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BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1948





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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 WHITE, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948, in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health ; as in the war years, some of the customary detailed information is omitted from certain sections.

This is the second year in succession during which not a single case of diphtheria was reported. Such freedom from this serious disease has previously never been known ; and, with the facilities readily available for immunisation, parents will only have themselves to blame if they allow diphtheria ever again to become a menace to child life.

The further extension of the main sewerage scheme, begun before and interrupted by the war, has been continued ; and the construction has also started of a new and larger trunk main from the reservoirs to ensure the adequate supply of water during the height of the summer season. These massive works and blocked roads are welcome tangible reminders, to short forgetful human memory, that only upon the broad measures of sound main drainage and safe water supplies have been laid the environmental foundations of public health. This is all too easily lost sight of : yet the price of immunity from many of the epidemics of former days is no mystery—it is constant vigilance and the continuance of the strictest standards.

Housing has made further substantial progress during the year, and it is reasonable to claim that the gradual solution of this most acute and most difficult problem is now beginning to emerge.

Special attention has continued to be given to the purity of food and to the hygiene of food handlers and food premises ; and a very successful exhibition was held in the spring in an endeavour to improve conditions generally. The importance of this is paramount in a town with so many hotels and catering establishments.

The general routine work has been carried out with quiet efficiency ; although it is impossible, within the compass of a short report, to give a vivid and complete picture of all the wide range of duties.

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 of the medical profession in the many associations and interchange of the daily routine.

To the Staff is due the greatest credit—for their constant willingness, their loyal support and their hard work deserve considerable admiration. To maintain such efficiency is, perhaps, less easy with the depletion suffered by the staff on the appointed day of the National Health Service Act ; but there is still an indispensable, if unostentatious, part to play in the modern arrangement of preventive medicine.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

STAFF

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health

J. V. A. SIMPSON,

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

(b) Sanitary

Chief Sanitary Inspector

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

District Sanitary Inspectors

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

J. F. H. SMITH, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food, R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.,
Cert. Lab. Technique, Exeter.P. H. BURGE, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Cert. San. Sc.
R.S.I., Cert. Inst. San. Engineers, Cert. Trop. Hyg.

E. V. ROBERTS, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

(c) Other

Public Analyst

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

Chief Clerk

Miss I. M. WILTSHIRE.

*Clerks :**Sanitary Inspectors*

Mr. E. C. DOBLE.

Miss L. M. HARRIS.

*§Miss J. E. WHITE.

Assistants to Sanitary Inspectors

E. D. TUCKER.

M. L. WHITE.

Rodent Operatives

§T. SCOURFIELD.

§J. BULL.

§G. EVANS.

§C. CHASE.

* Part Time.

§ Temporary.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1948	50,660
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	13,961
Rateable value (end of 1948)	£559,076
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1948) ..	£2,246

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 the following figures, kindly supplied by the Manager of the Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange, show the extent of unemployment.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
January, 1948	344	123	7	19	493
July, 1948	150	35	2	2	189
January, 1949	540	328	23	30	921

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1948,

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	13.98
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	24.79
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14.00

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	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	22.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	20.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	40.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	115
„ 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 1948 is 50,660 ; 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 708, of which 362 were male and 346 female ; there were 633 legitimate and 75 illegitimate births. There were 18 stillbirths, 17 legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 14.0 per 1,000 population, compared with 17.9 for England Wales, and 19.2 for the smaller towns ; the stillbirth-rate was 0.36 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the smaller towns being 0.42 and 0.43. The stillbirth-rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths was 24.79.

(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 10.5 per cent in 1948 ; this figure had risen progressively from 6.4 per cent in 1939 to a maximum of 17.7 per cent in 1945, subsequently falling to 7.9 in 1947.

The number of births shows a decided fall from the high rate of 1946 and 1947, and the number of deaths just exceeded the births again : in the two years mentioned the births had greatly exceeded the deaths for the first occasions in many years.

The rise in the birth-rate after the war is somewhat similar to the fluctuation after the 1914-18 war ; although the recent rise has been not quite so high but rather more prolonged, and the present rate is still considerably above that for 1938 and 1939. As pointed out last year, this is probably due to the change in the age-distribution of the population of Torquay, which has now not so great a proportion of retired residents and an increase in the number of women of child-bearing age.

The following table shows the changes in the birth-rate before and after the two wars :

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Birth-rate.</i>	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Birth-rate.</i>
1913	... 13.6	1938	... 11.2
1914	... 13.7	1939	... 11.7
1918	... 12.0	1945	... 15.0
1919	... 15.2	1946	... 16.3
1920	... 18.6	1947	... 17.3
1921	... 13.7	1948	... 14.0

Marriages.

The marriage-rate was 5.7 per 1,000 population compared with 5.9 in 1947, 6.0 in 1946, 7.1 in 1945, 5.7 in 1944, and 5.5 in 1943.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 709, of which 325 were males and 384 were females.

The crude death-rate was 14.0 per 1,000 population compared with 16.5 in 1947; the death-rate in 1948 for England and Wales was 10.8, and for the smaller towns 10.7.

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. During the war the variety and magnitude of local population movements, and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths, together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death-rates by the issue of Areal Comparability Factors; and the preparation of such factors is still not possible.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay: (1) Heart disease 257; (2) Cancer 115; and (3) Intra-cranial vascular lesions 95; which between them are responsible for two-thirds of the total deaths.

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

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was the lowest on record, 22.6 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 34 for England and Wales and 32 for the smaller towns; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 20.5, and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 40.0. 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, 1943-47 inclusive, were 48, 42, 36, 30, 27, with an average of 37.

There was no maternal death during the year; this mortality rate also fluctuates considerably on account of the small numbers, and for the five years 1943-47 was 1.66, 2.61, 0.00, 2.43, 2.26, with an average of 1.79 per 1,000 total births. The rate for England and Wales in 1948 was 1.02, and in 1947 it was 1.17.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1948		Males	Females
All Causes		325	384
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	10	8
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	2	1
9.	Influenza	—	1
10.	Measles	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—
13.	{ Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Males only)	6	—
	{ Cancer of Uterus (Females)	—	6
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	10	7
15.	Cancer of Breast	1	18
16.	Cancer of all other sites	33	34
17.	Diabetes	2	1
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	30	65
19.	Heart Disease	121	136
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	17	18
21.	Bronchitis	8	10
22.	Pneumonia	9	11
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	11	5
24.	Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	6	1
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	—	3
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	4	7
28.	Nephritis	11	14
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other Maternal causes	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	3	4
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	6	3
33.	Suicide	5	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	4	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	4	8
36.	All other Causes	22	21
Death of Infants under 1 year			
	{ Total	9	7
	{ Legitimate	8	5
	{ Illegitimate	1	2
Stillbirths			
	{ Total	10	8
	{ Legitimate	10	7
	{ Illegitimate	—	1

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.*

On the appointed day under the National Health Service Act, 5th July, considerable changes of staff took place. Dr. T. Gibson, Deputy Medical Officer of Health (and A.C.M.O. for school medical work), was transferred wholly to the County Staff; as were also the four Health Visitors, Miss G. Jones, Miss J. M. Wallace, Mrs. L. Lee and Miss M. I. Lawrence, and the Clerks for Maternity and Child Welfare, Miss K. Hudson and Miss A. M. Moxhay (who, in addition, acts as Home Help Organiser). The Senior Ambulance Attendant, Mr. J. R. Wickens, and the five Ambulance Attendants were transferred to the County Council.

