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Somerset County Council

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

**1941.**

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**J. F. DAVIDSON,**

O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

County Medical Officer of Health.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee,  
Somerset County Council.**

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THE CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Fifth Annual Report upon the Health Administration of the County, and, owing to the present circumstances, this report is reduced in size, and it is, in fact, mainly a summary.

For national security reasons, population and certain other figures have been omitted. Apart from this, an endeavour has been made to retain the continuity of the statistical returns.

The general direction of Public Health work continues to be difficult and to be full of many problems; in addition to the routine administration, there are, of course, a multitude of other special and emergency duties and these latter seem to have a tendency to continual increase. I feel it is a matter of satisfaction for me to be able to say that your County Health Department and its varied organisations have been equal to the great strains imposed upon them, and indeed some extensions of routine services, such as immunisation against diphtheria and the supervision of difficult children, have been undertaken during the year.

I continue to be greatly indebted to Sir William Savage for his assistance which includes the supervision of the detail of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. F. DAVIDSON.

Taunton.

October, 1942.

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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

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Area (in acres): 1,028,992.

Population (1941) omitted at the request of the Ministry of Health.

Live births:—Total, 6,750; Legitimate 6,397, Illegitimate 353. Still births, 225.

Deaths of children under 1 year of age:—364.

Rateable Value:—£2,688,388 (1941).

Sum represented by a penny rate:—£10,615 (1941-42); £10,866 (1942-43).

Birth rate:—13.16 (previous year 12.56).

Death rate:—12.42.

Rate of infantile mortality:—48.7.

Percentage of births which are illegitimate:—5.22.

The birth rate is higher and the death rate lower than last year.

The essential statistical returns covering births, infantile mortality, and deaths are given in the following Tables from I. to V.

The causes of death are set out in the Tables, the chief causes of death being heart diseases (1,522 deaths), cancer and other forms of malignant disease (841 deaths), bronchitis and pneumonia (651 deaths), and tuberculosis (240 deaths).

TABLE I.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1941.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cerebro spinal fever ... ..	23	5	6	4	5	3	0
Scarlet fever ... ..	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough ... ..	29	16	11	2	0	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	21	1	9	8	3	0	0
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	198	0	5	1	114	60	18
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	42	4	10	7	16	2	3
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	27	1	0	0	4	14	8
Influenza ... ..	110	4	3	0	7	24	72
Measles ... ..	27	5	11	9	1	0	1
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ... ..	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Acute inf. encephalitis ... ..	11	0	0	0	3	6	2
Cancer of buc. cavity & œ soph. (M), uterus (F) ... ..	108	0	0	0	5	47	56
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	162	0	0	0	6	62	94
Cancer of breast ... ..	115	0	0	0	9	49	57
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	456	0	0	1	23	144	288
Diabetes ... ..	74	0	0	2	7	21	44
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	696	1	0	0	7	163	525
Heart disease ... ..	1522	0	0	6	57	291	1168
Other diseases of circ. system...	143	1	0	0	1	22	119
Bronchitis ... ..	399	22	5	2	10	64	296
Pneumonia ... ..	252	47	23	5	30	57	90
Other respiratory disease ... ..	84	0	0	1	15	31	37
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	76	0	0	0	9	39	28
Diarrhœa, under 2 years ... ..	30	27	3	0	0	0	0
Appendicitis ... ..	23	0	1	2	6	8	6
Other digestive diseases ... ..	163	4	5	5	15	41	93
Nephritis ... ..	240	1	0	1	26	81	131
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	6	0	0	0	6	0	0
Other maternal causes ... ..	15	0	0	0	15	0	0
Premature birth ... ..	86	86	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	117	102	7	2	3	2	1
Suicide ... ..	55	0	0	0	24	21	10
Road traffic accidents ... ..	94	0	4	16	37	19	18
Other violent causes ... ..	193	15	14	13	64	29	58
All other causes ... ..	768	21	14	18	80	105	530
	6368	364	132	105	609	1405	3753

TABLE II.

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1941.

## RURAL DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AXBRIDGE.	BATHAVON.	BRIDGWATER.	CHARD.	CLUTTON.	DULVERTON.	FROME.	LANGPORT.	LONG ASHTON	SHEPTON MALLET.	TAUNTON.	WELLINGTON.	WELLS.	WILLITON.	WINCANTON.	YEOVIL.	TOTAL RURAL DISTRICTS.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro spinal fever ...	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	11
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough ...	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	13
Diphtheria ...	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	9
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	8	14	7	3	5	1	2	5	5	1	4	2	3	5	8	9	82
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	2	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	19
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	11
Influenza ...	6	4	7	4	7	0	2	2	1	5	6	4	3	4	6	4	65
Measles ...	4	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	14
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
Cancer of buc. cavity & œ soph. (M), uterus (F) ...	6	9	2	1	5	0	2	4	2	5	3	5	1	3	4	3	55
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	8	2	9	4	7	4	6	7	6	3	7	3	4	6	9	6	91
Cancer of breast ...	7	1	1	1	4	2	0	2	5	2	4	2	3	4	8	4	50
Cancer of all other sites ...	23	26	26	9	7	4	11	18	24	8	13	7	6	11	24	20	237
Diabetes ...	8	4	0	3	3	1	0	4	5	1	2	1	0	1	2	7	42
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	39	44	23	14	24	5	11	19	30	14	27	8	10	14	31	23	336
Heart disease ...	109	72	58	35	55	25	24	44	62	41	72	18	28	43	43	53	782
Other diseases of circ. system..	7	5	4	8	4	0	4	6	5	4	7	4	4	4	6	3	75
Bronchitis ...	16	22	17	7	22	9	10	7	17	8	17	5	4	21	20	9	211
Pneumonia ...	11	11	13	5	7	0	9	11	15	10	10	5	6	8	10	8	139
Other respiratory disease ...	4	4	5	1	2	3	2	0	6	2	3	1	1	1	0	8	43
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5	7	2	2	4	1	1	2	5	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	38
Diarrhœa, under 2 years ...	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	11
Appendicitis ...	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	11
Other digestive diseases ...	3	11	3	5	4	3	4	3	9	6	11	5	8	8	10	5	92
Nephritis ...	16	9	13	9	4	1	4	8	13	8	16	3	9	6	9	6	134
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Other maternal causes ...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	8
Premature birth ...	5	3	2	3	6	1	4	0	4	0	7	3	3	2	5	2	50
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	8	6	6	1	4	0	0	0	3	0	10	0	2	6	6	4	56
Suicide ...	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	3	2	3	1	0	3	6	2	28
Road traffic accidents ...	5	2	5	7	6	1	2	3	6	3	3	1	1	5	4	7	61
Other violent causes ...	15	4	7	4	6	2	4	5	16	2	4	1	2	6	2	10	90
All other causes ...	45	20	33	26	21	9	24	24	18	18	30	15	9	45	29	32	398
All causes ...	372	294	250	157	218	75	131	176	268	149	271	99	110	215	254	238	3277

TABLE III.

