THE PETERSFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1944

TO:

The Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your information, the Annual Public Health Report of the Petersfield Rural District for the year 1944.

The Report as in previous years, is again curtailed under instructions from the Ministry of Health but will, I believe, meet with all their requirements.

The health of the population of the Area has been most satisfactory. No interruption, whatsoever took place at any time during the year of any of the essential services.

Medical Charge of the District was held by me throughout the year.

My grateful thanks are due to the entire Public Health Staff for their efficient and loyal cooperation throughout the year.

I am much indebted to both Mr. Thomas and Mr. Chamings for their valuable and efficient assistance.

Yours faithfully,

W D Murison

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

Area of District	56.155 acres.
Population	18,690
Number of inhabited houses	4,950
Number of Assessments	5,596
Rateable Value	£112,138
Product of a Penny Rate	£466.2.5.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Live Births

	M	F	Total	Total 1943
Legitimate	161	168	329	306
Illegitimate	16	15	31	32

Still Births

Legitimate	3	8	11	15
Illegitimate	1	1	2	nil

Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated population	19.96	17.22
Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales	17.6	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000, total (Live and Still) Births.	34.8	42.4

Deaths

M	F	Total	Total 1943
117	109	226	227

Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident population	12.09	11.07
Death Rate per 1,000 England and Wales	11.60	12.10

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-
Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	M	F	Total	Total 1943
Legitimate	7	8	15	
Illegitimate	2	-	2	

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	45-59	38.46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	64.51	
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	47.22	41.41
Corresponding figures for England and Wales	46.0	49.00

Death Rates per 1,000 of population from:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.16
All other forms of Tuberculosis	.05
Heart Disease	3.37
Cancer	2.24

	Total 1944
Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases:-	
Smallpox, Enteric, Diphtheria,	Nil
Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Menbrenous, Croup, Measles, Diarrhoea,	Nil
Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age .	Nil

Notes on Vital Statistics.

Births.

A total of 360 births were Registered during the year , 177 males and 183 females, and of this number 16 males and 15 females were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate of 19.96 compares favourably with 17.22, the figure for 1943 as well as with 17.6 being the figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1944.

Deaths

The number of deaths, after allowance being made for all transferable cases, was 226, 117 males and 109 females - equal to a Rate of 12.09 per 1,000 Estimated Resident population, as compared with a figure of 227 - 107 male and 120 female - and a Rate of 11.07 per 1,000 Resident population for the preceeding year.

This slight increase in the rate per 1,000 population is in part accounted for by the fact that the Estimated Resident population showed a decrease of 1,310 as compared with 1943.

Causes of Death.

	M	F	Total	Total 1943
Typhoid	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Respitary System)	3	-	3	6
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	-	1	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	-
Influenza	3	1	4	12
Measles	-	-	-	1
Cancer Buc.Cav. and Oesoph (M)	1	-	-	2
Cancer Uterus (F)		2	2	2
Cancer Stomach and Duodenum	6	2	8	7

	M	F	Total	Total 1943
Cancer of Breast	-	5	5	3
Cancer All Other Forms	15	9	24	21
Diabetes	2	-	2	2
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	12	14	26	22
Heart Disease	28	35	63	59
Other Disorders of Circulatory System	3	4	7	5
Bronchitis	3	4	7	10
Pneumonia	4	3	7	4
Other Respitary Diseases	3	1	4	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	2	3
Appendicitis	-	1	1	-
Other Digestive Disorders	4	2	6	4
Nephritis	2	5	7	6
Premature Birth	4	1	5	4
Suicide	-	1	1	4
Road Traffic Accidents	3	1	4	5
Other Violent Causes	3	-	3	7
All other Cases	13	13	26	24
	117	109	226	227

It is most satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from Typhoid Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Whooping Cough.

It is particularly gratifying to record, having regard to the continuing conditions of overcrowding, the considerable movement and billeting of Troops and of Labour Units, that the evidence of Fever has remained normal.

The incidence of deaths from Cancer and Heart Disease, is again high. The deaths from the former were 24 - 15 male and 9 female - representing 17-7% of the total deaths as compared with 15-4 for the preceeding year. The deaths from the latter numbered 63 - 28 males and 35 females, and represent 27.8% of the total deaths as compared with 26.00% for 1943.

