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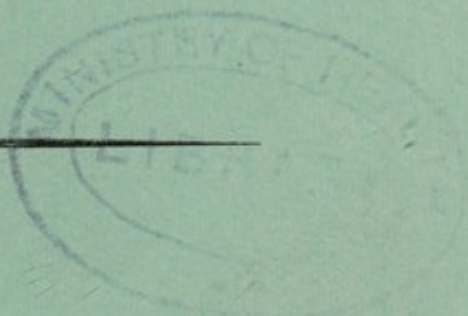
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Yeovil Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1954



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

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

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

BRYNMOR MORRIS, M.S.I.A.

DOUGLAS N. SIBLEY, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Assistant Housing Inspector:

S. R. BARHAM.

Assistant Housing Manager:

(Mrs.) D. K. TROW.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1954.

GENERAL REMARKS

A. The health of the community has been satisfactory, the number of infectious diseases notified being 241 as compared with 598 for the previous year. The number of cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified was 9 as compared with 17 for 1953. The Corrected Death Rate was 9.34 as compared with 7.6 for the previous year; the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.3. The Standardised Birth Rate was 16.3 as compared with 14.3 for the previous year and 15.2 for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were no deaths from either Pulmonary or Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, the last year when similar figures were recorded was in 1947.

B. At the end of my report I have included an abstract from the Annual Report of the Principal School Medical Officer of the Somerset County Council, which I compiled showing the scope of the present School Medical Service in the Yeovil Divisional Area which includes the Yeovil Borough and the Yeovil Rural District, and comparing with the School Medical Service provided in the Borough of Yeovil in 1924. Inasmuch as school children comprise a large percentage of the public it was thought that the report would be of interest to Members of the Council.

In order to "complete the picture", the following Statistics for the year 1924 and 1954 are given below.

GENERAL STATISTICS

				1924	1954
Area of Rural District	...	...	...	54,898 acres	53,495 acres
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£142,538	£94,783
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate	...	...	...	£375	£372 0s. 3d.
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,185	6,722
Population	...	...	...	16,840	23,240

VITAL STATISTICS

					1924	1954
Population	...	...	...	...	16,840	23,240
No. of Births	...	...	...	...	340	356
Birth Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	20.1	16.3
No. of Deaths	...	...	...	...	167	213
Death Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	9.9	9.34
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	26.4	25.2
Phthisis Death Rate	...	...	...	...	0.4	—
Cancer Death Rate	...	...	...	...	1.3	1.5

HOUSING.

The number of applicants for Council Houses at the 31st December, 1954 was 463 as compared with 490 for the previous year. The applicants for houses were as follows :—

No. of sub-tenants with children	...	...	71
No. of sub-tenants without children	...	...	90
No. of householders with children	...	...	154
No. of householders without children	...	...	142
Tenants of Nissen Huts with children	...	...	6
Total	...		<u>463</u>

The total number of occupied houses as at the 31st December was 6,722. The number of Council Houses belonging to the Authority was 1,614, in addition, 14 Council Houses were sold to sitting tenants. The following Table shows the number of houses built by the Authority since 1946.

1946.	Number of houses built	...	...	70
1947.	Number of houses built	...	...	60
1948.	Number of houses built	...	...	46
1949.	Number of houses built	...	...	66
1950.	Number of houses built	...	...	58
1951.	Number of houses built	...	...	56
1952.	Number of houses built	...	...	54
1953.	Number of houses built	...	...	106
1954.	Number of houses built	...	...	132
Total	...			<u>648</u>

I have the pleasure in again recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee and from the members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1954

Area (in acres)	53,495
Rateable Value (31st March, 1955)	£94,783
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31st March, 1955	£372 0s. 3.
No. of inhabited houses (31st March, 1955)	6,722
Population	23,240

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Yeovil Rural District, comprising an area of 53,495 acres, is situated in the South East area of the County of Somerset and is composed of 31 Rural Parishes.

The Area in general is not very much above sea level; the greatest point of elevation being Ham Hill, 426 feet above sea level.

WATER SUPPLY

In general the water supply was satisfactory for the year 1954. There was no serious shortage of supply and of the 76 samples submitted for bacteriological examination, 75 were satisfactory. As the Council are aware, there is an extensive scheme nearing completion for a new impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham which, when completed, will ensure an adequate water supply for the District.

METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 1954 as recorded at the Sutton Bingham Reservoir was 38.73 inches.

POPULATION

The population for 1954 was 23,240.

OCCUPATION

The main industry of the District is agriculture, which is chiefly of a dairying and grazing nature. In addition, the manufacture of gloves is an important industry, glove factories being located at Martock, Stoke-under-Ham and at Tintinhull, in addition to the glove making which is carried out in the homes. A considerable proportion of people resident in the District are employed in the Yeovil Borough.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services are mainly situated in the Yeovil Borough. The South Petherton Hospital, which deals with Infectious Diseases, is situated in the Rural District. The Hospital Services are administered by the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are

- (1) The Yeovil and District Hospital—an acute general hospital.
- (2) Summerlands Hospital—mainly used as a Geriatric hospital.
- (3) Yeovil Maternity Hospital (Crossways—14 beds).
- (4) Balidon Maternity Hospital—a General Practitioners Unit (17 beds).

It is interesting to note that in 1924, the Yeovil and District Hospital contained 28 beds, two cots and four private wards. It provided treatment for 455 in-patients and 469 out-patients. The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 111. In 1954, the comparable figures were: number of beds 82, of which 6 are private, the number of in-patients treated was 2,621 and the number of new out-patients was 5,037. The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 17,345. In considering these figures, it must be borne in mind that the area which the hospital now serves has considerably increased. Despite the valuable services which the hospitals carry out, it cannot be stated that the present hospital buildings and equipment are adequate for the present and potential requirements of the Borough and surrounding district. The matter is under review by the responsible Authorities.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are treated at the South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, the Cubicle Block, 10 beds, is only required and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on the Yeovil Hospital, and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

TUBERCULOSIS

A Chest Clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Sanatoria at Quantock and Taunton.

CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (97 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institution built in 1837, and the layout, etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further, there is a constant shortage of nursing staff but, despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the hospital. I am of the opinion that better use of the beds in the area could be made if there was a scheme whereby the prospective patients could be visited in their homes so as to assess the relative need for admission; this information would also be of value in determining whether a patient could be discharged home. Such a scheme would reduce the constant waiting list for admission.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A small laboratory is located at the Yeovil Hospital. A Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analysis for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluent are also carried out.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is a responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The Ambulance Control Office is located at the Summerlands Hospital. The Ambulances and the larger type of vehicles for sitting cases are in radio communication with the control office. A daily 24-hour service is maintained.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfers to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a bigger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of our district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General and applied to the "crude" birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

BIRTHS

(a) LIVE BIRTHS

		1954			1953
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	192	157	349	319
Illegitimate ...	...	2	5	7	13
Total ...		194	162	356	332
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population ...		...	...	15.3	13.5
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population ...		...	...	16.3	14.3

(b) STILL BIRTHS

		1954			1953
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	5	4	9	6
Illegitimate ...	...	—	—	—	—
Total ...		5	4	9	6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births		24.6			17.7

DEATHS

		1954			1953
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total deaths ...	...	120	93	213	196
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population		9.16			8.00
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ...		...	...	9.34	7.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

	1954	1953
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ...	9	7
Deaths among Legitimate infants ...	9	7
Deaths among Illegitimate infants ...	—	—
Death Rate per 1,000 live births ...	25.2	21.08
Death Rate per 1,000 legitimate births ...	25.8	21.9
Death Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	—	—
	1954	1953
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	35	30
Deaths from Heart Diseases (all ages) ...	80	60
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages) ...	—	4

BIRTHS

The total number of births was 356 ; 194 male and 162 female. Of these, 7 were illegitimate, 2 male and 5 female. The Table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

BIRTH RATES

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
18.3	20.8	21.7	17.3	19.9	15.77	15.00	14.72	14.3	16.3

DEATHS

There was an increase in the total number of deaths, 213 in 1954 as compared with 196 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 9.34 as compared with 7.6 for the previous year ; the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.3. The following Table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males of the 120 deaths, 105 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 56 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the female, out of the total of 93 deaths, 85 were 65 years and over, 55 were 75 years and over.

