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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

### URBAN DISTRICT OF PORTLAND

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

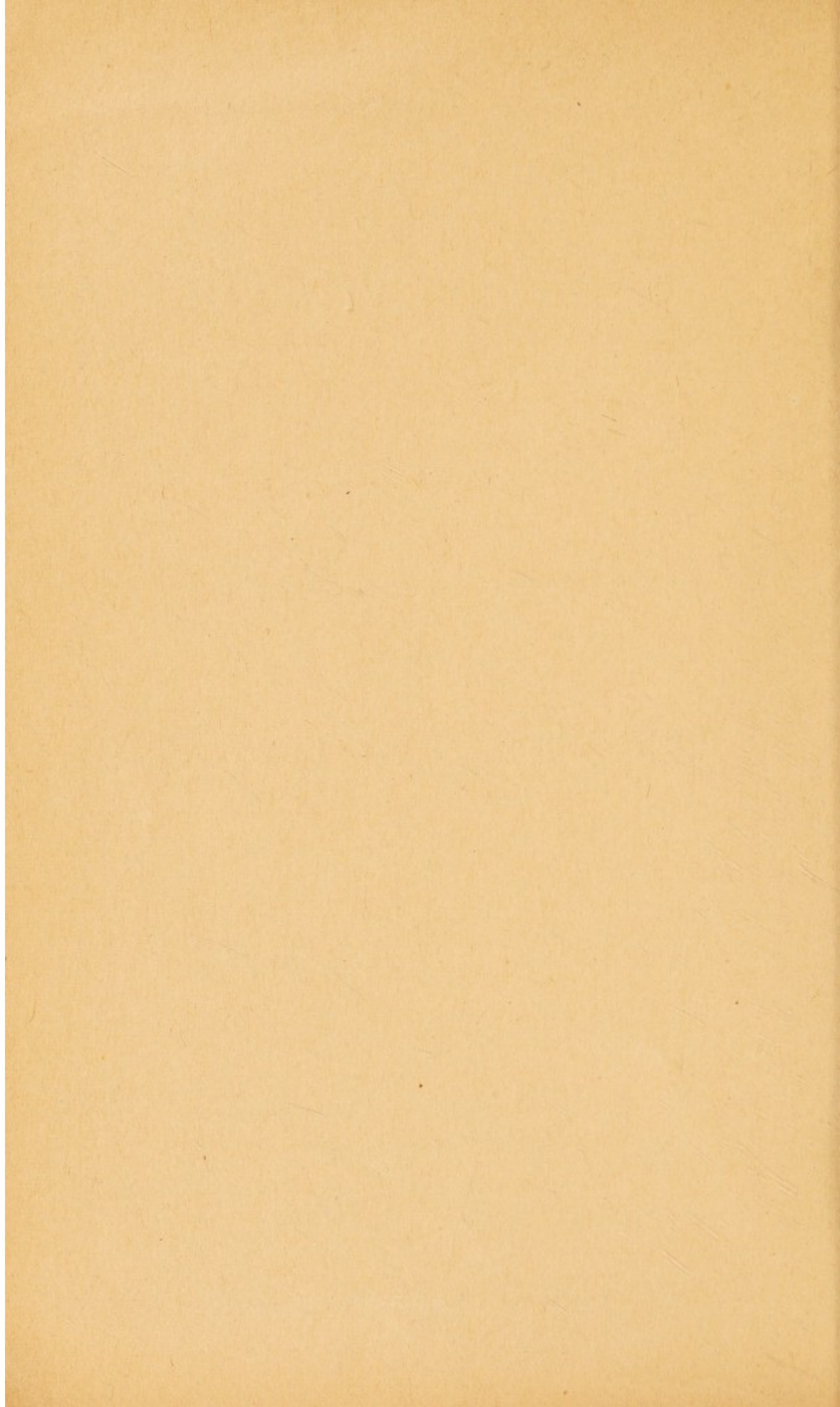


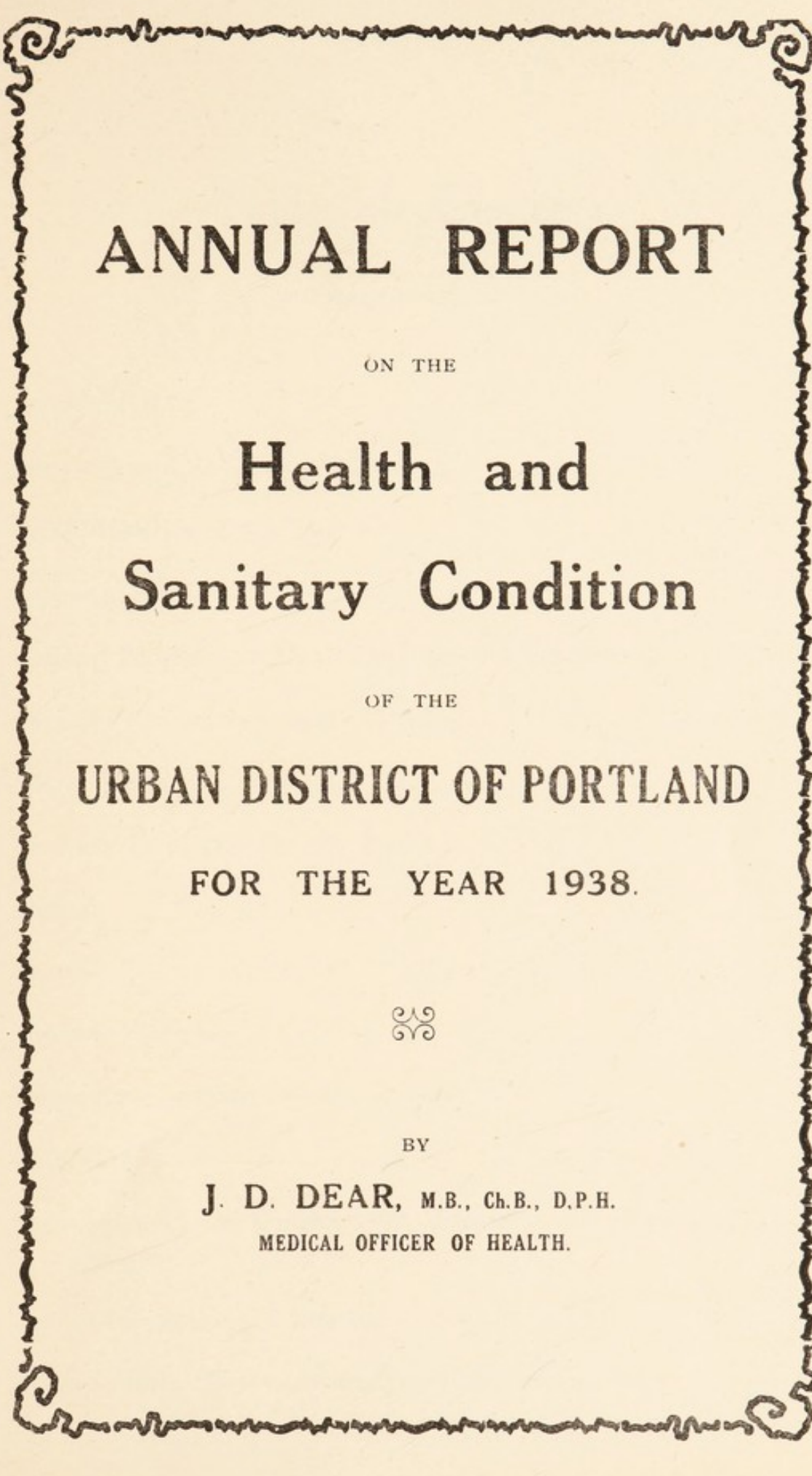
BY

**J. D. DEAR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.







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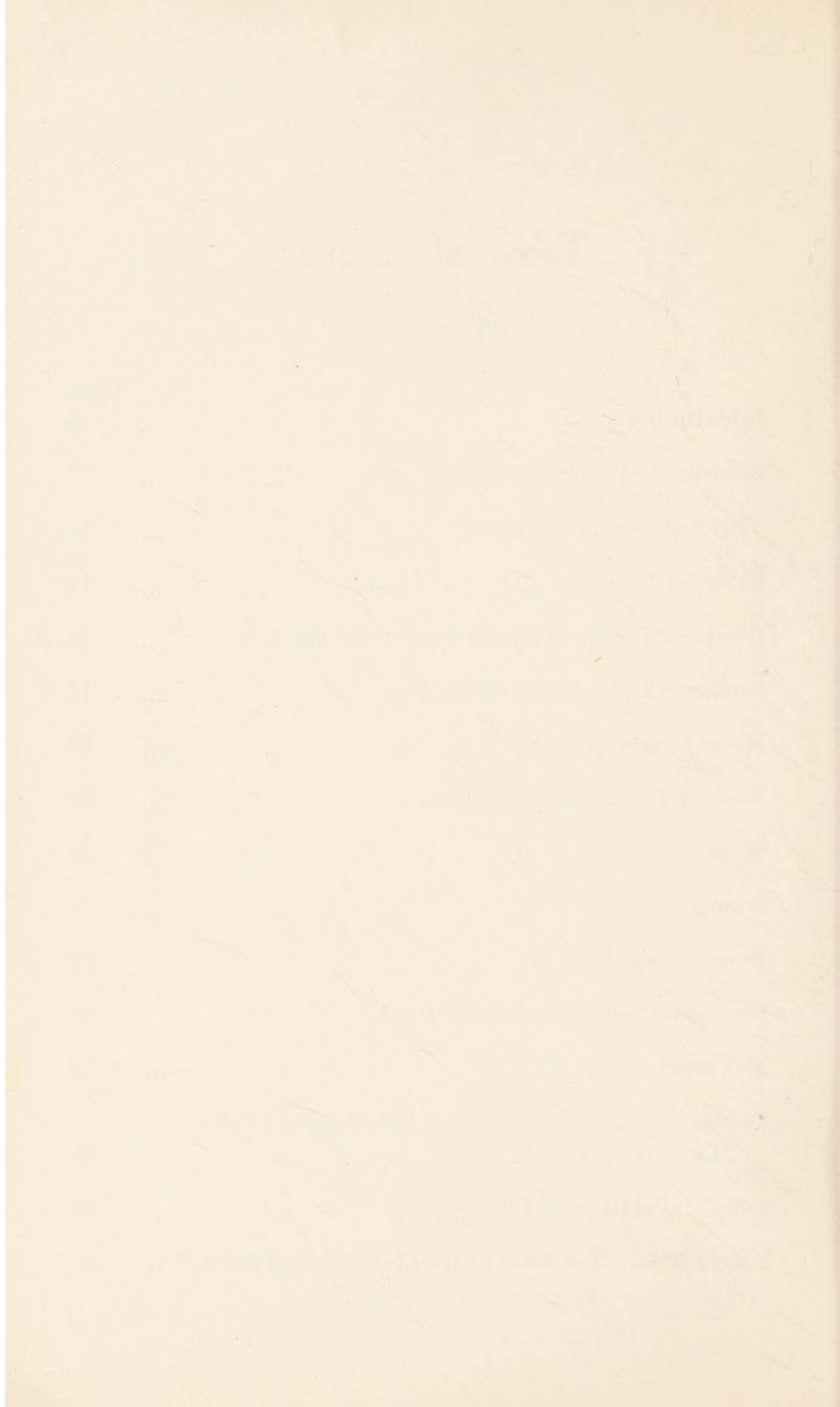
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# PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1938 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. The report follows the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 1728. Comments will be found under the appropriate headings throughout the report and only a few are necessary here.

