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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

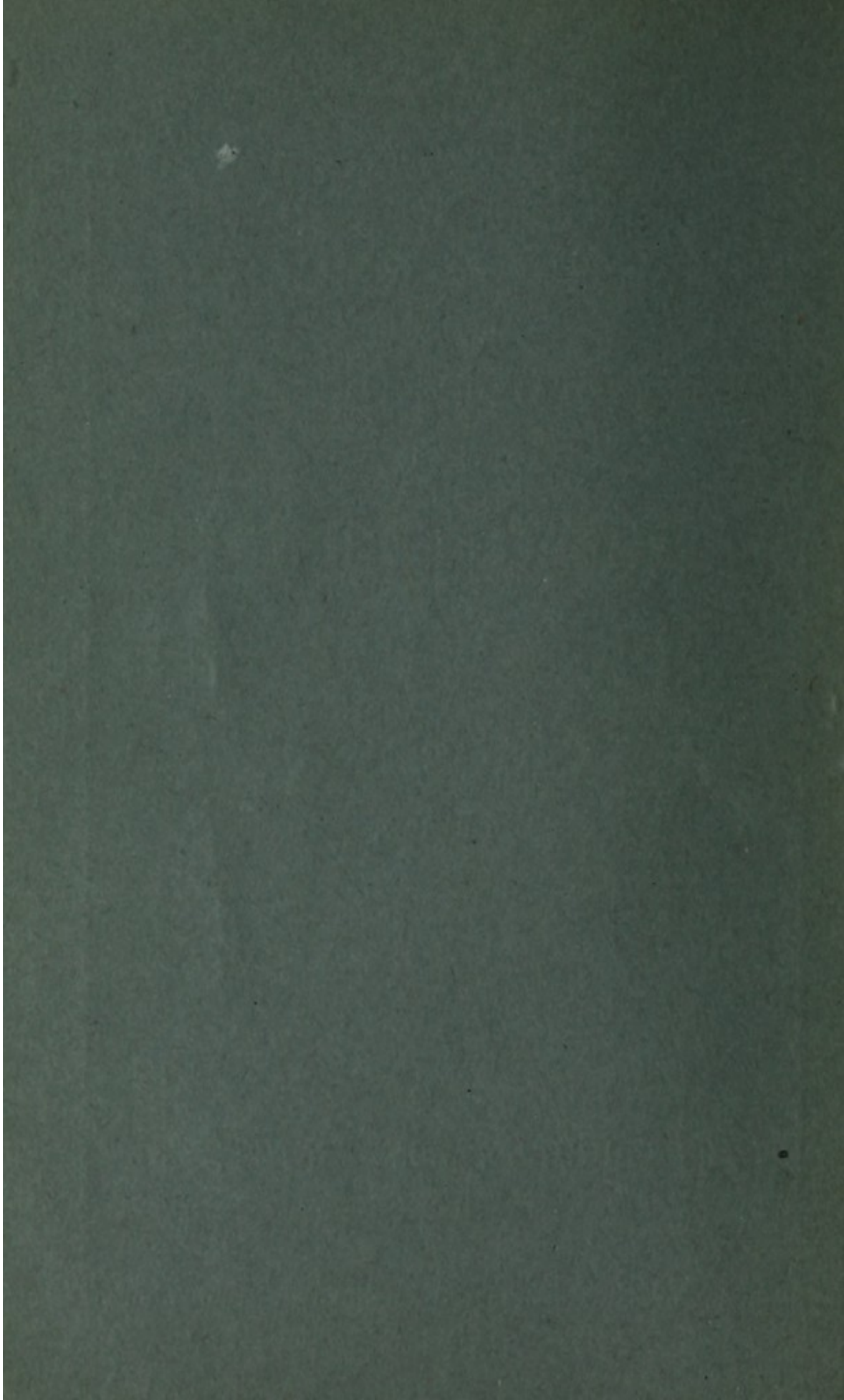
United Districts
of South-West
Cheshire

FOR 1947.



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 1947.

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 circumstances of the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin for the year 1947.

The National and Local Vital Statistics are generally satisfactory. The National Birth rate has again increased. The National Death rate remains low. The Infant Mortality rate shows a further decline.

With the exception of the general epidemic of Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis) which swept the country between May and October, there was nothing unusual in the incidence of Infectious Diseases. There were 5 cases of Infantile Paralysis in the Combined Districts during the epidemic, one in Tarvin Rural District and four in Chester Rural District. They were all mild cases and made good recoveries. Four were children and one was a young adult female.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified in both Rural Districts was 3, one of whom, a young child who had not been immunised, unfortunately died. The number of cases notified in the previous year was 7 with no deaths.

The Rural Housing Survey has continued to make steady progress. Housing problems continue to absorb much of the time of the Sanitary Departments.

Linked with these complicated problems are the urgent and increasing demands for improved water supplies and better drainage facilities. Several Ministry of Health Inquiries have been held in relation to both these matters. Unfortunately progress in these directions is slow in these days of labour and supply restrictions.

The various military camps, occupied by "Squatters" in 1946, continue to be filled to capacity. The occupants have improved on their unusual conditions and have adapted themselves to existing circumstances in commendable fashion.

I again express my thanks to the Members of the Public Health Staffs of both Rural District Councils for their continued co-operation and support during the year.

I am,

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 1947 was 20.5 per 1,000 population, compared with 19.1 the figure for 1946.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.0 per 1,000 population ; the rate for 1946 was 11.5.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales i.e. Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births was 41 : the rate for 1946 was 43.

