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BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

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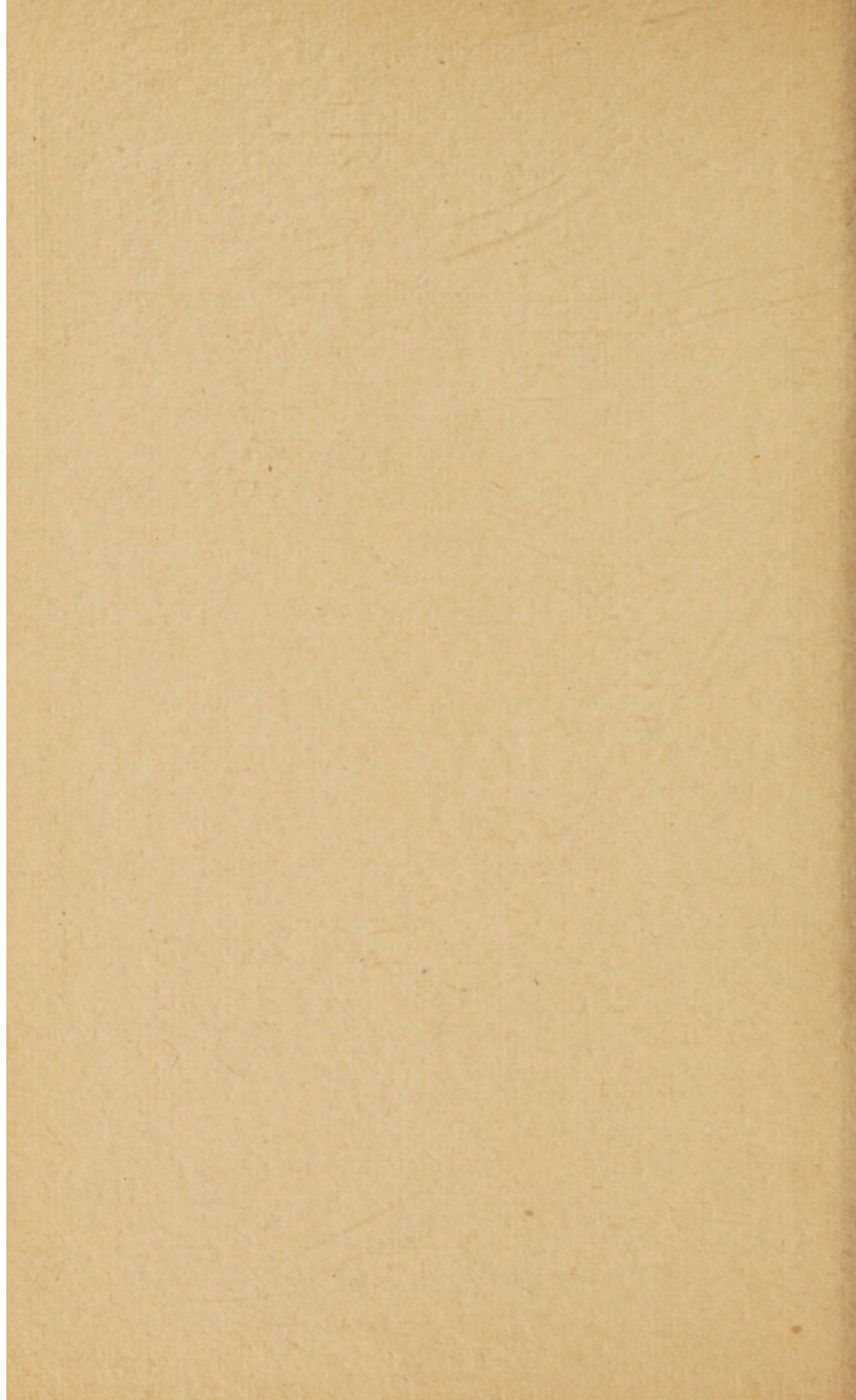
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1947.



BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1947.

