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BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances

OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR

**1923,**

BY

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

F. WHALLEY, Cert., R.S.I.



BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.



FIFTY-FIRST

# 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 Inspector,**

F. WHALLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

**1923.**

## SANITARY COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN W. J. C. PITTARD, *Chairman.*

ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Vice-Chairman.*

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN J. MATTHEWS.

COUNCILLOR G. J. M. CARD

COUNCILLOR J. ROUSELL

.. S. C. CLOTHIER

.. H. A. R. E. UNWIN.

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## HOUSING COMMITTEE.

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

ALDERMAN H. E. HIGDON, *Vice-Chairman.*

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN J. MATTHEWS.

COUNCILLOR F. W. DENMAN

COUNCILLOR R. L. BELBEN

.. F. W. CLEMENTS

.. A. R. GOULD.

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Town Clerk : H. C. C. BATTEN, D.S.O.

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.

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## SANITARY STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health	..	..	C. W. GEE, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed D.P.H. L'pool.
Sanitary Inspector	..	..	F. WHALLEY, C.R.S.I.
Matron Isolation Hospital	..	..	LILY M. ARNOLD.
Health Visitor and Tuberculosis Nurse			ADA McDONALD.
Health Visitor (Infant Welfare)		..	LILY L. REEVES.
Clerk to M.O.H.	..	..	F. GERTRUDE LINNETT.
Disinfectors	..	..	E. O'HAGAN.
Midwives	..	..	MABEL M. ALLEN. ISABEL I. ALLEN.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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

COUNCILLOR A. H. J. STROUD *Vice-Chairman.*

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN J. MATTHEWS.

ALDERMEN W. J. C. PITTARD & E. J. FARR.

COUNCILLOR F. BEEL

MRS. F. M. EWENS

.. F. CLOTHIER

MRS. A. LITTLE

.. J. N. FUDGE

Miss F. PITTARD

MR. HENRY STIBY

MR. WILFRED MURRELL

MR. HENRY TAVENER

MR. E. A. STAGG

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## ATTENDANCE AND STAFF COMMITTEE.

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

MISS F. PITTARD, *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE

MR. H. STIBY

.. W. J. C. PITTARD

MR. WILFRED MURRELL.

MRS. LITTLE

MR. E. A. STAGG

MRS. EWENS

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Clerk to Education Committee : H. C. C. BATTEN, D.S.O.

School Attendance Officer : W. P. TOLMAN.

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## 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.R.C.P. (Lond.)  
L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

School Nurse : .. .. ADA McDONALD.

Clerk to Medical Officer : F. GERTRUDE LINNETT.

# BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

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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, 1923.

The housing shortage still continues to be the cause of overcrowding in the Borough. There are a large number of houses occupied by two or more families.

Towards the end of 1923 there was an epidemic of Measles (376 cases). No death took place. Otherwise Yeovil was remarkably free from epidemic diseases, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, etc.

It is pleasing to observe that for the year 1923 the death rate was remarkably low, being 7·8, and the Infantile mortality 34·8, the lowest on record. (England and Wales being 11·6 and 69 respectively). The reduction is striking if compared with only 20 years ago, when the rates were respectively 15·3 and 133·7.

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,

CHARLES W. GEE.

MARCH, 1924.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1923.

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### 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 Picket 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 32·28 inches. Rainy Days 236.

### **Population.**

The estimated mid-year population for 1923 is 15,590.

### **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. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of persons of both sexes.

At the present moment there are 48 factories and workshops (inclusive of dressing yards). The 1923 returns showed that the total number of outworkers was 1,571, of whom 809 resided in the Borough, the remainder, 762 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 1,200 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 11 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 £2,402 os. 4d. during 1923, and the amount distributed to the unemployed was £1,268 os. 3d.

### **Hospital and Medical Relief.**

During the past year the Yeovil and District Hospital provided treatment for 396 in-patients, 332 out-patients, 66 dental attendances and 969 minor casualties. In the X Ray department 124 examinations were made.

The New Hospital was formally opened by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in July, 1923. The hospital has two wards, each containing 14 beds and two cots, and four private wards.

#### **Rateable Value.**

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £73,562; the sum represented by a penny rate is £283.

### **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  $6\frac{1}{4}$ , 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 was completed on the top of Hendford Hill during last year, with a capacity of 750,000 gallons, which is 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 green-sand 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 to 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 has been removed as far as possible.

### **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.

The main sewer, which had become badly silted up, has been cleaned.

The stream running through the town and the Mill Stream have been cleaned out from Hendford to Newton Road. It is hoped that this will help to relieve the drainage of West Hendford district, which has been unsatisfactory in the past.

With regard to Rustywell district, which contains 11 houses, the Council are taking steps to deal with the nuisance. It is proposed to clean out the ditch and periodically clean out the cesspools.

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 five 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 with that from the percolating bed is discharged into a separator in which collodal matter is deposited and thence to the river.