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1941.

## URBAN DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	BRIDGWATER.	BURNHAM.	CHARD.	CLEVEDON.	CREWKERNE.	FROME.	GLASTONBURY.	ILMINSTER.	KEYNSHAM.	MINEHEAD.	NORTON-RADSTOCK.	FORTISHEAD.	SHEPTON MALLET.	STREET.	TAUNTON.	WATCHET.	WELLINGTON.	WELLS.	WESTON-SUPER-MARE.	YEOVIL.	TOTAL URBAN DISTRICTS.	COUNTY TOTAL.	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro spinal fever ...	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	12	23
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Whooping cough ...	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	16	29
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	6	3	12	21	
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	19	3	0	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	7	2	1	1	21	2	5	3	16	11	116	198	
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	2	0	0	2	6	3	23	42	
Syphilitic diseases ...	2	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	16	27	
Influenza ...	4	6	0	7	0	1	0	2	0	4	1	2	2	1	5	0	2	1	7	0	45	110	
Measles ...	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	13	27	
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	6	11	
Cancer of buc. cavity & œ soph. (M), uterus (F) ...	10	3	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	1	5	0	3	1	11	4	53	108	
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	7	4	1	6	0	3	1	1	1	4	3	3	2	2	11	0	3	1	13	5	71	162	
Cancer of breast ...	7	1	0	6	2	3	1	1	1	9	1	1	0	3	8	0	2	1	11	7	65	115	
Cancer of all other sites ...	24	12	1	14	3	13	2	1	8	16	5	9	5	6	31	4	8	6	37	14	219	456	
Diabetes ...	3	1	4	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	1	3	1	2	1	5	0	32	74	
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	24	16	5	17	6	25	7	10	12	10	17	7	6	8	62	3	8	13	79	25	360	696	
Heart disease ...	84	37	17	27	15	37	25	10	19	27	40	13	20	11	101	5	16	23	162	51	740	1522	
Other diseases of circ. system...	5	1	1	4	2	6	2	0	1	3	7	3	1	0	9	1	7	0	9	6	68	143	
Bronchitis ...	19	5	6	4	1	15	5	1	10	7	10	5	6	0	26	1	10	2	46	9	188	399	
Pneumonia ...	19	3	1	4	1	7	1	1	4	9	10	3	2	1	15	0	2	2	21	7	113	252	
Other respiratory disease ...	2	1	0	2	1	6	0	0	0	1	7	0	1	1	2	0	3	2	6	6	41	34	
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	6	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	5	1	1	2	5	5	38	76	
Diarrhœa, under 2 years ...	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	2	3	1	19	30	
Appendicitis ...	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	12	23	
Other digestive diseases ...	7	3	0	4	1	2	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	6	0	3	1	18	7	65	163	
Nephritis ...	8	5	0	17	1	4	8	2	2	3	5	4	0	4	12	0	3	7	15	6	106	240	
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	
Other maternal causes ...	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	7	15	
Premature birth ...	4	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	2	2	0	1	0	6	0	2	0	4	4	36	86	
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	9	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	1	10	1	2	1	12	7	61	117	
Suicide ...	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	4	6	27	55	
Road traffic accidents ...	11	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	4	1	33	94	
Other violent causes ...	7	0	2	7	1	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	15	2	1	0	39	14	103	193	
All other causes ...	36	17	13	35	6	22	2	3	3	16	16	7	9	5	41	8	13	16	68	34	370	768	
<b>All causes</b> ...	<b>343</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>3091</b>	<b>6368</b>	



TABLE IV.

Table showing, for each Rural District, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality.

DISTRICT.	Area. Acres.	No. of Deaths under 1 Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.
RURAL:—					
1. Axbridge ... ..	90,551	18	12.66	13.42	46.5
2. Bathavon ... ..	42,106	20	15.21	13.19	57.5
3. Bridgwater ... ..	86,769	16	13.20	11.46	48.9
4. Chard ... ..	54,600	6	12.84	10.61	28.4
5. Clutton ... ..	42,641	16	16.30	11.61	51.1
6. Dulverton ... ..	78,980	4	15.48	14.34	49.4
7. Frome ... ..	51,933	7	13.18	11.28	42.4
8. Langport ... ..	59,407	4	12.83	11.88	18.5
9. Long Ashton ... ..	46,515	14	12.52	10.49	42.7
10. Shepton Mallet ... ..	47,777	7	13.14	11.72	36.5
11. Taunton ... ..	70,682	23	13.39	13.49	74.9
12. Wellington ... ..	37,911	3	10.77	10.15	22.1
13. Wells ... ..	57,175	9	13.24	9.84	54.2
14. Williton ... ..	97,364	13	11.05	13.98	65.0
15. Wincanton ... ..	64,540	18	12.46	10.08	64.1
16. Yeovil ... ..	53,495	17	13.89	11.05	50.9
Totals of Rural Districts ... ..	982,446	195	13.27	12.02	48.9

TABLE V.

Table showing, for each Urban District, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality.

DISTRICT.	Area. Acres.	No. of Deaths under 1 Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.
URBAN :—					
1. Bridgwater ... ..	1,677	28	14.44	14.27	70.9
2. Burnham ... ..	2,246	6	14.07	12.76	35.5
3. Chard ... ..	1,030	3	13.45	11.02	37.9
4. Clevedon ... ..	3,296	7	11.49	17.85	47.3
5. Crewkerne ... ..	1,291	3	14.14	12.57	49.2
6. Frome ... ..	1,194	4	10.68	12.61	24.7
7. Glastonbury ... ..	5,019	1	11.56	10.87	13.7
8. Ilminster ... ..	531	1	14.77	14.06	23.3
9. Keynsham ... ..	4,170	6	13.75	10.06	56.1
10. Minehead ... ..	2,816	5	6.76	14.06	50.0
11. Norton-Radstock ... ..	3,370	7	12.78	12.00	41.7
12. Portishead ... ..	911	2	14.35	17.94	33.9
13. Shepton Mallet ... ..	2,278	3	12.15	11.63	34.9
14. Street ... ..	3,069	3	12.25	8.97	41.1
15. Taunton ... ..	2,428	31	14.93	12.86	57.5
16. Watchet ... ..	493	1	12.50	10.07	21.3
17. Wellington ... ..	2,211	7	11.95	12.45	55.6
18. Wells ... ..	1,336	3	11.32	12.59	34.1
19. Weston-super-Mare .	4,923	32	11.84	11.84	55.9
20. Yeovil ... ..	2,257	16	16.20	16.20	41.1
Totals of Urban Districts ... ..	46,546	169	13.04	12.87	48.5
Administrative County ...	1,028,992	364	13.16	12.42	48.7
England and Wales, 1941	—	—	14.2	12.9	59.0

### Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

The clinics are held regularly at the following centres:—

Name of Clinic.	Started.	Medical Officer.	No. of Sessions.	New cases seen.	Average attendance per Session.
Taunton and Somerset Hospital ... ..	April, 1931	Dr. J. Mackay ...	49	74	7.7
Shepton Mallet and District Hospital ...	April, 1931	Dr. A. Darlington ...	24	6	0.9
Weston-super-Mare Hospital ... ..	Dec., 1932	Dr. J. McGarvey ...	24	20	2.3
Bridgwater Health Centre ... ..	May, 1938	Dr. J. Mackay ...	24	36	3.5

The above Table shows that the facilities available are being comparatively little used by medical practitioners. The Yeovil centre has been closed.

