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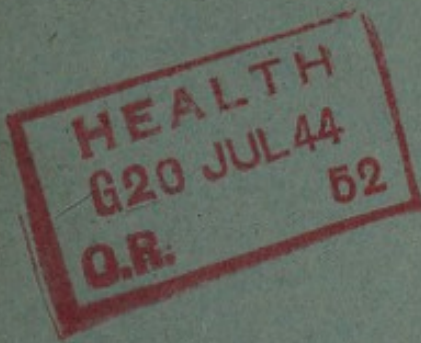
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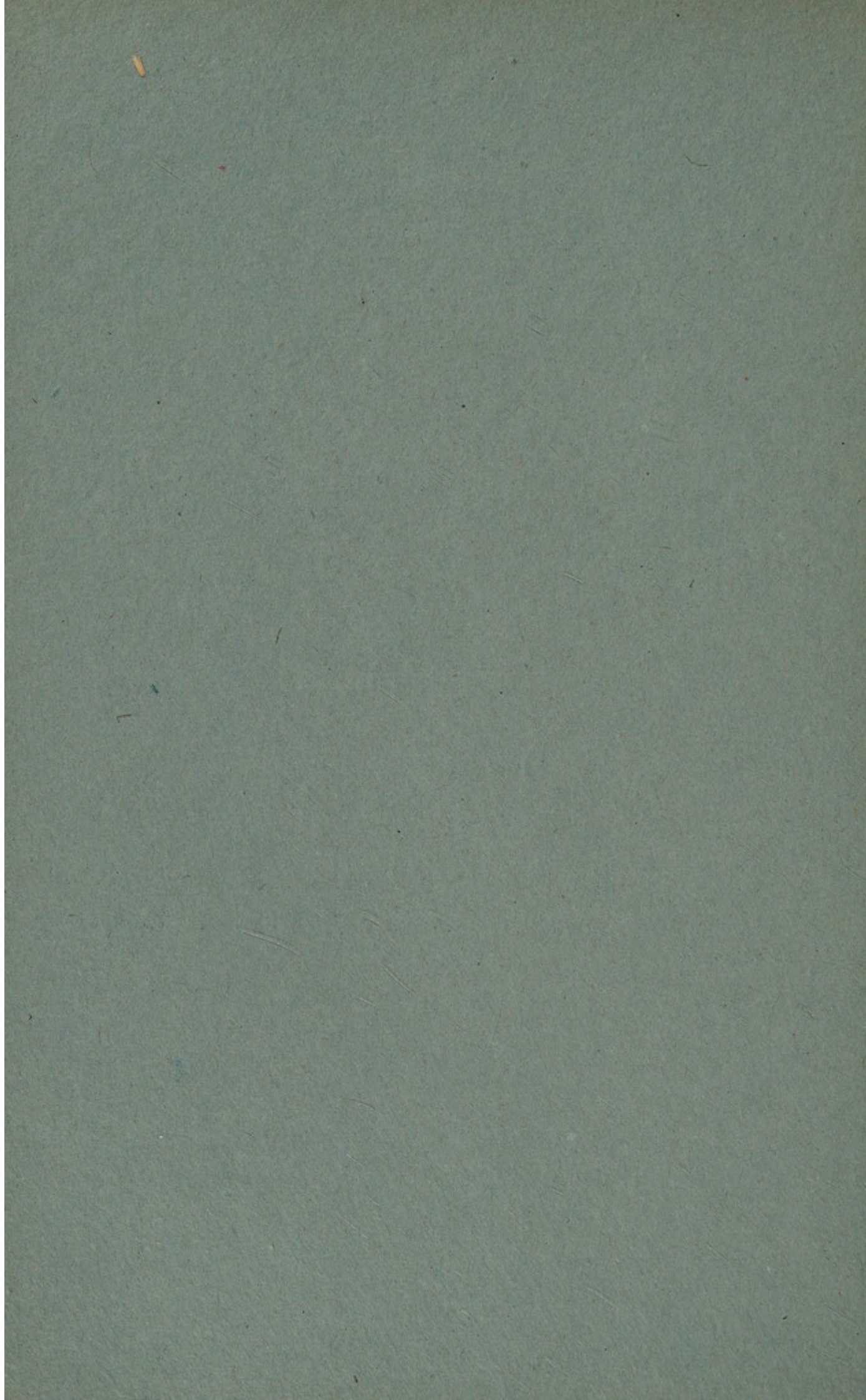
BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1943





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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 1943, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. As in previous years during the war, it is requested in view of the continuing pressure of work that a brief record should be prepared, referring only to essential or urgent matters, and omitting for reasons of national security any reference to certain specified developments or facts.

