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BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.



FORTY-EIGHTH

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

BY

C. W. GEE, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed., D.P.H. (L'pool).

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of the Corporation Hospitals, Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, Member of the British Medical Association, Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Formerly Assistant Medical Officer of Health County Borough of Burnley, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Tuberculosis Officer County Borough of St. Helens, Deputy Medical Officer County Borough of Wigan.

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Sanitary and Building Inspector,

FRED WHALLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

1920.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR W. J. C. PITTARD, *Chairman*.
THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Vice-Chairman*.
ALDERMAN F. CRIDLAND COUNCILLOR J. ROUSELL
COUNCILLOR G. J. M. CARD „ H. A. R. E. UNWIN
„ S. C. CLOTHIER

HOUSING COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Chairman*.
ALDERMAN F. CRIDLAND, *Vice-Chairman*.
ALDERMAN P. W. PETTER COUNCILLOR H. E. HIGDON
COUNCILLOR H. GILES „ A. R. GOULD
„ F. W. DENMAN

Town Clerk: H. C. C. BATTEN.

Borough Surveyor and Waterworks Manager: A. J. PRICE, A.M.I.C.E.

Deputy Borough Surveyor: C. G. TYLER.

Veterinary Surgeon: T. J. SYMES, M.R.C.V.S.

SANITARY STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: C. W. GEE, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed.,
D.P.H. L'pool.
Sanitary and Building Inspector: .. FRED WHALLEY, C.R.S.I.
Matron Isolation Hospital: .. NURSE M. ARNOLD.
Health Visitor and Tuberculosis Nurse: NURSE A. McDONALD.
Health Visitor (Infant Welfare): .. NURSE L. REEVES.
Clerk to M.O.H.: Miss F. G. LINNETT.
Disinfectors: E. O'HAGAN.
Midwives: NURSE M. ALLEN.
NURSE I. ALLEN.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR G. H. GOULD, *Vice-Chairman,*

ALDERMEN E. J. FARR and J. MATTHEWS.

COUNCILLOR F. BEEL

MRS. F. M. EWENS

„ F. CLOTHIER

MRS. A. A. LITTLE

„ W. J. C. PITTARD

MISS F. PITTARD

„ A. H. J. STROUD

REV. R. NEWELL

MR. HENRY STIBY

MR. F. R. RIVERS

MR. HENRY TAVENER

ATTENDANCE AND STAFF COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR A. H. J. STROUD, *Chairman.*

MISS F. PITTARD, *Vice-Chairman.*

MRS. LITTLE

MR. H. STIBY

MRS. EWENS

REV. R. NEWELL

COUNCILLOR W. J. C. PITTARD

MR. F. R. RIVERS

Clerk to Education Committee: H. C. C. BATTEN.

School Attendance Officer: J. W. RIVERS.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT STAFF.

School Medical Officer: C. W. GEE, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed. D.P.H. L'pool.

Dentist: F. E. SPRAWSON, M.R.C.S., L.C.R.P. (Lond).
L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng).

School Nurse: NURSE A. McDONALD.

Clerk to Medical Officer: Miss F. G. LINNETT,

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the following report, which deals with the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ending December 31st, 1920, and reviews the work carried out under the directions of your Medical Officers.

Dr. Barnes, the late Medical Officer of Health resigned his appointment in April and Dr. O'Connor acted as temporary Medical Officer of Health until I commenced my duties at the end of May. This report is partly compiled from matters dealt with by these Officials.

The health and cleanliness of the town would be improved by adopting the following conditions, which are still necessary in some districts :

1. Satisfactory food storage.
2. The provision of a separate water supply and sink for each family.
3. The provision of water-tight movable receptacles for storage of house refuse.
4. The provision of a separate water-closet for each family.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The activities of the department have been concentrated on this branch of Public Health Work and it is encouraging to find that there are signs that the labour and time expended are not in vain. The Infant Mortality Rate was the lowest for some years.

I have pleasure in thanking all Members of the Staff for their loyal and able support, and also the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for their ready support and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MARCH, 1921

CHARLES W. GEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1920

A—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features and General Character.

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 852 acres, situated at the extreme south of the County of Somerset, on the borders of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural district.

The town is located upon the Upper and Middle Liassic Formations. The subsoil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone, with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

The greatest elevations within the Borough are : On the north, near Pickett Witch, 337 feet ; on the west, Summerlands, 233·6 feet ; and on the south, Hendford Hill, 269 feet. The lowest point is on the east, beyond the Sewage Works, 96·7 feet.

Meteorology.

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog and mist except in the lower parts of the town along the banks of the river.

RAINFALL.

Sewage Works : Total Rainfall 29·41 inches. Rainy Days, 215.

Gas Works : Total Rainfall 28·12 inches. Rainy Days 159.

Average Rainfall for the past nine years, 31·59 inches.

TEMPERATURES. 1920. Highest Maximum Temperature, 80° on 24th May.

Lowest Minimum Temperature, 18° on the 15th December.

Population.

The population at the April 1911 Census was 13,579. The estimated mid-year population for 1920 is 14,680.

Occupations.

The staple industry of Yeovil is the manufacture of leather gloves, including all processes from the preparation of the raw hides to the production of the finished article. Since the war the manufacture of fabric gloves has been introduced, and a large number of these gloves are now being made. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of persons of both sexes.

At the present moment there are 47 factories and workshops (inclusive of dressing yards). The 1920 returns showed that the total number of outworkers was 2,038 of whom 832 resided in the Borough, the remainder, 1,206 in the surrounding districts.

In addition to the gloving industry, there is a large engineering firm for the manufacture of oil engines, etc., which gives employment to about 500 hands.

There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved foods and dairy produce.

The motor industry, body making and repairs, is gradually increasing, there being eight workshops engaged in this work.

There are now six printing works in the town.

Poor Law Relief.

The amount of out-door relief distributed to poor persons in the Parish of Yeovil was £2,858 19s. 3d. during 1920.

Hospital and Medical Relief.

During the past year the Yeovil and District Hospital provided treatment for 242 in-patients, 405 out-patients, 13 dental cases, and 1,817 minor casualties.

The accommodation of the Hospital falls far short of the needs of the Town and District. A site for a new Hospital has been secured, and it is hoped that building operations will shortly be commenced.

During the year a Massage Department has been opened for the treatment of Disabled Soldiers, and in this department 1,858 massage treatments have been given since the opening of the same in May.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £67,262 12s. 6d.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The Water supply is derived from two main sources, namely, Stockwood and Spring Pond, with two auxiliary supplies to the latter from Evershot Tunnel and Haydon Wood. All four sources are situated to the south-east, on the green-sands of Dorsetshire. Stockwood is 6½, and the other sources about 8 miles from Yeovil. The water is conveyed to the town by gravitation through two separate pipe lines, that from Spring Pond having two service reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 1,267,798 gallons. The water is of medium hardness and of good quality for drinking purposes. The average consumption is 30 gallons per head per day.

This water supply is not sufficient during dry periods for the needs of the inhabitants of Yeovil and the area of supply, which includes Yeovil without and other parishes.

A new service reservoir is being constructed on the top of Hendford Hill, with a capacity of 750,000 gallons, which will be supplied from the spring at Stockwood. This will help to alleviate the great difficulty of dry weather shortage.

The Council have secured power to provide a further water supply, proposed to be obtained by sinking a well into the greensand in the parish of Cattistock, in the County of Dorset. The daily additional supply from this source is estimated at 500,000 gallons.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Yeo for a small part of its course lies within the area of the Borough of Yeovil. A tributary of this river, before passing through the town receives the effluent from the Preston Sewage Works.

The effluent from the Yeovil Sewage Works empties into the Yeo outside the town.

All sources of pollution of this river have been removed as far as possible.

There have been no complaints of pollution during the past year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage of the town, with the exception of that known as the West Hendford district, including Rustywell, is satisfactory in all respects.

West Hendford district is unsatisfactory by reason of the insufficient capacity of the main sewer draining that area. With regard to the Rustywell district, which contains 10 houses, the drainage of these is connected to cesspools which overflow into a ditch in the near vicinity of the houses, giving rise to a nuisance. The Council is proceeding to remedy these defects, and a scheme has been prepared. This work would, no doubt, have been carried out by this time but for the war.

The Sewage Disposal Works are ample for the needs of the town, and are giving satisfactory results.

The method in force is sedimentation, which takes place in six closed tanks, the effluent being passed on to a series of contact beds and one percolating bed.

The effluent from the contact beds is discharged into an equalising pool, and thence into the river ; that from the percolating bed is discharged into a separator in which collodal matter is deposited and thence to the river.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, and with very few exceptions is connected to the town sewers.

There are 10 houses which are drained to cesspools or provided with earth closets. These houses are in a position too low to be connected with the main sewers, or beyond the distance specified under the Public Health Acts, viz., 100 feet.

Scavenging.

