

[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Torquay Borough.

Contributors

Torquay (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1941

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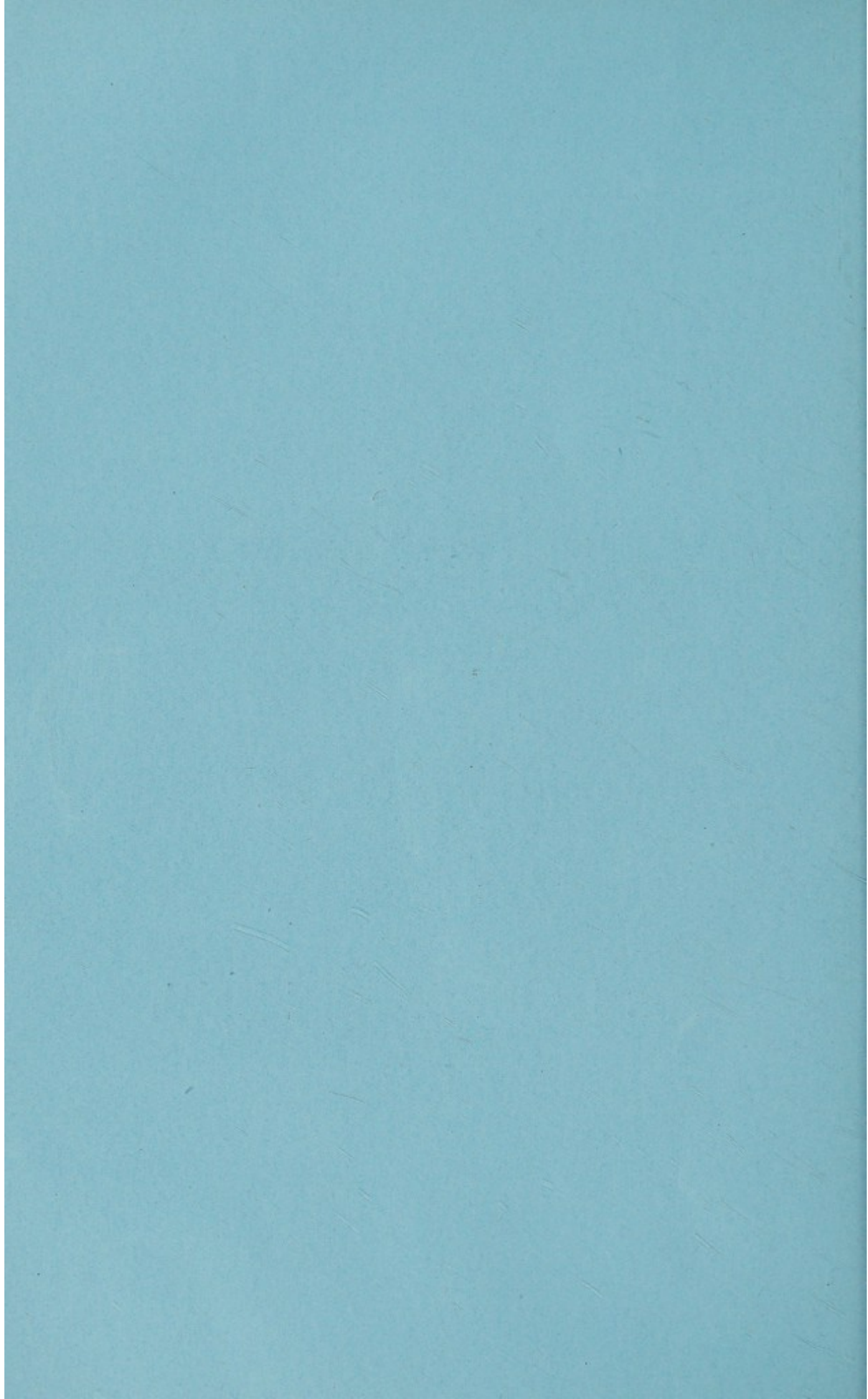


BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for 1941





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ST. MARYCHURCH TOWN HALL,
TORQUAY.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Torquay.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit an Interim Report for 1941, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. In view of the pressure of work it is requested that a brief record should be prepared, referring only to essential and urgent matters and omitting, in the interest of national security, any reference to certain specified developments or facts; but arrangements are continued for the preservation of all details so that after the end of the war a more comprehensive Report can be submitted.

