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URBAN DISTRICT
OF
PAIGNTON

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

FOR 1945

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
PAIGNTON.

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

MR, CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945, in accordance with instructions of the Minister of Health.

Vital Statistics show no great variation from those of last year. Births (340) and deaths (411) are both slightly reduced numbers. The number of births registered in Paignton was 378, and of this number 298 occurred in Hospital or Nursing Homes. The number of births is, approximately, 100 more than that of any of the five years up to 1940—one would have expected the increase to be 40 in proportion to the estimated population and pre-war rates. There has been a further increase in the Illegitimate Births (57)—nearly four times greater than the maximum of any pre-war year. Illegitimacy presented many individual problems for the advice of Health Workers and the help of Health Services.

Measles (199 cases) was prevalent during the first half of the year, especially in the first quarter; the greatest number of cases occurred among children aged 5 to 10 years. There were no deaths.

The termination of war in Europe was soon followed by the return, from Paignton to their homes, of large numbers of evacuated families. For the second half of the year the incidence of infectious disease was negligible, and the occurrence of Scabies rapidly decreased. The Sick Bay ("Pensilva") and the Auxiliary Infectious Disease Hospital ("Dunedin") which were opened under the Evacuation Scheme primarily for the treatment of evacuee children, were closed. Thereafter, the Out-patient Cleansing Clinic remained for the treatment of Scabies.

General health in the district was very good throughout, and while the year may have ended with older adults somewhat tired and overworked, this feeling was alleviated by a sensation of mental relief and by the presence of a child population showing a higher standard of nutrition and health than in pre-war years. Malnutrition is not now a common occurrence.

I have much pleasure in recording my best thanks to all members of the Public Health Staff for another year of work well done. The service given by a small Public Health Department is rarely spectacular, but it usually has to be performed with a patience and tactfulness and kindly understanding for the human factor which is often more dominant than the economic.

To Mr. F. J. Thick, in his capacity as Officer-in-charge of Housing, Refuse Collection and Disposal, and as Chief Billeting Officer, I have to express additional thanks for copies of his Reports upon these matters, which I have included under appropriate headings in this Annual Report.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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, and Medical Officer for 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 :—

Senior Nurse: MISS E. MORGAN (Fever Certif.)
MISS B. RICHARDS (Fever Certif.).
(Resigned 31/10/45).
MISS C. HARTLEY, S.R.N. (Fever Certif.)
(Commenced 1/12/45).

*MISS E. HARRISON, S.R.N. (Resigned 30/4/45).
Matron, "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital.

*MRS. D. T. WARD, S.R.N. (Resigned 31/10/45).
Matron, "Pensilva" Sick Bay until 4/5/45.
Matron, "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital as from
4/5/45, and Nurse-in-charge of Scabies and Skin Treat-
ment.

SANITARY—

FREDK. J. THICK, Certif. S.I.E.B. (London), Meat Certif.,
F.S.I.A.

Chief (Senior) Sanitary Inspector.
Meat Inspector.

S. H. BONE, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Certif.
Additional (Deputy) Sanitary Inspector
Meat Inspector.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :—

†G. E. LOVATT, Cert. S.I.B. (1943).

CLERICAL—

†R. AUTHERS, Chief Clerk.
MISS K. M. TALBOT.
MRS. M. J. SARGEANT. (Resigned Sept., 1945).
Also a Temporary and a Junior Clerk.

OTHER—

Ambulance and Disinfector :—

C. J. TURPIN.

†Part-time. *Temporary. ‡Absent, H.M. Forces.

T. B. CHAFFE, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Certif.

District Sanitary Inspector,

Commenced with Wincanton Rural District Council on
demobilisation from H.M. Forces.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1—

Area (acres)	5,177
Population—Census 1939 (September)	22,510
Registrar-General's estimated resident population, 1944 ...	24,420
Registrar-General's estimated resident population, 1945 ...	24,310
Number of inhabited houses :—1944, 8,505 ; 1945 ...	8,520
Rateable Value, 31st March, 1946	£246,260
Estimated sum represented by Penny Rate, 1945/46 ...	£995

2—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births	340	176	164
Legitimate	283	145	138
Illegitimate	57	31	26
Still Births	4	2	2
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...			13.99
Birth Rate (Still Births) „ „ „			0.16
	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Deaths	411	204	207
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...			16.49

Standardised Death Rate for Paignton :—

Comparability Factor not available for 1945.

