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**Contributors**

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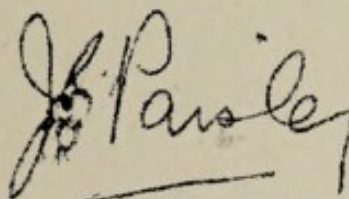
15th November, 1947.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report  
for the year 1946 on the health and  
sanitary circumstances of the Island.

There are no points requiring  
special comments in the report.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Paisley'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Medical Officer of Health.

1870-1871

1872-1873

1874-1875

1876-1877

1878-1879

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statistics

Estimated population	7,807.
Number of inhabited houses (exclusive of Government property)	2,174.
Rateable Value	£58,955.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£227.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1946.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>Live Births</u>	87	67	154	} Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population = 19.7
Legitimate	74	64	138	
Illegitimate	13	3	16	
<u>Still Births</u>				
(all legitimate)	1	3	4	Rate per 1,000 total births = 25.3

Total Deaths 1946

(Registrar-General's Official Returns)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Male	Female	Total
Diphtheria ... ..	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
Influenza ... ..	0	1	1
Cancer (all sites) ... ..	10	10	20
Diabetes ... ..	1	0	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	4	7	11
Heart Disease ... ..	6	14	20
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	0	1
Bronchitis ... ..	3	0	3
Pneumonia ... ..	3	2	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	0	1	1
Nephritis ... ..	1	1	2
Congenital malformation, Birth injuries ... ..	2	3	5
Road Traffic accident ... ..	0	1	1
Other violent causes ... ..	4	0	4
All other causes ... ..	5	2	7
ALL CAUSES ... ..	42	43	85

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population = 10.9



	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	3	4	7

(All of these deaths were of legitimate infants.  
5 out of the 7 were due to congenital malformation or birth injury).

Infant mortality rate  
(Number of children dying at ages under one year  
per 1,000 live births in the year) = 45.4

There were no deaths from maternal causes during the year.

The death from diphtheria was that of a Borstal inmate, age 19, which took place in the Weymouth and District Hospital.

The only other point in the vital statistics to which attention may perhaps be drawn is the increase in the number of deaths due to cancer, from 10 in 1944, and 13 in 1945, to 20 in 1946.

Below is shown the comparison in death rates, birth rates and infant mortality rates between Portland and the 148 Smaller Towns of England and Wales.

	<u>Death rate</u>	<u>Birth rate</u>	<u>Infant mortality rate</u>
Smaller Towns	11.7	21.3	37
Portland	10.9	19.7	45.4

Infectious Diseases notified during 1946, with comparison, as above.

Disease	Total Portland	Rate per 1,000	148 Smaller Towns rate per 1,000
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	3	0.38	0.04
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	1.28	1.33
Whooping Cough ... ..	9	1.15	2.05
Erysipelas ... ..	3	0.38	0.22
Measles ... ..	10	1.28	3.70
Pneumonia ... ..	10	1.28	0.74
Encephalitis lethargica ...	3	0.38	
Tuberculosis (pulmonary) ..	9	1.14	
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	5	0.64	
Scabies ... ..	51	6.53	

As pointed out in previous reports, the population at risk in Portland is not sufficiently large to make these "rates" statistically significant.

#### Housing.

By the end of the year, 25 of the prefabricated temporary houses at Weston had been taken over, the remaining 15 being taken over early in 1947. The two Woolaway permanent prefabricated houses were roofed in and the first floor partly laid, and at the Pound Piece site all site works were complete, and the layout and house plans had been approved by the Ministry of Health.



### Sewage Disposal.

Owing to shortage of materials, the position with regard to the Chesil Sewage Outfall was unchanged at the end of the year.

### General Provision of Health Services.

These were on the lines laid down in previous reports. The Child Welfare Centres and Minor Ailments Clinics were maintained throughout the year, and attendances continued to be satisfactory. Nurse White, who was employed part-time by the County Council at the Minor Ailments Clinics, was employed, with one helper, on an hourly basis to deal with verminous conditions. The total number of such cases treated during the year was 33.

### Domestic Help Service.

Powers for the establishment of a Domestic Help Service were delegated by the County Council, and the establishment of this service was approved by the Urban District Council on 18th December. One whole-time and one part-time helper were employed, and up to the end of the year, nine persons had been assisted in this way. Subsequently, the need was found to be considerably greater than had been anticipated, and now (November, 1947) three whole-time helpers are fully employed.

### Water Supply.

Four samples from supply and three from the Friar Waddon bore-hole were submitted for analysis. Those from supply were all reported as highly satisfactory, those from the bore-hole satisfactory or highly satisfactory. The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year.

### Milk.

Eleven samples of ordinary milk, four of accredited milk and five of pasteurised milk were taken during the year. The producers of milk in Portland are generally clean and careful in their milking methods, this satisfactory result being largely due, I believe, to the painstaking work of your Sanitary Inspector over a considerable number of years. Regular visits were paid to the cow-sheds and dairies and producers advised as to maintaining clean supplies. More than half of the milk consumed on the island is produced on the mainland, and in some cases the handling and distribution of this milk after delivery to the retailer has not been satisfactorily carried out. Unfortunately, some retailers and producers are incapable of understanding the reasons for care and cleanliness, and the objective must continue to be universal pasteurisation.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The position at the end of the year was that out of 1,676 estimated population under 15 years, 1,372 had been immunised against diphtheria, i.e. 83%.

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# INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACTS.

No. of Factories on Register, with Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
No. of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(The other remedied in 1947)							
No. of Factories on Register, without Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
No. of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS DURING YEAR 1946.

### Visits in connection with -

Public Health Acts and Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
No. of Nuisance Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	424
No. of Notices sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Interviews with Owners, Builders, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Complaints attended to	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Premises disinfected, Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Visits in connection with Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Visits to Meat and Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Visits to Fish and Fish Drying Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Visits in connection with Rats destruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Drain tests carried out:							
Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Choked Drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	51