Miss B. Brady, Sister-in-Charge at the Isolation Hospital, resigned to get married, and Miss N. Cassidy, S.R.N., R.F.N., Assistant Matron of Exeter Isolation Hospital, was appointed Matron from 1st April.

Miss A. C. Bowden, Matron of the Borough Maternity Home, resigned on account of ill-health, and the vacancy was filled by Miss A. F. White, S.R.N., S.C.M., of Liverpool, who took up her duties on 1st April.

The whole of the Nursing and other Staffs at the Isolation Hospital, and at the Borough Maternity Home, were transferred to the South Western Regional Hospital Board, together with Mr. W. D. White, an Accounts Clerk. Your Medical Officer discontinued the duty of administering the Borough Maternity Home but remained for an interim period until 31st March, 1949, as Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital and responsible for the treatment of the patients.

Mr. W. H. Nickels, Chief Clerk, resigned on 17th May on obtaining an appointment in the Devon County Medical Department, and Miss I. M. Wiltshire was promoted to fill the vacancy. Mr. F. J. Payne, Clerk in the Sanitary Inspectors' Section, obtained in July an appointment under the Torquay Hospital Group Management Committee; and Mr. E. C. Doble, of the Town Clerk's Department, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

(ii) (a) *Laboratory Facilities.*

It had been hoped to extend the laboratory at the Torbay Hospital, so that all bacteriological specimens and all samples of milk, and ice-cream, etc., could be sent there, and the inconvenient and uneconomical journey to Exeter avoided : and a representative of the Medical Research Council came down to the area to investigate the position. But so far nothing has materialised, presumably on account of shortage of staff and accommodation.

There is a large population in this area between Newton Abbot and Kingswear, which fully justifies the provision of adequate local facilities ; as it is an unnecessary waste of man-power and petrol for specimens or samples to be sent by cars to Exeter, not merely from Torquay but from neighbouring Local Authorities. For the bus service is not always possible, and with such articles as ice-cream, rapid transport to the laboratory is essential.

(b) *Ambulance Service.*

There was no change in the Service until 5th July, when it was incorporated in the Devon County Fire Service. Prior to that date the whole of the personnel of the Fire Service in the Torquay Division was re-vaccinated, Schick-tested and, where necessary, immunised against diphtheria by your Medical Officer : the Torquay Ambulance Staff were also re-vaccinated, as was customary every year.

(c) *Nursing in the Home.*(d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*(e) *Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.*

There have been no changes up to the appointed day.

3. *Midwifery and Maternity Services.*(i) *Midwives Act, 1936.*

The work under the Midwives Act has proceeded satisfactorily and without incident ; 14 midwives notified their intention to practise. The Scheme by which the Queen's Institute carry out the domiciliary midwifery of the Borough continued to operate well ; up to 4th July there were 116 domiciliary confinements.

(ii) *Maternity Services.*

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

The Borough Maternity Home has functioned in an admirable way, with steady, highly efficient work, which has been greatly appreciated by the 111 mothers who were patients there. The midwifery staff are trained in gas-air analgesia, which is thus available for all cases.

The mothers attend the ante-natal clinic at the Torbay Hospital, where the selection is made of difficult or complicated cases for hospital, and normal cases, without suitable home conditions, for the maternity home.

Up to 4th July there were 479 births notified, and the confinements took place as follows :

	<i>Residents.</i>	<i>Non-Residents.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Borough Maternity Home	111	—	111
Torbay Hospital Maternity Ward	52	77	129
County Maternity Homes	2	—	2
Torbay Hospital Private Wards	13	6	19
Private Nursing Homes	66	33	99
At home by Queen's Institute of District Nursing	119	—	119
	<hr/> 363	116	<hr/> 479

(iii) *Sheets for Expectant Mothers.*

In connexion with Circular 154/44, the issue was continued of priority dockets for sheets for expectant mothers. It was felt that shortage of sheets had sometimes been an inducement to women to seek institutional confinement and that 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 domiciliary confinement certifies that the mother is genuinely in need of additional sheets. The issue is normally two sheets, but not more than three can be allowed in any case.

Quarterly returns were made to the Priority Officer showing how the dockets have been issued, and up to 4th July 25 mothers received dockets for 50 sheets.

(iv) *Care of Premature Infants.*

The arrangements previously detailed are unchanged. Up to 4th July the number of babies notified who weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less was 25, and of these 19 were born in hospital and 6 at home. The number of those born at home who were nursed entirely at home were 6, one of whom died during the first 24 hours or during the first month; of those born in hospital, 1 died during the first 24 hours and 3 more during the first month.

(v) *The Care of Illegitimate Children.*

The scheme for the care of illegitimate children has continued to operate satisfactorily. Although the rate of illegitimacy rose rapidly and was maintained at a very high level during the years of the emergency, there has been a welcome reduction recently; and this, if continued, will make the solution easier of the many problems involved. The cases referred to the social worker numbered 35 up to 4th July.

(vi) *Home Help and Domestic Help Service.*

The encouraging start of this Service, referred to in previous reports, has been followed by a gradual extension in personnel; and early in the year there were 5 whole-time Home Helps, which was later increased to 7. Their services have been greatly in demand and have been highly appreciated by the cases helped.

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

The Health Visitors have continued to carry out a large amount of most creditable work, their duties in each district being combined with the school medical service. Shortage of staff and the increasing distances they have to cover, with the new housing estates becoming occupied, have added to their difficulties; but it is hoped that these will be resolved under the new scheme.

The visits to mothers and children up to 4th July numbered: under 1 year, 1,854; and 1-5 years, 1,424.

Owing to difficulties of staffing it was decided, in April, to change the days of the Centres so as to avoid two centres being held on Friday afternoons; this had been a war-time arrangement when the Belgrave Centre was opened purely as an emergency measure to meet the needs of evacuees. This centre had continued to be so fully attended, that it was not possible to close it. Therefore Market Street Centre was changed to Tuesday afternoon, Barton continued on Wednesday afternoon, St. Marychurch and Babbacombe remained on Thursday afternoon, and Belgrave on Friday afternoon.

(viii) *Verminous Conditions and Uncleanliness.*

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

(ix) *Child Life Protection.*

There is nothing exceptional to report up to 4th July.

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

The supervision by the Child Protection Visitors of these cases has continued, and up to 4th July the number notified was 15, and the number of children adopted was 15.

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

These arrangements were unchanged until 4th July.

(xii) *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 until 4th July.

4. *Nursing Homes.*

The duties in connexion with registration of Nursing Homes were transferred, along with the other sections, to the County Council on 5th July; but this was subsequently found to be an error, because the delegation under the Public Health Act, 1936, was to Torquay as a District Council, and not as a Welfare Authority. And in December the work reverted to Torquay.

The following is a summary of the Homes :

Number of Homes on the Register	...	...	14
Number of Maternity Beds	...	...	22
Number of Other Beds	...	...	95

5. *National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47.*

If Action has been taken under this Section, a brief note of the circumstances of each case is requested. The note should include information as to the reason for the Council's action, period named in the Order of the Court, the type of accommodation to which the person was removed, the ultimate result of the Council's action and any other information on the case which it is considered might be of interest.