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

Mayor :

ALDERMAN B. DENING

Deputy Mayor :

COUNCILLOR W. S. VOSPER.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman W. J. C. PITTARD (Chairman)

Alderman B. DENING (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor J. W. HOLMES

Councillor W. J. ENGLISH

Councillor A. R. LAMB

Councillor S. J. RICKETTS

Councillor L. KIBBY

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Dr. MYLES MITCHELL (Chairman)

Councillor ENGLISH (Vice-Chairman)

THE MAYOR.

Councillor J. R. PITHER

Councillor A. L. EWENS

Councillor F. SHORNEY

Councillor W. J. ENGLISH

Mrs. BELL

Mrs. WALTERS

Councillor T. MEREDITH.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

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

Assistant School Medical Officer :

G. H. TAYLOR, M.B. Ch. B., D.P.H., Resigned 31-10-47.

Dental Surgeon	...	...	...	...	QUENTIN DAVIES, L.D.S., R.C.S. (ENGLAND)
Chief Sanitary Inspector	..	..	..	..	C. G. H. RICE, M.S.A.I., 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, resigned 13-12-47. M. BULLOCK
Midwives	..	..	..	..	D. HOLDEN W. HANCOCK D. SHARPE E. PRITCHARD
Clerk to M.O.H.	..	..	..	..	DELSIE E. CANE

TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
of the
YEOVIL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS

The population shows a net increase of 350, the Registrar General's figure being 22,420. This increase is partly accounted by the increase in births, the total number of births being 457 (431 in 1946). The birth rate was 20·38, that for 1946 being 19·5. The illegitimate birth rate shows a decline in the rate and in the actual number of illegitimate births.

The Crude Death Rate and the Infantile Mortality Rate both show an increase as compared with the previous year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

During the year it was thought desirable to inaugurate an Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic at the Borough Maternity Hospital and the attendances to date have justified this decision. The Clinic initially was held once every three weeks, but in view of the attendances was increased to every Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 p.m. The Clinic is intended mainly for those mothers who have booked at the Maternity Home, but who had not engaged a private doctor.

The number of mothers examined was 40, the number of examinations being 140.

The Ante-Natal Clinic at the Public Health Centre recorded increased attendances, the total number of women attending being 176, the number of examinations carried out being 621.

The combined number of mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinics for the first time was 216, as compared with 186 for 1946; the total number of attendances made being 761 as compared with 312 for 1946.

POST-NATAL EXAMINATIONS

The number of mothers attending for post-natal examination was 36 as compared with 12 in 1946. These figures, whilst showing an increase, are not satisfactory as all women should be examined following confinement. It is hoped that as the public becomes more educated as to the necessity for this examination the figures will be increased.

MATERNITY HOME

The number of admissions to the Maternity Home was 218, and shows an increase on the previous year. As stated in my report for the year 1946, the accommodation is not satisfactory, in particular the arrangements for the sleeping accommodation for the babies being definitely unsatisfactory. Plans to overcome the major defects were submitted to the Ministry of Health and were approved with certain modifications. The effect of the modification was to provide better accommodation, but the alterations could not be carried out until the building was vacated and alternative Maternity Home accommodation was provided.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia was 7, 4 of whom were transferred to the Yeovil and District Hospital.

CHILD WELFARE

In general the number of attendances made during the year was satisfactory. The total number of attendances showed a decrease as compared with 1946, but this decrease is probably due to the inclement weather experienced in the early part of the year. The number of medical examinations of children under 5 years was 514 as compared with 309 in 1946.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

By arrangement with the Central Office of Information, three film shows were given in Yeovil. The films dealt mainly with the prevention of disease and the maintenance of good health with particular regard to infants and young children. The audience for whom such films were made and to whom they would be of most value is the parents of young children, particularly the mothers. Due to the absence of a suitable room at the Health Clinic, the films were shown in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings. Though the room was very suitable as regards size, etc., of necessity the films had to be shown in the evening, and as a result, the parents for whom the shows were intended and who would derive most benefit, were not able to attend owing to domestic duties. It is disappointing to record that the showings of the films was a failure, as in the main, the audience that did attend, was already "health conscious" and I do not think it advisable to repeat the venture until the Health Centre can provide suitable accommodation so that parents who are attending the clinics during the daytime can also combine with their visit an attendance at a health film.

