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BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1946.



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FOR THE YEAR

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BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

Mayor :

COUNCILLOR B. DENING.

Deputy Mayor :

COUNCILLOR W. S. VOSPER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman W. J. C. PITTARD (Chairman)

Councillor B. DENING (Vice-Chairman)

THE MAYOR.

Councillor J. W. HOLMES

Councillor W. J. ENGLISH

Councillor A. R. LAMB

Councillor D. SEATON

Councillor H. A. CHAPMAN.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Dr. MYLES MITCHELL (Chairman)

Councillor H. D. BROOKS (Vice-Chairman)

THE MAYOR.

Councillor J. R. PITHER

Councillor A. L. EWENS

Councillor F. SHORNEY

Councillor W. J. ENGLISH

Mrs. BELL

Mrs. WALTERS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Acting Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

P. POWER FOX, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

MARY E. HAGUE, M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Resigned 31-11-46

Assistant School Medical Officer :

G. H. TAYLOR, M.B. Ch. B., D.P.H.

ERNST STEINER, M.D. (Vienna) Resigned 1-12-46

Dental Surgeon R. L. ROYAL, L.D.S., R.D.S., (Eng.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector C. G. H. RICE, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.,
S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Food.,
A. Inst. S.P.

Sanitary Inspector G. E. ROADHOUSE,
Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I.
Meat and other Foods, A.R.S.I.

Health Visitors E. SMITH
E. HOOPER
M. BULLOCK

Midwives D. HOLDEN
W. HANCOCK
D. SHARPE
E. PRITCHARD

Clerk to M.O.H. DELSIE E. CANE

*To the Chairman and Members
of the
Public Health Committee.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1946.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There has been an increase in the number of births as compared with 1945, the figures being 431 and 426 respectively. This increase is reflected in the birth rates, the birth rate for 1946 being 19.5 as compared with 19.4 for the year 1945. A satisfactory feature to be noted is the fall in the illegitimate Birth Rate from 10.09 per 1,000 live births for 1945 to 5.3 for the year 1946. The Infantile Mortality Rate also shows a considerable reduction, the rates for the years 1946 and 1945 being 27.84 and 53.9 respectively ; the rate for England and Wales was 46 (1945). The Crude Death Rate is lower for 1946, the figures for 1946 and 1945 being 10.19 and 11.05.

HOUSING.

As the Council are aware the shortage of housing still remains a serious problem. Due to the lack of an adequate number of houses and the difficulty of obtaining materials for repairs, the present standard of fitness of houses is below the desirable level. To ensure that essential repairs and maintenance is carried out involves a considerable amount of supervision by the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The attendance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic shows no marked difference as compared with 1945. Taking into consideration the present trend it is reasonable to assume that the attendance figures will increase, in which case the present accommodation will be inadequate. Due to the small size of the rooms it is difficult to conduct the various clinics efficiently and certain desirable improvements have had to be postponed pending alterations of the Clinic premises.

MATERNITY HOME.

The total number of admissions to the Maternity Home was 212. This figure does not include all those who applied, a certain number having to be refused admission due to lack of accommodation. So far as is possible, admission to the Maternity Home is governed so as to ensure that the maximum percentage of

patients are admitted who require admission either due to medical or unsuitable home conditions. The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia was 6, all of whom were transferred to the Yeovil and District Hospital. The accommodation in general is not satisfactory and proposals have been put forward to improve the standard. The only satisfactory solution will be the provision of a new Maternity Home.

HOME HELPS.

It is recognised that in the absence of medical indications and of unsatisfactory home conditions, it is preferable for a woman to be confined at home rather than in a Maternity Home or hospital. Amongst reasons for this is the psychological one that many women derive a feeling of confidence from trusted persons and familiar surroundings. Unfortunately, due to lack of domestic help many women are forced to have their confinements away from otherwise suitable home surroundings, and thus further increase the strain on an already inadequate number of institutional maternity beds. Repeated efforts have been made by this Department to establish a Home Help service in order to provide the necessary domestic help but with little success. It is a matter of extreme regret that a service which can only be supplied by the lay members should fail because there are not sufficient public minded people to undertake such work.

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Reference is made in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report to the above. With regard to Refuse Disposal the method of choice is by burning. The Destructor in use, however, was not built to cope with the present-day population so that all refuse which cannot be burnt must be "tipped." The layout of the present tipping area does not lend itself to "controlled tipping" which is the only other method of disposing of refuse for this Borough other than burning in a Destructor. With regard to the Sewage Works, the design is obsolete and the Works were not designed to deal with the present-day population. Overloading of the works automatically entails an unsatisfactory effluent. The Health and Sanitary Committee have given serious consideration to the above and a scheme for a new Sewage Works is in hand.

