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BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1951



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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 PIDGEON AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951, which is detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The preliminary report of the Census, which was held in April, shows that the population of the Borough was 53,216 ; this was an increase of 6,864 on the 1931 Census figure. But during the intercensal twenty years the deaths considerably exceeded the births, so that the migration into the town was actually just over 20 per cent. of the 1931 population ; and it is probable that the rate of this immigration was accelerated during and after the war. The amount of immigration has, of course, a significant bearing on the general housing requirements. Further information from this Census, as it becomes available, will provide extensive details on local housing and family conditions ; and, by its contribution towards knowledge of the numbers of people and of the conditions under which they are living, the enumeration will play its own important part in the cause of the public health.

During the first quarter of the year, influenza was epidemic throughout the country and was more extensive and of a more severe type than had occurred since 1937 and 1929 ; in the Borough the disease was widespread, but the mortality was not excessive and affected mainly the older age-groups. The incidence of both measles and whooping-cough also assumed epidemic proportions, but it is gratifying that no death occurred from either disease ; and diphtheria remained absent for the fifth successive year, a continuing triumph for the immunisation scheme.

In housing, the further progress allotted to the area was made in new building ; and at the end of the year the total number of council and private houses, completed since the war, exceeded 1,100—an appreciable addition to the residential accommodation of the town. This, together with the further estate now in progress, should enable consideration to be given for plans to halt the mounting disrepair of older property, which is deteriorating more quickly as time goes on. And some change in legislation is urgently awaited ; for it is economically unsound and impracticable for owners—whether public authorities or private individuals—of houses with controlled low rents to carry out the necessary maintenance repairs. Indeed the adequate reconditioning and modernisation of many existing houses now constitute almost the greater need, and would be as valuable a contribution as the provision of new

dwelling towards "the betterment of man's estate"; for new housing alone cannot achieve the complete success desired.

The general routine of each section of the Department has continued in quiet efficiency, with special attention to important subjects such as the inspection of meat and other foods, and the hygiene of food premises and workers, upon which so much depends in a busy holiday resort; although it is not possible to give a vivid account of the manifold activities, for some must remain silent.

In conclusion, it is with appreciation that I acknowledge 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 round and common task. To the Staff is again due great credit for their high standard of work and for their ready willingness at all times, which enable preventive medicine to negotiate this cloudy passage of uneasy and uncertain change.

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, T.D., 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.

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

J. MARTIN, C.S.I.B., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.

(c) Other

Public Analyst :

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

Chief Clerk :

Mrs. I. M. GOWMAN.

Clerks :

Miss L. M. HARRIS.

E. C. DOBLE.

Assistant to Sanitary Inspectors :

M. L. WHITE.

Rodent Operatives :

W. LEE.

J. BORLACE.

*Part Time.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1951	50,650
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to Rate Books	14,158
Rateable value (end of 1951)	£586,480
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1951) ...	£2,342

SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

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

Torquay is now a busy holiday resort as well as a residential town ; and, with the increase in the number of persons receiving holidays with pay, the summer season is becoming even busier than formerly. This has its effect on unemployment which now shows a more marked seasonal variation. For several years before the war the average minimum of unemployed was about 800 and the maximum about 1,800 : and the following shows the extent of unemployment in 1951 :

MAXIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
January, 1951 ...	557	431	10	26	1018
MINIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
July, 1951 ...	151	23	1	1	176

It is not easy to see how the seasonal variation can be eliminated; for further employment would be required only during the winter months when it is most difficult to provide.

Moreover, the spreading of holidays throughout the summer months is also not easy to achieve : indeed, although it is probably not realised, the popular instinct for holidays in August is based on a sound physiological reason. The stimulus of solar light and ultra-violet rays on the body is greatest when it follows darkness, such as during the first hours of morning daylight : and similarly the effect is most marked in the spring after the dark winter days. When this effect has worn off, usually about the middle of the year, a further stimulus can only be obtained by a change from city or town to seaside or country, and this explains the popular desire for holidays in July or August.

And how far a planned and planning society can influence this natural instinct remains to be seen.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1951,
which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	12.14
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	26.90
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	17.57
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.00
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	26.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	28.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	137
„ Measles (all ages)	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	4

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.

It is perhaps difficult to believe that up to the year 1800 there was considerable opposition to a census, which was thought subversive to English liberty ; and critics even “ feared lest some great public misfortune or an epidemical distemper should follow the numbering.” But, since 1801, the census has been regularly taken every 10 years except in 1941 ; and on the night of 8th April, 1951, the enumeration went with customary smoothness.

The preliminary return shows that the population of Torquay was 53,216 ; of this number 22,899 were males and 30,317 were females. The increase since the 1931 census is 6,864 or 14.8 per cent. ; but during the inter-censal period 1931–1951 the deaths exceeded the births in Torquay by 2,591, so that there was a total increase in population of 9,455 or 20.4 per cent. which is due to migration into the town.

It is probable that most of this immigration took place during and after the war, and the following table shows the growth of the population in Torquay during the present century :

YEAR.	POPULATION.	PERCENTAGE. Increase + or Decrease —
Census 1901	33,265	
Census 1911	38,771	+ 15.3
Census 1921	39,431	+ 0.2
Census 1931	46,352	+ 16.4
Registrar-General's estimate mid-year		
1939	44,850	— 3.2
Census 1951	53,216	+ 18.7

The deaths have exceeded the births in Torquay in each recent inter-censal period, and thus appreciable migration into the Borough must have taken place ; and the extent of immigration is the inter-censal increase together with the difference between the deaths and births. This is shown in the next table.

		<i>Population Increase from previous census.</i>	<i>Excess of deaths over births.</i>	<i>Migration into Borough.</i>
1911-21	....	660	451	1,111
1921-31	....	6,921	356	7,257
1931-51	....	6,864	2,591	9,455

It is seen that the excess of deaths over births has been very much greater in the last inter-censal period, but this is accounted for in part by the high number of deaths in 1940-43 inclusive ; although for the years before the war 1931-39 the deaths exceeded the births by 996, which was higher than both the 1911-21 and the 1921-31 periods added together. And in the past few years the difference has become more pronounced again.

The proportion of females to males has decreased somewhat in Torquay during the past two or three inter-censal periods and, this is shown, compared with England and Wales, as follows :

	<i>England and Wales.</i>		<i>Torquay.</i>	
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
1921	 1,000	1,096	1,000	1,474
1931	 1,000	1,088	1,000	1,381
1951	 1,000	1,081	1,000	1,324

The population of Torquay brings the Borough, from 1st January, 1952, into the group of 160 large towns with populations exceeding 50,000 ; previously the Borough was one of the smaller towns with populations between 25,000 and 50,000.

As an illustration of the increasing urbanisation of the country as a whole, there are now 160 large towns compared with 126 in 1931, 101 in 1921, and 76 in 1901.