### **Closest 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.

### **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 17 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. 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 eight Cow-keepers, three of whom are provided with cowsheds, the remaining five allow their cows to be in the open during the winter. There are 26 retailers of milk in the town, 13 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 on the whole is of good standard and clean.

In accordance with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders 31 persons are registered as follows :—

Cow-keepers	...	...	...	...	5
Cow-keepers, Purveyors and Milkshop Keepers	..				3
Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	10
Purveyors and Milkshop Keepers			...	...	9
Milkshop Keepers	...	...	...	..	4

### Milk for Mothers and Infants.

Provision is 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. 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.	December 1923.
Registered	1	—
Licensed	8	8
	—	—
Total	9	8

### Meat Inspection.

During the year inspections of the slaughter-houses and butchers' shops have been carefully carried out. 253 lbs. of frozen and 47 lbs. of chilled beef were certified unfit for human consumption, and destroyed.

### The Case for a Public Abattoir.

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 :—

30 Tins of Preserved Cream.

### 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 year.

Fifty-one samples were taken as follows :—

Milk ...	...	...	22
Whisky	..	...	2
Jam ...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	2
Arrowroot	...	...	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	...	...	1
Brawn	...	...	2
Rum ...	...	...	2
Brandy	...	...	1
Cream of Tartar ...	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	1
Dripping	...	...	1
Non-Alcoholic Wine	...	...	1
Lard ...	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	2
Potted Meat	...	...	1
Tea ...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	..	2
Cornflour	...	..	1
Condensed Milk	...	...	2
Canned Fruit	...	...	1
Zinc Ointment	...	...	1
			—
			51

All were genuine with the exception of one milk, which was 19.5% deficient of fat. Proceedings were instituted, which resulted in a fine of £3 and £6 6s. od. costs,

## 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)	32	3	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) .. ..	117	2	—
Workplaces .. ..	9	—	—
Total .. ..	158	5	—

#### 2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.
<b>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</b>			
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	3	3	—
.. Ventilation .. ..	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—
Want of Draining of Floors .. ..	—	—	—
Other Nuisances .. ..	1	1	—
Sanitary Accommodation, insufficient ..	2	2	—
.. .. defective ..	5	5	—
.. .. not separate } .. .. for sexes }	—	—	—
<b>Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:</b>			
Illegal occupations of underground			
Bakehouse (s. 101) .. ..	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97-100) .. ..			
Other Offences .. ..	—	—	—
Total .. ..	11	11	—

#### 3. HOME WORK.

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

	Number.
Lists received from Employers once in the year	39
Outworkers .. ..	1571
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists .. ..	39

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 ... ..	8
Orders made (s. 110) (Gloving removed & disinfected)	8
Prosecutions ... ..	Nil

4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

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

	Number.
Bakehouses ... ..	13
Gloving ... ..	42
Fabric Gloves ... ..	1
Tailoring ... ..	15
Dressmaking ... ..	20
Millinery ... ..	9
Marine Stores ... ..	2
Laundry ... ..	1
Blacksmith .. ... ..	1
Sweet Making ... ..	3
Lace Repairing ... ..	1
Miscellaneous ... ..	67
<b>Total Number of Workshops on Register ... ..</b>	<b>175</b>

5. OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Work- shops Act (s. 133, 1901) ... ..	Nil
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Action taken in matters referred to H.M. Inspector  
as remediable under the Public Healths 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
Others	...	...	3

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 DISEASES.**

The means adopted in the Borough to control the spread of infectious diseases do not differ in any material details from those given in the annual report for 1923.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Twelve cases were notified during the year 1923, as compared with six cases in 1922.

All cases were removed to the Fever Hospital in Lyde Lane. There was no death. No return cases occurred during 1923.

**Diphtheria.**

One case was notified during the year as against 12 in 1922.

Provision of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

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

**Encephalitis Lethargica.**

No case of this disease was notified.

**Measles.**

376 cases of measles were notified. No death took place.

**German Measles.**

Six cases of this disease were notified.

**Chicken Pox.**

This disease was more prevalent than during the previous year.

**Tuberculosis.**

Age.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ..	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
15 ...	—	5	—	1	—	3	—	—
20 ...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	3	3	—	1	2	1	—	—
35 ...	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
45 ...	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & up- wards)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	10	11	2	7	4	6	—	1

All deaths from Tuberculosis were notified cases. There is no evidence of any inefficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in the district.

TABLE II.  
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1923.

Notified Diseases.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases in each Ward.			
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.							65 and up-wards.	North			South	East	West	
		Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up-wards.								
Chicken Pox	179	62	101	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	52	12	77
Measles	376	142	209	5	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	130	46	123	77
German Measles	..	1	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	2
Pneumonia	10	3	1	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	5	1
Influenzal Pneumonia	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diphtheria	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	1	2	1	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Ophthalmia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Neonatorum	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2
Scarlet Fever	12	1	7	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	7
Puerperal Sepsis	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..

## NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

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

Whooping Cough, 306 ; Mumps, 75.

### Influenza.

The number of deaths was two as compared with five 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.

