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URBAN DISTRICT
OF
PAIGNTON

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
— HEALTH —
FOR 1943

AXWORTHYS TORBAY PRINTING WORKS, PALACE AVENUE,
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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

PAIGNTON.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,—

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943 in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health. The Report is again curtailed to meet war-time conditions while retaining its essential purpose as a statistical record of your Public Health Services and the state of the public health of the District. In view of the hope of a reasonably early partial cessation of war conditions, I have thought it advisable to revert to some extent to that more detailed and prescribed form of the Report which is a direction in peace-time—the form being, indeed, also a war-time direction. This occasion is taken, therefore, to re-set the scene, as it were, in readiness for any survey of your Health Services as a whole which may be considered advisable in the immediate future of post-war reconstruction.

The year has been a healthy one. The annual scourge of influenza was not of special severity; nor was measles, despite a considerable prevalence. Influenza, as such, did nothing to enhance the usefulness of the Sulphonamide (M. and B.) drugs, which, on the other hand, gave great help in the broncho-pneumonia accompanying measles.

In this fourth year of war conditions, the freedom from severe epidemic infection has been remarkable. Nutrition has been well maintained and child-health and power of resistance has been good.

A larger number of deaths from heart and arterial disease is a corollary of the increased proportion of resident population in the higher age groups. We are informed that in the years to come this larger proportion of aged population will continue, and will increase: a state to be kept in mind, this, in the planning of post-war housing; for the ageing require—and deserve—houses which are easy to work, even more so than the young and fit. Let us not impose for instance, concrete floors too extensively on those who have already suffered their share and more, from varicose veins, chilblains, and fallen arches among the lesser ills.

It would little become your Medical Officer of Health, especially at the end of a promising year, to speak other than optimistically. We can look very hopefully, therefore, to the time when our population will be more balanced by the infusion of returning youth—a youth enriched by much experience.

During the past year, evacuation work has still occupied a considerable part of the time of your Staff, although to a lesser degree than in the three former years. Despite this, the work of all branches of your Public Health Service has proceeded quietly and, in relation to the time which extra war-time duties has involved, very efficiently.

In conclusion, I wish to record my thanks to all members of the Staff for their unfailing kindness and willing help, and to express my appreciation that each member has taken a share in the work herein reported and in the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DICK.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

MEDICAL—

- A. DICK M.D. (State Med.), D.P.H. (Glas Univ.)
 Medical Officer of Health.
 Medical Officer Isolation Hospitals.
 †HELEN BUMSTEAD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
 Deputy Medical Officer for Isolation Hospitals and Infectious Disease.

NURSING—

- MISS I. FREEMAN.
 Matron, Isolation Hospital, King's Ash.

Whole-time Nurses :—

- MISS E. MORGAN (Fever Certif.)
 MISS B. RICHARDS (Fever Certif.)
 *MISS E. HARRISON, S.R.N.
 Matron, "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital.
 *MRS. D. T. WARD, S.R.N.
 Nurse-in-charge Scabies and Skin Treatment.

SANITARY—

- FREDK. J. THICK, Certif. S.I.E.B. (London), Meat Certif.,
 F.S.I.A.
 Chief Sanitary Inspector.
 Meat Inspector.
 S. H. BONE, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Certif.
 Additional Sanitary Inspector.
 Meat Inspector.
 †T. B. CHAFFE, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Certif.
 District Sanitary Inspector.

CLERICAL—

- †R. AUTHERS, Chief Clerk.
 MISS M. J. ORAM.
 MISS K. M. TALBOT.
 Also, a Junior Clerk.

OTHER—**Pupil Assistants :—**

‡§G. E. LOVATT.

K. E. BISHOP.

Ambulance and Disinfector :—

[†]F. E. PARNELL.

C. J. TURPIN.

†Part-time.

*Temporary.

‡Absent, H.M. Forces.

§Passed Examination for C.R.S.I. (1943).

