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Contributors

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Yeovil Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 st DECEMBER, 1941.

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.

Secretary to Medical Officer of Health :

(Mrs.) M. C. BRABY.

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 :

(Mrs.) B. M. COLLINS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1941. There is still some overcrowding in several houses in the district, but this is less extensive.

There was a sharp epidemic of Measles in the spring with a total of 487 cases notified. Almost certainly other cases occurred which were not notified. Two deaths only were reported as a result of this epidemic.

Apart from Measles the incidence of infectious diseases were not above the average. An intensive campaign to protect children from diphtheria was conducted during the year. 93% of all children in the district were protected. Eighteen cases of diphtheria were notified and two deaths occurred, both in uninoculated children.

There has been a definite decrease in the number of cases of Scabies and of verminous conditions in the schools, and, though fresh cases still occur, present methods of dealing with the problem are having good effect. I must again draw attention to the poor hygienic and primitive sanitary conditions prevailing at many of the schools in the district, though the return of many evacuees has led to an improvement in the crowded conditions that existed in 1940.

Under the Rest and Shelter Scheme medical rooms have been arranged in the larger centres of the district. Some equipment is to be provided from County sources.

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-1941	...	...	...	...	}
(b)	Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	...	...	...
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to						
	Rate Books	...	...	...	...	5,572
	Rateable Value year ended 31st March, 1941	...	...	...	...	£75,389
	Sum represented by a penny rate 1940 to 1941	...	...	...	...	£320

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M	F
Live Births—Legitimate	...	279	134	145
	Illegitimate	20	8	12
Still Births—Legitimate	...	8	4	4
	Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths	...	238	112	126
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				13.88
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				33.61
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population				11.05

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	Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.	...	...	56.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	53.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	100
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	33
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	2
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.					M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	4	5
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	1
Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	12	21
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	6
Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	10	13
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	23	30
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	6	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6	2
Other Respiratory Disease	...	...	...	...	5	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	—	2
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Dis.	...	...	...	...	2	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	4	6
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	6	1
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	15	17
					<hr/> 113	<hr/> 125

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

1. Elfed P. Jones, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., has been appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector.
2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES ...
- (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES ...
- (c) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES ...
- (d) NURSING IN THE HOME ...
- (e) HOSPITALS ...

} No Change

(f) SICK BAYS & HOSTELS.

209 children were admitted to Yarn Barton Sick Bay during the year suffering from:—

Scabies	...	...	138
Impetigo	...	...	26
Eneuresis	...	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	5
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	2
Otitis	...	...	3
Malnutrition	...	...	4
Eczema	...	...	4
Other Diseases	...	...	20

115 of the above were from Yeovil Rural District, 10 of whom were Somerset children.

The following children were admitted to the three Hostels during the year:—

The Close (Infants)	...	51
The Nest (Boys)	...	27
Wisteria Villa (Girls)	...	37

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLIES—satisfactory.
Chlorination Plants have been installed in all the six main water supplies.
2. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE—No Change.
Rivers and Streams—No action taken.
3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Salvage work is undertaken in all Parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	94
Inspections for Nuisances	...	...	118
Informal Notices served	...	...	13
Drainage Tests and Inspections	...	...	39
Houses Disinfected	...	...	56
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	...	...	205
Inspection of Water Supplies	...	...	63
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	25

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.—There has been no radical improvement in the unsatisfactory condition of some of the schools in the District. Overcrowding has been much reduced.

SECTION D.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

- | | | |
|--------|---|-----|
| 1. (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H., or Housing Acts) | 344 |
| | (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... | 588 |
| 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 ... | 4 |

HOUSING ACTION.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 4 |
| (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 ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:— | |
| (a) By Owners | 1 |
| (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 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertaking was given not to let... .. | 1 |
-

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 | 20 estimated |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... | 50 „ |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... | 160 „ |

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	5
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	35
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	116
(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 was reduced as the result of a large number of evacuees returning to their homes.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	414
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—			

(i) Distributors only	...	...	8
(ii) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	95

Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	205
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION.

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	87
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	23
Accredited	...	...	94
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	28
Pasteurised	...	...	2
For Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	36
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	—
Total number of samples collected	...	...	219

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	15
------------------------------------	-----	-----	----

CARCASSES INSPECTED.

Cows	...	...	...	...	...	1
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	9

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:

Cows	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:						
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	—

Number of Bakehouses in the District	...	...	20
Number of Offensive Trades carried on in the District	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	62
Number of Samples reported satisfactory	...	...	...	...	51
Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	1

ADULTERATION.

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

SECTION F.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A high proportion of the children of the district have had protective inoculation against diphtheria as a result of an intensive campaign. The school teachers and district nurses have been most helpful in the effort to bring home to parents the need for this work.

At the end of the year there were approximately 4,388 children of school age or under in the district, 93% of these are now protected against diphtheria.

This total is made up as follows:—

Under school age, children inoculated	.....	84.6%
Evacuee school children	.....	92.5%
Somerset School children	.....	97.8%

Children are still being inoculated in small numbers.

408 patients were admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital during the year. 120 of them were Yeovil Rural District.

Civilians	.....	71
Military	.....	12
Evacuees	.....	37
Total	.....	<u>120</u>

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Hospital Deaths.	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	18	16	2	2
Scarlet Fever	21	21	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	6	8	1	1
Whooping Cough	87	10	—	1
Measles	487	6	—	2
Erysipelas	9	7	—	—
Pneumonia	22	1	—	8
Puerperal Fever	6	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis ...	1	1	1	1

The following cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases were admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital:—

DISEASES.		DEATHS.
Chicken Pox	10	—
Scabies	9	—
Tonsillitis	10	1
Impetigo	3	—
Bronchitis	2	—
Uræmia	1	1
Other Diseases	9	—
Healthy Mother	1	—
Healthy Baby	1	—

SECTION "F" (Cont)

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	...	...			1	1	3	4	2	1	5	1		
Scarlet Fever	...	...						7	7	2	1	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...								1	5			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...			1											
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...					1		1	2		2		
Pneumonia	...	...		2				2		1	6	2	5	4
Erysipelas...	...	...					2				3	1	1	2
Whooping Cough...	...	...	11	9	8	9	11	31	6		1		1	
Measles	...	...	6	28	30	38	39	218	93	17	10	6	1	1

SECTION "F" (Cont.)

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								
1-5	1		1				1	
5-15		1	2	1				
15-25	1	4						
25-35	2	2			3	3		
35-45				1				
45-55	2	1		1	1	1		
55-65	2	1			1			
65 and upwards		1				1		
Total	8	10	3	3	5	5	1	

Yeovil Rural District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1941

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 1941. All the complaints received during the year were satisfactorily dealt with.

HOUSING.

There were no new houses erected during the year.

Plans submitted for approval under the Byelaws totalled 6.

Town Planning. 6 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 :—

Chilthorne Damer, Thorne and Yeovil Marsh. The work of connecting this supply to the Mudford supply was completed during the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No works of importance were carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 15 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 20 Bakehouses in the district, all of which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are 60 Accredited Producers and 23 Tuberculin Tested Producers in the District.

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.

The scheme of Refuse and Salvage collection for the whole district is working satisfactorily. The amount of Salvage collected was the average for a Rural District.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

Senior Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and other Foods,

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