	M.	F.	Total	Total 1943
Cancer of Breast	-	5	5	5
Cancer All Other Forms	15	9	24	21
Diabetes	3	-	3	3
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	12	34	46	22
Heart Disease	28	35	63	59
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	5	7	5
Bronchitis	3	4	7	10
Pneumonia	4	3	7	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	-	3	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	2	3
Appendicitis	-	1	1	-
Other Digestive Diseases	4	2	6	1
Nephritis	2	5	7	5
Premature Birth	4	1	5	4
Suicide	-	1	1	4
Road Traffic Accident	3	1	4	5
Other Violent Causes	2	-	2	7
All other Causes	17	9	26	24
	177	109	286	222

It is most satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from Typhoid Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Whooping Cough.

Apart particularly pleasing to record, having regard to the exceptional conditions of overcrowding, the considerable movement and mixing of people and of Labour Units, that the epidemic of Fever has remained normal.

The incidence of deaths from Cancer and Heart Disease is regrettable. The deaths from the former were 29 - 19 more and 5 fewer - representing 17·0% of the total deaths as against 15·4% for the preceding year. The deaths from the latter numbered 63 - 26 males and 35 females, and represent 22·0% of the total deaths as compared with 26.0% for 1943.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

The standard of health generally has been most satisfactory and there has been no incidence of importance recorded which merits special reference.

A large percentage of the male adult population is still employed in centres outside the District. Agriculture absorbs a large number of the population.

The District is predominantly Residential and Agricultural, and has no large conditions of labour or environment which might adversely affect the general health of the Community.

The health of children of school age has been generally satisfactory. No cases of Malnutrition were recorded during the course of School Medical Inspections. In most Elementary Schools in the Area, provision has now been made for serving of excellent Hot Mid-day meals to all pupils. This service could still further be improved by the provision, at all Schools, of properly constructed Dining Halls, where children could sit and dine at tables in comfort.

Many more desireable improvements in Rural Schools could be enumerated. It is sincerely hoped that the day will not be far distant when these very necessary facilities are provided .

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases Notified.

	1944	1943	1942
Scarlet Fever	18	23	24
Whooping Cough	58	23	41
Diphtheria	2	4	6
Erysipelas	8	4	4
Measles	63	104	127
Pneumonia	5	6	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1
Typhoid	-	-	-
Acute Poleomyelitis	2	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	-	-
Chicken Pox	11	-	-

GENERAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT.

The standard of health generally has been most satisfactory and there has been no incidence of importance recorded which merits special mention.

A large proportion of the male adult population is still employed in centres outside the District. Agriculture absorbs a large number of the population.

The District is predominantly Residential and Agricultural and has no large conditions of labour or environment which might adversely effect the general health of the Community.

The health of children of school age has been generally satisfactory. No cases of malnutrition were recorded during the course of School Medical Inspections. In most Elementary Schools in the Area, provision has been made for the serving of mid-day meals so that parents, who are unable to pay, may be improved by the provision, at all schools, of properly constructed dining halls, where children could attend dine at tables in comfort.

Many more desirable improvements in Rural School could be undertaken. It is sincerely hoped that the day will not be far distant when these very necessary facilities are provided.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases Notified.

	1944.	1943.	1942.
Scarlet Fever	16	23	24
Puerperal Sepsis	38	23	47
Diphtheria	2	4	6
Erysipelas	2	4	4
Measles	1	108	177
Whooping Cough	5	5	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Typhoid	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	-	-
Dengue Typhoid Fever	1	-	-
Chicken Pox	11	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases Notified

	1944	1943	1942
Dysentery	40	-	-
Rubella	77	-	-

The more prevelant Diseases were Whooping Cough, Measles, Rubella and Dysentery. The incidence of Measles shows a substantial decline as compared with the two preceeding years, while that of Whooping Cough Shows a considerable increase.

The number of cases of Rubella was abnormally high as also that of Dysentery. Almost all the cases of Dysentery occurred at a Childrens' Home for Evacuated Children. Cases were reported at intervals throughout the year, and no specific cause can be offered to account for the occurrence, except perhaps the presence of a "Carrier". The conditions at the House were at all times satisfactory.

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases may be regarded as most satisfactory, in spite of admitted overcrowding of small dwelling houses and the conjestion at Schools and other Public places.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases recorded, and mortality.

	New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 30	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
35 - 40	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 - 45	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 50	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 60	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60 - 65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 Upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	12	5	-	-	2	-	-	-

The number of new cases recorded was 17, as compared with 19 during the preceeding year. The number of Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis was 2 as compared with 5 in 1943.