This Section relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions; and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves *and* are not receiving from other persons proper care or attention,

and makes the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts the authorities for dealing with such cases.

To effect the removal the Medical Officer of Health for the district must certify in writing to the Council that he is satisfied, after thorough enquiry and consideration, that in the interest of any such person, or for preventing injury to health, or serious nuisance to other persons, it is necessary to remove any such person from the premises in which he is residing; and the local authority may then apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order under the Section. Before an application can be made, seven clear days' notice must be given to the person concerned or to some person in charge of him, and to the persons managing the premises to which the removal is sought to be made.

When the application is made, it must be supported by all evidence of the allegations in the certificate; and the Court, if satisfied, may order the removal of the person concerned, by such officer of the local authority as may be specified, to a suitable hospital and may authorise the detention of the person concerned for a period of not exceeding three months, subject to extension on further application. The person concerned by the Order, or any

person on his behalf, may apply to the Court at the expiration of six weeks from the making of the Order for its revocation.

Action was taken in one case, that of a woman aged 78 years, living alone in insanitary conditions which deteriorated and became verminous : there was no other person on the premises, cooking was by means of an oil stove, which gave the added risk of fire or injury, and in spite of repeated attempts at persuasion over a number of weeks, a certificate was addressed by your Medical Officer on the grounds that " she, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, is living in insanitary conditions, and is unable to devote to herself, and is not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention ".

The Order was granted by the Court for one month, and the case was removed to the Public Assistance Hospital for treatment : at the end of the month no application for a renewal was made, as the woman elected to stay on in the institution, some friends caring for her effects and visiting her regularly.

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.*

(a) Throughout the year the quality of the water supply has been maintained, at its usual high standard.

(b) There has been an ample quantity of water available in storage for all purposes; even at the end of the dry season the Corporation has several months' supply in hand.

During the summer holiday period the population throughout the district of supply rose from the normal figure of 80,000 to approximately 100,000, which necessitated the use of the available trunk mains to their fullest extent. Without the use of the booster pumping plant at Newton Abbot it would not have been possible to keep up the supply; and an additional boosting plant has been installed in the Chapel Hill grounds, adjoining the Newton Road, which also proves most valuable.

It is hoped that the summer season of 1949 will be the last in which there will be anxiety as to whether the trunk mains can cope with the demand; for by 1950 a section of the new 18-inch trunk will come into use.

(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.*

Both chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw and treated water. The whole of the supply is filtered, and owing to its soft character is hardened with lime and chlorinated. The raw water, normally acid with a pH value of 6.8, after treatment is raised to 9.2, which results in the consumers receiving a water with a pH. value of approximately 7.5.

The chlorine dosage varies from 0.5 to 0.75 parts per million, which gives a residual of 0.25 to 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

(THRESH, BEALE AND SUCKLING)

66 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

1. SAMPLE 27.4.48. TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR (UNTREATED).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance : Bright with a very slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris. A few diatoms and many protozoa present.

Colour (Hazen) :		Turbidity (Silica Scale) :	less than 5
Slight Yellow-brown ...	19	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH on the Acid		Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Side of Neutrality ...	6.6	Total solids, dried at 180°C	60
Electric conductivity at 20°C	75	Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	12	bonate	5
Hardness : Total	25	{ Carbonate { Non-carbonate	
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	1.2	{ temporary 5 { permanent	20
Free Ammonia	0.044	Nitrogen in Nitrites ...	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.078	Residual Chlorine ...	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours.			
at 27°C	1.1		
Metals : Iron	0.04		
Other metals ...	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if this is present at the sampling time.)

Number of Bacteria grow- ing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in.	} 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.		
		310.	400. 46.
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in —.	Absent from 100 ml.	
Bact. coli	Present in —.	Absent from 100 ml.	
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in —.	Absent from 100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, since it carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is faintly acid in reaction, very soft in character, and deficient in alkalinity. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution, and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It shows noticeable but not marked colour, and is of satisfactory organic quality. The bacterial impurity is considerable, but in the absence of organisms of excremental origin there is no evidence of dangerous contamination.

The water is considered readily amenable to treatment for the production of a public supply.

2. SAMPLE 27.4.48. FERNWORTHY SUPPLY AT TRENCHFORD
OUTLET GAUGE (UNTREATED).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance: Very faintly opalescent with a slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris. Many diatoms and protozoa present.

Colour Hazen :		Turbidity (Silica Scale) :	Less than 5
Yellow-brown	35	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH neutral ...	7.0	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Electric conductivity at		Total solids, dried at 180°C	45
20°C	50	Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	9	bonate	4
Hardness : Total	25	Carbonate { Non-carbonate	
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	0.0	temporary 4 { permanent	21
Free Ammonia	0.040	Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.160	Residual Chlorine	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours			
at 27°C	1.8		
Metals : Iron	0.18		
Manganese	0.03		
Other metals ...	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling.)

Number of Bacteria grow- ing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	} 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C. 600. 850. 130.		
Presumptive Coliform Reaction		Present in 20 ml.	Absent from 10 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)		Present in 20 ml.	Absent from 10 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction		Present in —.	Absent from 100 ml.

This sample shows only faint opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is neutral in reaction, but it is very soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity. The amount of mineral constituents in solution is, similarly, very small. The water is free from metals apart from minute traces of iron and manganese. It shows very distinct though not pronounced colour, and it is of satisfactory organic quality for an untreated supply. The bacterial impurity shown is indicative of very slight contamination by matters of excremental origin, since Bact. coli are present in appreciable numbers. The water is considered readily amenable to treatment for the production of a public supply.

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

SAMPLE 21.4.47. TAP OFF MAIN OF CHAPEL HILL RESERVOIR,
TORQUAY.

(Treated Water : filtered, limed, chlorinated.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance : Bright with a few particles of mineral and organic debris.

Colour (Hazen) :		Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 5.
Slight Yellow-brown ...	15	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH on the alkaline side of neutrality ...	8.2	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Electric conductivity at 20°C	80	Total solids, dried at 180°C	65
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	13	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	7
Hardness : Total ...	25	{ Carbonate 7 { Non-carbonate	18
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrogen in Nitrites ...	1.2	Nitrogen in Nitrites ...	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.016	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.052		
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	1.0		
Metals : Iron	0.03		
Other metals ...	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling.)

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	} 1 day at 37°C. 46.	2 days at 37°C. 80.	3 days at 20°C. 130.
Presumptive Coliform Reaction				Present in —.	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	Present in —.	Absent from 100 ml.	
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in —.	Absent from 100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is faintly alkaline in reaction, very soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity and mineral constituents in solution. It shows only a trace of colour, and is of satisfactory organic quality. The water carries an appreciable number of bacteria, but in the absence of coliform organisms it is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES,

for The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples are also taken regularly each week from a variety of sources in the Borough such as taps in private houses, canteens, dairies, drinking fountains, schools, and farms, and from the storage reservoirs. 57 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results of 36 bacteriological examinations showed consistently good results, viz. :

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE,
EXETER.

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

In the case of 21 other samples the examination showed that the probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 25, but in only one case was Bact. coli of the faecal type detected.

