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FORTY-SEVENTH

Annual Health Report

OF THE
BOROUGH OF YEOVIL

FOR THE YEAR

1919,

INCLUDING THE REPORTS OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer,

H. W. BARNES, B.A., M.B.B.C., D.P.H. (Camb.)

AND THE

Report ^{of the} Sanitary & Building Inspector

FRED WHALLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR W. H. HINE, *Chairman.*

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Vice-Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR F. CRIDLAND

COUNCILLOR G. H. GOULD

„ A. R. GOULD

„ P. W. PETTER

„ W. J. C. PITTARD

HOUSING COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Chairman.*

ALDERMAN E. WILSON, *Vice-Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR F. CRIDLAND

COUNCILLOR H. E. HIGDON

„ J. H. HAYWARD

„ P. W. PETTER

„ W. J. C. PITTARD

Town Clerk : H. C. C. BATTEN.

Deputy Town Clerk : R. L. HISCOTT.

Borough Surveyor and Waterworks Manager : A. ODDY.

Deputy Borough Surveyor : C. G. TYLER.

Veterinary Surgeon : T. J. SYMES, M.R.C.V.S.

SANITARY STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : ... H. W. BARNES, M.B., B.C.
(Camb.), D.P.H.

Sanitary and Building Inspector : FRED WHALLEY, C.R.S.I.

Matron Isolation Hospital : ... NURSE M. ARNOLD.

Health Visitor and Tuberculosis

Nurse, ... NURSE A. McDONALD.

Health Visitor (Infant Welfare) : NURSE ADAMS.

Clerk to M.O.H. ... MISS F. G. LINNETT.

Disinfecter ; ... HERBERT WATTS.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. EBENEZER PITTARD, *Chairman.*

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMEN F. W. GAYLARD and J. MATTHEWS.

COUNCILLOR E. J. FARR	Mr. HENRY STIBY
„ G. H. GOULD	Mr. HENRY TAVENER
„ H. E. HIGDON	Mrs. F. M. EWENS
„ W. J. C. PITTARD	Mrs. A. A. LITTLE
„ A. H. STROUD	Miss F. PITTARD

ATTENDANCE AND STAFF COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR A. H. J. STOUD, *Vice-Chairman.*

Mr. E. PITTARD	Mrs. EWENS
Mrs. LITTLE	Miss F. PITTARD
COUNCILLOR W. J. C. PITTARD	Mr. H. STIBY

Clerk to Education Committee: H. C. C. BATTEN.

Deputy Clerk: ... R. L. HISCOTT.

School Attendance Officer: ... J. W. RIVERS.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT STAFF.

School Medical Officer: H. W. BARNES, M.B, B.C. (Camb.)

School Nurse: ... NURSE A. McDONALD.

Clerk to Medical Officer: Miss F. G. LINNETT.

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

To the Town Council of the Borough of Yeovil.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the forty-seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of Yeovil during 1919.

Dr. Weaver, the late Medical Officer of Health resigned his appointment in June, and Dr. Palmer kindly acted as temporary Medical Officer of Health until I commenced my duties in September.

The report has been compiled in accordance with the Orders and Memoranda of the Ministry of Health.

In making my report, I should like to place on record my admiration for the excellent work accomplished for the Public Health of Yeovil by my predecessor, Dr. Weaver.

I take this opportunity of thanking all the members of the staff for their loyal and able support in maintaining the efficiency of the Health Department, and also the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for their ready support and assistance during my term of office.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HOWELL BARNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
6, South Street,
Yeovil.

March 10th, 1920.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1919.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features and General Character.

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 852 acres, situated at the extreme south of the County of Somerset, on the borders of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural district.

The town is located upon the Upper and Middle Liassic Formations. The subsoil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone, with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

The greatest elevations within the Borough are : On the north, near Pickett Witch, 337 feet ; on the west, Summerlands, 233·6 feet ; and on the south, Hendford Hill, 269 feet. The lowest point is on the east, beyond the Sewage Works, 96·7 feet.

Meteorology.

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog and mist, except in the lower parts of the town along the banks of the river.

RAINFALL. Mr. Fenwick, the Gas Manager, has kindly supplied the figures obtained from observations made at the Gas Works.

Sewage Works : Total Rainfall 33·58 inches. Rainy Days, 187.

Gas Works : Total Rainfall 32·43 inches. Rainy Days, 151.

Average Rainfall for past eight years, 32.25 inches.

TEMPERATURES. 1919. Highest Maximum Temperature, 87° on 9th August.

Lowest Minimum Temperature, 17° on 13th November.

Population.

The population at the April 1911 Census was 13,759. The estimated mid-year population for 1919 is 14,500.

Occupations.

The staple industry of Yeovil is the manufacture of leather gloves, including all processes from the preparation of the raw hides to the production of the finished article. Since the war the manufacture of fabric gloves has been introduced, and a large number of these gloves are now being made. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of persons of both sexes.

At the present moment there are—43 factories and workshops (inclusive of dressing yards). The 1919 returns showed that the total number of outworkers was 2,305, of whom 957 resided in the Borough, the remainder, 1,348 in the surrounding districts.

In addition to the gloving industry, there is a large engineering firm for the manufacture of oil engines, etc., which gives employment to about 527 hands.

There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved foods and dairy produce.

The motor industry, body making and repairs, is gradually increasing, there being six workshops engaged in this work.

There are now five printing works in the town.

Poor-Law Relief.

The amount of out-door relief distributed to poor persons in the Parish of Yeovil was £2,723 15s. 10½d. during 1919.

Hospital and Medical Relief.

During the past year the Yeovil and District Hospital provided treatment for 235 in-patients, 322 out-patients, 17 dental cases, and 1,027 minor casualties.

The accommodation of the Hospital falls far short of the needs of the town and District. A site for a new Hospital has been secured, and it is hoped that building operations will shortly be commenced.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £67,262 12s. 6d.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The water supply is derived from two main sources, namely, Stockwood and Spring Pond, with two auxiliary supplies to the latter from Evershot Tunnel and Haydon Wood. All four sources are situated to the south-east, on the green-sands of Dorsetshire. Stockwood is 6½, and the other sources about 8 miles from Yeovil. The water is conveyed to the town by gravitation through two separate pipe lines, that from Spring Pond having two service reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 1,267,798 gallons. The water is of medium hardness and of good quality for drinking purposes. The average consumption is 30 gallons per head per day.

This water supply is not sufficient during dry periods for the needs of the inhabitants of Yeovil and the area of supply, which includes Yeovil Without and other parishes.

During the year the Council lodged a Bill with Parliament to provide a further water supply, proposed to be obtained by sinking a well into the greensand in the parish of Cattistock, in the County of Dorset. The daily additional supply from this source is estimated at 400,000 gallons, which will alleviate the present difficulty.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Yeo for a small part of its course lies within the area

of the Borough of Yeovil. A tributary of this river, before passing through the town receives the effluent from the Preston Sewage Works.

The effluent from the Yeovil Sewage Works empties into the Yeo outside the town.

All sources of pollution of this river has been removed as far as possible.

There have been no complaints of pollution during the past year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

I am indebted to Mr. Oddy, the Borough Surveyor for the following :—

The drainage of the town, with the exception of that known as the West Hendford district, including Rustywell, is satisfactory in all respects.