The total number of cases recorded and on the register at the end of the year was Pulmonary 52, Non-Pulmonary 29 as compared with 41 Pulmonary and 30 Non-Pulmonary at the end of 1943.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The Health Services made available to the general public remain unchanged.

Infectious Diseases All cases of Infectious Disease are treated at the Petersfield Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, which has accommodation for:-

Scarlet Fever 22 Beds.
Diphtheria 22 Beds.

This Hospital also provides an Ambulance Service for the removal to the Hospital of all Infectious patients.

Facilities are also available at all times for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding etc.

During the year the Matron and Staff undertook the treatment of Scabies, where all cases attended as Out Patients.

In practically all cases the Ambulance conveys the patient, as well as contaminated clothing to the Hospital for disinfection.

The thanks of the Council are again due to the Matron and Staff for their ready and willing cooperation.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease treated shows a decline as compared with the preceeding year.

General Hospital Treatment.

Treatment is available at the Petersfield and Haslemere Hospitals, while in the Southern part of the District facilities exist at the Havant Hospital. Provision is also made for the nursing of sick children at Heath House, Petersfield, and at "Mooreys," Liss. The latter Establishment was, however, closed at the latter end of the year as being redundant.

Nursing Associations provide and maintain Nurses in most Parishes, while the County Health Visitors make visits in cases of Infectious Disease, visit all Schools and are available for service in all emergencies.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Laboratory at Winchester is available to all Medical Practitioners for Chemical and Bacteriological examination of Specimens.

Maternity.

Midwifery is undertaken by practically all District Nurses.

Temporary Maternity Hospitals are established at "Collyers," Steep, and at Chiltley Place, Liphook. The number of Beds available being 13 and 24 respectively. These Hospitals were primarily established for the use of Evacuated mothers, but admit local cases if and when accommodation is available. The Petersfield Hospital also takes a number of Maternity cases.

The present facilities for Maternity cases cannot by any means be regarded as satisfactory. The need for a Maternity Home centrally situated and to serve the whole Urban and Rural Districts is a matter for urgent consideration and positive action. Every prospective mother from the highest to the most humble in circumstances should have the privilege of being confined in pleasant surroundings and with the best available Medical Care and Nursing. I again deplore the existing conditions which necessitate many mothers, mainly for financial reasons, being confined in badly lit and ventilated Cottage Bedrooms, often

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases treated shows a decline as compared with the preceding year.

General Hospital.

The chief in-patient facilities are Peterfield and Bingmere Hospitals, which is the responsibility of the District Facilities Committee of the General Hospital. Provision is also made for the nursing of sick children at Essex House, Peterfield, and at "Moorfield" Lane. The Junior Rehabilitation unit, however, closed at the latter end of the year as being redundant.

Nursing Associations provide and maintain nurses in most Parishes, while the County Health Visitors make visits in cases of Infectious Disease, visit all Schools and are available for service in all emergencies.

Maternity Facilities.

The County Maternity at Windsor is available to all Medical Practitioners for obstetrical and gynaecological examination or treatment.

Maternity.

Midwifery is undertaken by practically all District Nurses.

Temporary Maternity Hospitals are established at Hollyrea, Ivery, and at Quality Place, Upfurt. The number of beds available is 12 and Superintendent Ly. Gynaecologists were primarily established for the use of Evacuated mothers, but admit local cases if and when accommodation is available. The Peterfield Hospital also taken a number of Maternity cases.

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without an adequate water supply, and remote from immediate Medical and Nursing Aid. The surprising normal mortality of infants in the more rural areas can only be attributed to the keen sense of duty and loyalty of the local Medical Practitioners and District Nurses.

Clinical and Treatment Centres.

Anti Natal Clinics are made available at Petersfield, Havant, Liss and Liphook, and these are fairly central for the whole District. Maternity and Child WelfareCentres are provided at Horndean, Hawkley, Liss, Liphook, Petersfield and Rowlands Castle.

Orthopaedic Clinics, are available for the whole of the District and are centred at Havant, Alton and Petersfield. A Tuberculosis Dispensary serving the whole District is available at Havant.

The Veneral Disease Treatment Centre at Portsmouth is available to residents in the Rural District.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria was maintained at a high level as in previous years.

A total of 164 children under 5 years of age and 84 between 5 and 15 years of age were given protection against this most dreaded disease.

The area may now be considered to have been satisfactorily protected against the disease. It is to be deplored that apathy and indifference amounting to obstinacy to protection still exists in some slight measure with some parents in spite of the proved efficacy of the undertaking.

