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# Portland Urban District Council



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

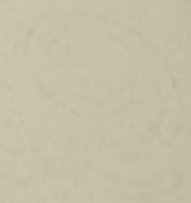
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1949.

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER.

Portland Urban District Council



to

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

on the health and sanitary condition of the

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.  
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To the Chairman and Members of the Portland Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Medical Officer of Health:

I. B. Lawrence, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.,  
7B, Greenhill, Weymouth.

2. Sanitary Inspector:

H. R. A. Bolt, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
28 Park Road, Easton, Portland.

3. Sanitary Labourer:

C. Otter.

ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year 1949 the health of the district has been satisfactory with the exception of an outbreak of measles when 236 cases were notified - fortunately the disease was mild and no deaths occurred.

Again Portland was fortunate in having no cases of Infantile Paralysis.

Following visits to various shops and cafes I have formed the opinion that generally speaking, conditions are satisfactory, but there are still some people who do not appreciate how their health is affected by uncleanness.

Two cases of food poisoning were investigated during the year the cause was probably due to infected duck eggs - both persons recovered.

Active measures were taken during the year to obtain pure ice cream - where the necessary sanitary facilities were not available the retailers were asked to sell only pre-packed ices.

Again, I would remind the Council of the difficulties under which the Public Health Department is working, owing to lack of adequate clerical assistance - and that proper supervision of the health of the district cannot be maintained while the officers are tied to office work.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (land and internal water) -	2,905 acres.
Resident Population - Civilian	8,650.
Total	14,730.
No. of Houses inhabited at the end of 1949 -	
(at 1st April, 1950) -	2,269.
Rateable Value	- £58,739.
Sum represented by Penny Rate -	£227.



## VITAL STATISTICS

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths Rates: 8,650.

### Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	72	69	141
Illegitimate	6	4	10
TOTAL...	78	73	151

### Still Births

Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
TOTAL...	0	1	1

### Deaths

All causes and ages	56	49	105
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### Deaths of Infants under

#### 1 year

Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
TOTAL...	2	0	2

Birth Rate	...	...	17.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	16.7
Birth Rate for Smaller Towns	...	...	18.0
Crude Death Rate	...	...	12.0
Death Rate for England and Wales...	...	...	11.7
Death Rate for Smaller Towns	...	...	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ..	...	...	13.2
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	32.0
Infant Mortality Rate for Smaller Towns .	...	...	30.0

The birth and death rates compare favourably with England and Wales and smaller towns. If Portland was a large town the Infant Mortality rate would point to an exceptionally healthy town.

## DEATH RATE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year the only deaths from Infectious Diseases were three cases of Influenza and two cases of Pneumonia.

### DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1	1
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	2	1	3
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Infantile paralysis	-	-	-
12. Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M), uterus (F)	-	1	1
Carried forward...	2	3	5

	Males	Females	Total
Brought forward...	2	3	5
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1	2
15. Cancer of breast ...	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites ..	6	4	10
17. Diabetes ...	1	-	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	4	8	12
19. Heart disease ..	21	18	39
20. Other diseases of circulatory system ...	3	2	5
21. Bronchitis ...	5	2	7
22. Pneumonia ...	1	1	2
23. Other respiratory diseases .	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ..	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis ...	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases ...	1	4	5
28. Nephritis ...	5	1	6
29. Puerperal diseases ...	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes ...	-	-	-
31. Premature birth ...	-	-	-
32. Deaths of infants at birth from various causes ..	1	-	1
33. Suicide ...	-	-	-
34. Road traffic accidents ...	-	-	-
35. Other violent causes .	1	1	2
36. All other causes ...	4	3	7
TOTAL ...	56	49	105

It is to be noted in the above causes that no babies under 2 years died from diarrhoea, there were no maternal deaths, no deaths from suicide or from road traffic accidents.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table summarises the notifications of infectious disease made during the year -

Disease	Total Cases Notified										Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	0	1-	3-	5-	10	15	25	45	65	A.U.	Total	
Scarlet Fever	1	-	5	13	1	-	-	-	-	x	20	-
Whooping Cough ...	2	5	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-
Measles ...	6	46	59	115	8	-	2	-	-	-	236	-
Pneumonia ...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	-	7	2
Erysipelas ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	-
Meningitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-
Scabies ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.B. Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Small Pox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

x A.U. Denotes Age Unknown.

During the first half of the year measles was very prevalent but it was of the mild type. No deaths occurred.