West Hendford district is unsatisfactory by reason of the insufficient capacity of the main sewer draining that area. With regard to the Rustywell district, which contains 10 houses, the drainage of these is connected to cesspools which overflow into a ditch in the near vicinity of the houses, giving rise to a nuisance. The Council is proceeding to remedy these defects, and a scheme has been prepared. This work would, no doubt, have been carried out by this time but for the war.

The Sewage Disposal Works are ample for the needs of the town, and are giving satisfactory results.

The method in force is sedimentation, which takes place in six closed tanks, the effluent being passed on to a series of contact beds and one percolating bed.

The effluent from the contact beds is discharged into an equalising pool, and thence into the river ; that from the percolating bed is discharged into a separator in which collodal matter is deposited and thence to the river.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, and with very few exceptions is connected to the town sewers.

There are 10 houses which are drained to cesspools or provided with earth closets. These houses are in a position too low to be connected with the main sewers, or beyond the distance specified under the Public Health Acts, viz., 100 feet.

Scavenging.

STORAGE OF REFUSE.—Very few houses in the Borough are provided with sanitary dustbins. The receptacles which are most commonly in use are wooden boxes, delapidated baths, buckets and even baskets. The majority of these receptacles leak, with the result that the contents escape and litter the yards and streets. On windy days the dust, pending removal is blown about, and is liable to give rise to various diseases such as sore throat, conjunctivitis, etc. These unsuitable receptacles are very difficult to empty completely owing to the contents becoming wet and clinging to the sides and bottom. Decomposition takes place in the residue, giving rise to offensive gasses.

The Council have bye-laws in course of preparation dealing with receptacles for house refuse.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.—All refuse in the centre of the town is collected twice weekly, and on the outskirts once weekly by the Council employees and conveyed in open carts to the refuse destructor and burnt.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.—The refuse destructor is of the Stirling Type, and consists of two cells hand fed and clinkered.

An additional cell is required to deal with the present amount of refuse as it would be more economical than running two shifts.

Sanitary Inspections of District.

A statement of inspections made with their results is included in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two common lodging houses in Yeovil, containing beds for the accommodation of 35 persons. They are constantly in-

spected, and are kept in a satisfactory condition from the health point of view.

Houses Let-in-Lodgings.

None registered.

Offensive Trades.

There are 15 dressing yards, two marine stores and one tallow melting factory in the Borough.

Bye-laws are in the course of preparation which will include control of offensive trades.

Underground Rooms.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in Yeovil. No regulations have been made in connection with the use of underground rooms as sleeping places.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools in Yeovil is on the whole satisfactory. The schools are supplied with water from the public water supply.

School Hygiene.

Prevention of the spread of infectious diseases in the schools.

The following is the routine adopted for the exclusion of scholars suffering from infectious diseases and those who are contacts.

SCARLET FEVER.—The Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as School Medical Officer, issues School Exclusion Notices to the parents and head teachers of the school which the case attends. All contacts are also excluded. Children from infected households are not allowed to return to school until Re-Admission Notices are sent to the parents and head teachers. Any suspicious case brought to the attention of the teachers and school nurse, is excluded until the School Medical Officer is satisfied as to the diagnosis.

DIPHTHERIA is notified in the same way as scarlet fever, and similar precautions are taken. No child is notified as fit to return

to school until Bacteriological evidence of a satisfactory character is obtained. Contacts are swabbed and excluded when necessary.

MEASLES.—(a) Actual cases are excluded for four weeks from date of rash.

Contacts. (a) Contact cases in upper departments who have had measles are not excluded.

(b) Contact cases in upper departments who have not had measles are excluded for three weeks from occurrence of last case.

(c) All contact cases in infants' departments are excluded for 21 days from occurrence of last case in house.

General. In a school where measles occur absentees are visited, and suspicious cases found in schools are excluded for five days.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—Actual cases are excluded as long as case lasts, and for at least six weeks from commencement of whoop.

Contacts. (a) Contacts in upper departments who have had whooping cough are not excluded.

(b) Contacts in upper departments who have not had the disease are excluded three weeks.

(c) All contacts in infants' schools excluded for three weeks.

General. If suspicious cases are found in school they are excluded one week to see if whooping cough develops.

MUMPS.—Actual cases are excluded until all swelling has gone and for at least three weeks from date of appearance of swelling.

A system of Sunday School exclusion is in force. A list of the names and addresses of all children suffering from infectious diseases, including contagious diseases, such as ringworm, scabies, and also of possibly infected contacts, is drawn up each Saturday and a copy sent to the Superintendents of all Sunday Schools in the Borough.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 10 Cow-keepers, five of whom are provided with cow-sheds, the remaining five allow their cows to be in the open during the winter. There are 23 Retailers of milk in the town, 12 of whom have milkshops.

The five cowsheds are periodically inspected and are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition. During recent years they have been properly paved and drained.

The premises of the persons registered for the sale of milk and the Milkshops are constantly inspected.

The results of analysis made for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Acts indicate that the milk retailed in the Borough is of good standard and clean.

In accordance with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders 45 persons are registered as follows :

Cow-keepers and Purveyors	..	10
Purveyors of Milk	... ..	23
Milkshop Keepers	... ..	12

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

Provision for the supply of milk to necessitous cases was made in 1918. Investigations are made by lady members of the Committee and each case is dealt with on its merits by the Infant Welfare Committee. 28 necessitous cases were supplied with milk during 1919.

Other Foods.

All places where the manufacture of food for public consumption is carried on are regularly inspected, and has been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses.

There are 14 bakehouses in the Borough. The majority of these are old and unsatisfactory from a structural point of view. The largest bakehouse during last year has been remodelled and enlarged. Owing to the bad structural condition and smallness of

some of these bakehouses, it is difficult for them to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughter-Houses.

There are nine private slaughter-houses, of which eight are licensed, and one registered. The latter has not been used as a slaughter-house for the past three years. These are kept under constant supervision and are fairly satisfactory, although structurally unsuitable, and do not conform to modern requirements. There is no Public Abattoir in Yeovil.

Meat Inspection.

During the year inspection of the slaughter-houses and butcher shops have been carefully carried out, but no meat of unsound character has been found. On the other hand the following have been inspected at the request of butchers and shopkeepers, certified unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

- 5 carcasses of bullocks, condemned for Tuberculosis.
- 2 fore-quarters of beef (imported) 260 lbs. decomposed.
- 4 cwt. of bacon (imported) decomposed.

The Case for a Public Abattoir.

In previous years the amount of meat condemned has been practically nil, and the increase shown above is entirely due to the regulations contained in the Ministry of Food Orders. These regulations state that cattle cannot be purchased except through an authorised cattle market, and also a Butcher can obtain compensation through the Auctioneers for any beast bought by him from the market, which on being killed is certified by a Medical Officer of Health or Inspector of Nuisances as unfit for human consumption. These regulations are of considerable assistance from the point of view of Public Health, in as much as they stimulate the voluntary surrender of diseased carcasses owing to the compensation paid.

With their withdrawal it will be necessary for a far more strict supervision of the meat supply.

In spite of private slaughter-houses being under a close supervision at the time of killing, yet opportunities occur of diseased meat finding its way into the butcher's shops. To prevent this

possibility of foisting unsound meat on the public, it seems necessary for these regulations to remain in operation until abattoirs are universally provided where the examination of animals before and after slaughter by skilled inspectors can be ensured, an impossibility under the present condition of private slaughter-houses and inspection however capable and energetic the officials may be.