Both birth rate and death rate show substantial reductions. This was partly due to the increase in the non-civilian population who are included for purposes of calculation but the actual numbers of births and deaths decreased and there is no reason to believe that any substantial emigration of civilians took place. The rates are considerably lower than those of the Smaller Towns of England and Wales generally.

The Incidence of infectious disease during the year was low and no deaths from notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis occurred.

Towards the end of the year the Council decided to introduce a Scheme of Diphtheria Immunisation without cost to parents if immunisation were carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. They also decided that Immunising material might be supplied free to General Practitioners in the district.

The grave danger associated with the milk sold for consumption in the district is again remarked upon.



Periodic sampling of the Public Water Supply has been continued and chlorination of the supply was maintained during the year.

The number of families known to be statutorily overcrowded was greatly reduced by the end of 1938. Many families however continue to live in conditions which though not amounting to statutory overcrowding afford insufficient space for optimum health.

I wish to tender thanks for the consideration you have given to suggestions I have made during the year. To your Sanitary Inspector I am grateful for ever-ready assistance and to your other Officers for their invariable help and courtesy.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. D. DEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

**Area.** The area of the district (land and inland water) is 2,905 acres.

**Population.** The corrected Census figure for 1931 was 12,019, comprising 7,429 males and 4,590 females, which shewed a decrease of 412 persons, since the census of 1921, or a percentage decrease of 3'3.

The inclusion in the Census figure of the Naval, Military, and Borstal populations, as well as other non-private families, accounts for the preponderance of males over females as shewn. It has been estimated that the population in private families amounted to 8,805.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population for Mid-year 1938 is 12,240.

As from the 1st January, 1932, the Registrar-General decided to discontinue the exclusion of deaths of non-civilians from local statistics which became necessary on the outbreak of war in 1914, and to revert to the pre-war practice of assigning these deaths in accordance with the general rules governing the statistical transfer of deaths occurring away from the area of usual residence. For this purpose single officers and men will be considered as resident where stationed, and this rule will also apply to married officers and men, unless stated to have had a private residence. In view of this decision no separate estimates of local civilian populations are included in the annual vital statistics, and the above figure of 12,240 is to be used for the calculation of both birth and death rates.



Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Book, 2,186 exclusive of Government Property.

Rateable Value : £55,614.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £219.

### **Social Conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area, and the extent of unemployment.**

Portland is essentially a working-class district. The chief industry is stone-quarrying and the preparation of stone for building purposes. The stone worked is the well-known oolitic limestone named after the locality. The dust particles produced in the working of this stone are of too coarse a nature to remain suspended in air. No case of pulmonary disease traceable to employment in connection with stone has come to light during the year.

According to the Census of 1931 the average size of private family consisted of 3·57 persons, as compared with 4·04 in 1921. The average number of rooms per occupied dwelling was 5·46, but the average number of rooms per dwelling actually occupied was 4·69.

The average number of persons per room was 0·76, compared with 0·70 for the whole County, but the most disturbing feature revealed by the Census concerns the population in private families living under overcrowded conditions, that is, more than two persons per room. In 1921 the figure was 294 or 3·20 per cent, but in 1931 it had risen to 335 or 3·80 per cent. This percentage of the population living under overcrowded conditions was the highest of any area in the County, whose average was 2·24,



## Unemployment.

For the following particulars regarding unemployment in the district during 1938 I am indebted to the Officer in charge of the Portland Employment Office.

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total
Insured Population ...	2,270	147	165	102	2,684
Wholly unemployed ...	140	10	32	22	204
Temporarily unemployed ...	416	19	—	—	435
Wholly unemployed (Stone Trades) ...	4	—	—	—	4
Temporarily unemployed (Stone Trades) ...	416	19	—	—	435
Unemployed Building Trades (other than stone) ...	13	2	—	—	15
Hotel and Catering Trades	—	—	11	8	19
Seasonal Shop Assistants ...	—	—	13	5	18

The figures represent the average numbers unemployed each week during the year and compare favourably with those of 1937.

The Temporarily unemployed referred to above represent Quarrymen working, in the main, three days per week.

The Wholly unemployed men represent chiefly unskilled dock and general labourers, while the wholly unemployed women and girls represent daily domestic workers and laundry hands. Unemployment among boys is attributed to the drift between blind alley occupations and those offering a career.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	132	73	59	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population =11'4.
	Illegitimate	8	3	5	
Still Births	...	4	1	3	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)=28'6.
Deaths	...	98	60	38	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population =8.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :—

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30.	Other puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	...	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	78'6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	83'4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	1

The England and Wales (Smaller Towns) rates for 1938 were as follows :—

Birth Rate, 15'4.    Death Rate, 11'0.    Infant Mortality, 51.