STORAGE OF REFUSE.—Very few houses in the Borough are provided with sanitary dustbins. The receptacles which are most commonly in use are wooden boxes, dilapidated baths, buckets and even baskets. The majority of these receptacles leak, with the result that the contents escape and litter the yards and streets. On windy days the dust, pending removal is blown about, and is liable to give rise to various diseases such as sore throat, conjunctivitis, etc. These unsuitable receptacles are very difficult to empty completely owing to the contents becoming wet and clinging to the sides and bottom. Decomposition takes place in the residue, giving rise to offensive gasses.

The Council have bye-laws in course of preparation dealing with receptacles for house refuse.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.—All refuse in the town is collected once weekly by the Council employees and conveyed in open carts to the refuse destructor and burnt.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.—The refuse destructor is of the Stirling Type, and consists of two cells hand fed and clinkered.

Additional measures are required to deal with the present amount of refuse in order to be made more economical than running two shifts.

Sanitary Inspections of District.

A statement of inspections made with their results is included in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two common lodging houses in Yeovil, containing beds for the accommodation of 35 persons. They are constantly inspected, and are kept in a satisfactory condition from the health point of view.

Houses Let-In-Lodgings.

None registered.

Offensive Trades.

There are 16 dressing yards, two marine stores and one tallow melting factory in the Borough.

Bye-laws are in the course of preparation which will include control of offensive trades.

Underground Rooms.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in Yeovil. No regulations have been made in connection with the use of underground rooms as sleeping places.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools in Yeovil is on the whole satisfactory. The schools are supplied with water from the public water supply.

School Hygiene.

Prevention of the spread of infectious diseases in the schools.

The following is the routine adopted for the exclusion of scholars suffering from infectious diseases and those who are contacts.

The Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as School Medical Officer, issues School Exclusion Notices to the parents and head teachers of the school which the case attends. All contacts are also excluded. Children from infected households are not

allowed to return to school until Re-admission Notices are sent to the parents and head teachers. Any suspicious case brought to the attention of the teachers and school nurse, is excluded until the School Medical Officer is satisfied as to the diagnosis.

DIPHTHERIA.—No child is notified as fit to return to school until Bacteriological evidence of a satisfactory character is obtained. Contacts are swabbed and excluded when necessary.

A system of Sunday School exclusion is in force. A list of the names and addresses of all children suffering from infectious diseases, including contagious diseases, such as ringworm, scabies, and also of possibly infected contacts, is drawn up each Saturday and a copy sent to the Superintendents of all Sunday Schools in the Borough.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 10 Cow-keepers, four of whom are provided with cowsheds, the remaining six allow their cows to be in the open during the winter. There are 24 Retailers of milk in the town, 12 of whom have milkshops.

The cowsheds are periodically inspected and are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition. During recent years they have been properly paved and drained.

The premises of the persons registered for the sale of milk and the Milkshops are constantly inspected.

The results of analysis made for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Acts indicate that the milk retailed in the Borough is of good standard and clean.

In accordance with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders 45 persons are registered as follows:

Cow-keepers and Purveyors	..	10
Purveyors of Milk	... ..	24
Milkshop Keepers	.. ...	12

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

Provision was made for the supply of milk to necessitous cases. Investigations are made by lady members of the Committee and each case is dealt with on its merits by the Infant Welfare Committee.

Other Foods.

All places where the manufacture of food for public consumption is carried on are regularly inspected, and have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses.

There are 15 bakehouses in the Borough. The majority of these are old and unsatisfactory from a structural point of view. During the year the largest bakehouse was remodelled and enlarged. Owing to the bad structural condition and smallness of some of these bakehouses, it is difficult for them to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughter-Houses.

There are eight private slaughter-houses, all of which are licensed. These are kept under constant supervision and are fairly satisfactory, although structurally they do not conform to modern requirements. There is no Public Abattoir in Yeovil.

The following table gives the number of slaughter-houses in use at various dates :—

	1914.	January 1920.	December 1920.
Registered	1	—	—
Licensed	8	8	8
	—	—	—
Total	9	8	8

Meat Inspection.

During the year inspection of the slaughter-houses and butchers' shops have been carefully carried out, but no meat of unsound character has been found. On the other hand the following have been inspected at the request of butchers and shopkeepers, certified unfit for human consumption, and destroyed.

- 1 carcase of heifer, condemned for Tuberculosis.
- 30lbs. of beef (imported) decomposed.
- 80lbs. of suet " "
- 77lbs. of bacon " "
- 2 carcasses of sheep (imported) decomposed.

The Case for a Public Abattoir.

The orders of the Ministry of Food regulating the purchase of cattle terminated on June 30th, and butchers are now able to purchase cattle from any source. A close inspection of the slaughter-houses is kept up and the meat inspected regularly. Whilst the cattle killed in the town's slaughter-houses has proved to be of a satisfactory character—yet under existing conditions it is possible for animals of doubtful character to be killed outside the town and the meat distributed in the town and district for human consumption. This could not be so readily done under the orders of the Ministry of Food, particularly as dealing in cattle except through authorised markets was prohibitive, and where contraventions were detected, heavy penalties were inflicted. These orders, were in my opinion, a capital safeguard over the nation's food supply, and until such times as Public Abattoirs could have been erected throughout the country, should have been kept on to the extent of preventing any killing or disposal of meat without authority.

Unsound Food.

The following were condemned :

- 70lbs. of Cheese.
- 2 tins of Corn Beef.
- 150lbs. of Butter.
- 72 1lb. tins Condensed Milk.
- 2 tins of Sardines.
- 5 „ of Pineapple.
- 1 „ of Salmon.
- 10lbs Bloaters.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

These acts are administered by the County Council. The taking of samples is conducted by the police, under the supervision

of the Chief Constable, who has kindly supplied through Superintendent Williams, of Yeovil, the number, nature, and results of samples taken in the Borough during the last year.

Sixty samples were taken as follows :—

Milk	...	...	...	30
Tapioca	...	...	...	2
Flour	...	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	..	1
Sausages	...	...	...	2
Lard	..	...	...	1
Whisky	..	...	...	3
Gin	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	2
Beer	...	...	...	3
Preserved Apricots	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	...	1
Arrowroot	..	...	...	1
Treacle	...	...	...	1
Brawn	...	...	...	2
Brandy	...	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	...	1
Potted Meat	...	...	...	2
Seidlitz Powder	...	...	...	1
Rum	..	...	...	1

60

All were found genuine.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been regularly visited during the year under review. I give below the annual return required by the Home Office,

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	28	6	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	139	5	—
Workplaces	12	—	—
Total	179	11	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspec- tor.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:			
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—
„ Ventilation	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation, insufficient ..	6	4	—
„ „ defective	1	2	—
„ „ not separate for sexes .. } ..	3	3	—
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:			
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary require- ments for Bakehouses (ss. 97-100)	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—
Total	11	9	—

3. HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LIST. Section 107. Nature of Work.—GLOVING.

	Number.
Lists received from Employers once in the year ...	24
Outworkers	2038
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists	24
Prosecutions : Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists	Nil
„ Failing to send lists	Nil

Outwork in unwholesome Premises, Section 108 :

Instances	...	...	...	Nil
Notices served	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil

Outwork in infected Premises, Section 109, 110 :

Instances	...	...	...	4
Orders made (s. 110) (Gloving removed & disinfected)	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil

4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register (s. 131) at end of the year.

	Number.
Bakehouses	13
Gloving	28
Fabric Gloves	1
Tailoring	15
Dressmaking	19
Millinery	8
Marine Stores	2
Laundry	1
General	51
Blacksmith	1
Sweet Making	1
Lace Repairing	1
Total Number of Workshops on Register	141

5. OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901):	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	6
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	6
Other	5

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—

In use at the end of the year	Nil
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Sanitary Conditions of Theatres, Cinema Houses, etc.

These have been inspected.

There are three in the town, one giving theatrical or variety performances, one giving theatrical, variety or cinema shows, and one giving cinema shows only.

The ventilation has been good in every case and the condition of the accommodation for the artists is entirely satisfactory.

Means of escape in the case of fire are provided for in each building.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the past year 527 cases of infectious disease were notified.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	14
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	9
Measles ..	...	...	...	399
German Measles	...	...	...	8
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	...	...	...	30
„ Other forms	...	...	...	11
Inf. Pneumonia	...	...	...	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	36
Malaria ...	...	...	...	2
				<hr/>
				527

Scarlet Fever.

Two cases were notified during the year 1920, as compared with 21 cases in 1919.

Both were removed to the Fever Hospital in Lyde Lane. There was no death. No return cases occurred during 1920.

Diphtheria.

Fourteen cases were notified and no death took place. All the cases were mild in character.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES.

(a) Visitation of each case on receipt of notification.

Full particulars are obtained in each case of the number of inmates over and under 14 years ; the number of rooms (living and sleeping) ; the water supply ; the milk supply ; the day school ; the Sunday school ; the means of removal of refuse (bins or pits) ; the previous cases in the house and the date of sickening.

(b) Swabbing of Throats.