The year under review has been healthy, and the influenza outbreak, always a potentially dangerous factor, although wide in incidence was not severe in type or associated with serious complications; moreover the nutrition of the children has been satisfactorily maintained. A scheme was approved with detailed measures to safeguard more effectively the illegitimate child and to assist in the resettlement of the mother; and the new regulations for adoption coming into force during the year further strengthened the supervision to be given in the interest of another group of children whose number and whose needs have also increased under war-time conditions. Diphtheria immunisation continues to make satisfactory progress, chiefly among the pre-school children, which is especially gratifying.

The problem is becoming increasingly urgent of caring adequately for the aged infirm and chronic sick; facilities for this have always proved difficult enough to provide and maintain, but the magnitude of the task is greater owing to a gradual increase numerically, while the straitened financial circumstances of many of the older persons formerly able to obtain help in their own houses accentuate the difficulties still further. As a health resort with an abnormal proportion of its population among the higher age-groups, Torquay is a town peculiarly sensitive to the needs of this section of the community; and it is hoped that in the many schemes for the immediate future some prompt consideration will be given to the manifestly urgent requirements of that increasing number who have to undergo "the cold gradations of decay."

The general routine of each section has been carried on with the usual quiet efficiency in spite of the "incessant busyness" of the continuing emergency; but it is quite impossible here to give any real indication of what is involved by the wide range of duties or of the vital importance of much of the work, of necessity unseen and unrecorded.

The war has not only brought new problems, but also has unmasked with startling and surprising vividness the urgency of many of the already existing conditions, the measures to improve which even with the best efforts often "seem here no painful inch to gain." But no previous generation has had such a wealth of knowledge and of opportunities; and the workers in preventive medicine, despite the plethora of extraneous tasks which have threatened to overwhelm them, must keep without deviation the course towards the true goal, maintain zeal and perseverance, and

"Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait."

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 helpfulness of the Medical Profession of the Borough in the intermingled work of the unusual times.

To the Staff is due the full credit for the results achieved, for their willing help and loyal support in all the manifold duties merit high praise and commendation; indeed such a record throws with hopeful promise "a gleam on the years that shall be."

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 Surgeons (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 Officers and Dental Officers for Maternity and Child Welfare.

‡N. HARRIS, 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.

§†Mrs. P. PARTRIDGE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

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

§†Miss E. COUNIHAN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

§†Miss G. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

Matron, Isolation Hospital.

Miss M. J. STEWART, S.R.N., R.F.N.

(The staff at the Isolation Hospital includes the Matron, two Sisters and six Nurses.)

(d) Sanitary

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Food Enforcement Inspector, 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 Inspectors 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. and Meat Cert.

(e) Other

Public Analyst.

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

Clerks.

(Public Health Department).

†W. H. NICKELS.

Mrs. V. J. KNAPMAN.

†P. H. BURGE, C.S.I.B., Meat
Cert., Cert. San. Sc.,
and Cert. I.S.E.

§Mrs. P. M. EDWARDS.

§Miss M. ELIAS.

§Miss F. I. GOODCHILD.

†W. D. WHITE.

§Miss A. M. MOXHAY.

§Miss D. P. ROSSON.

(Maternity and Child Welfare).

Miss K. HUDSON.

(Billeting).

§Miss I. M. WILTSHIRE.

§Miss L. M. HARRIS.

Assistants to Sanitary Inspectors.

E. D. TUCKER.

E. J. SELLEK.

Rodent Operative :

§L. SCANT.

† 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 1943) according to Rate Books	12,970
Rateable value (end of 1943)	£535,221
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1943) ..	£2,191

SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

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

There is nothing exceptional to record about the social conditions, and the usual details in connexion with industry and unemployment are not to be published.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1943,
*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	12.87
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.44
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	18.81

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

	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</i>
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1.66
No. 30 Other maternal causes	0.00
Total	1.66

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

All infants per 1,000 live births	48.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	43.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	81.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	137
„ Measles (all ages)	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	2

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

Influenza was epidemic in November and December; fortunately the type was mild and severe complications infrequent: the death-rate from influenza was 0.51 per 1,000 total population compared with a rate of 0.37 for England and Wales, and of 0.37 for the smaller towns.