Unsound Food.

The following were condemned :

15 tons of condensed milk.

5 cases of prunes.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

These acts are administered by the County Council. The taking of samples is conducted by the police, under the supervision of the Chief Constable, who has kindly supplied through Superintendent J. House, of Yeovil, the number, nature, and results of samples taken in the Borough during the last year.

Sixty samples were taken as follows :—

Milk	...	..	...	29
Tapioca	...	...	...	1
Flour	...	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	...	1
Sausages	...	...	...	2
Lard	...	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	...	3
Gin	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	1
Beer	...	...	...	4
Preserved Peaches	...	...	...	1
Ham and Beef	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	1
Sago	...	...	...	1
Pepper	...	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	...	1
Arrowroot	...	...	...	1
Treacle	...	...	...	1
Brawn	...	...	...	1
Brandy	...	...	...	1

Cheese	...	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	...	1
Potted Meat	...	...	...	1
Seidlitz Powder	...	...	...	1
Cream of Tartar	...	...	...	1
Rum	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				60

All were found genuine except the sample of Rum, 7% under proof.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the past year 145 cases of infectious disease were notified.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	21
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	3
Measles ...	...	...	...	12
German Measles	...	...	...	17
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	...	...	...	38
„ Other forms	...	...	...	7
Inf. Pneumonia	...	...	..	23
Pneumonia	..	...	...	3
Malaria	...	...	...	10
Puerperal Septicaemia	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				145

Scarlet Fever.

21 cases were notified during the year 1919, as compared with 17 cases in 1918.

Of the 21 cases, 20 were removed to the Fever Hospital in Lyde Lane. There was one death. No return cases have occurred during 1919.

Advantage has been taken by the Medical Practitioners in charge of case of obtaining the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health as to doubtful cases.

Diphtheria.

Four cases were notified and no death took place. All the cases were mild in character.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES.

(a) Visitation of each case on receipt of notification.

Full particulars are obtained in each case of the number of inmates over and under 10 years; the number of rooms (living and sleeping); the water supply; the milk supply; the day school; the Sunday school; the means of removal of refuse (bins or pits); the previous cases in the house and the date of sickening.

(b) Isolation at Home or in Hospital.

One case was admitted to the Hospital as the home isolation was inadequate.

(c) Swabbing of Throats.

Swabs are supplied to Medical Practitioners in the town, and these are examined and reported on when required. Contacts of cases are swabbed and in addition all slightly suspicious cases of sore throat or discharging noses. Such children are excluded. It must be remembered that mild cases and carrier cases are the most dangerous factors in spreading the disease, and detection can only be obtained by Bacteriological examination. For this reason the expense occurred in swabbing is justified.

(d) Provision of Disinfecting Fluid.

Disinfecting fluid is supplied gratis in bottles to all households with printed instructions for its use.

(e) Provision of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners requiring the same on application to the Health Office.

(f) Disinfection of House after termination of case.

Thorough disinfection of all houses is carried out on information received from the doctor in attendance on the conclusion of a case, or on the removal of a patient to the Hospital.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

No cases of this disease was notified.

Measles.

Twelve cases of measles were notified as compared with 461 cases in 1918.

German Measles.

This disease is important in complicating the diagnosis of measles and scarlet fever. Seventeen notificatione of this disease were received.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD TABLE II.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Notifiable Disease.	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up-wards.	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	4	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	1
Puerperal Septacæmia ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	6	..	..	..	..	2	3	1	..
Scarlet Fever ..	21	..	4	12	1	4	..	..	20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria ..	10	..	..	..	4	6	..	..	..
Pneumonia ..	26	1	3	3	8	8	3	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	38	..	1	11	7	15	4	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	7	..	2	3	1	1	..	..	..
Measles and German Measles	29	2	9	11	6	1	..	..	..
Totals ..	145	6	21	40	28	38	11	1	21

THE NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases are known to have occurred.

Mumps, 4 ; Whooping Cough, 0 ; Chicken Pox, 196.

Chicken Pox.

This disease was prevalent during the whole year in the Infant Schools.

Influenza.

The third wave of the epidemic of influenza which afflicted the whole of England in 1918, started in February of this year and continued to April. This wave reached its height in the last week of February. The number of people attacked were considerably less than in the October wave, and the number of deaths was 22 as compared with 73 in the October epidemic.

It was found necessary to close the Elementary Schools in the Pen Mill district as well as the Sunday Schools.

Notices as regards prevention and nursing were widely posted and distributed. The holding of public entertainments and meetings, particularly of children, was discouraged.

The Influenza Regulations 1918, which were withdrawn in January 1919, were again brought into force.

Valuable assistance in the nursing of cases was given by the Yeovil District Somerset Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

Influenza vaccine as a preventative or curative measure was not employed to any extent.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Somerset County Council deal with all cases of Tuberculosis notified in Yeovil.

The dispensary is situated in Southville and is open all day on Tuesdays for the examination and treatment of patients.

Prevalence.**ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.**

	1919	1918	1917	Average 1912-16
Notifications ...	45	37	64	48
Number of Deaths	12	13	14	15
Death-rate per 1,000	·8	·9	·9	1·0

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (Phthisis).

	1919	1918	1917	Average 1912-16
Notifications ...	38	37	54	42
Number of Deaths	9	11	13	12
Death-rate per 1,000	·6	·7	·8	·8

During the year 1919, 45 notifications were received, 38 related to pulmonary and 7 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The following is the sex and age classification of the notified persons :

AGES. Years.	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
1—4	...	...	...	1	1	2
5—14	7	4	11	3	...	3
15—24	3	4	7	1	..	1
25—34	6	4	10	1	...	1
35—44	2	3	5	..	..	...
45—54	2	1	3	...	...	...
55—64	..	2	2	...	...	...
65—74	...	...	...	...	..	...
	20	18	38	6	1	7

Control.

(A) On receipt of the primary notification the patient is visited and enquiries are made as to predisposing causes, contacts and sanitary conditions of premises.

(B) Visits are paid as often as necessary for the purpose of controlling infection, the taking of temperature records, the correct use of shelters, &c. 276 primary and secondary visits were made during the year.

(c) Contacts are referred to the County Tuberculosis Dispensary for examination.

(d) The Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as School Medical Officer, refers all children which he has found to be either suffering from or threatened with tuberculosis to the dispensary.

(e) The Yeovil School Nurse is engaged by the County Council to give a portion of her time to visiting and to assisting at the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

(f) Sanitary defects, uncleanness, overcrowding, etc., are referred to the Sanitary Inspector for further action with a view to abatement. Disinfection of infected rooms, shelters, etc., is carried out when necessary. Last year 48 disinfections were made.

The Yeovil and District Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued during the last year to provide very valuable assistance in dealing with special and necessitous patients.

Venereal Disease.

A treatment centre at the Yeovil and District Hospital is provided by the Somerset County Council. Hours of attendance—Men, Fridays 3 p.m. Women, Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Small-pox.

Vaccination as a measure of precaution against small-pox is more and more neglected in Yeovil, and the number of exemption certificates increases every year.

The Medical Officer of Health has not been called upon to perform any vaccination under the Public Health (Small-pox Regulations, 1917).

Rabies.

There has been no case of this disease and Yeovil was exempt from the Muzzling Order.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Midwives' Act is administered by the Somersetshire County Council. The Lady Inspectors of Midwives resides at Taunton.

