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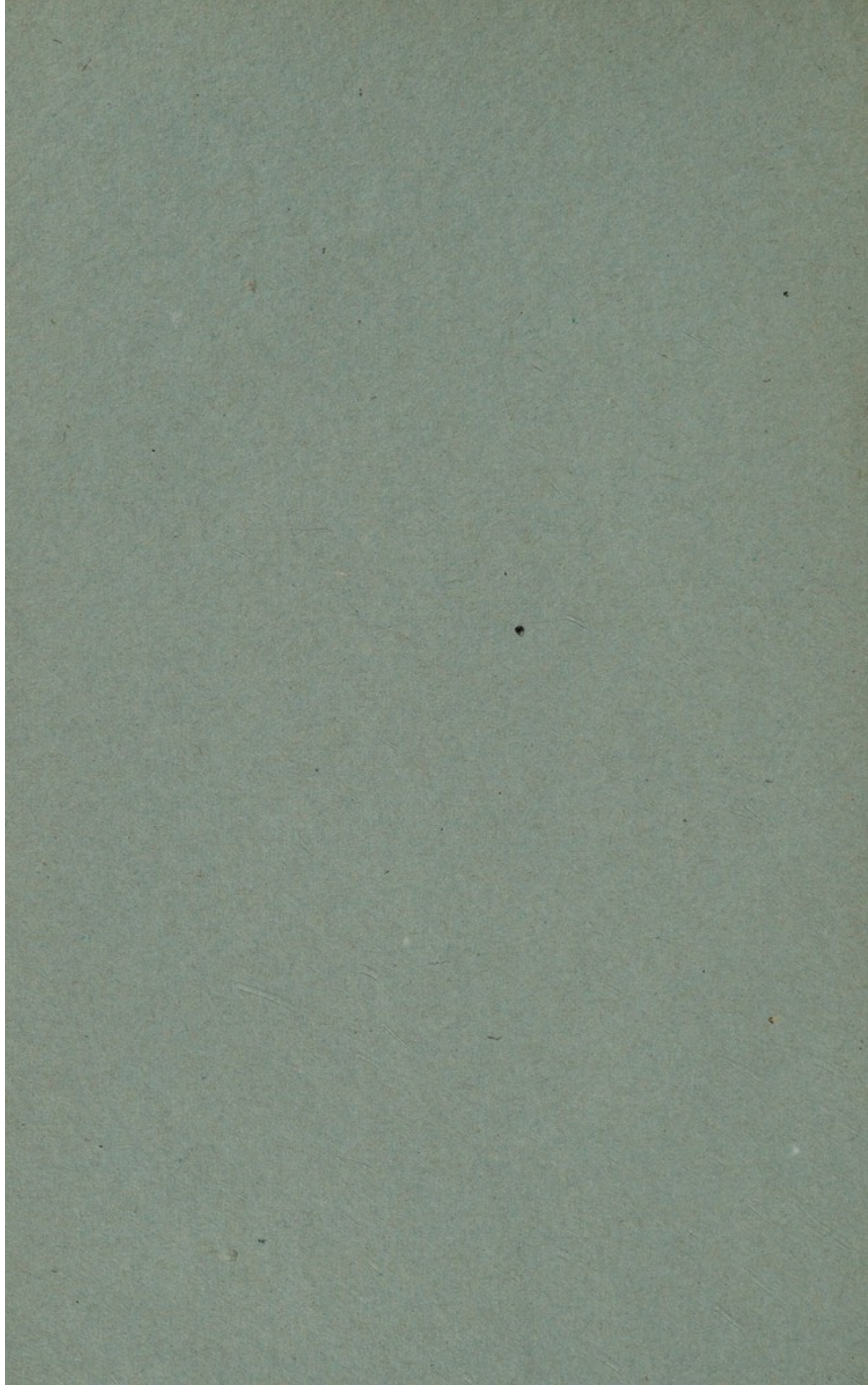
BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1945





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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, MRS. COUNCILLOR PRICE, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit an Interim Annual Report for 1945, in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health : as in the war years, much of the customary detailed information is omitted from certain of the sections.

With the end of hostilities there came an immediate release from civil defence commitments, and a more gradual, if no less welcome, relief from the turmoil of evacuation. The harass and anxiety of billeting can never be described or recorded, with its constant interminable difficulties and problems, which no amount of human patience and effort seem capable of solving. The general work of the department and the extraneous duties were carried out with thoroughness and efficiency, and there is fortunately nothing of outstanding significance in the records for the year ; but the public health will rest on surer foundations when the housing, food, and other shortages are overcome and when normal conditions are more universally restored. Nature herself never works with minimal standards.

For some time the inadequacy of maternity accommodation has become increasingly acute, and towards the end of the war steps were initiated to make provision for more lying-in beds. It is an axiom, and it ought to be a self-evident truth, that the staff is the most important part of any institution ; but this does not seem appreciated. The public may demand additional hospitals, maternity homes, and other facilities, but unless from the ranks of the same public a sufficient number is forthcoming of nurses, midwives, domestic, and other staff, inspired with true vocational zeal, there is no prospect whatever of providing or of maintaining what is required. On the contrary, in many existing hospitals it has been necessary to restrict admissions, or even to close wards, owing to shortage of staff ; and such things ought not to be.

On 1st April Torquay ceased to be an Education Authority, and the school medical service was transferred to the Devon County Council : and this is but the forerunner of other, and possibly far-reaching, changes already taking shape which will radically affect the health and hospital services of the area. Changes are perhaps inevitable,

"Yet I doubt not thro' the ages one increasing purpose runs
And the thoughts of men are widen'd with the process of the suns."

And with the amazing advances of research and the widening of scientific knowledge, there are now unique opportunities to plan wisely for the further prevention of disease and for the successful conquest of many forms of illness. To this end all branches of Medicine have from the beginning been dedicated and will travel ever more hopefully as progress evolves.

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 full credit for the results achieved : their hard work and untiring perseverance have successfully met routine duties and emergency measures alike in a way which has been magnificent.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

STAFF

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health, 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 County 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.

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

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

Pathologist and Bacteriologist.

*J. T. QUINLAN, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., N.U.I.

(b) Dental

Dental Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare.

N. HARRIS, 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 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.

(d) Sanitary

Senior Sanitary Inspector, and Billeting Officer.

M. G. CROOK, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H., Cert. 1st Cl. Lab. Technique, Smithfield Tech. Inst., Instructor's Cert., C.A.G.S.

