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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

31ST DECEMBER, 1945

Whitby, Printer, Yeovil

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.) V. M. BROOKS.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

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

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

RONALD J. RICHARDS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Assistant Housing Inspector :

S. R. BARHAM.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk :

(Miss) CHRISTINE J. CREED.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1945. It is hoped that houses will soon become available to relieve the extreme shortage of accommodation. The Council are aware of the serious nature of present overcrowding with its social difficulties and ever present risk of epidemic diseases. In the circumstances the general health of the district is very good. Infectious diseases with the exception of tuberculosis were not serious. 69 cases of Scarlet Fever, 14 Diphtheria, 185 Measles and 28 Whooping Cough cases were notified. The Scarlet Fever cases were nearly all mild, 37 were treated in hospital. Of the 31 cases of Diphtheria notified, 12 were from Naval Authorities. A few other cases admitted to hospital as doubtful cases of Diphtheria proved to be Tonsillitis due to other organisms.

Since the end of the War several ships have arrived in the country with cases of Small Pox or Small Pox Contacts on board. Several of these contacts have come to the Yeovil Rural District. Though there has never been any serious risk it has been a relief to know that a fair proportion of the local population have recently been vaccinated.

Water supplies in the district are still inadequate in quantity. Several small supplies are also at times a potential danger though no infection has been traced to water for many years. It will be a great advantage to have a small number of reliable sources for water. As soon as possible every house and dairy should have a piped pure water supply.

There is much work overdue on sewage schemes throughout the district. No improvement has yet been made in the sanitation at some of the village schools. Many still have bucket sanitation and a few earth closets. In some cases, e.g., Ilchester, water sanitation cannot be installed until a proper system of sewerage is provided.

This will be my last Report to the Council. I should like to express my thanks to the Council for their unfailing courtesy and help in the execution of my duties and to the Clerk and Sanitary Inspectors for their cordial co-operation which has made much of my work extremely pleasant.

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-1945...	...				} 18,230
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	...	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	5,587
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£79,689
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£330

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	296	131	165
Illegitimate	...	...	39	19	20
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	7	3	4
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths	...	...	227	121	106
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	18.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	...	...	...	...	20.4
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	...	...	...	12.4

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	...	...	...	29
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	27
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	51
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	27
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease	30	22
Other Circulatory Disease	6	9
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	14	17
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	3
Cancer of Breast	—	5
Cancer of all other sites	9	6
Diabetes	2	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	4
Other Tuberculosis	—	1
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia	5	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
Syphilis	2	2
Appendicitis	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	5
Nephritis	3	1
Premature Birth	3	2
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Dis.	2	—
Suicide	1	—
Road Traffic Accidents	3	—
Other Violent Causes	2	2
All other Causes	22	18
Total	121	106

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. } No Change.

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.

WISTERIA HOSTEL for girls of 8—14 years.

The above Hostel was closed in March, 1945.

THE CLOSE HOSTEL for boys 8—14 years.

The above Hostel was closed in June, 1945.

YARN BARTON HOSTEL for children under 8 years.

Average number in residence during 1945	...	13
Fresh admissions during the year	...	23

MARTOCK RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.

An average of 14 children were accommodated at the Nursery until December, 1945.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLIES—

A temporary supply of water was brought into operation from a borehole at Watercombe, to augment the Odcombe supply.

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	...	...	203
Inspections for Nuisances	...	...	129
Informal Notices served	...	...	8
Drainage Tests and Inspections...	...	...	97
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	18
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	...	...	407
Inspection of Water Supplies	...	...	295
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	15
Rodent Control Investigations	...	...	201

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.

SECTION D.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H., or Housing Acts)	...	606
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	647
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932	... ..	316
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	640
(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	... ..	85
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	40

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	191
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HOUSING ACTION.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	17
(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 notice :—	
(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
(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	100	estimated
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	220	„
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	730	„
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	63	
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	12	
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	76	
(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	421
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :	
(i) Distributors only	9
(ii) Distributors who are also Producers	125
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected... ..	407

SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION.

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	175
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	48
Accredited	...	...	...	179
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	46
Pasteurised	...	...	...	9
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	2
For Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	34
Reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	2
Total number of samples collected	397

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	15
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CARCASSES INSPECTED.

Cows	—
Calves	—
Sheep and Lambs	—
Pigs	14

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned :

Cows	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	2

Percentage of the number inspected affected with
Tuberculosis :

Cows	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	14.28

Number of Bakehouses in the District	20
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	----

Number of Offensive Trades carried on in the District	1
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FOOD INSPECTION.