Swabs are supplied to Medical Practitioners in the town, and these are examined and reported on when required. Contacts of cases are swabbed and in addition all slightly suspicious cases of sore throat or discharging noses. Such children are excluded. It must be remembered that mild cases and carrier cases are the most dangerous factors in spreading the disease, and detection can only be obtained by Bacteriological examination. For this reason the expense incurred in swabbing is justified.

(c) Provision of Disinfecting Fluid.

Disinfecting fluid is supplied free of charge to all householders with printed instructions for its use.

(d) Provision of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners requiring the same on application to the Health Office.

(e) Disinfection of House after termination of case.

Thorough disinfection of all houses is carried out on information received from the doctor in attendance on the conclusion of a case, or on the removal of a patient to the Hospital.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

No case of this disease was notified.

Measles.

399 cases of measles were notified, chiefly during the first three months of the year.

German Measles.

This disease is important in complicating the diagnosis of measles and scarlet fever. Eight notifications of this disease were received.

TABLE II.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920

Notifiable Disease.	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and upwards.	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	14	..	1	10	1	2	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	9	..	..	..	..	2	6	1	..
Scarlet Fever ..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria ..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Influenza Pneumonia ..	7	..	..	..	1	5	1	..	..
Pneumonia ..	36	2	6	10	1	6	7	4	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	31	..	..	7	5	10	5	2	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	10	..	2	6	1	1	..	..	..
Measles and German Measles	407	16	190	192	5	4	..	..	..
Totals ..	527	27	199	228	14	32	19	7	2

THE NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases are known to have occurred.

Mumps, 1 ; Whooping Cough, 216 ; Chicken Pox, 17.

Chicken Pox.

This disease was not so prevalent as during the previous year.

Influenza.

The number of deaths was six as compared with 22 in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Somerset County Council deal with all cases of Tuberculosis notified in Yeovil.

The dispensary is situated in Southville and is open all day on Tuesdays for the examination and treatment of patients.

Prevalence.

ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	1920	1919	1918	1917
Notifications ...	41	45	37	64
Number of Deaths ...	20	12	13	14
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	1·4	·8	·9	1·0

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (Phthisis).

	1920	1919	1918	1917
Notifications ...	31	38	37	54
Number of Deaths ...	13	9	11	13
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	·9	·6	·7	·8

During the year 1920, 41 notifications were received, 31 related to pulmonary and 10 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The following is the sex and age classification of the notified persons ;

AGES. Years.	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1—4	...	...	...	1	...	1
5—14	3	4	7	5	2	7
15—24	2	3	5	...	1	1
25—34	3	7	10	...	...	...
35—44	2	...	2	...	1	1
45—54	2	2	4	...	...	...
55—64	...	1	1	..	...	...
65—74	...	2	2	...	...	...
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	19	31	6	4	10
	—	—	—	—	—	—

Control.

(A) On receipt of the primary notification the patient is visited and enquiries are made as to predisposing causes, contacts and sanitary conditions of premises.

(B) Visits are paid as often as necessary for the purpose of controlling infection, the taking of temperature records, the correct use of shelters, &c. 334 primary and secondary visits were made during the year.

(c) Contacts are referred to the County Tuberculosis Dispensary for examination.

(D) The Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as School Medical Officer, refers all children which he has found to be either suffering from or threatened with tuberculosis to the dispensary.

(E) The Yeovil School Nurse is engaged by the County Council to give a portion of her time to visiting and to assisting at the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

(F) Sanitary defects, uncleanness, overcrowding, etc., are referred to the Sanitary Inspector for further action with a view to abatement. Disinfection of infected rooms, shelters, etc., is carried out when necessary. Last year 115 disinfections were made.

The Yeovil and District Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued during the last year to provide very valuable assistance in dealing with special and necessitous patients.

Venereal Disease.

A treatment centre at the Yeovil and District Hospital is provided by the Somerset County Council. Hours of attendance—Men, Fridays 3 p.m. Women, Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Small-pox.

Vaccination as a measure of precaution against small-pox is more and more neglected in Yeovil, and the number of exemption certificates increases every year.

The Medical Officer of health has not been called upon to perform any vaccination under the Public Health (Small-pox Regulations, 1917).

Rabies.

There has been no case of this disease and Yeovil was exempt from the Muzzling Order.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

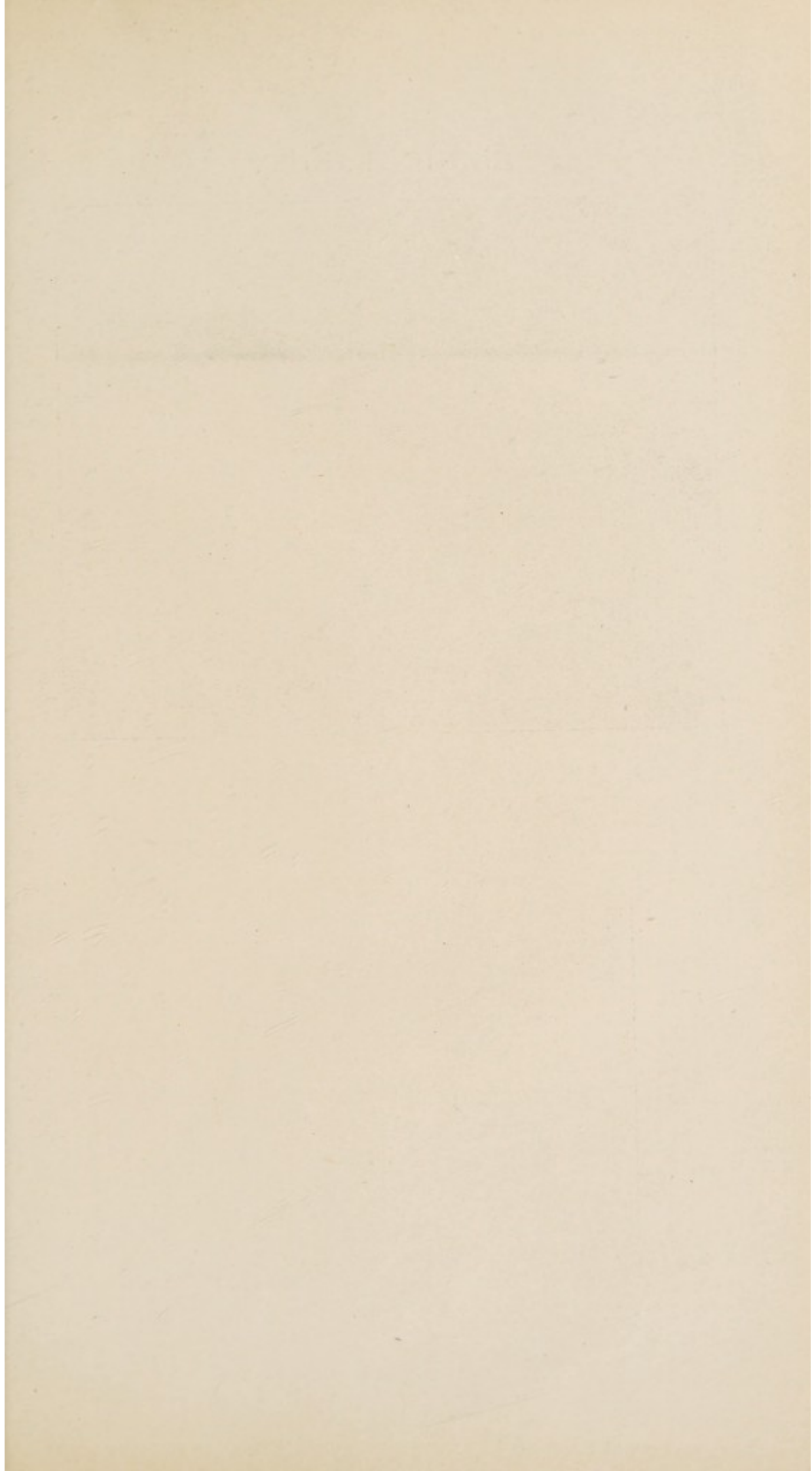
The Midwives' Act is administered by the Somersetshire County Council. The Lady Inspector of Midwives resides at Taunton.

There are at present five midwives resident in the town, two of whom are employed by the Yeovil Council.

During the year 1919 the Council adopted and put into operation an amended scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare work in Yeovil.

A supply of Milk Foods and Drugs to necessitous mothers was provided.

The Council have arranged for the provision of Home Helps.



CLINIC BABIES.



2½ lbs. at Birth.

NURSING OF MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—Additional nurses can be engaged temporarily during epidemics of these diseases.

The provision of Institutional Beds for mothers and children is under consideration.

MOTHERS.—The Health Visitors made 1,060 visits to expectant mothers. The Midwives attended 153 confinements during the year.

INFANTS.—301 primary and 3,156 subsequent visits were paid to infants and 266 visits to infants suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum.

1,742 visits were paid to children from 1 to 5 years of age.

Ante-Natal and Infant Clinic.