<i>Ages at Death in Years</i>	1954		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
Under 1	6	3	9
1	—	—	—
5	—	2	2
15	1	—	1
25	6	—	6
45	2	3	5
65	34	19	53
Total under 70	49	27	76
70	15	11	26
75	16	12	28
80	20	18	38
85	9	9	18
90	10	8	18
95	1	6	7
Over 100	—	2	2
Total over 70	71	66	137
Totals	120	93	213

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

<i>Causes of Death</i>	1954	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Meningococcal infections	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	5	3
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	4	2
Malignant neoplasm breast	1	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	6
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	—
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	17
Coronary disease angina	17	6
Other heart disease	20	21
Other circulatory disease	8	8
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	3	5
Bronchitis	5	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Congenital malformations... ..	4	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	12
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	4	—
Suicide	1	1
	120	93

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

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
12.4	11.7	13.42	10.3	11.66	11.26	10.48	10.13	7.6	9.34

CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) was 35. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
27	39	39	28	51	37	46	32	30	35

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION :

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Yeovil Rural District	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.7	1.7	1.92	1.33	1.22	1.50
County of Somerset	1.9	1.9	2.07	1.9	1.9	1.89	2.00	1.98	1.84	2.06
England and Wales	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.94	1.96	1.99	1.99	2.03

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 9 as compared with 7 for the year 1953. The rate per thousand of live births was 25.2 as compared with England and Wales—25.5.

The following Table shows the number of deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number of Deaths ...	6	8	14	7	12	9	7	9
Rate per 1,000 live births in Rural District ...	14.76	24.7	37.4	22.8	36.44	27.19	21.08	25.2
Rate per 1,000 live births in England and Wales	41	34	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.5	25.5

CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity ...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital Abnormalities	...	...	...	...	4
Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/> 9 <hr/>

AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours 3	Under 1 week 7	1 month or under 8	Under 1 year 9
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MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths 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	<i>Cases Notified</i>	
	1953	1954
Poliomyelitis	17	9
Scarlet Fever	14	9
Meningococcal Infection	1	2
Measles	438	140
Pneumonia	17	13
Erysipelas	2	1
Whooping Cough	104	61
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	4
Malaria	1	1
Dysentery	2	1
Total ...	598	241

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

The number of cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified was 9 as compared with 17 for the previous year.

In the past few years there has been a very close liaison between the Orthopaedic Service and South Petherton Hospital, and all cases before they are discharged home, or transferred to an orthopaedic hospital, are examined by an orthopaedic surgeon. A follow-up service exists whereby all children are subsequently seen at the Orthopaedic Clinics held at Yeovil Hospital, and in 1951 this service was extended so as to include hydrotherapy exercises at the Yeovil Borough Swimming Baths. The service is now well established.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

The number of children under the age of 5 years at the 31st December, 1954, who had been immunised against Diphtheria or Diphtheria and Whooping Cough was 960. The number of children born in the Yeovil Rural District during the corresponding period, viz. 1950-1954 was 1,653, i.e. 58%. These figures are better than the average, but it is evident that there is considerable scope for improvement. In addition, 1,320 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years were known to have had either a course of immunisation or reinforcement dose during the same period, making a grand total of 2,280.

VACCINATION

The total number of vaccinations carried out in the Rural District was 232 primary and 41 re-vaccinations. Of the number of primary vaccinations, 202 were of infants, i.e. under the age of 1 year. The number of births for the preceding year 1953 was 332, i.e. approximately 60%. This compares favourably with Somerset County, where the percentage based on similar figures was 48.4%.

PERSONS VACCINATED OR RE-VACCINATED IN 1954

Age Groups ...	Under 1	1	2—4	5—14	15 and over	Total
	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.
Yeovil Rural District ...	202 —	9 —	9 1	9 3	3 37	232 41
Somerset County	2,723 —	154 —	145 25	144 124	254 825	3,420 978

P : Primary Vaccinations.