There are at present four midwives resident in the town, two of whom are employed by the Yeovil Council.

During the year 1919 the Council adopted and put into operation an amended scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare work in Yeovil. Under the new scheme

Two midwives were appointed.

The Health Visitors' work was re-arranged so as to enable a continuous supervision of the infants until they became of school age.

A supply of Milk Foods and Drugs to necessitous mothers was provided.

The provision of Home Helps is at present under consideration.

NURSING OF MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—Additional nurses can be engaged temporarily during epidemics of these diseases.

The provision of Institutional Beds for mothers and children was also considered, but owing to there being no accommodation available in the Yeovil Hospital it was decided to wait until the new hospital was built.

MOTHERS.—The Health Visitors made 120 visits to expectant mothers. The Midwives attended six confinements since their appointment in October.

INFANTS.—258 primary and 1,134 subsequent visits were paid to infants and 76 visits to children under school age suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum.

1,096 visits were paid to children under school age.

Ante-Natal and Infant Clinic.

This Clinic is held at the Special Subjects Centre, Eastland Road, on Tuesday afternoons, at 3 o'clock.

Twenty-five expectant mothers and 305 children attended the clinic for advice. Ninety-five infants attended for the first time. The mothers made 23 and the children 1,198 attendances at the clinic.

One-hundred-and-fifteen children below school age were treated at the Treatment Clinic in South Street.

All still-births and infant deaths are investigated. There were three still-births during 1919.

At the present moment there is no institution but the Union Infirmary for dealing with confinements of unmarried mothers, and children are permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their parents. Fortunately in the past temporary homes have been found through the agency of the N.S.P.C.C.

Voluntary and Child Welfare Committee.

Previous to the appointment of a Maternity and Child Welfare Committee in 1918 a voluntary committee was in existence whose duties consisted in looking after children from infancy to the end of school age and was known as the Child Welfare Committee. On the appointment of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee the Voluntary Committee resolved itself into a School Care Committee. By agreement between the two committees the lady members still continue to assist at the Infant Welfare Clinic and to obtain information with regard to necessitous cases.

Infectious Diseases affecting Parturient Women, Infants and Young Children.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case of Puerperal Fever was notified. No deaths occurred. This case was admitted to the Yeovil District Hospital for treatment.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—During the year under review three cases were notified. These cases were treated at home or at the Infant Welfare Treatment Clinic by the Council nurses under

the direction of the patient's own medical attendant or the Medical Officer of Health. Under treatment the disease soon disappeared leaving no permanent damage to the eyes.

For the purpose of carrying out the treatment prescribed the nurses made 76 visits.

MEASLES.—This disease did not occur to any extent during 1919 and there were 11 children below school age attacked.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA.—This disease which used to claim at one time about 80 per cent. of deaths of children occurring under two years is now almost unknown, owing to the propaganda work of the health visitor and by the education of the mothers by pamphlets and by the value of the Infant Welfare Clinic.

Sanitary Administration.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, an Inspector of Nuisances who is also Building Inspector. One Health Visitor and two Midwives are employed by the Council. The School Nurse gives a portion of her time to health visiting and to the County Tuberculosis work in Yeovil. The connection thus established between the Public Health Department of the Borough and the County Tuberculosis scheme is most desirable and has in the past yielded most satisfactory results.

When the Isolation Hospital contains no patients, the matron assists in health visiting and baby work.

Hospital Accommodation.

The Lyde Lane Isolation Hospital is employed for the isolation of scarlet fever patients.

It consists of a permanent building containing two wards, separated by a small room, and in addition the quarters for the matron, consisting of a bedroom, sitting-room, store-room and kitchen.

There is also a temporary wooden building divided into three communicating wards which is used, when necessary, as an overflow for convalescent scarlet cases. The laundry, ambulance house and mortuary are good brick buildings. There is no steam disin-

factor. The matron resides at the hospital and keeps it in readiness for immediate use.

There is no accommodation in the administration block for additional nurses which greatly increases the difficulty of administration when the disease is present in epidemic form in the town.

During the year it was found necessary to admit a case of diphtheria owing to the impossibility of isolation at home. This case was housed in the wooden building which was empty at the time.

The following Table gives the number of cases treated at the hospital.

Disease.	Sex.	Remaining in at end of 1918.	Admitted during 1919.	Recovered.	Died.	Remaining in at end of 1919.
Scarlet Fever ..	M	1	7	6	1	..
	F	1	13	13	..	1
Diphtheria ..	M	..	1	1	..	..
Total	..	2	21	20	1	1

The Small-Pox Hospital at Whistle Bridge has accommodation for six patients. No cases have been admitted since the epidemic of 1909.

Local and Adoptive Acts.

The Adoptive Acts in force in the Borough are:

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Parts of The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,
as follows: Part II., Part III. (except Sections 39 to
42), Part IV. (except Section 67), Part V., Part VI.,
Part VII., Sections 79 and 86, Part VIII., Part IX.,
Part X., Section 95.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889—extension to
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The administration of the above Acts is referred to under
Infant Mortality, Prevention of Infectious Diseases, etc.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.

During the early part of the year the following work was carried out in the Medical Officer of Health's laboratory :

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	0	9	9
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	1	4	5
Hairs for Ringworm Spores	7	0	7

Since September it has been necessary to send material for bacteriological examination to the county laboratory, Weston-super-Mare, owing to there being no microscope available.

Eighteen diphtheria swabs were sent, four of whom were positive and 14 negative. One blood was examined for anthrax with a negative result.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	1919	1918	1917	Average 1912-16
Mid-year Population ...	14,500	14,400	14,300	14,180
Number of Births ...	243	243	210	301
Birth-rate per 1,000 ...	16.7	16.8	14.6	21.5
Number of Deaths ...	186	216	164	164
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	12.8	15.0	11.4	11.5
Infantile Mortality ...	86.5	69.9	80.9	60.5
Phthisis Death-rate ...	.7	.7	.8	.8
Cancer Death-rate...	1.03	1.2	1.0	1.1

NOTIFICATIONS :—

Measles and German Measles	29	469	365
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	3	4
Tuberculosis ...	45	37	64
Other Infectious Diseases ...	68	27	11

Population.

The estimated mid-year population for 1919 is 14,500. The Registrar-General's estimates were 13,980 for calculation of the birth-rate, and 13,420 for the death-rate.

Births.

The total number of births registered was 296. This number has been corrected for transfers by the Registrar-General. The births allocated to the Borough were 243 (115 of males, and 128 of females), equivalent to a birth-rate of 16·7 per 1,000 of a population of 14,500, or 17·4 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated birth-rate population of 13,980.

Notification of Births.

The number of births notified was 259, of which 3 were still-births.

Deaths.

The deaths registered numbered 198. The Registrar-General transferred 24 of these deaths being of persons not belonging to the Borough, to their usual places of residence, and 12 deaths of Yeovil residents from other districts. The net total number of deaths for the Borough was 186, equivalent to a death-rate of 12·8 per 1,000 of a population of 14,500, or 13·8 per 1,000 of the Registrar's General's estimated death-rate population of 13,420.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1919, was 13·8.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 21, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 86·5 per 1,000 births. The rate for the whole county in the year 1918 was 97·0. The high infantile mortality rate was very largely due to the prevalence of Influenza and Pneumonia, which affected infants and nursing mothers.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions in the District.