District Sanitary Inspectors, and Billeting Officers.

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

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

J. F. H. SMITH, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Dip.

R.I.P.H.H., Cert. Lab. Technique, Exeter.

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

Dip. (Hons.) R.I.P.H.H.

§R. S. DAVEY, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

(e) Other

Public Analyst.

*T. TICKLE, B.SC., F.I.O.

Clerks.

W. H. NICKELS.

MRS. V. J. KNAPMAN.

‡P. H. BURGE, C.S.I.B.,

§MRS. P. M. EDWARDS.

Cert. Insp. Meat and

§MISS I. M. WILTSHIRE.

Food R.S.I., Cert. San.

§MISS L. M. HARRIS.

Sc. R.S.I., Cert. Inst.

§MISS A. M. MOXHAY.

San. Engineers.

§MISS J. E. WHITE.

‡W. D. WHITE.

*§MRS. E. OLDREY.

(Sanitary Inspectors.)

§J. MARTIN.

(Maternity and Child Welfare.)

Miss K. HUDSON.

Assistants to Sanitary Inspectors.

E. D. TUCKER.

§M. L. WHITE.

Senior Ambulance Attendant.

J. R. WICKINS.

Rodent Operatives.

§L. R. SCANT.

§E. BECK.

Ambulance Attendants.

F. BACKWELL.

G. HARE.

§L. SOPER.

§W. E. BRANDRETH.

§R. E. C. JAMES.

‡ On Active Service.

* Part Time.

† Also School Nurse.

§ Temporary.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1945	46,900
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	13,103
Rateable value (end of 1945)	£535,100
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1945) ..	£2,156

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; but it is now permissible to refer to the amount of unemployment. The following figures, kindly supplied by the Manager of the Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange, show the extent of unemployment for July, 1941, for January, 1942 (the last figures published), and for the end of 1945.

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
July, 1941 ..	140	194	105	90	529
January, 1942	113	118	29	30	290
End of 1945 ..	101	38	3	6	148

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1945,
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	15.03
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	34.25
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	16.35

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	0.00
No. 30 Other maternal causes	0.00
Total	0.00

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

All infants per 1,000 live births	35.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	32.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	131
„ Measles (all ages)	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0

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

During the year there has been nothing to report.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1945 is 46,900; and this figure is used in calculating the marriage-rate, birth-rate, death-rate and other statistical returns. The population at the last census in 1931 was 46,352.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 705, of which 382 were male and 323 female; there were 583 legitimate and 122 illegitimate births. There were 25 still-births, 18 legitimate and 7 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 15.0 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.1 for England and Wales and 19.2 for the smaller towns; the still birth-rate was 0.53 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the smaller towns being 0.46 and 0.53. The still birth-rate per 1,000 live and still births was 34.25.

(The smaller towns comprise 148 towns, with a resident population between 25,000 and 50,000 at the 1931 census, and include Torquay).

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 17.7 per cent in 1945; this figure has risen from 6.44 per cent in 1939, 8.5 per cent in 1940, 11.8 per cent in 1941, 10.8 per cent in 1942, 12.9 per cent in 1943, 15.0 per cent in 1944, to 17.7 per cent in 1945, and the progressive increase is its own sad commentary on regrettable changing conditions. The proportion of illegitimate births before the war in England and Wales was 4.31 per cent in 1933, 4.31 in 1934, compared with a maximum of 6.26 per cent in 1918 and with a minimum of 3.95 per cent for the period 1901-1905.

Marriages.

The marriage-rate was 7.1 per 1,000 population compared with 5.7 in 1944, 5.5 in 1943, 5.8 in 1942, 6.2 in 1941, and 8.0 in 1940.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 767, of which 342 were males and 425 were females.

The crude death-rate was 16.4 per 1,000 population compared with 17.8 in 1944; the death-rate in 1945 for England and Wales was 11.4, and for the smaller towns 12.3.

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 258; (2) Cancer 131; and (3) Intra-cranial vascular lesions 105; which between them are responsible for nearly two-thirds of the total deaths.

The causes of death are given in the accompanying table, supplied by the Registrar-General.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 35.5 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 46 for England and Wales and 43 for the smaller towns; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 36.0, and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 32.8. The infant mortality rate in Torquay tends to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which it is calculated: thus the figures for the preceding five years, 1940-44 inclusive, were 37, 50, 28, 48, 42, with an average of 41.

There was no maternal death during the year, the maternal mortality rate being 0.00 per 1,000 total births: this mortality rate also fluctuates considerably on account of the small numbers, and for the five years 1940-44 was 1.61, 3.32, 3.32, 1.66, 2.61, with an average of 2.5 per 1,000 total births. The rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 1.79, and in 1944 it was 1.93.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1945						Males	Females
All Causes						342	425
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	....	....	....	....	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	....	....	....	....	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	21	8
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	3	3
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	....	....	....	....	2	1
9.	Influenza	....	....	....	....	—	4
10.	Measles	....	....	....	....	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	....	....	....	....	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	....	....	....	....	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and	....	....	....	....	5	—
	Oesophagus (Males only)	....	....	....	....	—	7
	Cancer of Uterus (Females)	....	....	....	....	—	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	....	16	12
15.	Cancer of Breast	....	....	....	....	—	22
16.	Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	....	29	40
17.	Diabetes	....	....	....	....	—	2
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	....	....	....	....	37	68
19.	Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	103	155
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	....	....	....	....	10	9
21.	Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	18	11
22.	Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	16	12
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	....	5	9
24.	Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	....	....	....	....	4	2
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	....	....	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	....	....	....	....	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	....	4	5
28.	Nephritis	....	....	....	....	14	13
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	....	....	....	....	—	—
30.	Other Maternal causes	....	....	....	....	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	....	....	....	....	5	3
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury,	....	....	....	....	—	—
	Infantile Disease	....	....	....	....	7	1
33.	Suicide	....	....	....	....	1	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	....	....	....	....	2	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	....	....	....	....	2	6
36.	All other Causes	....	....	....	....	37	31
Death of Infants under 1 year							
{ Total						18	7
{ Legitimate						15	6
{ Illegitimate						3	1
Still births							
{ Total						15	10
{ Legitimate						12	6
{ Illegitimate						3	4

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.*

When the Education Act came into force on 1st April, 1945, your Medical Officer, after twenty-one years' service in school medical work in Torquay, ceased to be School Medical Officer; the deputy Medical Officer of Health became, in addition, assistant County Medical Officer, and carries out the school medical work in the borough, being responsible, so far as this is concerned, directly to the County Medical Officer. The Dental Officer, who was on active service until 1st September, was transferred to the County Staff, and Miss J. M. Ripley, Acting Dental Officer, resigned on 31st March: but the dental staff continue to undertake the necessary work in connexion with Maternity and Child Welfare.