The following table, showing the various causes of death, is compiled from the list supplied by the Registrar-General :—

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Total.
Influenza ... ..	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	3	6
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	1	—	1
Syphilis ... ..	1	—	1
G.P.I., Tabes, etc. ... ..	2	—	2
Cancer ... ..	9	5	14
Diabetes ... ..	2	—	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	3	5	8
Heart Disease ... ..	16	8	24
Aneurysm ... ..	1	—	1
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	4	4	8
Bronchitis ... ..	2	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	1	—	1
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	1	2
Diarrhœa under 2 years ... ..	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	1	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	3	1	4
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	4	3	7
Other forms of violence ... ..	—	1	1
Other defined diseases ... ..	5	5	10
Total deaths from all causes ...	60	38	98

The infantile mortality rate remains higher than the general rate for the country. The majority of deaths of infants were again due to congenital debility and prematurity. In a small community the rate is subject to substantial fluctuations and cannot be taken as such a reliable index of the general conditions of health as in the case of a large community.

One feels, however, that greater use might be made of the services of the Ante-natal Clinic and one hopes that the extensive propaganda for the utilisation of the Municipal Health Services and the effects of the Midwives' Act will bring improvement.



The maternal mortality was again nil. There were, during the year, no causes of sickness or invalidity which call for special mention. There has been no evidence of prejudicial effect upon health of environment, conditions of employment or of unemployment.

## General Provision of the Health Services for the Area.

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—J. D. Dear, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—H. R. A. Bolt, Cert. R.S.I.

Part-time man (R. Morgan) from Surveyor's Department to assist in disinfecting and drain testing.

The Medical Officer of Health holds the dual appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Local Authority and Assistant Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council. He does not engage in private practice.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time Officer.

Health Visitor—Miss M. R. Truscott  
(under the Dorset County Council).

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The County Laboratory, Dorchester, was opened in October, 1938, and now undertakes all the bacteriological and pathological work of the district. Practitioners have been supplied with outfits so that they can send specimens direct to the Laboratory. A stock of outfits is kept at the Council Office to meet any additional needs of the practitioners.

This Laboratory work was previously carried out in Laboratories in London and some of the work, *e.g.* examination of milk samples, was continued by them throughout the year. The closer contact possible with the County Laboratory has been of great value.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Local Authority possesses two ambulances, one for Infectious Cases, and the other for Non-infectious and Accident Cases. The latter will accommodate two stretcher cases. Provision has been made for drivers to be available at any time of the day or night, and during public holidays. An ambulance can be obtained at any time by getting in touch with the Portland Police Station, which is in telephonic communication with the driver on duty.

The members of the Portland Division of the St. John's Ambulance Association render voluntary service in connection with the transport of non-infectious and accident cases.

### **Nursing in the Home.**

No provision has been made by the Local Authority under this head but members of the Ladies' Home Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Association render voluntary service in cases of need.



## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following are available in the area :

### **Child Welfare Centres.**

Two are provided by the County Council, one in the Tophill district and one in the Underhill district. The Tophill Centre is situated at the Wesleyan Sunday School, and is open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Fridays. The Underhill Centre is at the Congregational Sunday School, and is open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.

### **Sight-Testing Centre.**

Provided by the County Council. Open on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Portland Police Station.

### **Ante-natal Clinic.**

One in the Tophill district, provided by the County Council. Open on Friday mornings at the Wesleyan Sunday School.

### **Orthopædic Clinic.**

One in the Underhill district, provided by the County Council. Open on Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Portland Police Station.

A Medical Officer is in attendance at the Child Welfare, Sight-Testing, and Ante-natal Clinics. The Orthopædic Clinic is attended by a Sister who, when necessary, arranges for cases to be seen by the Orthopædic Surgeon.

### **Hospitals.**

There are no public or voluntary hospitals within the area, but gratuitous medical relief is afforded by the Royal Portland Dispensary. The Medical Officers of the Royal Portland Dispensary visit the sick in their homes, and from 50 to 100 patients are treated annually.

The hospitals outside the area, used by the inhabitants of the area, remain the same as in previous years.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water.

The water supply to the Urban District is from deep wells. There are two pumping stations situated at Upwey, one at Friar Whaddon and one at the Higher Well. Only the former was used during the year.

The average daily consumption during the year was 529,470 gallons.

The supply of water to the area during 1938 has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Chlorination has been resorted to since December, 1928, owing to the occasional presence of *B. Coli.* in samples, especially after the onset of the wet season. This occasional contamination is considered to be purely adventitious, and not due to sewage pollution. Samples are taken at the borehole at frequent intervals during each year, and the following table shows the results of the examination of samples taken during 1938 :—

### Chemical Analysis.

		Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solids (dried at 120°C.)	...	28'5	20'0
Combined Chlorine (as Cl.)	...	2'30	1'61
equivalent to Sodium Chloride			
(Na Cl.) ...	...	3'80	2'66
Nitric Nitrogen (nitrates)	...	0'26	0'18
Nitrous Nitrogen (nitrites)	...	Nil.	Nil.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0'0026	0'0018
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.		0'012	0'008
Lead or Copper	...	Nil.	Nil.
Temporary hardness (equivalent to CaCo <sub>3</sub> )		20'0	14'0
Permanent hardness (    "    "    "    )		3'0	2'1
Total hardness (    "    "    "    )		23'0	16'1



Water from three sources each supplying one dwelling house was subjected to bacteriological examination and two were found unsuitable for drinking purposes. Notices under Section 138, of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served on the owners of these two houses, and in one case the Public Supply has now been installed. In the other case appeal has been made to the Minister of Health and his decision has not yet been received.

