

[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Yeovil R.D.C.

Contributors

Yeovil (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1940

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Yeovil Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1940.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. V. HAGUE, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES A. WILSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

RONALD J. RICHARDS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Assistant Housing Inspector :

THOMAS H. LORD.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk :

B. M. COLLINS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1940. War Conditions, in particular evacuation, have forced us to accept temporarily a certain amount of overcrowding. Despite this, there has been no extensive epidemic of infectious disease. There has been some increase in the prevalence of Scabies and verminous conditions, and these are being vigorously tackled.

The Sick Bay at Yarn Barton has treated 159 children since its opening on 28-3-40 until the end of the year. 86 of these children were from Yeovil Rural District, the remainder from surrounding districts. The three Hostels have accommodated 144 children during the year.

Yeovilton, Houndstone and Lufton Camps have greatly increased the demands on public supplies. Main sewerage and main water supplies have been installed.

There has been no notable change in the administration of the A.R.P. Services. Casualty Services are based primarily on the First Aid Post in Yeovil and on Yeovil Hospital. Personnel are under the direction of Yeovil Control. There is a First Aid Party at Martock, and numerous small bases throughout the district.

Yours faithfully,

D. V. HAGUE.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	53,495 Acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of					
(a) Resident Population, mid-1940	...	...	...	...	19,930
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	...	...	...
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to					
Rate Books	...	...	...	...	5,573
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£71,034
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£264

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	276	153	123
Illegitimate	...	...	11	5	6
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	12	9	3
Illegitimate	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths	...	...	268	142	126
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	14.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	...	...	...	...	40.1
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	...	...	...	13.4
Altered by Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	12.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Births.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	3	10.0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	48.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	50.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	29
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.					M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	6	3
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	15	14
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	5	16
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	23	29
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	8	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	21	10
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	1
Other Respiratory Disease	...	...	...	...	5	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	3
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	1
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2	2
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Dis.	...	...	...	...	6	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	8	4
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	17	26
Total					142	126

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

1. The Medical Officer of Health is now a whole-time Officer and also Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector—No change.

- 2 (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES—No change.

- (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is a First Aid Party with Ambulance at Martock. Ambulance facilities in the surrounding districts have also been increased and are available.

(c) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

No new centres have been opened, but considerable incidental work with regard to cleansing of verminous children, treatment of Scabies, etc., has been carried out under the supervision of the Health Visitors and District Nurses wherever facilities were available. Some of the more difficult of these cases have been dealt with at the Isolation Hospital.

(d) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Some of the nursing areas in the district have been amalgamated. A fully trained Nurse and Midwife with a car is now available in most districts. Each Nurse is thus able to serve a rather larger district.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The South Somerset Isolation Hospital at South Petherton deals with infectious cases from Yeovil Rural District and from 6 other districts. It is controlled by a Joint Hospital Board consisting of representatives from the seven districts concerned, viz. ;

Yeovil Borough, Chard Borough.

Yeovil, Langport and Chard Rural Districts.

Crewkerne and Ilminster Urban Districts.

457 cases were treated during the year. These were constituted as follows:—

	Yeovil Rural District Cases.	Total Cases treated at the Hospital.
Civilians ...	77	267
Evacuees ...	41	91
Military ...	23	99
Total ...	141	457

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

Chlorinating Plants are being supplied to the 6 water supplies affected by the Order. These have not yet been installed.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage installed from Houndstone Camp. Sewage runs into Yeovil Borough and is there dealt with.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken during the year.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is undertaken by the Council in all Parishes, but in nearly all cases the collection is confined to indestructible refuse. The Council has two central sites for the deposit of refuse. The tipping is controlled as far as possible. The Council do not undertake the cleansing of cesspools.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	258
Inspections for Nuisances	...	...	394
Informal Notices served	...	...	38
Drainage Tests and Inspections	...	...	86
Houses Disinfected	...	...	82
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	...	...	297
Inspection of Water Supplies	...	...	52
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	231

Shops and Offices. It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement. It was not found necessary to take any action.

4. SCHOOLS.

Conditions of sanitation and water supply at several of the Schools in the district still fall short of reasonably hygienic standards.

SECTION D.

HOUSING PARTICULARS.