Miss M. L. Banyard, Health Visitor, resigned on 30th September to take up a post in London, and as she had been appointed as an additional Health Visitor, necessitated by evacuation during the war, no replacement was required. Miss E. Counihan, Health Visitor, resigned on 31st December to go to Heston and Isleworth, and Miss J. M. Wallace from that area was appointed to Torquay as from 1st January, 1946. Mrs. P. Partridge left on 31st December on giving up employment to set up house, and the vacancy was not filled until early in 1946.

One of the Health Visitors had been responsible for carrying out some duties (equivalent to half a school nurse) in connexion with the School Medical Service. But it was mutually agreed between the County Council and the Borough that as soon as a full Health Visitor staff was available, the Health Visitors and School Nurses would be combined, and each of the four nurses be responsible for an area of the town; such co-ordination would materially assist the general work of both branches of work and avoid overlapping of visits.

After service in H.M. Forces, Mr. W. H. Nickels, Chief Clerk, returned in August, and Mr. G. J. Loveless, District Sanitary Inspector, 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; 27 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 274 domiciliary confinements.

(ii) *Maternity Services.*

(iii) *Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.*

The arrangements at the Torbay Hospital remain unchanged, with 2 ante-natal and 9 lying-in beds.

The combined scheme of the Hazelwood-Morningside unit, described in a previous Report, has continued to function in a very efficient and creditable way, with an excellent record of work. Under this arrangement the unit was 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 sent by the Ministry of Health and for cases from the Children's Aid Society.

Furthermore, the section of Kilmore which was added to the maternity unit in August, 1944, continued to function until the end of May, when it was closed owing to the needs of evacuation no longer existing. On account of the recall of staff in September from the Anchorage Maternity Home evacuated to Morningside, it was not possible to admit any more resident cases, an arrangement which had been in operation in the war years.

Throughout the emergency some 312 Torquay mothers have been confined in this unit, and it is opportune to acknowledge with very much gratitude the facilities which have been available to our resident cases: to the staff concerned, who undertook this considerable extra hard work both voluntarily and willingly, is due the greatest credit for and appreciation of their war record, unsurpassed in quiet efficiency and ungrudging service.

During the year there were 942 births notified (nearly double the pre-war number), and the confinements took place as follows:

	<i>Residents.</i>	<i>Non-Residents.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Torbay Hospital Maternity Ward ..	146	77	223
Hazelwood-Morningside Unit ..	129	106	235
County Maternity Homes	16	—	16
Torbay Hospital Private Wards ..	27	10	37
Private Nursing Homes	125	32	157
At home by Queen's Institute of District Nursing	222	52	274
	665	277	942

In connexion with the provision of maternity accommodation after the war, it is evident that there will be a need for a substantial increase compared with the 9 beds in the Torbay Hospital, which was the provision before the war; to these beds cases are admitted from the adjacent County area in addition to Torquay mothers. And in February your Medical Officer submitted a detailed report on post-war maternity requirements. It was recommended that the Borough requirements should be considered conjointly with the County Council scheme for neighbouring areas, so as to avoid overlapping and to ensure that larger, more efficient and more economical units are provided. This is extremely important, for with institutional maternity work there are definite risks: and, indeed, the report of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists states:

“We wish to make it clear that we regard institutional midwifery as safe only if the hospital is one in which the clinical work and the midwifery and nursing administration and discipline are of the highest possible standard. The chief risk in hospital midwifery is the spread of infection from patient to patient, affecting babies as well as mothers. This risk can be reduced almost to vanishing point by modern nursing and other technique.”

The area of Devon, including and around Torquay, would justify the establishment of what has been called a divisional or district obstetric centre large enough to provide the accommodation of 40 to 50 lying-in and ante-natal beds, a child health section with a paediatrician and probably a training school for midwives. And your Medical Officer recommended that this could be achieved by utilising the existing Isolation Hospital in Torquay, with its modern operating theatre, cubicle block, and other necessary facilities; further, it was recommended that the principle be approved of Torquay co-operating with other Authorities in a new joint Isolation Hospital for the area. These recommendations were approved by the Corporation of Torquay and subsequently by the Devon County Council; and it is interesting to observe that the Hospital Survey report issued early in 1946 pointed out that the Torquay District Hospital should have an Isolation Hospital unit of 100 beds, and of the suggestion to use the Torquay Isolation Hospital for the new maternity centre, the survey states: “This seems to be a satisfactory proposal.”

Unfortunately, the neighbouring smaller Authorities, at a meeting in July, were opposed to any joint arrangement for isolation accommodation, and in consequence the scheme was temporarily obstructed. And to meet the new situation a further report was made by your Medical Officer recommending that the original proposals should be adhered to as the permanent scheme, but that until this could be implemented the houses of Shrublands and Blagdon

(bought before the war as a prospective Health Centre) should be converted, as a temporary measure only, into a maternity home of 12 beds. This was approved, and plans were speedily prepared; and the work of making the necessary alterations was started early in 1946.

(iv) *Sheets for Expectant Mothers.*

In connexion with Circular 154/44, the issue was started of priority dockets for sheets for expectant mothers. It was felt that shortage of sheets has sometimes been an inducement to women to seek institutional confinement, and midwives were hampered by lack of this necessary provision. Women holding R.B.2 expectant mother's ration books are eligible to purchase utility sheets on priority dockets if the midwife booked for the case certifies that the mother is genuinely in need of additional sheets. The issue is normally for 2 sheets, but no mother can receive more than 3 sheets.

The dockets were first received on 30th November, 1944, and during the remainder of that year 4 mothers were issued with dockets for 9 sheets; in 1945, 125 mothers received dockets for 272 sheets. Quarterly returns are made to the Priority Officer showing how the dockets have been issued.

(v) *Care of Premature Infants.*

The arrangements previously detailed are unchanged. During the year the number of babies notified who weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less was 50, and of these 37 were born in hospital and 13 at home. The number of those born at home who were nursed entirely at home were 12, of which 4 died during the first 24 hours, and 2 more during the first month; of those born in hospital, 5 died during the first 24 hours and 1 more during the first month.