ACCOMMODATION

As reported in 1946, the size and lay-out of the Clinic accommodation is not satisfactory and is a serious handicap to the full development of these services. Tentative plans for providing extra accommodation at the Centre were prepared and discussed with the County Council, but owing to administrative complications, the plans have not been proceeded with. It is emphasised that these improvements, when effected, would only be palliative measures and not a cure—the only satisfactory solution is the provision of new clinic accommodation, adequate in size and lay-out, not only for the present population, but for that of the future. Fortunately, a suitable site has been obtained in the rear of the present premises.

SURVEY OF WORK

Owing to the National Health Bill coming into force on 5th July, 1948, the present report is the last covering a full working year of Maternity and Child Welfare work. A survey of the work carried out under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee has been included in the Annual Report. It will be seen that the scope and popularity of the service has grown considerably and that in handing over the service, the Yeovil Borough Council is not passing a “weakling of a baby”—but a “strong and growing infant.”

HOME HELPS

The necessity for Home Helps is as great as ever, but the shortage is still acute. Though it has not been found possible to organise a definite scheme, a certain number of Home Helps have been provided in necessitous cases by the authority paying either a friend, neighbour or near relative, who is willing to act as a Home Help for a particular case. This method of providing a Home Help has certain satisfactory features as the Home Help is known to the patient, but is difficult to administer except on a local basis.

HOUSING

During the year construction on 69 houses was commenced, of which 59 were completed. The number of houses available for the community is totally inadequate for the needs. The number of applications for Council Houses is approximately 600 from families with children and 600 approximately from married couples without children. With regard to this latter group, their chance of obtaining a house is relatively low. It is recognised that families with children urgently require adequate housing accommodation, but there is the possibility, in fact probability, that a considerable number of the latter group are postponing having children due to the lack of suitable housing. A vicious circle is thus initiated.

It is recognised that the older a woman is when she bears children, the greater the risk is in childbirth and the higher the infantile mortality rate. Healthy parents and children are the greatest assets of a country's wealth and until sufficient houses are built there is the danger that these assets may be wasted.

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

As stated in my previous annual report, the present Sewage Works are obsolete in design and inadequate in capacity. The Health and Sanitary Committee are aware of the defects of the present system and the consulting engineers have been informed of the necessity and urgency for a new sewage works. The problem of dealing with the special trade effluents peculiar to Yeovil are a complicating factor, but a considerable amount of technical work has been carried out to solve those problems, and the data forwarded to the consulting engineers.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the help and support given me in the carrying out of my official duties by the Committee associated with the work of the Health Department, and also to express my appreciation of the work carried out by the members of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

Area	..	..	..	2,256 Acres
Rainfall	..	..	..	29.54 inches
Rainy Days	..	..	..	147
Population	..	..	..	22,420

Live Births—	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	235	203	438
Illegitimate	10	9	19
			<hr/> 457 <hr/>
Stillbirths	..	..	10
Birthrate per 1,000 population	..	..	20.38
Illegitimate births	..	..	4.16% of live births
Deaths	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	140	131	271
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	12.08
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	37.19
Phthisis Death Rate, per 1,000	..	..	0.31
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	..	..	Nil

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

VITAL STATISTICS

THE BIRTH RATE

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
15.8	18.1	19.7	21.7	19.4	19.5	20.3

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

The primary cause of death was heart disease (79) with cancer second (41).