It is a real and moral obligation on the part of parents to see to it that their young children especially those attaining the age of 1 year are adequately protected against the disease. It is a duty they owe not only to their own children, but also to those of their friends and the General Public. Only 2 cases of the Disease were notified during the year. These cases were in persons who had not received immunisation; one being in a child of school age and the other in an adult. There were no deaths from the disease during the course of the year.

without an adequate water supply, and remote from immediate medical and hospital aid. The disappointing medical amenity of infants in the more rural areas can only be attributed to the keen sense of duty and loyalty of the Local Medical Practitioners and District Nurses.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Anti Natal Clinics are made available at Petersfield, Havant, Liss and Liphook, and these are fairly central for the whole District. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are provided at Horndean, Hawkley, Liss, Liphook, Petersfield and Southdown Centre.

Orthopaedic Clinics are available for the whole of the District and are centred at Havant, Alton and Petersfield.

Tuberculosis Dispensary serving the whole District is available at Havant.

The Venereal Disease Treatment Centre at Portsmouth is available to residents in the Rural District.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria was maintained at a high level as in previous years.

Against 1,104 children under 5 years of age and of between 5 and 14 years of age, given protection against this most dreaded disease.

The disease may yet be made rare, it has been practically produced against the disease. It is to be regretted that apathy and indifference accounting to obtaining to protection still exists in some districts because with some parents in spite of the proved efficacy of the immunisation.

It is a sad and moral obligation on the part of parents to see to it that their young children especially those attaining the age of 1 year are adequately protected against the disease. It is a duty they owe not only to their own children, but also to those children friends and the General Public. Only 2 cases of the disease were notified during the year. These were children who had not received immunisation one being a male of school age and the other in an adult. There were no deaths from the disease during the course of the year.

In conclusion I am glad to record that the standard of health genrally in the District during the year was satisfactory. In regard to the future we confidently look forward to the fulfilment of many promises of better conditions in the Medical and Health Services, Water Supplies, Disposal of Sewage, Education and particularly in housing.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The conditions with regard to Water Supplies remain very much the same as reported on a year ago.

In the twelve parishes having a piped water supply a full service was maintained throughout the year, and the quality of the water was good. The yield from several sources of supply although adequate for the requirements of the areas supplied, showed an appreciable falling off during the period of late summer and early autumn. In consequence of a rainfall well below the average during the past four years, the ground level of water fell abnormally low during the summer period, and consequently a falling off in the yield of Springs etc. The yield from Springs in the Upland formation such as the Marlin Rock, began falling off as early as May, and continued falling until the latter end of June, when approximately the normal summer level was reached. These Upland Springs did not fully recover until mid December. With regard to Springs, Wells, etc., on the lower formation such as the Upper Green Sand Hythe Beds, the normal yield from Springs etc., had not fully recovered at the end of the year. During the summer, a number of Wells which have always yielded water throughout dry summers, became dry, to become restored during late Autumn.

Throughout the District water is required only for domestic and Agricultural purposes and very little for Industrial purposes.

I report as follows on the several Undertakings:-

Buriton

As in previous years, the yield at this source of supply was abundant during the greater part of the year, but falls to a dangerous level during the latter end of the summer. As consumption

is continually on the increase, the present supply cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory.

In view of the Council's resolve to provide a Sewage Scheme for the Village, a more plentiful supply should immediately be sought. The quality of the water, however, remains very satisfactory. The water is obtained at a level of approximately 260.O.D. and between the lower chalk and greensand formation.

Froxfield.

The yield from the Springs at Ashford was more than adequate for all requirements throughout the year, and at no time fell below 75,000 gallons per day.

This water, obtained from the chalk formation is of a "Hard" character and the quality, although liable to flactuation remained satisfactory throughout the year. The existence of several Residences on the high ground above the source, renders continual sterilisation of the water necessary, but the degree of sterilisation required is not sufficient to render the water unpalatable or to justify dechlorination. The consumption in the area has considerably increased during the past two years as several miles of service have been laid to supply water for the many scattered Farms. A fair amount is consumed by Service Personnel situated in the area. The expense of laying approximately 10 miles of mains in this parish has been more than justified.

Hawkley.

The yield at this source of supply is abundant, and the quantity pumped from the Station is only a fraction of that available. The Springs being of an "Upland" character fall to an appreciable amount during the summer period, but the minimum yield of the Springs, as far as they can be gauged, does not fall short of 300,000 gallons per day. The quality of the water continues to be satisfactory but as the collecting area is now under cultivation all water pumped into the service mains is subjected to sterilisation, as a precautionary measure.