[†]With N.F.S.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1—

Area (acres)	5,177
Population—Census 1939 (September)	22,510
Number of inhabited houses :—1942, 8,496 ; 1943	8,505
Rateable Value, 31st March, 1944	£244,896
Estimated sum represented by Penny Rate, 1943/44	£975

2—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Live Births	289	131	158
Legitimate	257	116	141
Illegitimate	32	15	17
Still Births	7	3	4
Legitimate	5	1	4
Illegitimate	2	2	0

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 12.16

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Deaths	413	183	230

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 17.38

Standardised Death Rate for Paignton :—

Comparability Factor not available for 1943¹

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

From Sepsis	Nil
From other causes	Nil

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age	12	7	5
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	41.52
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	46.69

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

The Birth Rate is lower than in 1942, by 76 births. The actual number of births, 289, is still higher than in pre-war years, and just exceeds the yearly average for the past five years (viz. : 283.6).

The Death Rate is again unstandardised, and, at 17.38 per 1,000 population, is higher than in 1942. There were 413 deaths:—224 persons being each over 70 years of age, inclusive of 97 over 80 years and 10 over 90 years. Of these 224, 88 were males (32 being each over 80 years) and 136 were females (65 being each over 80 years). Two persons, one of each sex, reached the ages of 99 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1943

	M.	F.
All causes	183	230
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	0	0
Measles	0	0
Scarlet fever	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	3	9
Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	5	6
Other tuberculosis	0	2
Syphilis	2	1
Cancer	22	43
Diabetes	5	6
Cerebral hæmorrhage	20	40
Heart disease	50	56
Other circulatory diseases	4	3
Bronchitis	6	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	8
Other respiratory diseases	1	2
Ulcer of stomach	6	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0
Appendicitis	0	4
Other digestive diseases	2	7
Acute and chronic nephritis	8	11
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal diseases	0	0
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	4	2
Suicide	2	2
Road traffic accidents	2	0
Other violence	4	3
All other causes	32	16
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : Total	7	5
Legitimate	7	5
Illegitimate	0	0

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities** are available at the Devon County Laboratory, Dix's Field, Exeter, by arrangement with Devon County Council through the County Medical Officer.

In practice, a very satisfactory service has been obtained, procedure being carried out to reduce delay in transit of specimens and to obtain the results at the earliest possible time.

- (b) **Ambulance Services.**—(a) There is one Ambulance for general medical and surgical cases, administered and staffed by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Nursing Division. A contribution is made by the Council towards this service.

(b) The Ambulance for the movement of cases of infectious disease is provided by the Council. The Ambulance driver is also in control of the Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital, and carries out disinfection and disinfestation there. This arrangement is satisfactory, but an improved relief-driver arrangement is advisable.

- (c) **Nursing in the Home.**—There is no change in this service, which continues to be so ably carried out by the District Nurses of the District Nursing Association.

- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A new Central School Clinic was opened by Devon County Council in Midvale Road during January, 1942. This Clinic includes a permanent Dental Clinic for children and expectant mothers.

Part of this Clinic is equipped as a **Cleansing Clinic**, and is under the control of Paignton Urban District Council acting as agents of the Ministry in connection with the Evacuation Scheme.

Native residents of the town and district, in addition to evacuees, are treated at this Clinic for verminous conditions, including Scabies.—(Particulars of the work done are given under Section F).

- (e) **Hospitals.**—There is no change. Arrangements were made for the Mobile First Aid Post to be set up, if a certain emergency occurred, in part of the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital, Polsham Park.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—These services continue to be administered by Devon County Council. The Medical Officer is Dr. F. Muriel Morris, O.B.E., M.D. The Health Visitor is Miss A. D. Bishop. Both Dr. Morris and Miss Bishop have taken a large part in bringing to the notice of mothers the advantages of diphtheria immunisation, and large numbers

(see Section F) of young children have been protected at the Welfare Centre by Dr. Morris.

The Welfare Centre has continued to enjoy the support of an eager band of voluntary helpers, to whose Honorary Secretary (Mrs. M. Thick) I am indebted for the following Report of the work :—

PAIGNTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

SECRETARY'S REPORT for the Year ending 31st December, 1943

During the year under review the Centre was open for 103 sessions. At the end of March it was decided that the Friday session was no longer necessary ; the few Friday mothers continued to come either on Monday or Tuesday.

