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Yeovil Rural District Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1944

# PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

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*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.) V. M. BROOKS.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

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

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

ELFED P. JONES, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

*Assistant Housing Inspector :*

THOMAS H. LORD.

*Sanitary Inspector's Clerk :*

(Miss) MARGARET A. WITHERS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF  
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1944.

Five years of War have resulted in a very large accumulation of public works and despite the return of numbers of evacuees overcrowding is still a pressing problem.

From the public health point of view shortage of good houses is by far the most serious problem but this in turn demands first better water supplies and secondly better sewage disposal. Water supplies to most parts of the district have been inadequate for many months of the year and sewage disposal continues to be a considerable nuisance. Much reconstruction is needed. Provision for the whole district of an ample, piped pure water supply, free from risk of sewage contamination is the prime necessity. Given this supply, sewage disposal is of secondary importance, and is not often, in rural districts, a serious menace to the health of the public. It is, however, frequently a serious nuisance. Provision of a piped water supply to a district which is not extremely rural usually demands sewage disposal works. A considerable part of the district has no main sewerage. In most parts this causes no nuisance but the addition to a small village of a number of new houses might be sufficient in some cases to enforce main sewerage for the whole village.

In the circumstances, the health of the district is good. There have been no epidemics and comparatively few cases of infectious disease have been notified. Whooping cough followed by pneumonia caused the death of four infants. Occasional cases of scabies have been treated but this trouble has been less prevalent.

A teacher in Yeovil Girls' Secondary School was notified as suffering from Small Pox at Easter and, in view of the comparatively small number of recently vaccinated people in the district, there was a risk of a serious epidemic if further cases occurred. Fortunately, measures taken, limited the outbreak to one case. It was thought wise to inform the public and make arrangements for all who wished to be vaccinated. Some 4,000 persons were vaccinated in the rural district in addition to those who were vaccinated in Yeovil and Crewkerne. This vaccination should be a considerable insurance against a serious small pox epidemic in the district for some years to come, years when the return of troops from abroad may increase the risk of importing the disease. Welcome help was given by the County Health Department, the American Forces Medical Services, the Red Cross and St. John's Organisations and the W.V.S.

The introduction of hot school meals in many of the schools has been of considerable benefit to the school children. Incidentally it has meant the installation of some facilities for washing. Some schools, however, still have only an enamel bowl and tap outside the school premises and some schools still have earth closets. It is with great pleasure that I have to record an appreciable improvement in the conditions at North Perrott School. The whole village have contributed towards the installation of flush lavatories and general improvements under the supervision of Mr. Raper.

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...	...				} 18,920
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	...			
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	5,663
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£78,978
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£326

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	330	179	151
Illegitimate	...	...	22	12	10
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	11	7	4
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—
Deaths	...	...	225	113	112
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	18.6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	...	...	...	...	33.
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	...	...	...	11.8

## 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	...	...	...	37
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	33
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	90
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	32
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	4
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease ... ..	24	33
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	15	21
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	5	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	6	2
Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	9
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	9	6
Diabetes ... ..	3	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	4	6
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	1	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	4
Influenza ... ..	1	—
Bronchitis ... ..	5	2
Pneumonia ... ..	—	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	—	1
Encephalitis ... ..	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	1	—
Syphilis ... ..	1	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	1	—
Appendicitis ... ..	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	1	2
Nephritis ... ..	2	—
Premature Birth ... ..	1	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Dis. ... ..	3	1
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	1	1
Other Violent Causes ... ..	4	3
All other Causes ... ..	24	15
Total ...	113	112

## SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.

1. Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors } No Change.
2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES
- (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES
- (c) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES
- (d) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Two Health Visitors and Thirteen District Nurses attend to the Midwifery, Nursing, and Infant Welfare work in the District. The Nurses are employed by the local District Nursing Associations and supervised by the County Public Health authority.

- (e) HOSPITALS—No Change.  
 (f) SICK BAYS and HOSTELS.