(vi) *The Care of Illegitimate Children.*

The scheme for the care of illegitimate children has continued to operate satisfactorily but perhaps under increasing difficulties; for the high rate of illegitimacy has now been maintained for a number of years, which does not make the solution easier of the many problems involved. The cases referred to the social worker numbered 94.

(vii) *Home Helps.*

This scheme has continued but is severely handicapped by the apparent impossibility of finding suitable women to act in this capacity. It is perhaps indicative of the present lack of appreciation of true values that women, while eager for other forms of work, are so reluctant (or unable) to undertake that competent home management which should be the service at which they alone can excel, and one which is never more needed than at the present time.

(viii) *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, and to many of the difficulties of evacuation.

The visits to mothers and children during the year numbered 5,050.

(ix) *Verminous Conditions and Uncleanliness.*

The measures described last year following Circular 2831 have been diligently continued ; and there is nothing to comment upon except to emphasize once again the close connexion between this problem and unsatisfactory careless homes.

(x) *Child Life Protection.*

There is nothing exceptional to report.

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

The supervision by the Child Protection Visitors of these cases has continued, and during the year the number notified was 16, and the number of children adopted was 16.

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

These arrangements are unchanged.

(xiii) *War-time Day Nurseries.*

The full-time nursery was continued at Hillside for 35 children from 0-5 years whose mothers are in work of national importance as certified by the Ministry of Labour.

(xiv) *Nursery Units.*

The Unit under Circular 2515 was discontinued in February, and the babies were returned to Bristol and Plymouth, which were no longer evacuation areas.

(xv) *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.*

In this report very full details are requested in connexion with the water supply, and the Borough Water Engineer, Mr. R. V. Toms, has kindly supplied some of the information.

(i) *Whether the water supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality; (b) in quantity.*

The water supply has been maintained throughout the area of supply at a high standard of quality and ample quantity.

(ii) *Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses.*

Bacterial and chemical examinations have been made of both raw and treated water. The water is treated at the Watershed with lime to maintain approximately a pH 8.0; it is filtered and treated with chlorine to obtain a residual of 0.5 parts per million.

Comprehensive analyses of the raw water numbered 2, bacteriological and chemical, as follows:

REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
LONDON, E.C. 4.

1. SAMPLE 10.4.45. TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR (UNTREATED).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance.—Very faint opalescence—particles of mineral and organic debris. Turbidity: less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour Yellow-brown, Hazen	20	Odour	.. .. .	Nil	
Reaction pH Neutral	..	6.4	Free Carbonic Acid	..	0.3
Electric conductivity at 20°	.. .. .	8.0	Total solids, dried at 180° C	..	7.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	1.3	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	.. .. .	0.5
Hardness : Total	..	2.0	{ Carbonate temporary 0.5	{ Non-carbonate permanent	1.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates	..	0.14			
Free Ammonia	..	0.0028	Nitrogen in Nitrites	..	absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	0.0056	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° c	.. .. .	0.110	Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	—
Metals : Iron	..	0.003			
Other metals	..	absent			

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	.. .. .	1 day at 37° C	0	2 days at 37° C	0	3 days at 20° C	23
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	—	Absent	100 c.c.			
Bact. coli (Type 1)	.. .. .	Present	—	Absent	100 c.c.		
Cl. welchii Reaction	.. .. .	Present	100 c.c.	Absent	10 c.c.		

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals, apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is acid in reaction, very soft in character, and deficient in alkalinity (calcium bicarbonate). Corrosive tendency towards metals and plumbo-solvent action would be anticipated. The water has a faint but distinct colour, is of satisfactory organic quality, and of a high standard of bacterial purity. The water is considered wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, but treatment is desirable to remove colour and restrain corrosive action.

2. SAMPLE 10.4.45. FERNWORTHY SUPPLY AT TRENCHFORD

OUTLET GAUGE (UNTREATED).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance.—Slight opalescence—slight deposit of mineral and organic debris. Turbidity: 8 parts per million Silica scale.

Colour Hazen: Yellow-brown	30	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH Faint Acid ..	6.3	Free Carbonic Acid ..	Trace
Electric conductivity at 20° C	42	Total solids, dried at 180° C	4.0
Chlorine in Chlorides ..	0.8	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	0.3
Hardness: Total	1.0	Carbonate	0.3
Nitrogen in Nitrates ..	0.08	Non-carbonate	0.7
Free Ammonia	0.0050	temporary	0.3
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	0.0062	permanent	0.7
Oxygen-absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C	0.200	Nitrogen in Nitrites ..	absent
Metals: Iron	0.010	Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	—
Other metals	absent	Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	1 day at 37° C			2 days at 37° C		3 days at 20° C	
	1			3		18	
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	—	—	Absent	100 c.c.	—	—
Bact. coli	Present	—	—	Absent	100 c.c.	—	—
Cl. welchii Reaction ..	Present	—	—	Absent	100 c.c.	—	—

This sample has slight opalescence and deposit, but is not unduly turbid, and is free from metals, apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is acid in reaction, deficient in alkalinity (calcium bicarbonate), and is very soft in character. Corrosive tendencies towards metals and plumbo-solvent action would be anticipated. The water has noticeable colour, and contains organic matter which is chiefly vegetable in origin. It is of a high standard of bacterial purity.

In its present condition the water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, but treatment is desirable to reduce the organic content and correct the corrosive tendencies.

Comparison with the corresponding analysis of 1944 shows that the general constituents of the water and its organic quality is very similar, but the bacterial purity of the present sample is of a much higher standard.

A comprehensive analysis of the treated water going into supply numbered 1, bacteriological and chemical, at the Water works, as follows :

SAMPLE 10.4.45. TAP OFF MAIN OF WATERWORKS STORES, TORQUAY.

(Treated Water : filtered, limed, chlorinated)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance.—Very faint opalescence—few particles of mineral debris—iron oxide. Turbidity : less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour Normal	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH Ft. alkaline ..	Free Carbonic Acid ..	absent
Electric conductivity at 20° C	Total solids, dried at 180° C	8.0
Chlorine in Chlorides ..	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ..	1.0
Hardness : Total ..	Carbonate { Non-carbonate	1.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates ..	temporary 1.0 { permanent	1.5
Free Ammonia ..	Nitrogen in Nitrites ..	absent
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C	Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	—
Metals : Iron (Total) ..		0.030
In solution ..		0.003
Other metals ..		absent
"Free chlorine reaction"		absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	1 day at 37° C	2 days at 37° C	3 days at 20° C
	0	0	35
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present —	Absent 100 c.c.	
Bact. coli	Present —	Absent 100 c.c.	
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present —	Absent 100 c.c.	