This Clinic is held at the Special Subjects Centre, Eastland Road, on Tuesday afternoons, at 3 o'clock.

Thirty-one expectant mothers attended the clinic for advice. 144 infants attended for the first time. The mothers made 54 and the children 965 attendances at the clinic.

Eighty-five children below school age were treated at the Treatment Clinic in South Street.

All still-births and infant deaths are investigated. There were 14 still-births during 1920.

At the present moment there is no institution but the Union Infirmary for dealing with confinements of unmarried mothers, and children are permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their parents. Fortunately in the past temporary homes have been found through the agency of the N.S.P.C.C.

The ante-natal period in the life of the child is frequently neglected. The illness of the baby is often due to the mother being too careless and neglectful of her own health. The seriousness of this will be better understood if we realise that out of a thousand

pregnancies ante-natal causes bring about within a year and nine months a fatal termination in approximately 250 cases, some of the unfavourable influences which may act through the parents before the birth of their offspring may be mentioned.

Of the diseases which the parents can pass on to their children probably syphilis causes more abortion and still-births than any other. Even when the child is born in a seemingly healthy condition this disease may soon begin to show itself.

Gonorrhea is another serious disease, one which causes a large amount of sterility and is responsible for many of the cases of blindness which occur in childhood.

The following factors have an important bearing in the question of infant mortality :—

Ages of parents :—Early and late marriages both tend to keep up the infantile death-rate, in the first case the mother is not fully developed, in the second there is likely to be injury at birth.

Size of the family :—This depends to a certain extent on the income of the parents, a large family with a small income, and only the mother to do everything must result in many cases to ill-health of the children.

Domestic overcrowding and insanitation :—The death-rate is high in thickly populated districts, especially where the houses are small, ventilation bad, no proper scullery accommodation, drainage defective, and privies and tub-closets instead of water-closets, streets and common yards badly paved.

Parental ignorance, lack of medical care and nursing. Probably the ignorance in the matters of health of the working-class mother is not much greater than that of mothers in better circumstances but they have not the same facilities of getting medical advice and nursing help.

Poverty and intemperance :—Intemperance in either parent is a serious cause of excessive infant mortality especially is this so if accompanied by poverty, it leads to carelessness, neglect, dirtiness, and feeble will power.

During the first year of life the death-rate is still very high among babies who are born perfectly healthy. A large number of these deaths can be prevented as they are due to ignorance, carelessness and want of foresight on the part of the parents, especially the mother. Knowing this, it becomes necessary that means must be found in order to give suitable advice and help to mothers and to those who are expecting to become mothers.

Maternity centres have been established for this purpose so that mothers may attend and take advantage of the help and skilled advice that may be given, but no maternity centre can be complete, nor can its usefulness be carried out to its full extent without having in connection with it a hospital or ward in a hospital where babies who require skilled attention and nursing can be admitted. In a number of cases the daily attendance of the doctor in the home is not sufficient. The ignorance of the parent in nursing, the small amount of time she has at her disposal, especially if she has a large family, and the home surroundings, prevent the carrying out of the instructions given. In many cases this means the death of the sick child.

Infectious Diseases affecting Parturient Women, Infants and Young Children.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—No case of Puerperal Fever was notified.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—During the year under review nine cases were notified. These cases were treated at home or at the Infant Welfare Treatment Clinic by the Council nurses under the direction of the patient's own medical attendant or the Medical Officer of Health.

MEASLES.—This disease was rather prevalent during the early part of the year and there were 206 children below school age attacked,

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA.—This disease which used to claim at one time about 80 per cent. of deaths of children occurring under two years is now almost unknown, owing to the propaganda work of the health visitor and by the education of the mothers by pamphlets and by the value of the Infant Welfare Clinic.

Sanitary Administration.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, an Inspector of Nuisances who is also Building Inspector and one Disinfecter. Two Health Visitors and two Midwives are employed by the Council, the School Nurse gives a portion of her time to health visiting and to the County Tuberculosis work in Yeovil. The connection thus established between the Public Health Department of the Borough and the County Tuberculosis scheme is most desirable and has in the past yielded most satisfactory results.

When the Isolation Hospital contains no patients, the matron assists in health visiting and baby work.

Hospital Accommodation.

The Lyde Lane Isolation Hospital is employed for the isolation of scarlet fever patients.

It consists of a permanent building containing two wards, separated by a small room, and in addition the quarters for the matron, consisting of a bedroom, sitting-room, store-room and kitchen.

There is also a temporary wooden building divided into three communicating wards which is used, when necessary, as an overflow for convalescent scarlet fever cases. The laundry, ambulance house and mortuary are good brick buildings. The matron resides at the hospital and keeps it in readiness for immediate use.

There is no accommodation in the administration block for additional nurses which greatly increases the difficulty of administration when the disease is present in epidemic form in the town.

The following Table gives the number of cases treated at the hospital.

Disease.	Sex	Remaining in at end of 1919	Admitted during 1920	Recovered.	Died.	Remaining in at end of 1920
Scarlet Fever	M	..	1	1	..	..
	F	1	1	2	..	..
Total	..	1	2	3	..	..

The Small-Pox Hospital at Whistle Bridge has accommodation for six patients. No cases have been admitted since the epidemic of 1909.

Local and Adoptive Acts.

The Adoptive Acts in force in the Borough are :

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Parts of The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, as follows : Part II., Part III. (except Sections 39 to 42), Part IV. (except Section 67), Part V., Part VI., Part VII., Sections 79 and 86, Part VIII., Part IX., Part X., Section 95.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889—extension to Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The administration of the above Acts is referred to under Infant Mortality, Prevention of Infectious Diseases, etc.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.

The following is a summary of the specimens sent for examination :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	30	175	205
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	4	1	5
Hairs for Ringworm Spores	1	2	3

Several of the positive swabs were from carrier cases, who were isolated until the swab from the throat became negative.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Mid-year Population ...	14,680	14,500	14,400	14,300
Number of Births ...	327	243	243	210
Birth-rate per 1,000 ...	22·2	16·7	16·8	14·6
Number of Deaths ...	161	186	216	164
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	10·9	12·8	15·0	11·4
Infantile Mortality ...	45·8	86·5	69·9	80·9
Phthisis Death-rate ...	·8	·7	·7	·8
Cancer Death-rate ...	·8	1·03	1·2	1·0

NOTIFICATIONS :—	1920	1919	1918	1917
Measles and German Measles	407	29	469	365
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	3	3	4
Tuberculosis ...	41	45	37	64
Other Infectious Diseases	70	68	27	11

Population.

The estimated mid-year population for 1920 is 14,680. The Registrar-General's estimate was 13,955 for calculation of the birth-rate and death-rate.

Births.

The total number of births registered was 325. This number has been corrected for transfers by the Registrar-General. The births allocated to the Borough were 327 (156 of males, and 171 of females), equivalent to a birth-rate of 22·2 per 1,000 of a population of 14,680 or 23·4 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated birth-rate population of 13,955.

Notification of Births.

The number of births notified was 330, of which 14 were still-births.

Deaths.

The deaths registered numbered 167. The Registrar-General transferred 22 of these deaths being persons not belonging to the Borough, to their usual places of residence, and 16 deaths of Yeovil residents from other districts. The net total number of deaths for the Borough was 161, equivalent to a death-rate of 10·9 per 1,000 of a population of 14,680, or 11·5 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated death-rate population of 13,955.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1920 was 12·4.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the district.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-residents in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
All causes	Certified	161	15	5	2	5	5	22	25	82	39
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	..	6	1	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulm. Tubercul.)	..	13	..	..	..	1	2	4	4	2	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	5	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	4	7
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	14	4
Bronchitis	..	12	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	8	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	15	2	2	..	2	..	2	1	6	7
Other Diseases Resp.Organs	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	..	10	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	1
Suicide	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	..	51	2	..	..	..	2	5	2	40	14
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	..	161	15	5	2	5	5	22	25	82	39
*Syphilis	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

*Sub-Entries included in above figures.

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY.
NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES
UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	7	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	15
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	..	7	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	9
		7	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	15

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 15, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 45·8 per 1,000 births. The rate for the whole country in the year 1920 was 80·0.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions of the District.

At the end of 1920 there were 3,453 houses in the Borough of Yeovil, of which 2,648 approximately were occupied by the working classes.

48 houses have been erected during the year, 44 of which were built under a Scheme of Housing on the Eastland Estate.

The extent of the shortage of houses can be understood by there being no empty houses in the Borough, and the fact that there are about 200 houses occupied by more than one family.

In order to meet this shortage, the Council has completed a housing scheme of 44 houses and is now carrying out a scheme for the erection of 99. It is estimated that the number of houses required during the next three years average from 250 to 300. A certain number of these houses may possibly be erected by private enterprise, and any further deficiency will have to be met by additional housing schemes.

Overcrowding.

There are many cases of overcrowding in the Borough, generally due to the working class houses being occupied by two or more families. Owing to the absolute impossibility of finding housing accommodation, no steps have been taken.

Fitness of Houses.