Further details are awaited with interest, when the full analysis of the census returns is completed.

In the Census Schedule there were 24 questions compared with 15 in 1931, and 13 in 1921 ; questions were included much as before as to sex, age, marital conditions, relation to head of household, birth place, nationality, number of rooms occupied by household, occupation and industry. The question on usual residence was in the same form as in 1931 when it was first included. These answers will enable the number to be calculated of persons enumerated in the borough but usually resident elsewhere in England and Wales, and also the number enumerated elsewhere but usually resident in Torquay. The information will enable the enumerated population to be adjusted to provide a basis for the Registrar-General's estimates of local population which relate to the resident population.

The question about the number of rooms was on the same lines as before, and it was arranged for a record to be made, during the enumeration, of the number of households occupying structurally separate dwellings, that is, houses or flats or other quarters built or adapted for separate occupation and forming a private and structurally separate unit. Additional and quite new questions inquired if each householder had exclusive use of, or shared with another householder, or lacked entirely, a piped water supply within the house, cooking stove or range, kitchen sink, water closet and fixed bath. The answers to these questions will provide extensive useful information on local housing conditions.

The remaining questions related to the duration of marriage and number of children: questions of this nature had been asked in 1911 but not subsequently. In 1951 the questions relate only to married women under 50 years of age; it was considered that sufficient information about the experience of women over 50 years old was available from the 10 per cent. sample Family Census conducted for the Royal Commission on Population in 1946. The information asked was the date of marriage, and if married more than once, the date of their first marriage also, the total number of children born alive to them in marriage, and whether a child had been born during the twelve months preceding Census Day.

The object is to get new material to bring up to date the study begun in 1911, and to complete the details collected from the additional facts obtained at birth and death registrations under the Population (Statistics) Act, 1938.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1951 is 50,650; and this figure is used in calculating the marriage-rate, birth-rate, death-rate and other statistical returns.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 615, of which 314 were male and 301 female; there were 564 legitimate and 51 illegitimate births. There were 17 stillbirths, 15 legitimate and 2 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 12.1 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.5 for England and Wales, and 16.7 for the smaller towns; the stillbirth-rate was 0.34 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the smaller towns being 0.36 and 0.38. The stillbirth-rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths was 26.9.

(The smaller towns comprise 148 towns, with a resident population between 25,000 and 50,000 at the 1931 census, and for the year 1951 include Torquay).

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 8.3 per cent. in 1951 ; this figure had risen progressively from 6.4 per cent. in 1939 to a maximum of 17.7 per cent. in 1945, subsequently falling, and in 1950 returning to the pre-war level.

A comparability factor, to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of the town, has this year been prepared by the Registrar-General for correcting the birth-rate ; the factor is 1.04, and after multiplying the crude rate by this a corrected birth-rate of 12.63 is obtained.

Marriages.

The marriage-rate was 5.9 per 1,000 population compared with 5.3 in 1950, 5.1 in 1949, 5.7 in 1948, 5.9 in 1947 and 6.0 in 1946.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 890, of which 407 were males and 483 were females.

The crude death-rate was 17.57 per 1,000 population compared with 16.48 in 1950 ; the death-rate in 1951 for England and Wales was 12.5, and for the smaller towns 12.5.

In order to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of Torquay, with its greater proportion of older people, the Registrar-General supplies an areal comparability factor (A.C.F.) with which to multiply the crude death-rate and so obtain an adjusted death-rate. The A.C.F. for Torquay is 0.69 and the adjusted death-rate is therefore 12.12.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay ; (1) Heart Disease, 319 ; (2) Cancer 137 ; and (3) Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 129 ; which between them are responsible for two-thirds of the total deaths.

The death-rate from tuberculosis in Torquay was 0.34 per 1,000 population compared with 0.31 for England and Wales, and 0.31 for the smaller towns ; the death-rate from pneumonia was 0.69 per 1,000 population compared with 0.61 for England and Wales and 0.63 for the smaller towns, and the death-rate from influenza was 0.41 per 1,000 population compared with 0.38 for England and Wales and 0.38 for the smaller towns.

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

Table B is also included showing the age-distribution of total deaths, together with the deaths from the different causes : this table is compiled from the returns of the Local Registrar, and differs slightly from the list supplied by the Registrar-General who frequently obtains subsequent further information to assist in the more accurate classification.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 26.0 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 29.6 for England and Wales and 27.6 for the smaller towns; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 28.4, and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 0.00. 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, 1946-50 inclusive, were 30, 27, 23, 30, 23.

The actual number of deaths in 1951 of infants under 1 year of age was 16 (13 of these being under 4 weeks) and in 1950 was 14 (11 being under 4 weeks).

There was no maternal death during the year; the number of maternal deaths in each of the preceding five years, 1946-50 was 2, 2, 0, 0, 1.

TABLE A.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1951						Males	Females
All Causes						407	483
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	13	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	13	10
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	9	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	14
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	39	41
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	6
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	52	77
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	72	40
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	7	11
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	68	121
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	14	27
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	6	15
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	19	16
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	15	18
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	5	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	4
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	5	8
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	11	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	26	41
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	5	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	6	10
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	2	—
Death of Infants under 1 year { Total						7	9
Legitimate						7	9
Illegitimate						—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks { Total						6	7
Legitimate						6	7
Illegitimate						—	—
Stillbirths ... { Total						8	9
Legitimate						7	8
Illegitimate						1	1

TABLE B.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1951 (Per Local Registrar).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.										65 and under 75	75 and over
	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65		
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	16	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	4	3	3	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	5	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	4	3	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	14	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	2	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	10	33	32
15. Leukemia, leukaemia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
16. Diabetes	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	139	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	18	37	79
18. Coronary disease, angina	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	19	34	53
19. Hypertension with heart disease	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	2
20. Other heart disease	194	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	16	54	116
21. Other circulatory disease	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	3	18
22. Influenza	21	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	6	6	10
23. Pneumonia	42	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	11	11	23
24. Bronchitis	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	12
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	6	8
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	75	9	1	-	1	3	1	1	4	2	10	43
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	2	4	6
34. All other accidents	16	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	2	1
35. Suicide	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	890	13	3	-	3	8	8	19	55	110	234	437

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.*

No changes occurred during the year in the permanent staff ; but two of the rodent operatives resigned and were not replaced, these being temporary appointments.

2. *Nursing Homes.*

During the year one new Home was registered and one Home was discontinued ; and the following is a summary of the Nursing Homes at the end of December.

Number of Homes on the Register	...	...	11
Number of Maternity Beds	...	...	12
Number of Other Beds	...	...	90

3. *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 not exceeding three months, subject to extension on further application. The person concerned by the Order, or any persons on his behalf, may apply to the Court at the expiration of six weeks from the making of the Order for its revocation.