There were 138 deaths occurred in persons over 70 years of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1947	
	Males	Females
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilis	—	—
Influenza	—	1
Measles	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—
Cancer	23	18
Diabetes	—	1
Intercranial vascular lesions	13	20
Heart Disease	37	42
Other Diseases of circulatory system	13	8
Bronchitis	8	1
Pneumonia	5	5
Other respiratory Diseases	1	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	2
Diarrhoea	2	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other digestive diseases	2	2
Nephritis	2	3
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—
Premature Births	6	2
Congenital causes	3	2
Suicide	3	1
Road Traffic	1	—
Other violence	7	2
All other causes	9	18
TOTAL DEATHS	140	131

Death of Infants under 1 year.

Total	17
Legitimate	17
Illegitimate	—

INFANT MORTALITY

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Prematurity	10
Congenital	2
Intracranial Injury	1
Atelectasis	1
Gastro Enteritis	2
Other diseases of the Circulatory system	1
	<hr/>
	17

AGE OF DEATH.

<i>Under 24 hours.</i>	<i>Under 1 week.</i>	<i>1 Month or under.</i>	<i>Under 1 Year.</i>
8	2	6	1

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER 24 HOURS WERE :

Prematurity	5
Congenital causes	1
Intracranial Injury	1
Atelectasis	1

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER 1 WEEK :

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

CAUSES OF DEATH 1 MONTH OR UNDER :

Gastro Enteritis	1
Prematurity	3
Congenital	1
Other Circulatory diseases of the system ..	1

CAUSES OF DEATH OVER 1 MONTH AND UNDER 1 YEAR :

Gastro Enteritis	1
------------------------	---

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

DISEASE	<i>Cases Notified</i>
Malaria	—
Scarlet Fever	7
Diphtheria	1
Measles	415
Pneumonia	16
Erysipelas	2
Whooping Cough	33
Puerperal Pyrexia	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3
Anthrax	1
Para Typhoid	—

The number of Yeovil Borough cases admitted to the South Petherton Isolation Hospital was as follows :

DISEASE.	Cases admitted
Puerperal Pyrexia	6
Otorrhoea	1
Observation—Anterior Poliomyelitis	1
Whooping Cough	1
Diphtheria (not confirmed)	2
Scarlet Fever	5
Meningitis	3
Observation	3
Impetigo—Education Department	6
Impetigo	1
Sunburn	1
Croup	1
Anthrax	1
Erysipelas	3
Phlebitis	1
Vincent's Angina	2
Tonsillitis	6
Premature Baby	1
Healthy Babies with Mothers	6
Healthy Mothers with Babies	4
Ophthalmia	4
Pneumonia	7
Measles	3
Scabies	1

ADMITTED TO YEOVIL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL :

Puerperal Pyrexia 4

DIPHTHERIA

During the year no confirmed case of Diphtheria occurred in the Borough. It is interesting to compare this with the number of cases which occurred in 1937, when 12 cases were notified. This fall in the incidence of the disease is largely due to artificial immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 322 children under the age of 5 were immunised and a further 80 children over the age of 5 were either immunised or received a "boosting dose."

TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>
Notification	36 ..	8
Deaths	7 ..	—

Death rate of respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population is .31

SCABIES

During the year 22 cases in 15 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 2 and the number of registered foster-mothers 2.

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	218
" " " discharged during the year.. ..	216
" " " in Maternity Home 31-12-47	10
" " " booked, 31-12-47	100

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

This was well attended during the year. There was again an increase in the number of women attending Ante-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	216
" " " Ante-Natal attendances	761

† This figure includes 40 Expectant Mothers seen at the Ante-Natal Clinic held at the Borough Maternity Home, the number of attendances made being 140.

POST-NATAL CLINIC :

Total number of Mothers attending Post-Natal 1st time	36
" " " attendances made	41

DENTAL TREATMENT :

Number of Ante-Natal cases	..	..	..	69
„ „ Post-Natal case	..	..	..	22
„ „ Children under 5 years	..	..	..	23

INFANT WELFARE :

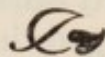
Total number of Children attending	..	..	956
„ „ „ „ who attended first time	..	..	478
„ „ „ attendances made	..	..	5956

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS :

Infants :

Primary visits	..	..	..	388
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	1762
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	..	..	..	2803

P. POWER FOX,
Medical Officer of Health.



SURVEY OF THE WORK UNDERMENTIONED CARRIED OUT UNDER MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The attached statistical survey of the work carried out under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee shows how the scope and popularity of the service has grown during the past 20 years, and indicates how the interest of the public in the preventive side of medicine has gradually increased.