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance and free from metals, apart from a trace of iron. The water is very soft in character and has a low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from colour, of very satisfactory organic quality, and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

The water is considered as being efficiently treated, pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) CHARLES W. MARTIN, F.R.I.C.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Furthermore, samples are taken regularly each week in the Borough from a variety of sources, taps in private houses, canteens, dairies, drinking fountains, schools and farms : 33 of these were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results of 20 bacteriological examinations were all alike good, as follows :

COUNTY BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

" Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. . . nil. This sample is satisfactory bacteriologically."

From the end of July a number of routine samples taken for bacteriological examination showed, instead of the usual freedom from organisms of the coli-aerogenes group, that the probable number per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 350 : in no case was there any organism of *B. coli* of faecal type detected. Copies of the analyses are sent to the Water Engineer, who, at the suggestion of your Medical Officer, raised the chlorination, which had been reduced following the end of the war, to its previous figure. It was thought that the growth of these organisms was caused by vegetable matter in the local mains and pipes, and support is given to this in that samples taken direct from the intake at the service reservoirs in the town showed no growth (on one occasion a few colonies only), while samples taken from taps in various parts of the Borough showed a growth of a small number of colonies—the average being 63 per 100 ml. water.

Subsequently the results improved and later became free from any organisms. It appears that other areas experienced similar difficulties, and it is probable that it was connected with climate and the season of the year.

(iii) *Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and result of analyses.*

In all the analyses no trace of metals was found except a minute trace of iron. The pH is maintained at the level mentioned previously to avoid action on lead.

(iv) *Action in respect of any form of contamination.*

Fortunately, no action has been required. The treated water is of good organic quality, with a uniformly high standard of bacterial purity, and is considered an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(v) *Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supply from public water mains (a) direct to the houses ; (b) by means of standpipes.*

(a) The proportion of dwelling houses with a supply from public water mains direct to the houses is 98.75 per cent, and the proportion of the population thus supplied is 98.5 per cent.

(b) The proportion of dwelling houses supplied by means of standpipes is 1.25 per cent, the proportion of the population thus supplied being 1.5 per cent.

(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.

“The chief scheme of sewerage extension was the re-laying of the 9-inch diameter Foul Sewer in South Street (187 linear yards). In addition, the construction of the Foul and Surface Water Sewers on two temporary housing estates has been commenced.”

(iii) *Public Cleansing.*

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

(iv) *Salvage.*

“The collection and recovery of salvable materials continue, resulting in satisfactory returns. It would be not inappropriate if mention were made of the desirability of continued care by householders in salvaging particularly all kitchen waste and paper, rags and bones.”

The following are the details of the amounts recovered :

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper and Cardboard	...	...	430	—
Metal : ferrous	...	...	99	19
Metal : non-ferrous	...	...	4	7
Textiles	...	...	17	3
Oil	...	...	—	7
String	...	...	1	16
Bones	...	...	6	10
Rubber	...	...	4	11
Kitchen Waste :				
Collected by Corporation	...	...	862	12
Collected by Pig-keepers	...	...	1070	14
Bottles and Jars	..	..	2197 doz.	
Number of Hats	..	..	1369	

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 the 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	690	2333
Under Housing Acts	321	330
Overcrowding	18	27
Verminous Premises	97	181
Rats and Mice	117	232
Infectious Diseases	119	143

<i>General Public Health.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>
Drains and sewers :	
Inspected	1094
Tests applied	464
Cesspools	54
Stables	44
Piggeries	18
Ditches and Streams	19
Open Spaces	43
Yards	34
Public Conveniences	93
Tents, Vans and Sheds	17
Factories with mechanical power ...	96
Factories without mechanical power ...	22
Workplaces ...	42
Outworkers ...	5
Common Lodging Houses	7
Smoke Observations	16
Cinemas, Dance Halls	1
Markets	56
Shops—Shop Act	204
Offensive Trades	4
Marine Stores	2
Schools	56
Offices ...	4

<i>Water</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>
Water Supply : visits	98
samples	54
Swimming Bath : visits	30
samples	23
chlorine tests ..	38

<i>Meat and Food.</i>				<i>Inspections.</i>
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	....	....	....	1164
Cooked Meats ....	....	....	....	131
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	587
Cowsheds	....	....	....	231
Dairies : visits	....	....	....	621
samples	....	....	....	2176
sediment tests	....	....	....	24
Bakehouses	....	....	....	45
Hotels	....	....	....	62
Ice-cream Premises	....	....	....	153
Fishmongers	....	....	....	198
Fish Quay	....	....	....	143
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	10
Greengrocers	....	....	....	354
Grocers ...	...	...	...	396
Restaurants	....	....	....	118
Street Vendors	..	..	..	43
Other Premises	....	....	....	486

<i>Miscellaneous.</i>				<i>Number</i>
Complaints investigated	..	..	..	518
Effluvia nuisances	..	..	..	843
Other visits	..	..	..	1465

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	193	132	134	87	9	19	336	238
Housing Act	7	5	5	5	8	—	20	10
Factory Act	—	—	18	10	—	—	18	10

Measures against Rodents.

Following the measures taken in 1943 in connexion with the Infestation Order, and described in the previous reports, this scheme has been well maintained under your Senior Sanitary Inspector, who gives the following details :

“ The work carried out by your rodent operatives has been satisfactory throughout the year. Difficulties have been experienced by changes in staff. Your operator was lent to Paignton for a period in order to treat the Primley Zoo. This work was supervised by the Ministry of Food staff and the labour and materials arranged by your Senior Sanitary Inspector as Chairman of the ‘ Workable Area ’. Staff was lent by the Torquay Borough, Totnes Borough, and the Kingsbridge Urban and Rural District Councils.

“ The estimated kill of rats and mice in Torquay from poisoning was 7,080, of which 579 rats were found.

“ The number of premises visited was 398, with total visits of 2,388.”

SECTION D.

HOUSING

During the year further progress was made in connexion with the new housing estates : a start was made in preparing the sites of the Upper Cadewell Estate for 97 pre-fabricated houses and of the Lummaton Estate for 143 pre-fabricated houses. Further additions were in progress in the preparation of plans for the extension of the Watcombe Estate, on which approximately 122 permanent houses are to be added.