### Blind Persons Acts, 1920 and 1938.

The general work under these Acts is carried out by the Somerset Blind Association on behalf of, and with a grant from, the County Council. This Association also deals with necessitous Blind and their dependents. Six Home Teachers were employed by the County Blind Association during 1941. There are 20 Home Workers under the supervision of the Bristol Royal Blind Asylum Workshops. At the end of 1941 there were 890 persons in the County registered as blind, compared with 910 at the end of 1940. Certification by a medical practitioner with special experience in ophthalmology is required before registration. Where possible we make use of the County Oculist, Dr. I. B. Georgeson, for certification purposes and during 1941 he examined 68 cases, 59 of whom were admitted to the register.

### Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The Isolation Hospital beds available were the same as for 1940. The cases of notifiable infectious disease and their distribution are set out in the tables.

While there were 994 notified cases of scarlet fever this was rather less than in the previous year. The disease was mostly mild and there was only one death. The proportion of cases sent to isolation hospitals is still far too high and neither an advantage to the community nor to the individual.

There were 437 notified cases of diphtheria with 21 deaths, a case mortality of 4.8. During the year the immunisation of children against diphtheria was pressed by every means and the numbers immunised were large. Up to the end of October the children protected during the year were as follows:—

## A. SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Bridgwater	...	...	...	...	...	2,131
Taunton	...	...	...	...	...	1,963
Yeovil	...	...	...	...	...	2,168
Other Urban areas	...	...	...	Somerset	12,268	Evacuees 3,784
Rural areas	...	...	...	Somerset	19,939	Evacuees 6,831

## B. PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Weston-super-Mare	...	...	...	...	704
Taunton	...	...	...	...	496
Yeovil	...	...	...	...	340
Other Urban areas	...	...	...	...	2,418
Rural areas	...	...	...	...	6,130

The actual number of children at risk can only be ascertained approximately but, based on the most reliable figures available, the following percentages are obtained for the county, exclusive of Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil, where the work is not carried out by the County Council for all the population:—

Area.	Somerset.	Evacuees.	All.
Pre-School—Urban	44	—	44
„ —Rural	52	—	52
School—Urban	77	51	69
„ —Rural	82	47	68

The school figures are very good and particularly so for the rural areas where the difficulties are greater. In four rural districts the percentage immunised exceeds 80 while no district was below 56. In five urban districts over 80% were immunised and the lowest percentage was 55. The pre-school figures are good considering the difficulties, but not good enough. While the individuals immunised are protected, to protect the community and lower the incidence of diphtheria generally we must aim at protection of at least 75—80% of the community. Further immunisations have been carried on all through 1942.

Cerebro spinal meningitis is always liable to occur during war conditions but the cases were only 108 as compared with 176 in the previous year. There were 23 deaths, giving a case mortality of 21.3%.

Enteric diseases (including typhoid and paratyphoid fevers) were definitely more numerous mainly due to 24 cases in Taunton where there was a small outbreak of paratyphoid fever in a school, with some cases in the town.

As Table VI shows, measles and whooping cough were both prevalent during the year but the deaths were only 27 and 29 respectively.

With a number of these diseases prevalent at one time the isolation hospital provision in the county was heavily taxed during the winter, but it was just adequate with the extra accommodation available and with the arrangement for pooling of hospital resources.

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VI. (Registrar General's Figures.)

	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Dysentery.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica.
<b>URBAN</b>												
Bridgwater	108	24	12	0	7	1	6	0	34	4	0	0
Burnham	55	12	9	0	1	1	2	0	70	4	0	0
Chard	73	4	0	0	2	0	2	0	24	7	0	0
Clevedon	144	26	4	1	1	1	1	5	85	20	1	0
Crewkerne	143	2	3	0	5	0	0	0	4	5	0	0
Frome	365	18	3	1	0	0	4	0	41	6	0	0
Glastonbury	140	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	23	3	0	0
Ilminster	23	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	19	0	0
Keynsham	228	9	2	0	3	0	2	6	42	5	0	0
Minehead	201	20	1	0	2	0	1	0	13	12	0	0
Norton-Radstock	138	17	4	0	1	0	5	0	74	2	0	0
Portishead	59	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	4	0	0
Shepton Mallet	194	19	15	0	3	1	1	0	79	11	1	1
Street	78	5	5	0	1	0	0	0	54	10	1	0
Taunton	620	98	10	24	11	3	11	0	61	15	1	0
Watchet	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	4	0	0
Wellington	61	74	1	1	9	0	2	0	9	5	0	0
Wells	220	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	30	3	0	0
Weston-super-Mare	505	72	115	2	12	6	11	26	208	43	2	0
Yeovil	75	21	29	1	4	0	2	0	20	16	0	0
<b>RURAL</b>												
Axbridge	791	111	48	5	3	0	10	0	166	24	0	1
Bathavon	711	49	17	3	3	0	12	0	144	10	0	0
Bridgwater	159	30	20	1	0	0	4	0	113	3	1	0
Chard	266	22	14	1	3	1	3	0	18	28	1	0
Clutton	314	28	26	0	3	0	0	0	134	18	1	0
Dulverton	143	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	87	15	0	0
Frome	173	10	5	0	2	0	1	0	30	1	0	0
Langport	208	16	0	0	3	0	0	0	44	12	0	0
Long Ashton	469	82	23	10	3	0	6	6	130	32	0	0
Shepton Mallet	270	18	2	0	6	3	0	0	78	5	1	1
Taunton	275	47	16	5	2	0	9	2	23	18	0	0
Wellington	158	22	3	0	2	1	1	0	28	3	2	0
Wells	157	15	5	4	3	0	0	0	25	6	0	0
Williton	164	37	13	0	0	0	0	0	15	3	3	0
Wincanton	382	22	4	1	2	0	4	0	220	27	0	0
Yeovil	463	21	18	0	7	1	8	0	93	22	0	0
Urban Districts	3431	449	218	30	63	13	50	37	900	198	6	1
Rural Districts	5103	545	219	30	42	6	58	8	1348	227	9	2
<b>Administrative County</b>	<b>8534</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2248</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

