

**[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Yeovil R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Yeovil (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1951

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nh39t4hd>

**License and attribution**

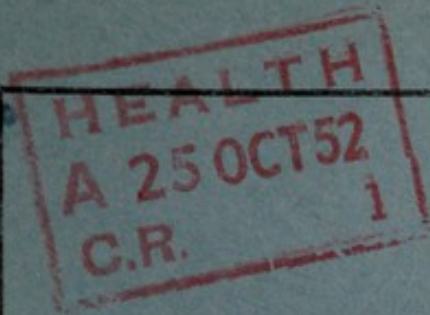
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



LIBRARY

**Yeovil Rural District Council**

---

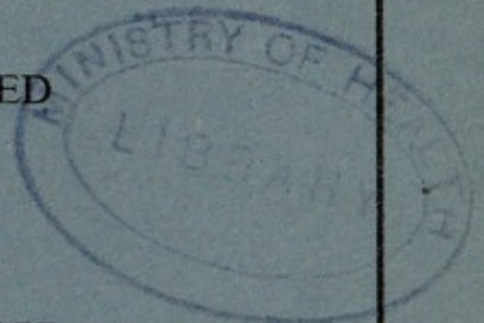
**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

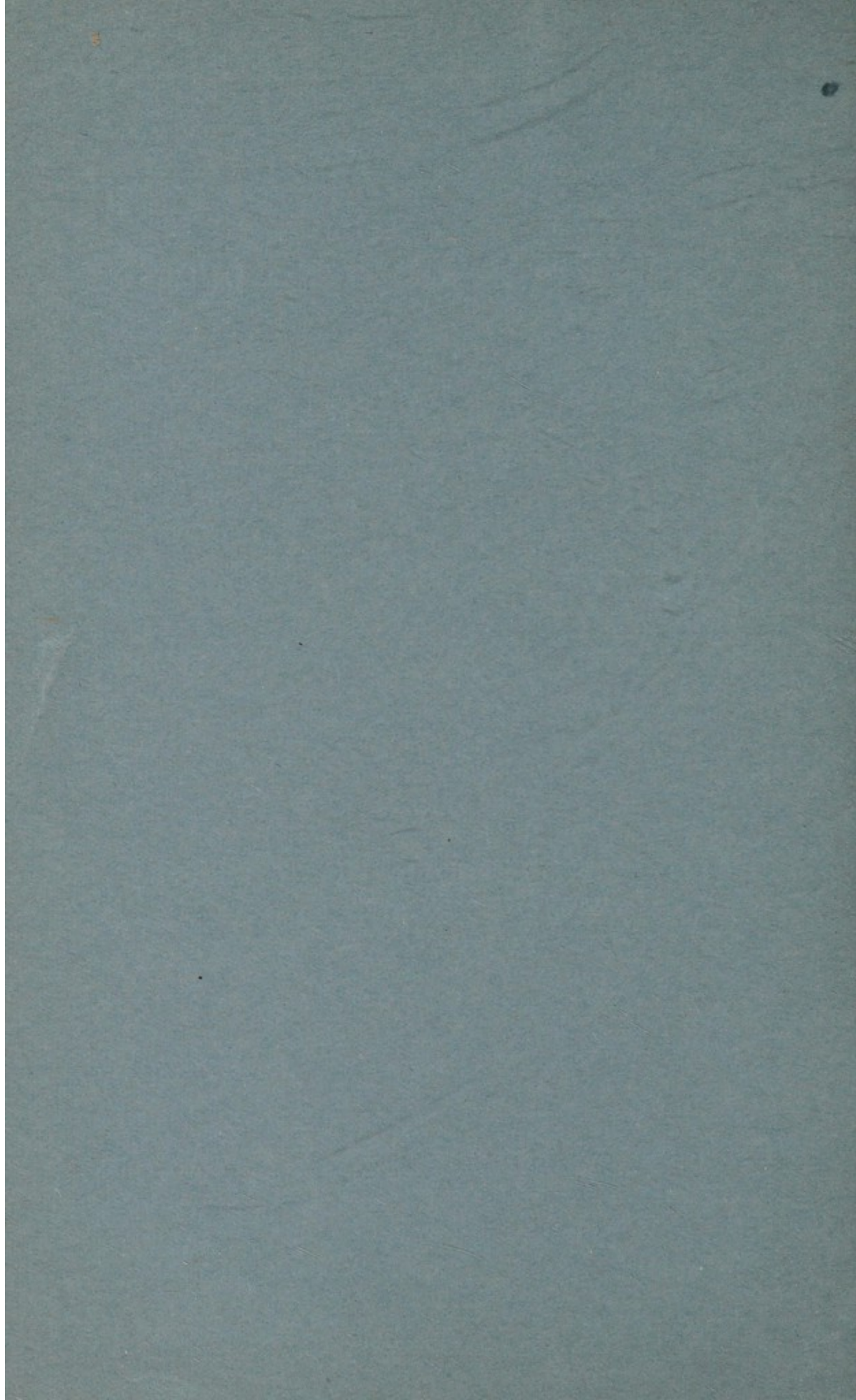
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1951.







## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

---

*Medical Officer of Health:*

P. P. FOX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector:*

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

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors:*

BRYNMOOR MORRIS,

DOUGLAS N. SIBLEY.

*Assistant Housing Inspector:*

S. R. BARHAM.

*Assistant Housing Manager:*

(MISS) D. K. WASSELL.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF  
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The health of the community in general was satisfactory. There was an outbreak of measles, 605 cases being notified, but the disease in general was of a mild type, no deaths from this cause being notified. An increase in the number of cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified was recorded, 15 cases as compared with 6 cases for the previous year. One case of death due to Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified by the Registrar General as occurring on the 9th May, but this was of a child who was admitted to hospital suffering from the disease in August, 1950.

THE BIRTH RATE was 13.89, the corrected Birth Rate being 15.00 as compared with that of the previous year of 15.77. The provisional Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.5.

THE DEATH RATE was 10.92, the corrected Death Rate being 10.48 as compared with that for the previous year of 11.26. The provisional Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

THE INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE was 36.44 which is a considerable increase on the previous year of 22.8. The rate for England and Wales was under 30. As will be noted from the table showing the ages of death, 10 of the 12 deaths occurred in the first week of life.

#### HOUSING.

During the year 56 permanent traditional houses were completed by the Council and a further 18 houses were completed as private enterprise dwellings. The number of new council houses occupied during the year was 43. The number of applicants for council houses is far in excess of the number of houses available, or which will become available in the foreseeable future, vide the following figures :—

#### APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST

Sub-Tenants with children	...	...	...	209
Sub-Tenants with no children	...	...	...	177
Householders with children	...	...	...	286
Householders with no children	...	...	...	63
Tenants of huts with children	...	...	...	25
Tenants of huts with no children	...	...	...	6
				<hr/>
				766
				<hr/>

The shortage of housing as shown above is an apparent shortening, as the real shortage is, or will be, more acute, vide the Chief Sanitary Inspector's remarks regarding the considerable increase in the number of existing old houses falling into a state of disrepair, due to the fact that many owners are unable to meet the increased cost of repairs.

#### HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

As in the previous year a resume of the activities of the School Medical Service is included in the report. The resume relates to the Schools in the Yeovil Rural District and the Yeovil Borough and it is hoped will be of interest to members of the Council.

I wish to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council and members of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	53,495 acres
Rateable Value (1st April, 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	£83,845
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in the year ending 31st March, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	£348
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	6,634
Population	...	...	...	...	...	23,890

## REGISTERED LIVE BIRTHS

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	325	170	155
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	4	3
					<hr/> 332	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 158
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...			13.89
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	...			15.00

## STILL BIRTHS

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	3	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
					<hr/> 6	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3
Grand Total	...	...	...	...			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	...			18.07

## DEATHS

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
					261	123	138
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...			10.92
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...			10.48

## MATERNAL DEATHS

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	1

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All Infants	...	...	12	Rate per 1,000 live births	36.44
Legitimate Infants	...	...	12	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.92
Illegitimate Infants	...	...	Nil	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	...	...	...	...	85
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	46
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures for the Yeovil Rural District was 332 live births; 174 were male and 158 were female.

Of these, 7 were illegitimate (4 males and 3 females). These figures are a decrease on the previous year's (4 males and 8 females).

### BIRTH RATES

Yeovil Rural District	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
	15.9	16.8	18.6	18.3	20.8	21.71	17.3	19.9	14.6	13.89
Eng. & Wales 1951 Report	16.3	16.5	17.6	16.6	19.1	20.5	17.8	16.7	15.8	15.5

### DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the Yeovil R.D. was 261, viz.: 123 males and 138 females. The crude death rate was 10.92 as compared with 11.73 for the previous year. The corrected death rate was 10.48 as compared with 11.26 for the previous year.