The quality of the water entering supply is good, but some slight deterioration is liable to occur during its passage to the consumer : some organic matter may gain access in the local mains, probably as stated last year from vegetable matter which seems to have a connexion with the season of the year, while slight contamination may occur in service reservoirs and cisterns or from washers on service taps. This explains the possible access in limited numbers of coliform organisms of the non-faecal type.

(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.*

No special action has been required but strict precautions are maintained in connexion with the sanitary arrangements for the men carrying out forestry work on the watershed. The chlorination of the water is an added safeguard.

Following the report of the Central Advisory Water Committee appointed by the Minister of Health in connexion with the public access to gathering grounds, a detailed report was submitted by your Medical Officer and approved by your Council. The recommendations were : (1) that fishing and boating on the reservoirs should be prohibited (it being understood that bathing was already prohibited) ; (2) that large parties or crowds should be discouraged from the gathering grounds or banks of the reservoirs, and that access by individuals should be a privilege any abuse of which should be controlled by an adequate system of patrol officers of the Corporation ; and (3) that chlorination should be continuously maintained as the fourth indispensable line of defence.

(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 98.8 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 1.2 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.

Large extensions forming part of the Main Drainage Scheme for the Borough were commenced in October, 1948, and at the present time the works completed are as follows :

Torre Valley Sewer. Commencing in Avenue Road near Crown Hill Park, and extending along Newton Road as far as Lawes Bridge, the total length of sewer to be laid is approximately 1,550 lin. yds., varying in diameter between 33" and 9". At the present time 1,100 lin. yds. have been laid.

In addition, in the Fleet Street area two large chambers are in course of construction for the provision of overflows to the main outfall, and incorporated in this work is the construction of about 360 yds. of 48" dia. concrete sewer and 18 yds. of 36" dia. sewer. Only about 70 yds. of the 48" and 10 yds. of the 36" sewers remain to be constructed.

Many small improvements have been carried out to the existing drainage system in the Borough during the year, but the only reconstruction of note was that carried out in Wellington Road, where a length of 160 lin. yds. of 9" sewer was relaid.

(iii) *Closet Accommodation.*

No conversions from conservancy to water-carriage have been carried out during the year. When the last check was made in May, 1947, it was determined that there were 170 cesspools or septic tanks in the Borough. It is thought probable that there are many more actually in existence, although their whereabouts are unknown.

(iv) *Public Cleansing.*

The present organisation for the collection of refuse has been amended as required during the year to include new houses built in the Borough, and is working satisfactorily.

(iv) *Salvage.*

The collection and recovery of salvable material continue, but emphasis might with advantage be laid on the necessity for salvaging more waste paper and kitchen waste.

The following are the details of the amounts recovered :

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper and Cardboard	573	15
Metal : ferrous	102	17
Metal : non-ferrous	36	10
Textiles	13	17
String	—	2
Bones	6	19
Rubber	—	6
Kitchen Waste :		
Collected by Corporation ...	835	5
Collected by Pig-keepers ...	35	9
Bottles and Jars	3182 doz.	
Number of Hats	129½ doz.	
Oil	933 galls.	

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 Chief Sanitary Inspector who gives the following details of the organisation and work.

In the previous report reference was made to the alteration in the organisation of this section, so that each District Sanitary Inspector specialised in a particular branch of the work. This scheme, which was tentative in nature and somewhat experimental for a comparatively small area, has made exceptionally good progress and is fully justifying the hope placed in it. It gives greater incentive to the individual inspector to become especially proficient in one particular section, it gives more uniformity in inspection, and it enables each inspector to become better acquainted with all the persons and outside staff concerned in the particular branch or work. Moreover, each inspector, so far as his speciality is concerned, keeps his colleagues informed of what is going on in their districts : so that each still maintains a thorough knowledge of his own district, in addition to his special experience.

The co-operation and work of the individual inspectors have been excellent ; and the high standard in all the wide range of duties reflects the greatest credit on their zeal and efficiency.

<i>Dwelling Houses.</i>	<i>No. inspected.</i>
Under Public Health Acts	977
Under Housing Acts	716
Overcrowding	21
Verminous Premises	131
Rats and Mice—Premises inspected	9031
Premises treated	878
New Houses—Permanent	38

<i>General Public Health.</i>	<i>No. inspected.</i>
Drains and sewers :	
Inspected	457
Tests applied	420
Cesspools	23
Stables	8
Piggeries	14
Open spaces	50
Public Conveniences	84
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	25
Factories	317
Workplaces	14
Outworkers	7
Common Lodging Houses	2
Smoke Observations	8
Cinemas, Dance Halls	6
Marine Stores	1
Shops—Shops Act	67
Schools	6
Offices	19
Ships	261
Pig Swill Bins	48
<i>Water.</i>	
Water Supply—Visits	91
Samples	81
Swimming Baths—Visits	80
Samples	110
Chlorine Tests	57
<i>Meat and Food.</i>	
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	132
Slaughterhouses	396
Cowsheds	177
Dairies	490
Samples—Public Health Laboratory Service....	218
National Milk Testing Scheme	2508
Bakehouses	51
Hotels	56
Ice-cream Premises	375
Fishmongers	51
Fish Quay	145
Fish Fryers	26
Greengrocers	54
Grocers	291
Restaurants	157
Other Premises	10
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
Complaints investigated	730
Effluvia nuisances	1
Other visits	1207
Infectious diseases	35

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	333	290	118	85	—	—	451	375
Housing Act	5	4	125	89	2	1	132	94
Factories Act	45	14	35	24	—	—	80	38
Food and Drugs Act ...	61	31	36	16	—	—	97	47
							760	554

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The accompanying tables give the details of the inspections and of the defects found: six outworkers are now employed and registered in the Borough. And there is nothing exceptional to report in connexion with the administration of this section.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

(Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	59	91	11	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	243	259	24	—
(ii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	13	13	—	—
TOTAL ...		315	373	35	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred		
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	28	13	5	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	9	1	8	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	4	2	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	6	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	21	9	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	3	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	76	8	73	—	—
TOTAL ...	60	147	38	87	5	—

OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some Premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecu- tions (8)
Wearing } Making, etc. ...	14	4					
apparel } Cleaning and washing	15						
Household linen ...	16						
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...	17						
Curtains and furniture hangings	18						
Furniture and upholstery ...	19	2					
Electro-plate ...	20						
File making ...	21						
Brass and brass articles ...	22						
Fur pulling ...	23						
Iron and steel cables and chains	24						
Iron and steel anchors and grap- nels ...	25						
Cart gear ...	26						
Locks, latches and keys ...	27						
Umbrellas, etc. ...	28						
Artificial flowers ...	29						
Nets, other than wire nets ...	30						
Tents ...	31						
Sacks ...	32						
Racquet and tennis balls ...	33						
Paper bags ...	34						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ...	35						
Brush making ...	36						
Pea picking ...	37						
Feather sorting ...	38						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ...	39						
Stuffed toys ...	40						
Basket making ...	41						
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	42						
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...	43						
Textile weaving ...	44						
Lampshades ...	45						
TOTAL ...	70	6	-	-	-	-	-

Rag Flock Act, 1911, & Rag Flock Regulations, 1912.