The attendances of Somerset cases at the various clinics for the past three years have been as follows:—

Clinic.	New Cases.				Attendances.			
	1939	1940	1941	Increase or decrease during 1941.	1939	1940	1941	Increase or decrease during 1941.
Bath ... ..	5	5	37	+32	352	190	442	+252
Bristol ... ..	47	33	45	+12	704	481	640	+159
Taunton ... ..	54	42	43	+ 1	997	909	1,169	+260
Yeovil ... ..	56	59	56	- 3	695	950	1,492	+542
Bridgwater ... ..	26	26	42	+16	277	387	589	+202
Frome ... ..	11	3	7	+ 4	143	102	332	+230
Minehead ... ..	17	5	8	+ 3	210	92	86	- 6
Weston-super-Mare ...	41	50	60	+10	744	1,024	1,233	+209
All Clinics ...	257	223	298	+75	4,122	4,135	5,983	+1,848

The figures show an increase, but rather less than was anticipated. It has not been found necessary to re-open the Glastonbury clinic.

During the year the following examinations were made:—

Samples.	For Clinics and Hospitals.	For Medical Practitioners.	Total.
Wasserman ...	434	506	940
Gonococcus ...	0	10	10
Spirochetes ...	0	0	0
Fixation and other tests ...	195	18	213
	629	534	1,163

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Year.	Phthisis Death rates.			Other Tuberculous Diseases			Tuberculosis Death-rate.	Deaths in a population of 406,000.	
	Rural.	Urban.	County.	Rural.	Urban.	County.	County.	Phthisis.	All Tuberculosis
1941	0.30	0.48	0.39	0.07	0.10	0.08	0.468	157	190

TABLE VII.

New cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the County during 1941.

Age Periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1
1-5	2	1	12	7	3	2	5	5
5-10	4	3	12	19	0	1	4	3
10-15	9	4	16	9				
15-20	26	30	4	11	64	50	6	10
20-25	42	41	2	9				
25-35	90	77	7	8				
35-45	39	50	8	6	43	17	1	1
45-55	47	27	5	2				
55-65	21	16	0	3	8	10	1	2
65 and upwards	4	8	0	0				
Totals	284	257	69	75	118	80	20	22

TABLE VIII.

## Tuberculosis Notifications and Deaths.

URBAN DISTRICTS.	Number of primary cases notified.		Number of Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Number of Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis.	RURAL DISTRICTS.	Number of primary cases notified.		Number of Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Number of Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis.
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.		
Bridgwater	33	5	19	1	Axbridge	30	11	8	2
Burnham	15	2	3	1	Bathavon	19	9	14	1
Chard	7	2	0	0	Bridgwater	25	7	7	2
Clevedon	14	4	4	1	Chard	12	4	3	1
Crewkerne	3	1	3	0	Clutton	15	2	5	2
Frome	9	1	4	0	Dulverton	7	2	1	0
Glastonbury	3	1	4	0	Frome	5	2	2	1
Ilminster	8	1	3	0	Langport	21	2	5	0
Keynsham	5	3	3	0	Long Ashton	20	11	5	0
Minehead	21	4	4	1	Shepton Mallet	10	5	1	1
Norton-Radstock	13	9	7	1	Taunton	25	4	4	2
Portishead	3	4	2	3	Wellington	5	2	2	2
Shepton Mallet	4	3	1	0	Wells	5	3	3	1
Street	2	3	1	2	Williton	16	2	5	0
Taunton	51	8	21	2	Wincanton	14	5	8	2
Watchet	5	0	2	0	Yeovil	17	4	9	2
Wellington	10	1	5	0					
Wells	9	0	3	2					
Weston-s-Mare	57	11	16	6					
Yeovil	23	6	11	3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>19</b>

TABLE IX.

## Admissions to Sanatoria during 1941.

Sanatorium.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Quantock	68	67	—	135
Chard	7	43	2	52
Taunton	26	23	—	49
Wincanton	23	—	—	23
Compton Bishop	—	1	36	37
Alton Hospital	—	—	5	5
Bath Orthopædic Hospital..	10	3	13	26
Swanage Red Cross Hosp...	—	—	1	1
Wells Cottage Hospital	—	—	1	1
	134	137	58	329



TABLE X.

## Cases treated through the County Dispensaries.

Dispensary.	Persons treated at Dispensaries during 1941.		Under treatment at Dispensaries December 31st, 1941.		Total Dispensary Attendances 1941.	Total Persons examined 1941.
	Insured.	Uninsured.	Insured.	Uninsured.		
Bath (County) ...	6	36	2	17	346	141
Bridgwater ...	191	160	22	40	1,061	459
Bristol ...	3	18	1	5	228	105
Chard ...	31	41	9	10	456	151
Clevedon ...	25	75	2	10	444	166
Frome ...	2	10	2	9	132	57
Glastonbury ...	5	13	2	2	146	86
Minehead ...	103	156	76	95	757	259
Radstock ...	4	28	3	21	221	98
Shepton Mallet ...	17	13	—	2	173	106
Taunton ...	240	181	62	42	1,399	622
Wellington ...	20	30	6	5	159	75
Weston-super-Mare ...	11	118	8	72	1,192	466
Wincanton ...	12	8	1	3	107	65
Yeovil ...	32	55	11	25	699	325
	702	942	207	358		
	1,644		565		7,520	3,181

**Quantock Summer Camp.** The Camp was not held this year.

#### Tuberculosis Officer's Clinical Report for 1941.

Dr. Short, County Tuberculosis Officer, has written the following report:—

The winter 1940-41, and the first half of 1941, brought the greatest increase in the number and severity of the cases of tuberculosis in Somerset since the war of 1914-18, and although the pressure eased towards the end of the year, both the number of new cases seen and the numbers treated at the Dispensaries constitute a record for the County.

The severity of the new cases may be inferred from the fact that 235 were already T.B.+, the highest number for 20 years. The staff also had to put in an exceptional number of visits to patients too ill to attend the clinics, while Artificial Pneumothorax refills also reached their peak.

Numbers of evacuees, both official and unofficial, were found urgently in need of treatment, mainly institutional, and this strained our accommodation to the utmost. Evacuees with tuberculosis find it almost impossible to obtain billets, and this still complicates the position in Somerset.

On the other hand, the permanent results of treatment provided in the County in previous years have been shown by the large number of ex-patients now engaged in war work, and a few such patients have already won distinctions in the fighting services.

Sanatorium or hospital treatment was given to 329 cases. In addition many open-air shelters were provided, those in actual use on December 31st, 1941, being 54. The number of shelters available is 66. Milk, for a period of six or eight weeks was provided in 52 cases, Dental treatment for 3 cases, X-Ray examinations for 212.