On 1st September, 1951, an Amending Act came into force giving Local Authorities powers to deal expeditiously with certain cases of person in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. Where the Medical Officer of Health and another registered Medical Practitioner certify that, in the case of a person to whom Section 47 of the 1948 Act applies, an application (that he should be removed without delay) may be made to the appropriate Court or to a single Justice, without giving the seven clear days' notice required by the main Act. The application may be made by the Local Authority, or by the Medical Officer of Health where the Authority authorises him to make application, in cases to which the Amending Act applies. The order is made for a period not exceeding 3 weeks, and any further application extending this period has to be in accordance with the main provisions of the 1948 Act.

Your Medical Officer was authorised to make application in any case to which the Amending Act applies.

During the year it was not necessary to take action under either Act.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water.*

In this report full details are given in connexion with the water supply, and the Borough Water Engineer, Mr. R. V. Toms, has kindly supplied the information under sub-headings (a) and (b).

(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 for all purposes from the Corporation's four Impounding Reservoirs, which have a storage capacity of 848 million gallons, or approximately 7 months supply. As in past years, there was a large number of visitors during the summer season, which considerably increased the population in the area of supply ; but no difficulty was experienced in maintaining the required amount of water for all purposes.

The new service reservoir at Gallows Gate was almost completed towards the end of the year, and should be in operation early in 1952 : this will provide additional storage of three million gallons.

(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 to 8.0.

The chlorine dosage has been raised to enable a residual of 0.6 to 0.8 parts per million, which has resulted in better reports of the water on its arrival at the service reservoirs.

Analyses of the raw water numbered 3, bacteriological, as follows :

REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
66 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

1. SAMPLE 23.4.51. TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR (UNTREATED).
BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.			3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	24 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-genes Reaction	Present in ... — ml.	Absent from 100 ml.		Probable Number 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	... — ml.	100 ml.		0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... — ml.	100 ml.		

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, and bacterial purity is of the highest standard appropriate to a public supply.

2. SAMPLE 23.4.51.

FERNWORTHY RESERVOIR (TRENCHFORD OUTLET).

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.			2 days at 37°C.			3 days at 20°C.		
	0 per ml.			1 per ml.			9 per ml.		
	<i>Present in</i>			<i>Absent from</i>			<i>Probable Number</i>		
Presumptive Coli-aero-									
genes Reaction ...	50 ml.			20 ml.			3 per 100 ml.		
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	50 ml.			20 ml.			3 per 100 ml.		
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	100 ml.			10 ml.					

This sample shows only faint opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension, and bacterial impurity indicative of contamination by matters of excremental origin is confined to the presence of Bact. coli in small number. From the aspect of bacterial quality the water is therefore readily amenable to treatment to achieve a standard appropriate to a public supply.

3. SAMPLE 23.4.51.

KENNICK RESERVOIR (UNTREATED).

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.			2 days at 37°C.			3 days at 20°C.		
	0 per ml.			0 per ml.			4 per ml.		
	<i>Present in</i>			<i>Absent from</i>			<i>Probable Number</i>		
Presumptive Coli-aero-									
genes Reaction ...	— ml.			100 ml.			0 per 100 ml.		
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.			100 ml.			0 per 100 ml.		
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.			100 ml.					

This sample shows only slight opalescence, carries only a trace of matter in suspension and bacterial purity is of the highest standard appropriate to a public supply.

A comprehensive analysis of the treated water going into supply is as follows :

SAMPLE 23.4.51.

CHAPEL HILL RESERVOIR.

TORQUAY.

(Treated Water : Filtered, Limed and Chlorinated.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance : Bright with a few particles of amorphous mineral and organic debris together with a few chlorophyceae and protozoa.

Colour ...	Less than 10	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 3
Reaction pH ...	7.1	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	100	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	14	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	70
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	8
Hardness : Total ...	26	Carbonate 8 { Non-carbonate 18	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	2.2	temporary { permanent	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Less than 0.1
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.044	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	0.60		
Metals : Iron ...	0.04		
Other metals ...	Absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml. <i>Present in</i>	0 per ml. <i>Absent from</i>	0 per ml. <i>Probable Number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is neutral in reaction but is very soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution, shows only a trace of colour, is of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity. The water 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 from storage reservoirs in the Borough. 35 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results of 22 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 13 other samples the examination showed that the probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 140, and in 3 cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

(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.

(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.

(vi) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

No important main drainage work has been completed during the year.

(vii) *Closet Accommodation.*

No cases of conversion are known during the year under review.

(viii) *Public Cleansing.*

The erection of the new housing estates during recent years has entailed overtime working of the regular vehicles and the introduction of an extra round by one vehicle ; and the further number of new houses nearing completion will necessitate extending this round.

A matter of some importance is the provision of proper dust-bins : and now that the supply of these is sufficient for normal requirements there should be no difficulty in every dwelling having a metal bin with fitting lid, maintained in a good condition. For the number of old baths, boxes, tea chests, buckets and the like still masquerading as refuse receptacles, is a disgrace to a modern resort.

(ix) *Salvage.*

It is regrettable that, on the grounds of expense, the scheme for the special daily collection of fish offal, to which reference was made last year, has been discontinued. For it was hoped that an extension might have been possible to include other premises like large hotels and cafés ; for not only was the scheme praiseworthy in removing potential nuisances arising from the waste material, and in enabling the offal to be used before it putrefies, but it was also an invaluable daily reminder and object lesson to the management and staff on the value of hygienic conditions. For, surely in our materialistic age, an ounce of example is worth a ton of precept.

The collection and recovery of salvable material continue, and the following are the details of the amounts of salvage recovered :

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper and Cardboard	...	...	507	7
Metal : ferrous	...	...	86	3
Metal : non-ferrous	...	...	33	1
Textiles	...	...	9	11
String	...	...	1	1
Rubber	...	...	—	5
Kitchen Waste	...	...	876	17
Fish Offal	...	...	26	2
Bottles and Jars	...	...	3,999 doz.	
Number of Hats	...	...	262	
Oil	...	...	860 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 previous reports reference has been made to the organisation of this section, so that each District Sanitary Inspector, while maintaining a thorough knowledge of his own district, specialised in a particular branch of work. This scheme, tentative in nature and somewhat experimental, has been found very satisfactory, and is being continued.

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 diligence and efficiency.