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 year the Medical Officer of Health continued systematic visits to Schools in the Chester Rural District, which he had commenced in the latter part of 1946, for the purpose of giving re-inforcing doses to children who had previously been inoculated five or more years ago, and also inoculating those who had not previously been protected.

In 1947 in the Chester Rural District, the following numbers of children were inoculated by private doctors :—

Under 5 years	5-15	Re-inoculations
44	13	23

and in the same year, the following numbers were inoculated by the Medical Officer of Health :—

Under 5 years	5-15	Re-inoculations
23	210	211

	Total	Under 5 years	5—15	Re-inoc- ulations
Chester R.D.C.	524	67	223	234
Tarvin R.D.C.	228	175	53	0

Since January 1939, a grand total of 2,652 children have been immunised in the Chester Rural District, and a grand total of 3,671 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.

For Re-inoculation, 1 injection of 1 c.c. T.A.F. (Toxoid Anti-Toxin Floccules) is used.

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

SECTION A.

Area	43,677 acres.
Population : Registrar General's estimate Mid 1947	18,590
Number of Inhabitated Houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	5,202
Number of Houses built in 1947	125
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1947	£148,534
Produce of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1947	£595

The chief Industry of the District is Dairy Farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1947.

Births:—

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	184	187	371
Illegitimate	6	6	12
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			20.6
Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births			25.44.
Still birth-rate per 1,000 civilian population			0.53.

Deaths:—

Male	Female	Total
102	104	206

Death rate per 1,000 population 11.08.

Deaths (due to maternal causes):—

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other maternal causes	1
<hr/>	
Total ...	1
<hr/>	

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	10	5	15
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Infant Mortality rate i.e., per 1,000 live births			46.99
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			33
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			—
Deaths from Whooping Cough			—
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age			1

Particulars of unusual or excessive mortality during the year:—

	Males	Females	Total	In 1946
Heart Disease	33	32	65	65
Cancer	17	16	33	26
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	8	17	25	23

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.		Males	Females
Diphtheria	.....	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	.....	—	1
Influenza	.....	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.....	4	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	.....	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	.....	1	1
Cancer—all sites	.....	17	16
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	.....	8	17
Heart Disease	.....	33	32
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	.....	4	4
Bronchitis	.....	3	3
Pneumonia	.....	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	.....	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	.....	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	.....	1	—
Other Digestive Disturbances	.....	3	1
Nephritis	.....	4	—
Maternal Causes	.....	—	1
Premature Birth	.....	2	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	.....	5	1
Suicide	.....	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	.....	2	—
Other violent causes	.....	1	1
All other causes	.....	6	11
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	102	104
		<hr/>	<hr/>

GENERAL DIVISION 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 Sanitary
Inspector.

Liverpool University Certificates for
Sanitary Knowledge and Meat and
other Foods.

Cambridge University Certificates.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

J. G. WILKES, R.S.I. and Joint Board
Certificate for Sanitary Inspector.
R.S.I. Meat and other Foods.

Liverpool University Certificate for
Sanitary Knowledge and Meat and
other Foods.

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 ambulances 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.

Saughall—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 SUPPLIES.

The whole of the District comprising 50 Parishes has now a piped supply available, with the exception of the Parishes of Claverton and Croughton : the former is without any dwellings, and the latter has 6 dwellings all of which obtain their supply of water from boreholes on their own premises, which, though hard is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. Should this supply fail at any time then a piped main supply could be

afforded from either of adjoining Parishes of Stoak or Wervin, the latter being the nearest source.

The undertakings supplying the district are the West, Cheshire Water Board, the Chester Waterworks Company and the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company in addition to your own borehole at Plemstall which, in spite of increased demand continues to meet all calls made on it without the rest level or pumping level showing any appreciable change.

Throughout the year the supply has been satisfactorily maintained. Periodic samples have been taken and submitted for Bacteriological and Chemical analysis which have proved the supply to be of a satisfactory quality.

The Chemical analysis have shown the water from your own borehole to be constantly hard, having a Total Hardness of 25.8 made up as follows :

Temporary	20.8
Permanent	5.0
	<hr/>
Total	25.8
	<hr/>

the reaction to litmus was neutral, and the P.H. value 7.5. The samples have been clear, colourless, and odourless ; and free from solid matter in suspension.

The water organically is very pure and though moderately hard is quite fit for human consumption.

The composition of the total solids may be expressed in parts per 100,000 as follows:—

Calcium Carbonate	15.0
Magnesium Carbonate	4.8
Magnesium Sulphate	3.6
Magnesium Chloride	2.0
Sodium Chloride	2.6
Sodium and Potassium)
Silicates etc.		) 4.1
	<hr/>
Total Solids	32.1
	<hr/>

The practice of descaling back boilers of Council houses supplied with water from your own mains and those of the West Cheshire Water Board continues, but it is hoped the materials supply position will change for the better so that the Minister of Health may see his way to sanction the installation of a water softening plant at your Pumping plant at Plemstall, and thus obviate this particular expenditure, which for private consumers has had to be increased to 30/-.

The number of connections made to your mains for domestic and non-domestic purposes during the year is 18.

Details of the piped supplies afforded in your district together with the estimated population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the houses, or (b) by means of standpipes, are given below.