At the end of 1919 there were 3405 houses in the Borough of Yeovil, of which 2,600 approximately were occupied by the working classes.

One new house was erected, a converted army hut.

44 houses for the working classes are in the course of erection.

It is estimated that the present population is 14,500, and during 1919 there was a decrease of 200—300 persons owing to trade reduction in works outside the Borough. The extent of the shortage of houses can be understood by there being no empty houses in the Borough, and the fact that there are 283 houses occupied by more than one family.

In order to meet this shortage, the Council has adopted a housing scheme for the erection of 44 houses which is now in hand, and has in preparation a further scheme for the erection of 99 houses. It is estimated that the number of houses required during the next three years average from 250 to 300. A certain number of these houses may possibly be erected by private enterprise, and any further deficiency will have to be met by additional housing schemes.

Overcrowding.

There are many cases of overcrowding in the Borough, generally due to the working class houses being occupied by two or more families. Owing to the absolute impossibility of finding housing accommodation, no steps have been taken.

Fitness of Houses.

The general standard of housing in the town is fairly good, the chief defects being dampness and general dilapidation. With regard to unfit houses, the chief causes which go to render these houses unfit, are dampness, walls structurally defective, and lack of through ventilation.

Owing to the scarcity of houses no action has been taken under the Public Health Acts or Housing Acts with regard to these unfit houses.

The chief difficulty in remedying unfitness has been the very unsettled state of the building trades, both as regards prices and obtaining labour. There is no doubt that when the building trade once more becomes settled the necessary repairs will be proceeded with.

The question of water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal as affecting housing conditions in Yeovil does not apply owing to these matters having received attention in the past. A

bill for procuring an additional water supply is now before Parliament.

Unhealthy Areas.

There are no unhealthy areas in the Borough and no representation has been made.

Bye-Laws relating to Houses to Sub-let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

The Corporation have no bye-laws dealing with the above mentioned, but bye-laws are in the course of preparation embodying these places.

General and Miscellaneous.

Every effort is made to abate nuisances arising from overcrowding, but this is extremely difficult to cope with under the present shortage of houses. Many houses which, on inspection, have been found to be in an insanitary state, have been put in order.

No schemes for Housing, apart from those enumerated under section 'Overcrowding' above, have been carried out during the year.

Appendices.

1. No complaints have been received from householders as to houses being unfit for occupation.
2. Number of houses inspected under Sec. 17 Housing and Town Planning Acts, 1909 173

Number of houses which were considered unfit	..	13
„ put in habitable repair without closing orders being made	... ..	None
3. (a) Number of orders for repairs issued ... None

(b) „ of cases where repairs were carried out by Local Authority	None
--	--------	------
- (c) Number of houses voluntarily closed by owners ... 3

4. *Closing Orders*.—Owing to the serious shortage of houses, no representations were made to the Local Authority.
5. *Demolition Orders*.—Demolition orders made ... None
6. The number of dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily ... 2
7. *Obstructive Buildings*. No representation have been made under Sec. 38 of H. & T. P. Act, 1890.
8. *Staff engaged in Housing Work*.—The Sanitary Inspector was appointed some years ago as Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, and is continuing the survey, a part of which was presented to the Ministry of Health in October last.

HOWELL BARNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary and Building Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

To the Yeovil Town Council.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a brief report of the work carried out during the past year.

NUISANCES.

Careful attention has been paid to all complaints received; the works necessary to abate the nuisances which have arisen, have been carried out as expeditiously as possible. The co-operation of property owners, has, under the difficult circumstances, viz., the shortage of labour and constantly increasing prices of labour and material been very satisfactory, and it has only been necessary for the Council to authorise the service of two statutory notices.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections made during the year under the Housing Regulations has been 173. This number is very low, but is due to the fact that a considerable portion of my time has been given up to Food Control work. Particulars of such inspections will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD AND MILK SUPPLY.

The number of inspections made in connection with the above is considerably larger than those made in previous years. This is due to almost constant visits having had to be made under Food Control Orders to all shops where food was sold and stored—and every advantage has been taken to see that at all times such places and food were satisfactory.

The regulations of the Ministry of Food have further assisted the work of food inspection, inasmuch as no person has been able to kill cattle other than those purchased through an authorised market. This, together with the fact, that butchers have been able to obtain compensation for any beast so bought, and which on being killed, was certified by a Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector to be unfit for human consumption, has readily been taken advantage of by the butchers of the town, as is proved by the number of carcasses voluntarily surrendered for inspection, which during the year has numbered 5. These were condemned and destroyed. For the purpose of comparison I would inform the Town Council that previous to the institution of the Meat Control Order in 1917, only two carcasses had been voluntarily surrendered during the previous eight years.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES—Numerous inspections have been made in connection with these during the year and defects remedied.

NEW BUILDINGS.—With the exception of one cottage (converted army hut) erected by Messrs. Aplin & Barrett on land adjoining their premises in Newton Road, the only houses in course of erection have been on the Eastland Estate. Close attention has been paid to these in their relation to the local building bye-laws. A small number of additions to existing houses has been carried out.

A large amount of building has been carried out in connection with **Factories**. The chief feature having been the large amount of construction in reinforced concrete work, particularly in its relation to floors, in order to render them fireproof, and constant inspection has been paid thereto.

Summary of Inspections.

The number of inspections made, together with the result of such inspections and re-inspections, are given in the following tables:—

No. of HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED	..	732
No. of RE-INSPECTIONS in connection with the abatement of nuisances, &c.	..	903
		<hr/> 1635 <hr/>

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS—

Nuisances and the Abatement of Nuisances	..	734
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	..	200
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	..	129
Bakehouses .. .. .	..	51
Workshops .. .. .	..	93
Factories .. .. .	..	19
Offensive Trades .. .. .	..	19
Fish Shops .. .. .	..	40
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	..	293
Common Lodging Houses .. .. .	..	40
Milkshops .. .. .	..	40
Cowsheds .. .. .	..	10
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	30
Housing Regulations.. .. .	..	1
New Sewers .. .. .	..	57

PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND—

houses

Defective drains in connection with	21
Defective closet accommodation.. .. .	20
Defective yard paving	19
Defective guttering, etc.	25
Defective ventilation	15
Defective lighting	11
Defective floors	14
Defective windows and doors	11
Defective roofs	21
Defective staircases	4
Dampness	31
Unwholesome state of walls and ceilings	21
Overcrowding	7
Keeping fowls so as to be a nuisance	3
Dirty houses	3
Rubbish lying about	14
Absence of sinks under taps	2
Absence of storage for food	2
Absence of manure pit to stable	2

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS—

83 preliminary and 2 statutory notices have been served in respect of
196 houses and premises.

HOUSES & PREMISES—

Disinfected	53
Cleansed	2
Repaired, limewashed, etc.	43
Yards repaired	9

Yards re-paved	3
Amended lighting to rooms	4
Amended ventilation to rooms	12
Repairs to windows	23
Damp houses amended	24
Amended for storage of food	2

HOUSE DRAINAGE—

New systems of drainage provided in existing houses ..	15
Intercepting chambers fixed	12
Ventilating shafts fixed	6
Defective traps condemned and removed	43
New stoneware gullies fixed	51
New sink troughs fixed	3
Drainage systems repaired	15

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

W.C.'s repaired, lighted and ventilated	8
Closets supplied with flushing cisterns	12
Closets supplied with pedestal pans and seats	12
New W.C.'s built complete	3

MISCELLANEOUS—

Removal of filth	15
Insanitary keeping of animals	2
Choked drains cleared and repaired	31
Smoke tests made in connection with existing drains ..	29

NEW BUILDINGS.