<i>Dwelling Houses</i>				<i>Inspections</i>
Under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	158
Under Housing Acts	...	...	...	871
Overcrowding cases found	...	...	...	4
Verminous Premises treated	...	...	...	73
New Houses—habitation certificates	...	...	...	13
Corporation Houses	...	...	...	142
<i>General Public Health</i>				<i>Inspections</i>
Drains and sewers :				
Inspected	...	...	...	348
Tests applied	...	...	...	459
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	128
Cesspools	...	...	...	11
Stables	...	...	...	20
Piggeries	...	...	...	20
Open Spaces	...	...	...	46
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	44
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	18
Factories	...	...	...	120
Outworkers	...	...	...	11
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	4
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	7
Cinemas, Dance Halls	...	...	...	6
Marine Stores	...	...	...	1
Shops—Shops Act	...	...	...	71
Schools	...	...	...	9
Offices	...	...	...	18
Ships	...	...	...	90
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	46
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	18
<i>Water</i>				
Water Supply—Visits	...	...	...	71
Samples	...	...	...	56
Swimming Baths—Visits	...	...	...	84
Samples	...	...	...	141
Chlorine Tests	...	...	...	51

Meat and Food

Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	...	...	...	...	103
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	625
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	29
Dairies	...	...	...	...	227
Samples—Public Health Laboratory Service	...	...	...	...	80
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	19
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	51
Hotels	...	...	...	...	123
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	240
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	13
Fish Quay	...	...	...	...	110
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	15
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	54
Grocers	...	...	...	...	336
Restaurants, Cafés, Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	146
Cooked Meat Premises	...	...	...	...	10
Houses—food complaints	...	...	...	...	25

Miscellaneous

Complaints investigated	...	...	...	645
Other visits	...	...	...	1,016
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	47

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 ...	272	157	24	32	5	—	301	189
Housing Act ...	12	11	99	122	5	7	116	140
Factories Act ...	15	8	5	5	—	—	20	13
Food and Drugs Act ...	77	68	7	9	—	—	84	77
TOTALS ...	376	244	135	168	10	7	521	419

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Co-operation had been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act ; any contraventions of those sections under the control of H.M. Inspector which are noticed by your Sanitary Inspectors are notified and this action is reciprocated. A total of 22 outworkers were employed and registered in the Borough. The accompanying tables give the details of the inspections and the defects found :

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES. (Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspection (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	64	46	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	238	64	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...		302	110	5	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	3	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	1	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	3	1	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	13	7	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	60	20	13	—	2	—

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some Premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. ...	13	4					
	14						
Basket making ...	40	18					
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	41						
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...	42						
Textile weaving ...	43						
Lampshades ...	44						
TOTAL ...	70	22	-	-	-	-	-

Licensed Premises.

A feature in connexion with this has been the co-operation between the Public Health Department, the Licensing Justices, and the Police. During the past three years it has been the custom for your Sanitary Inspector to visit the premises with the Licensing Authorities to advise upon the existing conditions of the sanitary arrangements, to consider suggested improvements, and to supervise any such subsequent alterations.

It has not always been easy, with the prevailing conditions, to persuade owners to carry out extensive alterations; but it is gratifying to record the improvements effected.

Among points noted at the initial inspection were lighting and ventilation, separate conveniences for the sexes, separate approaches to the conveniences, adequate and modern sanitary fittings, the provision of wash basins to each water-closet, and a supply of hot water to the bar counters for washing glasses. Although it is hoped that the more progressive owners will use the modern method of sterilising glasses by chemical solutions of the quaternary ammonium compounds to which detailed reference was made last year.

The old-fashioned public house, with its somewhat primitive conditions, is rapidly giving way to modern premises with adequate facilities for both sexes; not only in providing the necessary additional sanitary arrangements, but in many instances in improving the amenities generally.

The number of premises involved was 53 ; in some the improvements were of a minor nature, but in others the existing sanitary arrangements were completely reconstructed, and the following table is an indication of the nature and extent of the work carried out. One or two of the smaller premises could still be improved, but the premises in the Borough generally are now satisfactorily equipped with modern facilities.

Number of premises	...	...	...	...	53
Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	22
Ventilation...	...	...	...	...	15
Water-closets	...	...	...	...	32
Urinals	...	...	...	...	15
Wash basins	...	...	...	...	81
Light	...	...	...	...	9
Gully traps	...	...	...	...	43
Inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	30
Cleansing ...	...	...	...	...	11
Hot water ...	...	...	...	...	8
Trap wastes	...	...	...	...	85
Sinks	...	...	...	...	2
Baths	...	...	...	...	2
Flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	47
Separate approaches	...	...	...	...	6

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act came into force on 1st November, and requires (a) the registration of premises where filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, carriages and other articles of upholstery (but this does not apply to reconditioning or remaking) ; and (b) the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored for distribution to registered premises.

Registration should be accorded unconditionally if the premises are used for the purpose stated and the fee is paid ; licences should be granted after an officer has inspected and reported on the premises, which are to have such appliances as may be necessary to enable clean rag flock to be manufactured, and licences can only be refused on limited grounds.

The necessary records have to be kept on registered and on licensed premises in the form prescribed ; and there are powers of entry, of inspection and of sampling.

The sale of articles with unclean materials is forbidden, although this does not apply to second-hand articles ; the word " clean " means compliance with standards laid down by regulations. And the filling materials are defined as rag flock, cotton flock, unwoven wool, jute, unwoven synthetic fibres, hair, feathers, down, kapok, coir fibre, seaweed, straw and such other materials as may be prescribed.

Regulations have so far been made on the type of records, the right to have samples tested, and the standards of cleanliness ; the Minister has also prescribed certain analysts to whom samples must be sent for testing, and these will be reviewed in six months time.

This Act is of great importance and it is hoped that high standards will be everywhere maintained in the cleanliness of filling materials ; and your Inspectors will do all that they can to encourage the co-operation of manufacturers and traders, with whom they will discuss, and help in, any difficulties that may arise.

The following table gives the details about registration and licences.

No of applications for registration	...	...	6
No. of premises registered	...	...	6
No. of applications for licences to store rag flock			1
No. of licences issued	...	...	1

Shops Acts.

The Shops Act, 1950, which came into force on 1st October, 1950, was mainly a consolidating act and there were no significant changes in the law. The duties, so far as public health is concerned, are connected with the maintenance of suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, of reasonable temperature, of lighting, of sanitary accommodation and of the provision of washing facilities.

During the year, one notice was served and no exemptions were granted : the facility provided was the maintenance of adequate temperature.

In addition to these arrangements for health and comfort, your Sanitary Inspectors were made responsible for the administration of the other provisions of the Act ; these are not really Public Health matters and include hours of closing, conditions of employment, provisions affecting young persons under 18, Sunday employment and Sunday trading. Copies of a summary of the various enactments were obtained and are being distributed on the visit of your District Sanitary Inspector : it is found that many shop-keepers are not fully conversant with the provisions, and your District Sanitary Inspectors re-visit a short time later to take the opportunity of explaining the requirements and of answering enquiries after the shop-keeper has had time to consider the details.