	No. of Dwellings	Estimated Population supplied Direct	Standpipes
Aldford	92	322	—
Bache	11	38	—
Backford	29	101	—
Barrow	203	630	80
Bridge Trafford	11	38	—
Buerton	17	45	14
Capenhurst	47	164	—
Caughall	3	10	—
Chester Castle	1	3	—
Chorlton-by-Backford	26	41	50
Christleton	374	1219	90
Churton Heath	3	10	—
Claverton	—	—	—
Croughton	—	—	—
Doddleston	76	266	—
Dunham Hill	103	360	—
Eaton	19	66	—
Eccleston	78	245	28
Elton	100	350	—
Great Boughton	919	3216	—
Great Saughall	251	188	90
Guilden Sutton	101	308	45
Hapsford	28	98	—
Hoole Village	60	210	—
Huntington	273	937	18
Lea-by-Backford	48	168	—
Lea Newbold	7	24	—
Ledsham	41	143	—
Littleton	148	475	43
Little Saughall	97	339	—
Little Stanney	76	266	—
Lower Kinnerton	28	98	—
Marlston-cum-Lache	28	98	—
Mickle Trafford	79	262	14
Mollington	116	406	—
Moston	13	45	—
Picton	22	77	—
Poulton	29	101	—
Puddington	112	337	55
Pulford	77	269	—
Rowton	76	267	—
Saighton	77	269	—
Shotwick	19	66	—
Shotwick Park	20	70	—

	No. of Estimated Population supplied		
	Dwellings	Direct	Standpipes
Stoak	21	73	—
Thornton-le-Moors	68	159	79
Upton	1138	3925	58
Wervin	24	84	—
Wimbolds Trafford	31	108	—
Woodbank	25	67	20
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	5245	17661	684
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DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year 83 sewer and drain tests have been carried out, 39 connections have been made to your sewerage systems whilst 14 new Septic Tanks and Filters have been provided. The remaining 30 tests were carried out on lengths of sewers laid to accommodate your various Housing Schemes.

LITTLETON.

This system continues to function satisfactorily.

GREAT BOUGHTON.

The proposed scheme to extend the sewerage system to serve Hare Lane and Pipers Ash area has been the subject of an inquiry by the Ministry of Health and it is unfortunate and disappointing that such scheme had to be shelved, though its urgency and necessity cannot be disputed.

UPTON.

The whole of this Parish is sufficiently sewered to meet the present development but it is anticipated any further extensive development will require an enlargement of the present sewerage system which is now almost taxed 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 remains urgent, together with the Foxes Lane area of Waverton in the Tarvin Rural District. The question of a joint scheme has reached the stage of two independent schemes, one from each Authority being submitted to a neutral consultant for his recommendations, meanwhile pollution is still with us.

ROWTON.

Your Consulting Engineers, have been requested to submit a comprehensive scheme of sewerage to cover this Parish, but in view of the present position of national finances such a scheme is not likely to find favour with the Ministry of Health; similar remarks apply to the Parishes of Dunham Hill, Elton, Guilden Sutton, Stoak and Mollington.

GREAT AND LITTLE SAUGHALL.

The scheme for these Parishes has now reached the stage of Inquiry by the Minister of Health who has given it his blessing on certain ~~sanctions~~ ^{actions} being postponed till more favourable national conditions obtain. It only now remains for the 'all clear' to be given for you to obtain tenders to have this scheme put in hand.

BARROW.

The scheme for this Parish, so urgently needed, is again held up on a technical point which is again involved with the national finances.

DODDLESTON.

It is unfortunate that the time is not opportune for considering the provision of a comprehensive scheme for this Parish together with the Parish of Lower Kinnerton.

The same remarks apply to the existing schemes covering the Parishes of Eccleston, Saughton, Aldford and Pulford which should be made comprehensive.

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 ~~renewal~~ ^{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 Barracks at the Dale, the Military Hospital at Moston are scavenged twice each week.

The Parish of Saughton is scavenged once monthly by contract.

The refuse is deposited in Tips at Christleton and Great Boughton, both of which are controlled. The Christleton Tip is being concentrated on at the moment whilst the Great Boughton Tip is being allowed to consolidate.

During the year under review 46 Preliminary Notices requiring the provision of 64 Dust Bins were served on Owners or Agents, and in all cases such notices were complied with.

SALVAGE.

During the year under review, the collection of Waste Paper and Rags have been most discouraging as will be seen from the following details:—

	T	C	Qrs	Lbs	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	41	18	0	0	266	11	0
Rags	1	1	0	0	15	12	6
Total ...	42	19	0	0	282	3	6

SHOPS.

There are few 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 Conveniences.

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 not been necessary for any action to be taken to rid premises of bed bugs.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

There are on your register, 52 such premises, most of which are one-man businesses and few people are employed in connection therewith, with the exception of the Ministry of Supply Depots at Capenhurst and Bridge Trafford and the Ordnance Stores at Hapsford.

Section D. **HOUSING.**

During the year the Housing Survey has been carried on, but was temporarily interrupted owing to change of staff. A total of 282 houses have been inspected which have been classified as follows:—

Classification A.	212
„ B.	48
„ C.	13
„ D.	9
	282

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) 573
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1176
- (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 9
- (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 61
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 291
 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—
 (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... 53
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 (a) By Owners 53
 (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 64

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners 64

(b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners NIL

SQUATTERS.

The six Camps for which you act as Agents on behalf of the Ministry of Health comprise 64 hutments all of which continue to be occupied. Applications for hutments as temporary dwellings have been numerous and a waiting list compiled. The procedure adopted for letting such huts is to give 'Priority' to residents in your District.

The camps in your area are as follows:—

	No. of occupied hutments	No. of Adult Occupants	No. of Child Occupants	Total Occupants
1. Wheatfield Camp, Littleton	9	24	22	46
2. Victory Villas, Newton Lane, Upton	7	14	11	25
3. N.F.S. Camp, Church Lane, Upton	10	20	13	33
4. Chapel House Camp, Puddington ...	16	32	20	52
5. Meadow Villas, Thornton-le-Moors	20	40	39	79
6. Powey Lane Camp, Capenhurst	2	4	5	9
	<u>64</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>244</u>

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.