The following food was condemned during the year :

Butter	...	5½ lbs.
Bacon and Ham	...	87 lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	35 lbs.
Dried Vegetables	...	140 lbs.
Beef	...	9 lbs.
Cheese	...	127 lbs.

CANNED FOODS.

Fruit	...	...	...	11 tins
Stews and Soups	...	...	...	2 tins
Jam	...	...	...	4 tins
Meat	...	...	...	27 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	21 tins
Fish	...	...	...	24 tins
Milk	...	...	...	731 tins

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	73
Number of Samples reported satisfactory	...	55
Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory	...	13
Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory	...	5

ADULTERATION.

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

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

13 cases of Diphtheria were notified—12 were adult cases from a Naval Camp. There were no deaths. The absence of infection among school children is now a conspicuous and highly satisfactory feature.

The following children are now immunised:—

1712 School Children* (5—14 years inclusive)	...	98.8%
1019 Children under School Age (1—4 years inclusive)	...	88.9%
1645 School Children have received 3 injections	...	95 %

*These figures refer only to children attending County maintained schools. It has not been possible to ascertain figures for children in the district attending other schools though it is believed that the great majority of these children are also immunised. Children under one year are also not included.

As a rule, children under the age of twelve months are not susceptible to diphtheria. It is probably wise to begin inoculations after the age of six months but many Doctors do not immunise until the age of twelve months is reached. Very few of these very young children have been immunised and they have not been included in the figure given above.

The figure for all children from age 0—4 years would be 70%

145 patients were admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital during the year. 84 of them were from Yeovil Rural District.

Civilians	...	60
Evacuees	...	9
Naval Authorities		15
Total	...	84

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Hospital Deaths	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	69	37	—	—
Diphtheria	13	11	—	—
Measles	185	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	28	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	5	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	4	—	—

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.	Yeovil R.D.		
	Residents.	Others.	Total.
Scarlet Fever Contact	1	—	1
Rubella	1	—	1
Chicken Pox	—	1	1
Mumps	—	2	2
Tonsillitis	5	2	7
Laryngismus Stridulus	1	—	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	—	1
Scabies	2	—	2
Infective Jaundice	1	—	1
Dermatitis	1	—	1
Dental Sepsis	—	1	1
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Healthy Mothers	2	—	2

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	....	....				3	1	38	12	8	7			
Diphtheria	....	....							1	11	1			
Whooping Cough....	....	....		5	4	6		12			1			
Measles	....	....	1	14	9	19	8	108	16	6	4			
Puerperal Pyrexia....	....	....								1	4			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	1											
Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	....	1											
Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....						1						
Pneumonia	....	....		2				3		2	4			
Erysipelas	....	....									2	1	3	
Dysentery	....	....								2	1			

The following Service Cases are included in the above:—

Diphtheria	.....	.....	12 cases
Dysentery	.....	.....	1 case

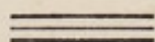
TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	...	...						
1-5	...	..				2				
5-15	...	...						
15-25	...	...	3	3			1	1		
25-35	...	...	4	2			1	1		
35-45	...	...	3	4			1	1		
45-55	...	...			1		1	1		
55-65	...	...					1			
65 and upwards	...	...								1
Total	...	...	10	9	1	2	5	4	—	1

Total New Cases 22.

Deaths 10.

Yeovil Rural District Council.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1945.



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 1945.

HOUSING.

During the year, building operations were still further restricted, and under the Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulation 56A, the power to grant licences for works exceeding £10 but not exceeding (a) £100 for repairs to houses or other works, (b) £1,200 for the erection of new houses, (c) £1,000 for the provision of additional accommodation in connection with an existing house, was delegated by the the Ministry of Works to Local Authorities.

Licence applications received totalled 211, of which 3 were refused. 8 licences were in respect of new houses.

There were 3 new houses erected during the year, plans submitted for approval under the Council's Building Byelaws totalling 85, of which 1 was refused.

Under the Town Planning Scheme, 72 Interim Development Permission Certificates and 1 Refusal Certificate were issued.

The standard of existing housing accommodation continues to deteriorate. Survey of all houses in the district was commenced as recommended by the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing, and required by the Ministry of Health. This work has been seriously handicapped owing to shortage of staff, and to the work entailed in the verification of applications for Civil Building Licences.