R : Re-Vaccinations.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 15, Non-Pulmonary 5. There were no deaths recorded as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis or for Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
No. of cases notified pulmonary ...	15	14	19	15	12	21	12	8	23
No. of cases notified non-pulmonary ...	5	1	8	4	1	2	4	5	3
No. of deaths pulmonary	—	4	3	1	2	6	6	—	3
No. of deaths non-pulmonary ...	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	1
Death rate of respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 pulmonary ...	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.04	0.09	0.32	0.33	0.0	0.16

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit made two visits to Yeovil. A total of 3,899 adults were examined, of whom 6 were found to have active Tuberculosis. A further 27 were found to have inactive Tuberculosis and 51 were found to have other abnormalities of the chest. In addition, 662 school children 14+ years were examined, making a grand total of 4,561 examinations. Among the people examined a considerable percentage are resident in the Yeovil Rural District.

No. of Examinations carried out		No. of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diagnosed	
		Active	Inactive
1948	4,260	9	32
1949	2,298	13	31
1950	2,316	4	41
1951	3,015	8	34
1952	4,191	9	37
1953	4,460	12	22
1954	4,561	6	32

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

The establishment and maintenance of the Welfare Clinics are a direct responsibility of the Somerset County Council and during recent years the number of such clinics in the Yeovil Rural District has been increased to 7. At each clinic, other than the Houndstone Camp Clinic, a doctor engaged by the Somerset County Council attends regularly, also a District Nurse. Facilities are available for the purchase of Infant Welfare Foods, including National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, etc., and certain proprietary dried milk preparations, which are sold at the clinics at special prices. Apart from other considerations, the Clinics have an important educational value. Associated with each clinic is a Voluntary Committee, the value of whose services it would be difficult to over emphasize. The W.V.S. assist considerably by distributing the Foods from the Public Health Centre, Preston Road, Yeovil, to the individual clinics. The following Table sets out the attendances, etc., at the various clinics.

	<i>Mar- tock</i>	<i>Stoke- under- Hann</i>	<i>South Pether- ton</i>	<i>West Coker</i>	<i>Wrax- hill Road</i>	<i>Hound- stone</i>	<i>Ilch- ester</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of children who at- tended for the first time	28	24	36	30	32	25	43	216
No. of children who at- tended during the year	64	76	133	94	75	74	134	650
Total attendances of children during the year	226	407	535	443	281	269	580	2,741
Average attendance of children per session ...	19	17	22	37	23	22	48	197
Average attendance of mothers per session ...	16	15	24	30	21	18	41	165
Total No. of children examined by doctor ...	42	27	63	66	37	—	72	327
No. of sessions with medical officer ...	11	12	12	12	11	—	12	70
No. of sessions ...	12	24	24	12	12	12	12	108
No. of individual mothers who attended ...	55	67	115	68	57	49	111	522

BIRTHS

<i>Live Births</i> ...	Legitimate	349	Illegitimate	7	Total	356
<i>Still Births</i> ...	Legitimate	9	Illegitimate	—	Total	9
INFANT DEATHS <i>Number</i> ...	Legitimate	9	Illegitimate	—	Total	9

BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

The number of expectant mothers attending the clinic continues to be satisfactory—a total of 422 attending during the year. A considerable proportion of patients attending are resident in the Yeovil Rural District. Records are now held of 2,606 patients.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to render excellent assistance and the following Table indicates the scope of its activities.

Following alterations to the Preston Road Clinic the office accommodation for the local organising staff has been moved to the buildings adjacent to the Clinic, and this has made for still closer liaison between the Home Help Service and the Public Health Staff, especially Health Visitors. The new location of the offices are also much more convenient for the public.

Number of cases who received help in 1954 :—

Type of Case	Yeovil Rural District
Maternity	24
Old Age and Infirmary	30
Tuberculosis	2
Chronic Illness	15
Emergency Illness	7
Families of motherless children ...	5
	—
Total	83
	—

A number of the old age and chronic sick cases have received help for two or three years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

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

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Parents attending school clinics or medical inspections have been heard to say on frequent occasions that "such a service" was not available when they were at school. Partly prompted by such remarks, it was thought opportune to compare the school health services in the South-East Somerset (Yeovil) Divisional Area in the year 1954 with that of the Borough of Yeovil for the year 1924.