The general standard of housing in the town is fairly good, the chief defects being dampness and general dilapidation. With regard to unfit houses, the chief causes which go to render these houses unfit, are dampness, walls structurally defective, and lack of through ventilation.

Owing to the scarcity of houses no action has been taken under the Public Health Acts or Housing Acts with regard to these unfit houses.

The chief difficulty in remedying unfitness has been the very unsettled state of the building trades, both as regards prices and obtaining labour. There is no doubt that when the building trade once more becomes settled the necessary repairs will be proceeded with.

Unhealthy Areas.

There are no unhealthy areas in the Borough and no representation has been made.

Bye-laws relating to Houses to Sub-let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

The Corporation have no bye-laws dealing with the above mentioned, but bye-laws are in course of preparation embodying these places.

General and Miscellaneous.

Every effort is made to abate nuisances arising from overcrowding, but this is extremely difficult to cope with under the present shortage of houses. Many houses which, on inspection, have been found to be in an insanitary state, have been put in order.

No schemes for Housing, apart from those enumerated under section 'Overcrowding' above, have been carried out during the year.

Appendices.

1. No complaints have been received from householders as to houses being unfit for occupation.
2. Number of houses inspected under Sec. 17 Housing and Town Planning Acts, 1909 1
 Number of houses which were considered unfit ... 1
 Number put in habitable repair without closing orders being made Nil.
3. (a) Number of orders for repairs issued Nil.
 (b) Number of cases where repairs were carried out by Local Authority Nil.
 (c) Number of houses voluntarily closed by owners ...* 2
4. Closing Orders 1
5. *Demolition Orders*.—Demolition orders made... .. Nil.
6. The number of dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily ... 2
7. *Obstructive Buildings*.—One representation has been made under Sec. 38 of H. & T. P. Act, 1890, but no steps have been taken by the Council. 1
8. *Staff engaged in Housing Work*.—The Sanitary Inspector was appointed some years ago as Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, and is continuing the survey, a part of which was presented to the Ministry of Health in October, 1919.

CHAS. W. GEE,
 Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

Building and Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a brief report of the work carried out during the past year.

NUISANCES.

Careful attention has been paid to all complaints received; the works necessary to abate the nuisances which have arisen, have been carried out as expeditiously as possible. The co-operation of property owners, has, under the difficult circumstances, viz., the shortage of labour and the high prices of labour and material been very satisfactory, and it has only been necessary for the Council to authorise the service of one statutory notice.

MEAT SUPPLY.

A considerable number of inspections have been made in relation to the above, and every effort has been made to keep the quality of the food and milk supply as satisfactory and clean as possible.

As reported last year, the Regulations of the Ministry of Food, assisted very considerably in the supervision of meat supply, compelling, as they did all cattle to be sold through an authorised

market, providing for compensation where a butcher bought a beast which proved to be unfit, and regulating the disposal of low grade cattle. This control ceased at the end of June, and pre-war conditions, permitting farmers and butchers to sell and buy without restrictions, now exist.

There was only one carcase condemned during the year—this was prior to June 30th, voluntarily surrendered under the Food Regulations, and entailing no loss to the butcher concerned. Apart from the above, I have not encountered in our local slaughter-houses a single carcase of an unsatisfactory character, and am of opinion that the quality of cattle killed during the year has been very good.

The butchers shops have been closely inspected and found reasonably satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are now only five cowsheds in the borough, and three of these are brick or stone built, with properly paved floors and drained satisfactorily.

The remaining two are of wood construction, but properly paved and drained.

They have all been kept clean and wholesome during the year.

The remainder of the cowkeepers, of which there are five, keep and milk their cows out in the fields during the whole of the year.

A considerable amount of milk used in the town comes from the surrounding district, and from many inspections made, it appears to be reasonably clean. Many of the local milkmen obtain a portion of their supplies from Messrs. Aplin & Barrett, and from inspection made at their receiving station, it would appear that they themselves keep a very strict supervision over the cleanliness of the milk supplied to them, one of the chief features being, their thorough system of steaming all empty churns before being sent back to the farms.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been regularly inspected, and although the construction of some of them is not very satisfactory, they have been kept clean and wholesome.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Many inspections in regard to the sanitary conditions and the sufficiency and cleanliness of the sanitary arrangements in connection with Factories and Workshops have been carried out. During the year nine new closets have been constructed in connection with existing Factories and Workshops.

NEW BUILDINGS.

With the exception of two houses completed by Mr. J. Reeves in Sherborne Road, the only dwelling-houses completed during the year have been those erected by the Corporation on the Eastland Estate, viz., 44 houses and flats. Close attention has been paid to these in their relation to the local Bye-laws. Various small additions to existing houses have been carried out and these have been closely supervised. A considerable amount of building extensions have been carried on in connection with Factories, and this work has received careful attention.

Summary of Inspections.

The number of inspections made, together with the result of such inspections and re-inspections, are given in the following tables :—

No. of HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED	..	623
No. of RE-INSPECTIONS in connection with the abatement of nuisances, &c.	.. .. .	793
		<hr/> 1416 <hr/>

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS—

Nuisances and the Abatement of Nuisances	..	621
Infectious Diseases	.. .. .	105
Slaughterhouses	.. .. .	96
Bakehouses	.. .. .	36

Workshops	..	..	..	..	97
Factories	..	..	..	..	15
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	30
Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	31
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	259
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	..	31
Milkshops	..	..	..	..	31
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	15
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	36
Housing Regulations	..	..	..	..	2
New Sewers	..	..	..	..	36

PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND—

houses

Defective drains in connection with	..	..	..	12
Defective closet accommodation	..	..	..	40
Defective yard paving	..	..	..	9
Defective guttering	..	..	..	21
Defective ventilation	..	..	..	12
Defective lighting	..	..	..	6
Defective floors	..	..	..	6
Defective windows and doors	..	..	..	15
Defective Roofs	..	..	..	12
Defective staircases	..	..	..	3
Dampness	..	..	..	23
Unwholesome state of walls and ceilings	..	..	..	16
Overcrowding	..	..	..	3
Keeping fowls so as to be a nuisance	..	..	..	3
Dirty houses	..	..	..	2
Rubbish lying about	..	..	..	17
Absence of sinks under taps	..	..	..	1
Absence of storage for food	..	..	..	3
Absence of manure pit to stable	..	..	..	2

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS—

79 preliminary and 1 statutory notices have been served in respect of
196 houses and premises.

HOUSES & PREMISES—

Disinfected	..	..	..	..	67
Cleansed	..	..	..	..	1
Repaired, limewashed, etc.	..	..	..	..	19
Yards repairs	..	..	..	..	12
Yards repaved	..	..	..	..	7
Amended lighting to rooms	..	..	..	..	2
Amended ventilation to rooms	..	..	..	..	3

Repairs to windows	21
Damp houses amended	15
Amended for storage of food	3

HOUSE DRAINAGE—

New systems of drainage provided in existing houses ..	12
Intercepting chambers fixed	12
Ventilating shafts fixed	9
Defective traps condemned and removed	53
New stoneware gullies fixed	59
New sink troughs fixed	5
Drainage systems repaired	12

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

W.C.'s repaired, lighted and ventilated	9
Closets supplied with flushing cisterns	13
Closets supplied with pedestal pans and seats	9
New W.C.'s built complete	9

MISCELLANEOUS—

Removal of filth	17
Insanitary keeping of animals	3
Choked drains cleared and repaired	51
Smoke tests made in connection with existing drains ..	35

NEW BUILDINGS.

Number of houses certified as fit for habitation on completion	46
Trade and other buildings	16

INSPECTIONS, Etc.—

The number of inspections of new buildings during the course of erection	625
The number of tests applied in connection with New Buildings (drains) and new Public Sewers	53

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WHALLEY.

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Thirteenth Annual Report which deals with the work of Medical Inspection, following up and treatment of children attending the Elementary Schools in the Borough.

During 1920 there was systematic medical inspection of children coming within the age groups specified by the Board of Education.

A Dental Inspection of 594 children was carried out. 518 were found in need of treatment and 298 were treated at the Dental Clinic.

One of the most satisfactory indications of the activities of the Clinic has been seen in a marked increase in the number of children attending on account of so-called minor ailments, defects usually regarded by parents as trivial but which, if neglected, might cause more serious trouble.

The School Care Committee still continues to provide from voluntary contributions much appreciated assistance to necessitous children who do not come within the scope of relief from the Guardians.

The School attendances suffered towards the end of the year on account of an epidemic of Whooping Cough.

The heating arrangements for most of the schools are unsatisfactory, in some, totally inadequate. It is impossible in cold weather, under present conditions, for many of the class rooms to be made warm enough for the comfort and health of the children.

Washing of the face and hands and care of the teeth should become part of the school routine.

More time should be given to the teaching of hygiene, temperance and physical exercises. Senior girls might with benefit receive regular instruction in infant management by a fully trained nurse.

An open-air school is urgently needed to deal with children physically abnormal.