	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Notifications ...	30	32	41	41	45
Number of Deaths...	11	8	19	20	12
Death-rate per 1,000	·7	·5	1·2	1·4	·8

#### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (Phthisis).

	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Notifications ...	21	27	33	31	38
Number of Deaths...	10	6	11	13	9
Death-rate per 1,000	·6	·3	·7	·9	·6

During the year 1923, 20 notifications were received, 21 related to pulmonary and 9 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

### Control.

(A) On receipt of the primary notification the patient is visited and enquiries are made as to predisposing causes, contacts and sanitary condition 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, etc. 537 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 whom 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 21 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—Fridays, at 3 p.m. for Men; Mondays, at 3 p.m. for Women; and Mondays, at 7 p.m. for Women and 7.30 for Men.

The Monday evening Clinic is a temporary arrangement, and will be continued only if it is found that sufficient patients attend.

### **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 only the two Municipal midwives resident in the town.

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.

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 607 visits to expectant mothers. The Midwives attended 247 confinements during the year.

INFANTS.—288 primary and 3,113 subsequent visits were paid to infants and 70 visits to infants suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum.

6,238 Post Natal visits were made.

1,620 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-seven expectant mothers attended the clinic for advice. 126 infants attended for the first time. The mothers made 37 and the children 806 attendances at the clinic.

Fourteen children below school age were treated at the Treatment Clinic in South Street. Attendances made, 135.

All still-births and infant deaths are investigated. There were 19 still-births during 1923.

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.

### **Infectious Diseases affecting Parturient Women, Infants and Young Children.**

**PUERPERAL FEVER.**—During the 25 years 1885 to 1910 there were seven deaths from Puerperal Fever. There has been no death since 1910, four cases have been notified, one in 1919, one in 1921, and two in 1923.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**—During the year under review five cases were notified. Since 1914, 61 cases of ophthalmia have been notified, an average of 6.1 cases a year. On enquiry into the back history of these cases, one child lost the sight of one eye, this was a case which occurred in the Hospital. Of the cases six were treated in the Hospital, the remainder were treated at home or at the Infant Welfare treatment clinic by the Council nurses under the direction of the patients own medical attendant or the Medical Officer of Health.

**MEASLES.**—This disease was prevalent towards the end of the year, there were 156 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 advice given at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

### **Sanitary Administration.**

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, an Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Manager of the Sewage Works, and one

Disinfectors. Two Health Visitors, a Matron for the Isolation Hospital, 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 administrative 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 1922	Admitted during 1923	Recovered	Died	Remaining in at end of 1923
Scarlet Fever	M	..	7	7	..	..
	F	..	5	4	..	1
Total ..	..	..	12	11	..	1

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

### Bacteriological Work.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	11	36	47
Hairs for Ringworm Spores	1	1	2
Milk for Tubercle Bacilli	—	2	2
Blood Smears for Anthrax Bacilli	1	3	4

### SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	1923	1922	1921	1920
Mid-year Population ...	15,590	15,280	15,050	14,680
Number of Births ..	258	269	303	327
Birth-rate per 1,000 ...	16.5	17.6	20.1	22.2
Number of Deaths ...	124	160	164	161
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	7.8	10.4	10.8	10.9
Infantile Mortality ...	34.8	59.4	69.3	45.8
Phthisis Death-rate ...	.7	.8	.7	.8
Cancer Death-rate ...	.6	1.6	1.5	.8

NOTIFICATIONS :—	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Measles and German Measles	382	22	30	407	29
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	7	7	9	3
Tuberculosis .. ...	30	32	41	41	45
Chicken Pox ... ..	179	—	—	—	—
Other Infectious Diseases ..	33	45	70	70	68

### Population.

The estimated population for 1923 is 15,590.

### Births.

The total number of births registered was 264. This number has been corrected for transfers by the Registrar-General. The births allocated to the Borough were 258, equivalent to a birth-rate of 16.5 per 1,000. (Legitimate, males 134, females 114. Illegitimate, males 7, females 2).

### Notification of Births.

The number of births notified was 297, of which 19 were still-births.

### Deaths.

The deaths registered numbered 150. The Registrar-General transferred 34 of these deaths being persons not belonging to the Borough, to their usual places of residence, and 8 deaths of Yeovil residents from other districts. The net total number of deaths for the Borough was 124, equivalent to a death-rate of 7.8 per 1,000.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1923 was 11.9.