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 was 489.

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 444 and these comprise the following categories:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	45
Accredited	...	...	...	...	236
Non-Designated	...	...	...	...	163
					444

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

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.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMMED.

MEAT INSPECTION.	Beasts.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	19	2	—	1390	1411
Number Inspected	19	2	—	1390	1411
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:— ...					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	—	—	12	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	84.4	—	—	.81	
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	55	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	3.95	—

**List of Samples obtained in the Chester Rural District during the
Year ended 31st December, 1947.**

Name of Sample.	No. obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Baking Powder	1	—
Butter	3	—
Cheese	2	—
Coffee	2	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Epsom Salts	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Flour	1	—
Jam	3	—
Margarine	3	—
Milk	18	3
Oatmeal	1	—
Semolina	1	—
Spice, Mixed	1	—
Whiskey	1	—
Vinegar, Malt	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES.

No.	Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks
1.	Milk	5.0% deficient in fat	} Wholesale. Farmer Cautioned.
2.	Milk	6.6% deficient in fat	
3.	Milk	19.4% extraneous water	Fined £2-10-0 and £1-16-0 Costs.

The above report was kindly sent by Mr. Stacey 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 1947.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	5	1	—
Scarlet Fever	11	5	—
Diphtheria	2	2	1
Poliomyelitis	4	4	—
Typhoid Fever	1	1	—
Aseptic Meningitis	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	4	—
Undulant Fever	1	—	—
Measels	88	—	—
Whooping Cough	37	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during the year 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases					Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
5-15	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	2	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	3
25-35	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	1	—	1	3	1	1	—	—	2
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Un'own	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	4	7	1	1	13	3	4	—	—	7

The following list shows details of Immunisation against Diphtheria carried out during the year 1947 in the Chester Rural District:—

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

Parish	Ages.		Re-inoculations.	Total.
	Under 5.	5 & over.		
Aldford	1	—	—	1
Backford	2	12	1	15
Barrow	6	11	35	52
Capenhurst	—	8	14	22
Christleton	12	57	30	99
Dunham Hill	2	7	28	37
Eccleston	2	2	33	37
Elton	3	13	17	33
Great Boughton	12	3	5	20
Guilden Sutton	2	10	27	39
Hoole Village	1	7	4	12
Huntington	9	1	3	13
Mickle Trafford	1	3	12	16
Mollington	1	16	3	20
Poulton	1	—	—	1
Puddington	2	1	—	3
Rowton	1	—	2	3
Saighton	2	1	—	3
Saughall	1	60	15	76
Stanney	1	—	—	1
Upton	4	11	5	20
Waverton	1	—	—	1
	67	223	234	524

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

1947 Inspections.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	24	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	15	3
Total ...	<u>22</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>3</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences:			
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Total ...	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c).
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.)	3
Total ...	<u>3</u>

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947

Section A.

(1) Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area 62,593 acres.

Population, estimated by Registrar-General, mid year 1947 14,550

Number of inhabited houses including shops with living accommodation according to Rate Books (end of 1947) 4,288

Number of houses built (i.e. completed) in 1947:—

Private Enterprise 11

Council Houses 49

Rateable Value at 1st April, 1947£72,543

Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1947£299

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 1947.

BIRTHS.

	Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate		144	145	289
Illegitimate		8	5	13
		—	—	—
		152	150	302
		—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 20.76

	Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate		6	2	8
Illegitimate		—	1	1
		—	—	—
		6	3	9
		—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 28.94.

Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 0.62.

DEATHS.	Male	Female	Total
	97	88	185
Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)			
			117.
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 12.71.			
Maternal Mortality, (excluding Abortion) :—			
From Puerperal Sepsis			NIL
From Other Puerperal or Maternal Causes			NIL

(3) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	7	15
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	8	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e. deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births 59.60 The rate in 1946 was 56.54.

(4) Deaths from Certain Selected Causes.

	Males	Females
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Influenza	2	1
Cancer of all sites	13	13
Diabetes	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	15
Heart Disease	33	28
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	3
Bronchitis	5	4
Pneumonia	5	5
Other respiratory diseases	2	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
Other digestive diseases	2	1
Nephritis	5	3
Maternal Causes	—	—
Premature birth	3	2
Congenital malformations; Birth injuries ...	3	2
Suicide	—	—
Road traffic accidents	3	—
Other violent causes	1	—
All other causes	1	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	97	88
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 26. In the previous year there were 31.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 61, compared with 61 in 1946.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 27; there were 31 in 1946.

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.	G. T. WOODS, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.A., 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 & Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate in Sanitary Science, Royal Sanitary Institute; Associate Membership Examination, Institution of Sanitary Engineers.
	H. LONGWORTH, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat & Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
PUPIL SANITARY INSPECTOR.	G. P. DAVIES.
CLERK-TYPIST.	MISS HILARY NICHOLSON.
JUNIOR CLERK.	MISS DOROTHY HUGHES.

(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 Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge, by arrangement with Chester Corporation, 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 Malpas	} Infant Welfare (Cheshire County Council).
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).

(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:—Tarporley 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 1947, all families evacuated to this area had returned to their own towns. Four premises are held under requisition to accommodate families previously inadequately housed.

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 Heyes, part of Bruenford and Hockenhull.	Tarvin R.D.C.; bulk supply from Northwich R.D.C. Waterworks.