Number of houses certified as fit for habitation on completion	1
Trade and other buildings	14

INSPECTIONS, Etc.—

The number of inspections of new buildings during the course of erection	239
The number of tests applied in connection with New Buildings (drains) and new Public Sewers	33

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WHALLEY.

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Twelfth Annual Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children in the Borough, and in doing so would gratefully acknowledge the courteous consideration you have shown me during my term of office.

In accordance with the instructions of the Board of Education the report is drawn up on the same main lines of those for the last four years.

My best thanks are tendered to the Staff of the Department, to the Attendance Officer and Head Teachers for the invaluable help which they have given me in the task of Medical Inspection.

The most notable feature of the past year was the initiation of a scheme for Juvenile Employment, an account of which is embodied in the report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HOWELL WOOD BARNES,

School Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

INTRODUCTION.

England has emerged from the Great War victorious, but at a heavy cost of life of the best of her manhood and to a certain extent crippled in finances.

In order that this loss may be made good it is essential that the question of the preservation of the rising generation and the establishment of physical fitness should receive special attention. Consequently every step should be taken to ensure that the school child of to-day should be healthy and trained in a hygienic way of life.

Systematic medical and dental inspection of the school children has taken place during the past year as before the war. All the requirements of the Board of Education as regard to inspections, re-inspections, following up and treatment have been fully met.

THE SCHOOLS.

Particulars of School Accommodation and Attendance of Children
for the year 1919.

BOYS DEPARTMENTS.

		Accommodation recognised by the Board of Education.	Average No. on Register.	Average Attendance
Huish Boys	...	264	218	201
Reckleford Boys	...	250	216	193

GIRLS DEPARTMENTS.

Huish Girls	...	290	237	213
Reckleford Girls	...	206	178	140

MIXED DEPARTMENTS.

Pen Mill Mixed	...	328	295	268
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

INFANTS DEPARTMENTS.

Huish Infants	...	240	191	164
Hendford Junior	...	211	185	161
Pen Mill Infants	...	212	191	154
Central Junior	...	375	337	293

Alterations and Improvements to School Buildings and Furniture
in 1919.

RECKLEFORD GIRLS SCHOOL.—A sliding and folding partition was erected in the large class-room at this school.

HYGIENIC CONDITIONS.

HENDFORD SCHOOL.—An old school, its situation and construction do not lend themselves to modern requirements. Formerly this was a mixed school, but now it is allowed to continue by the Board of Education as a junior school.

HUISH BOYS.—A play ground was obtained some years ago, the old part of the school modernized and additions made to it on modern lines and this school may be regarded as satisfactory.

HUISH GIRLS AND INFANTS.—This is a modern school, although ventilation is somewhat inadequate and unsatisfactory, otherwise the school is satisfactory.

RECKLEFORD GIRLS.—The site of this school is not satisfactory owing to the noise and vibration from an adjacent factory. A scheme was passed by the Board of Education for improving this school, but owing to the war it was only partially carried out.

RECKLEFORD BOYS.—This school also suffers from vibration and noise from adjacent factory and is an old building not easily

adaptable to modern requirements. The play ground is unsatisfactory, being on a considerable slope.

PEN MILL SCHOOL.—Infants and Mixed Departments.—This school is on the whole satisfactory.

CENTRAL SCHOOL.—The most recent school built and is up-to-date and satisfactory.

GENERAL DEFECTS.

(a) WARMING.—The heating arrangements of the schools are inadequate with the exception of the Huish Girls' and Infant School and the Central Junior School which are heated by hot water. The schools, with the exception of the above-mentioned three are heated by open fires and stoves. This form of heating not only is wasteful but is insufficient to warm a large class-room.

(b) The cloak rooms in the schools with the exception of Huish Girls' and Infants' and Central Junior Schools require heating to allow the clothes of the children to dry on wet days. The hooks for the children's cloaks are often placed too close together.

(c) The condition of the washing appliances varies a great deal. A more frequent renewal of the towels and provision of soap is called for. There should be at least one towel supplied for every 50 children and it should be renewed daily.

Ventilation of the class rooms could be improved if the teachers made more use of existing arrangements.

(d) In many schools there is a serious lack of suitable desks. Children of varying ages can often be seen seated at a long desk holding perhaps six or eight with no support for the back. Many children who by weakness of constitution are disposed to myopia or spinal curvative develop these diseases in consequence of the unsuitability of school furniture. Separation by single seats is a real necessity in order to prevent dissemination of diseases such as impetigo, scabies or lice. In addition this method of seating ensures sufficient ventilation and dilutes any offensive odour which may arise from decaying teeth or dirty clothes.

CLEANSING OF SCHOOLS.

All the schools are provided with part-time cleaners with the exception of the Central School and Special Subjects centre, for which a whole-time cleaner is provided. The part-time cleaners are also assisted by a man employed full time as a visiting cleaner and whose duties consist of looking after the latrines and play grounds. The floors and furniture of the schools are scrubbed during the Easter, Summer and Christmas vacations and the walls and windows cleansed. Dustless oil is applied after each scrubbing, except in the infants central hall and in one school where there are large unobstructed areas of floor. In the excepted cases a sweeping powder is used.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE SCHOLARS.

General Facts, Scope of Inspection.

The number of children on the registers of the public elementary schools in Yeovil at the end of 1919 was 2,032.

The medical inspection has regained the same footing as it was previous to the war and it has not been hampered to any extent by the changes which have taken place among the School Medical Officers during the last year.

The bulk of the school inspections took place at the respective schools. The children attending the Reckleford Schools and the Central Junior School are examined at the Clinic attached to the Special Subjects Centre in Eastland Road.

NUMBER OF VISITS.

The following visits to school departments and children's homes were made during 1919 :

A. To Schools and Departments.

1. By Medical Officer :

a. For systematic inspections	...	...	44
b. For special inspections and re-inspections	...		42
c. For enquiries as to infectious diseases, sanitary conditions, etc.	...	..	...
			73

2. By School Nurse			
a. For systematic inspections	...	...	44
b. For special inspections and re-inspections	..		46
B. To the Children's Homes	...	...	539

The home visits do not include those made in connection with measles, german measles and other notifiable infectious diseases.

PRINCIPLE OF SELECTION OF CHILDREN FOR INSPECTION.

The children are selected by means of the special medical inspection registers. Each child is examined as soon as possible after admission to school, for the second time at 8 years of age and for the third time at 12 years of age.

METHOD OF INSPECTION.

The School Nurse accompanies the School Medical Officer. Her work consists of recording the presence or absence of parents and the family history. She weighs and measures the child and tests the sight and gives the necessary assistance of undressing and dressing the girls and infants.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXAMINED.

The following table shows the age, sex and group classification of the 772 children inspected last year.

Special cases are examined at the Clinic. The actual number cannot be stated. A record is now being kept in accordance with the requirements of the new Board of Education Tables for 1920.

TABLE I. NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED
1st January, 1919, to 31st December, 1919.

