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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

United Districts
of South-West
Cheshire

FOR 1946.



W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health).



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
United Districts of South West Cheshire
for the Year 1946.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Joint Committee for the
United Districts of South West Cheshire.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

The National and Local Vital Statistics continue to show a satisfactory state of general health; the National Birth rate has risen, whilst the death rate remains at a reasonably low level.

There were no large epidemics of Infectious Disease, and the incidence of Tuberculosis showed no marked variation. There was some anxiety in the early months of the year concerning Smallpox, when large numbers of Service personnel were arriving from the Far East, and the sporadic cases of Smallpox occurred in various parts of the Country. It was necessary to keep numerous contacts under close observation.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified in both Rural Districts was 7. In 1945 it was 11. There were no deaths. This can be considered satisfactory, and due in large measure to the effects of immunisation against this disease.

The Rural Housing Survey, and Housing Problems generally have occupied much of the energy of the Sanitary Staffs. New Housing sites have created, or in some cases accentuated, the need for mains water supplies and adequate drainage facilities. Indeed the problems of sewerage have become in many villages in both Rural Districts more urgent and acute.

A wholesome and sufficient Mains Water Supply is necessary for the householder. It is vital for the milk producer in a dairy farming district, where milk production is the chief occupation, if a high standard is to be maintained.

Equally important is the need for frequent and regular refuse collection, and its disposal by controlled tipping. Away with unsightly collections of refuse, which despoil the countryside and harbour nuisances and infestations.

The "Squatters" have temporarily solved their own, and some of the Community Housing Problems. They reside, somewhat uncertainly, as a Community which has replaced the war time service population. This latter existed, free from the more obvious nuisances, only by strict discipline and fatigues. It is to be hoped the Squatters remain as temporary occupants only, and these camps do not become permanent housing estates.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Members of the Public Health Staffs of both Rural Districts Councils for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

Your obedient servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE COMBINED DISTRICTS.

Area 106,270 acres.

For Birth and Death Rates vide respective districts.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1946 was 19.1 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.1, the figure for 1945.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.5 per 1,000 population; the rate for 1945 was 11.4.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales, i.e. Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births was 43; the rate for 1945 was 46.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The scheme for the voluntary immunisation, by Private Practitioners, of all children resident in the Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts, between the ages of 1 and 15 years, has continued to operate during the year.

The scheme has received the whole-hearted co-operation of private doctors and has been appreciated by the majority of parents.

On January 1st, 1946, the County Council, as Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, became responsible for the Immunisation of children under 5 years of age, but the general scheme continued as before, the County Council bearing the cost of Immunisation of children under 5.

During the latter part of the year, the Chester Rural District Council decided, with the approval of the Education Authority, to try and increase the Immunisation figures by direct approach to the schools. The Medical Officer of Health commenced systematic visits to the schools in the Rural District, for the purpose of Immunising and re-immunising children, with their parents' consent, in school. It was hoped also that children under school age might be brought to the schools and immunised with the older children. It is the younger group of children which is difficult to reach, especially in rural areas where clinics have not been established. It is here that the co-operation of the County Health Visitor is most helpful.

During the year 1946, the following numbers of children were immunised :—

	Total	Under 5 years	5—15	Re-inoc- ulations
Chester R.D.C.	324	164	130	30
Tarvin R.D.C.	342	187	155	—

Since January, 1939, a grand total of 2,128 children have been immunised in the Chester Rural District, and a grand total of 3,443 in the Tarvin Rural District.

The serum recommended for use is A.P.T. (Alum Precipitated Toxoid) in two injections with a period of 4 weeks between each injection.

1st injection 0.2 c.c.

2nd injection 0.5 c.c.

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Section A.

Area	43,677 acres.	
Population : Registrar General's estimate Mid 1946 ...		18,310
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books		5,163
Number of Houses built in 1946		130
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1946		£140,947
Produce of rd. Rate at 1st April, 1946		£575

The chief Industry of the District is Dairy Farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1946.

Births :—

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	175	143	318
Illegitimate	6	3	9
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			17.85.
Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births			20.96.
Still birth-rate per 1,000 civilian population			0.38.

Deaths :—

Male	Female	Total
97	83	180

Death rate per 1,000 population 9.83.

A corrected death-rate is not given because owing to movements of population during the war, the use of a comparability factor would not give a representative figure.

Deaths (due to maternal causes) :—

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil
Total ...	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Infant mortality rate, i.e. per 1,000 live births			33.64.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			—
Deaths from Whooping Cough			—
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age			—

Particulars of unusual or excessive mortality during the year :—

	Males	Females	Total	In 1945
Heart Disease	32	33	65	63
Cancer	16	10	26	26
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	10	13	23	17

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946.

	Males	Females
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
Influenza	—	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2
Cancer—all sites	16	10
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	10	13
Heart Disease	32	33
Other diseases of Circulatory System	1	2
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Other Digestive Disturbances	1	2
Diabetes	1	—
Nephritis	1	3
Premature Birth	1	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	4	1
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
Other violent causes	2	1
All other causes	10	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	97	83
	<hr/>	<hr/>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.
Public Health Officers in the Chester Rural District.

Section B.	
Medical Officer of Health	W. J. Birchall, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent, and Meat Inspector	H. E. Stone, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., and Joint Board Certificate for Sani- itary Inspector. Liverpool University Certificate for Sanitary Knowledge and Meat and other foods. Cambridge University Certifi- cates.
Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector.	L. Morley, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., and Joint Board Certificate for Sani- itary Inspector.
Assistant Meat Inspector.	S. Southern, A.M.S.I.A., Liverpool University Certificates for Meat and other Foods.
Clerk—Typists.	Miss B. Crewe. Miss B. Ince.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The services of the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary, are utilised for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious diseases are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital under the control of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board, by the Hospital Ambulance.