#### YARN BARTON SICK BAY.

Owing to the reduction in numbers of evacuees Yarn Barton Sick Bay was closed in December. Later in the month it was re-opened as an Hostel for children under eight years. The staff and children were transferred from the Hostel at The Close, Martock. In its turn The Close was occupied by the staff and boys from The Nest Hostel. The Nest premises have been restored to the owners.

149 cases were admitted to the Sick Bay in 1944 as follows:—

Scabies ...	...	...	66
Impetigo and Skin Infections	...	...	32
Tonsillitis	...	...	11
Chicken Pox	...	...	10
Verminous Heads...	...	...	4
Debility	...	...	4
Other complaints	...	...	22
Total			149

129 of the above were from Yeovil Rural District.

Somerset children	...	...	7
Evacuees	...	...	122
Total			129

#### WISTERIA HOSTEL for girls of 8—14 years.

Average number in residence during 1944	14
Fresh admissions during the year	11

#### THE NEST HOSTEL for boys of 8—14 years.

(Now transferred to The Close, Martock).

Average number in residence during 1944	13
Fresh admissions during the year	13

#### THE CLOSE HOSTEL for children under 8 years.

(Now transferred to Yarn Barton, West Chinnock).

Average number in residence during 1944	13
Fresh admissions during the year	28

### MARTOCK RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.

An average of 12 children were accommodated at the Nursery until December, 1944. A completely new staff has now been appointed.

### OVER STRATTON RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.

Average number in residence during 1944 15

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. WATER SUPPLIES—

No change.

#### 2. DRAINAGE AND 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	...	...	123
Inspections for Nuisances	...	...	106
Informal Notices served	...	...	9
Drainage Tests and Inspections...	...	...	85
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	17
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	...	...	339
Inspection of Water Supplies	...	...	278
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	15
Rodent Control Investigations	...	...	41

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.—Improvements in many schools owing to the introduction of school meals and washing facilities. North Perrott School now has flush lavatories.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H., or Housing Acts)	420
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	513

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	...	...	...	9

#### HOUSING ACTION.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	6
(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	...	...	...	2
(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	...	...	...	2

#### Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied				3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—				
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	2
(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 ... ..	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 ...	110	„
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	360	„
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	15	
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	Nil	
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	Nil	
(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	

## SECTION E.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	419
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :			
(i) Distributors only	...	...	9
(ii) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	125
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected...	...	...	339

## SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION.

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	119
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	31
Accredited	...	...	...	168
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	48
Pasteurised	...	...	...	1
For Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	18
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	2
Total number of samples collected	...	...	...	306

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	...	...	15
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## CARCASSES INSPECTED.

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

## 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

## FOOD INSPECTION.

The following food was condemned during the year :

Fish	...	...	188 lbs.
Bacon and Ham	...	...	263½ lbs.
Brawn	...	...	34½ lbs.
Tea	...	...	3½ lbs.
Beef	...	...	1135½ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	39 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	343 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	1 lb.
Mutton	...	...	199½ lbs.

## CANNED FOODS.

Fruit	...	...	...	4 tins
Stews and Soups	...	...	...	14 tins
Jam	...	...	...	4 tins
Meat	...	...	...	48 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	7 tins
Fish	...	...	...	20 tins
Milk	...	...	...	1418 tins

## WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	74
Number of Samples reported satisfactory	...	51
Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory	...	19
Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory	...	4

## ADULTERATION.

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

## SECTION F.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.  
The following children have been immunised :—

2267 School Children	...	...	98.6%
1278 Children under School age	...	...	94.3%

Children continue to be immunised regularly in small numbers.

265 patients were admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital during the year. 83 of them were from Yeovil Rural District.

Civilians	...	53
Evacuees	...	30
Total	...	83

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Hospital Deaths	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	51	29	—	—
Whooping Cough...	33	11	3	4
Measles ...	24	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	2	2	—	1
Pneumonia ...	11	3	—	—
Erysipelas...	3	2	—	—
Malaria ...	1	—	—	—

The following cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases were admitted to South Petherton Hospital for special reasons, or owing to difficulty in early diagnosis.