To assist in finding accommodation for some of the families, a number of houses were inspected, and 12 houses were requisitioned under Circular 2845 : the necessary alterations were made, and 15 families were accommodated.

In connexion with Section 12 of the Housing Act an undertaking previously entered into was determined in the case of a house which was rendered fit for habitation ; and the house was occupied.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in the matter of getting essential repairs executed in properties, owing to the shortage both of certain materials and of labour ; this is greatly to be deplored, as the work involved is indispensable to prevent still further deterioration.

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 144 samples were submitted for examination; 98 were samples of non-designated milk, of which 61 passed and 37 failed; 16 were samples of accredited milk, of which 13 passed and 3 failed; 5 were samples of pasteurised milk, all of which passed; and 25 were samples of tuberculin-tested milk, of which 21 passed and 4 failed.

10 samples were examined for tuberculosis, and all proved negative.

(v) *Heat-treated Milk.*

In connexion with Defence Regulations 55G (Restriction of Sale of Raw Milk), steps are being taken to encourage the heat-treatment of milk, and the Ministry of Food decided, subject to compliance with certain conditions, to pay milk retailers, wholesalers, and depot proprietors an allowance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon in respect of heat-treated milk as from 1st November, 1944. The conditions are that the claimant must have been authorised by the Ministry of Food, that all milk in respect of which the allowance is claimed shall have been subjected to heat-treatment by the claimant at the premises containing the plant mentioned in the authority, and in the case of a retail sale such milk shall have been lawfully sold by him as pasteurised, tuberculin-tested (pasteurised), heat-treated or sterilised.

In order to assist in securing compliance with these conditions, which came into operation whether areas have been specified or not, the Medical Officer of Health of the appropriate enforcing authority under Defence Regulations 55G is informed so that regular samples can be taken; a monthly return on form L.M. 107 is submitted to the Ministry of Food (Quality Branch), Thames Ditton, and where samples of milk fail to satisfy the tests the Area Milk Officer is informed. Normally, not fewer than two samples a month are taken as a routine, but where samples give unsatisfactory results, samples are taken at more frequent intervals, weekly or even daily, so that an efficient check is maintained.

One authorisation for pasteurised milk was received from the Ministry of Food, and samples were taken and returns submitted as from March, 1945. The following shows the results:

<i>Test.</i>			<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>
Plate count	..	..	15	5
Phosphatase	..	..	18	2
Methylene blue	..	..	18	2

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

In connexion with this Scheme your Senior Sanitary Inspector continued to co-operate by having samples taken for the resazurin tests. This is a colour test depending on the reduction of dye of a definite standard when a specified amount is incubated with a certain quantity of milk; the period of incubation in the water baths at 37° C. is determined by the mean atmospheric temperature of the previous 24 hours, varying from 15 minutes when the atmospheric temperature is over 60° F. to 2 hours when the atmospheric temperature is 40° F. or under.

The colour is matched against a standard set of colour discs, number 6 (the initial colour) to 0, representing complete decolourisation, and the results are classified: A (disc reading 4 to 6), satisfactory keeping quality, accepted; B (disc reading 1 to 3½), doubtful keeping quality, salvage if possible, otherwise rejected; C (disc reading ½ to 0), poor keeping quality, rejected.

The scheme is primarily concerned with the improvement of the general keeping quality of milk, and the results are used not to differentiate among the higher qualities of milk but to direct assistance and advice to those farms where it is most needed.

During the year 1789 samples were taken on delivery throughout the town and submitted to the testing laboratory: 793 were classified A, 431 were in category B, and 565 in category C.

(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)	1742	1230	1458	13961	392
Number inspected	1742	1230	1458	13961	392
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	34	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	376	312	9	1428	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	21.6	25.3	0.62	10.5	3.8
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	12	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	74	242	1	—	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.6	20.6	0.14	—	2.8

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Other Food condemned included :—

	<i>No. of Articles.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Bacon and Cooked Meat	—	107
Biscuits	—	20½
Cheese	—	48
Chocolates or Sweets	19	32½
Cereals	27	246
Confectionery	99	110
Eggs	54	—
Fruits, Oranges	—	8500
Fruits, Dried	—	619
Fruits, Other	—	479
Fats	—	239
Flour	—	3616
Fish	—	1899
Pickles (bottles)	28	29
Pulse	—	163
Sausages	—	55
Sugar	—	160
Tea	—	160
Vegetables	—	3998

					<i>No. of Articles.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Tinned goods :						
Fruit	..	..	..	..	3	30
Jam	..	..	..	..	123	214
Fish	..	..	..	..	479	304
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	426	341
Meat, Brawn, etc.	..	..	..	..	367	442
Milk	..	..	..	..	536	452
Soup	..	..	..	..	126	63
Bottled Fruit	..	..	..	..	4	10
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	93	1313

In connexion with the inspection of food, it is found that on a number of occasions a quantity of food has been rendered unfit for human consumption owing to contamination due to contact of the food with various disinfectant fluids during transit. This is a most unnecessary waste of valuable food, and those responsible for the transit of foods should take much more care in segregating packages with food from containers with disinfectant or other liquids which are liable to be spilled. In fact, the handling of food at every stage, from producer to consumer, necessitates the strictest cleanliness and care, and very considerable improvements are yet required.

The salvage of goods was carried out whenever possible, frequently in co-operation with the Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food. The salvaging consisted of the return for reconditioning of unsound or unsaleable articles, or the diversion of articles unfit for human consumption to places where these could be used for poultry, dog foods, etc. With regard to butter, the Ministry's instruction is carried out and rancid butter returned to the various depots.