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	14	9	5
Legitimate	11	8	3
Illegitimate	3	1	2
All Infants per 1,000 live births			41.18
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			38.87
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		0	
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...		1	

The number of births has decreased by 15 in comparison with last year. The Birth Rate, 13.99 per 1,000 population, is not up to the average rate for England and Wales (16.1 per 1,000 population).

The Death Rate, 16.49 per 1,000 population, continues to be unstandardised. One hundred and sixteen males were over 70 years (39 being over 80 years); 144 females were over 70 years (61 being over 80 years). Of these, there were 11 females over 90 years, while one male passed the age of 96 and one female the age of 100, respectively.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1945

	M.	F.
All causes	204	207
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	0	0
Measles	0	0
Scarlet fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	1	2
Encephalitis lethargica	0	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	0
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	10	3
Other tuberculosis... ..	1	1
Syphilis	0	2
Cancer	26	33
Diabetes	3	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage	22	37

Heart disease	55	60
Other circulatory diseases	4	11
Bronchitis	11	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	3
Other respiratory diseases	3	3
Ulcer of stomach or Duodenum	6	2
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	0	1
Appendicitis	1	0
Other digestive diseases	2	2
Acute and chronic nephritis	6	2
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal diseases	0	0
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	6	3
Suicide	7	3
Road traffic accidents	1	1
Other violence	2	2
All other causes	29	22
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : Total	9	5
Legitimate	8	3
Illegitimate	1	2

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities** continue to be given at the Devon County Laboratory, Dix's Field, Exeter, by arrangement with Devon County Council through the County Medical Officer, and have been satisfactory. Specimens have been submitted from the Isolation Hospitals, Sick Bays, Hostels, Clinics, and from private Practitioner sources as a public health measure.

(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, and an Army Ambulance was received by the Brigade in September, as an addition pending a new Ambulance being obtained. There are two whole-time drivers. A contribution is being made by the Council towards this service. Augmentation and increasing support and improvement of this service with the co-operation of the Brigade has been reviewed.

(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. An improved relief-driver arrangement is still necessary.

(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.**—The Central School Clinic and Dental Clinic, operated by Devon County Council at Midvale Road, for school children and expectant mothers, continues.

Part of this Clinic is equipped as a **Cleansing Clinic**, and is shared by the Council and Devon County Council.

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.

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 E. H. Walters. Both Dr. Morris and Miss Walters 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 and enthusiasm of the voluntary helpers, to whose Honorary Secretary (Mrs. K. Fletcher) I am indebted for the following Report:—

PAIGNTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

SECRETARY'S REPORT for the Year ending 31st December, 1945

During the year under review the Centre was opened for 91 sessions. The attendances for the year were as follows:—

MOTHERS ...	3,579	BABIES ...	2,970	TODDLERS ...	1,088
Mothers on Register	532
Babies on Register	499
Toddlers on Register	177
New Mothers	296
New Babies	238
New Toddlers	63

In addition, the following attendances were made by Evacuees:—

MOTHERS ...	73	BABIES ...	49	TODDLERS ...	45
-------------	----	------------	----	--------------	----

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

- 1— [i] **Water.**—No new sources of supply are in operation.
- (a) Twenty samples have been analysed. Seven of these were not entirely satisfactory.
- (b) Figures kindly furnished by the Water Engineer show that the quantity is adequate. Based on an average for summer months, the consumption is about 40 gallons per head per day for a summer population of 30,000. The average standard for an ample but not excessive urban supply for this country is considered to be 35 gallons per head per day.
- (ii) The supply is piped after storage and filtration, with terminal chlorination at points where the main pipe-lines leave the reservoirs.
- (iii) Neither the moorland nor the lowland supplies have plumbo-solvent action. Lead has not been detected in the chemical analyses, and the hydrogen-ion concentration has always showed a neutral or slightly alkaline re-action.
- (iv) An investigation of the moorland catchment area has been commenced, and of climatic conditions and animal grazing over the area as factors affecting water purity.
- (v) Almost all dwellings in the district have a direct supply. There are very few supplied by means of stand-pipes—only about 0.25 per cent.—but this leaves out of account several farms and other dwellings in rural parts of the district where the piped main supply is not available.
- [ii] **Drainage and Sewerage.**—There are no extensions to record. Complaints of flooding in a certain area are already known, and the remedy awaits post-war attention.
- 2— **Stream Pollution.**—There is nothing to report.
- 3— **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—There has been no further complaint of fly nuisance. Transitory objectionable odours come from nearly all refuse tips, which cause complaint on occasion from those living to leeward of the wind over the Tip.