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 12.9 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.5 for England and Wales and 19.4 for the smaller towns; the stillbirth-rate was 0.44 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the smaller towns being 0.51 and 0.61, and the stillbirth-rate per 1000 live and still births was 34.3.

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 12.98 per cent in 1943 compared with 6.44 per cent in 1939 and 6.8 per cent in 1938. The proportion for England and Wales before the war was 4.38 per cent in 1933, 4.31 per cent in 1934, compared with a minimum of 3.95 per cent for the period 1901-1905 and a maximum of 6.26 per cent in 1918.

Marriages.

The marriage-rate was 5.5 per 1,000 population compared with 5.8 in 1942, 6.2 in 1941, and 8.0 in 1940.

Deaths.

The crude death-rate was 18.8 per 1,000 population compared with 15.9 in 1942 and 15.4 in 1941; the death-rate in 1943 for England and Wales was 12.1 and for the smaller towns 12.7.

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 again 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 249 ; (2) Cancer 137 ; and (3) Intra-cranial vascular lesions 85, which between them are responsible for more than half the total deaths. The deaths from violent causes, other than suicide and road traffic accidents, came next and numbered 60.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 48 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 49 for England and Wales and 46 for the smaller towns ; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 43.2 and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 81.1. These rates tend to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which they are calculated ; thus the infant mortality rate for Torquay in 1942 was 27.6, the rate for legitimate infants being 29.1 and for illegitimate infants 15.4

The Maternal Mortality rate was 1.66 per 1,000 total births, the rate from puerperal infection being 1.66 ; the corresponding rates for England and Wales were 2.29 and 0.73.

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.*

Miss J. M. Martin, one of the Health Visitors, left at the end of May for a similar post in Bury St. Edmunds ; this and another vacancy from the previous year were filled by Miss E. Counihan who took up her duties in February, and by Miss G. Jones who came in September.

- (ii) (a) *Laboratory Facilities.*
- (b) *Ambulance Service.*
- (c) *Nursing in the Home.*
- (d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*
- (e) *Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.*

There have been no changes during the year.

3. *Midwifery and Maternity Services.*

- (i) *Midwives Act, 1936.*

The work under the Midwives Act has proceeded satisfactorily and without incident ; 30 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 ; during the year there were 221 domiciliary confinements.

- (ii) *Maternity Services.*
- (iii) *Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.*

The arrangements at the Torbay Hospital remained unchanged, with 2 ante-natal beds and 9 lying-in beds. In addition Hazelwood Emergency Maternity Home functioned very satisfactorily, being chiefly used for local cases owing to the diminution in the number of evacuees. The Maternity Home of the Children's Aid Society evacuated to Torquay at Morningside continued as a very efficient unit.

During the year the Ministry of Health asked that the Emergency Home at Hazelwood should be used as an ante-natal and post-natal Hostel and Maternity Home for ex-Service girls ; but owing to difficulties in combining all this work satisfactorily, because the accommodation of this house did not lend itself very easily to the proposed changes, arrangements were suggested and ultimately approved for Morningside and Hazelwood to be combined as a single unit. Under this scheme the unit is supervised by Mrs. L. Banyard, S.R.N., S.C.M., Superintendent of the Children's Aid Society Homes, and all the maternity work is carried out at Morningside while Hazelwood is an ante-natal and post-natal Hostel for ex-Service girls and for cases from the Children's Aid Society. In addition a certain number of resident mothers are admitted direct to Morningside for their confinements, although this is subject to the consent of the Senior Regional Officer as follows :—

- “(1) That the beds are not required for expectant mothers from raided areas. An expectant mother to whom this approval applies should, therefore, understand that, although her booking is accepted, her admission cannot be guaranteed since it must be dependent upon contingencies which cannot be foreseen.”

The accommodation provided is 24 ante-natal and post-natal beds, 16 cots for babies, and 14 beds for lying-in cases. The combined unit started on 1st September and has proved a most satisfactory arrangement ; the staffs concerned co-operate very well indeed, and a review of the first six months shows an excellent record of highly efficient work, 106 confinements taking place in the maternity home.

The scheme provides for the adequate care at the Hazelwood Hostel of the ex-Service and Children's Aid Society cases before and after the lying-in period, and of the resettlement of the unmarried mother and the welfare and future of the babies.