Parishes.	Supply.
3. Iddenshall, most of Clotton Hoofield, most of Duddon.	Tarvin R.D.C.; bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation's Vrynwy Aqueduct, via. Northwich R.D.C. mains.
4. Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall, Beeston, Tattenhall, part of Newton-by-Tattenhall, part of Macefen, Hampton and Malpas.	Tarvin R.D.C.; bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation's Vrynwy Aqueduct.
5. Farndon, Churton, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford.	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Waterworks Co.
6. Part of Waverton (Egg-bridge Area).	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, part of Edge.	Tarvin R.D.C.; bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation's Vrynwy 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 quality, and except for one case dealt with later in the report, highly satisfactory in quality.

The water supplied by the Liverpool Corporation, which is drawn from the Lake Vrynwy Aqueduct, has a slight plumbo-solvent 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.

The Wrexham and East Denbighshire Waterworks Company a statutory undertaking supplying Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford, and Churton-by-Farndon obtain water from (a) moorland gathering grounds (b) mountain adits (c) boreholes. The average total hardness is about eighty parts per million.

The Chester Waterworks Company supplying Eggbridge area of Waverton derive their water from the River Dee. The average hardness is temporary 40, permanent 30, total 70 parts per million.

The supply from the Northwich borehole has an average hardness of temporary 130, permanent 30, total 160 parts per million.

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, Golborne David, part of Golborn Bellow, Handley, Hatton, Huxley, Shocklach, Threapwood, Tilston, Tushingham and part of Waverton.

During the year under review a further 10,904 yards of water mains were laid in the district by the Council as follows:—

Parish.	Yards.
Duddon & Clotton	4,276
Edge	1,765
Kelsall	170
Macefen	1,750
Malpas	521
Tattenhall, Newton-by-Tattenhall and Golborn Bellow	2,292
Tilstone Fearnall	130
	<hr/>
	10,904
	<hr/>

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

Parish.	Domestic.	Trade.	Total No. of Connections.
Beeston	1	—	1
Bickley	4	2	6
Broxton	3	—	3
Clotton Duddon, and Iddenshall	14	1	15
Hampton	6	8	14
Kelsall	10	27	37
Malpas	1	—	1
Mouldsworth	—	9	9
Tarvin	23	1	24
Tattenhall	18	3	21
Tiverton	—	1	1
Tilstone Fearnall	—	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80	53	133
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Particulars of the number of premises supplied by Council water mains as at December, 1947, are as follows:—

Parish	Domestic	Other	Total
Ashton	112	—	112
Beeston	47	23	70
Broxton	92	34	126
Bickley and Macefen	65	39	104
Burwardsley	46	37	83
Clotton, Duddon & Iddenshall	23	7	30
Hampton	58	34	92
Horton-cum-Peel	7	—	7
Kelsall	237	27	264
Malpas	288	47	335
Mouldsworth	60	9	69
Newton-by-Tattenhall	12	8	20
Tarvin, Stapleford, Pryors Hayes and 'Hockenhull	349	64	413
Tattenhall	162	45	207
Tilstone Fearnall	21	5	26
Tiverton	108	35	143
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1687	414	2101
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Number of standpipes supplied from the mains.

Parish.	No.	Estimated Number of Consumers.
Newton-by-Tattenhall	1	15
Hampton	1	10
Beeston	1	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	3	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The number of premises connected to a mains supply other than those of Tarvin Rural District Council, for which figures are available are as under.

Parish	Domestic	Trade	Total	Statutory Undertakers
Waverton.....	71	5	76	Chester Waterworks Company.
Edgerley.....	1	—	1	Wrexham & East
Churton-by-Aldford	50	2	52	Denbighshire
Churton-by-Farndon	26	—	26	Water
Farndon.....	151	4	155	Company.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	228	6	234	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Estimated Population supplied.

By Tarvin R.D.C.	6,670 persons.
By Chester Waterworks Co.	337 persons.
By Wrexham & East Denbighshire Waterworks Co.	912 persons.
	<hr/>
	7,919 persons.
	<hr/>

Representing 54% of the population.

Schemes to extend the mains supply in the near future have been approved by the Council for Huxley, Chorlton, Larkton, Oldcastle, Thrapwood, Chowley, Duddon, Nomansheath and Malpas, 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.	Presumptive Coli per 100 m. l
Class 1. Highly satisfactory	Less than 1
2. Fairly 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.

Pump from Shallow Well, Coddington: serving two cottages. Class D on bacteriological analysis. Also inadequate during spells of low rainfall. The nearest piped supply is privately owned by the estate, of which these cottages form part. The tenants were advised to boil all water used for dietic purposes pending a supply from the estate main. The owners have been requested to provide a satisfactory supply.

Pump from Shallow Well, Tilston: serving two cottages. The sample was class D. No main supply is available and the consumers were advised to boil this water before use.

Dip Well, Tilston: serving four cottages was found to be Class D. This well immediately adjoins the highway and storm water is likely to pollute the well. Here again consumers were advised to boil supplies.

Tilston is in most urgent need of a mains water supply, and I would urge that the scheme to extend the main from Malpas which is in preparation, should be proceeded with without delay.

Statutory Undertaking: Ashton (NOT TREATED).

A sample taken from a consumer's tap resulted in Class 4. Follow up samples taken at the source (springs) also yielded the same result.

The feeding channels and the storage tank were thoroughly sterilized and cleansed. A Wire Netting boundary was erected to keep out rabbits and later a further sample showed improvement, with faecal coli absent in 100, but a presumptive coli count of 25 per 100 c.c.

This very old supply has for some time been considered as out of date and unsatisfactory and I must again urge that a scheme to provide a pure and wholesome water to these parishes in place of the existing unsatisfactory supply be accelerated.

The source is open to pollution not only by rabbits and birds but also by unauthorised persons such as campers and gypsies visiting this popular beauty spot.