During the year the Hawkley service was extended to link up with the Doscombe-Liss Main in order to Augment the yield from Doscombe which normally supplies the major part of the Liss area.

Inser

This area is supplied from two sources viz:-

A Gravitation supply from Doscombe in the Upper Chalk formation and also from Palmers Farm in the Upper Green Sand formation. The Doscombe supply is prolific only during the winter months. It falls to a very low level each summer when the yield is only approximately 25% of the quantity required for the area normally supplied. These Works were constructed in 1908, and Records show that the summer yield in the year immediately following was hardly sufficient for the requirements of the Village. The yield, however, during a few months of the year is more than adequate. The water is of medium quality, and has for some years been sterilised at the source.

In 1926 the supply was augmented by a supply from Palmers Farm, where the water is obtained from an Underground Gallery in the Upper Green Sand formation, from where it is pumped to the highest point at Hillbrow O.D. 526.00.

From this point the water can be gravitated to every part of the parish.

The yield from this source has always been abundant and showed no variation in flow until the summer of 1943, when a falling off became perceptable. The flow did not fully recover during the winter of 1943-44, and during the summer of 1944, the flow was only equal to the capacity of the pumps at the pumping station. The two supplies based on the present consumption will continue to meet the requirements of the area, but in the event of much Housing Development in the area, it will no doubt be necessary to further augment the supply. The Palmers Farm Water is of a very high Bacteriological quality, but has a very small iron content in solution, which at the more remote points from the source, liberates the iron which encrusts on the lining of mains and service pipes. The water is of very soft quality, the hardness content being approximately 3 degrees.

Langrish and Eastmeon Parish.

In both these Parishes water is purchased in bulk from the Urban District Council and the Leydene Estate respectively.

The water requirements at Langrish is very small, and the supply is both adequate and satisfactory.

The supply at Eastmeon, purchased from the Leydene Estate, is adequate for present requirements of the Village and environs.

It is relevant to mention, however, that the major part of the inhabitants draw their water from Standposts in the several Village Streets, but such a service is not comparable with present day standards. It should be possible for each dwelling to have an in door piped service. A service where water is in any way limited can hardly be termed satisfactory.

The Council has resolved to proceed in due course with the matter of improving the water supply, and also with the provision of a Sewage Disposal Scheme for the Village. The latter service will necessitate a much more liberal supply of water for domestic use than as at present.

Steep.

The major part of this Parish has been supplied for many years by the Urban District Council, while the outlaying parts are supplied by the Council partly with water purchased from the Urban District Council and partly from the Froxfield Water Supply. The service throughout the parish is satisfactory in every respect.

Colemore and Priorsdean.

Owing to continued War restrictions, the proposed Scheme to provide this Parish with a piped water supply is still in its infancy, and very little progress has been made. The Scheme is one which should be subsidised under the Rural Water Supply and Sewerage Act. To this end the Proposal has been submitted to the County Council together with an application for a Grant in Aid. It is hoped it will be possible to make some substantial progress inthe coming year. The need for a Water Supply in the Parish is very evident, particularly for Agricultural purposes.

The Scheme if carried into effect will by no means be an economical undertaking. It will add substantially to the burden of the general Ratepater, and consequently the Scheme should qualify for substantial Grants both from the County Authority and

the Ministry of Health.

The other remaining Parishes, as previously reported, are supplied by two Statutory Bodies viz:- The Portsmouth Water Co., and the Wey Valley Water Co. The supplies are at all times adequate and satisfactory.

It is interesting to record that the length of water mains laid by and owned by the Council is 37.2 miles while a further 45 miles have been laid down and maintained by the Statutory Bodies.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The situation in the District with regard to Sewage Disposal is similar to that set out in my Report for 1943.

Sewerage facilities are provided in the Parishes of Bramshott, Liss, Horndean, Rowlands Castle, and Steep, with Sewage Disposal Works in these Parishes viz: Bramshott, Liss and Rowlands Castle.

The Sewage from Steep , is discharged into the Sewage system of the Petersfield Urban District Council by agreement with that Authority. All Sewage in the Horndean area is treated at the Hartplain Sewage Works within the Urban District of Havant and Waterloo, such arrangement having been made between the two Authorities subsequent to the coming into operation of the Hampshire Review Order 1932.

The arrangements for the disposal of Sewage at Bramshott, Horndean, Rowlands Castle and Steep are adequate and satisfactory.