The attendances for the year were as follows :—

	MOTHERS.	BABIES.	TODDLERS.
	3405	2590	1169
	(Average 7.2)	(Average 16.8)	Average 3.2)
Mothers on Register ...	...	...	472
Babies on Register ...	...	...	154
Toddlers on Register ...	...	...	359
New Mothers ...	...	...	274
New Babies ...	...	...	214
New Toddlers ...	...	...	78

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.—(i) **Water.**—No new sources of supply are in operation.

Six samples were submitted for examination. All proved satisfactory with one exception, regarding which enquiry was made.

The sources of supply continue to be (1) upland, and (2) lowland (ground water), the latter being classed as "Very hard" and having, unfortunately, a higher permanent than a temporary hardness. There is less difference in the chloride content than one would expect from the situations of the sources.

As great a length of storage time as possible for the lowland supply must continue to be one of the first safeguards in present circumstances.

During the year, in consultation with your Water Engineer and Officials from a neighbouring Authority, steps were taken to prevent a pollution of the catchment area.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—There is no important extension to record.

- 2.— **Stream Pollution.**—Remedial action was taken by one of the Services in the case noted in the last para. of (i) above.
- 3.— **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—Disposal continues to be by the method of controlled tipping. This work (Collection and Disposal) is under the sole charge of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Briefly, 5298.52 tons of refuse were collected, the cost being £4,821 1s. 8d. (18/1d. per ton) ; covering earth (2560 loads) cost £1,907 15s. 3d. (10/- per ton).

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—Your Chief Sanitary Inspector has submitted the following particulars of the work of inspection and the results obtained. Inspection has been carried out very efficiently, and the results are satisfactory :—

(a) **Drainage.**

Old Houses or Buildings.—The drainage of 21 houses or buildings was tested. Five were found defective, of which 2 were re-laid and 3 repaired.

Sixty-two visits were paid in connection therewith, and 15 tests applied.

Fifty-three Notices were served in respect of choked drains or private sewers. All were complied with.

(b) **Disinfection.**—One hundred and seventy-two houses were disinfected for the following reasons :—

Notifiable diseases	...	...	...	...	48
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	16
Other infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	47
Verminous conditions	...	...	...	...	36
Other cases	...	...	...	...	25

Bedding and other articles from 162 Premises have been passed through the Steam Disinfector.

Scabies has made large demands on the work of disinfection, and the old Ambulance vehicle has been in very regular use for the transport of bedding, etc.

Although the latest results of recent research continue to cast doubt as to the value of disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc., in the control of Scabies, the experience of your Medical Officer and Nursing Staff in Paignton is that such disinfestation does appear to prevent both recurrence of scabies and its development in contacts living in the same house.

(c) **Shops and Offices.**—Fifty-one shops were inspected under the Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10). No Notices were served.

(d) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

	INFESTED.	DISINFESTED.
(1) (a) Council houses	4	4
(b) Other houses	20	20

(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) Disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.

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

There has been a relatively large increase in the number of infested houses which have come to notice as compared with several past years. Enquiry is being made on this point, as the difference is not related to the number of inspections.

4—Schools.—There have been no changes in water supply and sanitary arrangements. Water, washing, and special sanitary conveniences at the two Nursery Schools in the district have been inspected and found adequate and satisfactory.

A special investigation has been made at one School, with the willing help of the Assistant County Medical Officer and the Headmistress, in to the occurrence of sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever. A child found to be a carrier was isolated in hospital, treated, and discharged clear.

Section D

HOUSING

THERE have been no special developments to report.

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)	...	...	...	...	...	146
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...					276
(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
(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	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
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2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
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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	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—							
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notice :—							
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
(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	...	...	...	...	...	2

(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...					19½
(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 to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...				None

Summarising the above Table, the Chief Sanitary Inspector notes :—

Thirty-four houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts and under 112 under the Public Health Acts.

One hundred and thirty Notices were served (23 Housing and 107 Public Health Acts) to remedy defects found. Five Verbal Notices were given.

Two cases of overcrowding were found. Both were remedied.

Houses were also inspected in connection with the Application of Certificates (Essentiality Repairs).

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a)—Milk Supply.

It is noteworthy that it should have required the conditions of war-time distribution to bring to the greater appreciation of authorities and public how unsatisfactory is the cleanliness of such a large part of our milk supply.