Examination of the Annual Report of the Yeovil School Medical Officer for 1924 reveals the service then to be rudimentary as compared with the present day. The school medical service consisted chiefly of:—

- (a) Routine and special medical inspections carried out at the schools.
- (b) Minor Ailment Treatment.
- (c) Inspections by the School Nurse for cleanliness of the body and of clothing.
- (d) A very limited scheme for dealing with defects of nose and throat and of defective vision.
- (e) A very limited dental scheme, viz., seven sessions (half days) per month for dental treatment and a session per month for dental inspections.

The facilities for dealing with physically or mentally handicapped children, judging from the statistical tables, were slight, a very small proportion of such children being at Special Schools.

The school health service now provided has increased in the scope of the examinations and has also been expanded so as to provide remedial and preventive treatment, which apart from Minor Ailments treatment, did not form a large part of the service in 1924.

The school health service now consists of:—

- (a) Routine and special medical inspections.
- (b) Minor Ailments treatment.
- (c) Cleanliness inspections of children by Health Visitors.
- (d) Dental inspection and treatment.
- (e) A much expanded scheme, in co-operation with the Hospital services for the treatment of defects of vision, and of ear, nose and throat.

In addition the following services are also provided:—

- (f) Routine Mass Radiography of all children of school leaving age. Special examinations of children, irrespective of age, who have been thought to have been exposed to a particular risk of tuberculosis infection have been carried out, with the co-operation of the mass Radiography Service.
- (g) Routine Colour Vision testing of children.
- (h) Routine and special testing of children's hearing acuity, using the Gramophone Audiometer.
- (i) Speech Therapy.
- (j) Ultra Violet light clinics for debilitated children.
- (k) Routine immunisation of children against diphtheria. This consists mainly of reinforcement inoculations of children already immunised, but children who have been "missed" in infancy are immunised.
- (l) Breathing Exercises Clinic.

In addition to the above, arrangements exist for a special session at the Yeovil Borough Swimming Baths for the rehabilitation of certain types of physically handicapped children. A large proportion of these pupils are those who have had Anterior Poliomyelitis with a residual physical defect. The value of this scheme is now well established and much credit is due to the work carried out by the local detachment of the British Red Cross.

The Breathing Exercises Clinic was established in 1950, and is intended mainly for children who have Asthma, but also for other children with a history of chest trouble and for whom breathing exercises are valuable. The number of children initially enrolled was 18: the number on the roll in December, 1954, was 45. The total number of attendances in the year was 956 and since the inception of the scheme 79 children have been or are being treated. There is a marked improvement physically of children attending regularly as shown by the increase in chest expansion and also by clinical examination of the chest. In addition, the children develop a sense of self confidence as they learn how to combat an impending attack of asthma, and there is a marked improvement of physique and general posture.

The importance of asthma as a disease is frequently overlooked; about 3,000 deaths a year are ascribed to asthma, in England and Wales. In terms of incapacity, it is stated that asthma accounts for 206 days out of every 10,000 of incapacity for all causes. By comparison, the figure for tuberculosis is 108, and for gastric and duodenal ulcer together 224. It will be appreciated, therefore, that any measure to help the asthmatic child is of importance, and it is recognised that the treatment of asthma in childhood is to a considerable extent truly preventative medicine. The main credit for the success of the Clinic is due to the Health Visitors, and in particular Miss Waltham, who has been in charge of the Clinic since its inception.

A study of the 1924 report affords evidence of the improvement in the clothing and cleanliness of school children. In that report, 72 cases of poor and 3 of very poor clothing are quoted. Further, there were 68 cases of defective boots and 1 of very bad boots during the year: such cases are not seen nowadays. A further change for the better is the great diminution of infestation with vermin. In 1924, out of the 4,005 examinations of school children, 590 were found to be infested (550 with nits and 40 with lice), a rate of 148 per 1,000. In 1954, out of the 11,294 examinations, only 45 children were found to be infested, a rate of 4 per 1,000. In 1924, there were 17 cases of ringworm, and 23 of impetigo out of 1,960 children. In 1954, out of a school population of 6,200 there was one case of ringworm and two of impetigo. The incidence and type of defects of school children have altered and this has led to changes in the school health services. In the final paragraph of his Report for the years 1952 and 1953, Sir John Charles, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, states: "Change is a characteristic of all living things and, if there is vitality in the school health service, it will adapt itself to changing circumstances". It is hoped that the foregoing remarks regarding the school health service in the South-East Somerset (Yeovil) Divisional Area are evidence that the service is endeavouring to cope with the present-day problems.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.—WATER SUPPLIES

There was no serious shortage during the year, the supply being maintained by pumping into the mains some 400,000 gallons of water per day from temporary sources, which are not entirely satisfactory.