Accident and sick cases are dealt with by the Chester City Ambulances.

Other cases of sickness are removed to the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by ambulance attached to the hospital.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home nursing in the Rural District is undertaken at present in all cases by arrangement with the Cheshire County Nursing Association. Negotiations are complete and have secured a comprehensive scheme of home nursing throughout the District.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics including Clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation. The County Council Clinics are available for residents in this area at :—

- (a) Hoole—Ante-Natal and Post Natal Clinics.
Child Welfare Clinic, Ophthalmic and Dental Clinics.
- (b) Upton—Infant Welfare Clinic.
- (c) Chester—Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

(e) HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the Rural District.

Large voluntary and special hospitals are also accessible in Chester and Liverpool respectively.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The whole of the District comprising 50 Parishes has now a piped supply available, with the exception of the Parish of Claverton which is without any dwellings.

The undertakings supplying the district are the West Cheshire Water Board, the Chester Waterworks Company, the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company, in addition to your own borehole at Plemstall.

Throughout the year the supply has been satisfactorily maintained. Periodic samples of water have been taken and submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis which have proved the various supplies to be of a satisfactory quality.

The practice adopted in 1943 of descaling back boilers of the Council's housing schemes has been continued and all the Council's houses supplied from your own water mains and that of the West Cheshire Water Board have been descaled twice in the year under review. In addition, back boilers of private houses have also been descaled on payment of the agreed charge of 20/-.

The number of connections made to the Council's mains during the year is 15.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year there have been 66 connections made to your main sewerage systems and 73 individual tests made of house drainage systems, two of which were made to discharge to Septic Tanks and Filters of approved construction, the remainder discharging into the main Sewerage Works at Bumpers Lane.

LITTLETON.

The Tarvin Road section of this scheme which drains towards Stamford Bridge to the Pumping Station continues to function satisfactorily and the sewage is satisfactorily pumped back through the rising main to the gravitation sewer at Littleton Lane; the gravitation sewer from the head in Hare Lane via Pearl Lane to its junction with the Great Boughton sewer is also functioning satisfactorily.

GREAT BOUGHTON.

The proposed scheme to extend the sewerage system to serve the Hare Lane and Pipers Ash area has been placed before your Sewerage and Water Committee by your Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Williams & Clarke, and has received your approval. It is to be hoped that this scheme will not be long delayed as it will satisfy a long felt want particularly in Pipers Ash where the continued removal of night soil and Cesspool emptying is an uneconomical proposition as well as being unsatisfactory.

UPTON.

The whole of this Parish is sufficiently sewered to meet the present development but it is anticipated that any further extensive development will require an enlargement of the present sewerage system which is now taxed almost to capacity.

CHRISTLETON.

The necessity for the extension of the existing sewerage scheme to satisfy the requirements of the Plough Lane and Brown Heath area, together with the Foxes Lane area of Waverton in the Tarvin Rural District, remains urgent and your Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a scheme to meet this need.

ROWTON.

A scheme for the sewerage of this Parish is sorely needed, but the matter of sewage disposal is one which is causing considerable food for thought in view of its close proximity to the Intake of the Chester Waterworks.

Other Parishes which require sewerage schemes are Borrow, Dunham Hill, Guilden Sutton and Great and Little Saughall, together with Mollington. The Great and Little Saughall schemes are an old story, but certain progress has been made during the past twelve months, which leads one to the hope that this long felt want will eventually be satisfied. Doddleston sewerage should also be made comprehensive, and the Parish of Lower Kinnerton could, with advantage, be linked with such a scheme.

The sewerage schemes provided in the Parishes of Eccleston, Saughton, Aldford and Pulford could with advantage, be made fully comprehensive.

The Private Sewerage schemes provided in the Parishes of Eccleston, Saughton, Aldford and Pulford have now been taken over by the Council. These schemes are not entirely comprehensive and should be made so.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Steps have been taken to prevent the pollution of certain streams in the district, and the River Gowey has been cleansed by the Rivers Catchment Board. Certain lands have been extensively drained and water courses and ditches cleansed by the Tenant Farmer by arrangement with the War Agricultural Committee.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

These two services are carried out by direct labour, and in one instance by Contract.

The periods of removal of household refuse are as follows from the following parishes:—

Fortnightly.	Monthly.
Great Boughton	Barrow
Upton and Bache	Dunham Hill
Christleton.	Elton
	Great Saughall
	Guilden Sutton
	Hoole Village
	Huntington
	Lea-by-Backford
	Little Saughall
	Rowton
	Marlston-cum-Lache
	Mickle Trafford
	Bridge Trafford
	Puddington
	Stoke
	Little Stanney (Strawberry area)
	Thornton-le-Moors

In addition, the Barrack at the Dale, the Military Hospital at Moston are scavenged twice each week.

A once monthly service was commenced for Little Saughall in October at the request of the Parish Meeting.

The Parish of Saughton is scavenged once monthly by contract.

The refuse is deposited in Tips at Upton and Great Boughton, both of which are controlled. Owing to repeated outbreaks of spontaneous combustion at the Upton Tip, you decided, in June, that this Tip should be closed, and all tipping to be carried out at Great Boughton. With the return of members of the Outdoor Staff from H.M. Forces, the controlled Tipping has taken a turn for the better, and more satisfactory results are now being obtained.

During the year, when the supply position eased, you decided to do away with the practice of supplying Bins under Section 75 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936, but subsequently, the supply position became difficult and it is questionable as to whether it would not have been advisable to re-adopt the afore-mentioned Section.