A. "CODE" GROUPS.

Age.	ENTRANTS.						Intermediate Group.	LEAVERS.					Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.		12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys	73	58	13	24	168	109	104	2	...	...	106	383
Girls	75	64	11	15	165	109	107	8	...	...	115	389
TOTALS	148	122	24	39	333	218	211	10	...	...	221	772

PRESENCE OF PARENTS AT ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Parents or guardians were present at 492, or 63·7 % of the inspections. The presence of parents is very desirable. Physical defects can be pointed out and the mother's interest in the child's welfare can be stimulated so as to yield more practical results than can be obtained by sending written notices.

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS.

The Board of Education Table II. gives a return of the defects found in the course of medical inspection for 1919.

Among the 772 children examined, 262 defects were found requiring treatment and 145 defects to be kept under observation.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

There is evidence that owing to the high price of boots and clothes the children attending school are not so well clothed as they were before the war. Thirty-five cases of poor, and nine of very poor clothing, 31 cases of defective boots, and 11 of very bad boots were found during the year.

CLEANLINESS OF THE HEAD.

Of the 383 boys inspected 5 or 1·3 % had nits and 1 or ·2 % had vermin in their hair.

Of the 389 girls, 26 or 6·6 % had nits and 2 or ·5 % had vermin.

The following are the results of the systematic surprise examinations during the year 1919:—

	Number Examined.	With Nits.		With Vermin.	
		No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
INFANTS: Boys	484	18	3·7	6	1·2
Girls	773	139	17·9	36	4·7
SENIORS: Boys	113	1	·8	1	·8
Girls	783	154	19·6	27	3·4
All Boys	621	19	3·05	7	1·1
All Girls	1556	293	18·8	60	83·8
All Children	2177	312	14·2	67	3·07

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection, 1919.

Defect or Disease.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.
Malnutrition	15	30	..	..
Skin :				
Uncleanliness : Head ..	3	..	210	198
Body ..	..	..	..	..
Ringworm : Head	4	..	11	..
Body ..	2	..	17	..
Scabies .. .. .	..	..	46	..
Impetigo	14	..	462	..
Other Disease	17	..	107	..
Eye :				
Defective Vision and Squint	38	16	41	..
External Eye Disease ..	9	..	46	..
Ear :				
Defective Hearing	30	..	2	..
Ear Disease	16	..	11	..
Teeth : Dental Disease.. ..	33	..	483	..
Nose and Throat :				
Enlarged Tonsils	10	19	6	..
Adenoids	6	6	2	..
Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	9	4	3	..
Defective Speech	4	7	..	..
Heart and Circulation :				
Heart Disease : Organic ..	2	5	1	..
Functional	..	5	..	..
Anæmia	14	..	1	..
Lungs :				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis :				
Definite	4	..	5	..
Suspected	2	1	5	8
Chronic Bronchitis	6	4	..	..
Other Disease	7	6	..	..
Nervous System :				
Epilepsy .. .. .	..	1	1	..
Chorea	1	..	..	..
Other Disease	2	..	..	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :				
Glands .. .. .	..	..	2	..
Bones and Joints .. ..	..	1	1	..
Other Forms.. .. .	..	..	..	..
Rickets	3	..	..	..
Deformities	5	6	1	1
Other Defects or Diseases ..	8	34	..	..
	264	145	1474	207

CLEANLINESS OF THE BODY.

No children were found at school with body lice.

It is a deplorable fact that there are so many children found in school with vermin and nits in the hair. There has been a small improvement in recent years, but this has only been obtained through systematic and surprise examinations and the repeated notices sent to parents with prosecutions in recurrent cases. No prosecutions were made by the Education Committee during 1919.

SCHOOL BATHS.

There are no school shower or other baths. The Corporation baths are available to selected boys and girls.

NUTRITION.

Of the 772 children examined, 94 per cent. were returned as of normal nutrition, 3·8 per cent. as below normal and 1·9 per cent. as bad. The School Care Committee provides extra nourishment in the way of milk and drugs for selected cases of malnutrition and debility. There has been no evidence of children lacking food in the past year and it has not been necessary to put into operation the feeding scheme prepared by the Education Committee some years ago.

An Open Air School is badly required in Yeovil to deal with cases of pre-tubercular, anæmia and debilitated children. Substantial benefits in building up the health of the children have been obtained in those places where these schools are in existence. The Education Committee have been cognisant of this fact for some years, but owing to the war they have been unable to deal with the question. A site is available and it is hoped building operations will be commenced in the coming year. An elaborate building is not essential, temporary wooden structures such as converted army huts have been found to meet the case in a satisfactory manner. In the meantime playground classes should be utilised as much as possible.

In connection with an Open Air School the question of dealing with dull and backward children should be considered. A large

per cent. of dull, backward children shows signs of physical defect and malnutrition. Special classes in an open air school under suitable teachers, would not only improve the body but also the minds, as these two defects go so often together.

HEARING—EAR DISEASE.

Chronic discharge from the ears is fully common in Yeovil. Of the 772 children examined, 16 had discharge from the ears.

Parents are beginning to realise that this disease leads to deafness and also that serious complications may ensue and in consequence seek early treatment at the School Clinic.

NOSE AND THROAT.

During the year 25 children were certified as requiring operation. Under an agreement with the Yeovil and District Hospital the Education Committee pays for all cases of children of necessitous families requiring operation for tonsils and adenoids. During the year 14 cases were operated on in this hospital. Cases operated on are followed up by the School Nurse and requested to attend the Clinic to see the School Medical Officer. An intimation is given to the teacher in order that the child's method of breathing may be kept under observation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year 11 children were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and three from other forms of tuberculosis. Children suspected of phthisis are asked to visit the Clinic for further examination. Such cases which require treatment and supervision are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer for the county. There are at present 40 children in the Borough notified as suffering from tuberculosis (three below school age)—26 pulmonary and 17 non-pulmonary.

RE-INSPECTIONS AND FOLLOWING UP.

The Board of Education Table IV. gives the results of re-inspections to ascertain how far treatment has been secured.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.

Condition.	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of Defects for which no report is available	No. of Defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of Defects not treated.	Per-centage of Defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Un-Changed.		
Clothing ..	..	9	9	..	5	4	5	..	4	55
Footwear ..	..	11	11	..	11	7	4	..	..	100
Cleanliness of Head ..	..	213	213	..	129	..	..	..	84	60
Cleanliness of Body ..	..	2	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	100
Nutrition ..	2	15	17	1	16	1	11	4	..	94
Nose and Throat ..	6	24	30	2	15	15	..	..	13	50
External Eye Divare ..	..	55	55	3	50	..	..	..	2	90
Ear Divare ..	..	27	27	1	26	3	19	4	..	96
Teeth ..	..	516	516	..	275	..	..	..	241	53
Heart and Circulation ..	1	18	19	..	17	3	8	6	2	89
Lungs ..	..	29	29	..	28	4	20	3	1	96
Nervous System ..	..	4	4	..	3	..	1	1	1	75
Skin ..	..	680	680	11	666	618	33	15	3	97
Ricketts ..	..	3	3	..	3	..	3	..	..	100
Deformities ..	3	6	9	..	4	1	1	2	5	44
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary ..	4	3	7	..	7	2	2	3	..	100
Speech ..	..	4	4	..	1	..	1	..	3	25
Mental Condition ..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Vision and Squint ..	39	40	79	..	75	47	24	4	4	94
Hearing ..	..	32	32	1	31	15	14	3	..	96
Miscellaneous ..	2	58	60	..	53	75	6	2	7	80
Total ..	57	1753	1810	19	146	797	152	47	374	

A system of marking the cards of children, concerning whom verbal or letter notices have been given by signals indicating diseases, or defects, is in force.