REPORT ON REFUSE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE, BY MR. F. J. THICK.

Collection.

During the year three new 10 cubic yard Dennis Refuse Lorries were purchased to replace lorries which were not fit for further service.

The lorries now in use for the collection of refuse consist of three Dennis and three Thornycroft, and one Thornycroft lorry is used in connection with Salvage and Pig Swill.

Refuse.

The number of loads collected was 4,015, approximating 6,561.98 tons, during the year.

Disposal.

The refuse is disposed of in the Clennon Valley by controlled tipping. The covering material is obtained from Brown's Field and conveyed by lorry to the Tip. The Council purchased an Excavator for use in the field for the purpose of excavating earth for refuse covering, and for use of the Surveyor's Department in levelling up (for completion of the land for sports ground) that portion of the Clennon Valley already filled in by tipping.

Dustbins.

Sixty-two Notices were served to provide dustbins. All were complied with.

Foreman and Inspector of Works.

The Council sanctioned this appointment, and Mr. F. E. Parnell was successful in obtaining the position. He has carried out his duties conscientiously and has fully justified his appointment.

Salvage.

I give hereunder the details of the salvage collected, and the income received therefrom for 1945:—

MATERIAL.	AMOUNT RECEIVED.		
	£	s.	d.
Paper	657	3	6½
Selected Paper	13	19	0
Cardboard	11	2	0
Rags	45	2	3½
White Rags	13	19	5
Bones	7	9	4½
Cloth	46	4	9
Wool	62	7	10
Carpet	1	13	4½
String	0	18	8½
Aluminium	2	7	6
Brass	3	17	8
Hair	0	10	0
Copper	5	19	9½
Lead	4	3	1½
Zinc	0	2	11
Pewter	0	10	0
Light Iron	0	17	6
Iron	4	10	6
Rope	0	2	3
Jam Jars and Bottles	48	15	9
	<hr/>		
	£931	17	3¼

The income for the previous years was as follows :—

						£	s.	d.
1941	...	...	...	...	...	666	3	7
1942	...	...	...	...	...	2101	18	11
1943	...	...	...	...	...	2173	4	1½
1944	...	...	...	...	...	1391	19	6½

It will be seen from the foregoing that, apart from 1941, the figures for this year are much below the preceding years. From all reports this falling-off is common to most places. The average householder is of the opinion, now that the war is over, that the need for saving salvage is no longer necessary. From appeals from the Government Department concerned, this idea is erroneous, and the saving of certain forms of salvage, notably paper, is still very necessary. I hope that in next year's report I shall be able to state an increase in tonnage over this year.

Book Drive.

A Book Drive was held from 10th to 24th November in conjunction with the Ministry of Supply. The target set by the Ministry was 50,000 books, of which 46,380 books and magazines were collected. Every praise is due to the school children for the excellent manner in which they assisted the Drive, and also the local County Librarian and the Women's Voluntary Services, for the valuable assistance they rendered.

Pig Waste.

Street bins for the collection of pig waste food are still in operation. This waste food is urgently required, especially in view of the shortage of other feeding stuff. The food is properly boiled at the plant at Clennon Valley and then sold. The demand exceeds the supply. The amount sold during the year was 445 tons 13 cwts. 2 qrs., and £946 11s. 10d. was taken in sales.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has compiled the following details of inspections carried out by the Additional Sanitary Inspector and himself. Inspections by the Medical Officer of Health are also included, and also the work of disinfection :—

(a) Drainage.

New Houses—Drainage has been inspected and tested in connection with 15 new houses.