During this period 151 Preliminary Notices requiring the provision of 207 Dust Bins were served on Owners or Agents, and in all cases such notices were complied with, but not without some difficulty.

SALVAGE.

During the year under review, there was a most noticeable falling off of the quantity of Salvage offered for collection as will be seen from the following table of quantities disposed of and the amounts realised.

	T	C	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper and Books	33	11	3	0	221	0	6
Scrap Metals	0	7	0	8	1	6	4
Textiles	2	3	1	0	20	19	6
Bones	0	2	0	0	0	10	0
Total ...	36	4	0	8	243	16	4

SHOPS.

There are no shops in your district which employ labour, and it has not been necessary to take any action under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature or the provision of Sanitary Convenience.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Two observations were made during the last 12 months, but it was not found necessary to take action.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public situate in your district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

It has been necessary for action to be taken to rid four premises of bed bugs during the past 12 months.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are on your register 41 such premises, most of which are one-man businesses and few people are employed in connection therewith with the exception of the Ordnance Factories at Capenhurst and Bridge Trafford and the Ordnance Stores at Hapsford.

Section D.

HOUSING.

At the beginning of the year, you appointed an Additional Sanitary Inspector for the purpose of carrying out a survey of Houses of the working classes in accordance with the recommendations of the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing, and you decided for the purposes of this report to effect such inspections in the following manner:—

The type of Houses to be included shall be those having a Rateable Value up to and including £20 (twenty pounds) and to include in such inspections Small holdings up to the same Rateable Value.

Each inspection to be fully comprehensive and to include all sanitary and structural defects and shortcomings, and at the same time to take particulars of all the occupants so that these particulars could be used for the records of overcrowding. You also decided that the following symbols should represent your classifications of such properties.

- Symbol A. Satisfactory or minor defects.
- „ B. Extensive or major defects.
- „ C. Suitable for reconditioning.
- „ D. So defective as to warrant demolition.
- „ O. Overcrowded houses.

In this connection, you decided to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards those houses recommended for inclusion under symbol D, namely that in view of the extreme shortage of housing accommodation, rather than aggravate this position by serving of notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, you would require that such houses be made 'wind and weatherproof' until such time as the Housing shortage is being met; and this policy has been and is being carried out.

A preliminary search of the Registers revealed that there were over 3,000 such houses in the 50 Parishes comprising your District. The Survey was commenced in March after your Additional Inspector had familiarised himself with the District, and up to the end of the year inspections had been made in 9 Parishes covering 819 houses which have been classified as follows :—

No. of houses inspected 819.	
Classification A.	385
" B.	361
" C.	1
" D.	72
	<hr/>
Total	819
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Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1295
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 2615
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 NIL
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose NIL
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 72
- (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 737
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 376
- Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—
- (a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 230

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	230
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	338
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	237
(b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners	NIL

SQUATTERS.

Camps situated in your area have been the subject of seizure by persons who have found themselves 'up against it' as a direct result of the housing shortage, most of whom have come from outside districts and not from your own district : all such occupiers have been informed that it is not the responsibility of your Council to provide them with alternative accommodation, but that such responsibility rests with the Local Authority for the District from which they came, and they should consequently see that their applications for housing accommodation are kept alive before such authority.

On receipt of the instructions of the Ministry of Health with regard to the Minister's attitude towards such appropriations, you carefully considered your attitude towards the occupiers of the hutments and whilst you did not feel justified in acknowledging such hutments as Temporary Dwellings, you agreed to act as Agents on behalf of the Ministry of Health, and to make conditions for the occupiers as amenable as possible, and to provide them with the essential services of a piped water supply, sewerage facilities, and removal of household refuse, in addition to keeping the premises, as far as is reasonably possible, wind and weather-proof with the limited staff at your disposal.

The Camps in your area so seized are as follows :—

	No. of occupied hutments.	No. of Adult Occu- pants.	No. of Child Occu- pants.	Total Occu- pants.
1. Weatfield Camp, Littleton	9	21	18	39
2. Victory Villas, Newton Lane, Upton	7	14	8	22

3. N.F.S. Camp, Church Lane, Upton	10	22	13	35
4. Chapel House Camp, Puddington	16	30	11	41
5. Meadow Villas, Thornton-le-Moors	20	40	37	77
6. Powey Lane Camp, Capenhurst	3	6	5	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	65	133	92	225
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In favour of the occupants, it must be recorded that the majority have behaved in a most orderly manner and have maintained a satisfactory standard of sanitary fitness, in addition to helping themselves to make the hutments as comfortable as possible by partitioning off the huts into separate compartments for which you have provided them as far as possible with limited materials for such purpose.

Section E.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

Inspection of Farm Premises are carried out at irregular intervals. During the year no complaints were received of dirty milk or souring. The number of visits paid to Farms producing milk during the year were 450.

Sampling is still undertaken by the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The number of farm premises on the Council's registers is 439 and these comprise the following categories:—

Tuberculin Tested	37
Accredited	240
Non-Designated	162
	<hr/>
	439
	<hr/>

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Centralised Slaughterhouse at Shed Lane for the slaughter of Pigs under the Bacon Board Slaughter Scheme is still retained and regularly visited each week. The County Mental Hospital Slaughterhouse is retained for Institutional Slaughter purposes though only occasionally used. In addition, Pigs slaughtered under the Ministry of Food Licence for individual consumption and bacon curing are inspected after slaughter.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

MEAT INSPECTION.	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number Killed	19	—	—	1450	1469
Number Inspected	19	—	—	1450	1469
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	4	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than Tuber- culosis	36.8	—	—	.27	
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	30	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.2	—	—	2.20	

**List of Samples obtained in the Chester Rural District during the
Year ended 31st December, 1946.**

Name of Sample.	No. obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Castor Oil	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Cheese	1	—
Cod Liver Oil Capsules	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Galatine	1	—
Glycerine	2	—
Iodine	1	—
Milk	10	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Stomach Powder	1	—
Vinegar, Malt	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>

All the samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis and the fact that not one sample out of the 23 obtained was reported against is a highly satisfactory result.

