 ; 1941 ...	8,480
Rateable Value, 31st March, 1942	£245,102
Estimated sum represented by Penny Rate—1941/42 ...	£970

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	305	154	151
Legitimate	280	145	135
Illegitimate	25	9	16
Still Births	4	1	3
Legitimate	4	1	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			9.93

(E. & W. 14.2).

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)	10.00
(E. & W. 14.71).	

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	439	202	237
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			14.29
(E. & W. 12.9).			

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy
and child-birth :—

From Sepsis	1
From other causes	7

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	38.44 14
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	38.44 14
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 2

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1941

	M.	F.
All causes	202	237
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	0	0
Measles	2	0
Scarlet fever	0	0
Whooping cough	1	0
Diphtheria	0	7
Influenza	5	0
Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	10	7
Other tuberculosis...	1	1
Syphilis	2	0
G.P.I., tabes, etc.	0	0
Cancer	32	43
Diabetes	3	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage	23	34
Heart disease	50	58
Aneurysm	0	0
Other circulatory diseases	3	4
Bronchitis	12	15
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	10
Other respiratory diseases	4	4
Peptic ulcer	0	1
Diarrhœa under 2 years	2	0
Appendicitis	2	1
Cirrhosis of liver	0	0
Other liver diseases	0	0
Other digestive diseases	2	7
Acute and chronic nephritis	8	11
Puerperal sepsis	0	1
Other puerperal diseases	0	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	1	5
Senility	0	0
Suicide	2	0
Other violence	8	2
Other defined diseases	20	19
Ill-defined or not known...	0	0
Diarrhœa, 2 years and over	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : Total	5	9
Legitimate	5	9
Illegitimate	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
6—10	...	...	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
11—15	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
21—25	...	...	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	1
26—35	...	...	5	3	1	—	2	1	1	—
36—45	...	...	2	3	1	1	2	1	—	1
46—55	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
56—65	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
66 upwards	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	17	12	3	2	9	5	3	3

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

Disease				Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Paignton Hospitals.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	17	15	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	26	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	11	11	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	—	—

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Total number of cases, 60 :—Males 27, Females 33.

DISEASE.				PAIGNTON.	BRIXHAM,	DARTMOUTH
Diphtheria	...	...	...	11	44	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	2	—
Others	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS				11	47	2

I. FREEMAN, Matron.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

THE Maternity and Child Welfare Centre continues to be held at the Congregational Schoolrooms, Dartmouth Road.

The Centre was opened on three days each week, namely, Monday, Tuesday and Friday. The latter additional day was thought to be a necessity owing to the large number of evacuees who came into the town during the early months of the year. There were 95 openings for Devon mothers and 48 for evacuees.

The Ante-Natal Clinic which meets on Thursdays was open on 46 occasions. There were 164 new mothers on the Ante-Natal Register; amongst these were 67 mothers who were evacuated from London.

The attendances for the year were as follows :—

EVACUEES.

Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	2276
Babies and Toddlers	...	...	...	...	...	2504

DEVON RESIDENTS.

Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	2301
Babies and Toddlers	...	...	...	...	...	3480

The Voluntary Members of the Welfare Sub-Committee at the Centre again continued their excellent work throughout the year.

VACCINATION OFFICER'S REPORT

No figures have been supplied for this year.

WATER SUPPLY

Several samples were taken during the year, the chemical and bacteriological results of all proving satisfactory.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1941.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I submit herewith my Annual Report for the year ending 31st of December, 1941.

Owing to the abnormal conditions still existing, this Report has been considerably curtailed, and is chiefly a statistical record of work carried out.

DRAINAGE

Old Houses.—The drainage of 22 houses was tested. Twelve were found defective, of which 3 were re-laid and 9 repaired.

Additional drainage to new W.C.'s and bathrooms has been tested in 10 houses.

New Houses.—The drainage systems and sanitary fittings of three houses erected during the year were inspected and tested.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

Infectious Diseases.—Twenty-eight notifiable cases were investigated during the year and enquiries made as to possible source of infection.

Eleven cases were removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital from Paignton, and 49 from other districts.

Disinfections.—One hundred and sixty-six houses were disinfected for the following reasons :—

Notifiable diseases	...	...	...	...	36
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	19
Other infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	59
Verminous conditions	...	...	...	...	18
Other cases	...	...	...	...	34

Details of articles passed through the Steam Disinfectors:—

	MATTRESSES.	PILLOWS.	BLANKETS.	OTHER ARTICLES.
From Paignton...	150	214	318	602
From Districts outside Paignton	20	38	134	252

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses.—There are two Slaughterhouses in the District—one Private (Registered), situated at Crown and Anchor Arch, and one Public, at Luscombe Road, which are now controlled by the Ministry of Food.

Meat Inspection.—The number of carcasses inspected at both Slaughterhouses was as follows:—

	CATTLE	COWS	PIGS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	TOTALS
Registered Slaughterhouse...	1273	744	0	821	7416	10254
Public Slaughterhouse...	472	242	1295	283	8256	10548
TOTALS ...	1745	986	1295	1104	15672	20802

Carcasses at the Meat Depot were also inspected.