There were 140 deaths occurring in persons over 70 years of age. The primary cause of death was heart disease (85) with cancer second (46).



The following table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

Causes of Death	1951	
	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	—	1
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	—	1
Meningococcal infections ...	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis ...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm stomach ...	4	5
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...	3	1
Malignant neoplasm breast ...	—	2
Malignant neoplasm uterus ...	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	15	14
Diabetes ...	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	26
Coronary disease angina ...	13	10
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	3
Other heart disease ...	32	24
Other circulatory disease ...	8	5
Influenza ...	4	8
Pneumonia ...	2	4
Bronchitis ...	4	5
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	2
Ulcer stomach and duodenum ...	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—
Hyperlasia of prostate ...	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1
Congenital malformations... ..	3	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	12	17
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	1
All other accidents ...	1	—
	123	138

The Crude Death Rate for the past ten years is as follows :—

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
10.00	9.7	11.8	12.4	11.7	13.42	10.3	13.1	11.73	10.92

## CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) was 46. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1930	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
22	20	29	27	39	39	28	51	37	46



# CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION :

Year	1930	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Yeovil Rural District	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.7	1.7	1.92
County of Somerset	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.07	1.9	1.9	1.896	
England and Wales	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.946	

The following Table shows the age incidence of Cancer Deaths :

	Over 20 yrs.	30 yrs.	40 yrs.	50 yrs.	60 yrs.	70 yrs.
No. of cases. MALE	1	Nil	Nil	4	9	8
No. of cases. FEMALE	—	1	Nil	3	8	12

Cancer is now one of the principal causes of death, occupying second place, heart disease being the principal cause.

The following comments are I think relevant:—

- (1). There is no reliable evidence that the incidence of cancer is increasing, the apparent increase being due to:—
  - (a) Improved methods of diagnosis.
  - (b) The effect of an ageing population.

In regard to (b) the average expectation of life in England and Wales in 1838—1854 was 41 years approximately; in 1945 the average expectation of life in the United States—which is roughly comparable with England and Wales—was 65 years.

- (2). That cancer is an hereditary disease. This is not proven, any factor if present being so weak as to be of no significance.
- (3). That cancer is infectious or contagious. Not proven.

Available figures for England and Wales tend to show that cancer mortality would be reduced if the interval between the onset of the first symptoms and treatment could be lessened. Part of this delay is due to patients not being admitted to hospitals immediately application is made, but most of the delay is the interval between the patient first noticing symptoms and consulting his doctor. The Americans claim that by cancer education the Massachusetts Public Health Authorities have in ten years reduced the interval between the patient first noticing symptoms and going to a doctor from six to three months.



## INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first 12 months of life was 12 as compared with 7 for the previous year and 11 for the year 1949. The rate per 1,000 of all live births was 36.44.

### CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	5
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Cardiac Failure	...	...	...	...	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	12
					—

### AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours 5	Under 1 week 10	1 month or under 11	Under 1 year 12
---------------------	--------------------	------------------------	--------------------

Number of Deaths ...	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
	12	7	14	8	6	11	10
Rate per 1,000 live births	36.44	22.8	37.4	24.7	37	34	29
For England and Wales	29.6	29.8	32	34	41	43	46

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one maternal death during the year.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1951	1950
Poliomyelitis	15	6
Scarlet Fever	7	10
Dysentery	1	2
Measles	605	83
Pneumonia	9	8
Erysipelas	1	1
Whooping Cough	133	50
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1
Encephalitis	2	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	
Meningococcal Septicaemia	1	



## DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

The number of children who received immunising injections against Diphtheria, or Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, was 304, as compared with 287 for the previous year. In addition 292 school children received reinforcement doses as compared with 221 for the year 1950.

The value of Diphtheria immunisation is now widely recognised, but doubt has existed regarding the value of whooping cough immunisation. The Medical Research Council trials showed that an unprotected child was nearly 5 times as likely to catch whooping cough as one who had been immunised, further, that of those who developed whooping cough, three-quarters of the inoculated children had mild attacks, but that three-quarters of the uninoculated children had attacks of moderate or greater severity. The conclusion drawn was, that though the value of whooping cough immunisation does not equal that of diphtheria immunisation it does offer a very valuable degree of protection.