Old Houses or Buildings—The drainage of 14 houses was tested. Eleven were found to be defective, 7 of which were re-laid and 4 repaired.

Visits have been paid in connection with 59 choked drains or private sewers. Forty Notices were served, 19 of which were written and 21 were verbal.

Drainage has also been inspected and tested in connection with additional w.c.'s, bathrooms, etc., at 24 houses.

At one Holiday Camp 40 wash-basins have been installed, with the necessary drainage to each chalet.

(b) Disinfection.

Two hundred and two rooms, representing 135 houses, were disinfected for the following reasons:—

Notifiable Diseases	25
Tuberculosis	19
Other Infectious Diseases	40
Verminous Conditions	34
Other Cases	17

The following is a list of bedding and other articles passed through the Steam Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital:—

	FROM ADJOINING	
	PAIGNTON.	DISTRICTS.
Mattresses	169	63
Pillows	279	71
Blankets	694	274
Other Articles	169	17
Library Books	69	0

The above-mentioned figures do not include a large quantity of bedding removed from various children's hostels, etc., set up under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

(c) Shops Act.

Nine shops were inspected. Notices were served for the provision of sanitary accommodation (male and female), washing accommodation, etc.

All the Notices were complied with, with the exception of one for washing accommodation, which is still outstanding.

(d) Factories Act.

Forty-two factories were inspected. One Notice was served in connection with sanitary accommodation for females, and one in respect of a dirty sanitary convenience. Both were complied with.

(e) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

	INFESTED	DISINFESTED
(1) (a) Council houses ...	1	1
(b) Other houses ...	6	6

The methods employed are (a) by spraying with insecticide (Zaldecide) in mild cases, and (b) using "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 it is considered necessary, the bedding is also removed for steam disinfection.

The methods previously mentioned are also employed when necessary to ensure that the belongings of the tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.

Frequent visits are made, and advice given.

(f) Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

During the year there was one Rodent Operator engaged on this work. 1988 visits were paid and 2453 rats were killed.

These figures do not include the very comprehensive attack carried out on the infestation at the Primley Zoo by the Ministry of Food, in co-operation with the Council, and the No. 3 Workable Area (which latter comprises the services of Rodent Operators from adjoining districts).

Every assistance was given by the Zoo authorities, and the work which took three weeks to complete, was very successful, and apart from the heavy casualties to the rat population, there were no casualties to any of the their inmates, which, having regard to the delicate nature of the work, was very satisfactory.

It is earnestly hoped that the conditions found at the commencement of the attack will not be allowed to recur, otherwise the time and money spent on this occasion will be wasted.

Except in very exceptional circumstances, no charge is made for the services of the Council's Rodent Operator.

4—Schools.

There have been no changes in water supply and sanitary arrangements. Water, washing, and special sanitary conveniences at the Nursery Schools in the district have been inspected and found adequate and satisfactory. The early training in personal cleanliness is by no means the least of the benefits given by Nursery Schools.

Section D

HOUSING

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)	...	...	...	...	...	189
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	491
(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	...	...	...	...	...	24
(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	151
-----	--	-----

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	147
--	--	-----

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	3
(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 ...	1
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notice :—	
(a)	By Owners	1
(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	
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	

- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year
 (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...
- (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
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding] conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report:—

Summary and Observations :—

It is not possible to give accurate figures under Section 4 of this table, because from information received at interviews of the applicants for Council houses, or accommodation in requisitioned houses, it appears that the number in the houses they are occupying is far more than the permitted number; but under the existing conditions, until a large number of houses are built by the Council, or by private enterprise, the problem will not be solved.

One hundred and eighty-nine houses were inspected during the year (156 under the Public Health Act and 33 under the Housing Act).

Notices served to remedy defects were as follows:—

	VERBAL.	INTIMATION.	STATUTORY.	TOTAL.
Housing Act	0	33	3	36
Public Health Act	29	85	1	115
	29	118	4	151

In spite of difficulties with obtaining labour and various permits for materials, it will be noticed it was only found necessary to serve four Statutory Notices.

There is not the slightest doubt that, owing to the abnormal conditions existing regarding housing accommodation, overcrowding does exist in many houses, but it will be appreciated that little or no action can be taken under the circumstances.