Even in peace-time it is exceedingly difficult within the compass of an annual statement to give a readable description of the varied work of the health services, for the dull prose of an official report interspersed with the duller arithmetic of vital statistics may give precise statement of facts, but it is uninspiring and tedious to the onlooker; and with the present limitations it is quite impracticable to give any real idea of the manifold activities which in seemingly endless procession crowd in upon the usual and normal duties. Moreover the paradox still remains that the more success preventive medicine wins the more silent is its record.

The year under review has fortunately been healthy with no serious outbreaks of disease and there is nothing of outstanding significance upon which to comment in the various statistics, although in this area the limitations of paucity of data have to be borne in mind. Moreover the nutrition of the children has remained satisfactory, which is some token of reward for the important widely-recognised steps taken to safeguard their diet during the war and for the cumulative effect of the many equally important but less widely-recognised measures of the past quarter of a century designed to help mothers and their children.

Diphtheria immunisation has made encouraging progress, but much remains to be done before all or even the majority of children are protected. It is often remarked of serious diseases how great would be the blessing to humanity if the cause and prevention were known; diphtheria is serious enough, yet science has given a definite preventive measure of proved value, the facilities are freely available, and it now rests with the parents of young children to close the diphtheria wards of our Isolations Hospitals and to save immeasurable unnecessary suffering and needless loss of life.

Amid the harass of continous toil with so many extraneous duties which tax the wisdom and understanding of the most ingenious mind it must be remembered that—

“Endurance is the crowning quality,
And patience all the passion of great hearts;
These are their stay. . . .”

And last after the evil dream of the present conflict we awake like the denizens of Plato's figurative cave dazzled and bewildered by the light and ignorant which way to turn, the Health Services must maintain their true course and travel hopefully on to the days when they can again give their unencumbered undivided work towards the attainment of their primary ideals—the ceaseless fight against disease and the unending struggle for the “betterment of man's estate.”

In conclusion, it is with appreciation that I acknowledge both the encouraging support given to me by the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and also the co-operation and mutual helpfulness of the Medical Profession of the Borough in the many contacts of daily work during the unusually difficult times.

The excellent service and zeal of the staff deserve the highest praise and commendation, for their constant willing help and loyal support have been continuously maintained in the almost overwhelming maze of duties, which literally are at all times and in all places. More than the merit which is its due, such a record enshrines with inspiration the daily round and common task and brings “refreshment mid the dust of strife.”

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

STAFF

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital, and Chief Billeting Officer.

J. V. A. SIMPSON,

M.D.LOND., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.CAMB.

Acting Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer.

T. GIBSON, M.D.ED., C.M., D.P.H.LOND.

Medical Officer, Ante-Natal Clinic and Post-Natal Clinic.

*P. A. McCALLUM, M.B.GLASG., CH.B., D.P.H.CAMB.

Obstetric Consultants.

*P. A. McCALLUM, M.B.GLASG., CH.B., D.P.H.CAMB.

*B. VENN DUNN, M.D.ED., F.R.C.S.ED.

Ophthalmic Surgeon (School Medical Service and Maternity and Child Welfare).

†*J. MASTERTON THOMSON, M.B.GLASG., CH.B., D.O.M.S.ENG.

§*H. V. MACKENZIE, M.D.ED.

Aural Surgeon (School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare, and Isolation Hospital).

*W. H. BRADBEER, M.S.LOND., D.L.O.ENG.

Pathologist and Bacteriologist.

*H. A. FIELDEN, M.D.DURH.

(b) Dental

School Dental Officer and Dental Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare.

‡N. HARRIS, L.D.S., R.C.S.ENG.

Acting Dental Officers.

MISS E. M. STILL, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG.