The above report was kindly sent by Mr. Stanley Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, Cheshire County Council.

Section F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

Notifiable diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1946.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths
Diphtheria	5	5	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	15	9	—
Pneumonia	13	—	—
Whooping Cough	21	—	—
Measles	12	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.**New Cases and Mortality during the year 1946.**

Age Periods	New Cases			Deaths		
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	1	1	—	—	—
5-15	1	—	1	—	—	—
15-25	1	1	2	—	—	—
25-35	2	3	5	1	—	1
35-45	1	1	2	—	—	—
45-55	2	—	2	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	1	1	—	1
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	5	14	2	—	2

The following list shows details of Immunisation against Diphtheria carried out during the year 1946 in the Chester Rural District:—

Chester Rural District.

Parish	AGES		Re-inoculations	Total
	Under Five	Over Five		
Aldford	4	30	—	34
Backford	4	2	—	6
Barrow	5	—	—	5
Capenhurst	1	3	—	4
Christleton	9	4	—	13
Dunham Hill	4	—	—	4
Eccleston	4	3	—	7
Elton	2	—	—	2
Great Boughton	10	6	—	16
Great Saughall	5	—	—	5
Guilden Sutton	2	2	—	4
Hoole Village	5	1	—	6
Huntington	39	61	1	101
Little Saughall	1	—	—	1
Mickle Trafford	4	—	—	4
Mollington	4	1	—	5
Poulton	1	—	—	1
Puddington	8	—	—	8
Saighton	3	2	27	32
Shotwick	2	—	—	2
Upton	46	13	—	59
Wervin	1	2	2	5
	164	130	30	324

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December, 1946.

Section A.

(1) Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	62,593 acres.
Population, estimated by Registrar-General, mid-year 1946	14480
Number of inhabited houses including shops with living accommodation according to Rate Books (end of 1946)	4224
Number of houses built (i.e. completed) in 1946—	
Private Enterprise	1
Council Houses	0
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1946	£77,407
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1946	£307 9 3

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

(2) Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1946.

BIRTHS.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	137	123	260
Illegitimate	11	12	23
	148	135	283

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 19.54.

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	3	3	6

Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 0.41.

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 21.20.

DEATHS.

	Male	Female	Total
	98	100	198

Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)

85.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 13.67.

A corrected Death Rate is not given because owing to movement of the population during the war the use of a comparability factor does not give a representative figure.

Maternal Mortality Rates (excluding Abortion) per 1,000 live and still births:—

Number of Cases.

From Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
From other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	1
(Reg. cause of Death: "Post Partum Eclampsia")	

1

giving a rate of 3.53.

(3) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	7	13
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	8	16

Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e. deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births 56.54. The rate in 1945 was 58.82.

(4) Deaths from Certain Selected Causes.

	Males	Females
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—
Influenza	2	—
Cancer of all sites	15	16
Diabetes	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	19
Heart disease	27	34
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	—
Bronchitis	6	3
Pneumonia	2	1
Other respiratory diseases	1	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1
Other digestive diseases	1	1
Nephritis	1	1
Maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	1	2
Congenital malformations; Birth injuries ...	4	2
Suicide	1	1
Road traffic accidents	2	1
Other violent causes	4	3
All other causes	8	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	98	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 31. In the previous year there were 36.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 61, compared with 51 in 1945.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 31; there were 20 in 1945.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers in the Tarvin Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health	W. J. Birchall, M.B., CH.B.(Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector to 21st September, 1946	J. Harrison, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate in Sanitary Science, Royal Sanitary Institute; Associate Membership Examination, Institution of Sanitary Engineers.
Chief Sanitary Inspector from 21st September, 1946	G. T. Woods, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate in Sanitary Science, Royal Sanitary Institute; Associate Membership Examination, Institution of Sanitary Engineers.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	D. E. Tucker, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate in Sanitary Science, Royal Sanitary Institute; Associate Membership Examination, Institution of Sanitary Engineers.
(From Dec. 1946)	H. Longworth, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
Pupil Sanitary Inspector	G. P. Davies (called to H.M. Forces November, 1946).
Clerk-Typist	Miss Hilary Nicholson.
Junior Clerk	Miss Dorothy Hughes (from December, 1946).

(2) Medical Services.**(a) Laboratory Facilities.**

The services of the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of infectious disease are removed to the Chester City Isolation Hospital, Sealand Road, Chester, by the Hospital ambulances. Cases of sickness are removed to the Chester Infirmary or the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulances attached to these hospitals.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are District Nurses engaged in several of the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purposes of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics*, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Kelsall	}	Infant Welfare (Cheshire County Council).
Malpas		
Hoole		Ante and Post-natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic and Dental (Cheshire County Council).
Chester		Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis (Cheshire County Council).
Northwich		Scabies Treatment (By arrangement with Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities).
Winsford		Scabies Treatment (By arrangement with Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities).

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller voluntary cottage hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz:—Tarpoley and Whitchurch.

Large voluntary hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary.

(f) Government Evacuation.