(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 :

				Formal		Informal	
				No. of Samples	Not Genuine	No. of Samples	Not Genuine
Milk	..	..	..	37	5	3	—
Butter	..	..	..	—	—	5	—
Margarine	..	..	..	—	—	3	—
Lard	..	..	..	—	—	5	—
Sugar	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Dried Peas	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Orange Squash	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Lime Flavouring	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Malted Milk	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Blackcurrant-flavoured Beverage	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Golden Raising Powder	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Mustard Condiment	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	..	..	..	—	—	2	—
Baking Powder	..	..	..	—	—	2	—
Proprietary Medicine	..	..	..	—	—	4	—

			<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>
Banana Flavour	..	..	—	—	1	—
Strawberry Flavour	..	..	—	—	1	—
Custard Flavour	..	..	—	—	1	—
Lemon Flavour	..	..	—	—	1	—
Orange Flavour	..	..	—	—	1	—
Almond Essence	..	..	1	—	—	—
Non-brewed Vinegar	..	..	—	—	1	—
Malt Vinegar	..	..	—	—	1	—
Cider	..	..	—	—	1	—
Anchovy Paste	..	..	—	—	1	—
Veal and Ham Paste	..	..	—	—	1	—
Essence of Rennet	..	..	—	—	1	—
Ice-cream	..	..	—	—	4	—
Oatmeal	..	..	—	—	1	—
Vitamin Food	..	..	—	—	1	—
Proprietary Medicam't (laxative)			—	—	1	—
Granulated Sugar	..	..	—	—	1	—
Lemon Squash	..	..	—	—	1	—
Whisky	..	..	1	—	—	—
Pork Sausages	..	..	—	—	2	—

The formal samples not genuine were as follows :

A sample of milk was 8 per cent deficient in fat and contained 2 per cent added water, and a second sample was 20 per cent deficient in fat and contained 4 per cent added water. Proceedings were taken against the farmer, who was fined £2 on each of the two summonses and 4 guineas costs.

A sample of milk was 20 per cent deficient in fat ; but “ an appeal to the cow ” showed a deficiency in milk fat. A second sample showed 5 per cent deficiency in fat, and the farmer was given two months to improve the condition of the milk from his herd. Later samples showed a considerable improvement.

A sample of milk was 20 per cent deficient in fat, and in this case a warning was sent to the vendor.

(d) *Ice-cream.*

Ice-cream is a much-handled commodity, and thus is liable to considerable and potentially dangerous contamination, the human factor being perhaps the most important. The usual constituents form a food highly nutritious for bacteria, it is often made from materials heavily infected with bacteria, the mixture if heated is not sterilised, cooling is natural or prolonged, and the freezing has no inhibitory action upon any of the harmful organisms. And even though there is a restriction upon the constituents at present used, it was thought very desirable, when it became permissible again to manufacture and sell ice-cream, to take all possible steps to make the conditions as hygienic as possible.

A printed statement was approved to give to those persons applying for registration of premises : and the relevant provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were set out, together with the Corporation's recommendations about premises, equipment, vessels, and appliances. It was also strongly recommended that when liquid milk is again permitted for cold mixture, only pasteurised milk should be used ; and that in other methods pasteurisation of the milk is advised or the mixture should be boiled.

It is hoped that there will soon be available some standards, both bacteriological and chemical, for such an article which seems, at all seasons, to find ever-increasing favour among a vast section of the community.

(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.

During the year notices on cards prepared before the war by the Public Health Department were distributed, as also were the cards of the Central Council for Health Education. Each card impressed on those engaged in handling food that their first duty was to wash their hands : and it is hoped that these cards are now displayed in such a way as to catch the attention of even the most absent-minded or apathetic worker.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of infectious disease for the year 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	88	72	—
Diphtheria	6	6	—
Measles	619	40	—
Whooping Cough	41	1	—
Enteric Fevers	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	—
Pneumonia	19	2	28
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Erysipelas	12	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—
Typhus Fever (contracted abroad)	1	1	—

In May a case of typhus fever was notified in a repatriated prisoner of war ; the usual precautions were taken and a full report of the case sent to the Ministry of Health.

Another interesting case, although non-notifiable, was a sporadic case of trichiniasis in a woman who ate sausage meat uncooked as paste ; a detailed report was also sent to the Ministry of Health, and an account was published in the *British Medical Journal*, 18th August, 1945, p. 219.

Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation has continued steadily, especially among the pre-school children, although there is still much to be done before full satisfaction can be expressed.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year :

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

<i>Number of Children who had Completed a Full Course of Immunisation at any Time up to 31st December, 1945.</i>								
<i>Age at 31.12.45, i.e. Born in Year</i>	<i>Under 1 1945</i>	<i>1 1944</i>	<i>2 1943</i>	<i>3 1942</i>	<i>4 1941</i>	<i>5-9 1936-1940</i>	<i>10-14 1931-1935</i>	<i>Total under 15</i>
<i>Number Immunised</i>	—	399	399	354	442	2135	1916	5645
<i>Estimated mid- Year Popu- lation, 1945 (R.G. Esti- mate)</i>	3080						5930	9010

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION.

NOTIFICATIONS.			DEATHS.		
<i>Age at Date of Notification.</i>	<i>Number of Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Number of Cases included in preceding Column in which the Child had Completed a Full Course of Immunisa- tion.</i>	<i>Age at Date of Death.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Number of Cases included in preceding Column in which the Child had Completed a Full Course of Immunisa- tion.</i>
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	—	—	3	—	—
4	—	—	4	—	—
5-9	3	—	5-9	—	—
10-14	—	—	10-14	—	—
<i>Totals</i>	3	—	<i>Totals</i>	—	—

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	...	...	...	85
Diphtheria	...	...	...	8
Enteric Fevers	...	...	...	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	40
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	10
Rubella	...	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—
For observation	...	...	...	14
Other Causes	...	...	...	8
				170

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 1945.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1945 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	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
5 to 15 years	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2
15 to 25 years	5	5	3	—	4	3	1	—
25 to 35 years	6	8	—	1	1	—	—	1
35 to 45 years	4	6	—	2	1	2	—	—
45 to 55 years	6	—	1	1	6	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	3	—	—	—	5	2	—	—
65 and over	2	2	—	2	4	1	1	—
TOTALS	26	25	5	7	21	8	3	3

SECTION G.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This section is published separately.

SECTION H.

MISCELLANEOUS*1. Government Evacuation Scheme.*

Under this scheme Torquay remained a reception area, and your Medical Officer has continued to act as Chief Billeting Officer, with your Senior Sanitary Inspector and District Sanitary Inspectors as Billeting Officers. The general routine of this section, the work of the official Helpers, the hostel, and the medical arrangements for evacuees, described in previous reports, were satisfactorily maintained.

As the fighting in Europe drew to an end, preliminary arrangements were made for the return of the evacuees from the London area, and during June organised parties were sent back to their homes in accordance with the scheduled time-tables. Provision was made for medical examinations, for labelling (with different coloured labels according to the dispersal centres in London) the evacuees and their luggage, for bringing the evacuees by cars to the assembly point at Westhill School, where light refreshments were given, and subsequently for placing them in the necessary party groups with escorts, taking them in special buses to the station where they entrained. Fortunately, the departure times were such as to obviate, on these occasions, a stay overnight at the school.