There was a total of eighteen water samples taken in 1947 for bacteriological analysis. It is desirable to take considerably more than this in view of the numerous supplies and sources in the district, but as I have mentioned in previous reports the cost factor prevents such a course. While the County Council are most helpful in placing their local laboratory at the disposal of this Council for analysis of milk samples, it seems a pity that a similar service is not operated for water sample examination.

The cost of sending water samples to the County Analyst outside the area would be considerably more than the present cost of examinations by the local public analyst. A local County Council laboratory available to district councils at a nominal cost would indeed be a boon to Rural Districts.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Previous reports have indicated the pressing need for further sewerage schemes in the District, and I would again emphasize the urgent necessity for main sewers in the Farndon, Kelsall, Mouldsworth, Ashton and Tarvin Districts, as soon as the Ministry will sanction such work.

The lack of adequate means for satisfactory sewerage 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 suitable burying grounds for the disposal of nightsoil or other adequate means of disposal, and the need for the provision of main sewerage in these larger villages grows in urgency with the passage of time.

The discharge of untreated crude sewage into the River Dee at Farndon not only offends aesthetic taste and the elementary principles of public health ; but in attempting to limit the pollution, existing lack of drainage arrangements to many premises cannot be remedied and desirable new work is perforce held in abeyance.

The completion during the year of the branch sewer at Tattenhall has made provision enabling further closet conversions to be carried out. The conversion to water carriage of the Tattenhall Council Cottages still on the conservancy system was commenced at the close of the year, and should be completed as early as possible.

A scheme for the main sewerage of the Nomansheath area has been approved by the Ministry and the first section of the proposals should be commenced in the near future.

The activity on the part of private owners in the installation of water carriage systems and treatment plants, referred to in previous reports has been continued and increased, and full use has been made of the assistance of the technical officers of the Public Health Department, in designing the layout and treatment of the drainage from old and new buildings, and where conversions from conservancy systems to water closets are proposed.

The extensions of mains water in several parishes have given rise to an increasing demand for advice and supervision of drainage and treatment works for isolated dwellings, and your sanitary inspectors have given every assistance to private owners in the provision of suitable plants to suit particular circumstances. This work helps considerably towards the eradication of pollution to land, ditches and streams, as well as providing a most desirable improvement in environmental hygiene.

In this connection it is to be deplored that many of your new Council houses are still being provided with the out of date pail closet. While this procedure may be excused in some cases by the imminence of the provision of sewerage systems for certain sites, the provision of water closets to new Council Houses at the time of erection, where they have piped water supplies, but where no main sewerage scheme is likely to be carried out for many years, is a matter of prime importance. Temporary arrangements have the serious risk of becoming permanent, and the burial in the garden of the contents of closet pails should be dispensed with wherever possible.

In my view a modern Council house should represent the standard to which all privately owned houses should be raised, but during this year's building the private owner has certainly exceeded the Council's standard of closet accommodation provided. The small extra cost of water closets, spread over a term of years is a trifling annual outlay for the extra hygiene and comfort obtained.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

The most serious pollution known in the district is that of the River Dee at Farndon referred to in the section under "Drainage and Sewerage," and little can be done in this instance to cure the pollution until a main sewer is provided for the village, together with the appropriate treatment.

Minor instances of pollution have been improved by repairs to defective treatment plants or the provision of an adequate system of treatment.

In the past the banks of streams have often been used as dumping grounds for unwanted refuse by people from inside and outside the District. Since the inauguration of a regular refuse service throughout the District there is little trouble experienced in regard to this matter, but occasional complaints of tins and rubbish thrown into the water-courses by mischievous children have been dealt with.

(4) GENERAL SANITATION.

(i) Closet Accommodation.

The number of conversions in the District from conservancy to water carriage is steadily increasing, following on the extensions of the water mains. The disgusting privy midden still unfortunately exists in some of the more remote dwellings of the district, and the officers of the department endeavour to educate the public to the inherent lack of hygiene associated with this class of closet, and during the year several privy middens have been converted either to pail-closets or water-closets. Any large scale conversions must of course wait on the provision of main sewerage schemes.

Number of conversions to water closets during the year—66

The approximate figures at the close of 1947 were as follows:

Privy midden	584
Pail closets	1822
Water closets	1874

4280

(ii) Refuse and Salvage.

A Chief Sanitary Inspector controls this important service in the District, which is carried out by the Council's own workmen and vehicles.

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.

Two 7 cubic yard and one 10 cubic yard vehicles are used, manned by ten men. The vehicles operate from a central Depot

at Tattenhall, which is also used for the sorting, storing and baling of salvage. A new 7 cubic yard Austin Eagle side-loading refuse wagon has been ordered by the Council for delivery in 1948. Disposal is by controlled tipping. There are 10 tips distributed throughout the district.

The provision of suitable dustbins is a fundamental necessity for an efficient refuse collection service, and in order to assist property owners who may have difficulty in obtaining a suitable dustbin the Council can supply a bin at a reasonable price from the stock which they hold against the requirements of Council houses. There is no insistence on owners that the Council should provide the bin as long as a suitable dustbin is provided for each premises. During the year the Council supplied 99 dustbins to private owners and 31 to Council houses, a total of 130.

The salvage collection is carried out in conjunction with the refuse collection. During the year increased collection and sales were made for both waste paper and other salvage. The Tarvin Rural District Council has reason to be proud of its Refuse Collection Service, and its salvage record. In the year under review the collections of waste paper averaged 8 cwt. monthly per 1,000 of population, 52% above the average figures for all rural districts in the country, and nearly equalled the Metropolitan and County Boroughs' figures of 8.2 cwts. and 8.6 cwts. respectively.