Several visits and investigations have been made, mostly in instances brought to notice by the Health Visitors, School Nurses, or by the Nurse-in-charge Scabies treatment. The conditions which caused most work were those arising in the accommodation of evacuated families, where several parents and families occupied the same dwelling.

Mr. F. J. Thick reports :—

As the responsible Officer in dealing with applications for housing accommodation, it is by no means an enviable task to interview daily numerous applicants, and to hear of the difficulties they are experi-

encing owing to the conditions under which they are living, and, in practically every case, trying to bring up a family. One's task is made all the more difficult when it is realised that at the present time there is very little one can do for them.

At the present time there are 12 requisitioned houses still held by the Council, two of which are occupied by one family, three by two families, and the remainder by three families each sharing the kitchen. As is only natural under such circumstances, differences occur from time to time which require the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon to settle.

It is only to be expected that the owners of such requisitioned houses are repeatedly asking when they are likely to be de-requisitioned, but it will be appreciated that until other accommodation is found by the occupants (which is unlikely), or the Council, nothing can be done in this respect.

The number of applications for Council houses increases every day. The majority, of course, have the requisite period of residence of five years in the town, but some optimistic applicants have only a few months' residence, and others, still more optimistic, do not reside in Paignton.

I think the high-light was the applicant from outside the town who, enclosing his application form, requested to be informed the date he could move his furniture and where he could obtain the key!

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a)—Milk Supply.

One hundred and thirty-six visits have been paid to Dairies and Cowsheds.

Number of Cowkeepers or Dairymen on Register at end of year	42
Number Registered as Producer-Retailer	4
Number Registered as Producer-Wholesaler	14
Number Registered as Retailer only	24

Cleanliness and Bacteriological Examinations.

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

Passed ...	13	Failed ...	24
------------	----	------------	----

	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
Cleanliness (Methylene Blue Test)	12	24	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bacteriological Failures (B. Coli Test of the above)	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

Five of the above Cleanliness failures were from one Farm in the Urban District within a period of eight months, and these also failed on the Bacteriological tests.

In addition, and not included above, 19 samples were examined for Tubercle Bacillus; these were from Farms all within the Urban District. Seventeen of these samples were Negative; two tests were inconclusive.

National Milk-Testing and Advisory Scheme.

In May, a Sampling Officer was appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to act under the supervision of the Principal of Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, where the testing is carried out. I am indebted to Mr. C. S. Morris, the Bacteriologist of the College, for the following results of the samples:—

(i) Taken prior to appointment of Sampling Officer:—

Passed A ... 67 Passed B ... 13 Passed C ... 10

(ii) Taken by the Sampling Officer:—

Passed A ... 372 Passed B ... 163 Passed C ... 230

Totals : Passed A ... 439 Passed B ... 176 Passed C ... 240

A—Indicates "Satisfactory" milk.

B—Indicates "Doubtful" milk.

C—Indicates "Unsatisfactory" milk.

With reference to all of the above tests for Cleanliness, which should be more accurately referred to as keeping-quality tests, it will be appreciated that the results in winter-time (cold weather period) are generally very much better than those obtained during the summer months.

(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 Private slaughter-house, in structure, arrangements, area and situation, has long since ceased to be commendable.

The small percentage of Tuberculosis is again satisfactory.

The following Table shows the number of animals killed during the year at the slaughter-house at Crown and Anchor (Registered) and Public slaughter-house, Luscombe Road :—

		CATTLE	COWS	PIGS	CALVES	SHEEP and LAMBS	GOATS	T'tl.
Registered Slaughter House	...	739	646	4	721	5867	1	7978
Public Slaughter House	...	570	449	82	186	6616	0	7903
TOTALS	...	1309	1095	86	907	12483	1	15881

In addition, carcasses imported into the District have also been inspected at the Meat Depot and Butchers' Shops.