The following table shows the number of children immunised at 31st December, 1951.

Number of children under the age of 5 years 1,015, i.e. 60% approximately.

Number of children between the age of 5 and 14 years immunised 2,280, i.e., 82% approximately.

## VACCINATION

The number of children vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year either by general practitioners or County Medical Service was 392 as compared with 142 for the previous year.

Under 1 year		1 to 4 years		5 to 14 years		15 years or over	
P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
226	0	30	4	16	8	7	101

P: Primary Vaccination

R: Re-Vaccination

The number of children vaccinated under the age of 1 year is considerably higher than for the previous year (226 as compared with 66) and is approximately 68% of the number of children born in 1951. This figure, so far as can be judged, is considerably higher than that for England and Wales. In 1946 prior to the abolition of compulsory vaccination the figures for England and Wales of infants vaccinated was 41.6%; in 1948 it has been estimated that the figure had dropped to 20%, and in 1949 the % figure of infants vaccinated was 27%.



The value of individual vaccination, in my opinion, cannot be doubted. In the Brighton epidemic eight of the fourteen members of the staff working in the affected ward were unvaccinated, all contracted smallpox, and five died. The remaining six of the staff had been vaccinated at some time and all escaped the disease. Due to the increased facilities for international travelling the risk of importation of the disease is greater. All parents are advised to have their children vaccinated, preferably at about the age of 4 months.

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, Ante-Natal supervision being conducted by the General Practitioners and the District Nurse-Midwives. A number of expectant mothers do attend the Ante-Natal Clinic held in Yeovil and a considerable number of expectant mothers attend the Rh. Clinic which is held at Yeovil.

## INFANT WELFARE

Infant Welfare Centres, the responsibility for the running of which is the Somerset County Council's, are held at Martock, Stoke, South Pether-ton, West Coker and Wraxhill Road, Yeovil. Clinics were established at Ilchester and Houndstone Camp and figures relating to a full year's working will be published in the Annual Report for 1952.

	<i>Martock</i>	<i>Stoke-under-Ham</i>	<i>South Pether-ton</i>	<i>West Coker</i>	<i>Wraxhill Road</i>
No. of children who attended for the first time ... ..	58	36	47	28	38
No. of children who attended during the year ... ..	113	93	135	63	78
Total attendances of children during the year ... ..	574	18	558	288	306
Average attendance of children per session ... ..	24	22	23	24	26
Average attendance of mothers per session ... ..	22	17.17	28.8	19	21
Total No. of children examined by doctor ... ..	50	53	93	46	46
No. of sessions with medical officer ... ..	12	12	11	11	11
No. of other sessions ... ..	12	11	13	1	1
No. of individual mothers who attended ... ..	—	72	110	45	70



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

### BIRTHS

<i>Live Births</i> ...	Legitimate 325	Illegitimate 7	Total 332
<i>Still Births</i> ...	Legitimate 5	Illegitimate 1	Total 6
INFANT DEATHS <i>Number</i> ...	Legitimate 12	Illegitimate —	Total 12

### BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

The number of expectant mothers attending this clinic showed a considerable increase, the number of blood tests taken during the year being 656 as compared with 391 for the previous year. Apart from the immediate value of the test there is being built up in the Department a register showing the Blood Group, etc., of a considerable proportion of the population—approximately records are held of 1,291 individuals.

The average percentage of Haemoglobin of over 591 patients was 73%, as compared with 78% for the previous year.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

### FOOD POISONING

I am gratified to report that there were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 15, non-pulmonary 4. There were 2 deaths recorded as due to tuberculosis, 1 for pulmonary tuberculosis, and 1 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
AGE PERIODS	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—1 ... ..								
1—5 ... ..		1						
5—15 ... ..		1		1				
15—25 ... ..	2	3						
25—35 ... ..		4		1		1		
35—45 ... ..	2	2		1				
45—55 ... ..			1					
55—65 ... ..								
65 and upwards								1
Total ... ..	4	11	1	3		1		1
Total New Cases: 19					Deaths: 2			
	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	
No. of cases notified pulmonary ... ..	15	12	21	12	8	23	19	
No. of cases notified non-pulmonary ... ..	4	1	2	4	5	3	3	
No. of deaths pulmonary	1	2	6	6	—	3	9	
No. of deaths non-pulmonary ... ..	1	1	2	1	—	1	1	
Death rate of respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 population ... ..	0.04	0.09	0.32	0.33	0.0	0.16	0.5	

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

As in previous years the Mass Radiography Service visited Yeovil, a total of 3,015 individuals being examined. The figures do not relate entirely to the Yeovil Rural District as they include a considerable percentage of people resident in the Yeovil Borough.