Paignton shares in the production and distribution of dirty milk; complaints during the year have been numerous. Shortage of Public Health staff and the burden of additional duties have not helped to lessen this deplorable state, and a review of the diminished number of samples of milk examined during the past few years appears to indicate that curtailed inspection and examination is not attended with progress.

One must welcome, therefore, and regard hopefully the proposal for any new legislation and procedure which will be effective in dealing with this danger of unclean and unsafe milk.

MILK SUPPLY

Number of Cowkeepers or Dairymen on the Register at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Number Registered as Producer-Retailer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number Registered as Producer-Wholesaler	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number Registered as Producer-retailer Wholesaler	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number Registered as Retailers only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Cleanliness and Bacteriological Examinations.

Twenty-eight samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist. The results for cleanliness are as follows :—

Passed ... 14. Failed ... 14.

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
12	13	0	0	0	1	2	0

A Bacteriological Report was made on 10 of the above samples :— Eight passed and 2 failed. In addition, one sample examined for Tubercle Bacillus was Negative.

National Milk-Testing and Advisory Scheme.

One hundred and fifty-one samples were taken under this Scheme, with the following results :—

Passed A ... 87 Passed B ... 33 Passed C ... 31

A—indicates "market" milk, i.e., fit for human consumption.

B—indicates "salvage" quality milk.

C—indicates "rejected" milk.

(b)—Meat and other Foods.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are two Slaughter-houses in the District—one Private (Registered), situated at Crown and Anchor Arch ; and one Public at Luscombe Road. Both are used by the Ministry of Food as slaughtering centres for Paignton and certain surrounding districts.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Thick) has carried out the duties of Meat Inspector at your Public Slaughter-house. The Additional Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Bone) has acted in a similar capacity at the Private Slaughter-house, where, as will be seen from the following Tables, appreciably more slaughtering is done, not only in the over-all number, but in the greater numbers of cattle, especially cows, which engage so much of an Inspector's attention and care. The significant figures in these meat inspection reports are those relating

to Tuberculosis. The percentage of cows affected with this disease, as found on slaughter in Paignton, is not high—indeed, it is very low in comparison with some other figures which I have before me for this year, and also for pre-war years.

Slaughtering solely in public abattoirs with reasonable area centralisation should be one of your designs for public health.

Registered	CATTLE	COWS	PIGS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	TOTALS
Slaughterhouse ...	930	721	1	1200	5522	8374
Public						
Slaughterhouse ...	665	396	152	119	6428	7760
TOTALS	1595	1117	153	1319	11950	16134

Carcases imported into the District have all been inspected at the Meat Depot.

UN SOUND FOOD

Statement of Meat and other Foods inspected, condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption :—

Carcases inspected and destroyed :—

	CATTLE (excl'dg. Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed ...	1595	1117	1319	11950	153
Number inspected	1595	1117	1319	11950	153
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	0	1	3	17	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	338	214	4	369	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis ...	21.19%	19.25%	0.53%	3.23%	1.31%
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	13	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	90	69	0	0	7
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.89%	7.34%	0	0	4.58%

	TUBERCULOSIS.	OTHER DISEASES AND CONDITIONS.	TOTAL
Beef ...	12716½ lbs.	556 lbs.	13272½ lbs.
Pork ...	48 lbs.	6 lbs.	54 lbs.
Mutton ...	—	820 lbs.	820 lbs.
Veal ...	—	165 lbs.	165 lbs.
Offals ...	3841 lbs.	8797¼ lbs.	12638¾ lbs.
TOTALS ...	16605½ lbs.	10344¾ lbs.	26950¼ lbs.

OTHER UNSOUND FOOD DESTROYED

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has carried out the inspection of almost all articles in the following list:—