(iv) *The care of Illegitimate Children.*

Illegitimacy is an ever-present social problem which is aggravated and rendered more acute by the turmoil of war, with its concomitant dislocation and in many cases disruption of home-life and with its general upheaval of the normal life of the population ; for not only are the number of cases somewhat increased, but also the measures to deal effectively with the mothers and children suffer from the many difficulties inherent in any continuous

grave emergency. However, the problem is so urgent that in Circular 2866 Welfare Authorities were asked to formulate a Scheme to help the mother and to safeguard the child as effectively as possible under existing circumstances.

Following a report from your Medical Officer a Scheme was approved in November and came into operation on the 1st January, 1944. The Superintendent of the Torquay Church Refuge, Miss C. Dugdall, was appointed part-time social worker to whom all cases are referred ; and each case is investigated and followed-up on the lines suggested by the Circular. This covers such factors as, where required, persuading the girl to tell her parents and the grandparents to make a home for the baby ; advising the mother about accommodation before and after confinement ; assisting the girl in obtaining an affiliation order or some support from the father of the child ; assisting the girl to find employment ; helping (where the girl cannot be at home) in finding lodgings for the girl and her baby, and admission of the baby to a day-nursery ; finding a suitable foster-mother in cases where mother and baby have to be parted ; arranging about residential accommodation where there is no other alternative ; helping in legal adoption.

In addition arrangements were approved to guarantee, where this is necessary, payment to the foster-mother and recover part of the cost from the mother ; this should be a help, for the difficulties of finding suitable foster-mothers are considerable.

The Social Worker in dealing with the problems keeps in close touch with the Health Visitors ; and the Scheme started and is operating satisfactorily.

(v) *Home Helps.*

This scheme has continued under increasing difficulties, for with the growing demands of the war on woman-power it has become almost impossible to find suitable women to act in this capacity.

(vi) *Health Visitors and Infant Welfare Centres.*

The Health Visitors have continued to carry out a large amount of most creditable work ; for in addition to their normal duties they have with considerable success given special attention to diphtheria immunisation, to the eradication of verminous conditions, to the increased problems of illegitimacy and of the adoption of children.

Owing to damage by enemy action at the end of May, St. Marychurch Parish Hall was not available for the St. Marychurch and Babbacombe Infant Welfare Centre ; but alternative accommodation was fortunately obtained, by courtesy of the Trustees, at Furrough Cross Schoolroom which some years ago was the original site of this centre. The work has thus been satisfactorily maintained in that part of the town.

(vii) *Verminous Conditions and Uncleanliness.*

In July Circular 2831 asked that special consideration should be given, and appropriate action taken, to combat the increase in verminous conditions in mothers and children. In this connexion the routine measures already in operation were amplified and intensified ; the Health Visitors knew most of the families usually affected and in this they were helped by their association with the School Medical Service, but steps were taken to keep a list of these and any other cases in each district so that the ascertainment is kept as complete as possible. Assistance in the necessary details of cleansing is given, if necessary by actually showing the mothers at a Clinic, and lethane hair oil provided. The special metal combs have fortunately been obtained and are now sold or lent as required ; in cases of loan the mother pays a deposit which is refunded when the comb is returned, a measure which has done much to stop the previously too frequent loss of these articles.

Ascertainment and cleansing are not enough and must be followed up by repeated home visits, for relapses occur with monotonous frequency in certain families ; and that is the crux of the problem, because verminous conditions really form an index of the number of unsatisfactory homes. And it needs constant admonition and encouragement, regular and repeated visits, individual advice again and again, not merely about infestation with lice but also on the larger matters of a hygienic way of life and—that most difficult of all achievements—of the creation of a good home with orderly routine and methodical management.

The problem is fortunately not large in a town like Torquay, although as a crowded reception area there was an inevitable increase in these regrettable conditions ; but a permanent cure will require much time. Meanwhile the ceaseless warfare against uncleanliness will be carried on with constant vigilance, steadfast purpose and continuing zeal. And if “perfection is attained by slow degrees” there is some encouragement in that proverb of the East : “By patience and perseverance and a bottle of sweet oil, the snail at length reaches Jerusalem.”

(viii) *Child Life Protection.*

There is nothing exceptional to report.