The value of this service is becoming more appreciated each year and a feature of this year's survey was the relatively high number of school children examined, viz. 556, of whom one was found to have unsuspected active pulmonary tuberculosis. The total number of active pulmonary tuberculosis cases discovered was 8. The table below sets out the extent to which the service has been used in recent years and the value of the surveys.

No. of people examined		No. of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diagnosed	
		Active	Inactive
1948 (Two visits)	4,260	9	32
1949	2,298	13	31
1950	2,316	4	41
1951	3,015	8	34

As in previous years my thanks are due to the Organising Secretary, Mr. Coffey, for the co-operation I have received from him in arranging these visits.

### **SOUTH-EAST SOMERSET (YEOVIL) DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE**

#### **ASTHMA BREATHING EXERCISES CLINIC**

During the year the total number of children attending was 30, of whom 10 were new cases. The total number of attendances was 311. It has been found that attendances tend to fall during the school holidays, but in general the parents and the children have co-operated extremely well and in such cases steady improvement has been indicated.

The children are reviewed by a Medical Officer at periodic intervals and depending on the improvement achieved the interval between attendance at the clinic is changed to once a fortnight or once a month. In some cases it has been found that the child need only attend once in every three months, merely to check that the child is still carrying out the exercises in the correct manner.

As was stated in the previous annual report the purpose of these exercises is not to cure asthma, but by teaching the child to control its breathing, to abort an attack or to minimise the severity of an attack.



The details of the following cases are indicative of the value of these exercises :—

1. *Michael B.* Aged 12 years. Before commencing treatment his chest expansion was 1 inch and there was a history of asthma attacks every three to four weeks. He commenced attending the clinic in September, 1950. Chest expansion is now  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches and the total number of attacks during the past 20 months has been 16 and these attacks have been much less severe.

Miss Waltham reports that the child is now very much self-confident and has won a scholarship to the Yeovil Boys' Grammar School. He has also become a very keen swimmer.

2. *Valerie M.* Aged 8 years. Before commencing treatment her chest expansion was 1 inch and there was a history of attacks of asthma every 3 months, the child having to be confined to bed. She commenced attendance in October 1950; her chest expansion is now 3 inches. There have been no attacks this winter and the number of attacks since she started the exercises have been only 3. Her general posture is excellent and she now attends the clinic once a month, but she carries out the exercises daily at home.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

64 children were examined in connection with the above and two were found unfit for employment out of school hours.

#### ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT

After discussion with the County School Medical Officer, the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee were approached with a view to the use of the Borough Swimming Bath in connection with the rehabilitation of children suffering from orthopaedic defects, especially those defects following Anterior Poliomyelitis and postural defects. Arrangements were made by the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee with the Yeovil Borough Council whereby the swimming bath was reserved on Saturday mornings for such cases. The rehabilitation class commenced on 4th August, 1951, the average attendance being 17 per session. These swimming classes, under the supervision of the Orthopaedic Sister, have proved very beneficial.

#### MASS RADIOGRAPHY

During the year 556 schoolchildren were examined by the Mass Radiography Unit, of whom one child was found to have active Tuberculosis. It was not found possible for the mobile unit to visit the Rural District schools but by special arrangement the Mass Radiography Service arranged for transport to be provided for the staff and senior scholars of Stoke-sub-Hamdon County Modern School to attend the unit in Yeovil.



## GRAMOPHONE AUDIOMETER

During the year 292 children were tested for the first time and a further 117 children who had been tested in previous years were re-tested, making a grand total of 409 children. The total number of schools visited for examination purposes during the year was 24. 24 of the 70 children who failed were referred for minor ailment treatment, either to their own private doctors or to the clinic. A further 12 were referred to the hospital for treatment or observation by the E.N.T. specialist; the remaining 34 children are under observation and will be retested during the coming year. In all cases the parents and schoolteachers were informed where this was considered advisable.

To date, as a result of audiometric examinations, two children have been fitted with hearing aids and a third child has been referred to Bristol with a view to being fitted with a hearing aid.