The workmen are paid a bonus of 5% of the value of salvage sold, and that this is an incentive is clearly proved by the efforts made during the year, which resulted in the Council qualifying for the Board of Trade Bonus for both half yearly periods of 1947.

Details of income and expenditure on this service during the year ending 31st March, 1948 are as follows.

	Income.	Expenditure.
Refuse Collection	£15 18 0	£2,099 14 11
Salvage	£691 8 9	£1,300 6 8
	£707 6 9	£3,400 1 7

Excess of expenditure over revenue £2,692 14. 10.

Details of each class of salvage material for year ending March 31st, 1948, are as follows.

	Value.	
	1947/48.	Previous Year.
Waste Paper	£483 13 7	£405 12 6
Scrap Metal	£36 15 0	£32 16 7
Bottles and Jars	£23 13 5	£12 4 6
Rags and Sacking	£114 8 6	£47 10 0
Bones	£9 19 9	£23 4 5
	£668 10 3	£521 8 0

This site has a metered supply of main water and the number of dwellings increased with the serious housing shortage, and has not appreciably diminished following petrol rationing. In an endeavour to keep down the growth of undesirable shacks, new erections as noted are reported to the Surveyor's Department for action under the Building Bye-laws and Planning legislation.

On a second site at Farndon, the number of dwellings has not appreciably increased, and here again the various dwellings are kept under observation. On this site there are various sources of water supply.

Until the housing shortage has eased by new building in the district, it will I suppose be necessary to tolerate these undesirable dilapidated caravans and shacks, but where the occupiers are rehoused by the Council by reason of their substandard accommodation, action is taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as permitted by Section 23 of the same Act which enables these dwellings to be dealt with as houses.

For the past year no action under the nuisance Sections 91-3 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been necessary with respect to these camping sites.

(vii) Squatters.

The old army camp at Beeston which consists of 4 wooden huts and 1 nissen hut used as a wash-house, is still occupied by five families (10 adults, 9 children). Each hut is fitted with one or two slow combustion stoves, and is provided with a separate pail closet chamber and a separate dustbin. There is a mains water supply to a standpipe on the site, and an extension to a tap in the wash-house. Refuse collection is carried out fortnightly. This accommodation is definitely substandard and can be tolerated only as a temporary measure until the housing situation is better.

(viii) Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the District.

(ix) Smoke Abatement.

The excessive smoke emission from a factory in Tarvin has now been remedied by the provision of a new boiler plant more adequate to the peak demand.

Observations were carried out from time to time on various commercial chimneys but no grounds for action were observed.

(x) Eradication of Vermin.

Where premises are found infested with bed bugs, treatment with Zaldicide/D.D.T. spray is used and found effective.

Gamexane powder is issued by this department to tenants who complain of the presence of cockroaches in their houses.

One house was found infested with fleas, probably due to the presence of two dogs in the house. Treatment of the premises by Gamexane and the cleansing of the dogs remedied this particular complaint.

Wettable D.D.T. is sold at cost as required to the occupiers of the slaughter-houses and similar premises in the District, to minimise the fly nuisance in the hot weather.

An infestation of crickets during the summer on one refuse tip was treated with Coopers Spray Dressing. After three treatments at intervals, these vermin were destroyed and there has been no recurrence.

(xi) Rats and Mice Destruction.

This Council acting as agents for the Cheshire County Council carries out delegated functions under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, as far as non agricultural properties are concerned. The County Council acting for the County Agricultural Executive Committee remains responsible for the enforcement of the Rats Order and for measures against rats and mice on agricultural property.

A full time Rodent Operative is employed by the Council, and contracts are made with the occupiers of infested premises for treatment.

The rat population during the year on non agricultural premises has been reduced by 4,700. Many minor infestations have been cleared and major infestations kept under control by regular treatment.

The Ministry's methods are used and while general satisfaction is expressed with this useful service, it seems a pity that in an area such as Tarvin R.D.C. that the functions of Rodent Control should be split between the Agricultural Committees and County Council, and the District Council. It undoubtedly would be more effective and satisfactory to have the administration for treatment of all properties in the area under the District Council's Sanitary Officer.

(xii) Knacker Yards.

A licence in respect of a knacker's yard at Malpas was renewed. These premises have been operated during the year without complaint.

(5) SCHOOLS.

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

Clutton, Edge, Handley, Hargrave, Shocklach, Threap-wood, Tilstone and Tushingham schools are without a piped water supply as also is Huxley, but the main is being extended to Huxley and the school should be connected shortly.

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)	1606
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1629
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations (Rural Housing Survey)	1492
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1517
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	169
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	841

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	54
--	----

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 notices	Nil.
(b) Proceeding under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
Number of premises on which Demolition Orders were made	4
(c) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil.

Owing to the 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 to some small extent check further deterioration of house property. The emphasis of 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 of material, labour and money, as compared with the cost of the provision of a prefabricated house with a limited life. If left indefinitely these cottages will degenerate into a state where the operation of Section 11 of the 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 up to £20 was continued during the year and fairly rapid progress has been made.

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 survey is also a means to bring to light cases of overcrowding, and the "Overcrowding Register" is thus being brought up to date.

For the primary survey it is not desirable for a too detailed record to be made because (a) by the time the materials and labour position permits of any needed action to be taken, the condition of the premises may have materially altered and (b) a detailed record of every class of house will seriously delay completion of the initial survey, which would then lose much of its value.

As the survey proceeds, any urgent or dangerous conditions reported are dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936, and when the initial survey is completed all houses in classes C & D will have a detailed re-inspection with a view to suitable action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

In accordance with the policy of the Council, demolition procedure against existing premises is being deferred except in the following cases.