On 4th June a party of 155 mothers, children, and aged persons was sent by special train; and on 24th June 174 unaccompanied children, with 13 L.C.C. teachers as escorts, returned to London also by special train. Other evacuees who were not able to travel with the organised parties were sent back individually, or in special groups, with escorts. A few invalids returned home by stretcher with ambulances to and from the trains; the use of the G.W.R. stretcher which fits into the compartment is an excellent provision much appreciated by the invalids, who travel undisturbed on this stretcher throughout the journey, in several cases crossing London to other main lines for east coast towns. All the arrangements worked very smoothly.

St. Olave's Grammar School returned to London during the Easter school holidays in time for the beginning of the summer term; this school had been maintained as a complete entity in Torquay for five and a half years, and such a record must be almost

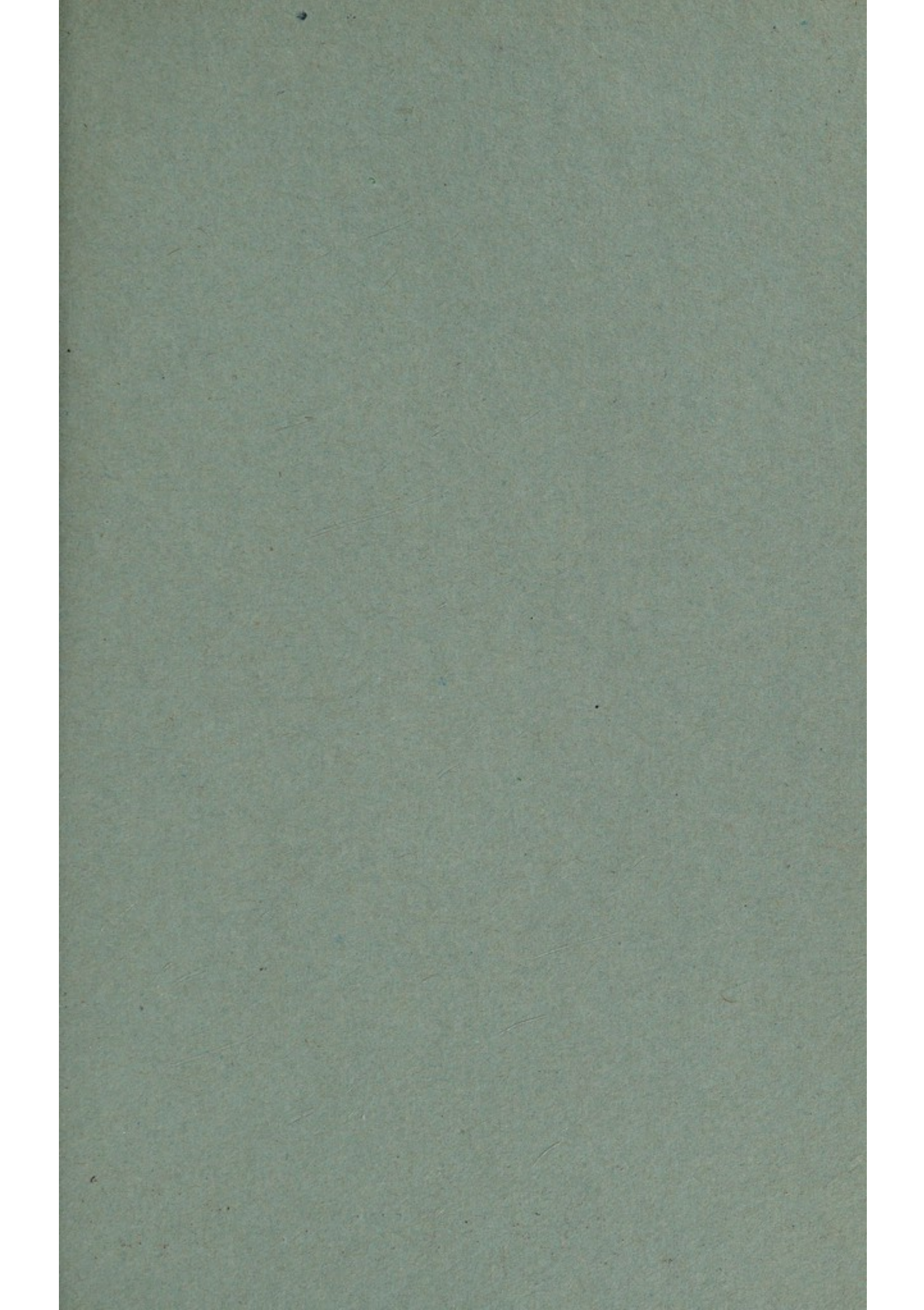
unique among evacuated schools. It was, indeed, never contemplated that evacuation would last so long, and at the end only a few of the boys at the school in Torquay had been taught in the school in London before the war. But the records in scholastic achievement, in general physical development, and in athletic prowess had been very well maintained, and show how all the handicaps of evacuation (and they are many) had been overcome.

At the end of July a special record in table form of the number of evacuees was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health, giving the mothers and children, the unaccompanied children, aged, infirm, blind, and other classified groups, with their home addresses and evacuation areas, together with the reason why they could not return. There were 30 unaccompanied children and 262 other evacuees remaining in Torquay on 31st July ; but by the end of the year these numbers had fallen to a smaller remnant.

In connexion with Circular 69/45 dealing with the rehousing of homeless persons, notification was sent to the appropriate Local Authority, giving the different categories of the various families with the other details required.

After the return of the organised parties the official Helpers were disbanded, although the Hostel was retained until early in 1946. In June, Ditton Residential Nursery (a war-time nursery administered by the Waifs and Strays Society) closed, and the children were sent back to their homes ; and in August the residential nursery of the Home of Compassion returned to Thames Ditton. Subsequently, the residential nursery of the Children's Aid Society at Kendal returned to Hastings in September, and their nursery at Ansteys Lea went back to London in October ; and in December the Halliwick Cripples' Home for Girls of the Waifs and Strays Society left Lavernock for their permanent premises in London. Stockwell Training College for Teachers and St. Catherine's Training College returned during the summer vacation and the National Domestic Science College (except for a small section) was transferred back to London during the Christmas holidays ; and towards the end of the year some evacuated business firms also left, and many private evacuees and temporary residents gradually drifted back to their home areas. Thus, after six and a half long years, Torquay slowly emerged towards more normal conditions, and we could then feel that at least some of the troubles

"And the cares that infest the day,
Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away."



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