Treatment by the use of artificial pneumothorax has been continued and the cases dealt with are shewn in the following table:—

	At Dispensary or home of patient.	At Institutions.	Total.
Primary inductions ... ..	1	25	26
Refills ... ..	414	1,177	1,591

The new cases seen numbered 1,914, and were classified as follows:—

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	T.B. Negative ... ..	203	438
	T.B. Positive Stage 1 ... ..	12	
	T.B. Positive Stage 2 ... ..	174	
	T.B. Positive Stage 3 ... ..	49	
		—	
NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	Bones and Joints ... ..	19	86
	Abdominal ... ..	12	
	Other Organs ... ..	11	
	Peripheral Glands ... ..	44	
		—	
Not Tuberculous ... ..			1,375
Diagnosis not completed on 31st December, 1941 ... ..			15
			—
			<u>1,914</u>

**Quantock Sanatorium.** The Medical Superintendent, Dr. V. C. Martyn, has furnished the following report:—

The Sanatorium has been open for the reception of 90 cases (50 males and 40 females) throughout the year. During this time 135 cases have been admitted, of whom 68 were males and 67 females. 135 patients were discharged, 67 males and 68 females. One of these cases was not tuberculous, and there were 3 deaths. The average stay for female patients was 212 days and for male patients 215 days. This is an average of 30 weeks for each patient.

Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was carried out in all suitable cases. There were 20 inductions, 392 refills for in-patients and 75 for out-patients.

X-ray.—266 films were taken and 336 cases were screened. Eight cases were operated on for Phrenic Evulsion at Minehead Hospital.

Owing to the increase in numbers the work of the whole staff has been very exacting and anxious.

## RESULTS OF TREATMENT.

## WEIGHTS.

Increase in weights in Kilos. (1 Kilo=2.2 lbs.)

		1-6	6-12	12 and over.	Total.
Males	...	37	10	2	49
Females	...	25	20	5	50

The average gain in weight of 99 patients weighed on discharge = 5.53 kilos.  
 " " 49 male patients " " = 4.52 "  
 " " 50 female patients " " = 6.52 "  
 The average loss in weight of 23 patients weighed on discharge = 2.74 "  
 13 patients were not weighed on discharge, including 1 who died.

## Working capacity of patients on admission and discharge.

	Full Working Capacity.		Fit for light work.		Unfit for work.	
	Admission.	Discharge.	Admission.	Discharge.	Admission.	Discharge.
Males	0	11 = 16.42%	0	12 = 17.91%	67	44 = 65.67%
Females	0	17 = 25.00%	0	12 = 17.65%	68	39 = 57.35%

On admission all patients were unfit for any work. On discharge 20.72 per cent. of all patients were fit for full work; 17.79 per cent. for light work; and 61.49 per cent. were unfit for work.

## Classification on admission of patients discharged during 1941.

Classification.	M.	F.	Total.	%	Tubercle Bacilli.			
					Positive.		Negative.	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
Early	12	15	27	20.00	1	2	11	13
Intermediate	40	36	76	56.29	30	21	10	15
Advanced	15	17	32	23.71	14	17	1	0

Complications presented by patients were:—Larynx infection, Pleura, Enteritis.

**Chard Sanatorium.** During the year the cases admitted were 36 pulmonary cases and 16 non-pulmonary (8 female, 8 male).

From the pulmonary wards there were 27 discharged and 6 deaths, from the female surgical ward 8 discharges and 1 death, and from the male surgical ward 7 discharges.

During 1941 the glass over the upstairs verandahs was replaced by asbestos so that they could be used permanently for beds, the accommodation thus being increased to 60.

Dr. Pascall reports that rationing has caused difficulty in catering but has not prevented the patients from being quite well fed and from putting on weight where the disease allowed it. Treatment has remained much the same. Artificial Pneumothorax has again produced some decidedly encouraging results. Five cases were induced during the year, and there were 608 refills. Gold was used as before. 182 X-ray films were taken and 479 cases screened.

**Compton Bishop Children's Home.** During the year 20 boys and 17 girls were admitted, and of these 13 boys and 6 girls were under 10 years of age. All the cases had definite or suspected tuberculosis. The average stay for "definite" (notified) cases was 46 weeks, and for observation cases 13 weeks. The discharges numbered 29, 13 boys and 16 girls, who will be kept under regular supervision at the County Clinics.

TABLE XI.

## QUANTOCK SANATORIUM.

## Duration of Treatment and Condition on Discharge.

Class TB	Under 3 months.									3-6 months.									6-12 months.									More than 12 months.									Totals.			Grand Totals.
	M.			F.			Ch.			M.			F.			Ch.			M.			F.			Ch.			M.	F.	Ch.										
	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.																
Class TB - Minus.	1	3	0	5	6	1	6	12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	22	1	35												
Class TB + Group 1.	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3												
Class TB + Group 2.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Class TB + Group 3.	3	3	0	2	8	0	6	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	15	0	26												
Class TB + Group 3.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2												

In 27 out of 63 men discharged the disease was quiescent=42.86 per cent. In 32 out of 65 women discharged the disease was quiescent=49.23 per cent. 2 cases, who had been admitted for observation, were discharged as tuberculous and are included in the above figures. No cases who were at the Sanatorium less than 28 days have been included in the above figures.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**The Midwifery Service.** 357 certified midwives notified their intention to practise during the year, 317 working under Committees and 40 independent.

Out of the 227 midwives who worked under the S.C.N.A., 28 resigned and 5 notified for emergency work only, leaving 194 still at work. Of the 38 who notified under independent Associations 6 resigned, leaving 32 still at work. Of the 39 trained midwives working on their own 10 had no midwifery or maternity case, which left 29 actually at work. 16 worked only as maternity nurse under a medical man. During the year four amalgamations of smaller districts have been effected.

The percentage of 1941 births in the County attended by the nurses as midwives was 72.3.

### Summary for all Midwives during the Year.

Cases attended as midwife ... ..	5,043
Cases attended as monthly nurse ... ..	2,116
Doctor sent for for mother ... ..	1,923
Doctor sent for for child ... ..	348
Stillbirths ... ..	84
Death of mother ... ..	10
Death of child ... ..	46

The midwives working under Committees attended 3,802 midwifery and 1,922 maternity cases, those working independently 83 midwifery and 155 maternity cases. The Association midwives showed an increase of 707 midwifery and 319 maternity cases, the independent midwives a decrease of 51 midwifery and an increase of 43 maternity cases.

Only one independent midwife had more than 25 midwifery cases, and her number was 34. 16 of these midwives had no midwifery cases but between them attended 100 maternity cases, while 10 had no cases at all. The 53 midwives in the Maternity Units attended 1,197 cases.

Ten deaths of mothers were recorded during the year in which midwives were in attendance as midwives.