TABLE III.  
CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net 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 up-wards.		
All causes } Certified ..	124	9	2	4	4	6	14	27	58	..	
} Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Whooping Cough ..	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Influenza ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Meningococcal Meningitis..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	10	..	..	..	1	3	4	1	1	..	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Cancer, malignant disease..	10	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	6	5	
Rheumatic Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diabetes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	4	
Heart Disease ..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	5	
Arterio sclerosis ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	
Bronchitis ..	6	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	4	2	
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	8	2	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	2	
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	4	
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 yrs.)	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	1	
Puerperal Sepsis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Suicide ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	
Other Deaths from Violence	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	4	
Other Defined Diseases ..	31	2	1	..	..	1	2	4	21	10	
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
TOTALS ..	124	9	2	4	4	6	14	27	58	44	

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.			Vision Un-impaired	Vision Im-paired	Total Blind-ness	Deaths
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home	InHospital				
	5	5	—	5	—	—	—

TABLE IV.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

NET DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES  
UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
	1 week.				4 weeks.					
All causes { Certified Uncertified	3	..	..	1	4	2	1	1	1	9
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth ..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
Heart Congenital ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Strangulated Hernia ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	3	..	..	1	4	2	1	1	1	9

**Infant Mortality.**

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 9, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 34·8 per 1,000 births. Legitimate 31·0. Illegitimate 3·8. The rate for the whole of England and Wales in the year 1923 was 69.

**HOUSING.****General Housing Conditions of the District.**

At the end of 1923 there were 3,516 houses in the Borough of Yeovil, of which 2,683 approximately were occupied by the working classes.

Twenty-five houses have been erected during the year ; 20 were built under a Scheme of Housing on the Kingston 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 3,801 separate occupiers.

In order to meet this shortage, the Council is now carrying out a scheme for the erection of 108. It is estimated that the number of houses required during the next three years average from 250 to 300.

#### **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.

#### **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 unsanitary state, have been put in order.

### Housing Inspections.

During the year 136 houses have been inspected and defects therein recorded.

The inspections were carried out in Wellington Street (part of), Queen Street, Mary Street and Reckleford.

The inspections showed that about 50 per cent. of the houses had one defect or another. Two only were in such a state as to be unfit, and closing orders were made.

The whole of the houses have "through" ventilation, and the lighting is generally good. The houses are structurally fairly good and reasonably dry. Eighty-five per cent. have separate closet accommodation, the remaining 15 per cent. having closets in common—one closet to two houses.

The defects found were chiefly due to the internal condition of walls and ceilings, defective floors and roofs, etc.

The drainage and closet accommodation is almost entirely new and satisfactory.

On December 31st, only about 5 per cent. of the repairs called for had not been carried out.

### Appendices.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	..	...	..	...	25
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme				...	20

#### 1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	136
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	136

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	Nil
 2. <i>Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.</i>			
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	...	...	59
 3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>			
A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act., 1919.			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—			
(a) by owners...	...	...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	Nil
 B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—			
(a) by owners...	...	...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil

c.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the  
Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a<br>view to the making of Closing Orders  | 2   |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect<br>of which Closing Orders were made ...  | 2   |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect<br>of which Closing Orders were deter-<br>mined, the dwelling-houses having been<br>rendered fit ... .. | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect<br>of which Demolition Orders were made   | Nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished<br>in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...  | Nil |

CHAS. W. GEE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT  
OF THE  
*SANITARY INSPECTOR*  
FOR THE YEAR 1923.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour to present to you a brief report of the work carried on in connection with my Department during the past year.

NUISANCES.

Careful and systematic inspection has been made, all complaints investigated, and all nuisances dealt with as speedily as possible. The work necessary to abate the nuisances have been carried out in a satisfactory manner and under constant supervision, and I have found the owners of property involved reasonably prompt in carrying out the necessary work.

HOUSING INSPECTION.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing Regulations has been 136, full particulars of which will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

These have been regularly inspected. The defects found have been chiefly in regard to unsatisfactory closet accommodation, and the unwholesome state of walls, &c. The defects found have been remedied.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

Constant inspection has been made of these places throughout the year, and I have pleasure in reporting that they have been kept satisfactorily, and that the meat supply has been good.

## DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS AND COWSHEDS.

Very careful attention has been paid to the supervision of the milk supply, and I have to report that the whole of the places inspected and the utensils used have been kept in a cleanly condition.

### 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	..	591
No. of RE-INSPECTIONS in connection with the abatement of nuisances, &c.	.. .. .	841

### PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS—

Nuisances, and the abatement of Nuisances	.. .. .	591
Infectious Diseases	.. .. .	51
Slaughterhouses	.. .. .	123
Bakehouses	.. .. .	69
Workshops	.. .. .	135
Factories	.. .. .	46
Offensive Trades	.. .. .	49
Fish Shops	.. .. .	59
Butchers' Shops	.. .. .	129
Common Lodging Houses	.. .. .	40
Milkshops	.. .. .	81
Cowsheds	.. .. .	15
Miscellaneous	.. .. .	97
Housing Regulations	.. .. .	147
Sewers and Drains	.. .. .	79

## PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND—

Houses

Defective drains in connection with	..	..	..	25
Defective closet accomodation	..	..	..	29
Defective yard paving..	..	..	..	12
Defective guttering	..	..	..	19
Defective ventilation	..	..	..	29
Defective lighting	..	..	..	9
Defective floors	..	..	..	33
Defective windows and doors	..	..	..	31
Defective roofs	..	..	..	46
Defective staircases	..	..	..	5
Dampness	..	..	..	17
Unwholesome state of walls and ceilings	..	..	..	55
Overcrowding	..	..	..	16
Keeping fowls so as to be a nuisance	..	..	..	7
Dirty houses	..	..	..	5
Rubbish lying about	..	..	..	5
Absence of sinks under taps	..	..	..	3
Absence of storage for food	..	..	..	10
Absence of manure pit to stable	..	..	..	—

## RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS—

97 notices have been served in respect of 179 houses and premises.