All cases in which advice has been given as regards treatment or the obtaining of treatment, are re-inspected on subsequent visits to the school.

Cases in which no treatment has been undertaken or a cure has not been effected are recorded and the parents are written to or visited by the School Nurse with a view to obtaining treatment.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

The Clinic is held daily at 6, South Street, Yeovil, Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted.

The following accommodation is available ;—

1. Rooms for the Medical Officer and Nurse.
2. A room for the treatment of skin and ear diseases, etc.
3. An annexe to the Medical Officer's room provides for eye examinations. Provision is also made in this room for examination on a couch and for weighing the children.

The accommodation for children awaiting treatment is not at present satisfactory and steps are being taken to remedy this in the near future.

The examinations and treatment are carried out by the School Medical Officer and School Nurse. The work occupies on the average two hours every morning. There is a daily attendance of 50 to 70 children.

DISEASES AND DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Diseases of the eye, ear and skin are treated, defects of eye-sight are examined, spectacles being prescribed when necessary.

Special cases *re* children reported to the Medical Officer by the Committee, School Nurse, Teacher or Attendance Officer, parents are examined and advice given.

REVIEW OF WORK DONE.

The accompanying table gives a summary of the work done in the Clinic during the past year.

The number of children dealt with was 1,127 and these made 12,466 attendances.

The work of this Clinic has proved to be of immense value in the past and its popularity is shewn by the large number of attendances.

TABLE V. INSPECTION, TREATMENT, ETC., OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or Ailing children)	772
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footwear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	145
(3) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	228
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ..	136

FITNESS FOR SCHOOL.

The cases tabulated under fitness for school and miscellaneous include children brought or sent to the school clinic for defects or diseases which could not be treated there and who are referred to their own doctor or the hospital for treatment.

1011 certificates of fitness or unfitness to attend school were issued. In addition 71 exclusive and re-admission notices were sent to the schools and duplicates forwarded to the parents.

IMPETIGO AND INFECTED SKIN.

During the last four months of the year impetigo was extremely common among the school children. The cases treated at the Clinic were very severe in nature and did not yield quickly to treatment.

OTORRHOEA.—Cases of discharging ears were treated daily at the Clinic. Three cases which required treatment other than that available at the Clinic were sent to the Ear Hospital, Bath.

EYE CLINIC.

The following table shows the work accomplished during the year.

Number of children submitted to refraction	...	...	79
Number of children for whom glasses were prescribed	..	54	
Number of spectacles obtained	...	...	50
Spectacles not required	...	...	25
Spectacles prescribed but not obtained	...	...	4

FREE SPECTACLES.—Spectacles were purchased by the Education Committee for three children whose parents proved that they could not afford to buy them.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The Education Committee in 1915 adopted the following scheme for Dental Inspection and Treatment.

Two half-days per month for extractions.

One half-day per month for inspection.

Mr. F. G. McDonnell, L.D.S., was appointed as School Dentist.

In 1917 an additional half-day per month was arranged for fillings.

Treatment is carried out at the Dental Clinic in Eastland Road.

The following table gives the amount of work done in 1919.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number inspected (6 and 7 year olds) ...	49	77	126
Number with sound teeth	7	7	14
Number requiring treatment	42	70	112
Number re-inspected (all ages)	90	118	208
Number with sound teeth	20	42	62
Number requiring treatment	70	76	146

Last year notices to attend for treatment were issued to 483 children and 254 attended. The number of visits made to the Clinic by these children was 439. 533 extractions, 488 temporary and 45 of permanent teeth and 32 fillings were made.

The present amount of time afforded for dental work is not sufficient for the inspection, re-inspection and treatment of the 2402 children in the elementary schools. At least one-fifth of the dentist's time should be employed in inspection and at each session for treatment not more than 10 children should attend for filling and extractions. In order that all the ground may be carried it appears necessary for the dentist to be employed at least two half-days per week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The town has been singularly free of infectious disease with the exception of chicken pox which was prevalent throughout the year.

PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE SCHOOLS.—An account of the scheme for preventing the spread of infectious diseases in the Schools and Sunday Schools is given on page 10 of the Public Health Report.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—Pen Mill Mixed and Infant Schools were closed from 26th February to March 17th on account of influenza.

SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS.—Under Article 53 (b) (1) of the code :

Tuberculosis	3
Other Lung Disease	1
Debility	4
Myopia	1

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLE III.
NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL
CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1919.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Blind (including partially blind)			Attending Public Elementary School Attending Certified Schools for the Blind Not at School ..	— — 1	— 1 1	
Deaf and Dumb (including partially deaf).			Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf Not at School ..	— — —	1 — —	
Mentally Deficient:	Feeble Minded ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year Not at School	6 — — —	3 2 — —	9 2 — —	
		Imbeciles ..	At School .. Not at School ..	— 2	— —	— 2
		Idiots ..	—	—	—	—
		Epileptics	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics Not at School ..	1 — 2	2 — —	3 — 2
Physically Defective:	Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.. ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School ..	7 — 3	13 — 3	20 — 6	
		Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School ..	8 — —	5 — 1	13 — 1
		Cripples other than Tubercular ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School ..	5 — —	6 — —	11 — —
	Dull or Backward*		Retarded 2 years .. Retarded 3 years ..	64 21	37 12	101 33

* Judged according to age and standard.

OTHER INSPECTIONS, ETC.

SWIMMING.—All children desirous of receiving instruction in swimming are examined by the School Medical Officer. Fifteen children were found to be unfit.

CAUSES OF UNFITNESS.—Ear disease 4, skin disease 2, verminous hair and clothing 9.

COUNTY SCHOOL BOYS.—By an arrangement between the Council and the Governors of the school, all boys are examined on their admission to school. Forty-seven boys were examined in 1919 and their parents were informed of any defects that required treatment.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

No bye-laws are in force in Yeovil regulating the employment of children of school age. The exact figures cannot be given but the majority of the senior boys are employed out of school as errand boys, etc.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.—The Education Committee does not employ an organiser for physical training.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME.

Under an agreement between the Town Council and the County Council of Somerset, the Town Council exercises the County Council's powers under the Education (Choice of Employment) Act, 1910, in the Borough.

Under a scheme which has been approved by the Board of Education a Juvenile Employment Sub-Committee comprising 16 representative members, for giving assistance to boys and girls under 18 with respect to choice of suitable employment.

The Committee have the assistance of a Juvenile Employment Officer (part time) and the scheme was brought into operation on 1st September, 1919. There is ample evidence that the scheme is

proving successful in the effort to select and procure occupations for the ex-scholars which are most fitted for their mental and physical capabilities.

The following table gives the statistical and other details to the end of 1919 of scholars for whom employment has been found.

BOYS.				GIRLS.			
Glove Making	..	...	14	Glove Making	...	...	14
Office Work	...	...	4	Office Work	...	...	2
Grocer's Apprentice	...	...	2	Domestic Work	...	...	1
Organ Works Apprentice			1	Shop Assistant	...	...	2
Smith's Work Apprentice			1				
Building Work Apprentice			1				
Printing Work Apprentice			1				
Coach Building Apprentice			1				
Gardening Work Apprentice			1				
Box-Making Apprentice			2				
Various	...	...	17				
Total 45				Total 19			

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HOWELL WOOD BARNES,

School Medical Officer.