Doctors were called in 1,923 times for the mother and 348 for the child; a percentage of 48.9.

**Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Work.** Under the ante-natal and post-natal scheme the total numbers of Somerset mothers ante-natally examined and of cases post-natally examined were respectively 1,403 and 226, at a total cost to the County estimated at £558 2s. 6d. The corresponding figures for evacuee women are 347 and 148, at a cost of £175 19s. 6d.

**Consultants for Midwifery Scheme.** Under the County scheme 67 cases were accepted and dealt with by the five consultant officers.

**Assisted Admissions to Maternity Homes or Hospitals.** During the year 372 applications were received for assisted admissions to a maternity home or hospital. The County Council accepted responsibility for 217 of these cases, an increase over the previous year of 46. The reasons for need of institutional treatment were:—

Actual or anticipated obstetric difficulty	103
Medical complication ... ..	23
Housing ... ..	31
Toxæmia ... ..	44
Abortions ... ..	14
For care of feeble infant ... ..	2
	<hr/>
	217
	<hr/> <hr/>

## Treatment:—

## (1) Viable pregnancies:

Normal delivery ... ..	82
Medical treatment (normal delivery)	30
Pre-Natal treatment only (returned home) ... ..	7
Surgical obstetric treatment:	
Cæsarean ... ..	17
Induction ... ..	42
Forceps ... ..	16
Other ... ..	9
	<hr/>
	84

## (2) Non-Viable:

Routine care ... ..	11
Surgical treatment ... ..	3
	<hr/>
	217
	<hr/> <hr/>

## Results:—

	Mothers.	Babies.
Well ... ..	199	153
Fair ... ..	2	2
Not well ... ..	5	0
Improved ... ..	6	0
Born at home ... ..	0	8
Non-Viable ... ..	0	12
Died ... ..	5	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	217	219
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Of the above Somerset women 2 were admitted to emergency maternity units in the County for their confinement.

### Dental Scheme for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

This Scheme operates partly through private dental practitioners and partly through dental clinics staffed by officers of the County Council.

*Private Practitioners' Cases.* Of the 17 denture cases uncompleted at the end of 1940, 10 were satisfactorily fitted and the patients are making proper use of the dentures. 1 patient attended for extractions only, 1 for fillings only, and the remaining 5 did not attend for further treatment. During 1941, 39 applications were received. 16 full dentures and 6 part dentures were fitted, and in every case a report has been received from a County Council Medical Officer or Health Visitor that the dentures were satisfactory and in use. Two patients attended for extractions only. In the remaining 15 cases dentures are not completed and the patients are still attending for treatment.

Under the main scheme clinics were held at Glastonbury, Frome and Bridgwater. The work done is shown in brief in the following table:—

	Glastonbury.	Frome.	Bridgwater.
No. of new patients ... ..	18	37	37
No. of sessions ... ..	24	25	24
No. of attendances for general treatment ...	81	112	110
Extractions ... ..	260	322	279
Fillings ... ..	16	21	1
Other treatment ... ..	8	24	11
No. of attendances for dentures ... ..	83	111	115
Impressions ... ..	37	67	57
Bites ... ..	15	50	25
Try-Ins ... ..	19	52	32
Plates inserted ... ..	25	47	37
Other treatment ... ..	15	2	5
Cases recommended for dentures ... ..	13	25	17

#### Maternal Mortality.

	1918	1928	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	8	14	3	4	3	5	6
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	20	12	15	10	1	10	15
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>
Rate per 1,000 Births ... ..	5.14	4.36	3.23	2.59	0.71	2.57	2.72

#### Puerperal Sepsis.

During the year 105 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Arrangements have been made with different Hospitals to take in County cases, and facilities are offered. During 1941 36 cases were so admitted. The special unit at the Taunton Isolation Hospital again was of outstanding service and the results from this Hospital have been consistently good.

#### Care of Infants and Children under School Age.

The various problems raised were dealt with in some detail in earlier reports. The work has been continued and in some directions extensions have been made. It is work of essential importance, and this is not diminished but increased under war conditions. Only a summary of the County activities can be given.

(a) **Visits and Advice in the Homes.** During the year 7,636 births were referred to the Infant Visitors, 5,167 being in rural and 2,469 in urban areas. This service is well supervised and is a most important part of the scheme.

(b) **Infant Welfare Centres.** At the end of 1941 the Centres in the County, exclusive of those at Yeovil, Taunton and Weston-super-Mare which are outside the County Scheme, were the following:—Banwell, Bishop Sutton, Bridgwater, Chard, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Chewton Mendip, Cleeve and Wraxall, Clevedon, Coleford, Crewkerne, Curry Rivel, Dulverton, Farmborough, Frome, Glastonbury, Harptree, High Littleton, Kewstoke, Keynsham, Long Ashton, Mells, Midsomer Norton, Minehead, Nailsea, Paulton, Pill, Portishead, Radstock, Shepton Mallet, Street, Timsbury and Tunley, Wellington, Wells, West Huntspill, Westbury-sub-Mendip, Weston-zoyland, Wraxall and Yatton.

The Centres at Bridgwater, Midsomer Norton and Radstock are directly controlled by the Council with the valuable assistance of local Committees; and the County Council also make grants towards the expenses of all the others.

### **Bridgwater Infant Welfare Centre.**

*Births.* During 1941, the number of births notified in the Borough (including still-births and cases later transferred to other districts) was 740; of these 729 were attended by midwives. A doctor was called in to help the midwives in 201 cases. 28 babies died during the year, a rate of 70.9 deaths per 1,000 births.

*Home Visiting.* No. of children on visiting list 1,802; total visits paid to infants 5,500.

*Centre.* Number of individual children who attended, 501; individual mothers, 420; average attendance per session—children under 1 year, 28, 1 to 5 years, 25; average attendance per session of mothers, 35; number of attendances—children 5,386, mothers 2,838; number of medical consultations for infants, 1,032; for women (excluding ante-natal), 320.

The medical work was carried out by Dr. Halliday.

No regular ante-natal examinations are now carried out at this centre, as the work is done through local medical practitioners. 15 women not covered by the County scheme presented themselves for advice and were seen, making in all 32 attendances.

The figures show an increase in the amount of work undertaken by the Centre, and they are extremely satisfactory, especially when it is noted that the total number of attendances of children have increased from 2,892 in 1939 to 5,386 this year. The total attendance of mothers has also considerably increased, from 2,008 to 2,838.

### **Radstock and Midsomer Norton Infant Welfare Centres.**

These centres are managed by the County Council with voluntary assistance. Sessions are held twice monthly in each centre, *i.e.*, at the Victoria Hall, Radstock, and the Women's Institute Hut, Welton, Midsomer Norton. Medical consultations are held alternate sessions and educational programmes are arranged for intermediate dates. Dr. Cuthbert acts as Medical Officer, attending once a month. The appointed Infant Visitors (the district nurses) attend and the work is carried on in direct relation to the existing Infant Welfare schemes.