Six samples of rag flock were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst. One sample was found to contain slightly more than the permitted amount of soluble Chlorine, and warning letters were sent to both the manufacturer and upholsterer concerned.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) *Public Swimming Baths.*

The Corporation swimming baths are visited weekly and samples of the water are taken from both the inlet and outlet valves. A test to determine the adequacy of the chlorine content is also made at each visit. Of a total of 96 samples, 6 were found to be unsatisfactory, due to temporary faults in the chlorination plant.

(b) *Privately-owned Swimming Baths.*

Samples, fourteen in all, were taken from the swimming baths of a local hotel which does not possess mechanical means of chlorination. The first samples were unsatisfactory, and indicated that the chlorination was inadequate. The dosage was then gradually increased, together with tests of the sterilising agent used, until the desired strength was reached and the samples became satisfactory.

Measures against Rodents.

This work has been well maintained on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who gives the following details :

After the complete treatment of the sewers within the Borough, and to comply with the Ministry's requirements, two maintenance treatments have to be carried out at six-monthly intervals during each financial year ending the 31st March. The procedure has continued throughout the past year, and will be completed by the required date. During these treatments 2,326 manholes were baited ; 1,774 showed no takes, while of the others, 3 complete, 244 good, and 305 small poison takes were recorded, giving an estimated number of 705 rats killed. In the previous year the estimated number of rats killed was 1,753.

Maintenance treatment of sewers is designed to prevent rats breeding, and the above figures show that this method is having gradual and progressive success.

The approved method of area block control has been continued, and during this treatment 9,031 premises were visited and 878 were found to be rat or mouse infested. 18 complete, 326 good, and 483 small poison takes were recorded, giving an estimated number of 4,360 rats and 409 mice killed.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Further progress was made in the erection of new houses, of which the following is a summary :

PRIVATE

Number of new houses	...	...	...	12
Number of rebuilt war-damaged houses	...			20

CORPORATION

Number of new houses erected on Coombe Pafford Estate	...	...	...	...	80
Number of new houses in course of erection on Coombe Pafford Estate	...	...			126
Number of new houses erected on Watcombe Estate (including 2 bungalows)	...	...			4
Number of new houses in course of erection on Watcombe Estate (including 4 bungalows)	...	...	...	...	8
Number of new houses erected on Watcombe Extension (completing the Estate)	...				100

It became necessary to find further sites for another Corporation Estate, and the only suitable land available in the Borough is along the Marldon Road in the Shiphay area: a compulsory purchase order was made and the public inquiry was held on 11th December. Early in 1949 the order was confirmed, with slight modifications; and on this estate it is planned to build about 292 houses.

Between the end of the war and December, 1948, the number of families rehoused in new houses was 252.

Requisitioned Premises.

The requisitioning of premises was continued; and at the end of the year 28 houses were held under requisition by which accommodation was provided for 53 families.

It should be emphasised that, whatever its merits as an emergency measure, requisitioned premises are quite unsuitable for any permanent solution of rehousing. The accommodation is usually not at all satisfactory, and the state of the premises has in many cases deteriorated into untoward conditions which no amount of advice, encouragement, help or warning seems able to prevent. And the end of this wartime measure cannot come too quickly now.

There are a number of families in the town for whom some special provision is necessary. They are the so-called problem families in whom the parents, owing to ill-health, ingrained habits, indifference and lack of knowledge, are unable to reach any reasonable standard of home management. Some of them are in requisitioned houses, some are in ordinary houses or rooms, some are ex-Council tenants: they are often in rent arrears, their children are

frequently in difficulty at the Juvenile Court, and their whole deplorable position is as much to be pitied as blamed.

Reports were made by your Medical Officer in 1937 and again in 1945 dealing in part with this subject ; and now that the post-war housing has made such substantial progress, this problem should be considered afresh. For although it is the most difficult matter of all in rehousing, some serious and earnest attempt is necessary to try and help these families ; without this, the position will deteriorate still further, with all the misery this involves. Your Housing Committee have resolved to deal with these families as soon as facilities are available.

Housing Defects.

The progress of the year produced a small but noticeable improvement in the ability of the building trade to deal with long-delayed repairs to private property. This was due partly to the increased amount of materials now available, and partly to certain restrictions on new house building which released labour and materials. The raising of the free limit from £10 to £100 has had the effect of getting small repairs carried out more quickly. But owners are finding increasing difficulty in offsetting high repair costs against controlled rents, and this is probably now proving to be a greater deterrent in carrying out repair work than building restrictions. It is regrettable that no attempt has been made to deal with this, because the good owners are unfairly handicapped : and without regular repairs houses become much more difficult to maintain, for the old proverb of a stitch in time is as true in this connexion as in any other.

A policy of requiring only essential repairs has been continued, and this has resulted in rendering 175 houses fit for habitation, mostly as a result of informal action. Two statutory notices were served during the year.

An interesting development has been the purchase of a large number of houses in an area of the town by a private owner, who, with the active assistance of the Department, has carried out considerable work of repair and renovation. This commendable work, which is still continuing, has greatly improved the area, has prevented the service of many informal notices, and has provided additional amenities for tenants which could not have been required by notice.

With the slight easing of the demand for housing accommodation, it has been found possible to close certain premises and rooms for human habitation, by acceptance of voluntary undertakings, as follows :

Effective on rehousing of present occupiers—

3A Park Hill Road (formerly 3A Park Crescent).

14 Madeira Cottages, Tor Hill Road.

Occupiers rehoused by the Corporation—

- 6 Melville Lane (formerly 3 Warren Hill Cottages)
- 96 Fore Street, Barton.
- Glendower, Falkland Road (basement flat).
- 179A Union Street (Magdalene Road entrance).

Closed to prevent occupation—

- 246 Union Street (ground floor flat).
- 15 and 15A East Street, Torre.
- 20 Warren Road (annexe).

Action to close a further three properties was pending at the end of the year. A cottage owned by an elderly spinster became vacant, and action was taken to prevent its reoccupation by a family with children ; the owner is now in an old people's home, and the cottage is used as a store.

In connexion with the new Coombe Pafford Housing Estate, three cottages and twelve other buildings have been demolished.

Overcrowding.

It still is impossible to give an accurate picture of overcrowding, for this is a problem the solution of which can only come by slow degrees : but with the progress in rehousing there must be a gradual reduction of many cases. All the urgent known cases are dealt with, and of those remaining unabated the majority are not so seriously overcrowded—usually only by 1 or $\frac{1}{2}$ unit.

Cases overcrowded at end of year ...	...	...	16
Cases voluntarily abated during the year ...	...	...	5
Cases rehoused by the Corporation during the year ...	...	...	9
New cases discovered during the year ...	...	...	21
Number of visits to new cases and reviews ...	...	...	65

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Milk Supply.*(iv) *Bacteriological Examination of Milk.*

Samples of milk have continued to be sent each week to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Exeter. A total of 218 samples were submitted for examination, and the results are shown in the following tables :

<i>Ordinary</i>		<i>Accredited</i>		<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>		<i>Pasteurised</i>		<i>Total</i>	
<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
19	30	27	11	59	21	51	6	107	62

All these samples are taken either at the farm at the time of production or in course of delivery to the retailer. The standard adopted by the Bacteriologist for ordinary milk is the same as that applied to accredited milk, and it is therefore not surprising to find a high percentage of failures. Again, most of the milk consumed in the Borough is produced in adjoining districts. The percentage of failures in samples taken from producers of non-designated milk inside the Borough was 45.8 per cent against 57.1 per cent outside the Borough.