1 tin rhubarb	18 tins chopped ham
2 tins peaches	2½lbs. tea
6 tins fish balls	13 tins sausage meat
33 tins soup	2 tins mutton and vegetable
15½lbs. gammon	128¾lbs. cheese
8 tins eggs	67 tins sardines
8 tins herrings	12 tins sausages
2 tins greengages	1 tin apricot
13 tins jam	9 tins grapefruit
2 tins syrup	4 lbs. lard
2 tins marmalade	27lbs. 6ozs. liver sausage
2lbs. margarine	1 tin U.S.A. meat
51lbs. rusks	3 tins broth
53 tins pears	1 tin beetroot
65 tins apples	2 tins vegetable salad
2 tins crayfish	224lbs. split peas
11 dozen eggs	100lbs. haricot beans
26 tins milk	4 tins mackerel
39 tins peas	1 tin apple jelly
246 tins corned beef	1 tin chopped meat
3 tins luncheon tongue	13 tins meat and vegetable dinners
2 tins pineapples	8 tins Savoy lunches
59cwt. potatoes	8 tins corned mutton
32 baskets strawberries	11 bottles sweets
6 tins ox tongue	54st. herrings
48 tins sandwich savouries	5st. hake
28 tins salmon	5 bottles herring fillet
195 tins baked beans	3lbs. butter
1 tin galantine	5 tins meat roll
13 tins stewed steak	1 tin beans in brine
12 tins fish cakes	19lbs. 2ozs. galantine
85 tins luncheon meat	12lbs. luncheon sausage
34 tins brisket of beef	2 tins Nescafe
284 tins plums	6¼lbs. prunes
30 tins carrots	1 tin prepared meal
1 tin blackberries	1 tin minced beef loaf
3 tins meat	4lbs. oranges
240 tins evaporated milk	5 packets All-Bran
70 tins pilchards	3 jars lemon curd

BAKEHOUSES

THERE are 9 bakehouses on the Register. All have been periodically inspected and found to be in a clean condition.

Section F

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

Diphtheria shows a decrease as compared with several past years. The cases were of a mild type. There were no deaths.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever increased without becoming epidemic, and the type continued to be mild.

The epidemic illness of the year was Measles—not of a severe form. The sulphonamide drugs were credited with having cut short the complication of broncho-pneumonia in several cases.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals.	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	37	40	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	10	—	—
Erysipelas	12	3	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Measles	124	13	—
Whooping Cough	10	—	—

Cases Treated in Hospital.

There are two Isolation Hospitals—the Council's permanent Isolation Hospital, and "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital. There are 18 beds in each. The Auxiliary Hospital is conducted as an Evacuation Hospital, sanction having been given for the treatment of permanent district residents in order to make most effective use of all available isolation accommodation in reception areas for Evacuation. Minor infections are treated in the Auxiliary Hospital, and a section is used for treatment of severe Scabies.

Investigation .

Thirty-nine notifiable cases were investigated during the year and enquiries made as to possible source of infection.

Removal by Ambulance.

Twenty-seven cases from Paignton and 11 from other districts were removed to the Isolation Hospital; 51 cases from Paignton and 19 from other districts were removed to the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Total number of cases, 47 :—Males, 17 ; Females, 30.

DISEASE	PAIGNTON	BRIXHAM	DARTMOUTH
Scarlet Fever	27	6	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1	0
Erysipelas	3	1	0
Measles	2	0	0
Cases admitted for observation ...	4	2	0
TOTALS	36	10	1

I. FREEMAN, Matron.

"DUNEDIN" AUXILIARY ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Total number of Cases, 70 :—Males, 27 ; Females, 43.

Native Residents	29
Evacuees	41

DISEASE.				PAIGNTON	BRIXHAM	DARTMOUTH
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	13	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	*11	2	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0
Mumps	...	...	...	0	3	0
Chickenpox	...	...	...	15	13	0
Scabies	...	...	...	12	0	1
TOTALS ...				51	18	1

*Including 1 non-civilian.

E. HARRISON, Matron.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Notices have been inserted in the local Press. Appeals have been made to parents by the distribution of forms. Special sessions have been arranged.

One hundred and eighty children, aged 1 to 5 years, were protected, and I am indebted to Dr. Muriel Morris, who has carried out almost all of these immunisations at the Welfare Centre; 430 children, aged 5 to 15 years, were also protected, Schools being visited for this purpose. The First Aid Post has also been used twice for the immunisation of a large number of these children, and my best thanks are due to Miss Golding and ladies of the St. John Ambulance Nursing Division who so ably assisted me on those occasions.

About 40 per cent. of children aged 1 to 5 years, in Paignton, are fully immunised, and some 72 per cent. of children aged 5 to 15 years.

The prophylactic used, in all cases, was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, in two doses of 0.3 to 0.4 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. There have been no ill effects reported to me, apart from a few cases of temporary localised swelling and stiffness at the site of injection.