I have pleasure in acknowledging the cordial co-operation of the staff of the Department, the Attendance Officer, and the Head Teachers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES W. GEE,

School Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

INTRODUCTION.

At the beginning of 1920 there were in the borough under the control of the Education Committee 6 schools with 9 departments.

There was accommodation for 2376 children, 1986 being on the roll, with an average attendance of 1759.

At the end of the year the number on the roll was 1998 and the average attendance 1792.

The number of children under five years of age attending school at the end of the year was 108.

HYGIENIC CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

Reference to this subject was made in the report of the School Medical Officers for the year 1919 and no material alteration took place during 1920.

The classification of Children examined is set out on Table 1.

The name of every child suffering from a defect of sufficient importance to be brought to the notice of the parents, is entered on a special card and filed for following up and re-examination. If, at

the time of medical inspection, the case appears suitable for immediate attention, steps are taken to provide the necessary treatment. Every case is followed up by the nurses of the Medical Officer's Staff, who encourage the parents to obtain medical advice or arrange for attendance at the Clinic. After treatment, a re-examination is made by the School Medical Officer on the occasion of the next visit to the school attended by the child.

Table 2 shows the number of serious defects found in systematic and special examinations, and brought to the notice of the parents.

CLEANSING OF SCHOOLS.

All the schools are provided with part-time cleaners with the exception of the Central Schools and Special Subjects centre, for which a whole-time cleaner is provided. The part-time cleaners are also assisted by a man employed full time as a visiting cleaner and whose duties consist of looking after the latrines and play grounds. The floors and furniture of the schools are scrubbed during the Easter, Summer and Christmas vacations and the walls and windows cleansed.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE SCHOLARS.

General Facts, Scope of Inspection.

The bulk of the school inspections took place at the respective schools. The children attending the Reckleford Schools and the Central Junior School are examined at the Clinic attached to the Special Subjects Centre in Eastland Road.

A weighing machine and height standard are kept at each school.

NUMBER OF VISITS.

The following visits to the school departments and children's homes were made during 1920 :

A. To Schools and Departments.

1. By Medical Officer :

a. For systematic inspections	..	...	40
b. For special inspections and re-inspections	...		20
c. For enquiries as to infectious diseases, sanitary conditions, etc....	..	...	37

2. By School Nurse :

a. For systematic inspections	..	.	40
b. For special inspections and re-inspections	...		50

B. To the Children's Homes 664

The home visits do not include those made in connection with measles, german measles and other notifiable infectious diseases.

PRINCIPLE OF SELECTION OF CHILDREN FOR INSPECTION.

The children are selected by means of the special medical inspection registers. Each child is examined as soon as possible after admission to school, for the second time at 8 years of age and for the third time at 12 years of age.

METHOD OF INSPECTION.

The School Nurse accompanies the School Medical Officer. Her work consists of recording the presence or absence of parents and the family history. She weighs and measures the child and tests the sight and gives the necessary assistance of undressing and dressing the girls and infants.

PRESENCE OF PARENTS AT ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Parents or guardians were present at 376 or 46.7 % of the inspections. The presence of parents is very desirable. Physical defects can be pointed out and the mother's interest in the child's welfare can be stimulated so as to yield more practical results than can be obtained by sending written notices.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

There is evidence that owing to the high price of boots and clothes the children attending school are not so well clothed as they were before the war. Fifty-three cases of poor, and 3 of very poor clothing, 61 cases of defective boots, and 7 of very bad boots were found during the year.

CLEANLINESS OF THE HEAD.

Of the 385 boys inspected 8 or 2·0 % had nits and 1 or ·2 % had vermin in their hair.

Of the 420 girls, 48 or 11·4 % had nits and 4 or ·9 % had vermin.

The following are the results of the systematic surprise examinations during the year 1920 :—

	Number Examined.	With Nits.		With Vermin.	
		No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
INFANTS: Boys	752	9	1·1	12	1·5
Girls	844	103	12·2	23	2·7
SENIORS: Boys	272	19	6·9	2	·7
Girls	1413	126	8·9	18	1·2
All Boys	1024	28	2·7	14	1·3
All Girls	2257	229	10·1	41	1·8
All Children	3281	257	7·8	55	1·6

CLEANLINESS OF THE BODY.

Three children were found at school with body lice.

It is a deplorable fact that there are so many children found in school with vermin and nits in the hair. There has been a small improvement in recent years, but this has only been obtained through systematic and surprise examinations and the repeated notices sent to parents in recurrent cases. No prosecutions were made by the Education Committee during 1920.

SCHOOL BATHS.

There are no school shower or other baths. The Corporation baths are available to selected boys and girls.

NUTRITION.

Of the 805 children examined, 97·8 per cent. were returned as of normal nutrition, 2·2 per cent. as below normal. The School Care Committee provides extra nourishment in the way of milk and drugs for selected cases of malnutrition and debility. There has been no evidence of children lacking food in the past year and it has not been necessary to put into operation the feeding scheme prepared by the Education Committee some years ago.

An Open Air School is badly required in Yeovil to deal with cases of pre-tubercular, anæmic and debilitated children. Substantial benefits in building up the health of the children have been obtained in those places where these schools are in existence. The Education Committee have been cognisant of this fact for some years, but owing to the war they have been unable to deal with the question. An elaborate building is not essential, temporary wooden structures such as converted army huts have been found to meet the case in a satisfactory manner. In the meantime playground classes should be utilised as much as possible.

In connection with an Open Air School the question of dealing with dull and backward children should be considered. A large per cent. of dull and backward children shows signs of physical defect. Special classes in an open air school under suitable teachers, would not only improve the body but also the minds, as these two defects go so often together.

HEARING—EAR DISEASE.

Cases of chronic discharge from the ears were less than in the previous year. Of the 805 children examined, 5 had discharge from the ears.

Parents are beginning to realise that this disease leads to deafness and that serious complications may ensue, and in consequence seek early treatment at the School Clinic.

NOSE AND THROAT.

During the year 39 children were certified as requiring operation. Under an agreement with the Yeovil and District Hospital the Education Committee pays for all cases of children of necessitous families requiring operation for tonsils and adenoids. During the year 4 cases were operated on in this hospital. Cases operated on are followed up by the School Nurse and requested to attend the Clinic to see the School Medical Officer. An intimation is given to the teacher in order that the child's method of breathing may be kept under observation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year 7 children were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 8 from other forms of tuberculosis. Children suspected of phthisis are asked to visit the Clinic for further examination. Such cases which require treatment and supervision are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer for the county. There are at present 51 children in the Borough notified as suffering from tuberculosis (two below school age)—31 pulmonary and 20 non-pulmonary.

RE-INSPECTIONS AND FOLLOWING UP.

The Board of Education Table IV. gives the results of re-inspections to ascertain how far treatment has been secured.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

The Clinic is held daily at 6, South Street, Yeovil, Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted.

The following accommodation is available :—

1. Rooms for the Medical Officer and Nurse.
2. A room for the treatment of skin and ear diseases, etc.
3. A waiting room.
4. An annexe to the Medical Officer's room provides for eye examinations. Provision is also made in this room for examination on a couch and for weighing the children,

The examinations and treatment are carried out by the School Medical Officer and School Nurse. The work occupies on the average two hours every morning. There is a daily attendance of about 50 children.

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES ATTENDED AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC DURING 1920.

			Treatment carried over from previous year.	New cases.	Treatment completed.	Treatment not completed at the end of the year.	Total attend- ances.
Eye Defects	..	..	4	45	42	3	394
Ear Defects	..	.	8	77	67	10	1654
Ringworm	..	..	—	7	7	—	75
Scabies	..	..	—	16	16	—	443
Impetigo	..	..	5	136	130	6	1991
Referred to Dentist	..		—	30	—	—	30
Tuberculosis—Referred to Dispensary	..		—	20	—	—	39
Other Skin Diseases	..		—	25	25	—	83
Minor Ailments	..	..	15	525	500	25	3915
Total	..	..	32	881	787	44	8624

DISEASES AND DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Diseases of the eye, ear and skin are treated, defects of eye-sight are examined, spectacles being prescribed where necessary.

Special cases *re* children reported to the Medical Officer by the Committee, School Nurse, Teacher, Attendance Officer and parents are examined and advice given.