The position at the end of the year was as follows :

No. of houses recorded	...	...	...316
Categories allocated :			
1. Fit in all respects	...	...	... 85
2. Minor defects	...	...	... 77
3. Repairs or Structural alterations			... 85
4. Suitable for Housing (R.W.) Acts			... 29
5. Unfit	...	...	... 40

From these figures it will be appreciated that, when circumstances permit, considerable activity in demolition of unfit houses and consequent rehousing of persons so displaced will be necessary, coupled with the requisite steps for the repair of houses not at present fit in all respects. Whilst the need for this is extremely urgent, the shortage of labour and materials at present obtaining makes improvement practically an impossibility.

Plans were approved for the erection of 60 new permanent Council houses, 40 new temporary Council houses, 22 Swedish timber houses, and 22 new houses by private enterprise.

WATER SUPPLIES.

73 samples of water from piped supplies were taken during the year, of which 55 were satisfactory, 13 were not quite satisfactory, and 5 were unsatisfactory.

The quality of the water supplied can be considered fairly satisfactory as the unsatisfactory samples were the result of percolation of surface water to the springs after heavy rains. Subsequent samples have proved satisfactory.

There is a serious shortage of water in the district due to (1) the reduction of yield from underground sources and (2) the increase in the demand for water for agricultural land and premises.

It is essential that the Council now proceed with the proposed comprehensive scheme of water supply, to enable the increased demand for agricultural purposes, new Housing Schemes, and domestic consumption due to the installation of modern sanitary appliances in existing houses, to be satisfied.

The temporary supply of water was brought into operation from the borehole at Watercombe. The water is pumped through a 2,220 yds. 4in. pumping main into the 6in. main from the Odcombe source.

The following shows the present position regarding the houses and population supplied with water, viz.:

	No. of houses.	Population.
Public supply direct into houses...	...3409	11234
Public supply by means of stand pipes	...1413	4550
Private piped supplies ... (supplying more than two houses)	... 105	325
Without piped supply ...	... 660	2185
	—	—
Total for district ...	...5587	18294
	—	—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Owing to the continued shortage of suitable labour the maintenance of Sewage Disposal Works has not always been satisfactory. Moreover, a number of the works are badly overloaded and considerable extensions will be necessary.

In the parishes of Stoke-under-Ham, South Petherton, Martock and Montacute, reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works must be carried out as soon as the required labour and materials are available.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works are an urgent necessity in the following parishes, viz.:

Mudford, East Coker, West Coker, Haselbury Plucknett, Ash, Tintinhull, Barwick, Chiselborough, Norton-sub-Hamdon, West Chinnoek, Ilchester, Marston Magna, Rimpton, Odcombe, Chilthorne Domer, Hardington Mandeville, Long Load, West Camel, and Yeovil Marsh.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No slaughtering has occurred within the district during the year except under licence from the Ministry of Food for the sole consumption of the owner, and Centralised Slaughtering outside the district has continued.

Applications were received, and licences renewed in respect of 15 private slaughterhouses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

All are in fairly satisfactory condition.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the district.

An application for a Certificate as to means of escape in case of fire in accordance with the requirements of the Factory Act, 1937, was granted.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The number of producers of milk on the register is 421, of which 48 were Accredited and 40 Tuberculin Tested Milk producers. One of the latter holds a Pasteuriser's Licence. Consequent upon unsatisfactory reports upon samples taken, 2 Accredited and 3 Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences were suspended by the County Council during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE.

The Refuse Collection and Salvage schemes continue in operation, but the amount of salvageable materials collected has considerably decreased. With the cessation of hostilities came the inevitable aftermath of war, namely the public apathy relating to all the essentials of war. This apathy is badly misplaced in that salvage is still completely necessary in order to supply commodities which will remain in short supply for some time to come.

The amount of salvageable materials collected during 1945 was as follows :

	Amount Collected.			Value.	
	Tons.	Cwts.		£	s.
Waste Paper ...	56	2	...	383	16
Metals ...	7	17	...	25	12
Textiles ...	4	12	...	75	12
Bones ...	6	4	...	30	12
Sundries ...	—	—	...	113	0
					<hr/>
Total ...	74	15		£628	12
					<hr/>

RODENT CONTROL.

The campaign against rats inaugurated during 1944 was continued, with very satisfactory results. In addition to the Council's undertakings, 201 investigations were made and 55 infestations on private premises were dealt with.

A total of 826 bodies was recovered, with an estimated total kill of 2,355.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

Senior Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and other Foods,

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.