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**Contributors**

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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.  
-----Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1943.  
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This Report is prepared on the lines asked for by the Minister of Health in Circular 2773. In accordance with his directions most information usually contained in the Report is omitted and filed for future reference.

Infectious Disease

There are no outstanding facts regarding the incidence of infectious disease in the district during the year which call for comment. Those cases requiring hospitalisation were admitted to Vine House Isolation Hospital, Sturminster Newton administered by the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Council's Immunisation Scheme continued to operate throughout the year, but the number of applications received did not justify the continuance of the monthly treatment session at the First Aid Point, Sturminster Newton. Sessions were, however, held in any particular village where the number of children awaiting treatment called for such an arrangement, and in addition individual applicants were treated at the surgeries of local Medical Practitioners.

At the 31st December 90% of children of school age had received treatment, and 47% of children under school age.

Scabies

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of cases admitted to the Sick Bay during the year, and also in the number occurring in the district generally.

Venereal Disease

With a view to deciding what steps should be taken to deal with this matter, Medical Practitioners throughout the North Dorset District as a whole were asked to state how many cases of venereal disease they had attended during the twelve months. The replies received indicated that the incidence amongst the population was extremely small, only seven cases having been treated by them during the period in question. In view of this it was agreed to take no steps in the matter beyond the display of certain posters.

Water Supplies

- (1) Quality - (a) Public sources - The results of samples taken monthly for bacteriological examination are generally satisfactory.
- (b) Private sources - Apart from the supply at Fifehead Magdalen occasional samples of water from the private supplies have been fairly satisfactory, but it is generally found that sufficient precautions are not taken to protect the sources from surface pollution.



(2) Sufficiency - (a) Public sources - Public water supplies over the whole district proved adequate during the year, although some concern was felt on account of the lower yield of springs due to drought and a substantial increase in agricultural demands. The Council proposed taking steps to ascertain what additional supplies were available with a view to augmenting those already in use.

(b) Private sources - Complaints of shortage in Fifehead Magdalen were received and requests for the provision of a public main at an early date. In order to overcome seasonal deficiencies in Hinton St. Mary the private service reservoir was augmented by a mains connection.

The approximate population supplied by standpipes is 240, and the number of houses 135, whilst the approximate population supplied by water service connection is 8,000 and the number of houses 2,145.

#### Evacuation

Good use continued to be made throughout the year of the Sick Bay, the Nurseries and the various Hostels in the district, the Psychiatrist being in attendance at the latter. By the ready goodwill and mutual assistance of the Chief Billeting Officers reciprocal use by all the Authorities in North Dorset of the various Hostels and Nurseries within the several districts was again achieved.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and help afforded to me by your Council and Officers throughout the year.

G. B. SCOTT,

Temporary Medical Officer  
of Health.

20th July, 1944.