UN SOUND FOOD

Tables showing details of Meat and Offals condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption :—

Carcasses Inspected and Destroyed :—

	CATTLE (excl'dg. Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed ...	1309	1095	907	12483	86
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	7	11	3	43	0
Carcasses of which some part of or- gan was con- demned ...	382	357	3	482	1
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	29.72%	33.61%	.66%	4.2%	0

Carcases Inspected and Destroyed—(Continued) :—

	CATTLE (Excl'dg. Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP and LAMBS	PIGS
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	15	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	98	86	0	0	3
Percentage of num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	7.9 %	9.22%	0	0	3.49%

	TUBERCULOSIS.	OTHER DISEASES AND CONDITIONS.	TOTAL
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Beef ...	15,777	7,931	23,708
Pork ...	60	—	60
Mutton...	—	2,756	2,756
Veal ...	—	253	253
Offals ...	5,592	11,865	17,457
	21,429	22,805	44,234

OTHER UNSOUND FOOD DESTROYED

The following other unsound foods have also been destroyed :—

1,201 tins meat	375½ lbs. meat
196 tins fish	48 stone fish
6 tins soup	36 lbs. sausages
56 lbs. lard	1 pig's head
23lbs. butter	56 lbs. suet
215¾ lbs. bacon	3 qrs. 23¾ lbs. cheese
1 cwt. lentils	7½ lbs. biscuits
385¾ lbs. dates	10 lbs. tea
25 lbs. raisins	8 lbs. sugar
77 tins milk	5 tins dried milk
1 pkt. cereals	9 plum puddings (14lbs.)
1 tin carrots	88 tins beans
24 tins peas	1 tin cherries
4 lbs. cake	4 jars sweets
6 tins syrup	2 tins bramble jam
33 tins marmalade	99 lbs. Seville oranges

Food Premises.

Sixty-seven visits have been paid to other food premises (bake-houses, cafés, fishmongers, ice cream premises) where food is prepared or sold.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Prevalence.

The continued diminution of Diphtheria cases gives further support to the value of Immunisation.

Scarlet Fever was even more sporadic than last year, the disease being in a mild form.

The limited whooping-cough infection caused anxiety in a few cases. There is no question of the benefit of Hospital treatment for the latter, where the patients are of tender years, and the disease itself and its complication so often acute and prolonged, the difficulty of treatment in many homes is very real.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals.	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	*19	14	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Enteric Fever (Including Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0
Pneumonia	7	0	10
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Dysentery	3	2	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Measles	199	9	0
Whooping Cough	19	0	0
Acute Polimyelitis	0	0	0

*Including 1 Non-Civilian (on home leave).

Cases Treated in Hospital.

With the closing of "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital there remains the pre-war accommodation at King's Ash—a total of 18 beds in two wards and no cubicle or side-ward accommodation.

Investigation.

Twenty-five⁴ notifiable cases were investigated during the year and enquiries were made as to possible source of infection.

The above does not include cases visited in their homes by the Medical Officer of Health, or other home investigations made by him.

Removal by Ambulance.

Twenty cases from Paignton and 19 from other districts were removed to the Isolation Hospital; 16 cases from Paignton and 4 from other districts were removed to the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Total number of cases, 42 :—Males, 14 ; Females, 28.

DISEASE	PAIGNTON.	BRIXHAM.	DARTMOUTH.	OTHER AREAS
Scarlet Fever ...	13	7	3	8
Diphtheria ...	2	1	1	1
Dysentery ...	2	0	0	0
Measles ...	2	0	1	0
Chicken-pox ...	1	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	20	8	5	9

I. FREEMAN, Matron.

“ DUNEDIN ” AUXILIARY ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Total number of cases, 43 :—Males, 25 ; Females, 18.

Native Residents ...	16
Evacuees ...	27

DISEASE.	PAIGNTON.	BRIXHAM.	DARTMOUTH.	OTHER AREAS
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0	0	0
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	0	0	1	0
Measles ...	7	1	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	2
Mumps ...	6	0	0	0
Chicken-pox ...	2	0	0	0
Ringworm ...	0	0	0	4
Scabies ...	8	3	0	0
Impetigo ...	2	0	0	0
Head Vermin ...	0	0	3	0
Others ...	1	0	0	2
TOTALS ...	27	4	4	8

DEATHS :—Broncho-Pneumonia, 1 (Dartmouth).

(This Hospital was closed on 31st October, 1945).

D. T. WARD, Matron.

" PENSILVA " SICK BAY

Total number of cases, 30 :—Males,15 ; Females,15.