I desire to thank the Committees associated with the work of the Health Department for their help and support throughout the year, and to record my appreciation of the work of the staff.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY.

Area	...	...	2,256 Acres
Rainfall	...	...	39.58 inches
*Rainy Days	...	...	177
Population	...	...	22,070

Live Births.		Males.	Females.	Total
Legitimate	...	209	199	408
Illegitimate	...	15	8	23
				<hr/> 431

Stillbirths ... 5

Birthrate per 1,000 population ... 19.5

Illegitimate births ... 5.3 of live births

Deaths	Males.	Females.	Total.
	101	124	225

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population 10.19

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 27.84

Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 .3

Number of Women dying in, or in
consequence of childbirth. ... Nil

* A Rainy Day is defined as one during on which 0.1" of rain or more falls during the 24 hours commencing 09.00 hrs. G.M.T.

VITAL STATISTICS.

1940	1941	THE BIRTH RATE.			1945	1946
		1942	1943	1944		
14.3	15.8	18.1	19.7	21.7	19.4	19.5

The following tables show the causes of death and the sex distribution.

The primary cause of death was heart disease (62) with Cancer second (35).

There were 105 deaths occurred in persons over 70 years of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					1946	
					MALES	FEMALES
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebral Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	6	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer	...	...	...	...	22	13
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Intercranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	6	20
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	23	39
Other Diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	4	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	6	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	8
Other respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	...
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	3
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	2	5
Congenital causes	...	...	...	...	3	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	...
Road traffic	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other violence	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	11	18
TOTAL DEATHS					101	124

Death of Infants under 1 year.

Total	...	12
Legitimate		9
Illegitimate		3

INFANT MORTALITY.

Causes of Death.

Prematurity	7
Congenital	1
Intracranial Injury	2
Marasmus	1
Diarrhoea	1
	12

Age of Death.

Under 24 hours.	Under 1 Week.	1 Month or under.	Under 1 Year.
6	2	2	2

Causes of Death under 24 hours *were* :

Prematurity	4
Congenital causes	1
Intracranial Injury	1

Causes of Death under 1 week.

Prematurity	1
Intracranial Injury	1

Causes of Death 1 month or under.

Prematurity	2
-------------	---

Causes of Death over 1 month and under 1 year.

Diarrhoea	1
Marasmus	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table sets out the details of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, and the number of cases admitted to **South Petherton Isolation Hospital**.

DISEASE.			Cases Notified	Cases admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital
Malaria	...	...	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	2
Diphtheria	...	...	5	5
Measles	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	13	—
Erysipelas	...	...	4	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	35	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	11	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	2	—
Anthrax	...	...	1	1
Para Typhoid	...	...	1	—

Admitted to Yeovil & District Hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia

6

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year five patients were admitted to the South Somerset Joint Isolation Hospital, South Petherton, as cases of Diphtheria, 3 children and 2 adults. The three children only had been immunised, eight years previously, and one was a clinical case of diphtheria, the remaining two being carriers. There were no deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.

		Pulmonery.		Non-Pulmonery
Notifications	...	30	...	8
Deaths	...	6	...	—
Death rate of respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population is .3				

SCABIES.

During the year 116 cases in 45 families were known to have occurred. This number is considerably less than for several years previously. The majority of these cases were treated at the Public Health Clinic.

When a child is discovered to have Scabies or if a doctor sends a patient to the Clinic for the treatment of Scabies, a letter is sent to the head of the family (under the Scabies Order, 1939), informing him or her that all members of the Household, including lodgers, must present themselves for examination. Generally, all contacts are seen before treatment of the original case is begun.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of foster-children on the register was 3 and the number of registered foster-mothers 3.

Visits are paid regularly by the Health Visitors to see that the children are well cared for.

Visits were made to the schools in the town where children under 9 years of age are boarded.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The number of beds in the Maternity Home continues to be inadequate for the population. The home is booked months ahead and a similar condition prevails in all the other maternity homes in the county. I should like to thank the County Medical Department for finding beds for our patients whenever it has been possible to do so.

The provision of new houses would solve some of the difficulty as more mothers would be able to have their confinements at home. The lack of home helps however, is still as great as ever.

MATERNITY HOME.

Number of cases admitted during the year	...	212
" " " discharged during the year	...	210
" " " in Maternity Home 31-12-46	...	11
" " " booked, 31-12-46	...	210

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This was well attended during the year. There was again an increase in the number of women attending Anti-Natal and Post Natal Clinics, and more of them have taken advantage of the scheme whereby they can obtain dental treatment and dentures at reduced cost.

Ante-Natal.

Total number of Expectant Mothers attending for 1st time	186
" " " Ante-Natal attendances	312

Post-Natal Clinic.