## HOUSES AND PREMISES—

Disinfected	..	..	..	..	67
Cleansed	..	..	..	..	5
Repaired, limewashed, etc.	..	..	..	..	55
Yards repaired	..	..	..	..	7
Yards re-paved	..	..	..	..	5
Amended lighting to rooms	..	..	..	..	9
Amended ventilation to rooms	..	..	..	..	27
Repairs to windows	..	..	..	..	31
Damp houses amended	..	..	..	..	13
Amended for storage of food	..	..	..	..	10

## HOUSE DRAINAGE—

New system of drainage provided to existing houses	..	..	..	..	10
Intercepting chambers fixed	..	..	..	..	15
Ventilating shafts fixed	..	..	..	..	9
Defective traps condemned and removed	..	..	..	..	57

New stoneware gullies fixed	..	..	..	55
New sink troughs fixed	..	..	..	3
Drainage systems repaired	..	..	..	15

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

W.C.'s repaired, lighted and ventilated	..	..	..	15
Closets supplied with flushing cisterns	..	..	..	19
Closets supplied with pedestal pans and seats	..	..	..	18
New W.C.'s built complete	..	..	..	5

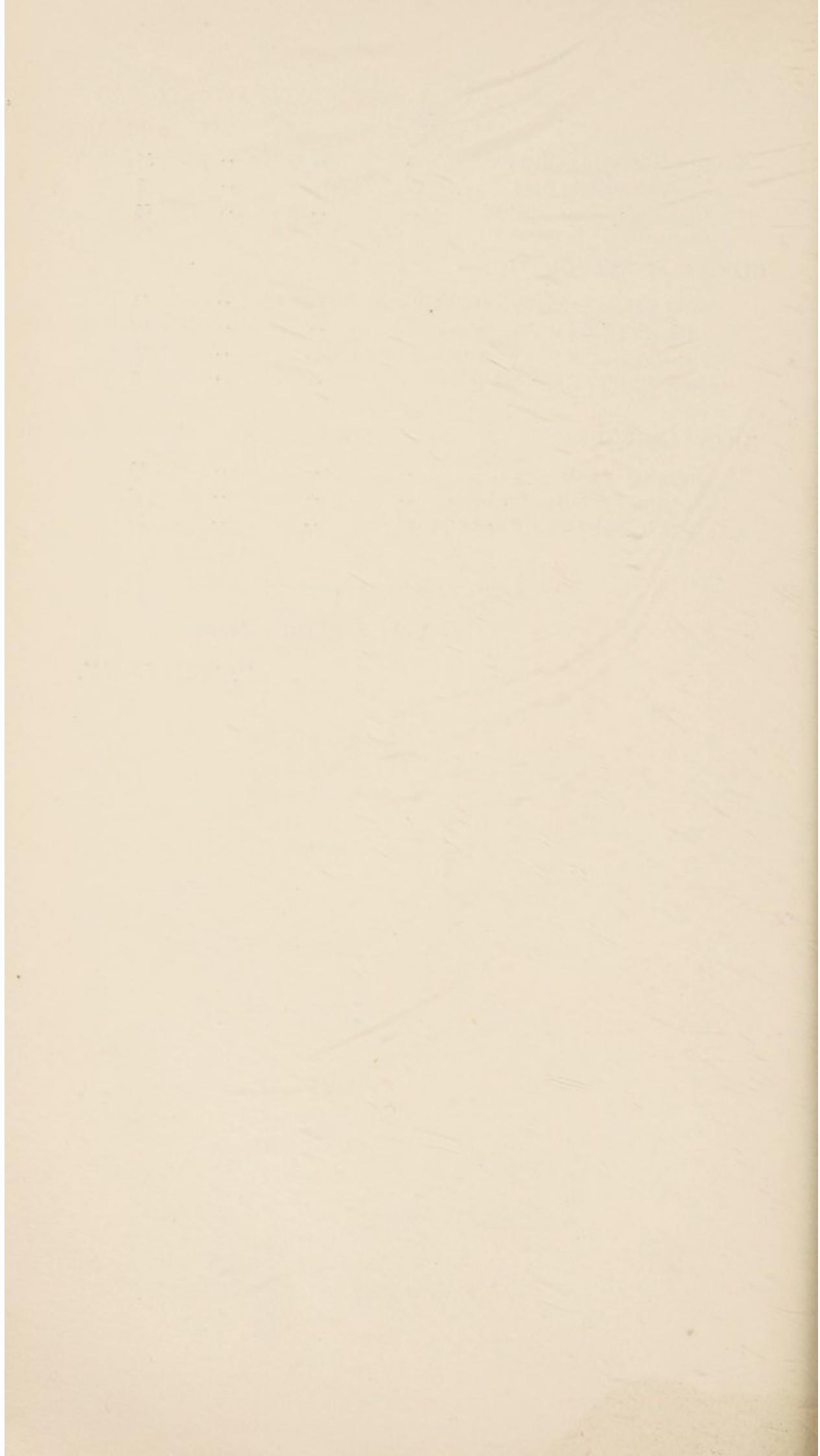
## MISCELLANEOUS—

Removal of filth	..	..	..	10
Insanitary keeping of animals	..	..	..	7
Choked drains cleared and repaired	..	..	..	37

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WHALLEY.