(v) *Heat-treated Milk.*

No additional licences have been granted during the year, but the rather old Holder pasteurisation plant at one dairy has been completely replaced by the latest H.T.S.T. (High Temperature, Short Time) plant. In this type of apparatus the milk is held for 15 seconds at 162°F., as against the Holder method of 30 minutes at between 145° and 150°F. Regular samples have been obtained from the two authorised pasteurising establishments in the Borough, as required by Defence Regulation 55G (Restriction of Sale of Raw Milk), and the results are sent each month to the Milk Marketing Board at Thames Ditton. A total of 48 samples gave the following results :

	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Phosphatase test	43	5
Methylene Blue reduction test ..	47	1

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

Samples from all producers bringing milk into the Borough have been taken by your Sanitary Inspector for submission to the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme's Laboratory at Starcross. The Scheme is primarily concerned with the improvement of the general keeping quality of milk, and is particularly useful in improving conditions under which milk is produced outside the

Borough; for, in the case of unsatisfactory samples, visits are made to the farm to ensure that all possible precautions against contamination are being taken. As the milk from each producer is sampled fortnightly, and an official visit is made following two failures out of three consecutive samples, a careless or ill-informed producer is able to put unsatisfactory milk on the market for only a short length of time. Habitual offenders have their contracts cancelled by the Milk Marketing Board, which means the complete suspension of all milk production. The test applied to samples submitted under this Scheme is the Resazurin Reduction Test, and the results are classified as follows: "A"—Satisfactory; "B"—Doubtful; and "C"—Poor. During the year 2,508 samples were taken on delivery throughout the town and submitted to the testing laboratory: 1,484 were classified "A", 424 were in category "B", and 600 in category "C". The number of failures represents a percentage of 23.5 compared with the previous year's figure of 25.5.

The small improvement may be explained by the fact that the summer was not so fine and warm as that of the preceding year. High temperatures inevitably lead to the early souring of milk where cooling facilities and cleanliness are not up to standard, and account for the abnormally high percentage of failures such as 87.8 in August, 1947. The highest monthly percentage of failures during the year under review was 46.1, also in August. On the other hand, the percentage of failures during the colder months was higher than that of 1947, so that generally it can be said that no real improvement has taken place. This is very disappointing, in view of the tremendous amount of work carried out by the Milk Testing Scheme and those co-operating with it, and shows that the need for scrupulous attention to cleanliness in all aspects of milk production is still not sufficiently realised.

The influence of warm weather upon the number of samples failing may be clearly seen by the accompanying table, which shows the monthly percentage of samples in Resazurin Test "C" grading (Failures) and the monthly mean temperature.

	<i>Percentage of Samples failing.</i>	<i>Mean temperature in Deg. Fahr.</i>
January	2.4	45
February	9.6	43
March	15.0	48
April	20.6	49
May	30.6	55
June	37.3	58
July	42.3	61
August	46.1	60
September	24.0	58
October	14.3	53
November	14.8	51
December	12.3	47

(vii) *Sterility Tests.*

No matter what precautions are taken to produce a clean milk supply, the use of insufficiently sterilised bottles and equipment will result in poor samples, and much careful work at the farm is often undone by careless handling and lack of attention to efficient sterilisation at the dairy. In this connexion sterility tests have been regularly made at the two pasteurising establishments and also at other dairies where coolers and bottling machines are used. Rinses are made of churns and bottles, and swabs taken from the surfaces of coolers, tipping tanks, balancing tanks and holders; these are then submitted to the testing laboratory. Samples of detergent solution are also taken.

The use of steam is undoubtedly the best method of sterilising dairy equipment and churns, but this is not always practicable in the small dairies. In these cases a hypochlorite solution is used; and this is usually efficacious, provided the solution is of the required strength.

The results throughout the year have been fairly satisfactory, and represent a great improvement since the inception of the tests.

(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)	989	652	426	9057	61
Number inspected	989	652	426	9057	61
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	1	21	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	369	360	6	1980	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	37.5	55.4	1.6	22.1	19.7
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	7	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	58	126	1	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	6.1	20.4	0.2	—	3.3

(Total weight of meat condemned : 58,399 lbs.)

Instructions were received from the Ministry of Food in November, 1948, that owing to the increase in the incidence of the parasite *Taenia saginata*, all bovine carcasses should be specially examined for the cystic form of the tapeworm, *Cysticercus bovis*. This has entailed extra work for your Meat Inspectors, but has already resulted in the detection of three cases; all the offal is condemned and the carcasses are put into cold store for three weeks, after which they are sent for manufacturing purposes.

It is, of course, a matter for conjecture as to what is the cause of the increase in the number of cases; but it is perhaps more than a coincidence that, in recent years, there has been a considerable rise in the number of septic tanks and cesspools in the semi-rural and rural districts. And the effluents from these installations may all too easily flow over pasture land and provide the link by which, from the digestive tract of man, the ovum of the tapeworm reaches the ox, to be ingested and turned into the larval phase of its life cycle.

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Food condemned included :	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Canned Pudding	2½
„ Fruit Juice	130½
„ Vegetables	3235½
„ Fruit	2040¾
„ Soup	165¾
„ Meat	783½
„ Fish	519¼
„ Milk	384
„ Spaghetti	34½
„ Macaroni	1
„ Corn	33½
Cheese	89¾
Butter	97
Margarine	158
Condiments and Pickles	636¼
Rabbits	666
Meat	17¾
Sugar	5
Sausages and Puddings	390½
Tea	3½
Bacon	34¼
Poultry	1054
Cereals (including flour)	1032
Fish	8909
Dried Vegetables	672
Dried Fruit	437
Fats	7
Fruit	682½
Cordials, Beverages	181¼
Eggs	3¼
Dried Fish	439¼
Ice-cream Powder	310½
Biscuits, Bread, Confectionery	1374
Cake and Pudding Mixture	886½
Jams Preserves	491¾
Custards and Junkets	283½
Meat Extract	171
	26363¼

(Total weight condemned : 11 tons 15 cwt. 43¼ lbs.)

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

The work under this Act has been continued, 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	20	1	76	2
Margarine	3	—	1	—
Cooking Fat	3	—	1	—
Butter	4	—	—	—
Jams	—	—	1	—
Fish Paste	—	—	4	—
Vinegar	2	—	1	—
Coffee	—	—	1	—
Cough Mixture	—	—	2	—
Iodine	—	—	1	—
Dr. Cassells Tablets	—	—	1	—
Flours	—	—	9	2
Semolina	—	—	1	—
Cheese	1	—	—	—
Phensic	—	—	1	—
Rum	1	—	—	—
Gin	2	1	—	—
Whisky	2	—	—	—
Beer	1	—	—	—
Tinned Fruit	—	—	1	1
Sausage	1	1	—	—
Aspro	—	—	1	—
Vanilla Barley	—	—	1	—
Cake Mixtures	—	—	5	—
Essences	—	—	1	—
Cream Filling	—	—	1	—
<i>Total</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>5</i>

In connexion with the actual sampling, a successful prosecution was instituted for wilful obstruction of your Inspector in taking a sample of whisky : the defendant, on being informed in the usual manner that the sample was being taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, took up the whisky and quickly poured it into the sink. A fine of £3 was imposed.