Meat Inspection.

Government control of slaughtering continued during the year, and the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Newton Lodge, Newton-by-Tattenhall, continued in operation, serving an area roughly conforming to the Tarvin Rural District together with the township of Tarporley in the Northwich Rural District.

Slaughterhouse licenses were renewed in two instances, being in respect of premises where casualties are dealt with exclusively, the carcass and edible offals being delivered to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse after inspection at place of slaughter.

The Council have been careful in making appointments to see their Sanitary Inspectors are properly qualified and experienced in the inspection of meat, and the centralisation of slaughtering and practical elimination of private slaughterhouses permits of a hundred-per-cent inspection of meat intended for human consumption.

It is desirable that this centralisation of slaughtering should be made permanent and that the many small and mostly unsuitable places in the district where regular slaughtering was carried out pre-war should not be relicensed unless the Council are satisfied (a) that there is urgent need for a slaughterhouse and the central slaughterhouse is inconvenient and (b) that the premises satisfy the high standard of structure, lairage, water supply, drainage and drainage disposal necessary.

In this connection I regret that the Ministry of Food have so far not seen fit to enlarge the available hanging space at Newton Lodge Slaughterhouse, Tattenhall, as suggested to them by your Chief Sanitary Inspector from time to time over the past two years.

During the periods of heavy kill when several bodies are hanging in the cooling section, the meat inspectors' work is hindered by lack of room for easy examination of the carcasses and the obstruction of light.

If, as is hoped the practice of Central Slaughtering has come to stay, it is essential that this should be done under ideal conditions.

Close co-operation with veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture has been maintained. All cases of congenital tuberculosis found in calves have been reported to the Animal Health Division, resulting in most cases in recognition of tuberculosis in the dams, which have then been removed from their herds and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year under review, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption, are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Year 1947.	Beasts	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Numbers killed	598	849	760	2936	40	5183
Numbers inspected	589	849	760	2936	40	5183
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	71	162	48	11	0	292
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	238	266	7	174	7	692
Percentage affected	51.7	50.6	7.2	6.3	17.5	19.0
Tuberculosis only:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	20	121	7	0	2	150
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	120	222	5	0	3	350
Percentage affected	23.4	40.5	1.6	0.0	12.5	9.6

The figures include 20 cows and 2 other beasts slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938; and 222 beasts, 520 cows, 91 calves, 46 sheep and 34 pigs dealt with as casualties. The high proportion of casualties may be explained partly by the fact that the District is predominantly pastoral and dairying, and therefore has a high animal population, and partly by the presence within the District of the two exclusively Casualty Slaughterhouses.

The total weight of fresh meat and offals found by your Inspectors to be unfit for human consumption was 86 tons, 14 cwt. 3 qtrs. 6 lbs.

Inspection of Other Foods.

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 22 tons, 18 cwt. 3 qtrs. 8 lbs.

Ice-Cream.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream registered in the District.

Two premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream which is obtained from manufacturers outside the District. There are a few travelling retailers of ice-cream who sell

in the District during the summer. Your Sanitary Inspectors keep a close watch on these for cleanliness and hygienic handling of the food and reports on conditions at the premises outside this area, where manufacture takes place, is received from the authority concerned from time to time.

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, 1947.

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Butter	3	—
Cheese	3	—
Cooking Fat	3	—
Lemon Curd	1	—
Margarine	3	—
Milk-Evaporated	1	—
Milk	16	2
Sausages	1	—
Whiskey	1	—
	32	2

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES.

No.	Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
1.	Milk.	13.3% deficient in fat.	The two samples reported against were purchased, respectively, at the house door, of two milk retailers in Farndon—there is no suggestion that the milk had been tampered with and accordingly the sellers were cautioned.
2.	Milk.	13.3% deficient in fat.	

Section F.
**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
 AND OTHER DISEASES.**

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the
 year 1947.**

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	13	4	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	38	—	10
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	1	1	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Measles	40	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	71	—	2
	169	7	12

The number of persons receiving treatment during the year for scabies was 9.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	—	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 1947 numbered 22: of these 8 were positive, the rest negative.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table gives the distribution of immunisation against diphtheria, carried out in 1947 under the scheme operated by the Council.

Parish.	Under 5 years.	5—15.	Age unknown.	Total.
Aldersey	2	—	—	2
Ashton	8	4	—	12
Barton	1	—	—	1
Beeston	4	—	—	4
Bickerton	1	—	—	1
Bickley	1	—	—	1
Broxton	10	2	—	12
Burton	3	—	—	3
Burwardsley	1	—	—	1
Cholmondeley	1	—	—	1
Churton	1	—	—	1
Clotton	5	1	—	6
Clutton	1	3	—	4
Cuddington	1	—	—	1
Duddon	1	—	—	1
Edge	4	1	—	5
Farndon	2	1	—	3
Hampton	5	—	—	5
Handley	1	1	—	2
Hargrave	2	—	—	2
Harthill	1	—	—	1
Hatton	2	2	—	4
Horton	1	—	—	1
Huxley	2	4	—	6
Kelsall	11	—	—	11
Larton	1	4	—	5
Malpas	39	5	—	44
Mouldsworth	1	—	—	1
Oldcastle	2	—	—	2
Overton	—	2	—	2
Stapleford	1	1	—	2
Tarvin	17	4	—	21
Tattenhall	16	10	—	26
Threapwood	9	2	—	11
Tilston	5	—	—	5
Tiverton	3	1	—	4
Tushingham	—	—	—	—
Waverton	7	—	—	7
Willington	2	2	—	4
Wigland	—	3	—	3
Totals ...	175	53	—	228