Copies of a schedule have also been obtained showing the provisions of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938 ; these are especially important for hotels and places of public entertainment, whose owners have the option to apply either this Act or Part I of the Shops Act. The requirements include the permitted weekly hours of employment, overtime, intervals for meals and rest, half-holidays, night and Sunday employment, and the exhibition of Notice C.

In this connexion a number of enquiries have been received from young persons and parents, and also from employers : and the necessary help and advice have been given. In addition, there is close co-operation with the Youth Employment Officer of the Ministry of Labour in dealing with cases brought to his notice.

During the year a total of 75 special visits and investigations were made.

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. 41 samples were taken at the outlet and 35 were satisfactory, and 6 unsatisfactory : of 42 samples taken at the inlet, 38 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory results were due to temporary faults in the chlorination plant.

(b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths.

Samples were also taken from the swimming baths of an hotel in which the water is chlorinated, although a mechanical system of chlorination is not available. Of 51 samples taken, 23 were satisfactory and 28 were unsatisfactory.

A mechanical chlorine injector is to be installed in these swimming baths in the near future.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

The number of houses infested during the year was :

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Other houses ...	...	...	...	...	5

The number of houses disinfested was :

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Other houses ...	...	...	...	...	5

It is gratifying to record that the incidence of bed-bugs is the lowest on record, and the fact that no Council houses were reported to be infested is particularly welcome ; for it is mainly the result of the scheme which has been carefully followed since well before the war. Under this arrangement, notice is obtained before the transfer of tenants to Council houses, so that your Sanitary Inspectors can visit and inspect prior to removal : any belongings of the tenant found to be verminous are dealt with before the transfer is effected.

Measures against Rodents.

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

The Local Authority, in order to qualify for the grant towards expenditure, has maintained an adequate organisation for the effective control of rodents. Changes were made in the staffing arrangements during the year, the number of operatives being decreased by two ; so that now only two whole-time operatives are employed.

One sewer maintenance treatment was completed during the year and the required 10 per cent. test baiting of all manholes was also carried out. Records indicate that these treatments were successful ; 412 manholes were baited, showing 14 complete takes, 119 partial takes and 279 no takes.

In the surface control 847 private and 342 business properties were inspected and treated during the year. The co-operation of owners and occupiers of various properties has proved most helpful, and several premises have been rat-proofed after successful treatments. Indeed this, as is usual for preventive measures, is the most important part of the work ; for efficient rat-proofing over a large enough area would ultimately render rodent control redundant. And that surely is the aim.

Your Sanitary Inspectors have also made inspections of the farms in the Borough to determine whether there is any type of pest infestation. This information has been forwarded to the County Pests Officer who is responsible for ensuring that the required adequate treatment is obtained.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The following is the table of information required :

1. *Inspection of Dwelling houses during the Year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	316
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,013
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	124

3. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	129
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after formal notice :	
(a) By owners ...	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements, or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | 3 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | — |

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

No attempt has been made to prepare a statistical record of overcrowding in the Borough as this would entail a great deal of time and expense ; in addition such a survey would be of doubtful value, as it would be largely out of date by the time it was completed. The work has revealed comparatively little overcrowding, judged by the standard of the 1936 Act ; and it confirms the impression of the previous year that the main source of overcrowding is the sub-letting to young couples, usually relatives, with one or two children. Complaints about overcrowding are decreasing, and with the steady transfer of such families to the Council's Estates, the future of this social problem may be viewed somewhat more hopefully.

New Houses.

The following table shows the progress in the erection of new houses :—

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED SINCE THE WAR

PERMANENT																		
TEMPORARY		WATCOMBE										COOMBE PAFFORD		STARPITTEN		MARLDON		Total
CADE-WELL	HAPPA-WAY	3 bed-room houses	4 bed-room houses	Old Peoples Bungalows			3 bed-room flats over shops	3 bed-room houses	4 bed-room houses	2 bed-room bungalows	3 bed-room houses	2 bed-room bungalows	3 bed-room bungalows	3 bed-room houses				
				bed recess	1 bed-room	2 bed-room												
1946	97	40														137		
1947		103	22						38							163		
1948			88	14					74	2	2	8				188		
1949			4						146	2	4					156		
1950					6	4	6		14				10	22		62		
1951								7					2	158		167		
TOTAL	97	143	114	14	6	4	6	7	272	4	6	8	2	10	180	873		

In addition, since the end of the war, 51 war-damaged houses have been rebuilt, of which 45 were private houses and 6 were Council houses.

As an interesting comparison, the number of houses erected during the 20 years between the wars, 1919-1938, was 3,525 by private builders and 637 by the Local Authority.

During 1951 a Public Inquiry was held into the proposed compulsory purchase of 65.25 acres of land in the Sherwell Valley district; and subsequently the Minister confirmed the Order. It was originally planned to erect approximately 500 houses on this site; but the scheme has now been reviewed and, with a further proposed purchase of adjoining land, it is intended that over 600 houses will be built. Preliminary work on the estate was scheduled to start in January, 1952.

Requisitioned Premises.

As previously approved, the policy of releasing properties was put into operation; but at the end of the year 14 houses were still held under requisition by which accommodation was provided for 27 families. In view of the conditions in some of the properties concerned, to which reference has been made, it is hoped that this scheme will soon come to an end.

Housing Defects.

The repair of private property continued during the year; this work, however, was generally the result of complaints lodged by tenants. If routine house-to-house inspection were again made and whole streets were inspected as before the war, a tremendous amount of repair work would be required. This would, in no small measure, be the result of the continuing postponement of maintenance repairs, owing to the difficulty of ever-rising costs for labour and material, which have to be financed from controlled low rents. The resulting deterioration of houses is inevitable while such a policy is pursued, and it is most regrettable and discouraging to see houses falling into decay because owners simply cannot afford to undertake the necessary regular maintenance of their properties. Indeed real hardship exists among some owners; and there is an increase in the number of cases in which property has been offered to the Local Authority for nothing in order to relieve the owner of the financial burden—an ugly situation which is bad for everyone concerned. The demand for new houses continues unabated; but the housing problem will not be solved by these alone and perhaps the greater problem, in some areas at least, is not the provision of new houses but the repair and improvement of existing ones.

The position is most unsatisfactory and no improvement can be foreseen until the existing Rent Restriction Acts are amended. And it is difficult to understand the continued delay in dealing with an obvious injustice ; for in these days of uniformity it should not prove difficult to produce a figure, which, when multiplied by the rateable value of the house, would give an economic rent for the house.

The policy of requiring only essential repairs has been continued and during the year 129 houses were rendered fit for habitation.

Underground Room Regulations.

Consent was received early in the year from the Ministry of Health for the adoption of the Underground Room Regulations. These specify a suitable standard for the operation of Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—a standard which is not reached by a large number of basement dwellings in the Borough.