Native Residents	...	...	4
Evacuees	...	...	26

DISEASE.	PAIGNTON.	OTHER AREAS
Scabies	11	2
Impetigo	3	0
Asthma	1	0
Bronchitis	1	0
Convalescent Appendix	2	0
Convalescent Pneumonia	2	0
Swollen Glands	2	0
Enuresis	1	0
Septic Leg	1	0
Sprained Ankle	1	0
Abscess in Neck	1	0
Observation	2	0
TOTALS	28	2

The Sick Bay was closed on 4th May, 1945.

D. T. WARD, Matron.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Personal letter and children's birthday card appeals were made to parents of younger children.

One hundred and eighty-two children, aged 1 to 5 years, were protected, and our sincere thanks are due to Dr. Muriel Morris, who has carried out 139 of these immunisations at the Welfare Centre.

One hundred and fifteen children in the 5 to 15 years age group were also completed.

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.

Scabies, Skin and Verminous Conditions.

(1) 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.

Eight cases of Scabies have already been shown in the Auxiliary Isolation Hospital return, and 11 cases in the return for " Pensilva " Sick Bay. The following Table completes the total work done :—

OUT-PATIENT (CLEANSING) CLINIC FOR SCABIES

	EVACUEES :		DEVON RESIDENTS :	
	Children.	Adults.	Children	Adults.
1—PAIGNTON :—				
Total Scabies	14	5	38	5
2—BRIXHAM :—				
Total Scabies	0	0	1	0
3—Dartmouth :—				
Total Scabies	0	0	1	1
4—TOTNES R.D. :—				
Total Scabies	0	0	1	0
TOTALS ...	14	5	41	6

The total number of cases treated is 66 :—19 Evacuees and 47 Devon residents.

The total for 1944 was 144 :—44 Evacuees and 100 Devon residents.

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 Scabiatic 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 continues to be of the greatest benefit in controlling verminous conditions. Home visits and advice by your Medical Officer and Assistant-Nurse have been given in many cases, so that formal action against parents has generally been unnecessary.

The following numbers received attention at the Clinic :—

DEVON RESIDENTS :—

Head Cleansing	...	...	...	23
Baths	...	...	...	0

EVACUEES :—

Head Cleansing	...	...	...	50
Baths	...	...	...	1

Parents with inadequate home facilities have continued to give ready consent to their children receiving the advantage of the Cleansing Clinic. "Return" cases have greatly diminished in number.

VACCINATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Objections signed	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
Postponed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Left District	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

WM. ROSSITER, Vaccination Officer.

I again thank the Vaccination Officer for the above Return. The small number of vaccinations is regrettable.

The arrangements for the following-up of Smallpox contacts are unchanged. Thirteen persons (arrivals by ship and aircraft) were kept under surveillance.

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6—10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11—15	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
16—20	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
21—25	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
26—35	4	2	2	1	4	3	1	1
36—45	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
46—55	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
56—65	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
66 upwards	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	14	9	4	1	10	3	1	1

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. One such case was investigated.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF BILLETING OFFICER, 1945

Evacuation.

The number of persons billeted in Paignton on 1st January, 1945, was as follows :—

Unaccompanied children	...	...	...	...	505
Accompanied children	...	...	...	...	692
Mothers	...	...	...	...	419
Adults	...	...	...	...	114
Teachers	...	...	...	...	11
Helpers	...	...	...	...	4

During the year the majority of the Evacuees returned to their homes. Some remained because they had no home to which they could return, and others stayed after having made private arrangements.

Those who remained billeted were as follows, at 31st December, 1945 :—

Unaccompanied children	...	...	...	...	17
Accompanied children	...	...	...	...	50
Mothers	...	...	...	...	18
Adults	...	...	...	...	1
Helpers	...	...	...	...	1

Hostels.

All the Hostels closed down during the year.

Claims for Compensation.