It is anticipated that the new impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham will be completed by the end of next year, and the distribution mains within 2 years. An ample supply of pure water will then be available throughout the district.

Number of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	:	76
Number of samples reported Satisfactory	:	75
Number of samples reported Unsatisfactory	:	1
Number of samples taken for Chemical Examination	:	15
Number of samples reported Satisfactory	:	14
Number of samples reported Unsatisfactory	:	1

The rainfall gauge at Sutton Bingham Reservoir has been registered by the Meteorological Office of the Air Ministry as Rainfall Station No. 2055/5, under the authority of the District Council.

Rainfall recorded — 1952.....	34.85 inches
1953.....	25.74 inches
1954.....	38.73 inches

2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Mudford.—A tender for a new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal was accepted and work expected to begin early in the new year.

There is still a considerable number of parishes without proper sewers and sewage disposal schemes, and in many cases where disposal works exist they are inadequate and should be renewed.

3.—PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse is carried out periodically in all parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	...	358
Inspections for Nuisances	... ..	176
Informal Notices Served and Complied with		40
Drainage Tests and Inspections	... ..	494
Houses Disinfected	... ..	12
Inspections of Water Supplies	... ..	486
Slaughterhouse Inspections	... ..	244

Shops and Offices—It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provisions 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) ...	813
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,047
2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932 ...	48
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	68
(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 ...	6
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 occupation ...	58

HOUSING ACTION

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	128
(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 houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By Owners ...	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a) By Owners	4
	(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	9

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.) 70
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	(est.) 140
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	(est.) 521
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	18
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	62
(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	...	...	...	5
(b) Number of Retailers in the area	...	...	...	9
(c) Number of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside the area	...	...	...	6
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	...	...	...	5

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Number of Private Slaughterhouses Licensed	...	14
Number operating	...	3

During the year the following animals were slaughtered and inspected:—

Horses	...	...	...	...	1,233
Steers	...	...	...	...	191
Heifers	...	...	...	...	287
Cows and Bulls	...	...	...	...	1,440
Calves	...	...	...	...	1,918
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	793
Rams and Ewes	...	...	...	...	226
Pigs	...	...	...	...	327
Sows and Boars	...	...	...	...	138

TOTAL ... 6,553

Meat condemned during the year:—

Cattle—Entire Carcases and Organs	23—weight 12,260 lbs.
(Generalised T. B. 15 ; Other Causes 8)	
Part Carcases	40—weight 4,813 lbs.
(Localised T.B. 30 ; Other Causes 10)	
Heads	180

Veal ... 86 lbs.

Lamb ... 64 lbs.

Pork ... 198 lbs.

Pigs' Heads ... 28

Offal (all animals) ... 10,233 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

(Excluding Heads) ... 27,654 lbs.

= 12 tons, 6 cwts, 3 qrs. 18 lbs.

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.

ADULTERATION

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

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1954

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 1954.

HOUSING

The number of new houses erected in the district during the year was 132 by the Council, 50 by private enterprise and 22 by other authorities, a total of 204. In addition, the number of conversions of premises into new units of accommodation was 6.

More existing houses were repaired and improved than in past years, but the high cost of such work is still a deterrent, in spite of the fact that improvement grants are now available. The Council, in appropriate cases, encourage property owners to take advantage of such grants.

1954 PROGRAMME

(a) BY THE COUNCIL

1. Permanent houses completed during the year	132
2. Permanent houses under construction at 31st Dec., 1954	38

(b) BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

1. (a) Permanent houses completed during the year ...	50
(b) Conversions of buildings into houses	6
2. (a) Permanent houses under construction at 31st Dec., 1954	51
(b) Conversions under construction at 31st Dec., 1954	2

(c) BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (Yeovil Corporation, Naval and Army Authorities)

Permanent houses completed during the year ...	22
--	----

HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

18 applications, involving 21 houses, were received and approved during the year.