Two cases of food poisoning occurred which was probably due to infected Duck Eggs - both patients recovered.



## TUBERCULOSIS

During 1949 the following cases and deaths from tuberculosis were notified:-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS..	3	3	-	1	-	1	-	-

## INFESTATION

Visits in connection with disinfection	...	...	34.
Premises disinfested	...	...	24.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The water is piped from a borehole at Friar Waddon - it is plentiful in quantity, there has been occasional contamination, especially after heavy rain, but all water is chlorinated.

Results of Samples.											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
At Borehole	- S	S	S	S	S	S	S		SC	S	S
Domestic Tap,											
Portland	- S	S	S	S	S	S	S		D	S	S

S = Satisfactory. D = Doubtful. C = Contaminated.

It will be noted that suspicious samples were obtained in September both at the borehole and at Portland, in view of this after consultation with our Engineer, the percentage of chlorine was raised. The reason why it was necessary to increase the chlorine was later found to be due to mechanical wear and tear of the chlorine dosing apparatus and it has now been made good.

All houses in the district have a main water supply.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE

The weekly collection of refuse has been maintained - salvage collection has now been dispensed with.

A survey of the sufficiency and adequacy of dustbins has been made during the year and the necessary steps taken to abate any public health nuisance.

## SEWAGE

Sewer extensions -

Verne Common Housing Site	-	860 yards.
Reap Lane Housing Site	-	84 yards.

## HOUSING

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Completed since end of War.</u>
Temporary	-	-	15
Permanent -			
Traditional Type	30	16	70
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	27
Converted into Flats	-	-	5
War Damaged Repaired Houses	-	1	7
TOTAL...	30	17	124

Owing to the shortage of houses many persons are living in conditions which pre-war would not be tolerated, they include elderly people who have to live for a further period in houses which ought to be demolished, young married couples and married persons with one or more children, the latter having no hope of obtaining rooms.

I would like to see the building of more "Duplex" type of houses, i.e. traditional houses which temporarily are divided into two flats with 1 bedroom downstairs and 2 bedrooms upstairs. However, in my experience, there must be efficient insulation between the two floors, to stop noise. These would be ideal for say an elderly couple downstairs and a young married couple upstairs with one or two children. Furthermore, it would overcome the difficulties often met by married couples living with in-laws, - the parents could be separate downstairs and the young couple upstairs.

## OLD PERSONS

Sixteen of these bungalows for old persons have been completed (early 1950).

## LABORATORY SPECIMENS

The following is a table of the number of specimens submitted for Laboratory reports:-

Throat Swabs	...	...	...	...	57
Faeces	...	...	...	...	31
Water	...	...	...	...	22
Milk	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	23

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided at the County Laboratory, Glyde Park Road, Dorchester, Telephone: Dorchester 864.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

Ambulances are stationed at The Health Centre, Weymouth. To call the ambulance Telephone Weymouth 1645, if no reply telephone Portway Hospital, Weymouth 1881.

The urgency of the case should be stated.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is doing very good work and is being used fully.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Council under Section 47 -  
i.e. removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care  
and attention.

### REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With few exceptions the water carriage system is of general  
use in the district. The closet accommodation is satisfactory.  
The disposal is by means of three outfalls to the sea.

There are twelve buildings drained into cesspools.  
Three have pail closets.  
Three into septic and filter tanks.  
In two instances premises are drained into natural fissures.

#### SHOPS ACTS

Number of inspections made under the Shops Acts: 20.

No exemption certificates were granted during the year, and  
except where the few exemptions have been granted, the premises  
are all satisfactory with regard to sanitary and washing  
accommodation.

#### FACTORIES ACTS

Number on Register	...	...	...	70
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	182
Number of Notices	...	...	...	24
Number of Defects found	...	...	...	34
Number of Defects remedied	...	...	...	27

#### SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	100
Number and nature of inspections made during year	...	...	...	1,623
<u>Nature of Inspection</u>				
Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances etc.				
in course of abatement	...	...	...	756
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	42
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	49
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	24
Visits to Meat and Food Shops	...	...	...	148
Visits to Fish Frying Shops	...	...	...	42
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	50
Visits to Factories	...	...	...	182
Visits in connection with Rats Destruction	...	...	...	47
Miscellaneous visits, interview with property owners, &c.				
...	...	...	...	131
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	20
Drain Tests carried out - Water	...	...	...	53
Smoke	...	...	...	43
Drains unstopped	...	...	...	141
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	5
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	4

#### CAMPING SITES

There are no official camping sites in the area.

#### REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses	...	...	-
Canal Boats	...	...	-

## REGULATED BUILDINGS (Contd)

Offensive Trades ... ..	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c. ..	170

Huts are used for seasonal occupation. they have a water supply, but no sewerage disposal system. Public conveniences provided near sites by Local Authority.

## MILK SUPPLY

<u>Cowkeepers</u>		<u>Number of Contraventions</u>	
No. on	Inspections	Found during	Remedied during
Register	made	year.	year.
7	24	7	6

<u>Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)</u>			
No. on	Inspections	<u>Number of Contraventions</u>	
Register	made	Found during	Remedied during
		year.	year.
4	13	-	-

## MILK SAMPLES

Designated ... ..	7
Raw ... ..	7

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936/46

Number of Licences issued in respect of -

Tuberculin tested	-	Bottling	-
		Dealers	-
		Supplementary	-
Accredited	-	Bottling	-
		Dealers	1
		Supplementary	-
Pasteurised	-	Pasteurising	-
		Plants	-
		Dealers	-
		(retail)	-
		Supplementary	-
		(retail)	2

## MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

Under Ministry of Food arrangements, all slaughtering is carried out at Dorchester, and meat inspection is carried out in conjunction with other Inspectors in the area.

Number of animals killed for human consumption under licence from the Ministry of Food -

Pigs ... ..	17
Sheep .. ...	328
Calves . ...	1
Beasts . ...	451
Amount of meat condemned at	
Slaughterhouse .. ...	6,208 lbs.



	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Killed	11 Goats	451	1	328	17
No. Inspected	11 Goats	451	1	328	17
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	1	-
Some part or organ	-	174	-	28	4
Percentage	-	38.6	-	6.4	23.5
<u>T. B. Only</u>					
Whole carcasses	-	5	-	-	-
Some part or organ	-	108	-	-	2
Percentage	-	25.1	-	-	11.76

#### FOOD CONDEMNED

Bacon	...	...	...	94	lbs.
Meat, canned	...	...	...	92	lbs.
Meat, carcass	...	...	...	596	lbs.
Mixed Vegetables	...	...	...	53	tins.
Milk	...	...	...	110	tins.
Soup	...	...	...	108	packets)
				10	tins )
Shell Eggs	...	...	...	95	dozen.
Fruit, tins.	...	...	...	43	tins.
Fruit, dried	...	...	...	103	lbs.
Preserves	...	...	...	13	tins.
Jam	...	...	...	14	lbs.
Fish, tinned	...	...	...	40	tins.
Fish, wet and cured	...	...	...	148½	stones.
Cereals	...	...	...	14	lbs.
Sauce	...	...	...	34	bottles.
Meat Products	...	...	...	24	tins.
Cooked Meat	...	...	...	44	lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	197	lbs.
Chocolate	...	...	...	12	bars.
Cheese	...	...	...	20	lbs.

#### HOUSING

##### Inspection of Dwelling Houses

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 105

No. of inspections made for the purpose 263

##### Remedy of Defects - Informal Action

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action. 94

##### Remedy of Defects - Statutory Action

Proceedings under Sec. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -

No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) by owners	-
(b) by local authority in default of owners	-
<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
No. 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	-
<u>Proceedings under Sec. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	4
<u>Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
No. of separate tenements in which respect Closing Orders were made	1

#### OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding exists but to what extent is not known.

#### ICE CREAM

There are 32 vendors of ice cream in the district, in addition small quantities are sold from vehicles operating from outside the area. The majority of ice cream sold is already pre-packed, the remainder being brought in containers for sale as loose ice cream.

The premises vary, but generally speaking are satisfactory.

#### Results of samples taken

Grade 1	...	...	8
Grade 2	...	...	2
Grade 3	...	...	2
Grade 4	...	...	6

#### RODENT CONTROL

Sewer baiting was carried out on those sections of the sewer considered likely to be affected, the other sections become surcharged with storm water and of such steep gradients that they cannot remain infested. Control baiting is regularly carried out at the refuse tip, situated at the Council Depot. Minor infestations only have been met with during the year and all complaints attended to as well as possible by the limited staff available.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

*J.B. Lawrence,*  
Medical Officer of Health.