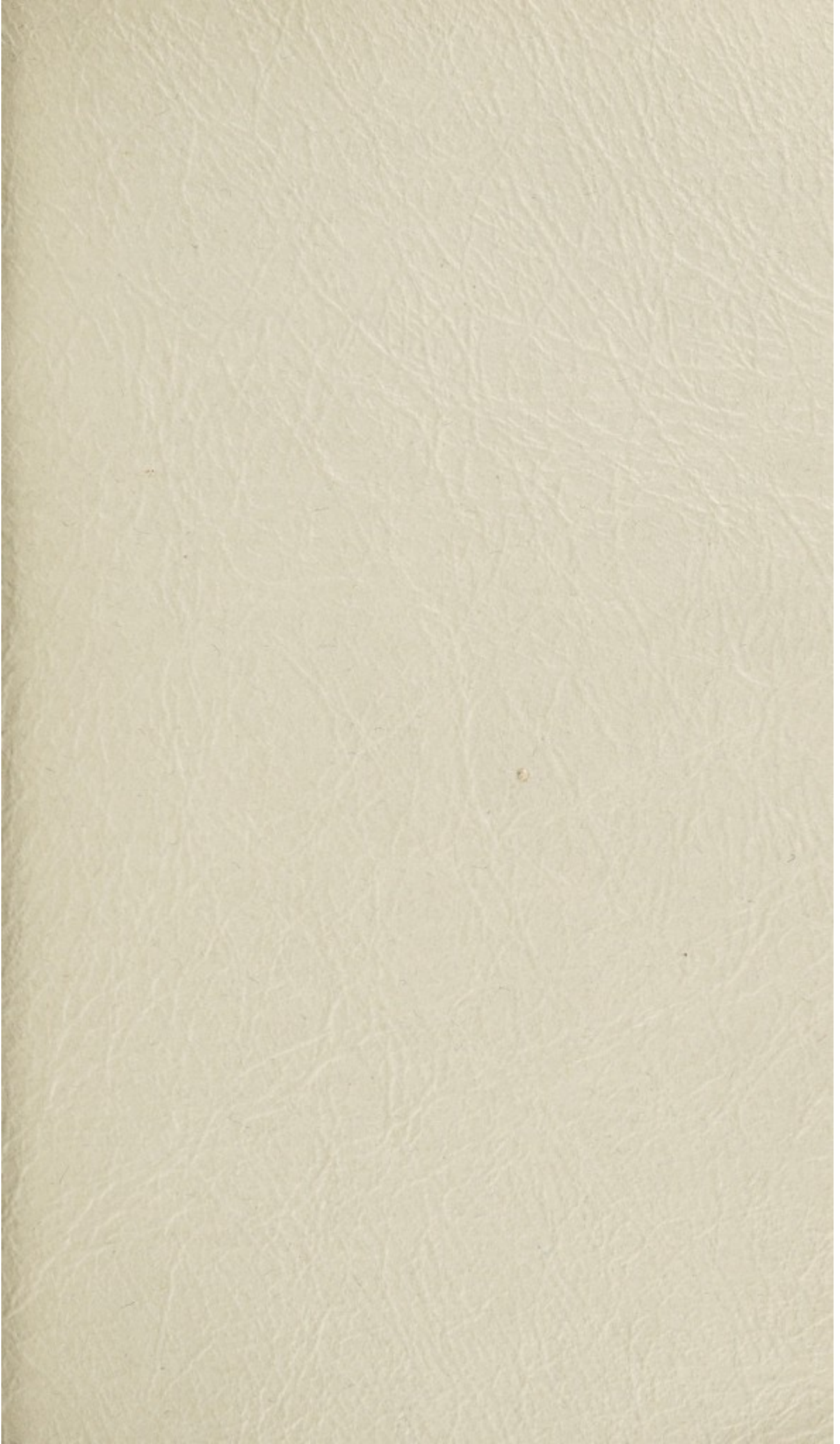
Several claims for compensation, due to damage stated to be caused by Evacuees, were received and investigated, and reports made to the Ministry of Health. With one or two exceptions all the claims were settled.

Christmas Party.

A Circular was received from the Ministry of Health, stating that an Entertainment could be provided for the remaining evacuee children. I arranged for the accompanied and unaccompanied children to attend the matinee performance of the pantomime at the Public Hall on Boxing Day. Each child also received sixpence.

FREDK. J. THICK,

Chief Billeting Officer.



HEALTH
A 19 MAR 1947
C.R. 75