This work entailed a considerable amount of evening duty (almost daily), including Sundays, up to a late hour, and had to be carried out with a depleted Staff.

UNSOUND FOOD

Statement of meat and other foods condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption:—

Carcasses inspected and destroyed:—

	CATTLE (exclg. Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed ...	1745	986	1104	15672	1295
Number inspected...	1745	986	1104	15672	1295
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	2	3	3	27	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	219	107	8	278	4

	CATTLE (exclg. Cows).	COWS.	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	12.66	11.16	.99	1.95	.39
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	9	1	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	96	46	0	0	52
Percentage of number inspected, affected with Tuberculosis	5.85	5.58	.09	0	4.02

	TUBERCULOSIS.	OTHER DISEASES AND CONDITIONS.	TOTAL.
Beef ...	8860 lbs.	4725 lbs.	13585 lbs.
Pork ...	406 lbs.	163 lbs.	569 lbs.
Mutton ...	—	1266 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	1266 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Veal ...	100 lbs.	117 lbs.	217 lbs.
Offals ...	3390 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	5573 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	8964 lbs.
TOTALS ...	12756 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	11845 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	24601 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

The total amount of foods condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption was :—

11 tons 6 cwts. 3 qrs. 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 10 Bakehouses on the Register. All have been periodically inspected and found in a clean condition.

MILK SUPPLY

Number of Cowkeepers or Dairymen on the Register at end of year	47
Number Registered as Producer-Retailer ...	4
Number Registered as Producer-Wholesaler ...	13
Number Registered as Producer-Retailer Wholesaler ...	0
Number Registered as Retailers only ...	29

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Forty-nine samples of milk (for cleanliness) were taken for Bacteriological Examination and were examined by the County Bacteriologist. The results are as follows :—

From Local Producers		From Local Retailers obtaining Milk from Local Producers		From Local Retailers obtaining Milk from Outside Producers		From Retailers outside the District	
Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
15	21	0	0	3	6	3	1

Additional Milk Sampling Scheme.—Three hundred and thirty nine samples were taken under this Scheme in conjunction with the Local Dairymen's Association, with the following results :—

Passed ... 119 Failed ... 220

As practically all these samples were from Producers in the surrounding Rural District, the results of such samples were, by arrangement, forwarded to the Sanitary Inspector for the District concerned.

FACTORIES ACT

A number of Factories were inspected and conditions found to be satisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection.—Three thousand eight hundred and twenty-five loads (approximating 5788.31 tons) of refuse were collected.

Refuse Disposal.—Disposal is by means of controlled tipping in Goodrington Valley. The covering material is obtained from Brown's Field.

During the year 3,249 loads were obtained from Brown's Field and 88 loads from other outside sources.

Cost in connection with Collection and Disposal :—

						£	s.	d.
Collection	...	...	...	...	...	4718	5	7
Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	1821	7	4
							s.	d.
Collection—cost per ton	...	...	...	...	...		16	4
Disposal—cost per ton	...	...	...	...	...		7	3

SALVAGE

THE under-mentioned Table shows the amount of Salvage collected and the monies received for Sales during the year:—

				QUANTITY—				AMOUNT RECEIVED.		
				Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	...	...	...	142	12	2	7	608	0	10
Rags	...	...	...	4	5	1	5	24	6	2
Mixed Metals	...	...	...	0	14	3	23	12	15	3
Bottles	...	...	...					4	12	9
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	7	8	2	7	6	1	4
Jars	...	...	...					0	14	0
Tins	...	...	...	9	8	0	0	8	4	0
Bones	...	...	...	0	6	0	19	0	9	3
Totals	...	...	...	164	15	2	5	£665	3	7

HOUSING

Eighty-five houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts, and 81 of these were found not to be in a reasonable state of repair.

Overcrowding.—Nine cases of overcrowding were found during the year. All were remedied without formal action.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

	INFESTED.	DISINFESTED.
(1) (a) Council houses ...	4	4
(b) Other houses ...	5	5

(2) The methods employed are (a) by spraying with insecticide (Zaldecide) in mild cases, and (b) "Cimex" blocks in severe cases.

In all cases the woodwork (skirtings, picture rails and architraves) have been removed, also floor boards eased in order to allow complete penetration.

Success has been obtained with these methods. Where considered necessary, bedding is also removed for steam disinfection.

(3) The methods previously mentioned are also employed, if necessary, to ensure that the belongings of the tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

(4) Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.

(5) Frequent visits are paid, and advice given.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT

The administration of this Act has been delegated to the Local Authority by the County Council.

As in previous years, the Council employ a man practically all the year dealing with this pest, and satisfactory results have been obtained.

SHOPS ACT

The Council are now responsible for carrying out all the provisions of Section 10 in this Act, powers having been delegated from the County Council.