(ix) *Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.*

The provisions of this act came into operation on 1st June, 1943, and are intended to regulate the making of arrangements by adoption societies and other persons in connexion with the adoption of children, to restrict the making and receipt of payments, and to provide in certain cases for the supervision by Welfare Authorities of adopted children. Torquay is not a Registration Authority, but as a Welfare Authority the measures outlined in Circular 2790 were taken, the Child Protection Visitors carrying out the necessary supervision of those children concerning whom notification is received.

During the part of the year under review the following are the details :—

- (a) Number of persons who gave notice under Section 7 (3) during the year.....7.
- (b) Total number of children "adopted" under the Section during the year.....5.
- (c) Number of such children :—
 - (i) under supervision at the end of the year, 2.
 - (ii) who died during the year, nil.
 - (iii) on whom inquests were held during the year, nil.
- (d) Particulars of any proceedings taken during the year, nil.

(x) *Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, etc., cases.*

These arrangements are unchanged.

(xi) *War-time Day Nurseries.*

Two war-time Day Nurseries continued in operation, a part-time nursery at Chelston Woodhayes with accommodation for 24 children aged 2-5 years, and a full-time nursery at Hillside for 35 children from 0-5 years whose mothers are in work of national importance.

The part-time nursery at Cintra was discontinued in February, owing to the need no longer existing.

(xii) *Nursery Units.*

The Unit under Circular 2515 was continued.

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

In connexion with the scheme for the distribution of vitamins administered by the Ministry of Food, the assistance outlined previously was continued.

4. *Nursing Homes.*

There is nothing to report.

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 a number of details :—

“The available yield of the two Corporation Watersheds at Tottiford and Fenworthy is 4,570,000 gallons per day. The 1943 consumption was 3,115,000 gallons per day.

“The quality of the water is very good, being drawn from catchment areas upon which there is no habitation, and it is filtered and chlorinated.

“The hardness is 5.7 degrees and the chemical and bacteriological analyses are both satisfactory.

“The water has no plumbo-solvent action ; sufficient lime is used to maintain the pH value of 8.0.”

The supply is constant. Practically the whole of the houses in the district have separate supplies laid on ; but there is a small number of houses supplied by standpipes, the proportion of houses being 1.25 per cent of the total, and the proportion of population thus supplied being 1.5 per cent of the total.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

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

“There have been no extensions to the sewerage system during the past year, but a number of farms and cottages in Edginswell Village and also four cottages at Longpark have been disconnected from the original sewers serving these areas which discharged into adjoining streams. Arrangements have been made for the sewage from these properties to be connected to the Borough sewerage system.

“There has been no conversion of any conservancy system.”

(iii) *Public Cleansing.*

“There have been no alterations in the arrangements for Public Cleansing.”

(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	...	...	...	496	8
Aluminium	...	...	...	—	14
Brass	...	...	...	2	1½
Copper	...	...	...	—	8
Lead	...	...	...	1	19
Pewter	...	...	...	—	½
Zinc...	...	...	...	—	11
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	88	6
Tins	...	...	...	22	18
Rags	...	...	...	22	17
Woollens	...	...	...	—	8
Carpets	...	...	...	3	2½
Sacking	...	...	...	3	16
String	...	...	...	1	15½
Bones	...	...	...	29	7¾
Rubber	...	...	...	14	10
Kitchen Waste :					
Collected by Corporation	...	...	...	995	5
Collected by Pig-keepers	...	...	...	630	2
Sold	...	...	...	2128	9
Bottles	...	...	...	4104 doz.	
Hats :—					
Men's	531				
Women's	1660				

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The inspection of all districts in the Borough has been very efficiently carried out during the year under your Senior Sanitary Inspector who gives the subjoined tables showing the scope of the work. Considerable attention has been devoted to the inspection of food and milk, the purity and wholesomeness of which are of vital importance at all times ; although it has perhaps taken the restrictions and conditions of this war to make such an obvious fact more fully realised and appreciated.