SCHOOL .  
HYGIENE.

# BOROUGH OF YEOVIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

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

The school attendance suffered towards the end of the year on account of an epidemic of Measles. Central School was closed for four weeks and Huish Infants for four weeks.

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.

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 1923.

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INTRODUCTION.

At the beginning of 1923 there were in the borough under the control of the Education Committee 6 schools with 9 departments.

There was accommodation for 2386 children, 2021 being on the roll, with an average attendance of 1860.

At the end of the year the number on the roll was 1963 and the average attendance 1660.

The number of children under five years of age attending school at the end of the year was 5.

HYGIENIC CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

Reference to this subject was made in the report of the School Medical Officer for the year 1919 and no material alteration has taken place.

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 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 Officers' 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 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 Subject 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 1923:—

A.	To Schools and Departments.			
1.	By Medical Officer :			
a.	For systematic inspections	...	...	36
b.	For special inspections and re-inspections	...		50
c.	For enquiries as to infectious diseases, sanitary conditions, etc.	...	...	57
2.	By School Nurse :			
a.	For systematic inspections	...	...	36
b.	For special inspections and re-inspections	...		85
B.	To the Children's Homes	...	...	936

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, for the third time at 12 years of age, and again on leaving School.

## 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 give the necessary assistance of undressing and dressing the girls and infants.

## PRESENCE OF PARENTS AT ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Parents or guardians were present at 374 or 47.9 % 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 was an improvement upon the previous year in the condition of boots and clothes of the children attending school. 52 cases of poor clothing, 45 cases of defective boots and 2 of very bad boots were found during the year.

## CLEANLINESS OF THE HEAD.

Of the 414 boys inspected none had nits or vermin in their hair.

Of the 366 girls, 19 or 5·1 % had nits and none had vermin.

The following are the results of the systematic surprise examinations during the year 1923 :—

	Number Examined	With Nits. No.	Per Cent.	With Vermin. No.	Per cent.
INFANTS : Boys ...	948	37	3·9	5	·5
Girls ...	916	155	16·9	15	1·6
SENIORS : Boys ...	433	16	3·6	—	—
Girls ...	1455	311	21·3	12	·8
All Boys ...	1381	53	3·8	5	·3
All Girls ...	2371	466	19·6	27	1·1
All Children...	3752	519	13·8	32	·8

## CLEANLINESS OF THE BODY.

Twelve children were found badly marked by flea bites.

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 1923.

## SCHOOL BATHS.

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

## NUTRITION.

Of the 780 children examined, 98·1 per cent. were returned as of normal nutrition, 1·9 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 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. 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 are on the decrease. Of the 780 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 26 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 1 case was operated on under this scheme. 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 3 children were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 from other forms of tuberculosis. Children suspected of phthisis are asked to visit the Clinic for further examination. Those cases which require treatment and supervision are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer for the county. There are at present 37 children in the Borough notified as suffering from tuberculosis (two below school age)—16 pulmonary and 21 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 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.

### CLASSIFICATION OF CASES ATTENDED AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC DURING 1923.

	Treatment carried over from previous year.	New cases.	Treatment completed	Treatment not completed at the end of the year.	Total attend- ances.
Eye Defects .. ..	2	68	67	3	265
Ear Defects .. ..	8	119	117	10	1888
Ringworm .. ..	—	17	15	2	174
Scabies .. ..	—	4	4	—	9
Impetigo .. ..	—	19	19	—	142
Verminous .. ..	—	43	41	2	93
Referred to Dentist ..	—	62	—	—	70
Tuberculosis—Referred to Dispensary ..	—	5	—	—	5
Other Skin Diseases ..	—	46	46	—	111
Minor Ailments .. ..	5	1095	1095	5	4351
Total .. ..	15	1478	1404	22	7108

### DISEASES AND DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Diseases of the eye, ear and skin are treated, defects of eyesight 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.

Seven half-days per month for extractions and fillings.

One half-day per month for inspection.

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 875 notices to attend for treatment were issued to 725 children and 273 attended. The number of visits made to the Clinic by these children was 350. 490 extractions, 425 temporary and 65 of permanent teeth, and 177 fillings were made.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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 was given in the Public Health Report for 1920.

