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**Contributors**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT  
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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1944  
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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

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Of these, two were adults who had not been immunised, and the third, a child, was subsequently found to be suffering from Tonsillitis. In the autumn 43 cases of Sonne dysentery occurred at the Sick Bay and various Hostels. Beyond this, the incidence of infectious disease does not call for comment. In view of a case of Smallpox occurring in the neighbouring Rural District of Sherborne a vaccination campaign was carried out early in April.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year, children being treated at the doctors' surgeries.

At the 31st December 92% of children of school age and 52% of children under school age had received treatment.

Scabies

The incidence of Scabies was very small throughout the year.

Venereal Disease

No cases of venereal disease were brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

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.

Water Supplies

The public water supplies were satisfactory in quality throughout the year. With regard to the private supplies, it was generally found that sufficient precautions were not taken to protect the sources from surface contamination. Although there is a great need for more water, the public supplies were just sufficient for the needs of the district. Private supplies were adequate with the exception of the Wootton Clanvilles supply which failed owing to distribution problems.

Samples from the public sources were taken monthly for bacteriological examination, both before and after chlorination.

Of those taken before chlorination some were suspicious. 62 samples were taken after chlorination and all except one were satisfactory. Two samples were submitted for chemical examination and both proved satisfactory.

Of the private sources five samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year. Four of these were unsatisfactory. No samples were submitted for chemical examination.

Where it was possible for public supplies to be taken in place of unsatisfactory private water, this was done. Otherwise arrangements were made for more adequate protection of the sources of supply.

Approximately 2,000 houses and a population of 7,500 are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses, and approximately 110 houses and a population of 200 are supplied by means of standpipes.

A 3" water main extension from the parish of Marnhull to Fifehead Magdalen was carried out during the year, and all the properties in the village have been connected with water services.

The Council is still considering proposals for augmenting their water undertakings by bulk supplies from adjoining Local Authorities.

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.

11th June, 1945.