MISS J. M. RIPLEY, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG.

(c) Nursing

Health Visitors, Child Protection Visitors.

†Miss P. MULLINEAUX, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

†Miss J. M. MARTIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

†Miss V. FULFORD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

Matron, Isolation Hospital.

MISS M. J. STEWART, S.R.N.

(The staff at the Isolation Hospital includes the Matron, Sister and nine nurses.)

(d) Sanitary

*Senior Sanitary Inspector, Food Enforcement Officer, Gas
Decontamination Officer (Food), and Billeting Officer.*

M. G. CROOK, C.S.I.B., Meat Cert., Instructor's Cert., C.A.G.S.

*District Sanitary Inspectors, Food Enforcement Officers,
and Billeting Officers.*

†G. J. LOVELESS, C.R.S.I. and Meat Cert.

A. THOMPSON, C.R.S.I.

J. F. H. SMITH, C.R.S.I., and Meat Cert.

H. T. BEECHEY, C.R.S.I. and Meat Cert.

§R. S. DAVEY, C.R.S.I.

(e) Other

Public Analyst.

*T. TICKLE, B.Sc., F.I.C.

Orthoptist (School Medical Service and Maternity and Child Welfare).

*Miss M. B. DAVIES, B.A.

Clerks.

(Public Health Department).

†W. H. NICKELS.

Mrs. V. J. KNAPMAN.

†P. H. BURGE, C.S.I.B., AND

§Miss P. M. ROWELL.

MEAT CERT.

§Miss D. ROSE.

†W. D. WHITE.

§Miss M. ELIAS.

§Miss F. I. GOODCHILD.

(Maternity and Child Welfare).

Miss K. HUDSON.

§Miss M. DAVEY.

(Billeting).

§Miss I. M. WILTSHIRE.

§Miss P. B. COHEN.

§Miss L. M. HARRIS.

§Miss A. M. MOXHAY.

Assistants to Sanitary Inspectors.

E. D. TUCKER.

E. J. SELLEK.

† On Active Service.

* Part Time.

† Also School Nurse.

§ Temporary.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,244
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books	13,171
Rateable value (end of 1941)	£538,499
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1941) ..	£2,152

SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

*Including the chief Industries carried on in the Area and
the extent of Unemployment.*

There is nothing exceptional to record on the social conditions ; but the following figures, kindly supplied by the Manager of the Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange, show the extent of unemployment for January and July, 1941, and for January, 1942 :

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
January, 1941 ..	427	424	71	43	965
July, 1941	140	194	105	90	529
January, 1942	113	118	29	30	280

(NOTE :—The men and women are not mobile and are fit for light or part-time work only.)

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1941,
*which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward
and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.*

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	8.90
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.39
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	15.35

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1.66
No. 30 Other maternal causes	1.66
Total	3.32

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	49.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	51.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	31.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	136
„ Measles (all ages)	.....	4
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	1
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.....	4

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required special comment.

During the year there has been no unusual or excessive mortality.

Population.

It is requested that the population for the year should not be published; and in this connexion it should be noted that the birth-rate, marriage-rate and death-rate are given without any reference to the actual number of births, marriages and deaths, for otherwise the population can be calculated.

Births.

The birth-rate was 8.9 per 1,000 population, compared with 14.2 for England and Wales and 16.4 for the smaller towns; the stillbirth-rate was 0.39 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the smaller towns being 0.51 and 0.60, and the stillbirth-rate per 1000 live and still births was 44.1

The birth-rate for Torquay in 1941 at 8.9 was the lowest on record, the rate for 1940 being 10.4 and in 1939 11.7

Marriages.

The marriage-rate was 6.2 per 1,000 population compared with 8.0 in 1940 and 7.6 in 1939.

Deaths.

The crude death-rate was 15.4 per 1,000 population compared with 16.0 in 1940 and 14.8 in 1939; the death-rate in 1941 for England and Wales was 12.9 and for the smaller towns 13.0

In normal times in order to make adjustments for the age and sex distribution of Torquay, the Registrar-General supplies an "areal comparability factor" with which to multiply the crude death-rate and so obtain an adjusted death-rate. This year, however, the Registrar-General states: "The variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian

war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death-rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors, and the preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions."