## OTHER INSPECTIONS.

SWIMMING.—447 children desirous of receiving instruction in swimming were examined by the School Medical Officer. Fifty-four children were found to be unfit.

## CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The teachers without exception afford all help in their power and many of them are enthusiastic in their 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.

## EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

Bye-laws for regulating the employment of children of school age are in 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 was formed 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 occupation for the ex-scholars which are most fitted for their mental and physical capabilities.

The following table gives the statistical and other details of scholars for whom employment was found during 1923 :—

		Boys.			GIRLS.
Aircraft Engineering	...	10	Box Making	...	4
Baking	... ..	7	Clerical Work	... ..	10
Box Making	... ..	1	Core Making	... ..	11
Boot Making	... ..	3	Domestic Service	... ..	40
Bricklayer	... ..	1	Dressmaking	... ..	4
Butchering	... ..	2	Glove Making	... ..	27
Cabinet Making	... ..	1	Packers ..	... ..	6
Carpentering	... ..	3	Shop Assistants	... ..	19
Clerical Work	... ..	8	Tailoress	... ..	1
Core Making	... ..	18	Waitress	... ..	1
Engineering	... ..	36			
Errand Boys	... ..	30			
Farming	... ..	1			
Flax Workers	... ..	1			
Gardening	... ..	1			
Gloving	... ..	12			
Milk Boys	... ..	3			
Moulding	... ..	4			
Motor Mechanics	... ..	4			
Newspaper Boys	... ..	9			
Organ Works Apprentice		1			
Painters	... ..	4			
Porter "Light"	... ..	31			
Printers...	... ..	6			
Shop Assistants	... ..	14			
Telegraph Messenger Boy		1			
Various ..	... ..	5			
		217			123
	Total ...		Total ...		



TABLE II.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER.

Defect or Disease.  (1)	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.		
	No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.		
	(2) Requiring treatment.	(3) Requiring to be kept under observation but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.	(4) Requiring treatment.	(5) Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.	
Malnutrition .....	—	15	—	—	
Uncleanliness .....	1	28	43	—	
(See Table iv, Group v).					
Skin	Ringworm :				
	Scalp .....	1	—	7	
	Body .....	—	—	10	
	Scabies .....	—	—	4	
	Impetigo .....	1	1	8	
Other Diseases (non-Tuberculous)	5	1	32	—	
Eye	Blepharitis .....	2	—	14	
	Conjunctivitis .....	1	—	15	
	Keratitis .....	—	—	—	
	Corneal Opacities .....	—	—	—	
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint).	33	19	20	4
	Squint .....	4	—	—	—
Other Conditions .....	—	—	42	—	
Ear	Defective Hearing .....	3	1	—	
	Otitis Media .....	—	—	—	
	Other Ear Diseases .....	11	1	130	—

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nose and Throat.	Enlarged Tonsils only .....	26	19	10	—
	Adenoids only .....	1	2	—	—
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids .....	2	—	—	—
	Other Conditions .....	—	—	60	33
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous) .....	—	3	8	5	—
Defective Speech .....	—	1	—	—	—
Teeth—Dental Diseases .....	23	32	62	—	—
(see Table IV, Group IV.)					
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :				
	Organic .....	2	—	—	1
	Functional .....	1	1	3	2
Lungs	Anaemia .....	—	1	2	—
	Bronchitis .....	2	4	5	—
	Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases .....	1	2	40	13
Tuberculosis.	Pulmonary :				
	Definite .....	2	—	1	—
	Suspected .....	—	2	5	—
	Non-pulmonary :				
	Glands .....	5	—	1	—
	Spine .....	—	—	—	—
	Hip .....	1	—	—	—
	Other Bones and Joints .....	—	—	—	—
Nervous System.	Skin .....	1	—	—	—
	Other Forms .....	—	1	—	—
	Epilepsy .....	1	—	—	1
Deformities	Chorea .....	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions .....	—	—	—	—
	Rickets .....	—	1	—	—
Other Defects and Diseases	Spinal Curvature .....	—	—	—	—
	Other Forms .....	1	4	—	—
		12	8	349	153

B. NUMBER OF *individual children* FOUND AT *Routine* MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES).

Group	Number of Children		Percentage of Children found to require treatment.
	Inspected	Found to require treatment	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
CODE GROUPS :			
Entrants .....	200	27	13.5
Intermediates .....	224	47	20.9
Leavers .....	234	38	16.2
Total (code groups)	658	112	17.0
Other routine inspections .....	122	5	4.0

TABLE III.—RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially blind)	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally Blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind .....	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools .....	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institu- tion.	—	—	—
(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind.	—	—	—	
	Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools.	—	—	—	
	At other Institutions.	1	—	1	
	At no School or Institution.	—	—	—	
Deaf (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf)	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf. ....	—	1	1
		Attending Public Ele- mentary Schools.	—	—	—
		At other Institutions.	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution.	—	—	—
(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the par- tially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf. ....	—	—	—	
	Attending Public Ele- mentary Schools.	—	—	—	
	At other Institutions	—	—	—	
	At no School or Institu- tion.	—	—	—	
Mentally Defective	Feeble-minded (cases not noti- fiable to the Local Control Authority.)	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children .....	1	1	2
		Attending Public Ele- mentary Schools .....	2	1	3
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institu- tion. ....	—	—	—