At the end of 1946, eight families, who had no homes to which to return, remained in the area. These are accommodated in various premises held under requisition pending rehousing of the families in their home towns.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**(1) Water.**

Piped supplies of water are available in the following parishes of the District :—

Parishes.	Supply.
1. Ashton, Mouldsworth and Horton-cum-Peel.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s own source.
2. Kelsall, Tarvin, Pryors Heys, part of Bruen Stapleford and Hockenhull.	Tarvin R.D.C. ; bulk supply from Northwich R.D.C. Waterworks.
3. Iddenshall, part of Clotton Hoofield, part of Duddon.	Tarvin R.D.C. ; bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation's Vyrnwy Aqueduct, via Northwich R.D.C. mains.
4. Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall, Beeston, Tatenhall, part of Newton-by-Tatenhall, part of Macefen, Hampton and Malpas.	Tarvin R.D.C. ; bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation's Vyrnwy Aqueduct.
5. Farndon, Churton, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford.	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Waterworks Co.
6. Part of Waverton.	Chester Waterworks Co.
7. Cotton Edmunds and part of Waverton.	Duke of Westminster's Estate Supply.
8. Willington.	Willington Estate Supply.
9. Aldersey and Coddington.	Aldersey Estate Supply.
10. Barton, Stretton and Carden.	Carden Estate Supply.
11. Harthill.	Bolesworth Estate Supply.
12. Bickley, Broxton and Burwardsley.	Tarvin R.D.C. ; bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation's Vyrnwy Aqueduct, via Nantwich R.D.C. mains.
13. Part of Edge.	Edge Hall Supply.

The supplies administered by the statutory undertakers have proved satisfactory in quantity, and except for one case dealt with later in the report, highly satisfactory in quality.

The following fresh connections to supplies administered by the Council were made during the year:—

Parish.	Trade.	Domestic.	Total No. of Connections.
Bickley	—	2	2
Broxton	1	1	2
Burwardsley	—	1	1
Duddon	2	—	2
Hampton	5	3	8
Kelsall	6	1	7
Malpas	—	1	1
Stapleford	3	1	4
Tarvin	5	4	9
Tattenhall	7	5	12
Tiverton	—	2	2
	—	—	—
	29	21	50
	—	—	—

To comply with the Minister of Health's requirements as set out in Circular 13/47, details of the water supply of the District are given below together with action taken following adverse reports on water samples.

The water supplied by the Liverpool Corporation, which is drawn from the Lake Vyrnwy Aqueduct, has a slight plumbosolvent action. Supply pipes are therefore required to be of tin-washed lead, but where they exceed 100 feet in length, galvanised iron or other lead-free materials are specified.

As so many statutory and private undertakers supply water in the District, accurate figures are not available at present, as to proportion of the population supplied from mains. It is known, however, that the number is steadily increasing as extensions to the existing Council mains are being carried out as fast as the supply and labour conditions permit. Priority is given when possible where the need is greatest, but there are still large areas of the District in urgent need of an adequate and wholesome water supply, e.g.—Caldecott, Crewe-by-Farndon, part of Clotton Hoofield, Cuddington, Foulk Stapleford, Golbourne David, Golbourne Bellow, Handley, Hatton, Huxley, Shocklach, Threapwood, Tilston, Tushingam and part of Waverton.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the estimated population supplied by Council water mains are as follows.

Number of premises connected direct to the Council's mains.

Parish	Domestic	Other	Total
Ashton	112	—	112
Beeston	46	23	69
Broxton	89	35	124
Bickley and Macefen	61	37	98
Burwardsley	46	37	83
Clotton and Iddenshall	7	5	12
Duddon	2	1	3
Hampton	52	26	78
Horton-cum-Peel	7	—	7
Kelsall	227	—	227
Malpas	287	47	334
Mouldsworth	60	—	60
Newton-by-Tattenhall	12	8	20
Tarvin, Stapleford, Priors Hayes and Hockenhull	326	63	389
Tattenhall	144	42	186
Tilstone Fearnall	21	4	25
Tiverton	108	34	142
	1607	362	1969

Number of standpipes from the main.

Parish	Estimated
Newton-by-Tattenhall	15
Hampton	10
Beeston	12
	37

Schemes to extend the mains supply in the near future have been approved by the Council for Huxley, Edge and Gatesheath, and it is hoped that other parishes without mains supply will be included as soon as conditions permit.

The classification of results on the Presumptive Coli Count, according to the supply, is made as suggested in the Ministry of Health's Report on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies," and analyses are graded as follows.

Treated Waters.

Class	Presumptive Coli per 100 m.l.
1. Highly satisfactory	Less than 1
2. Satisfactory	1-2
3. Suspicious	3-10
4. Unsatisfactory	Over 10

Untreated Waters.

Class A. Satisfactory	Under 10
B. Fairly satisfactory	10-25
C. Suspicious	25-50
D. Unsatisfactory	Over 50

The water supplies of the District from various sources were sampled throughout the year. Most of the public and private wells and all but one from statutory undertakers were Class 1 or 2, and A or B on analysis. The exceptions were as follows.

Private Pump from Well, Duddon (Class C).

Examination of the pump showed the need for a thorough cleansing, which was carried out. The main supply is being extended to these premises and will be available in 1947.

Public Pump from Well, Clotton (Class D).

Seriously polluted supply. Users were warned to boil all water from this pump used for potable purposes, and as a temporary measure drinking water is obtained from a deep well supply on a neighbouring farm. Here again the main is expected to be available during 1947.

Private Undertaker, Edge (Class D). Piped Supply from main storage tank to small storage tank and pump (not treated).

Interference with the pump by schoolchildren appears to have seriously contaminated this water. Suitable action at the school and the sterilising of the storage tank and pump brought about a marked improvement in the supply, a second sample of which resulted in Class B. There is the risk, however, of some contamination in times of heavy rainfall from the surface pollution in the catchment area which includes private farmland used for grazing occasionally, and as the school water is involved as well as other domestic users, mains water should be provided at the earliest opportunity.