Total number of Mothers attending Post-Natal 1st time	12
" " " attendances made	36

Infant Welfare.

Total number of Children attending	813
" " " " who attended first time	396
" " " attendances made	4700

Home Visits by Health Visitors.

Infants.

Primary visits	323
Subsequent visits	1314
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	2638

P. POWER FOX,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR & SEWAGE & DESTRUCTOR WORKS MANAGER

for the Year 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health and Sanitary Committee.

Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report for the year 1946, and take pleasure in recording my appreciation of the assistance given during the year by Mr. G. E. Roadhouse, the Additional Sanitary Inspector.

During September, a Student Sanitary Inspector was appointed to assist with the increased work of the Department.

NUISANCES.

All complaints received during the year were given careful attention and every effort made to abate any nuisances found. At times there was considerable delay in getting the work of repairs done because of the various restrictions imposed on building materials, etc.

HOUSING.

OVERCROWDING.

As reported last year, the position has not improved to any marked degree. During the period between September and November, 150 prefabricated houses erected on the Larkhill Estate were occupied by families with one, two or more children. About 75% of these families were cases of overcrowding. Of the 1,650 odd applicants at present for Council houses, approximately 25% are also cases of overcrowding.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The present standard is still far below the desirable level. A certain amount of repair work was carried out, being mainly of an urgent character. The continued absence of such amenities as separate sanitary accommodation and water supply to individual houses is also a matter of concern, but with the difficulty of obtaining sufficient materials for this purpose it is difficult to see any improvement on a large scale in this direction for some time to come.

MEAT INSPECTION.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Ministry of Food Slaughter Houses in Yeovil still continue to function, alternative premises for the same purpose which have been acquired by the Ministry are nearing completion. As always, a careful inspection of all home-killed and other meat was carried out during the year, and considering all things, the premises have been kept going in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The total number of animals slaughtered as compared with the previous year show an increase.

Comparative figures of killings for the years 1945 and 1946 are shown below :

Year	Bullocks	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
1945	2761	8167	604	2373	13,905
1946	2461	9729	395	2144	14,729

The following is a brief statement of carcase meat condemned during the year.

	Total Number Condemned	Number affected with		Percentage num- ber of carcasses condemned.
		Gen : T.B. & T.B. with emaciation	Other Diseases	
Bullocks ...	64	54	10	2.60 (1.09 were casualty carcasses)
Sheep ...	44	—	44	.45
Pigs ..	19	17	2	4.81
Calves ...	5	—	5	.23

DISEASED, UNSOUND AND INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED.

Beef.	11 tons	7 cwts. 1 qr. 12 lbs.	} T.B., Bruising, Abscesses, Pneumonia, etc.
Mutton.		12 cwts. — qr. 10 lbs.	
Pork.		9 cwts. 3 qrs. 22 lbs.	
Veal.		1 cwt. — qr. 23 lbs.	

12 tons 10 cwts. 2 qrs. 11 lbs.

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

Fish Cakes	5½ dozen
Chocolate Pudding Mixture	189 packets
Jam	10 1 lb. jars
Ham	11½ lbs.
Bacon	2 lbs.
Macaroni Cheese	2 tins
Biscuits	7 lbs.
Prunes	6 cwts. 26 lbs.
Black Pudding	7 lbs.
Self-raising Flour	15 lbs

FISH CONDEMNED.

Turbot	16 lbs.
Skate	32½ stone
Dover Soles	3 stone
Kippers	5 stone
Smoked Cod	2½ stone
Hake	5 stone
Herring Melts	2 stone
Lobsters	32 lbs.
Crabs	16 lbs.
Smoked fish	13 stone 4 lbs.
Bloaters	53 stone
Herrings	42 stone

Total : 162 stone 12 lbs.

CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED.

Milk—evaporated	249 tins
Meat—various	228 „
Fish—various	596 „
Fruit and Vegetables	366 „

Total 1439 tins

SALVAGE RETURNS.

The amounts of salvage materials collected and sold during the year 1946 are shown below together with the corresponding amounts for 1945.

Materials	1945		1946	
	Weight	Value	Weight	Value
	Tons	£	Tons	£
Paper	136 $\frac{1}{4}$	871 $\frac{3}{4}$	144 $\frac{5}{8}$	877
Ferrous Metals	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{5}{8}$	37 $\frac{3}{4}$
Non-ferrous Metals	$\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rags	1	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	22
Bones	8	40 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	28 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kitchen Waste	532 $\frac{1}{4}$	1224	433	1269 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bottles. Dozens	936	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1911	103 $\frac{3}{8}$
Miscellaneous Sales	$\frac{5}{8}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Totals	680 $\frac{3}{4}$	2172 $\frac{7}{8}$	612 $\frac{3}{4}$	2339 $\frac{1}{8}$

Note—The disparity in values and quantities of certain salvage materials collected and sold during the years under review is due to variation in the marketing values.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following disinfections were carried out in connection with the above.