<i>Dwelling Houses.</i>	<i>No. inspected.</i>	<i>Visits.</i>
Under Public Health Acts	664	1861
Under Housing Acts	155	191
Overcrowding	2	3
Verminous Premises	169	222
Rats and Mice	340	443
Infectious Diseases	43	55

<i>General Public Health.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>
Drains and sewers :	
Inspected	678
Tests applied	138
Cesspools	30
Urinals and Latrines	3
Stables	35
Piggeries	37
Ditches and Streams	18
Open Spaces	85
Yards	134
Public Conveniences	97
Tents, Vans and Sheds	—
Work Places	102
Common Lodging Houses	1
Smoke Observations	2
Cinemas, Dance Halls	6
Markets	50
Shops—Shop Act	12
Offensive Trades	14
Marine Stores	2
Schools	62

<i>Water</i>				<i>Inspections.</i>
Water Supply : visits	....	....	....	66
samples	....	....	....	51
Swimming Bath: visits	....	....	....	22
samples	....	....	....	40

<i>Meat and Food.</i>					<i>Inspections.</i>
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	....	....	....	....	710
Cooked Meats	....	....	....	....	26
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	654
Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	287
Dairies : visits	....	....	....	....	394
samples	....	....	....	....	449
sediment tests	....	....	....	....	51
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	59
Hotels	....	....	....	....	119
Ice-cream Premises	....	....	....	....	9
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	230
Fish Quay	....	....	....	....	150
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	391
Restaurants	....	....	....	....	124
Other Premises	....	....	....	....	505

<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					<i>Visits.</i>
Decontamination of Food	....	....	....	....	658
Evacuation Scheme	....	....	....	....	815
Food Control	....	....	....	....	736
Other Duties	...	...	...	...	2284

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	238	190	138	31	1	—	377	221
Housing Act	2	2	5	5	—	—	7	7
Factory Act	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1

Measures against Rodents.

In order to deal with the number of premises infested with rats, the temporary appointment was continued of a whole-time rodent operative to work under Senior Sanitary Inspector who reports :—

“ He has been found to be an enthusiastic worker and his efforts have been greatly appreciated during the year. He has made some 1,770 visits to premises, nurseries, open spaces and field banks. 8,033 baits have been laid by him and some 349 rats have been caught.

“ Considerable success was obtained during a dry weather spell at one business premises where conditions were suitable and special liquid poison (as advised by the Medical Officer) was used ; 60 rats were killed during one night.

“ Your Senior Sanitary Inspector attended the Ministry of Food Course in rodent repression held at Exeter. This was most instructive and new methods were explained and demonstrated. Later the rat catcher attended a similar course at Plymouth.

“ The suggested methods have since been used and found effective. A report and survey map were prepared on the instruction of the Ministry of Food and forwarded to them. From the surveys the County has been divided into workable areas, that for this area covering Torquay Borough, Paignton U.D.C., Brixham U.D.C., Newton Abbot U.D.C., Newton Abbot R.D.C., Ashburton U.D.C., Buckfastleigh U.D.C., Totnes Borough, Totnes U.D.C., Dartmouth Borough, Kingsbridge U.D.C., Kingsbridge R.D.C. and Salcombe U.D.C.

“ Co-operation has been obtained with the Great Western Railway in connexion with railway embankments and also the local Rodent Officer of the Ministry of Food.”

SECTION D.

HOUSING

There is nothing exceptional to record in this interim Report.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) *Milk Supply.*(ii) *Producers in the Borough.*

The use of unregistered premises as a cowshed was found, and subsequent inspection revealed not only that the premises were quite unsuitable, but also that there were a number of contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order. Proceedings were instituted and a conviction obtained with fines. Subsequently the producer discontinued business and left the town.

It is regrettable that even in war-time attempts should be made to produce milk under such deplorable conditions.

(iii) *Dairies.*

Two cases were discovered of delivery men from dairies bottling milk on their round ; this is a disgraceful practice as dirty bottles are used and on health grounds it cannot be too strongly condemned. Proceedings were instituted, and convictions with fines were obtained in both cases.

(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 122 samples were submitted for examination ; 97 were samples of non-designated milk of which 53 passed and 44 failed, 16 were samples of accredited milk of which 10 passed and 6 failed, 8 were samples of pasteurised milk of which 5 passed and 3 failed and one tuberculin tested sample passed.

Four samples were examined for tuberculosis and all proved negative.

(v) *National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.*

In connexion with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, your Senior Sanitary Inspector arranged to co-operate in this by having samples taken for the ten minutes resazurin test, which is intended as a platform rejection test for detecting milk of poor keeping quality. This reaction depends on the reduction of a dye of a definite standard when a specified amount is incubated for ten minutes with a certain amount of the milk, the resulting colour being then matched in a comparator; according to the result obtained, the milk is graded into three groups, (a) accepted; (b) salvaged if possible, otherwise rejected; (c) rejected.