The figures for these centres are as follows:—

	Radstock.	Midsomer Norton.
Sessions held ... ..	20	22
Individual children who attended ... ..	209	99
Individual mothers who attended ... ..	199	83
Average fortnightly attendance of children		
{ under 1 year...	21	.3
{ 1—5 years ...	9	14
Average fortnightly attendance of mothers ... ..	26	14
Number of attendances of children		
{ under 1 year ... ..	433	71
{ 1—5 years ... ..	188	306
Number of attendances of mothers ... ..	560	311
Number of medical consultations		
{ children ... ..	200	202
{ mothers ... ..	None.	None.
Number of individual children attending centre born in 1941	41	20
Number of individual children attending centre born previous to 1941 ... ..	168	78
Number of infants attending for the <i>first time</i> during 1941 ...	61	43
Under 1 year on first attendance ... ..	45	24
Aged 1—5 years on first attendance ... ..	16	19

**Banwell Infant Welfare Centre.** Ten sessions held, with 100 attendances of children under 1 year, 17 being new cases, and 151 attendances of children 1—5 years, 12 being new cases. Dr. Evans, of the County Health Department, is the Medical Officer.

A small centre was started by Dr. Evans at Kewstoke in November, 1941. 20—25 children attended monthly.

(c) **Medical Inspection of Three-year-old Children.** There are many practical difficulties in its way, and during the year the routine examination of only 111 such children was carried out in the County.

(d) **Treatment and Supervision of Abnormal Children.** 593 reports were received, including a few from doctors or through the Orthopædic Centres. They include a miscellaneous series of conditions and no scientific classification is possible. They have been grouped as follows to give an idea of the conditions to be dealt with:—Malnutrition 77, Rickets 43, Debility 96, Catarrhal 56, Minor Postural Defects 65, Orthopædic 76, Eye Defects 69, Tonsils, Otorrhœa, etc., 13, other defects 98.

The figures show that many children get treatment with maltoline, oil and malt, etc., or are given treatment through one or more of the various County Schemes. For others it is only necessary to keep them under special observation.

The following is a summary of this work:—

Condition.	No. Reported.	Extra Nourishment Grant.	Treated at F.C. or I.W.C.	Treated Privately or Hospital.	Treated by County.
Malnutrition ... ..	77	57	31	10	4(a); 1(d); 1(f); 1(h); 1(i).
Rickets (early) ... ..	23	17	5	6	4(c).
Rickets with deformity ... ..	20	4	7	6	1(a); 18(c).
Debility ... ..	96	84	23	24	11(a).
Catarrhal ... ..	56	51	8	12	3(d).
Tonsils & Adenoids, Otorrhœa, etc.	13	4	3	8	2(g).
Minor Postural ... ..	65	13	22	17	24(c).
Orthopædic ... ..	76	4	21	17	68(c); 1(d).
Eye defects (Squint 61, other 8) ...	69	0	9	3	56(b).
Miscellaneous ... ..	98	20	26	29	11(a); 7(c); 6(d); 1(h); 2(i); 3(k).
	593	254	155	132	226

(a) Mary Stanley Home 27; (b) County Oculist 56; (c) Orthopædic Clinic 121; (d) Tuberculosis Clinic 11; (e) Public Assistance Institution 0; (f) Nursery Treatment 1; (g) Tonsils and Adenoids Operation 2; (h) U.V. Light 2; (i) Hostel or Sick Bay 3; (k) Dentist 3.

(e) **Baby Hospital, Bridgwater.** The following is a summary of the year's work:—Number in Ward, January 1st, 7; admitted during 1941, 28; Total—35. The reasons for admission were, as before, mainly nutritional difficulties and prematurity. All made satisfactory improvement except 9 who died. Average length of stay of cases discharged in 1941—9 weeks.

#### Special Institutional Treatment for Children from 1 to 5 years of age.

One child suffering from malnutrition was accepted under this scheme for 3 weeks' treatment at the Tralee Sick Bay, Weston-super-Mare.

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 22 cases were notified. Of these 7 were sent to Hospital. The distribution of the cases is shown in Table VI. One child died, but all the cases in which treatment was completed showed vision unimpaired at the time of the report.

#### Flying Clinics.

Medical Officers were unable to include in their programme of work any "flying clinic" visits in 1941. The routine consultations at established Welfare Centres were, however, continued.

#### Birth Control.

During the year the number of applications received by Dr. Halliday from various sources for advice and assistance was 12. Of these cases, 4 were seen and advised personally by Dr. Halliday, while the remaining 8 were referred to other clinics.

### Nursing and Maternity Homes.

At the end of the year the number of homes on the Register was 49. They were all visited from time to time by Dr. Halliday, Miss Stewart or Miss Nobes to see that the premises were in order and the requirements of the County Council complied with as regards management.

### Child Life Protection.

The children on our Register at the end of 1941 numbered 285, and as regards methods of payment may be grouped as follows:—Weekly payments 261, single lump sum payment 1, otherwise paid for (mostly monthly or irregularly) 23.

The number of foster mothers with one child only is 121, with two children—24, with three children—5, with four children—2, with over four children—9.

The foster mothers who run a regular baby home are therefore few, and those with over four infants are one at Congresbury with 14 at the end of 1941 (authorised for 20); one at Huntspill with 5 (authorised for 5); one at Wembdon with 12 (authorised for 14); one at Batheaston with 8 (authorised for 12); one at Sand Bay with 9 (authorised for 9); one at Williton with 18 (authorised for 25); one at Wellow with 7 (authorised for 7); one at Clevedon with 15 (authorised for 15), and one at Dunster with 5 (authorised for 5).

### ORTHOPÆDIC SCHEME.

The County Scheme, and the results of working during 1941, are described in considerable detail in my report for 1941 as School Medical Officer. 603 new cases were seen and dealt with through the Clinics.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

Owing to the war new works were restricted to situations where the need was urgent and replacement of machinery due to wear or inadequacy necessary. Chlorinating plants were also installed on a number of supplies.

YEOVIL. The linking up of the Chilthorne and Mudford main was completed. A new bore-hole and pumping station was provided and the new 6in. main to Houndstone (approximately two miles in length) completed.

BRIDGWATER. Owing to the heavy demand in the area served by the Huntworth Gate main a duplicate 7in. main from Huntworth Gate to Crandon Bridge was laid and completed.

WINCANTON. The Castle Cary scheme was augmented by linking up the Pitcombe supply to the reservoir on Cary Hill. Increased storage capacity was also provided. This has been needed for some time owing to increased consumption in the area. Extensions of the main to Dimmer were carried out. The pumping plant was also improved at Castle Cary.

Bruton and Brewham supplies.—Investigations were carried out and samples taken at different points on these two supplies respecting the action of the water on the mains and the possible effect.