Private Undertaker, Harthill (Class C). Piped supply from storage tanks (not treated).

An adverse report on a sample taken from a communal tap on this private supply, appears to have been caused by the heavy rainfall prevalent at the time of sampling. Investigation at the source, which is from two springs, showed no evidence of cause for contamination and test samples taken a fortnight later during a drier spell proved to be satisfactory. There will always be a risk of contamination of this supply in times of continuous heavy rainfall and it is very necessary that the projected extensions of the main to the area be proceeded with at an early date. It is obviously undesirable for consumers to have to boil water regularly before use.

Statutory Undertakings (Mouldsworth) (Class C). Piped supply from storage tanks (not treated).

Following an unsatisfactory sample of domestic tap water from this supply, a fractured manhole cover was found in a newly manured and ploughed field. The cover had been broken by the plough, and some soil had fallen into the conduit, which was apparently the cause in this case of a "presumptive coli" result of 35 in 100 m.l. To avoid a repetition of any similar accident, the manhole has been moved to a position well away from agricultural operations.

Twenty-six water samples were taken during the year, including the "follow up" samples when the initial result was bad. It is to be regretted that large scale check sampling in the District is not possible owing to the varied sources of supply and the heavy cost of analysis involved. The economic factor of cost alone, compels water sampling in this District to be selective in sites and restricted in number.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Previous reports have indicated the pressing need for further sewerage schemes in the District, and I would again emphasise the urgent necessity for main sewers in the Farndon, Kelsall, Mouldsworth, Ashton and Tarvin districts.

The lack of means for satisfactory sewage disposal and proper drainage facilities gives rise to serious public health concern in the built up villages. The attention of the Department has been drawn to instances in Farndon and elsewhere where there are no burying grounds for the disposal of nightsoil or other adequate means of disposal, and the provision of main sewerage in these larger villages is really urgent.

The beginning of the construction during the year of the branch sewer at Tattenhall will make provision for further conversions to be carried out by owners and there are indications that full advantage will be taken of this improvement. The early conversion to water carriage of the Tattenhall Council Cottages still on the conservancy system should be carried out as soon as the sewer is completed.

A scheme for the main sewerage of the Nomansheath area is in preparation and it is hoped to obtain the Minister's sanction to preliminary proposals in the near future.

There has been considerable activity during the year in the installation of water carriage systems throughout the District in parishes without sewers, by the installation of semi-septic tanks, filters and/or irrigation treatment of drainage from isolated buildings.

In addition to the examination and supervision of schemes prepared by owners, the technical officers of the Department have designed and supervised the construction of many suitable plants which discharge a treated and innocuous effluent.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

The prevention of pollution of streams and water courses by drainage effluents is assisted by the supervision of drainage proposals as mentioned under the last heading.

Where instances of pollution are discovered by the Public Health Department, improvement is effected by attention to the treatment plant. Several cases of pollution by drainage were dealt with satisfactorily by the provision of adequate systems of treatment. It should be recorded that no completely satisfactory treatment of farm drainage by a small installation has yet been evolved, but experience shows that adequate sedimentation followed by subsoil irrigation is the most satisfactory, and where conditions permit of this, the method is recommended, provided that there is no risk of contamination of water supply.

(4) General Sanitation.

(i) Closet Accommodation.

Conversions of pail closets to water closets and of privy middens to either of the former where practicable is encouraged, and several such improvements have been carried out during the year. Pending provision of main sewers, however, any large-scale conversions cannot be carried out.

The approximate figures at the end of the year were as follows.

Privy middens	650
Pail closets	1966
Water closets	1600
	<hr/>
	4216
	<hr/>

(ii) Refuse and Salvage Collection.

These services were continued and extended during the year, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

A regular fortnightly collection is maintained throughout 68 of the 69 parishes. The only parish where this service is not provided is Cotton Edmunds, which has no direct road communication with the remainder of the District.

The scheme is carried out by the use of the Council's own workmen, and vehicles, two seven cubic yard and one ten cubic yard refuse wagons being used, manned by ten men. The vehicles operate from the depot at Tattenhall, which is conveniently situated in the centre of the District.

Disposal is by controlled tipping at nine tips distributed over the District. In two instances only do the Council pay a small rental for tipping sites.

Following inspections of the premises, written notice was served on the occupiers in four cases relating to defective sanitary convenience, and in every case the notice was complied with without legal action.

There were no outworkers on the register during 1946.

(vi) Camping Sites.

No licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of sites or individual movable dwellings.

Two established camping sites are in the District, and one has a metered supply of main water. The other site, of longer standing, has various sources of water supply. The state of the law in respect of movable dwellings as well as the present serious housing shortage, aggravates the position in dealing with undesirable caravans and shacks.

During the year the Council took action under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, against the owners of (a) a dilapidated caravan at Ashton, (b) a converted bus body at Mouldsworth and (c) two shacks at Crewe-by-Farndon which were used only at holiday periods and which came under Section 23 of the Act, enabling these dwellings to be dealt with as houses.

In the case of (b) and (c) the owners attended the hearing and offered to carry out certain works. The Council made Demolition Orders in each case, but suspended their operation for extended periods to delay removal or demolition, until after the next summer season.

(vii) Squatters.

During the year a disused army camp consisting of 4 wooden huts and 4 Nissen huts at Beeston was occupied by five families. One family did not stay, but there still remain one family in each of the four wooden huts, totalling 12 persons (8 adults and 4 children). Three of the Nissen huts were sold on behalf of the Government and one remains for communal use as a wash-house with a wash-boiler and drying room for the winter months.