Figures doubly underlined are worthy of special study.

SURVEY.

(**Estimated Annual Figures for 1948 based on actual figures for five months).

	** 1948	Jan.- May 1948	1947	1946	1937	1927
Number of Women ante-natally examined at Clinic	*190	79	176	186	42	52
Number of Women ante-natally examined at Maternity Home	*230	97	40	—	—	—
Combined Total	*420	176	216	186	42	52
Number of ante-natal examinations performed at Clinic	446	186	621	312	42	58
Number of ante-natal exams. performed at Maternity Home	548	227	140	—	—	—
Combined Total	994	413	761	312	42	58
Number of ante-natal patients examined and treated by Dentist at Clinic	178	74	66	?	—	—
Number of Post-natal patients examined and treated by Dentist at Clinic	58	24	16	?	—	—
Number of patients for whom dentures were authorised under scheme	14	6	10	?	—	—
Number of patients examined post-natally	34	14	36	12	14	6
Number of post-natal examinations carried out	34	14	41	36	14	6
Number of Children 0-5 years who attended Clinic	398	166	699	813	397	232
Number of attendances made	4788	1995	4453	4700	4075	753
Number of children examined by Doctor	830	346	514	309	67	37
Number of Children 0-5 years immunised against Diptheria	467	194	322	300	—	—
Number of Children treated at Ultra-Violet Light Clinic	7	§3	—	—	—	—
Number of attendances made	53	§22	—	—	—	—
Number of Children treated by Dentist at Clinic	103	43	20	?	—	—

SURVEY—Continued.

	** 1948	Jan.- May 1948	1947	1946	1937	1927
Number of Children under 5 years treated for Tonsils and Adenoids under authority's scheme	7	3	‡2	—	—	—
Number of Confinements at Maternity Home	228	95	218	210	175	69
Number of Confinements attended by Domiciliary Midwives	158	66	242	212	?	?
Sale of Foods at Clinic	£931 4s.	£388	£998 2s.11d.	?	?	?

* Includes a number of patients who were first seen in 1947.

¶ Relative low figure possibly due to very cold winter in early 1947.

‡ Scheme inaugurated in 1947.

§ Scheme inaugurated in 1948.

In addition to the work shown on the survey, other activities have been carried out which are worthy of inclusion and without which the survey would be incomplete.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

Children seen at the Clinic who require medical treatment, other than advice, are normally referred by letter or telephone to their family doctor. Occasionally, hospital treatment other than that which can be provided by the Yeovil Hospital is required and, following consultation with the family doctor, arrangements are made for the child to be examined or treated at a Bristol hospital. Eight such cases were referred in 1947 and 3 cases to date in 1948.

For cases where public conveyances were not suitable, car transport was arranged.

OBSTETRIC SURGEON

For difficult cases of confinement, or where difficulty is anticipated in the confinement, the authority has authorised the services of a consultant obstetrician. In 1947, 5 cases were referred to a consultant obstetrician, and 2 cases to date in 1948. The authority makes itself financially responsible for the payment of such fees.

ANTE-NATAL EXAMINATIONS

Routine ante-natal examinations include a general medical examination, repeated blood pressure and urine examinations and inspection of teeth by the Dentist.

When considered necessary patients are referred for X-Ray examination to the Yeovil Hospital (the authority accepting financial responsibility). Blood examinations have been carried out when thought desirable, but arrangements are now in hand for the *routine* blood examination of all expectant mothers so as to determine the degree of anaemia, if any, Rh factor, etc.