Total Cost of Improvement Works	£11,336 16 11
Total of Grants Approved	£ 5,042 0 0

BUILDING LICENSING

The control of civil building was further relaxed during the year and, on the 10th November, when Defence Regulation 56A was revoked, all restrictions on building and civil engineering work ended.

Licences were granted as follows :—

	No.	Total Value
1) NEW HOUSES—Private Enterprise	3	£10,334
2) CONVERSIONS AND ADAPTATIONS	1	£2,000
3) REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	Nil	

PLANS

Total Number of plans received during the year 290

A.—BUILDING BYELAWS

Number of Plans approved	... ..	207
Number disapproved	... ..	4
Number not requiring approval under byelaws	...	79
		<hr/> 290

(Number of Inspections carried out in connection with the Byelaws, 806).

B.—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

Number of plans and applications for development submitted and passed to the Planning Authority with the Council's observations	... ..	229
Number not requiring planning permission	... ..	61
		<hr/> 290

WATER SUPPLY

The dam for the Sutton Bingham Reservoir was completed and satisfactory progress made in clearing the bed of the reservoir, in the construction of the Treatment Works Buildings and the Employees' Cottages.

Work was commenced on the Odcombe to Bower Hinton, Martock Trunk Main (6,000 yards of 9in. and 150 yards of 4in. Cast Iron Water Main—estimated final cost £18,244).

The temporary intake from the stream at Sutton Bingham was in operation throughout the year. After extraction and treatment, some 300,000 gallons of water were pumped daily to the Coker Hill Reservoir, whence it was fed into the area supplied from the Odcombe and Mudford Reservoirs. This temporary supply will be available until the impounding reservoir is completed. Temporary supplies are also taken from Hele (South Petherton) and Watercombe.

76 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 ...	70	6
Reported Satisfactory ...	70	5
Reported Unsatisfactory ...	Nil	1

15 samples from public supplies were submitted for chemical examination. 14 were reported satisfactory.

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

	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>
Public Supply direct into houses ...	5,408	17,523
Public Supply by standpipes ...	1,051	3,407
Private Piped Supplies (supplying more than 3 houses) ...	82	266
Without a piped supply, or where the supply is for 3 or fewer, houses	181	586
TOTALS ...	<u>6,722</u>	<u>21,782</u>

In addition to the above, a naval air station and an army camp are supplied with water in bulk from the Council's mains.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mudford—A tender has been accepted for a new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal.

Martock, Montacute, Stoke-sub-Hamdon—The Council have decided to construct a new combined disposal works and trunk sewers for the three parishes.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The slaughter of horses for human consumption ceased in the district on the 24th June, 1954.

The slaughter of other animals for human consumption was resumed in the district on the 2nd July for the first time since 1940.

14 licences in respect of private slaughterhouses were renewed during the year, but only 3 of these slaughterhouses were operating, the majority being retained to deal with casualties. It is anticipated that, in 1955, the number of slaughterhouses licensed would be considerably reduced.

A total of 6,553 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year.

Owing to the considerable increase in the time now spent on meat inspection and to the increased work on slum clearance, etc., under the Housing Acts, the Council have decided to appoint another additional sanitary inspector.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

These are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the district.

OUTWORKERS (Factories Act, 1937—Section 110)

No. of Outworkers at 31st August, 1954 : 1,057

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

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

	<i>Amount Sold</i>		<i>Value</i>
Waste Paper	11 tons 17 cwts. 0 qrs.	...	£53 6 6
Metals	16 tons 18 cwts. 3 qrs.	...	£57 19 9
			<hr/>
	TOTAL ...	...	£111 6 3

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's 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	—	157	—	—	157
(b) Otherwise	64	5,456	381	350	6,251
II. No. of Properties under I, found to be infested :—					
(a) MAJOR	2	—	5	2	9
(b) MINOR	18	201	23	14	256
III. No. of Infested Properties under II, treated by the Council's Operators	20	201	—	16	237
IV. No. of Informal Notices served.	Nil	Nil	28	Nil	28
V. No. of Infestations treated by Occupiers after service of Informal Notices.	Nil	Nil	28	Nil	28

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,

Fellow of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association,

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.