Each hut is fitted with one or two slow-combustion stoves.

A mains water supply to a standpoint on the site is provided, also separate pail-closet accommodation for each hut, and a refuse collection is carried out fortnightly. The occupants generally have shown enterprise and ingenuity in making the interiors clean and cosy; but the accommodation is substandard and can be tolerated only as a temporary measure, until the housing situation is better.

(viii) Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the District.

(ix) Smoke Abatement.

Observations of excessive smoke emission from a factory in Tarvin led to informal action by the Public Health Department in conjunction with the Ministry of Fuel and Power. The existing plant is being seriously overloaded, but a new boiler has now been delivered and is in course of erection. It is anticipated that when this is completed the plant will function satisfactorily and without excessive smoke.

(x) Eradication of Vermin.

Three premises were found infested with bed bugs and treatment with D.D.T. Spray gave effective and satisfactory results.

About a dozen complaints of the presence of cockroaches in houses were received, and this department issued Gammexene powder to the tenants to combat these pests.

There were no complaints regarding flea infestation.

The Public Health Department has secured a supply of wettable D.D.T. for use with limewash, and this is sold as required to the occupiers of the slaughterhouses in the District to minimise the fly nuisance as far as possible at these premises.

(xi) Rats and Mice Destruction.

By arrangement under the Infestation Order, 1943, the Cheshire County Council has delegated its powers and functions under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, to this District Council so far as non-agricultural properties within the Tarvin Rural District are concerned.

The County Council remains responsible for enforcement of legislation regarding measures against rats and mice on agricultural property.

A full-time Rodent Operative is employed and contracts are made with the occupiers of infested premises for expert treatment and inspection over twelve months. The rat population has been reduced by over 3,000 during the year, and many minor infestations have been cleared, while major infestations, where importation from outside the District is continually taking place, are kept under constant treatment and control.

The Ministry of Food methods are carried out and general satisfaction is expressed with this useful service.

(5) Schools.

There is a piped water supply at Ashton, Beeston, Farndon, Harthill, Kelsall, Malpas, Tarvin, Tattenhall and Tilstone Fearnall schools.

Clutton, Edge, Handley, Hargrave, Shocklach, Threapwood, Tilston and Tushingham schools are without a piped water supply as also are Duddon and Huxley, but the main has been extended to Duddon and the school should be connected shortly. It is intended to take the main also to Huxley, as soon as the Ministry of Health approves the scheme.

Section D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year: —

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	558
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	691
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations (Rural Housing Survey)	463
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	523
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	77
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of these referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	198

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	96
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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 formal notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936:— Number of premises on which Demolition Orders were made	12

These included the four dwellings mentioned under "Camping Sites." The remainder were either unoccupied or would soon be unoccupied because of rehousing of the tenants in Council houses on grounds of the very substandard condition of their dwellings.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions the actual demolition of these vacant and dilapidated properties is postponed until such time as they can be demolished without detracting from the available building labour.

(c) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

Owing to continued shortage of labour and materials the amount of housing repair work executed in the District during the year under review did not reach desired proportions. The work carried out was, however, essential in character and will be some small extent check further deterioration of house property. The emphasis on new building is having a very serious effect on the maintenance of existing dwellings. Much old but structurally sound property in the District is rapidly deteriorating for want of materials for repair works. The suspension of the "Housing Rural Workers) Acts" is holding up the reconditioning of many cottages, which although now substandard could be made fit at a low cost in material, labour and money, as compared with the cost of the provision of a temporary prefabricated house with a limited life. If left indefinitely these cottages will degenerate into a state where the operation of Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and demolition, will be the ultimate result.

4. Rural Housing Survey.

As recommended by the Hobhouse Report and required by the Ministry of Health, the sanitary survey of all rural houses of a rateable value of up to £20 was continued during the year, but staff problems did not permit of the rapid progress desired.

As the Council are aware the survey is being carried out with a view to classifying the dwellings into four categories, as follows:—

- A : fit in all respects or minor defects only.
- B : requiring repairs or which call for small structural alterations.
- C : requiring major repairs or complete reconditioning.
- D : recommended for demolition.

The continued demand for increased milk production has resulted in extension and improvement of many existing cowsheds throughout the year, particularly in the case of the large producers. Some new small cowkeepers have been registered on application, as required by the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926, but in some cases the desired standard of accommodation has been difficult to obtain owing to the restrictions on materials. Improvement in many conditions has been obtained in many cases, however, by your Sanitary Inspectors, but there are still some premises that require bringing up to a minimum standard.

Three adverse reports on samples of milk from dealers in the District have been received during the year, which were immediately followed up and methods of production investigated, but in the view of the many dairymen registered in the District, such instances are comparatively few.

Meat Inspection.

Government control of slaughtering was maintained during the year, the Ministry of Food Central Slaughterhouse at Newton Lodge, Newton-by-Tatenhall, continuing in operation.

In addition slaughterhouse licences were renewed in two instances in respect of premises where casualties are dealt with. In only one of these premises, however, are regular slaughterings carried out; at the other licensed premises, only an occasional animal slaughtered.

A licence in respect of knacker's yard premises was renewed. These premises continue to be operated without complaint.