The formal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :

One sample was 17 per cent deficient in fat, and a warning was sent to the producer (first offence). One sample of beef sausage meat was 24 per cent deficient in meat, and a warning was sent (first offence). One sample of gin contained 5 per cent added water, and a warning was also sent to the vendor.

The informal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :

One sample of milk was 12 per cent deficient in fat, but a formal sample was repeated from the same source of supply and

found to be genuine. In these circumstances a warning letter was sent to the producer. Two samples of self-raising flour were infested with meal mites : the premises were visited, when it was found that the stock from which the samples were taken had been sold. Samples of the stock then in use were taken, and the reports showed that these were not infested.

One sample of milk showed 18 per cent deficiency in fat, and, as the producer was outside the Borough, notification was sent to the Devon County Council : a further sample taken at the farm proved satisfactory.

(d) *Ice-cream.*

The supervision and registration of premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold have been carefully maintained ; for ice-cream is an ideal medium for bacterial multiplication. The need cannot be over-emphasised for adequate sterilisation of all apparatus (and unless utensils are properly washed and cleaned first, they cannot be sterilised adequately), for the development of a " no-touch technique " (which means that hands should not be introduced into an ice-cream mix at any stage), and for the realisation of the greater danger if the hot-mix is not rapidly cooled with special apparatus (for any dangerous organisms introduced after heating have ideal conditions for multiplying during an inefficient cooling process).

There are 25 producers of ice-cream and 79 vendors in the Borough : and whenever possible the seller is advised to retail a wrapped commodity, although unfortunately supplies of this are restricted, due largely to lack of wrapping materials. There is a tendency for the retailers to obtain supplies from the larger manufacturers, rather than to produce the ice-cream themselves ; the cold mix is not very popular, but the cost of machinery for the hot mix is prohibitive unless production is on a large scale. A separate room for manufacture, whether of a cold or hot mix, is insisted upon ; and only a wrapped ice-cream is allowed to be sold on premises where there is any possible risk of contamination.

The bacteriological examination of samples has been continued by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter : and following the original work carried out by the Medical Research Council, a simple modified methylene blue test has been suggested for the grading of ice-cream :

<i>Provisional Grade.</i>	<i>Time taken to reduce methylene blue.</i>	<i>Interpretation.</i>
1.	4½ hours or more.	Satisfactory.
2.	2½-4 hours.	Fair.
3.	½-2 hours.	Unsatisfactory.
4.	0.	Very bad.

The following table gives the results of the samples taken during the year :

	GRADES				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Cold mix.	9	12	10	4	35
Hot mix.	27	13	10	14	64
Powders	-	1	-	-	1
<i>Total</i>	36	26	20	18	100

The results show how much improvement still remains to be achieved. And in all this the chief factor is the human element : for the price of safety is unwearying (even at the height of a busy summer season) constant vigilance in maintaining the most scrupulous cleanliness and care.

(e) *Fish Frying.*

The announcement by the Ministry of Food that fats would be made available to persons intending to establish a fish frying business has resulted in a number of applications. All these are carefully investigated as to the suitability of the premises, and the Town Planning Authorities are informed so that the question of amenity and usage can be considered.

(f) *Food and Disease.*

The risks arising from the handling of food are considerable and are especially accentuated in a town with so many hotels, restaurants and cafés. 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 lapse, it is more than ever very essential to reiterate these obvious but often sadly neglected facts.

It is universally accepted that much of the risk of spreading disease would be eliminated, if food-handlers would on every occasion wash their hands after using the convenience ; and it is felt that all water-closet apartments should, as a matter of course, be fitted with wash-basins having both hot and cold water. Your Sanitary Inspectors are asking for this to be carried out wherever possible ; but although progress is necessarily slow, on account of lack of materials, quite a number of premises have been equipped in this way. And this is a helpful and satisfactory advance.

Many applications for licences to carry out improvements to food premises have been refused by the Ministry of Works, on the grounds that while the work is desirable, it is not essential ; but it is hoped, with the gradual easing of the position in building, further progress in these matters will not be long delayed.

(g) *Food Poisoning Outbreaks.*

Details of any outbreaks are requested in the following tabular form :

<i>Total Number of Outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or Other Agents responsible with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>	<i>Foods involved with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>
1	21	Nil	S. typhi-murium (1)	Not ascertainable

This outbreak occurred at a Hospital, and although full investigations were made immediately after the information was received, it was not possible to incriminate the article of food or how any food actually became infected. The nursing staff were chiefly affected, of whom 15 were ill, together with 2 kitchen staff, 3 other staff, and 1 patient: their symptoms were on the whole not severe, and most of those affected did not report sick until it was too late to obtain any specimens of food. Moreover, owing to some staff being away for week-end leave, it was difficult to find any article of food common to all those with symptoms. No infestation with mice was prevalent.

All the kitchen staff and dining room staff were examined and certain members were found carrying the organism *S. typhi-murium*, although they were quite symptomless. It seems possible, therefore, that one member of the staff may have become infected outside hospital with a sub-clinical infection, and subsequently infected the food on perhaps more than one occasion. All those who were ill or who were found carrying the organism were suspended from duty until three negative specimens were obtained at three-day intervals. And no further spread occurred.

Hygiene and Food Exhibition.

At the Town Hall during the last week in February a very successful exhibition was held, having for its main theme the protection of food from infection or contamination. Great credit is due to your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. J. Loveless, for his organising ability and skill in making the local arrangements, in which he was assisted by the District Sanitary Inspectors and members of the Public Health Staff.

Lecturers, exhibits, and film shows were supplied by the Central Council for Health Education and by the Ministries of Health, Food, and Agriculture and Fisheries. A number of the local firms actively co-operated in staging examples of the latest equipment now in use in all modern food premises.

Of special value were the popular talks given each day to such organisations as the Hotels and Caterers, Farmers, Dairymen, and Ice-cream Manufacturers and Retailers. Organised groups of senior school children were conducted through the exhibition and attended lectures given by specialists. And in all about 6,700 people visited the exhibition.

Proof of the value of this method of propoganda has been evident in the increasing use of modern fittings in food shops, and in a desire on the part of both principals and assistants to promote a better standard of cleanliness. And it is hoped that the progress thus started will continue still further.

Year	Number of cases	Deaths
1918	100	10
1919	150	15
1920	200	20
1921	250	25
1922	300	30
1923	350	35
1924	400	40
1925	450	45
1926	500	50
1927	550	55
1928	600	60
1929	650	65
1930	700	70
1931	750	75
1932	800	80
1933	850	85
1934	900	90
1935	950	95
1936	1000	100
1937	1050	105
1938	1100	110
1939	1150	115
1940	1200	120
1941	1250	125
1942	1300	130
1943	1350	135
1944	1400	140
1945	1450	145
1946	1500	150
1947	1550	155
1948	1600	160
1949	1650	165
1950	1700	170
1951	1750	175
1952	1800	180
1953	1850	185
1954	1900	190
1955	1950	195
1956	2000	200
1957	2050	205
1958	2100	210
1959	2150	215
1960	2200	220
1961	2250	225
1962	2300	230
1963	2350	235
1964	2400	240
1965	2450	245
1966	2500	250
1967	2550	255
1968	2600	260
1969	2650	265
1970	2700	270
1971	2750	275
1972	2800	280
1973	2850	285
1974	2900	290
1975	2950	295
1976	3000	300
1977	3050	305
1978	3100	310
1979	3150	315
1980	3200	320
1981	3250	325
1982	3300	330
1983	3350	335
1984	3400	340
1985	3450	345
1986	3500	350
1987	3550	355
1988	3600	360
1989	3650	365
1990	3700	370
1991	3750	375
1992	3800	380
1993	3850	385
1994	3900	390
1995	3950	395
1996	4000	400
1997	4050	405
1998	4100	410
1999	4150	415
2000	4200	420

During the year an outbreak of typhoid fever was reported. This is the second year of occurrence and is a very interesting reflection on the effect of the bacteriological campaign. Between 1910 and 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000.