Beginning early in June, samples from certain dairies were submitted to the testing laboratory; and the results showed that out of 191 samples, 80 were accepted, 42 were classed for salvage if possible, otherwise rejected, and 69 were rejected.

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

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)	1855	888	1868	13292	158
Number inspected	1855	888	1868	13292	158
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	3	18	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	411	294	15	1601	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.2	33.6	0.97	12.2	12.7
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	11	1	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	40	160	4	—	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	2.5	19.2	0.3	—	12.6

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

					<i>No. of Articles.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Other Food condemned included :—						
Bacon and Cooked Meat	...	...	...	...	41	333
Eggs	...	...	...	...	98	—
Flour	...	...	...	...	380	728
Fish (boxes)	...	...	...	...	5	142
Fats	...	...	...	...	61	459
Sausages (case)	...	...	...	...	1	24
Cereals	...	...	...	...	88	1237
Biscuits (packets)	...	...	...	...	10	37
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	711	164
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	14	247
Cheese	...	...	...	...	18	228
Sugar	...	...	...	...	5	24
Tea	...	...	...	...	47	128
Peas and Lentils	...	...	...	...	7	333
Coffee	...	...	...	...	5	146
Chocolate and Sweets	...	...	...	...	134	92
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	121	2164
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	3	13
Fruit	...	...	...	...	4	732
Cordials (bottles)	...	...	...	...	78	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	240	179
Tinned goods :						
Fruit	...	...	...	...	426	1001
Jam	...	...	...	...	514	621
Fish	...	...	...	...	459	432
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	649	706
Meat, Brawn, etc.	...	...	...	...	566	1998
Milk	...	...	...	...	454	400
Soup	...	...	...	...	113	91

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

The work under this Act has been continued, your Senior Sanitary Inspector acting as Sampling Officer, and the following is the record of samples taken :—

				<i>Formal</i>		<i>Informal</i>	
				<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>
Milk	...	...	...	34	1	17	2
Butter	...	...	...	—	—	8	—
Margarine	...	...	...	—	—	4	—
Lard	...	...	...	—	—	5	—
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	5	4	5	3
Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Acetic Acid for fortifying	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	—	—	4	3
Pepper	...	...	...	—	—	1	—

			<i>Formal</i>		<i>Informal</i>	
			<i>No. of</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Not</i>
			<i>Samples</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Samples</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
Curry Powder	...	...	—	—	1	—
Macaroni	...	...	...	—	1	—
Rice	...	...	—	—	1	—
Beef sausage	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pork sausage	...	...	—	—	1	—
Brawn	...	...	—	—	1	—
Beef aspic jelly	...	...	—	—	1	—
Beef and Potato pie	...	...	—	—	1	—
Real Egg Self Raising Flour	...	...	—	—	2	—
Gelatine	...	...	—	—	1	—
Coffee extract	...	...	—	—	1	—
Aspirin Tablets	...	...	—	—	1	—
Bronchial Mixture	...	...	—	—	1	—
Whisky	...	...	—	—	6	1

The formal samples not genuine were as follows :—

Sample of Milk was found to be deficient in fat to extent of 29% ; proceedings were instituted and a conviction was obtained with a fine of £1.

Vinegar Sample was found to be deficient in acetic acid to the extent of 14%. In this case a letter of warning was sent by the Authority to the Vendor.

A number of other vinegar samples were taken in connexion with two samples, and showed a deficiency of acetic acid varying from 49% to 20% of the proper proportions. Proceedings were instituted against both the retailer and wholesaler. The charge against the retailer was dismissed on payment of 4/- costs and he was warned by the Magistrates that if he pleaded warranty he must produce a written warranty. In the case of the wholesaler the case was found proved on a standard of 4% of acetic acid and the defendants were fined £6 with costs of 3 guineas.

The informal samples not genuine were as follows :—

Two informal milk samples showed 6% added water and 18% deficiency in fat. Formal samples were taken together with samples on delivery and during transit ; these were found to be genuine.

Sample of whisky was found to be containing 5% added water. This sample was informal and when in the new year a formal sample was taken, it was found to be genuine.

A sample of real egg self-raising flour was sent for examination, but was found to have deteriorated and to be infested with mite. The remaining stock was examined and found satisfactory. A subsequent sample from new stock was found to be genuine.

(d) *Food Control.*

Throughout the year your Senior Sanitary Inspector has continued to act as Food Enforcement Inspector and your District Sanitary Inspectors as District Food Enforcement Inspectors, 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.