There are over 3,400 official evacuees in the district, and probably a similar number of unofficial evacuees. Some overcrowding is, therefore, inevitable. It is to be regretted that 3 houses condemned as unfit for human habitation have been temporarily repaired and are now in use to meet the present emergency. 7 houses under construction have been completed.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	...	439
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	894
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932	... ..	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	Nil
(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	... ..	Nil
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil
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	... ..	15

HOUSING ACTION.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	15
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	... ..	Nil

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

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	... ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—		
(a)	By owners	... ..	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		Nil
-----	--	--	-----

- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26
of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

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 | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|--|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| (a) | (i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | 50 estimated |
| | (ii) | Number of families dwelling therein | ... | 130 | .. | |
| | (iii) | Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | 450 | .. | |
| (b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | 6 | |
| (c) | (i) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | 6 | |
| | (ii) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | 60 | |
| (d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

It was only possible to deal with a few of the very serious cases of overcrowding owing to the shortage of housing accommodation. The overcrowding in the district is the result of accommodating a large number of evacuees, and their desire to be together

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	413
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :—			
(i) Distributors only	...	...	103
(ii) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	96
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	...	...	297
SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION.			
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	99
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	30
Accredited	...	...	157
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	55
Pasteurised	...	...	2
For Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	23
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	4
Total number of samples collected	...	...	281

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	20
------------------------------------	-----	-----	----

CARCASES INSPECTED.

Cows	...	...	...	...	...	8
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	27
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	26

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY—

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned :

Cows	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	3

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis :

Cows	...	...	...	...	...	12.50%
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	11.53%

Number of Bakehouses in the District	...	...	30
Number of Offensive Trades carried on in the District	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	...	26
Number of Samples reported satisfactory	...	...	16
Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory	...	...	9
Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory	...	...	1

ADULTERATION.

The Council are not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A Scheme is prepared for immunising School Children in 1941. A small percentage of Children under School age have been immunised by the General Practitioners under a County Scheme.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	18	17	—
Scarlet Fever	57	53	—
Measles	191	17	—
Enteric Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	12	10	1
Malaria	1	—	—
Pneumonia	18	—	9
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Erysipelas...	8	3	—
Whooping Cough	44	—	—
Dysentery...	1	—	—

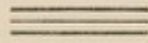
ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

			Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	Over 65.
Diphtheria	....	....		2	1			6	2	3	4			
Scarlet Fever	....	....			3	3	4	28	10	4	2	2	1	
Enteric Fever	....	....										1		
Puerperal Pyrexia....	....	....									4	1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	4											
Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	....				2		2		2	4	2		
Malaria	....	....									1			
Pneumonia	....	....	1	1						1	5	3	6	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....							1					
Erysipelas	....	....							1		1	2	2	2
Whooping Cough....	....	....	2	6	5	3	6	19		1	1		1	
Dysentery	....	....							1					
Measles	....	....	4	10	9	10	13	55	36	20	24	7	3	

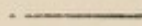
TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1			1					
1-5								
5-15								
15-25	3	3		2		1		1
25-35	1	2		1	2			
35-45	3	1						
45-55	1					1		
55-65	1	1			1			
65 and upwards								
Total	9	7	1	3	3	2	—	1

Yeovil Rural District Council.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1940.



To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council.

MISS OSBORNE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1940. All the complaints received during the year were satisfactorily dealt with.

HOUSING.

The total number of new houses erected was 8.

Plans submitted for approval under the Byelaws totalled 26.

Town Planning. 20 Interim Development Permission Certificates were issued under the Town Planning Scheme.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following works of water supply have been completed during the year:—

Haselbury Plucknett. The work of extending the supply to East Leaze Farm was completed.

Odcombe. The work of extending the water main to Houndstone was completed during the year.

A new borehole was put down during the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The extension of the Sewer from Stoke-under-Ham to East Stoke was completed.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 20 Slaughterhouses on the register, and these have been kept clean and wholesome.

All slaughtering except Emergency Slaughtering, has been carried out outside the district under the Regional Slaughtering Scheme.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 30 Bakehouses in the district, all of which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There has been a further increase in the number of Producers of Designated Milk from 19% to 22% of the Registered Producers.

The collection of milk samples is an important part of the work of my department, and the time and travelling involved has considerably increased.

FACTORIES.

All are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE.

A Scheme of Refuse and Salvage collection for the whole district was inaugurated during the year with very satisfactory results. The Council purchased a new 9 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle.

EVACUATION.

The Government Evacuation Scheme presented my department with many new problems and placed a heavy burden upon the Public Services. Most of the difficulties were overcome and the additional population absorbed without excessive overloading of the Council's Services.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

Senior Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and other Foods,

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.