The outbreak of typhoid fever during the winter 1918-9 began in June 1918, when there was a slight rise in the number of cases reported. The first small rise in the number of cases reported was seen over and the disease remained general until the last week of the year, when the main wave of infection began; it was extremely widespread and continued into the first three months of 1919.

Fortunately the outbreak of cases of typhoid fever was better controlled than that of modern typhoid fever, and although a number of such cases were admitted to hospital, no death occurred among the resident children.

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	30	22	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	318	24	—
Whooping Cough	109	2	—
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	24	10	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—
Typhus Fever (contracted abroad)	—	—	—

During the year no case of diphtheria was notified ; this is the second year in succession, and is a gratifying reflexion on the efficacy of the immunisation campaign. Between 1940 and 4th July, 1949 (after which the County Council took over responsibility for this scheme), the number of children immunised by your Medical Officer in the Borough was 8,121.

The anticipated epidemic of measles during the winter 1948-9 began in June, 1948, when there was a slight rise in the number of cases representing the first small phase in the biennial periodicity. The phase was soon over, and the disease remained quiescent until the last few weeks of the year, when the main wave of incidence began : it was extremely widespread, and continued into the first three months of 1949.

Fortunately, the complicated cases of measles are more easily controlled than formerly, by modern therapeutic measures : and although a number of such cases were admitted to hospital, no death occurred among the resident children.

Whooping cough was also epidemic during the autumn and early winter, but no death was recorded.

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	...	...	...	32
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	36
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	13
Rubella	...	...	...	—
Mumps	...	...	...	4
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	4
Para-typhoid Fever	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	1
Pueperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	19

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 1948.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1948 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 ...	2	7	—	2	—	3	—	—
25 to 35 years ...	5	6	1	1	2	1	—	—
35 to 45 years ...	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 to 55 years ...	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
55 to 65 years ...	3	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
65 and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Totals</i> ...	17	18	1	4	9	7	—	—

SECTION G.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

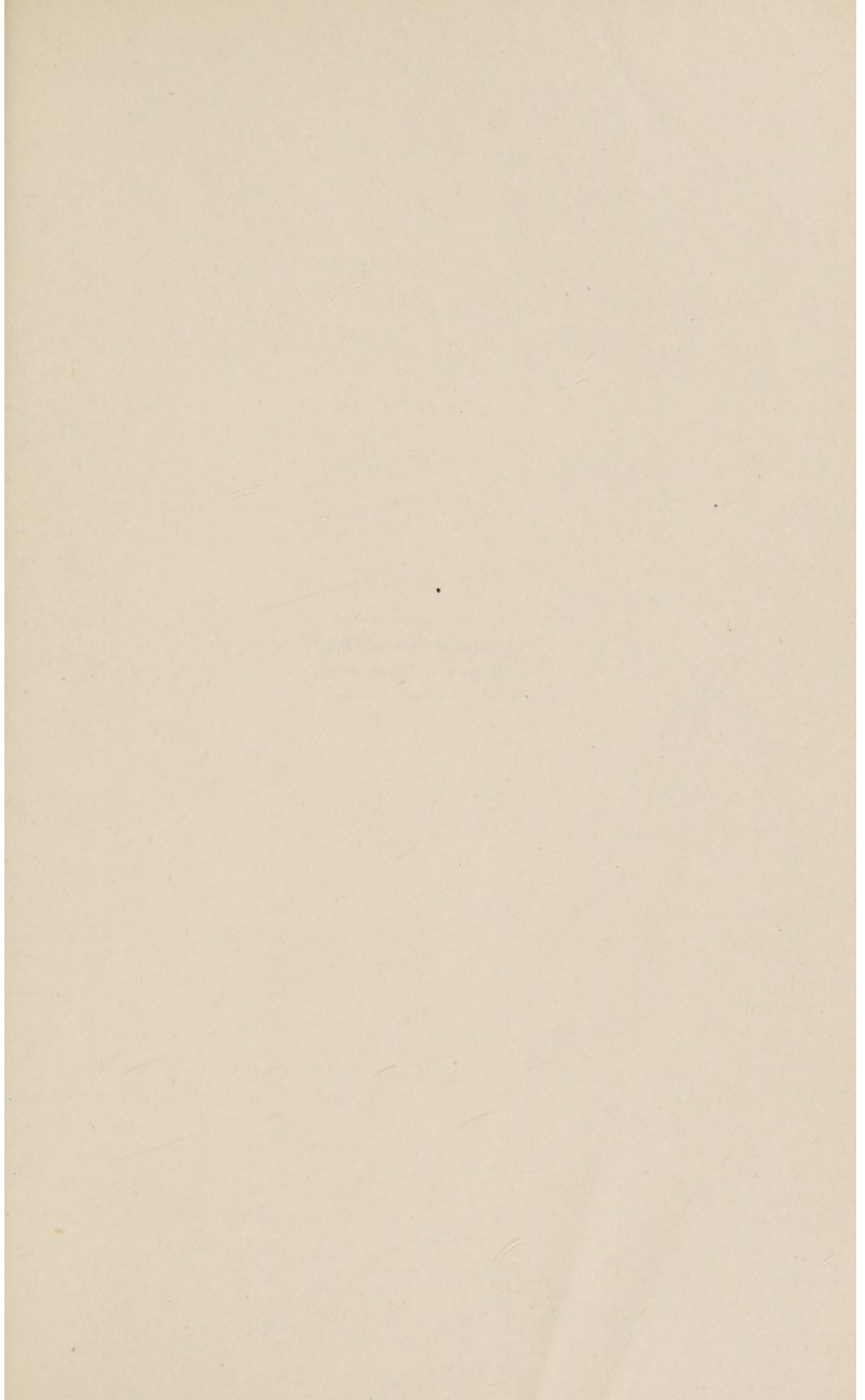
This section is published separately.

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION H.

1. *Government Evacuation Scheme.*

This scheme, in which, since 1939, your Medical Officer had been Chief Billeting Officer, and your Sanitary Inspectors had been Billeting Officers, finally closed on 31st March: there were 11 unaccompanied children remaining who had been unable to return to their Evacuation Areas, and the responsibility for these children, after the end of the scheme, was transferred to the Devon County Council.



Section II.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This report is published separately.

MISCELLANEOUS

Section A.

1. Government Expenditure Scheme.

The scheme in which, since 1955, the Chief Officer had been Chief Medical Officer, and the Assistant Officers had been Acting Officers, finally closed on 31st March 1961 when 11 unemployable children remaining who had been unable to return to their vocational areas, and the responsibility for these children after the end of the scheme, was transferred to the Devon County Council.

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