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay (1) Heart disease 244 ; (2) Cancer 136 ; and (3) Intra-cranial vascular lesions 93, which between them are responsible for more than half the total deaths.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 49.8 per 1,000 total births, compared with a rate of 59 for England and Wales and 56 for the smaller towns ; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 51.9 and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 31.7.

The Maternal Mortality rate was 3.32 per 1,000 total births, the rate from puerperal infection being 1.66 ; the corresponding rates for England and Wales were 2.23 and 0.48.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) *Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority, including their duties, are incorporated in the beginning of the Report.*

In August Miss E. M. Still, one of the temporary Dental Officers, left to take up private practice, and up to the end of the year it was found impracticable to fill the appointment.

Miss E. M. Farrow and Miss M. Irons, Health Visitors, left for similar posts in Coventry and Miss J. M. Martin and Miss V. Fulford were appointed to fill the vacancies.

- (ii) (b) *Ambulance Service.*

From 1936 the Corporation Ambulance Service was merged with the Fire Brigade, but after the formation of the National Fire Service the Ambulance Service became a separate entity in August, 1941 ; and following Fire Brigade Circular 79 and Ministry of Health Circular 2502, steps were taken to unify the Corporation

Ambulance and the Civil Defence Ambulance Services. Owing to the fact that the Civil Defence Scheme-making Authority includes Local Authorities other than the Borough of Torquay, the amalgamation was not as simple as if the two Authorities were identical ; but with the necessary good will on both sides the arrangements are proving satisfactory in maintaining the high standard which has always been a feature of the Corporation Ambulance Department.

(e) *Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.*

There has been no change in the Hospitals during the year.

3. *Midwifery and Maternity Services.*

(i) *Midwives Act, 1936.*

The work under the Midwives Act has proceeded satisfactorily and without incident ; 20 midwives notified their intention to practise. The Scheme by which the Queen's Institute carry out the domiciliary midwifery of the Borough has continued to operate well, in spite of the additional work in the number of cases ; during the year there were 338 domiciliary confinements.

(ii) *Emergency Arrangements.*

The necessary alterations in connexion with Hazelwood Emergency Maternity Home were completed and the Home was fully equipped, staffed with Matron, sister-midwives, assistant nurses and domestic staff, and opened in September ; there are 8 ante-natal beds, 11 lying-in beds and 5 post-natal beds, together with one isolation ward. It is extremely fortunate that Mrs. L. Banyard, S.R.N., S.C.M., Superintendent Matron of the Children's Aid Society Homes, has voluntarily undertaken to act as Superintendent of this Home. During the four months 13 cases were admitted, but subsequently the beds have been more fully booked and occupied.

By courtesy of the Rowcroft Convalescent Home Trustees, the facilities for this Emergency Maternity unit were continued, and during the year 75 cases were admitted.

One of the Maternity Homes of the Children's Aid Society was evacuated to Torquay at Morningside, Barrington Road, and during the year there were 83 confinements in this Home.

(iii) *Residential Nurseries.*

Under the Government Evacuation arrangements the residential nursery of the Waifs and Strays Society has been continued

at Ditton, Lower Warberry Road, where approximately 30 children from 2—5 years of age have been admitted from London; two nurseries under the Children's Aid Society were opened at Ansteys Lea for 20 children under 2 years of age, and at Kendal, Meadfoot Road, for 20 children from 2—5 years. A nursery under the International Commission for War Refugees was started at St. Norberts for 30 children of pre-school and school age.

(iv) *War-time Day Nurseries.*

Two part-time day nurseries were opened in December at Cintra and at Chelston Woodhayes, where accommodation for 20 children from 2—5 years old is provided at each; the nurseries are held in the ground floor of houses requisitioned under the Evacuation Scheme, and provide facilities for evacuees and for resident children. A whole-time nursery is being established at Hillside, Westhill Road, for 35 children.