# Bacteriological Analysis.

1908. Month.	QUANTITATIVE.		QUALITATIVE.			Bacteriologists' Remarks.
	Average Number of Organisms present in 100 c.c. of water on gelatine plates at 20° C. for three days.	Average Number of Organisms present in 100 c.c. of water on agar plates at 37° C. for two days.	B. Coll.	Streptococci.	Cl. Welchii Spores.	
January	36 per c.c.	6 per c.c.	Commissis not found in 100 c.c. Aerogenes present in 100 c.c.	Not found in 30 c.c.	Not found in 100 c.c.	The water can be regarded as fit and suitable for drinking purposes.
February	less than 1 per c.c.	less than 1 per c.c.	Not found in 100 c.c.	Not found in 30 c.c.	Not found in 100 c.c.	The water is of excellent quality for drinking.
March	7 per c.c.	1 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	The water is excellent for drinking.
May	13 per c.c.	less than 1 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	It is excellent for drinking.
June	9 per m.l.	4 per m.l.	do.	do.	do.	The water is quite safe for drinking.
June	4 per c.c.	less than 1 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	The water is excellent for drinking.
June	6 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	do.	The water is excellent for drinking.
June	14 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	do.	The water is excellent for drinking.
July	9 per m.l.	1 per m.l.	do.	do.	do.	It is excellent for drinking purposes.
August	7 per m.l.	1 per m.l.	do.	do.	do.	The water is fit for drinking purposes.
October	26 per m.l.	9 per m.l.	Commissis not found in 100 c.c. Aerogenes present in 33 c.c.	do.	do.	The water is reasonably safe for drinking purposes.
October	5 per m.l.	less than 1 per m.l.	Not found in 100 c.c.	do.	do.	This water is excellent for drinking purposes.
December	54 per m.l.	4 per m.l.	Commissis present in 30 c.c. Aerogenes present in 10 c.c.	Present in 30 c.c.	Present in 100 c.c. found in less	At the present time the water is not in its usual high state of purity. At present of course the water cannot be regarded as satisfactory for drinking purposes. It is extremely dangerous. It might be advisable to continue treatment until the source of the trouble is found.
December	3 per m.l.	2 per m.l.	Cell Aerogenes Content. 1 per m.l.	—	—	Satisfactory.
December	3 per m.l.	1 per m.l.	Nil.	—	—	Satisfactory.

\* From local services (after chlorination). Other samples from bore hole (prior to chlorination).

1. Name of the person	2. Age	3. Sex	4. Date of birth	5. Place of birth	6. Date of death	7. Cause of death	8. Date of burial	9. Place of burial	10. Name of the person
1. Name of the person	2. Age	3. Sex	4. Date of birth	5. Place of birth	6. Date of death	7. Cause of death	8. Date of burial	9. Place of burial	10. Name of the person
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1. Name of the person	2. Age	3. Sex	4. Date of birth	5. Place of birth	6. Date of death	7. Cause of death	8. Date of burial	9. Place of burial	10. Name of the person

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been buried in the cemetery of the City of New York, from the year 1850 to the year 1860. The names are arranged in alphabetical order, and the date of burial is given in parentheses.



## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The annual underwater overhaul of the Chesil sewer was carried out. Pennsylvania Drainage Scheme for the drainage of Pennsylvania Castle and six cottages was completed during the year under review. It included an automatic ejector, pumping and collecting chamber, 653 feet of 6" sewer, 210 feet of 4" sewer and 209 feet of 3" cast iron delivery main.

## **Rivers and Streams.**

None exist in the area.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

With few exceptions the water carriage system is of general application in the district. The closet accommodation is satisfactory. There are still a few instances of insufficiency. These are being gradually amended when possible by the provision of a separate closet for each house.

Ten buildings are drained into cesspools and six have pail closets—these latter are isolated buildings and cottages in parts of the district where sewers are not readily available. In two instances premises are drained directly into natural fissures.

## **Public Cleansing.**

Refuse collection and disposal followed the lines of previous years. The work is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor. The emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the Authority. Grounds for complaints of nuisances arising from the refuse tip persist. This matter has been fully dealt with in previous reports and unless more controlled methods of dumping can be instituted the installation of a destructor offers the only solution.

## Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. H. R. A. Bolt) in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926), submits the following tabular statement :—

Number and nature of inspections made during 1938.

Total number of inspections made	...	...	1,982
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

Nature of inspections.

Visits to Houses, and Inspections of Nuisances, etc , in the course of abatement	...	...	1,159
Visits in connection with infectious diseases	...	...	77
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	88
Visits to Milkshops	...	...	34
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	140
Visits to Food Shops	...	...	154
Visits to Fish Frying Shops	...	...	60
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	72
Visits to Factories	...	...	152
Visits in connection with the Rats Order	...	...	98
Miscellaneous Visits, Service of Notices, Interviews with Owners of Property, House Agents, Builders, etc.	...	...	304

The number of Notices served during the year distinguishing Statutory from Informal Notices.

Statutory Notices served	...	...	Nil
Informal Notices served	...	...	218

The result of the service of such Notices.

Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	2
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	197
Work in hand	...	...	11
Being estimated for	...	...	5
Work not commenced	...	...	5



## Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Inspector during 1938.