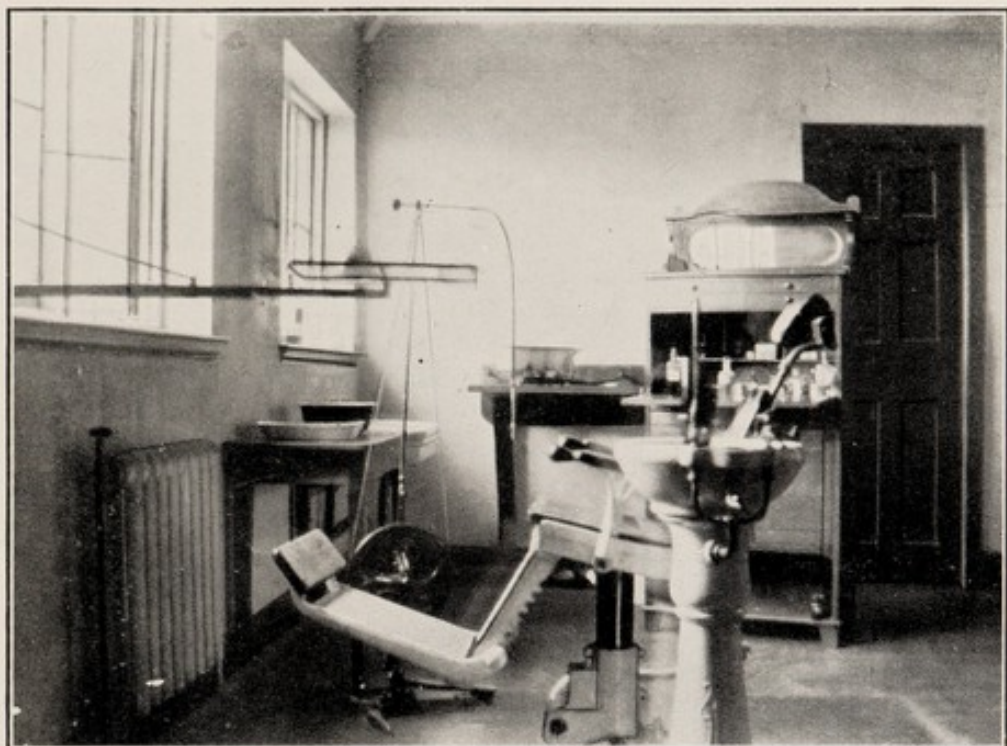
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The Education Committee have adopted the following scheme for Dental Inspection and Treatment.

Two half-days per month for extractions.

One half-day per month for inspection.

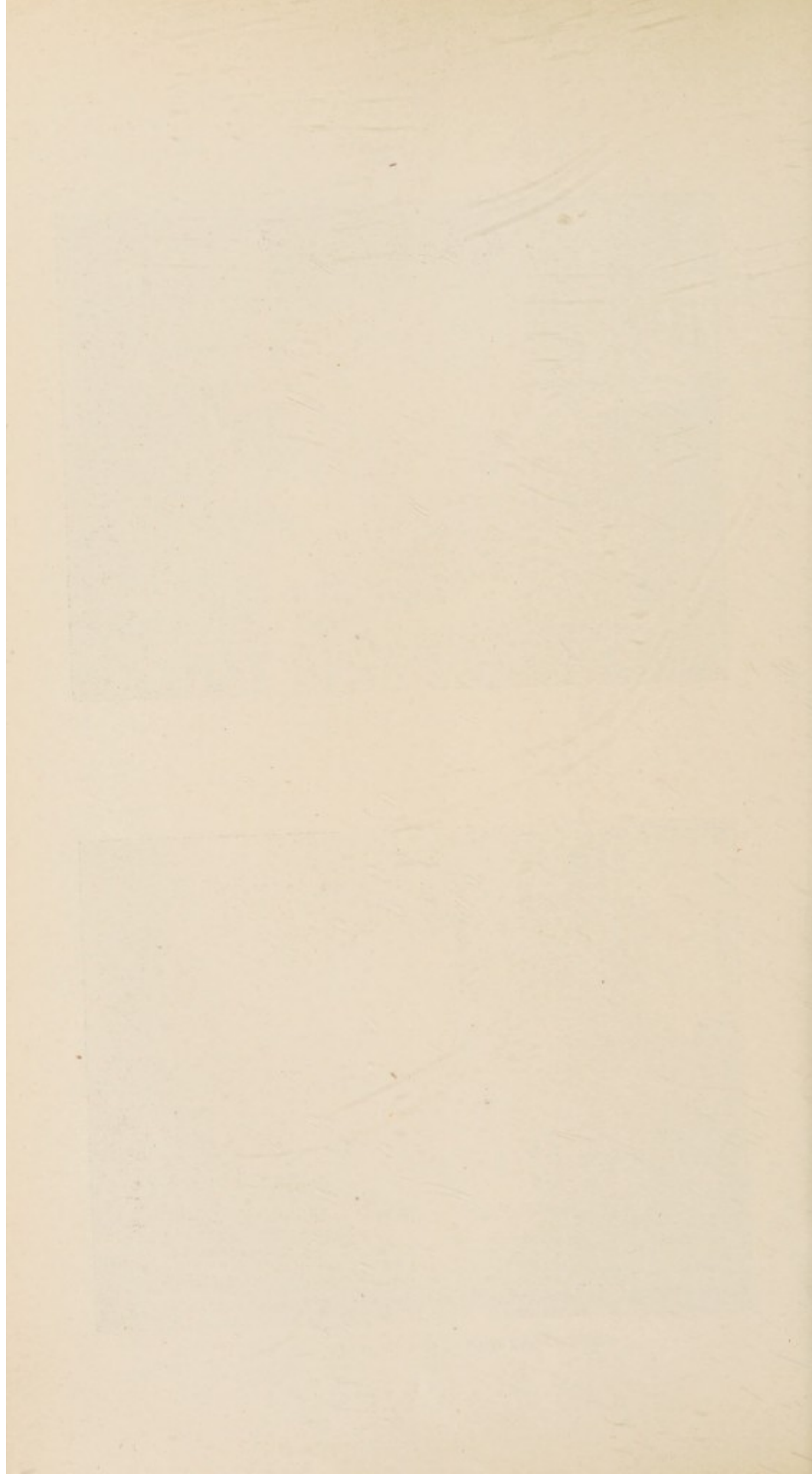
One half-day per month for fillings.



DENTAL CLINIC.



WOODWORK CLASS—HANDICRAFT SCHOOL.



Treatment is carried out at the Dental Clinic in Eastland Road, which consists of a room for the Dental Officer, a waiting room and a rinsing room provided with sinks, hot and cold water, and all necessary apparatus.

Last year notices to attend for treatment were issued to 479 children and 188 attended. The number of visits made to the Clinic by these children was 368. 611 extractions, 547 temporary and 64 of permanent teeth, and 82 fillings were made.

The present amount of time afforded for dental work is not sufficient for the inspection, re-inspection and treatment of the 2000 children in the elementary schools. At least one-fifth of the dentist's time should be employed in inspection and at each session for treatment not more than 10 children should attend for filling and extractions. In order that all the ground may be covered it appears necessary for the dentist to be employed at least two half-days per week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the beginning of the year there was an epidemic of measles in the town, and whooping cough was prevalent towards the end of the year.

PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE SCHOOLS.—An account of the scheme for preventing the spread of infectious diseases in the Schools and Sunday Schools is given on page 18 of the Public Health Report.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

SWIMMING.—341 children desirous of receiving instruction in swimming were examined by the School Medical Officer. Thirty children were found to be unfit.

COUNTY SCHOOL BOYS.—By an arrangement between the Council and the Governors of the school, all boys are examined on their admission to school. Twenty-seven boys were examined in 1920 and their parents were informed of any defects that required treatment.

CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The teachers without exception afford all help in their power and many of them are enthusiastic in the work. Teachers possess a mine of valuable information concerning the capabilities and environment of the children entrusted to their charge, and the School Medical Officer is glad to have this opportunity of expressing his appreciation of their ready assistance.

The School Attendance Officer does not take part in the actual inspection. He however renders material aid by making out a daily return of children who are absent from school on alleged medical grounds and who do not produce a satisfactory medical certificate and by tracing children who have moved to other districts in the borough.

EFFECT OF HOME CONDITIONS ON THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

It is quite evident that the effect of the home is soon seen in the physical state of children attending school. Overcrowding and vitiated atmosphere will first be felt by the children living in an insanitary house.

INSUFFICIENT VENTILATION.—There is insufficient ventilation in many homes and especially so in the bedrooms; the air in some cases becomes very foul, possibly because parents themselves fail to realise the importance of daily ventilation by the open window. Even in the average home there is a dread of draught and cold entering the house.

OVERCROWDING.—Closely associated with insufficient use of the open window, there are the ill effects due to overcrowding, particularly in sleeping apartments. Many children are put to sleep with adults when there is room for a separate cot, this tends to frighten the child when put to sleep alone, thus rendering isolation at home almost impossible, when infectious disease occurs.

The shortage of houses at the present time also tends to cause overcrowding. In many cases two families occupy the same house, in some cases even three families are sharing one small house,

WANT OF SLEEP.—To be in good health children require an adequate period of sleep, a large number of children are allowed to stay out late at night, and in some cases go to bed with their parents. A reason frequently given is that the child will not go to bed on account of the daylight lasting so much later during summer time. There can be little doubt that ignorance and disinclination for exertion on the part of parents is the chief cause.

FOOD.—In a large number of cases there is considerable ignorance of simple home cooking, especially is this true as regards the mid-day meal, which only too often consists of chip potatoes bought ready cooked from a neighbouring shop. Fresh milk is very scantily given to children.