(v) *Nursery Units.*

It was not possible to find any accommodation for Nursery Units as requested in Circular 2515.

(vi) *Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil.*

In connexion with the Scheme for the distribution of Vitamins administered by the Ministry of Food, assistance was given as requested in circular 2520; distribution centres were opened on each afternoon at different clinics and welfare premises in the town, and members of the clerical staff undertook the work at these centres.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water.*

The Borough Water Engineer, Mr. Norman G. Elliot, M.Sc., A. M. Inst.C.E., has kindly supplied the following details:—

“The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity although the consumption in July of last year was abnormally high and the delivery powers of the trunk mains were stretched to their maximum capacity. Scraping operations are being introduced to increase the delivery of these mains and a new booster pump is being installed at Chapel Hill which will probably increase the delivery of one of the mains by 200,000 gallons per day.”

The regular bacteriological analyses remained consistently good.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough Engineer, Mr. P. W. Ladmore, M.Inst.C.E., has kindly given me the following details in connexion with drainage and sewerage, public cleansing and salvage.

The work continued on the construction of new main sewers in the Torre area.

(iii) *Public Cleansing.*

There is no variation from last year and normal services up to the present have been maintained.

(iv) *Salvage.*

The very creditable record of pre-war times has further advanced for the wider scope and ample extension of intensified salvage which the conditions of the emergency demand; and the following are the details of the articles recovered :—

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper and Cardboard	..	..	..	383	17
Aluminium	..	..	..	—	15
Brass	..	..	..	1	4
Copper	..	..	..	—	6
Lead	..	..	..	—	17
Pewter	..	..	..	—	$\frac{3}{4}$
Zinc	..	..	..	—	4
Scrap Iron	..	..	..	120	1
Bed Rails	..	..	..	—	12
Rags	..	..	..	4	11
Bones	..	..	..	20	12
Pig Swill :—					
Collected by Corporation	....			1027	11
Collected by Pigkeepers	....			548	9
Sold	....	....	....	2393	14
Bottles	....	....	....	28	(5,684 doz.)

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The inspection of all areas in the Borough has been carried out during the year under your Senior Sanitary Inspector, who gives the subjoined table showing the enormous scope and variety of work involved : for not only have the regular inspections been diligently made, but also there are, as a result of the war, numerous extraneous and often exacting duties, which have been undertaken very willingly and carried out equally well.

<i>Dwelling Houses.</i>	<i>No. inspected.</i>	<i>Visits.</i>
Under Public Health Acts	414	1119
Under Housing Acts	32	79
Overcrowding	6	10
Verminous Premises	86	105
Rats and Mice	125	189
Infectious Diseases	65	104

<i>General Public Health.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>
Drains and sewers :	
Inspected	378
Tests applied	252
Cesspools	87
Urinals and Latrines	10
Stables	2
Piggeries	8
Ditches and Streams	5
Open Spaces	10
Yards	1
Accumulations	13
Public Conveniences	68
Tents, Vans and Sheds	4
Work Places	17
Common Lodging Houses	5
Smoke Observations	8
Effluvia	12
Cinemas, Dance Halls	16
Markets	110
Shops—Shop Act	2
Fish Fryers	7
Offensive Trades	2
Marine Stores	6
Offices	8
Schools	65
Torbay Hospital	3

<i>Water</i>				<i>Inspections.</i>
Water Supply :	visits	....	....	27
	samples	....	....	31
Swimming Bath	visits	....	....	8
	samples	....	....	2

<i>Meat and Food.</i>				<i>Inspections.</i>
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	....	....	....	454
Cooked Meats	....	....	....	42
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	741
Cowsheds	....	....	....	31
Dairies : visits	....	....	....	171
samples	....	....	....	100
Bakehouses	....	....	....	38
Hotels	....	....	....	61
Ice Cream Vendors	....	....	....	7
Fishmongers	....	....	....	187
Fish Quay	....	....	....	103
Greengrocers	....	....	....	327
Restaurants	....	....	....	33
Other Premises	....	....	....	181
Decontamination of Food	....	....	....	56