Scarlet Fever	4
Diphtheria	12
Tuberculosis	60
Vermin	41
Scabies (Baths)	30
Cancer	5
Steam Disinfections	30
Library Books	25
Miscellaneous	15

VERMIN INFESTATIONS.

The following infestations were dealt with during the year Insecticides containing D.D.T. are used in the majority of cases.

Private Houses.	Council Houses.
Bugs 16	8

**RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919
AND INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.**

The following is a statement of the visits, etc., made in connection with above.

Total No. of visits	Premises found clear of rodents	Premises Bated	Premises Gassed
247	56	107	1

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The following are particulars from the Register.

Cow Keepers	13
Producer Retailers	9
Distributors only	13

GRADED MILK PRODUCERS IN THE DISTRICT.

Tuberculin Tested	2
Accredited	4
Pasteurised	2
Pasteurised Retailer	1

SAMPLES TAKEN.

During the year the following samples were submitted for bacteriological examination with the results as shown.

MILK.

	Accredited.	Pasteurised.	Tuberculin Tested.
No. Taken ...	8	12	12
No. Passed ..	7	11	12
No. Failed ...	1	1	

WATER.

Source	No. Taken.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
(a) Domestic Supplies.			
1. Main supply.	2	2	
2. Other Sources e.g. Private wells, etc.	28	17	11
(b) Private Factory Supply. (Dairy premises)	9	6	3

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The Number of inspections made, together with the results, are given in the following tables :

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS.

House Inspections	120
Housing, re-inspections	22
Nuisances	56

Nuisances, re-inspections	135
Visits re Housing defects	84
Complaints	196
Drainage	84
Visits to Slaughter Houses	988
Visits to Butchers Shops	57
Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds	46
Inspection of Bakehouses	53
Complaints re Rats and Mice	31
Visits re Infectious Disease	46
Smoke Nuisances	9
Smoke Observations	26
Food Inspections (other than meat)	88
Interviewing Owners and Agents	92
Visits re Ice-cream premises	26
Miscellaneous Visits	271

RESULTS OF VISITS

HOUSING.

Amended Ventilation to rooms	11
Dampness remedied	24
Floor repairs	17
Roofs repaired	22
New Staircases fixed	2
Yards paved	2
New floors	9
Walls repaired	26
Windows provided	16
Ceiling repaired	33

HOUSE DRAINAGE AND SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

New Drainage to existing premises	18
Interceptors fixed	12
Inspection Chambers built	13
Gullies provided	29
Vent Shafts fixed	8
Alterations and repairs to existing drainage	31
New W.C.'s fixed	11
Flushing apparatus provided	5
Defective traps removed	4
Drains tested	28
Choked drains cleared	14

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Visits to Factories	24
The following improvements have been carried out at premises under the above Act.	
Additional Sanitary Accommodation provided	3

Improvements to existing Sanitary	
Accommodation	1
Wash-hand Basins provided	4

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.

SEWAGE WORKS

During the past few years the Sewage Disposal Works have only been kept going with extreme difficulty, the main reason being, of course, the greatly increased flow of sewage to be dealt with at a Works which were primarily constructed in 1903 when the population was in the region of 11,700. The only large-scale modifications and alterations which have been carried out were done in 1911 when the population had risen to 13,760. At the present time the population figure is approximately 22,070. In order to improve the position and keep the Works going, two of the twelve high level contact beds which have become useless, as such were, in January 1945, emptied and so altered as to function as secondary sedimentation tanks. In October 1946, alterations were made to the 2 existing storm water tanks. These were modified so as to be used as primary sedimentation tanks, making a total of 5 instead of 3 as previously. When success attended the alterations to the first two high level contact beds, another pair were similarly converted in November 1946. Meanwhile other changes are contemplated at the Works in order to further improve the position and keep the Works going until such time as the long overdue scheme for the new Sewage Works, already approved in principle by the Council and intended to serve for a population of 32,000, can be put down.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Refuse Destructor was first constructed with 2 cells in 1911 for a population of approximately 13,760. In 1930, when the population had risen to 19,000, 1 additional cell was added. Certain other minor improvements have also been carried out from time to time. Because of its long service and the increase in the population figures today as compared with 1911, it is necessary during many months of the year to tip more than half the refuse as a means of disposal. The time has come when serious consideration should be given to the reconstruction of the Plant in order to meet present day requirements and to deal with the whole of the refuse in a hygienic manner.

In conclusion, may I express my appreciation of the co-operation and support of all members of the staff who have helped to carry out the work of this Department successfully during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. H. RICE.