The Liss Disposal Works were constructed in 1930 and designed to deal with the sewage for a population of 3,000 people. The works have proved inadequate to deal with the volumn of Sewage discharged, particularly during the winter months.

The Sewers in the Parish are laid in soil which is perpetually water logged and the quantity of ground water infiltration is considerable, especially during the winter months.

In 1939 application was made to the Ministry of Health for the sanction to a Loan of £4,000 for the purpose of extending these Works. Unfortunately the War intervened and the matter held in abeyance. It is hoped that conditions in the near future will make it possible to carry out this Work of Extension.

I feel justified in again referring to the conditions prevailing at the Villages of Buriton and Eastmeon, where the need for sewers has become a matter of very great urgency.

In both Parishes the inhabitants are fortunate in having a piped Water Supply. Facilities for the disposal of foul water on the other hand are very primitive and objectionable and constitute a serious danger, if not a real menace to health. The Council has resolved to place the sewering of these two Villages on a priority Schedule of Post War activities. It is hoped that with possible substantial assistance under the Provision of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the matter will not be unduly delayed.

Other more or less populated areas in the District without satisfactory arrangements for the disposal of foul water, are in need of attention whenever opportunity offers. Perhaps this may be made possible in due course whenever the idealistic conditions evisaged in the Hobhouse and earlier Reports come into function.

SCAVENGING.

Refuse Collection was considerably curtailed in the District since the beginning of the War and the collection of House Refuse generally was restricted to the populated areas of Bramshott, Clanfield, Liss, Horndean and Rowlands Castle. It was only at the termination of the War that it became possible to restore a partial service in the remaining areas .

Salvage Collection has been operative throughout the District during the War.

The full pre-war service of Refuse Collection will no doubt be restored as soon as conditions permit.

The service of Cesspool emptying was continued throughout the year in the Parishes of Bramshott, and Liss, and the Council by Resolution undertook the service of Cesspool Emptying in the Parishes of Buriton, Horndean and Rowlands Castle. It is a sounder policy to extend sewers to serve communities rather than enlarge any service of Cesspool Emptying, however efficient.

HOUSING

There has been no improvement whatsoever in regard to Housing. A Shortage of suitable dwelling houses has steadily and progressively increased. The number of Evacuated families still resident in the District though less, is still very considerable, and overcrowding generally is the rule for the obvious reason that accommodation is just not obtainable. I regard with grave apprehension this serious state of affairs. Many instances have been met of large families existing under most adverse conditions, not so much from structural defects to houses, as from total inadequacy of room space. The general Living Room (often of small dimensions) has to be used of necessity as a Bedroom, Kitchen, Larder etc. Under normal conditions, such instances could and would have been Statutorily dealt with by either the occupant being offered or being compelled to procure more commodious accommodation.

The Council, like most other authorities, are faced with a most difficult Housing problem. House building activity has eased off very considerably since 1939. In addition a considerable number of houses which were in pre-war years described as tenable for the working classes have now ceased to be so, thus making the situation even more difficult. Shortage of labour and materials have largely been responsible and made the position more acute. It would be wise, I think, to rebuild rather than patch up these dilapidated properties. It is difficult to anticipate how soon conditions will be such as to permit building operations being started. The Government Policy too in regard to the financial aspect of Housing is obscure. In addition, it is not known yet what part private enterprise will be called upon to take in the matter. The whole question is fraught with stupendous difficulties. The financial burden too is enormous. It appears that by far the major share of costs will of necessity have to be met by the Exchequer and to a lesser extent by Local Authorities. It would be wise in the first instance, to dispose of the necessary preliminaries in regard to site acquisition, so that an immediate start could be made when the time arrives to commence building operations.

It has not been possible to carry out any routine Inspection of Houses during the year. As far as practicable defective structures have been dealt with, and every assistance given to owners in obtaining material and labour.

During the year eight Cottages were completed under the provisions of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1938 for occupation by Agricultural Workers.

FOOD PRODUCTION.

The chief Industry in the District is that of Agriculture, Fruit and Hop Growing.

Agriculture received a huge impulse since 1939 to date and has proportionately absorbed considerably more labour.

Milk is produced on a large scale. It is gratifying to record that conditions under which milk was produced and distributed were satisfactory.

No slaughtering of animals was undertaken in the District during the year. All slaughtering was done centrally at Petersfield, at which point the meat is inspected before distribution.

The ready cooperation of all Butchers in the matter of Central slautering augurs well for a reconsideration in the near future of the question of a Public Abbatoirs.