OVERWORK.—An excessive amount of domestic or other work is injurious, and prevents the child from concentrating its attention on school duties. One finds that quite young children are made to perform household and other duties, involving a good deal of energy with the result that they are unable to obtain full benefit from any school training.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

Bye-laws have been prepared for regulating the employment of children of school age, and upon confirmation by the Home Office will be brought into operation in Yeovil.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.—The Education Committee does not employ an organiser for physical training.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME.

Under an agreement between the Town Council and the County Council of Somerset, the Town Council exercises the County Council's powers under the Education (Choice of Employment) Act, 1910, in the Borough.

Under a scheme which has been approved by the Board of Education a Juvenile Employment Sub-Committee comprising 16 representative members, for giving assistance to boys and girls under 18 with respect to choice of suitable employment,

The Committee have the assistance of a Juvenile Employment Officer (part time) and the scheme was brought into operation on 1st September, 1919. There is ample evidence that the scheme is proving successful in the effort to select and procure occupations for the ex-scholars which are most fitted for their mental and physical capabilities.

The following table gives the statistical and other details to the end of 1920 of scholars for whom employment has been found.

Boys.				GIRLS.			
Baking	...	...	1	Aplin & Barrett	...	...	2
Box Making Apprentice	...	...	2	Box Factory	...	...	3
Building Works Apprentice	...	...	1	Clerical Work	...	...	4
Butchering	...	...	1	Domestic Service	...	...	3
Blacksmith, General	...	...	1	Dress Making	...	...	2
Cabinet Making	...	...	2	Glove Making	...	...	35
Clerical Work	...	...	9	Lace Mending	...	...	3
Coach Building Apprentice	...	...	1	Nurse Maids	...	...	3
Engineering	...	...	4	Mothers' Help	...	...	2
Flax Worker	...	...	2	Milliners' Apprentice	...	...	1
Fish Trade	...	...	1	Newspaper Girls	...	...	3
Gardening	...	...	2	Shop Assistants...	...	...	6
Golf Links	...	...	1	"Western Gazette," as	...	...
Gloving	...	...	31	Readers	...	...	2
Foundry, Westland	...	...	1				
Light Errand Boys	...	...	18				
Motor Engineers	...	...	6				
Messenger Boys	...	...	2				
Newspaper Boys	...	...	1				
Organ Works Apprentice	...	...	1				
Painters	...	...	2				
Printers	...	...	6				
Reporters, Learners	...	...	2				
Shop Assistants	...	...	8				
Smith's Work Apprentice	...	...	1				
Telegraph Messenger Boys	...	...	2				
Various	...	...	17				
Total				Total			
126				69			

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED

1st January, 1920 to 31st December, 1920.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Age.	ENTRANTS.						Intermediate Group.	LEAVERS.					Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.		12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys	39	48	9	15	111	131	104	39	...	...	143	385
Girls	34	46	8	25	113	163	107	36	1	...	144	420
TOTALS	73	94	17	40	224	294	211	75	1	...	287	805

TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection, 1920.

Defect or Disease.				Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
				Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for Treatment.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Malnutrition	..	..	..	18	..	1
	Uncleanliness : Head	..	..	10	50	..	..
	Body	..	..	1	22	..	..
Skin	Ringworm :						
	Head	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Body	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scabies	..	..	2	..	..	..
	Impetigo	..	..	5	..	..	..
	Other Diseases (non-Tuberc'lr)	..	..	5	2	..	..
Eye	Blepharitis	..	..	3	..	..	..
	Conjunctivitis	..	..	2	1	..	..
	Keratitis	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Corneal Ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Corneal Opacities	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Defective Vision	..	..	21	24	..	..
	Squint	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Conditions	..	..	..	1	..	..
Ear	Defective Hearing	..	..	3	3	..	..
	Otitis Media	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Ear Diseases	..	..	5	3	..	..
Nose & Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	..	..	32	43	..	..
	Adenoids	..	..	1	11	..	..
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	..	..	6	2	..	..
	Other Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-Tubercular)	..	..	..	15	..	..
	Defective Speech	..	..	..	5	..	..
	Teeth—Dental Diseases	..	..	—	—	—	—
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :						
	Organic	..	..	..	3	..	..
	Functional	..	..	..	2	..	..
	Anæmia	..	..	..	3	..	..
Lungs	Bronchitis	..	..	2	25	..	..
	Other non-Tubercular Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..

TABLE II. (continued).

(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Tuber- culosis	Pulmonary :						
	Definite	..	.	8	I	..	..
	Suspected	..	..	2	..	..	..
	Non-Pulmonary :						
	Glands	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Spine	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hip ..	.	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Bones & Joints	..	..	I	..	..	..
	Skin ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Forms	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nervous System	Epilepsy	..	..	I	I	..	..
	Chorea	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deform- ities	Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Spinal Curvature	..	..	..	I	..	..
	Other Forms	..	..	I	5	..	..
Other Defects and Diseases				5	2I	..	I

NUMBER OF *Individual Children* HAVING
DEFECTS WHICH REQUIRED TREATMENT
OR TO BE KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION.

TABLE III.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA 1920.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind, (including partially blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for the Blind Not at School ..	— — —	— 1 —	— 1 —
Deaf and Dumb, (including partially deaf), within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf Not at School ..	— — —	1 — 1	1 — 1
Mentally Deficient:	Feeble Minded ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during year Not at School ..	6 — — — —	3 2 — —	9 2 — —
		Imbeciles	— 2	— —	— 2
		Idiots	—	—	—
		Epileptics	1 — — 1	2 — — —	3 — — 1
	Physically Defective:	Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children .. In Institutions other than Certified Schools Not at School ...	8 — 1 4	9 — 4 6	17 — 5 10
Crippling due to Tuberculosis ..			1 — — 3	— — — —	1 — — 3

TABLE III. (continued).

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Physically Defective:	Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis, <i>i.e.</i> , Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	3	6	9
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ..	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	1	—	1
		Other Physical Defectives, <i>e.g.</i> , delicate and other children suitable for admission to Open-Air Schools; children suffering from severe heart disease.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	17	18
Continued.		Attending Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children, other than Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	3	—	3
		Dull or Backward*	Retarded 2 years ..	65	50	115
		Retarded 3 years ..	23	23	46

*Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1920.

A.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect.		Number of Children.			
		Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
			Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
<i>Skin—</i>					
Ringworm—Head	..	2	2	—	2
Ringworm—Body	...	5	5	—	5
Scabies	..	16	16	—	16
Impetigo	..	141	141	—	141
Minor Injuries	..	400	400	—	400
Other skin disease	..	25	25	—	25
<i>Ear Disease</i>	..	85	85	—	85
<i>Eye Disease</i> (external and other)	..	49	49	—	49
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	..	90	70	20	90

B.—TREATMENT OF VISUAL DEFECT.

Number of Children.									
Referred for Refraction.	Submitted to Refraction.				For whom Glasses were Prescribed.	For whom Glasses were Provided.	Recommended for Treatment other than by Glasses.	Received other Forms of Treatment.	For whom no Treatment was considered necessary.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Otherwise.	Total					
21	8	5	—	13	12	12	1	—	1

2. *Particulars of Times given and of Operations undertaken.*

No. of Half Days devoted to In-spection.	No. of Half Days devoted to Treat-ment.	Total No. of Attend-ances made by the Chil-dren at the Clinic.	No. of Permanent Teeth.		No. of Temporary Teeth.		Total No. of Fill-ings.	No. of Admini-strations of General Anæsthetics included in (4) and (6).	No. of other Operations.	
			Ex-tract-ed.	Filled.	Ex-tract-ed.	Filled.			Per-ma-nent Teeth.	Tem-porary Teeth.
(1.)	(2.)	(3.)	(4.)	(5.)	(6.)	(7.)	(8.)	(9.)	(10.)	(11.)
6	28	368	64	77	547	5	82	—	—	—

TABLE V.—Summary of Treatment of Defects as shown in Table IV. (A, B, C, D, and F, but excluding E).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Minor Ailments ..	600	600	—	600
Visual Defects ..	21	8	5	13
Defects of nose and throat ..	39	4	17	21
Dental Defects..	411	298	—	298
Other Defects ..	105	70	32	102
Total ..	1176	980	54	1034

TABLE VI.—Summary relating to Children medically inspected at the Routine Inspections during the year 1920.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspections.	805
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from—	
Malnutrition.. .. .	18
Skin Disease	14
Defective Vision (including Squint)	45
Eye Disease.. .. .	8
Defective Hearing	6
Ear Disease	8
Nose and Throat Disease	95
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular)	15
Defective Speech	5
Dental Disease	73
Heart Disease—	
Organic	3
Functional	2
Anæmia	3
Lung Disease (non-tubercular)	27
Tuberculosis—	
Pulmonary } definite	9
} suspected	2
Non-pulmonary	1
Disease of the Nervous System	2
Deformities	7
Other defects and diseases	26
(3) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or foot-gear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	162
(4) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, &c.).	103
(5) The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, &c)... .. .	65