An analysis of children tested by the Gramophone Audiometer, who were found to have defective hearing due to wax, showed that the average loss of hearing ranged from 3 to 21 decibels. After removal of the wax the average improvement in each ear was 8.3 decibels; this represents approximately a 30% improvement in the range of hearing.

A more practical appreciation of the above is obtained if it is realised that a child, who has a loss of hearing in both ears of 6 to 12 decibels, would have slight difficulty in hearing with a consequent tendency to inattention if seated at the back of the classroom, particularly if the schoolroom abutted on to a noisy street. A child with a loss of hearing of 12 to 21 decibels would almost inevitably have difficulty in hearing the teacher, unless the difficulty was recognised, and even so would entail continuous concentration on the part of the child—a handicap which would not be reasonable to expect the child to shoulder. Further degrees of loss of hearing verge almost on complete deafness.

Fortunately in a considerable percentage of those children examined, and who have been found to have loss of hearing, the loss has been unilateral, and by the co-operation of the teaching staff, which has always been willingly extended, a considerable improvement has been effected by placing the children at lessons to a particular side of the teacher. Where the deafness has been bilateral the child has been placed in the front of the class as near as convenient to the teacher.

P. POWER FOX,  
Divisional School Medical Officer.



## SECTION C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## 1.—WATER SUPPLIES

Comprehensive Scheme—Work was commenced on the construction of the dam and road diversions at Sutton Bingham.

## 2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Ilchester—the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Ilchester and Northover was completed except for the installation of pumps.

East and West Coker—Work on the scheme of sewage and disposal is proceeding.

Rivers and Streams—Complaints were received in respect of the condition of the River Yeo. These were passed to the appropriate authorities.

## 3.—PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection is undertaken in all parishes and was extended during the year to a number of new housing estates, increasing the number of man-hours allocated to this service.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	...	298
Inspections for Nuisances	... ..	161
Informal Notices Served	... ..	Nil
Drainage Tests and Inspections	... ..	240
Rooms Disinfected	... ..	12
Inspection of Water Supplies...	... ..	331
Slaughterhouse Inspections	... ..	167

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.

## SECTION D

## HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... 1026
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1539

2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932 ... ..	51
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	110
(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 occupation ... ..	5
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... ..	46

### HOUSING ACTION

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	46
(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 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 ... ..	51
(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 ... ..	5
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Undertaking was given not to let ... ..	5

## 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 tenements or rooms having been made fit ...	Nil

## HOUSING ACT, 1936 — OVERCROWDING

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	(est.) 100
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	(est.) 210
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	(est.) 700
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	16
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	8
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	41
(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

(a)	Number of Registered Dairies ... ..	3
(b)	Number of Retailers in the area ... ..	7
(c)	Number of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside the area ...	4
	Cowsheds and Dairies Inspected ... ..	3
	Biological Samples taken ... ..	Nil



## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	...	...	...	15
Carcases Inspected:—				
Calves	...	...	...	Nil
Cows	...	...	...	Nil
Sheep and lambs	...	...	...	Nil
Pigs	...	...	...	Nil
Horses	...	...	...	3,051
Tuberculosis only (Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned):—				
Cows	...	...	...	Nil
Pigs	...	...	...	Nil
Percentage of the number of carcases inspected affected with T.B.	...	...	...	—

NUMBER OF BAKEHOUSES IN THE DISTRICT ... 20

NUMBER OF OFFENSIVE TRADES CARRIED ON IN THE DISTRICT ... 1

BYELAWS (under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

It was not found necessary to take any formal action under the above Byelaws.

A successful meeting, attended by a large number of persons engaged in the food industry, was held. Lectures were given and films shown in regard to the proper handling, wrapping and delivery of food for human consumption.

## FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was condemned during the year:—

Beef (Imported)	...	...	...	55 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	12½ lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	45 lbs.
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	56 lbs.

and 94 tins of various foodstuffs.

## WATER SUPPLY

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	129
Number of Samples reported Satisfactory	...	...	...	122
Number of Samples reported Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	7
Number of Samples taken for Chemical Examination	...	...	...	16
Number of Samples reported Satisfactory	...	...	...	15
Number of Samples reported Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	1

## ADULTERATION

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



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1951

---

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 1951

### HOUSING

Approximately the same number of new houses was erected by the Council and private enterprise as in 1950. There is, however, a considerable increase in the number of old houses falling into a state of disrepair, due to the fact that many owners are unable to meet the increased cost of repairs. This will, in a few years, have a considerable effect on the provision of new houses by the Council, as all these unfit houses will have to be replaced.

#### COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME

##### 1. Completed during 1951:—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	...	...	...	56
(b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses	...	...	...	Nil

##### 2. Under Construction 31.12.51 :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	...	...	...	66
(b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses	...	...	...	Nil

#### PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUILDING

##### 1. Completed during 1951:—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	...	...	...	18
(b) Conversions of Buildings into Houses	...	...	...	5
(c) Temporary Houses	...	...	...	Nil

##### 2. Under Construction 31.12.51:—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	...	...	...	8
(b) Conversions	...	...	...	1
(c) Temporary Houses	...	...	...	Nil

## BUILDING LICENSING

There was no significant change in the powers delegated to local authorities by the Minister of Works under the Control of Civil Building (Defence Regulation 56A).

Licences were granted as follows :—

(a) New Houses—private enterprise	...	...	16
(b) Conversions and Adaptations	...	...	10
(c) Other Work (repairs, maintenance, etc.)	...	...	48
			—
		Total	74
			—

## PLANS

## A.—BUILDING BYELAWS

Number of Plans approved under the Council's Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	182
Disapproved	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—
				Total		184
						—

## B.—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

Number of Plans submitted and passed to the Planning Authority with the Council's observations	...	...	187
--	-----	-----	-----

## WATER SUPPLY

Extensions or Improvements of Supplies:—

The Yeovil Rural Water Order, 1950, came into operation on the 28th October, 1950, and work was commenced on the construction of the impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham in November, 1951.

129 samples of water, from public and private supplies, were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination as follows :—

	<i>Public Supplies</i>		<i>Private Supplies</i>	
Total Number of Samples taken	96		33	
Satisfactory	...	96	26	
Unsatisfactory	...	Nil	7	
		—96	—7	—33

16 samples from public supplies were submitted to the County Laboratory for chemical examination, as follows:—

Total Number of Samples taken	16
Satisfactory ... ..	15
Unsatisfactory ... ..	1
	<hr/> 16



Due to the exceptionally wet year there were no serious shortages of water, but many applications for the supply of water for trade purposes have had to be refused and intermittent supplies only could be given to high premises in the area.

The following is a summary of the present position regarding houses and population supplied with water:—

	<i>Number of Estimated Houses      Population</i>	
Public Supply direct into Houses ... ..	4,612	14,629
Public Supply by means of Standpipes ... ..	1,190	3,727
Private Piped Supplies (supplying more than 3 houses) ... ..	99	310
Without a piped supply, or where the supply is for 3, or fewer, houses ... ..	301	960
Totals ... ..	<u>6,202</u>	<u>19,626</u>

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Ilchester—Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Ilchester and Northover was completed, except for the installation of pumps.

East and West Coker—Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal proceeding.

Haselbury Plucknett—Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal approved by the Ministry of Local Government and Planning.

Mudford—Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal prepared and submitted to the Ministry.

Martock, Montacute and Stoke-sub-Hamdon—Scheme, comprising new combined disposal works and main sewers for the three parishes, in course of preparation.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The centralised slaughtering of animals outside the district was continued.

15 licences in respect of private slaughterhouses were renewed during the year.

The number of horses slaughtered at Martock increased somewhat to a weekly average of just below 60.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

These are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the district.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

(a) Number of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	3
(b) Number of Retailers in the area	...	...	...	7
(c) Number of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside the area	...	...	...	4

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

The amounts of salvageable materials collected during the year and the prices realised are as follows :—

	<i>Amount Collected</i>				<i>Value</i>		
Waste Paper	59 tons	3 cwts.	...	...	£812	17	0
Metals	27 tons	12 cwts.	...	...	£75	7	0
Totals	...	...	...	...	£888	4	0

## RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's two rodent operators during the year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
I. No. of Inspections during the year, as a result of :—					
(a) notification	69	45	3	345	462
(b) otherwise	—	6,586	368	—	6,954
II. No. of Properties under I. found to be infested :—					
(i) MAJOR	18	34	10	34	96
(ii) MINOR	19	107	—	—	126
III. No. of Infested Properties under I. and II. treated by the Council's Operators	37	141	Nil	34	212
IV. No. of Informal Notices served	—	—	10	—	10



It was not found necessary to take any formal action under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. 1949.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector,*

*Inspector of Meat and Other Foods,*

*Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*