It is not possible at present to deal with all these basements and rehouse the tenants ; but whenever possible voluntary undertakings are obtained from owners that the rooms, when vacant, will not again be used for human habitation.

Three such undertakings were obtained during the year, as follow :—

Effective on rehousing of present occupiers : Basement, 3 Alexandra Road.

Occupiers rehoused by the Corporation : Basement, 8, Marcombe Road.

Occupiers rehoused privately : Basement, 3 Brunswick Terrace.

Similar action in respect of five other properties was pending at the end of the year.

Voluntary Undertakings previously obtained became effective during the year upon the rehousing of the occupiers as follows :

Basement, Hassington, Park Road.

17 St. Edmunds Road.

19 St. Edmunds Road.

Housing Act 1949. Improvement Grants.

No applications for improvement grants were received during the year.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Milk Supply.*

It was not possible during the year to obtain regular samples of milk from the nine non-designated farms in the Borough, owing to lack of sampling facilities. The farms are regularly visited by your Sanitary Inspectors, and samples obtained if complaint is made concerning any milk supply.

It is hoped that regular sampling will be started again in the near future.

(i) *Heat-treated Milk.*

There are three authorised pasteurising establishments in the Borough : two are plants operating the holder method, and one is a High Temperature Short Time plant. These are visited regularly by your Sanitary Inspectors and samples are obtained from each. A total of 60 samples gave the following results :

	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Void</i>
Phosphatase test	59	1	—
Methylene Blue reduction test	58	—	2*

* The regulations state that on arrival at the laboratory the samples of milk shall be removed from the insulated container and kept at atmospheric shade temperature until the test is begun. If at any time the atmospheric shade temperature in the immediate vicinity of the samples, as indicated by the maximum thermometer adjusted to below 65°F. at 9 a.m. on each day of sampling, has exceeded 65°F., the test shall be void.

(ii) *Sterility Tests.*

It has not been practicable to continue these tests, to which reference has been made in previous annual reports, owing to the fact that laboratory facilities are not now available.

(iii) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, Section 20.*

This section refers to the spread of infection by milk ; and under it the Medical Officer of Health has power to prohibit the milk from being sold or used until it is heat-treated, if he has evidence, or reasonable grounds for suspecting, that the consumption of this milk may give rise to disease in any person, or that the milk itself is infected.

No action was necessary under this section during the year.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

At the beginning of the War the five private slaughterhouses in Torquay were closed and killing was concentrated at a private slaughterhouse requisitioned by the Ministry of Food in Parkfield Road. Slaughtering is carried out on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays : and the "carry-over" on Saturdays and Sundays. All animals killed are inspected in accordance with Memorandum 62/Food, together with additional instructions such as for *cysticercus bovis* ; and one District Sanitary Inspector is

solely responsible for this work, being assisted on occasions by two other fully qualified Inspectors. Their work is of a high order, despite the congestion and lack of up-to-date facilities.

Reference has repeatedly been made to the unsuitable premises and unsatisfactory conditions; and although the Ministry of Food has made some minor alterations, the general position is the same. And it is indeed unfortunate that, in days when drastic changes are almost universal, a more radical post-war alteration has not been started. Here, if anywhere, centralisation is fully justified; and a new area abattoir at Newton Abbot, most convenient as it is for rail and road communications, should surely be the objective, where with modern premises, facilities and equipment, ante-mortem examination of the animals and inspection of the meat could be carried out for the whole district. It would be a vast improvement, and in the interests of all concerned—of the animals, of the trade, of the administration of food inspection, and of the Public Health. And although further delays must now be inevitable under the present increasing restrictions, it is to be hoped that the gleam of the ultimate ideal will not be lost.

(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

The following table gives the details of the inspections :

CARCASES 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)	1612	827	1004	8374	621
Number inspected	1612	827	1004	8374	621
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	4	2	14	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	471	439	8	1889	107
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	29.4	53.6	1.0	22.6	17.6
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	9	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	104	161	3	—	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	6.6	20.6	0.4	—	5.2

(Total weight of meat condemned : 61,742 lbs.)

DISEASED OR UNSOUND MEAT DESTROYED

Organs, etc. Destroyed	DISEASES												Totals
	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	Actinomycosis	Oedema Emphysema	Pyæmia Septicæmia	Cysts Tumours	Flukes. Cirrhosis	Inflammation	Injury	Emaciation	Strongyli	Decomposition. Bone-taint	
Cattle : Tongues ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	77
(exclud- Heads ...	55	37	45	-	5	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	154
ing Lungs ...	69	-	-	-	7	1	11	25	-	2	-	-	116
cows) Hearts ...	44	24	-	-	3	1	-	3	-	2	-	-	78
Diaphragms ...	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	11
Stomachs ...	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8
Livers ...	18	-	-	-	54	16	1729	3	-	2	-	-	1824
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	8
Mesenteries ...	26	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	30
Spleens ...	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	2	-	-	25
Fat ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Carcases ...	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6
Parts of ditto	6	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	12	22
Cows : Heads ...	87	8	23	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122
Lungs ...	153	-	-	2	14	2	18	19	-	-	-	-	208
Hearts ...	100	9	-	1	3	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	119
Diaphragms ...	19	-	-	1	5	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	29
Stomachs ...	10	-	-	1	11	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	24
Livers ...	38	-	-	-	23	66	322	2	-	-	-	-	455
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	8	-	-	-	-	21
Mesenteries ...	54	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	64
Spleens ...	13	-	-	1	5	4	-	45	-	-	-	-	68
Udders ...	7	-	-	1	5	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	16
Fat ...	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10
Carcases ...	9	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	13
Parts of ditto	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	22
Calves : Head ...	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lungs ...	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	8
Hearts ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Livers ...	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Carcases ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sheep : Heads ...	-	-	-	1	10	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	14
Lungs ...	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	1	1636	-	1642
Hearts ...	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	20	-	1	-	-	27
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Intestines ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Livers ...	-	-	-	1	4	-	1605	1	-	1	-	-	1612
Fat ...	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases ...	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	9	-	-	14
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	20
Pigs : Heads ...	31	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Lungs ...	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	72	-	-	1	-	83
Hearts ...	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	20
Intestines ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Livers ...	7	-	-	-	2	3	11	3	-	-	-	-	29
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	1	-	-	-	-	20
Spleens ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fat ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mesenteries ...	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	13
Carcases ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	14
TOTALS ...	829	79	68	15	210	131	3696	261	18	37	1637	103	7121