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Mentally Defective. — <i>contd.</i>	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year.	Feeble-minded .....	—	1	1
		Imbeciles .....	1	—	1
		Idiots .....	—	—	—
Epileptics	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics.	1	—	1
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools.	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools. ....	—	—	—
	At no School or Institution.	—	1	1	
	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools. ....	1	3	4
At no School or Institution.	1	—	1		
Physically Defective	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board.	—	—	—
		At other Institutions.	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution. ....	7	2	9
	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board. ....	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools. ....	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools.	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools.	3	6	9
		At other Institutions.	—	—	—
	At no School or Institution.	—	—	—	
	Delicate Children ( <i>e.g.</i> , pre- or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anaemia, etc.)	At Certified Residential Open Air Schools.	—	—	—
At Certified Day Open Air Schools.		—	—	—	
At Public Elementary Schools.		19	7	26	
At other Institutions.		—	—	—	
At no School or Institution.	1	5	6		

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Physically Defective ( <i>contd.</i> )	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board.	2	—	2
		At Public Elementary Schools.	5	3	8
		At other Institutions.	1	—	1
		At no School or Institution.	—	—	—
	Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculosis disease), <i>e.g.</i> , children suffering from paralysis, &c., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools.	7	7	14
		At other Institutions.	1	—	1
		At no School or Institution.	1	—	1

TABLE IV.—RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER.

Treatment Table.

Group 1.—*Minor Ailments* (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group v).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>Skin—</i>			
Ringworm-Scalp .....	7	—	7
Ringworm-Body .....	9	—	9
Scabies .....	4	—	4
Impetigo .....	19	—	19
Other skin Disease .....	21	—	21
<i>Minor Eye Defects</i> .....	31	—	31
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group 11).			
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i> .....	127	—	127
<i>Miscellaneous</i> .....			
(e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.).	1049	150	1199
Total .....	1267	150	1417

TABLE IV. (Contd.)

Group II.—*Defective Vision and Squint* (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

Defect or Disease.	Number of defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the Report).	36	6	—	42
Other Defects or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I).	—	—	—	—
Total .....	36	6	—	42

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ..... 29 .....

(b) Otherwise ..... 4 .....

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ..... 5 .....

(b) Otherwise ..... 26 .....

*Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.*

Number of Defects.

Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Total.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	10	11	9	20

TABLE IV. (*Contd.*)  
Group IV.—*Dental Defects.*

(1) Number of Children who were :

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :

Aged :

Routine Age Groups	{	5 ... 50	} Total ... .. 652
		6 ... 74	
		7 ... 64	
		8 ... 83	
		9 ... 102	
		10 ... 62	
		11 ... 94	
		12 ... 58	
		13 ... 49	
		14 ... 16	
Specials	... ..	...	185
		Grand Total	837
(b) Found to require treatment	... ..	...	722
(c) Actually treated	... ..	...	328
(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination	... ..	...	53
(2) Half-days devoted to	{	Inspection ... 5	} Total ... 41
		Treatment ... 36	
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment	... ..	...	350
(4) Fillings	{	Permanent teeth ... 177	} Total ... 177
		Temporary teeth ... —	
(5) Extractions	{	Permanent teeth ... 65	} Total ... 490
		Temporary teeth .. 425	
(6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions	... ..	...	0
(7) Other operations	{	Permanent teeth ...	} Total ... 0
		Temporary teeth ...	

Group V.—*Uncleanliness and verminous conditions.*

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	... ..	...	5
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	... ..	...	3752
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	... ..	...	242
(iv) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	... ..	...	11
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :			
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	.. ..	...	0
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws	... ..	...	0



# CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Bakehouses ... ..	12
Bacteriological Work ... ..	24
Closet Accommodation ... ..	8
Drainage and Sewage .. ...	8
Dental Inspections .. ...	46
Employment of Children ... ..	47
Food ... ..	11-13
Factory and Workshop .. ...	14
Hospitals .. ...	6
Housing ... ..	27
Infectious Diseases ... ..	16
Local and Adoptive Acts ... ..	24
Maternity and Child Welfare ... ..	21
Meteorology ... ..	5
Medical Inspection, Schools ... ..	40
Occupations ... ..	6
Population ... ..	6
Poor Law Relief ... ..	6
Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-Laws, etc.	9
Rateable Value ... ..	7
Rivers and Streams ... ..	7
Scavenging ... ..	9
School Hygiene ... ..	10
Slaughter Houses ... ..	12
Statistics ... ..	24
School Clinic ... ..	44
Sanitary Inspector's Report ... ..	32
Tuberculosis ... ..	19
Tables—Education ... ..	49
Venereal Diseases ... ..	20
Water Supply ... ..	7