Scabies, Skin and Verminous Conditions.

(1)—The treatment of Scabies and other skin conditions at "Atherfield" Hostel was discontinued at the end of October, and thereafter in-patient treatment for severe cases among children was given at "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital, while out-patient treatment for adults and mild cases was given at the Cleansing Clinic, Midvale Road.

Thirteen cases of Scabies have already been shown in the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital return (above). The following Tables complete the total work done;—

"ATHERFIELD" SKIN HOSTEL

		EVACUEES :		DEVON RESIDENTS :	
		Children.	Adults.	Children.	Adults
1—PAIGNTON :—					
Scabies ...	...	32	2	61	14
Impetigo ...	...	6	0	7	2
Dermatitis ...	...	0	0	0	1
Septic Spots, Sores, etc. ...	...	3	0	0	0
Total	...	41	2	68	17
2—DARTMOUTH :—					
Total Scabies	...	0	0	11	1
3—BRIXHAM :—					
Total Scabies	...	1	0	2	0
4—TOTNES R.D.C. :—					
Total Scabies	...	13	1	1	0
TOTALS	...	55	3	82	18

The grand total number of cases treated is 158 :—58 Evacuees and 100 Devon Residents.

D. T. WARD, Matron.

OUT-PATIENT (CLEANSING) CLINIC FOR SCABIES

		EVACUEES :		DEVON RESIDENTS :	
		Children.	Adults.	Children.	Adults
Total Scabies	...	4	0	24	4

D. T. WARD, Nurse-in-charge.

Verminous Head Conditions.

(2)—These were treated at the above Cleansing Clinic (not at the same sessions as for Scabietic treatment). Cleansing has been carried out by the Assistant-Nurse Helper (Mrs. E. Russell), who also, acting part-time for Devon County Council, inspects children in the Schools. This combined practice has proved to be of the greatest benefit in controlling verminous conditions. Home visits and advice by your Medical Officer and the Assistant-Nurse have been given in many cases, so that formal action against parents has generally been unnecessary.

The following Table shows the extent of the work done at the Clinic :—

1943			DEVONS :		EVACUEES :	
			Head Cleansing	Baths	Head Cleansing	Baths
January	...	...	29	10	7	0
February	...	...	21	4	4	9
March	...	...	36	19	1	0
April	...	...	16	9	3	0
May ...	...	...	4	8	9	1
June...	...	...	12	6	5	0
July	...	...	6	6	5	0
August	...	...	6	3	4	0
September	...	...	5	3	3	0
October	...	...	14	0	5	0
November	...	...	6	3	1	0
December	...	...	12	6	2	0
TOTALS	...	...	167	77	49	10

In the inspection, treatment and control of these Scabietic, skin and verminous conditions ever since the first evacuation in 1940, the public have been fortunate in having the services of Nurse Mrs. D. T. Ward and Assistant Nurse Mrs. E. Russell, who have carried out this work, which has been considerable at times, with an enthusiasm and efficiency and especially with a sustained interest in their patients which most of us would consider unusual for those who have to handle conditions which are generally looked upon as very unpleasant.

A professional pride in the results which they achieve—cleaner, healthier children, and the gratitude of parents and foster-parents—has been largely their encouragement and reward.

VACCINATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	95
Objections signed	...	...	...	...	...	98
Postponed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Insusceptible	...	...	...	...	...	2
Died (unvaccinated)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Left District	...	...	...	...	...	6

WM. ROSSITER, Vaccination Officer.

I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer for the above return. The small number of vaccinations is regrettable. Smallpox contacts arriving from abroad, and passing to their homes in many parts of the country, have had to be kept under observation, which is rendered no less anxious for Medical Officers by the presence of so large an unprotected population.

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—5	...	...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
6—10	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11—15	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16—20	...	...	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
21—25	...	...	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
26—35	...	...	5	4	0	1	1	3	0	0
36—45	...	...	5	2	1	0	3	0	0	1
46—55	...	...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
56—65	...	...	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1
66 upwards	...	...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	...	...	14	12	2	2	5	6	0	2

A note is taken of new cases and enquiry made in view of any possible connection, which they might have with milk, food, or other means of spreading infection.