Premises cleansed and limewashed	...	...	28
Defective ceilings repaired	...	...	30
Defective walls repaired	...	...	60
Walls plastered	...	...	32
Damp walls cemented	...	...	37
New sink troughs provided	...	...	24
Sink troughs renewed	...	...	7
Sink wastes trapped	...	...	37
Defective sink wastes repaired	...	...	6
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	71
Defective roofs renewed	...	...	12
Defective windows renewed or repaired	...	...	116
Windows made to open properly	...	...	24
Additional windows provided	...	...	12
Floors repaired (wood)	...	...	43
Floors repaired (cement)	...	...	17
Yards paved or drained	...	...	20
Yards repaired	...	...	19
Urinals renewed or repaired	...	...	3
Urinals cleansed	...	...	7
Door frames and doors repaired	...	...	48
Defective stairs repaired	...	...	7
Drains provided or reconstructed	...	...	23
Drains inspection chambers provided	...	...	19
Defective drains repaired	...	...	24
Gullies renewed or provided	...	...	21
Defective ventilating shafts repaired	...	...	13
Soilpipes renewed or repaired	...	...	8
Drains unstopped	...	...	152
Drains smoke tested	...	...	140
Drains water tested	...	...	38



Cesspools emptied ... ..	8
W.C's limewashed ... ..	16
New W.C's provided ... ..	11
W.C's repaired or reconstructed ... ..	20
Defective pans renewed ... ..	22
Dirty pans cleansed ... ..	9
Flushing cisterns provided ... ..	2
Sub-ventilation to floors provided ... ..	17
Flushing cisterns renewed or repaired ... ..	67
Flushing cisterns provided with water ... ..	1
Water supplies provided (placed inside houses) ... ..	2
Eavesguttering and downspouts repaired or provided ... ..	46
Eavesguttering and downspouts cleared ... ..	15
Chimneys repaired ... ..	35
Grates and boilers renewed or repaired ... ..	71
Quarry fencing repaired ... ..	2

#### Miscellaneous.

Accumulations of manure or refuse removed ... ..	20
Cases of overcrowding, new ... ..	1
Animals removed, being improperly kept ... ..	2
Rooms ventilated ... ..	12
Food stores provided ... ..	7

### Inspection of Places where food is prepared

#### Shops and Slaughter-house inspections.

Number of visits to Food shops ... ..	154
Number of visits to Slaughter-houses ... ..	88
Amount of meat surrendered and destroyed ... ..	195lbs.
Number of visits to Fish and Poultry shops ... ..	33
Number of visits to Fried Fish shops ... ..	60
Number of visits to Hawkers' Carts, etc. ... ..	18
Other Foods destroyed—15lbs fruit, 42lbs Scotch fillets.	

### Slaughter-houses.

Notices issued for limewashing	...	...	...	2
Notices complied with	...	...	...	2
Notices of slaughter received	...	...	...	13

### Bakehouses.

Number of visits made	...	...	...	72
Number of Bakehouses found dirty (walls and ceilings)	...	...	...	4
Number of notices issued for limewashing	...	...	...	3
Number of notices issued for want of ventilation	...	...	...	0
Number of notices issued for accumulations of refuse	...	...	...	1
Number of notices issued for defects	...	...	...	4
Number of notices issued for providing sufficient Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	0
Referred to H.M. Inspector of factories	...	...	...	0
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	11

### Disinfection.

Number of houses disinfected in connection with fevers, etc.	...	...	...	16
Number of houses disinfected after Tuberculosis	...	...	...	12
Number of houses disinfected after other Diseases	...	...	...	8
Number of houses disinfested for vermin	...	...	...	20
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	0
Number of articles disinfected	...	...	...	1,069
Number of articles destroyed	...	...	...	107

### Laboratory Work.

Disease suspected.	Specimens.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria	61	5	56
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	2	12

Twenty-five samples of Milk were sent for examination.

Nineteen samples of Water were submitted for Bacteriological examination.

### Cowsheds.

Number of cowsheds on the Register	...	...	8
Number of milkshops on the Register	...	...	6
Number of inspections made to cowsheds and dairies	...	...	106
Number of inspections made to dairies	...	...	34
Number of notices issued for breaches or defects	...	...	7
Number of notices issued for removal of manure	...	...	4
Number of notices issued for cleansing and limewashing	...	...	5
Number of notices complied with	...	...	15

### Factories.

The Factories Act, 1937, came into operation on 1st July, 1938. During the year 152 inspections of factories were made.

The following tabulated statement (required by the Secretary of State) gives details of inspections, etc.



**1.—Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
<b>Factories</b> with mechanical power	76	3	Nil
<b>Factories</b> without mechanical power	72	3	Nil
† <b>Other Premises</b> under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engin- eering construction but not including outworkers' prem- ises) ... ..	4	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b> ...	152	6	Nil

† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

**2.—Defects Found.**

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	10	10	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S. 2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...				
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) :				
{ insufficient ...			—	
{ unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	
{ not separate for sexes			—	
Other offences ...	2	2	—	
(not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ...	16	16	Nil	Nil

**3.—Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108. Nil.**

## Shops.

Under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences, action was taken during 1938 as follows :—

Number of inspections ...	...	24
Number of defects found	...	3
Number of notices sent ...	...	2
Number of defects remedied	...	5

## Camping Sites.

There were no recognised Camping Sites in the area during 1938.

No licences were issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. One licence was applied for but was not granted as the applicant could not conform with the conditions required by the Authority.

## Smoke Abatement.

No action was required to be taken during the year.

## Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

## Eradication of bed bugs.

During the year one Council house and five other houses were found to be infested with bugs. All six houses were promptly disinfected when the presence of bugs became known.

The methods employed for disinfestation are :—

- (1) By spraying with insecticide (Zaldecide).
- (2) By sulphur fumigation.



To ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses, all the rooms and furniture are examined before removal, and should any trace be found, bedding and other similar articles are removed for steam disinfection and furniture thoroughly sprayed with insecticide. Such precautions are carried out on the date of removal. In only one instance has there been a recurrence in a Council house.

All disinfestation work is carried out by the Local Authority.

All Council houses erected for re-housing purposes were visited twice during the year by the Sanitary Inspector.

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## Schools.

All the elementary schools in this district have main drainage and all are supplied with water from the Public Supply. All, with the exception of St. George's, are supplied with drinking fountains.

The sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory.

The defects reported in previous reports in regard to St. George's School have not yet been remedied.

Head Teachers continue to report suspected cases of infectious disease among children attending their schools and details are to be found elsewhere in this report under "Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other diseases." As will then be seen, apart from an outbreak of mumps which was largely confined to one infant school, the year was one of comparative freedom from infectious diseases in the Schools.

## Housing.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	415
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	861
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ....	74
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	222
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	5
(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 ... ..	181

### 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 ... ..	164
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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	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

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

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 ...	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	5

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 ... ..	1
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil
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#### 4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	11
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein	...			12
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein	...			76½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	1
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	31
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases				150½
(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	...	...	...	Nil

#### Clearance Areas.

Clearance Orders on the following areas were confirmed by the Minister of Health during 1938.

##### (1) Grove Fields Clearance Area.

This area included six houses, namely, Nos. 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, and 87 Grove Fields. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 16.

(2) **Easton Clearance Area.**

This area included four houses, namely, Nos. 66, 68, 70, and 72 Easton. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 20.

(3) **Weston Street Clearance Area.**

This area included four houses, namely, Nos. 8, 10, 12, and 14 Weston Street. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 6.

Total number of new houses erected during 1938	...	...	72
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Number erected during 1938 with State assistance:—

(1.) By Local Authority	...	...	62
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(2.) By other bodies or persons	...	...	Nil
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Number of houses owned by Local Authority	...	...	159
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Approximate number of working class houses in district	...	...	...	...	2,186
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## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### (a) Milk Supply.

The number of Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on the Register at the end of the year amounted to 22. These comprised 8 Dairy Farms and 14 other dairy premises. During the year 140 inspections were made. It is estimated that the amount of milk produced in the district is about one-third of the quantity consumed. Two supplementary licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923. The Council continue the practice of taking samples from dealers for the purposes of bacteriological examination, including examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Twenty-five such samples were taken during the year, and the following table shows findings of the bacteriologists.



**Ordinary Milk.**

No. of Sample.	Name of Dealer.	Average No. of Bacteria per 1 c.c.	B. Coli present in c.c's.	T.B. present.	Produced in District.
1	A	17,160	—	No	No
2	B	34,330	0'01	"	"
3	C	17,560	0'01	"	Yes
4	D	16,300	—	"	"
5	E	83,000	0'001	"	No
6	B	35,000	—	"	"
7	E	91,000	—	"	"
8	E	114,000	—	"	"
9	F	129,330	0'001	"	"
10	F	57,660	0'01	"	"
11	G	197,660	—	"	Yes
12	H	206,660	0'001	"	"
13	I	159,000	0'01	"	"
14	J	18,460	—	"	"
15	K	310,000	0'001	"	No
16	L	255,000	0'001	"	Yes
17	L	10,060	0'01	"	"
18	K	355,000	0'0001	"	No
19	A	105,000	—	"	"
20	M	10,060	—	"	"
21	N	16,630	—	"	Yes
22	D	25,060	—	"	"

**Pasteurised Milk.**

1	O	15,230	—	No.	No
2	P	2,560	—	"	"
3	O	43,500	—	"	"

The pasteurised samples were subjected to the phosphatase Test and all were satisfactory.

The samples of ordinary milk show no improvement on last year. One must reiterate the danger from the consumption of raw milk as at present offered to the consumer. Efforts have been made to effect improvements in construction of cowsheds and

dairies and in methods of handling, with at least temporary success in some instances. Many of the unsatisfactory samples were from milk produced in other districts and the co-operation of the M.O.H's of those districts was enlisted.

Pasteurisation remains the only reliable safeguard and when it is realised that half the samples of raw milk fail to reach the lowest standard applied to any milk, a revision of existing legislation would appear to have claims of urgency.

### *(b)* Meat and other Foods.

All butchers' shops in the district are regularly visited, as are also hawkers' vans from which meat is sold. There is only one slaughterhouse (registered) in the district. The amount of meat slaughtered within the area bears a very small ratio to the quantity sold here.

The instructions laid down for the guidance of Meat Inspectors, in Memo. 62—Food—have been closely followed. The lymph glands of the head and throat (retro-pharyngeal and sub-maxillary) of all bovines and pigs have been examined. The tongues of all bovines were loosened and dropped, so that the glands could be more easily incised and examined.

The slaughtering takes place on fixed days and at fixed times. If the butcher slaughters outside the fixed hours he has to give notice each time he is going to slaughter.

The various fishmongers' and greengrocers' shops and other places where food is prepared or sold were frequently visited during the year. Special attention has been directed to the cleanliness of the premises and the means of storage of food.



### Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	14	70	4	161	110
Number inspected ...	12	64	4	93	81
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</b>					
Whole carcase condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	2	19	Nil	1	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ...	16·7%	29·7%	Nil	11·1%	Nil
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	1·6%	—	—	—

Amount condemned at slaughter-house—433 lbs.

Amount condemned in shops :—

81 lbs. Hind-quarters of beef.

24 lbs. of liver.

10 lbs. of pork.

80 lbs. of lamb.

### (c) Adulteration.

The following statement has been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer under this heading :—



**Annual Report, 1938.**  
**Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.**

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that the undermentioned samples were obtained under the above Act in your District during the year ended 31st December, 1938 :—

Description of Sample.	Number of samples obtained	Number of samples reported against.
Almonds (Ground) ...	2	—
Arrowroot ...	1	—
Butter ...	1	—
Cake (Fruit) ...	1	—
Cheese ...	2	—
Cod Liver Oil ...	1	—
Cornflour ...	1	—
Cream ...	1	—
Glycerine ...	1	—
Lard ...	1	—
Milk ...	24	5
Mustard ...	1	—
Orange Juice ...	1	—
Pepper ...	1	—
Quinine ...	1	—
Sago ...	1	—
Sausage ...	2	—
Tea ...	1	—
Vinegar (Malt) ...	1	—
Whisky ...	2	—
Zinc Ointment ...	1	—
Totals ...	48	5

Action taken with regard to samples adversely reported upon :

Milk. Contained 2% Extraneous water. *Seller cautioned.*  
 Milk. Contained 2% Extraneous water. *Seller cautioned.*  
 Milk. Contained 3% Extraneous water. *Seller cautioned.*  
 Milk. Deficient in fat to the extent of 6%. *Seller cautioned.*  
 Milk. Deficient in fat to the extent of 2%. *Seller cautioned.*

Yours faithfully,

T. W. STALLYBRASS,

County Medical Officer.

To the Medical Officer of Health,  
 Portland Urban District.

#### (d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

Twenty-five samples of milk were sent for bacteriological examination, including examination for presence of T.B. These examinations were carried out at the laboratories of the Clinical Research Association. The results of these examinations appear earlier in this report. Arrangements have now been made for these examinations to be carried out at the Dorset County Council Laboratory at Dorchester.

#### (e) **Nutrition.**

The Local Authority has not been instrumental during the year in disseminating knowledge on this subject. The inhabitants of the area are generally well nourished, and diseases of malnutrition are rare.

#### (f) **Shell-fish (Molluscan).**

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district, and no action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932.

Whelks, escallops and cockles are marketed locally. They are derived from the sea bed lying to the North of the district.

## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during  
the year 1938.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Smallpox ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ... ..	16	13	Nil
Diphtheria ... ..	11	11	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas ... ..	2	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil



The following table shows an analysis of the total notified cases under different age groups :—

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	Erysipelas
0—	1	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	—	—
3—	1	2	—	—
4—	1	—	—	—
5—	4	4	—	—
10—	3	—	—	—
15—	2	1	—	—
20—	3	3	1	—
35—	1	1	—	2
45—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Totals	16	11	1	2

Scarlet Fever was of comparatively mild type and showed no great tendency to complications. Four of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in one family. Apart from that group the cases were sporadic.

The cases of Diphtheria were moderately severe. Two families accounted for seven of the cases.

As in previous years the majority of patients suffering from Scarlet Fever were removed to the Weymouth Borough Isolation Hospital as the home conditions were seldom suitable for isolation and nursing. All the cases of Diphtheria were treated in Hospital.

The average length of stay in hospital for Scarlet Fever was 45 days, stay ranging from 30 days to 83 days.

The average length of stay in hospital for Diphtheria was 49 days, stay ranging from 38 days to 76 days.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free by the Local Authority to General Practitioners.

Active immunisation against Diphtheria had not yet been commenced by the end of 1938, but has been commenced with good response before the going to press of this report.

The following table gives the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during the last 10 years. During this period there has been one death from Scarlet Fever and six from Diphtheria.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Scarlet Fever	19	1	—	16	11	36	44	4	18	16
Diphtheria	23	22	5	17	17	11	26	—	4	11

No local action has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

### Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations.

These examinations were carried out by arrangement with Professor Hewlett, Seamen's Hospital, London, until they were undertaken at the end of the year by the Pathologist at the Dorset County Council Laboratory at Dorchester. A stock of outfits for the collection of clinical material is kept at the Council Offices, and those can be obtained on application by medical practitioners.

The following specimens were examined during 1938 :—

Disease suspected.	Positive.	Negative.	Totals.
Diphtheria ...	5	56	61
Tuberculosis ...	2	12	14
Others ...	—	3	3
Totals ...	7	71	78

### School Intimation of Disease.

The following cases of infectious or contagious disease were notified by Head Teachers during the year :—

Mumps	...	...	128
Impetigo	...	...	15
Ringworm	...	..	12
Colds and Sore Throats	...		7
Jaundice	...	..	7
Chicken Pox	...	...	7
Scarlet Fever	...	...	6
Diphtheria	...	...	3
Other conditions		...	14

Mumps was the only infectious disease which showed epidemic prevalence and was largely confined to one infant school.

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.



## Tuberculosis.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respira- tory		Non-Res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-Res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	3	3	—	3	3	1	—

One of the seven persons who died from Tuberculosis had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease. This was an infant who died from Tuberculous Meningitis.

It was not necessary during the year to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the  
Medical Officer of Health's Notification Register  
at December 31st, 1938.

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
30	14	4	18	6	6	12