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Food condemned included :				Weight	
				lbs.	ozs.
Canned Pudding	....	....	....	8	—
„ Juice	....	....	....	397	8
„ Vegetables	....	....	....	1,836	10
„ Fruit	....	....	....	6,397	4
„ Soup	....	....	....	353	6
„ Meat	....	....	....	7,656	14
„ Fish	....	....	....	106	14
„ Milk	....	....	....	349	12
„ Spaghetti	....	....	....	58	6
„ Macaroni	....	....	....	1	—
„ Corn	....	....	....	73	—
Cheese	....	....	....	157	14
Butter	....	....	....	164	—
Sandwich Spreads	....	....	....	1	—
Condiments and Pickles	....	....	....	142	10
Rabbits	....	....	....	38	—
Meat Products	....	....	....	41	12
Beverages	....	....	....	2	8
Fats	....	....	....	59	—
Sugar	....	....	....	6	—
Bacon	....	....	....	5	—
Poultry	....	....	....	115	12
Cereals	....	....	....	74	12
Fish	....	....	....	2,016	—
Fish Cakes	....	....	....	7	—
Dried Fruit	....	....	....	567	—
Soft Drinks	....	....	....	3	12
Fruit	....	....	....	392	—
Biscuits, Confectionery, Cakes	....	....	....	141	12
Cake and Pudding Mixture	....	....	....	21	6
Jams, Preserves	....	....	....	290	6
Shell Fish	....	....	....	18	—
Rennet	....	....	....	—	3
Margarine	....	....	....	5	8
Jelly	....	....	....	—	12

(Total weight condemned : 9 tons 12 cwt. 50½ lbs.)

(iii) *Tinned Foods.*

The problem of the damaged food container has assumed considerable proportions in recent years ; and two factors are involved. With the shortage of tin, cans are being made of a lighter gauge metal, and even of an alloy containing aluminium ; and this type of container will not stand the processing to which the filled can is subjected. The greater trouble, however, comes from rough handling ; for tins of food are usually packed in cartons, and frequently these are carelessly knocked or dropped, with consequent damage to the tins. In many cases the seams are split and the contents spilled over the other cans in the carton : the labels on these cans remaining whole are thus spoiled and subsequently rusting to a greater or less extent takes place. In addition, many of the tins are badly dented.

Not unnaturally, the public refuses to purchase tins in such a condition, and the retailer reports this to your Inspectors with the object of obtaining a condemnation note in order that he may claim a credit from his supplier. When your Inspectors decline to issue such a note on the grounds that the food itself is sound, the retailer is most indignant and points out that he is unable to sell the tins. In many cases it is not economical to return the dented containers to the supplier, and the result is that the tins are put back in store until they rust through when your Inspectors are ultimately obliged to issue the condemnation note. There would appear to be a need for a "clearance-house" for damaged but sound tins where, under suitable safeguards, the cans can be sold, possibly at a reduced rate, to the catering trade or to institutions; and much unnecessary waste of food would be obviated.

In common with the rest of the country, Torquay has experienced a good deal of trouble with imported tinned ham. Again the main reason for condemnation was the poor type of tin used, for the weight of the ham caused the seams to burst; but in addition, even on opening an apparently sound tin the ham was not infrequently found to be tainted.

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

The following is a record of the samples taken :

				<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>
Milk	....	....	....	24	2	32	3
Ice-Cream	....	....	....	—	—	11	1
Tomato Soup	....	....	....	—	—	1	1
TOTAL				24	2	44	5

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

Both samples of milk showed deficiency in fat, 34 per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively; and, as in each case it was a first offence, a warning was sent to the retailer concerned. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

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

Three samples of milk, showing respectively 3 per cent. added water, 1 per cent. added water, and 6 per cent. deficiency of fat, were taken from a dairy receiving milk from a large number of producers; the milk was sampled from the churns, and as the sources of supply were farms outside the Borough the facts were reported to the Devon County Council.

One sample of ice-cream was 24 per cent. deficient in sucrose ; the producer was warned, but as production had finished for the year further samples could not be taken.

Concentrated tomato soup was received at a butcher's premises; and following a letter from the Medical Officer of Health of another area a tin was submitted for analysis. The report showed that the soup contained excess tin, the amount being $3\frac{1}{3}$ grains per pound ; the tins were surrendered and destroyed.

(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 now registered in the Borough 190 premises for the sale of ice-cream, and in 118 of these only the pre-packed article is sold : 13 premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, (and of these 12 are also registered for selling the article), although 4 firms manufacture only when supplies from the larger factories fail. In the manufacture of ice-cream, 9 firms use hot mix and 4 use cold mix. There is only one premises registered solely for the storage of ice-cream.

As evidence of the astonishing popularity and increase in the consumption of this product (which in chemical composition has travelled some distance from its literal interpretation), it is interesting to note that before the war there were 94 retailers and 5 wholesale firms registered in the Borough.

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.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more.	Satisfactory.
2.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ —4 hours.	Fair.
3.	$\frac{1}{2}$ —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	2	—	2	3	7
Hot mix	7	1	2	—	10
TOTAL	9	1	4	3	17

(e) *Food and Disease.*

The importance of food hygiene needs no emphasis in a town like Torquay, with its numerous hotels, boarding houses, restaurants and cafés ; and indeed throughout the country great emphasis has been placed upon this subject, because during the past ten years there had been an actual and substantial increase in the number of outbreaks of food poisoning. The latest report of the Ministry of Health suggests that this is due to three main causes : there is the great increase in communal feeding in canteens attached to factories, business premises, schools and other institutions, which has grown up during and since the war. Then there is the retention overnight and reheating of meat dishes, cooked the day before, consequent upon the need for economy in the use of rationed meat supplies : such conditions of slow cooling allow the rapid multiplication of organisms which the subsequent reheating is not high enough to kill. And, thirdly, there is the neglect of personal hygiene, perhaps aggravated sometimes by shortage of staff or lack of facilities.

Food poisoning is to a great extent preventable ; and every effort is being made to raise the standards of hygiene and to reduce to a minimum the risks of illness. In Torquay, the measures to which reference was made in the last report have been continued, including special lectures with films to catering organisations, and talks to individual groups of workers in the various branches of the food-handling trade. Bye-laws were also approved in 1950, and these were distributed together with a code of requirements prepared, both of premises and equipment, and of the standard of practice to be reached. These are being enforced by your Sanitary Inspectors, who are also doing a considerable amount at the regular inspections, by personal advice and informal discussion with both Management and Staff, which is perhaps the most effective way of improving standards. A special survey is being carried out of the conditions existing in all catering establishments ; and this will provide a helpful record prior to any revision of the existing legislation.

A number of catering establishments have remodelled their premises and installed modern equipment, although the shortage of materials has slowed down some of this progress : and other firms are anxious to modernise as soon as licences and permits are obtained. But in many cases, old property has been adapted and enlargement is not always possible. All catering establishments and food shops are being asked to fit wash basins, and hot and cold water, in water-closet apartments, or where this impracticable in a lobby adjoining, or in the shop itself. It is felt that there is a definite advertising value in the visible evidence that an assistant is washing his or her hands.