Shops have been inspected and Notices served in respect of:—

Sanitary accommodation	...	...	2
Washing facilities	...	...	1

FREDK. J. THICK, F.S.I.A., etc.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector

SUMMARY

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	2
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	3
Internal plastering repaired	...	...	...	1
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	1
Doors, window frames and sills renewed or repaired	...	...	...	7
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	1
Kitchen ranges repaired	...	...	...	2
Larders provided	...	...	...	1
R.W.P.'s repaired or provided	...	...	...	2
New shuting provided	...	...	...	1
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	10
New W.C. pans fitted	...	...	...	10
Flushing cisterns repaired or provided	...	...	...	12
New urinals provided	...	...	...	3
New bath provided	...	...	...	1
Inspection chambers constructed	...	...	...	6
Interceptors fixed	...	...	...	1
F.A.I.'s provided or repaired	...	...	...	1
Drains of new houses or buildings passed	...	...	...	3
Drains to old houses re-laid	...	...	...	3
Drains to old houses repaired	...	...	...	9
Drain tests applied to old houses	...	...	...	37
Drain tests applied to new houses	...	...	...	4
Drains cleared	...	...	...	36
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	1
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	41
Additions to existing drains	...	...	...	10

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts)	85
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	192
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the Sub-Head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	0
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	0
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	81

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service* of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or of their Officers	79
---	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)-	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)—	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	1

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)—	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2)—	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notice :—	
	(a) By Owners	
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	0

(c)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2)—Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(d)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)—Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 0

(2)—Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 0

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part 4, Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year 0

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 0

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 0

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 9

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 9

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 29

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0

(e) Any other particulars with respect of overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report None

EVACUATION

Many problems arose in connection with this subject, but I am pleased to report that with the co-operation of all concerned, satisfactory solutions were found.

Welfare Committee.

On the 25th February the Official Welfare Committee appointed by the Council held its first Meeting, and consisted of the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and a representative of the Women's Voluntary Services, Paignton Townswomen's Guild, Women's Co-operative Guild, British Legion (Women's Section), Rotary Club, Evacuated Teachers, Devon Teachers and Official Helpers.

Meetings of this Committee are held monthly and are concerned with the following :—

Unaccompanied Children :—

- (a) Clothing.
- (b) Out-of-School Activities.
- (c) General comfort and happiness of the children.

Accompanied Children :—

- (a) Use of all existing Social Services.
- (b) Clinics.
- (c) Child Welfare.
- (d) Nursery Centre.
- (e) Mothers' Club—Occupational, Recreational and Instructional Centres.

Sub-Committees were formed dealing with clothing and Mothers' Club. Owing to the very restricted accommodation in use as an Evacuee Mothers' Club, I requisitioned "San Remo," Totnes Road, for this purpose, and after certain alterations had been carried out, and the necessary equipment provided, it was opened on the 7th July by the Chairman of the Council (Councillor W. J. E. Down, J.P.). This Club served a very useful purpose and was much appreciated by the Mothers attending.

In connection with the welfare of the children, I have appointed 19 Official Helpers to supervise this very important service.

In March, "Hazeldene," 129 Torquay Road, was requisitioned as a Nursery Centre, and after adaptations, was officially opened on the 21st May. Approximately, 40 children can be accommodated.

More women and children arrived during this month, and were accommodated at Hostels taken for this purpose in Sands Road, and 10 and 12, Queen's Road.

Weekly cinema shows had been very kindly arranged and carried out by Mr. Vickery (Rotary Club) at the children's Hostels.

Grants were also made for the purchase of apparatus or equipment in connection with organised games as part of the out-of-school activities.

Requisition of Premises.

During the year it was found necessary to requisition further premises for use as Hostels, as follows:—

Kingshurst, Kingshurst Drive.—For use as a General Hostel for children. (Opened in September).

18, Midvale Road.—Hostel for difficult girls.

Annick Lodge, Roundham Road.—For use as a Hostel for difficult boys by transfer of existing Hostel from 62, Dartmouth Road. (Opened in October).

It was also found necessary to requisition the undermentioned premises for use as stated:—

The Whim, Midvale Road—Cleansing Clinic.

Heathlea, Dartmouth Road—Occupation by families.

Alban Lodge, Dunstone Park—Occupation by families.

2, Elmbank Gardens—Occupation by families.

Compensation.

Several claims for compensation due to damage caused by evacuees were received and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Sweets and Toys.

Parcels of sweets and toys were received from America for the children. These were distributed and much appreciated by the lucky recipients.

Christmas Parties.

Cinema shows and entertainments were arranged for all the children, and in addition each child received sixpence.

At each Hostel a Party was arranged by the various Matrons and Staff. A Christmas Tree was provided and tastefully decorated with presents for the children from relatives and friends.

Thirty children from the Hostels were also very kindly offered seats at the Paignton Pantomime by Mr. Jack Baker.

FREDK. J. THICK,

Chief Billeting Officer