Disease.	Somerset Cases.	Others.	Total.
Mumps ...	—	2	2
Tonsillitis ...	1	5	6
Chicken Pox ...	—	5	5
Healthy Mother ...	1	—	1
Healthy Babies ...	3	—	3
Scarlet Fever Contacts ...	3	—	3
Influenza ...	1	1	2
Dermatitis ...	2	4	6

## 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.
Scarlet Fever	....	....					4		27	15	4	1			
Whooping Cough....	....		4	9			7		13						
Measles	....	....	1	4	4	9			2	2	2				
Puerperal Pyrexia....	....										1	5			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....		1												
Encephalitis	....	....				1					1				
Pneumonia	....	....	1			2				1	2	5			
Erysipelas	....	....							1					1	1
Malaria	....	....									1				

The following Service Cases are included in the above:—

Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	1 case
Pneumonia	.....	.....	3 cases
Malaria	.....	.....	1 case

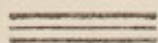
TUBERCULOSIS.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	...	...								1
1-5	...	..				1				
5-15	...	...			1			1		
15-25	...	...	2	5	1	1				
25-35	...	...	4	8				1		
35-45	...	...		1	1		4	2	1	
45-55	...	...	1	1						
55-65	...	...						1		
65 and upwards	...	...		1				1		
Total	...	...	7	16	3	2	4	6	1	1

Total New Cases 28.

Deaths 12.

# Yeovil Rural District Council.



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1944.



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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1944. All the complaints received during the year were satisfactorily dealt with.

### HOUSING.

The restriction on building operations has continued, with the result that only works of a minor character have been possible.

There were 8 new houses erected during the year, and plans submitted for approval under the Council's Building Byelaws totalled 36.

Under the Town Planning Scheme 28 Interim Development Permission Certificates were issued.

The standard of existing Housing accommodation has continued to deteriorate owing to the general shortage of labour and materials, and a very considerable amount of work will be necessary as soon as circumstances permit the carrying out of more extensive repairs.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

There was a serious shortage of water during the year and severe restrictions were imposed upon many consumers. An emergency supply was put into operation at South Petherton at the end of the year.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Owing to the shortage of suitable labour the maintenance of Sewage Disposal works has not been entirely satisfactory.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Centralised slaughtering outside the district, under the Regional Slaughtering Scheme, has continued.

Licences were issued in respect of 15 private slaughterhouses, but except for Emergency Slaughtering, and slaughter of animals for the sole consumption of the owner, under licence from the Ministry of Food, no slaughtering has been carried out.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

All are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the district, and these have been kept in a satisfactory state.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are 419 Producers of milk on the register, of whom 51 are producers of Accredited milk and 35 Tuberculin Tested milk producers. One of the latter holds a Pasteuriser's licence.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE.

The Refuse Collection and Salvage schemes continue in operation. The position has not been entirely satisfactory, due largely to the impossibility of obtaining adequate and suitable labour.

The amount of salvageable materials collected was the average for a Rural District and was as follows :

	Amount Collected.			Value.	
	Tons.	Cwts.		£	s.
Waste Paper...	148	16	...	949	11
Metals ...	105	16	...	154	17
Textiles ...	12	17	...	197	15
Bones ...	14	2	...	67	4
Rubber ...	3	11	...	8	17
Sundries ...			...	34	6
Total ...	285	2		£1412	10

The total figures are less than those of the previous year, due to the fact that tins are no longer accepted as salvage.

## RODENT CONTROL.

A very satisfactory campaign against Rats was inaugurated during the year. 34 private premises were dealt with, in addition to the Council's undertakings.

1,446 bodies were recovered, and it is estimated that over 4,000 were killed.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector,*

*Inspector of Meat and other Foods,*

*Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*



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