But in every type of premises much can be done by the application of simple but important hygiene measures : thorough washing of the hands before preparing food ; adequate covering for cuts and sores on the hands and arms to prevent infected matter being transferred to the food ; the covering of food, protection from flies, dust, coughs and sneezes ; lifting otherwise than by hand wherever practicable ; the elimination of rodents and insects pests—all these are essential factors. And there is no escape from the fact that it is upon the carefulness of each worker that both the safety of customers and the good name of the Town depend.

(f) *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>
—	—	—	—	—

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	17	10	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	1031	20	—
Whooping Cough	219	6	—
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Pneumonia	37	1	6
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :—			
Paralytic	1	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—
Typhus Fever (contracted abroad)	—	—	—

The Notification of Diseases.

In connexion with the notification of infectious disease and food poisoning, a circular from the Ministry of Health was received in August asking Local Authorities to co-operate and adopt a model form of notification to cover the details required for all diseases: this form had been framed to simplify the completion of the certificate and had been the subject of consultation with the Associations of Local Authorities, the British Medical Association and the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

Books of the new form of certificates were obtained, printed with the necessary local particulars; and in addition, for easy reference, there were included, on the cover, a list of the notifiable diseases and a paragraph about the notification of tuberculosis. The books were distributed to all medical practitioners in the Borough, who were asked to start using the new forms on 1st October, after which all previous forms were cancelled.

On 22nd June the Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations 1951 came into force, making leprosy a notifiable disease in which the notification must be sent direct to the Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry : and details were also included of the form of certificate in the schedule to the Regulations.

The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations 1951 altered the definition of puerperal pyrexia and made amendments in the details of the notification of this disease : these regulations came into force on 1st August.

Copies of both Regulations were sent to all medical practitioners in the Borough.

Influenza.

Since the pandemic of 1918-19, influenza has recurred in a two or four year cycle, affecting the odd number years ; and since 1929, when the second highest incidence after 1918 occurred, there has been a steady fall in the epidemic level and a fall in the inter-epidemic death-rate.

In the first two months of 1951 influenza became epidemic in the great towns, especially in the North-East and North-Western regions, and affected other parts of the country : the outbreak was the largest since 1937 and possibly since 1929. There was also an increase in the number of cases of pneumonia. The influenza was of the type Virus A prime strain : and Scandinavia, where localised outbreaks in the summer had occurred (the so-called summer flurries), which always herald a large outbreak, was first affected. Possibly the ports on our North-East coast were affected from this source, and the ports on the North-West from Spain.

In Torquay, the disease was widespread, and the deaths from influenza numbered 21, the majority of which were in the higher age groups over 55 years. The notifications of pneumonia during the period numbered 20.

Measles.

The expected epidemic of measles in the Borough was delayed in time, as it was anticipated during the winter of 1950-51. In England and Wales the outbreak occurred then, and the notifications for the country as a whole during the first quarter of the year were the highest ever recorded : but in Torquay the incidence only began to rise in April when there were 23 notifications, and then a very rapid increase with 249 notifications in May and 672 in June—the highest number recorded locally. The epidemic rapidly exhausted itself and in July there were only 64 notifications ; and by the end of the month the outbreak was at an end.

Fortunately, complicated cases were not numerous and there was no death from the disease.

Whooping-cough.

This disease showed a widespread incidence from the end of 1950 until April, which roughly coincided with the epidemic incidence throughout the country: the notifications in England and Wales were also the highest recorded since the disease became notifiable.

In the Borough complicated cases were not numerous, and there was no death.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

This disease showed a much lower incidence throughout England and Wales compared with the two preceding years, but the incidence remains at three to five times the endemic level before 1947. In Torquay only one case was notified in 1951.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to be able to record that 1951 was the fifth successive year during which there was not a single case of diphtheria.

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 1951.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1951 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 4 years ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	6	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 to 34 years ...	8	5	1	—	1	—	—	—
35 to 44 years ...	4	3	1	1	2	2	—	—
45 to 54 years ...	2	3	—	—	3	1	—	—
55 to 64 years ...	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	—
65 and over ...	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—
<i>Totals</i> ...	23	19	2	3	13	3	1	—

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1951

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1951, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health contained in Memorandum 302/S.A. and Circular 39/51. As suggested in this circular, permanent arrangements, which were fully described in the reports for 1946-48 and are unaltered, are omitted from this Report.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE A.

		Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign—									
Steamers	...	1	148	—	1	—	—	—	—
Motor	...	10	1418	2	8	—	—	—	—
Sailing	...	4	186	2	4	—	—	—	—
Fishing	...	11	152	—	2	—	—	—	—
Total	...	26	1904	4	15	—	—	—	—
Coastwise—									
Steamers	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor	...	14	1995	2	14	—	—	—	—
Sailing	...	48	4897	4	14	—	—	—	—
Fishing	...	954	4015	—	574	—	—	—	—
Total	...	1016	10907	6	602	—	—	—	—
Total—Foreign and Coastwise		1042	12811	10	617	—	—	—	—

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) *Passenger Traffic during the year.*

This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*

There were imports of six cargoes, three of timber, one of coal and two of cement; and there were exports of nine cargoes of bricks.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

These arrangements are unaltered.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945.

These arrangements are unaltered.

TABLE C

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
—	—	—	—	—

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
—	—	—	—	—

No cases of plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox or typhus fever occurred on any vessel using the port, and no plague-infested rats were discovered.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

These arrangements are unaltered.

Tables E and F. There was no trace of rat infestation, and no rats were destroyed during the year. *Table G and Table H* are not applicable.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessels	Number Inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British ...	12	—	—	—
Other Nations...	9	—	—	—

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

- (1) *Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in food) Regulations 1925 to 1940.*

There were no imports of food.

- (2) *Shell Fish.*

Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the P.H.A. stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, liable to pollution. Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

There are no oyster or mussel beds within the jurisdiction of the Authority, and no action was taken under the above-mentioned Regulations or Act.

- (3) *Number of samples of food examined :* Nil.

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V. MEASURING CLASSICAL ROOMS.

These measurements are in feet.

Tables 1 and 2. The measurements of the rooms are given in feet and inches. The measurements of the rooms are given in feet and inches.

VI. HYGIENE OF CLASSICAL ROOMS.

TABLE 1.

Measurements of Rooms.

Room	Length	Breadth	Height	Area	Volume
Room 1	10	10	10	100	1000
Room 2	12	12	12	144	1728
Room 3	14	14	14	196	2744
Room 4	16	16	16	256	4096
Room 5	18	18	18	324	5832
Room 6	20	20	20	400	8000
Room 7	22	22	22	484	10648
Room 8	24	24	24	576	13824
Room 9	26	26	26	676	17666
Room 10	28	28	28	784	21952

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