<i>Miscellaneous.</i>				<i>Inspections.</i>
Evacuation Scheme	....	....	....	3217
Requisitioned Houses	....	....	....	169
Civil Defence	....	....	....	19
Hazelwood	....	....	....	75
W.V.S. Clothing Depot	....	....	....	11
Food Control	....	....	....	1270

NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Written</i>		<i>Statutory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Public Health Act	162	121	77	60	6	—	245	181
Housing Act	2	1	7	5	—	—	9	6
Factory Act	15	—	3	—	—	—	18	—

SECTION D.

HOUSING

There is nothing exceptional to record in this interim Report.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) *Milk Supply.*(iv) *Bacteriological Examination of Milk.*

As arranged with the Devon County Council, samples of milk are sent each week to the County Bacteriologist. A total of 64 samples were submitted for examination ; 56 were samples of non-designated milk of which 22 passed and 34 failed, 5 were samples of pasteurised milk of which all passed, 1 accredited sample passed and 1 failed, and 1 T.T. sample failed.

The percentage of failures is 57 and is slightly less than the percentage of failures in the two years immediately preceding the war.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

In this section the routine work has been generally uneventful. The scheme for Government-controlled slaughtering is in operation, the centralisation having necessitated the temporary closure of slaughterhouses other than the so-called public slaughterhouse ; and this has intensified the difficulties of bad accommodation. The work of meat inspection under such conditions is rendered unnecessarily arduous, difficult and trying ; and the need for adequate facilities recommended so insistently in previous years is now more than ever apparent.

The following table gives the details of the inspections :—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	2888	267	1703	16711	1558
Number inspected	2888	267	1703	16711	1558
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	3	—	24	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	390	69	8	2165	75
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	13.5	26.9	0.5	13.1	5.3
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	8	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	146	24	1	—	97
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	5.2	12.0	0.12	—	6.2

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

	<i>No. of Articles.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Other Food condemned included :—		
Carrots (sacks)	2	1891
Fowls	16	73
Eggs	48	6
Flour (sacks)	2	41½
Fish (boxes)	13	549
Cake	2	30½
Sausages (case)	1	100
Rice (packet)	2	2
Biscuits (packets)	1	2
Miscellaneous	4	63
Tinned goods :		
Fruit	86	447
Jam	16	
Fish	52	
Vegetables	100	
Meat, brawn, etc.	14	
Miscellaneous	94	

(c) *Adulteration, etc. : Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

Your Senior Sanitary Inspector has carried out the work under this Act and the following is a record of the 85 samples taken:—

	No. of Samples.	Not genuine.
Milk	32	2
Custard Powder	3	—
Meat and Fish Pastes	3	—
Butter	19	—
Lard	2	—
Self-Raising Flour	3	—
Pork Sausages	1	—
Beef	1	—
Sugar	2	—
Baking Powder	2	—
Rice	2	—
Sausage Roll	1	—
Beef Sausage meat	1	—
Meat Pie	1	—
Margarine	3	—
Wheatmeal Loaf	1	—
Pearl Barley	1	—
Cocoa	1	—
Sago	1	—
Tapioca	1	—
Ground Ginger	1	—
Pepper	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Honey	1	—

Of the two samples of milk found to be not genuine one contained 64 per cent added water and the other was deficient in fat to the extent of 28 per cent : both vendors were cautioned.

(d) *Food Control.*

Throughout the year your Senior Sanitary Inspector has continued to act as Food Enforcement Officer and your District Sanitary Inspectors as District Food Enforcement Officers, responsible to the Food Control Committee.

(e) *Food and Disease.*

The risks arising from the handling of food have been accentuated by the war-time emergency and the various communal organisations ; for the introduction of a carrier or of an unrecognised case of disease would seriously affect a much greater number of consumers. Steps have again been taken to impress on all those engaged in handling food the urgent need of continuously maintaining the highest standards of personal hygiene and cleanliness, any lapse from which might result in serious consequences for many people.