From the point of view of efficient meat inspection, the centralisation of slaughtering enables the Council's Inspectors to carry out 100 per cent. inspection without difficulty, whereas formerly, when slaughtering was carried out in a large number of private slaughterhouses, scattered throughout the District, it was often found impossible.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year, with particulars of each class of animal found unfit for food, are given below in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Year 1946	Beasts	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Numbers killed	869	1147	818	4587	74	7495
Numbers Inspected	869	1147	818	4587	74	7495
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	67	117	48	34	6	332
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	242	281	21	191	23	758
Percentage affected	35.56	39.93	8.43	4.91	39.19	14.54
Tuberculosis only:—						
Whole carcase	41	189	6	—	1	237
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	214	385	1	—	5	605
Percentage affected	29.34	50.04	0.86	0.00	8.18	11.23

The above figures include 35 cows and 2 other beasts slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938; and 248 beasts, 655 cows, 128 calves, 33 sheep and 65 pigs slaughtered as casualties. There is in the District a private slaughterhouse designed and equipped solely for dealing with the slaughter of casualty animals, and most of the casualties enumerated above were dealt with at these premises.

Co-operation between officers of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and your Sanitary Inspectors is excellent.

In cases where congenital tuberculosis in calves has been found, notification to the Divisional Officer has led to the discovery, in most instances, of the dam concerned, and which after slaughter, has been found to be affected with tuberculosis.

Such cases would otherwise often remain unsuspected for some time, giving milk potentially dangerous to the public health.

Other Foods.

In addition the following weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots was found to be unfit for human consumption:—

7 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lbs.

Food Adulteration.

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples obtained in the TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT During the year ended 31st December, 1946.

Name of sample.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard or quality.
Barley Flakes	1	—
Butter	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Castor Oil	1	—
Chocolate Cup	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Gelatine	1	—
Ginger, Ground	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Milk	27	12
Peas, Tinned	1	—
Salmon and Shrimp Paste ...	1	—
Soup Powder, Oxtail	1	—
Sponge Mixture	1	—
	—	—
	41	12
	—	—

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES.

No.	Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
1.	Milk.	8% extraneous water.	} Sample taken from each of two churns in course of delivery from a farmer to a dairy company. Seller fined £3 and 15s. 9d. in each case.
2.	"	4.9% " "	
3.	"	4% naturally deficient in non-fatty solids.	Appeal to cow re Nos. 1 and 2.
4.	"	5.2% deficient in non-fatty solids.	No action as sample was genuine but abnormal.
5.	"	25.8% extraneous water.	} A sample was taken from each of eight churns in course of delivery to a dairy Company. The seller was fined £12 and costs in each case—a total penalty of £100 19s. od.
6.	"	15.7% " "	
7.	"	31.2% " "	
8.	"	36.9% " "	
9.	"	20% " " & 14.5% deficient in fat.	
10.	"	8.1% extraneous water & 16.5% deficient in fat.	
11.	"	7.6% extraneous water & 15.2% deficient in fat.	
12.	"	16.5% extraneous water & 24.1% deficient in fat.	

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1946.**

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	13	4	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Enteric and paratyphoid	6	5	2
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	47	—	3
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Measles	9	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	31	—	1
Total ...	114	12	6

Typhoid Outbreak, Burwardsley.

In February, 1946, typhoid fever was diagnosed in a woman of 44 years of age, who was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Investigation showed that she had been nursing her mother, aged 80, who was suffering from pneumonia and later proved to be suffering also from typhoid fever.

Three other contacts, all adults, were found to be ill, and removed to hospital for observation.

Steps were immediately taken to combat the outbreak. Premises were fumigated and disinfectant was issued. The water supply is from the main, and a sample submitted for analysis proved to be satisfactory. The milk supplies also showed a negative result. Colour tests made on the drainage arrangements of the village in connection with wells in the vicinity proved negative also. Inquiries regarding food consumed gave no indication of the cause of the outbreak.

In the meantime the three close contacts removed to hospital were found to be suffering from typhoid fever, and it was also ascertained that the aged mother referred to previously had been treated in Walsley thirty years before for typhoid fever, and her husband had then succumbed to the disease.

There seems little doubt that this old lady was either an active case or a carrier and was the original cause of the infection. The husband (aged 82) of one of the subsequent cases was taken ill after his wife had been removed to hospital; he died two days later from myocarditis and typhoid fever.

The other known contacts were kept under observation, and precautionary measures were adopted; and no further cases occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1946.

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

Specimens of sputa received from residents in the district and examined for tuberculosis in the Public Health Laboratory of the Cheshire County Council during 1946 numbered 36: of these, six were positive, the rest negative.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table gives the distribution of immunisation against diphtheria, carried out in 1946 under the scheme operated by the Council.

Parish.	Under 5 years.	5—15.	Age unknown.	Total.
Ashton	8	6	1	15
Barton	—	4	—	4
Beeston	1	1	1	3
Bickley	3	2	—	5
Broxton	9	7	—	16
Burton-by-Tarporley	1	—	—	1
Burwardsley	7	3	4	14
Carden	1	1	—	2
Churton-by-Aldford	—	1	—	1
Churton-by-Farndon	2	5	—	7
Clotton Hoofield	12	5	—	17
Clutton	5	—	—	5
Crewe-by-Farndon	2	1	—	3
Cuddington	1	—	—	1
Duddon	—	—	1	1
Edge	—	1	—	1
Farndon	8	11	—	19
Hampton	—	1	2	3
Handley	4	3	—	7
Harthill	1	—	—	1
Hatton	—	1	—	1
Horton-by-Malpas	1	—	—	1
Huxley	4	—	1	5
Kelsall	7	2	—	9
Malpas	35	28	1	64
Mouldsworth	2	—	—	2
Shocklach Oviatt	—	1	—	1
Tarvin	21	13	1	35
Tattenhall	19	19	2	40
Threapwood	5	7	—	12
Tilston	8	2	2	12
Tilstone Fearnall	—	1	—	1
Tiverton	3	4	—	7
Tushingham	3	1	—	4
Waverton	11	4	1	16
Wigland	1	1	—	2
Willington	2	—	2	4
Totals	187	136	19	342