LANGPORT. A new motor pump was provided at the Compton Durville station to replace the worn-out electric pump.

A new pump was also installed at Huish Episcopi pumping station to meet the increased consumption.

**SHEPTON MALLET.** In order to improve and further protect the Stoke Lane and Holcombe supply more land adjoining was purchased.

**Chlorination of Supplies.** Following a circular issued by the Ministry of Health in August, 1940, whereby water undertakers were directed to instal chlorinating plants on all supplies serving over 1,000 population. A fair number of plants are now in operation.

Owing to emergency needs many supplies have been very heavily taxed, but fortunately there has been no serious shortage. The two rural authorities who need water most for a considerable area of their respective districts are Langport and Wells.

The schemes for which grants have been authorised by the County Council during the year were as follows:—

#### CHLORINATING PLANTS.

Bridgwater Rural	...	£140	Shepton Mallet Rural	...	£957
Clutton Rural	...	£282	Taunton Rural	...	£150

**BRIDGWATER.** Duplication of 7in. main from Huntworth Gate to Crandon Bridge, £12,173.

**LANGPORT.** Compton Durville pumping station—new pumping plant, £110.

**WINCANTON.** Supply to Dimmer, £4,595.

Borehole and automatic pump, Castle Cary, £900.

#### RIVER POLLUTION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No new works were undertaken during the year in connection with sewage purifications.

**LANGPORT.** Improvements in the treatment of storm-water were carried out at the Curry Rivel works.

**FROME.** The County Council withheld their grant to the provision of disposal works at Rode as on completion it was found they were not entirely satisfactory.

Complaints were received and the necessary action taken respecting the pollution of the River Brue (industrial), a tributary of the River Parrett (Crewkerne U.D.C. Sewage works, eastern outfall), and the River Isle (Ilminster U.D.C. Sewage works). In view of the very heavy demands made on many of the disposal works with their depleted supervisory staffs and on industry, pollution of water courses was not so bad as could be reasonably anticipated.

During the year the County Council agreed to contribute to the following improvement:—

**LANGPORT.** Curry Rivel disposal works—additional expenditure, £907.

#### HOUSING.

The Housing (Rural Workers) Act still operates, but is restricted somewhat in so much that application can only be entertained providing either (a) the cottage shows new and increased accommodation; (b) that there is a need for farm-workers cottages in the district; (c) such houses can only be occupied by a farm-worker. No applications were received during the year.

The administration of various Acts affecting housing is more or less at a standstill. There is certain to be some overcrowding and many houses need attention for repairs, not to mention those condemned as unfit for human habitation—a considerable number of which are at present occupied.

## SUPERVISION OVER THE FOOD SUPPLY.

### A. Slaughter Houses and Meat Supervision.

The arrangements are on the same lines as those reported in my last Annual Report.

### B. Milk Supply.

As regards Designated Milks, the continuous and steady increase in the number of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited milk producers has not been maintained in 1941, but the drop has not been marked.

Year (at end of).	T.T.	Accredited.
1936	126	285
1937	159	506
1938	264	623
1939	320	800
1940	305	849
1941	275	817

Owing to shortage of staff and other difficulties producers have found it difficult to maintain standards, and undoubtedly there has been some falling away in the production standard. The standards for Designated Milks have not been lowered, except that some latitude has been given as regards structural non-essential alterations, while existing difficulties are taken into consideration.

In the County Laboratory 1,740 Accredited and 1,026 T.T. and Pasteurised milk samples were also examined. The total number of milk samples examined for various purposes was 3,458.

**Special Sampling of Herds.** During the year 476 samples of mixed milk, collected at the cowsheds were examined for tubercle bacilli. Tubercle bacilli were found in 21, a percentage of 4.5.

Of the 21 positive herds, from samples tested in the County Laboratory 20 cows with tubercular mastitis in 11 herds have been found and destroyed. In 7 herds the infected animal had probably been removed; the remaining 4 herds are still under investigation.

In addition to these 21 cases, reports on milk derived from Somerset but found to be tuberculous by outside authorities, have been received in 9 cases from Bristol City. Of the 9 herds reported from outside, 5 cows with tubercular mastitis in 4 herds have been found and destroyed, in 2 herds the infected animal had probably been removed, and the remaining 3 herds are still under investigation.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 946 samples were examined. Of these, 31 were submitted by private individuals and Medical Officers of Health, and 25 were "Appeal to Cow" samples. The percentage found adulterated was 4.6. The following Table shows the nature of the 890 samples submitted by the Inspectors, excluding the 25 "Appeal to Cow" samples.

TABLE XII.

Nature of Samples submitted by Inspectors.

Article.	Number examined.	Number genuine.	Number adulterated.	Per cent. adulterated.
Dairy Products—Milk ... ..	465	430	35	7.5
Cheese ... ..	6	6	0	0
Butter ... ..	38	38	0	0
Condensed Milk ... ..	1	1	0	0
Edible Fats ... ..	33	33	0	0
Cereals ... ..	22	22	0	0
Meat and Fish Products ... ..	31	31	0	0
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa ... ..	28	28	0	0
Condiments ... ..	29	29	0	0
Sugar Products ... ..	15	15	0	0
Food Substitutes ... ..	10	7	3	30.0
Miscellaneous Groceries ... ..	54	54	0	0
Beer, Spirits and Wine ... ..	80	80	0	0
Drugs ... ..	78	77	1	1.3
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>890</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4.6</b>

The samples adulterated, as shown in the Table, were mostly milk, the adulteration of other products being very few. 35 milk samples were reported as adulterated and of these no legal proceedings were taken in 11. A conviction was obtained in all the cases relating to the remaining 24 samples.

### PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

During the past year 25,371 samples have been examined (excluding all food and drug samples) as follows. Sixty-five tuberculin dilutions were made and sent out.

#### Drinking Water—

Bacteriological examinations ... ..	1,181
Chemical analyses ... ..	34
Sewage, sewage effluents, rivers and streams ... ..	32
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli ... ..	12,600
Cerebro spinal fluid and post nasal swabs ... ..	125
Sputum for tubercle bacilli ... ..	2,141
Blood for typhoid, paratyphoid, other Salmonella, dysentery, and Br. abortus	336
Hairs and skin for ringworm ... ..	47
Specimens for venereal disease ... ..	933
Urine for tubercle bacilli, B. coli, sugar, albumin, casts, etc. ... ..	437
Faeces for typhoid and dysentery ... ..	587
Swabs for hæmolytic streptococci ... ..	3,113
Milk for tubercle bacilli ... ..	657
Milk for bacteriological examination (general) ... ..	35
Milk—Accredited ... ..	1,740
Milk—T.T. and Pasteurised ... ..	1,026
Other specimens ... ..	347

**Total** ... 25,371