SECTION F.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

The incidence of infectious disease for the 52 weeks ending 28th December, 1940, and for the 53 weeks ending 3rd January, 1942, is as follows :—

	1940	1941
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	101	61
Diphtheria	9	20
Measles	603	452
Whooping Cough	102	116
Enteric Fevers	2	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	6
Pneumonia	52	52
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	10
Erysipelas	30	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—
Dysentery	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—

There is nothing exceptional upon which it is necessary to comment in these figures, as the incidence per 1,000 population does not show any significant variation from the average for the whole country.

In December a small outbreak of paratyphoid fever occurred in the female medical ward of a general hospital; five cases were notified, all of whom recovered, and there was no further spread of the disease after the appropriate precautionary measures had been taken. The usual full epidemiological investigation was made, but failed to trace the cause of the outbreak; a report of the details was submitted to the Ministry of Health.

The attendance at the diphtheria immunisation clinic increased more satisfactorily and 1,410 school children and 504 pre-school children were immunised; although this is encouraging, it will need continued effort before the desired goal is reached when the great majority of children are adequately protected and the incidence of the disease begins to disappear. Visiting orphanages and residential schools and nurseries were also kept immunised.

Isolation Hospital Treatment.

The number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital showed a distinct increase from pre-war days, chiefly because considerable assistance was given to neighbouring Authorities in admitting cases for which other accommodation was not available.

<i>Cases admitted.</i>	1940	1941
Scarlet Fever	116	63
Diphtheria	19	42
Enteric Fevers	6	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	13
Measles	54	71
Whooping Cough	9	6
Erysipelas	5	10
Chicken-pox	15	16
Rubella	56	1
Other Causes	29	47
	311	286

SECTION G.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This section is not being published, a minimum number of copies having been reproduced for submission privately to the Local Authority and to the Ministry of Health.

SECTION H.

MISCELLANEOUS1. *Government Evacuation Scheme.*

Under this Scheme, Torquay has remained a reception area, and your Medical Officer (who is also School Medical Officer) has continued to act as Chief Billeting Officer, with your Senior and District Sanitary Inspectors as Billeting Officers. Complete co-ordination has thus been maintained throughout between the Public Health and School Medical Services and the Evacuation Scheme.

During the year five further official parties were received ; in February approximately 500 children and teachers were received from Bristol, in March a party of 200 mothers and children came from London and were accommodated in furnished requisitioned houses, in May a party of approximately 100 boys came from Plymouth and in September and October small parties of mothers and children were sent from Plymouth.

The medical arrangements for evacuees, the Hostel and the clothing Scheme, and the work of the official Helpers described in previous reports have been satisfactorily maintained.

The evacuation scheme with its never-ending problems is a veritable task of Sisyphus and the extent of evacuation has been characterised by a ceaseless ebb and flow, which have become more pronounced as time has proceeded ; and this was not wholly unexpected to those well acquainted with social work and with the difficulties of uprooted children, of harassed hostesses, of deprived parents and of panic refugees. For after all, humanity is neither scientific nor logical, but a mixture of heredity, habit, custom and bias ; and a scheme which theoretically arranges with almost mathematical precision the dispersal of population must be vitally affected by the personal and human factors of family life and of home ties.

The actual reception and billeting of children were not the completion of a scheme, but the beginning of a social experiment such as has not been previously attempted ; and it is a matter of satisfaction that many of the problems have been adequately solved although it must be recognised that some of the difficulties admit of no complete solution. Indeed evacuation has with disconcerting frankness laid bare some casualties of home and of family life which are serious and ominous ; and the rehabilitation of these will require all the skill, resource and patience of the medical and social services.

2. Civil Defence.

These arrangements have been continued on the lines indicated in previous reports. Your Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. M. G. Crook, as Gas Decontamination Officer (Food), has prepared a scheme for dealing with gas contaminated food and has arranged and given courses of lectures for the various tradespeople who have offered to co-operate ; your Senior Sanitary Inspector and two of your District Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Beechey and Mr. Smith, attended courses of instruction in this section of the work.