Strict personal cleanliness among staff and a high standard of hygienic conditions in the premises must be maintained ; and knowing the frailty of human memory and the ease with which good intentions unconsciously tend to lapse, it is most essential to reiterate these obvious but often sadly neglected facts.

SECTION F.

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

1. *Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).*

The incidence of infectious disease for the 52 weeks ending 1st January, 1944, is given in the subjoined table which also includes the number of cases admitted to hospital and the number of deaths.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	74	69	—
Diphtheria	24	24	1
Measles	157	28	1
Whooping Cough	47	7	—
Enteric Fevers	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—
Pneumonia	30	1	34
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—

There is nothing of exceptional interest upon which it is necessary to comment. The case-rate for diphtheria was 0.53 per 1,000 population compared with 0.88 for England and Wales and 0.77 for the smaller towns; the case-rate for scarlet fever was 1.6 per 1,000 population compared with 3.01 for England and Wales and 3.54 for the smaller towns.

Immunisation.

The attendances at the diphtheria immunisation clinic have been satisfactorily maintained and during the year 472 pre-school children and 433 school children were immunised; residential Homes, Schools and Nurseries were also kept immunised. As a result of the intensive effort made by the Health Visitors there has been a gratifying response in the regular steady flow of children as they reach the age of one year attending for immunisation; at the end of the year it was estimated that 72% of pre-school children and 68% of school children had been immunised.

Scabies.

The arrangements for treatment previously outlined have continued and have proved adequate.

2. Isolation Hospital Treatment.

The number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital is shown in the following table:—

<i>Cases admitted.</i>				
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	108
Diphtheria	...	...	...	24
Enteric Fevers	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	33
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	9
Rubella	...	...	...	33
Mumps	...	...	...	18
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	1
Acute polio-myelitis	...	...	...	1
For observation	...	...	...	40
Other Causes	...	...	...	36
				316

3. Tuberculosis.

Particulars of any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

No action was required.

4. *Tuberculosis.**New cases and mortality during 1943.*

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1943 are given in the following table:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
15 to 25 years	7	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	7	8	1	2	7	2	—	—
35 to 45 years	2	—	—	2	3	1	—	1
45 to 55 years	6	—	1	2	2	2	—	1
55 to 65 years	2	4	—	—	4	1	—	—
65 and over	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	1
TOTALS	24	18	5	6	18	8	1	3

SECTION G.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This section is not being published, a minimum number of copies having been produced 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.

The general routine of this section, the work of the official Helpers, the hostel, and the medical arrangements for evacuees, described in previous reports, have been satisfactorily maintained ; although the ebb of evacuation continued even more swiftly than during the previous year, especially among the unaccompanied school children.

2. *Civil Defence.*

These arrangements have been continued on the lines indicated in previous reports.

In connexion with food decontamination your Senior Sanitary Inspector as Gas Decontamination Officer (Food) continued the classes of instruction to the tradespeople and other volunteers of whom 70 have been trained for this service ; and that he was able to obtain efficiency and maintain enthusiasm was amply proved by the successful practical demonstration, when mustard gas was used, which was held in June. In conjunction with the Ministry of Food the Local Authorities of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham arranged this for the benefit of Food Decontamination Officers in Devon and Cornwall ; and a Government Chemical Defence Experimental Station contaminated the foodstuffs and assessed the efficiency of the method of decontamination as carried out by the local personnel.

The foodstuffs contaminated were butter, cheese, tinned foods, flour, tea, salt, grain, potatoes, greens, dried fruits and bread ; these were treated according to a pre-arranged plan and inspected by the Food Decontamination Officers and the Gas Identification Officers to ascertain the type and extent of contamination. Subsequently the decontamination squads under the Food Decontamination Officer and his assistants carried out the necessary treatment applicable to the articles concerned ; and samples of the decontaminated foodstuffs were tested for residual mustard gas by chemical and physiological methods, which revealed that decontamination had been quite successful with the exception of tea.

The conclusions recorded that the decontamination was outstanding in showing, as was mentioned in the previous annual report, what could be done in the matter of improvisation of tools and apparatus, at which your Senior Sanitary Inspector is particularly skilful and adept ; the use of women for this work proved successful ; the work of the Identification Officers was good and efficient ; and the freedom from burns among the operatives showed that if reasonable precautions are taken there is no need for casualties. It was a good demonstration and reflects great credit on all concerned.

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