HOME HELPS

The necessity for Home Helps is still as great as ever, and despite constant efforts by the Department, the problem has not yet been solved. It was possible on only two occasions in 1947 to provide Home Helps under the authority's scheme, though the Department was able to help private individuals to make arrangements on four other occasions. In 1948, Home Helps have been provided on three occasions by the authority.

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

During the year 1946, 4,275 home visits were made by the Health Visitors and 5,562 visits in 1947.

The main purpose of these visits is to help and advise the individual mother in the home, particularly in regard to ailing children, and is a valuable method of educating a mother in the correct way of bringing up the family.

In concluding the survey it may be stated that it shows a healthy condition. Credit for this satisfactory state of affairs must be apportioned out to the public, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Department. As Head of the Department concerned, may I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the uniform help and consideration afforded to me at all times by the Committee, to general practitioners in the area and to the Public Health Department, Somerset County Council for their co-operation and last, but not least, to the members of my Department without whose efforts the work shown in the survey could never have been completed.

Finally, it may be stated that the report shows the Authority is already carrying out, and in some cases has anticipated, the provisions for Ante-Natal and Child Welfare as set out in the National Health Bill, 1946.

P. P. FOX,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SEWERAGE AND
DESTRUCTOR WORKS MANAGER

for the Year 1947.

Gentlemen,

I present my Report for the year 1947, and have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the assistance given during the year by Mr. G. E. Roadhouse, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and the other members of the staff of the Department in dealing with the work, growing as it does year by year, without the additional help which is becoming increasingly needed.

NUISANCES

All complaints received during the year were given careful attention as indicated by the number of inspections made in connection therewith. Delays still occur in getting essential repairs carried out because of the various restrictions imposed and lack of material and fittings, but despite this a fair amount of licence work which was essential has been completed within a reasonable time.

HOUSING

OVERCROWDING

As reported last year, the position has not improved to any marked degree. Many houses continue to be occupied by more than one family with consequent overcrowding.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

The general standard of fitness is still far below the desired level. A commencement was made during the year to obtain separate sanitary accommodation and water supply to such houses as were without these amenities, but the results are discouraging because of the restrictions imposed on fittings and insufficient supplies of same. It is not inappropriate, when considering the position, to note that only about 33% of all dwellings in England and Wales are considered as providing accommodation up to modern standards. The time would seem opportune, therefore, for the introduction of standards of fitness for all houses which are let at a rental.

MEAT INSPECTION

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The Ministry of Food now occupy other premises in the town which have been reconstructed for the above purpose. Whilst not ideally situated the present slaughtering accommodation is very much improved especially with regard to the increased space available.

Comparative figures of killings for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 are shown below :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1945	2761	8167	604	2373	13905
1946	2461	9729	395	2144	14729
1947	1942	6024	217	2363	10550

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

	<i>Total Number Condem'd</i>	<i>Number affected with</i>		<i>Percentage No. of car- cases con'md</i>
		<i>Gen. T.B. and T.B. with emaciation</i>	<i>Other Diseases</i>	
Bullocks	42	28	14	‡2.16
Sheep	34	—	34	.56
Pigs	2	—	2	.98
Calves	4	Con. T.B. 1	3	.16

‡ 1.49 were casualty carcasses.

MEAT CONDEMNED, DISEASED, UNSOUND & INJURED

Beef	8 tons 19 cwts. 0 qrs. 12 lbs.	} T.B., Bruising, Abscesses, Pneumonia, etc.
Mutton	12 cwts. 1 qr. 19 lbs.	
Pork	3 cwts. 0 qrs. 9 lbs.	
Veal	1 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lbs.	

Total 9 tons 15 cwts. 3 qrs. 22lbs.

Offal (appx) 5½ tons

All animals.

FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Crumpets	39½ doz.	} Diseased, damaged, or unsound
Golden Syrup	..	..	..	1 tin
Shredded Wheat	..	..	..	5 pkts.
Jam	..	..	..	57 tins
Bacon	..	..	..	43¼ lbs.
Prunes	..	..	..	75 lbs.
Walnuts	..	..	..	1 jar
Butter Beans	..	..	..	96½ lbs.
Sausage Meat	..	..	..	12 lbs.
Chicken	..	..	..	94 lbs.
Chocolate Marzipan	..	..	..	4 lbs.
Pudding Powder	..	..	..	29 doz.
Orange Juice	..	..	..	4 tins
Sugar	..	..	..	22 lbs.
Oatmeal	..	..	..	2 lbs.
Corned Mutton	..	..	..	73 lbs.

FISH CONDEMNED

Kippers	24 stones	} Unsound
Prawns	..	..	..	11 lbs.
Mackerel	..	..	..	15 stones
Smoked Cod	..	..	..	9 stones
Total	48 stones 11 lbs.	

CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED

Milk-evaporated	551 tins	} Damaged or unsound
Meat-various	..	..	..	248 tins
Fish-various	..	..	..	392 tins
Fruit and Vegetables	..	..	..	527 tins
Total	1718 tins	

SALVAGE RETURNS

The amounts of salvage materials collected and sold during the year 1947 are shown below together with the corresponding amounts for 1945 and 1946.

<i>Materials</i>	1945		1946		1947	
	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Value</i>
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>£</i>
Paper	136 $\frac{1}{4}$	871 $\frac{3}{4}$	144 $\frac{5}{8}$	877	150	1068 $\frac{1}{8}$
Ferrous Metals	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{5}{8}$	37 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Non-ferrous „	$\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	2
Rags	1	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	22	$\frac{3}{4}$	16 $\frac{1}{8}$
Bones	8	40 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	28 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{7}{8}$
Kitchen Waste	532 $\frac{1}{4}$	1224	433	1269 $\frac{1}{2}$	451 $\frac{1}{2}$	1354 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bottles (doz.)	936	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1911	103 $\frac{3}{8}$	1931 $\frac{1}{4}$	135 $\frac{1}{4}$
Miscell. Sales ..	$\frac{5}{8}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	5
Totals ..	680 $\frac{3}{4}$	2172 $\frac{7}{8}$	612 $\frac{3}{4}$	2339 $\frac{1}{8}$	616 $\frac{1}{2}$	2625 $\frac{3}{8}$

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.

During the year 1947, Paper and Kitchen Waste show a slight increase. Rags and Bones continue to diminish. In considering the salvage saving efforts of the town it is as well to bear in mind that a considerable amount of materials, particularly paper, pass through the hands of private firms for which no returns are available.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

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

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	4
Diphtheria	..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	71
Vermin	..	..	..	12
Scabies (Baths)	..	..	..	6
Anthrax	..	..	..	1
Cancer ..	..	..	..	6
Ringworm	..	..	..	1
Steam Disinfection	..	..	..	12
Library Books	..	..	..	56
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	5

VERMIN INFESTATIONS

The following infestations were dealt with during the year.
D.D.T. insecticides were used in all cases.

	<i>Private Houses.</i>	<i>Council Houses.</i>
Bugs	3	3
Fleas	6	—

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

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

VISITS			PREMISES		
<i>By Rodent Operator</i>	<i>Public Health Department Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Found Clean</i>	<i>Baited</i>	<i>Gassed</i>
879	33	912	803	73	3

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

The following are particulars from the Register.

Cow Keepers	..	..	12
Producer Retailers	..	..	9
Distributors only	..	..	10

GRADED MILK PRODUCERS IN THE DISTRICT

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	3
Accredited	..	..	3
Pasteurised	..	..	2
Pasteurised Retailer	..	..	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year the following samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological and other examinations.

MILK

Samples taken in the Borough by Somerset County Council.

	<i>Accredited</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Reconstituted School Milk</i>
No. taken	—	72	13	8
No. Passed	—	66	12	7
No. Failed	—	6	1*	1

* Failed to pass a methylene blue test.

Samples taken by Public Health Department.

No. Taken		7		
No. Passed		7		

EMPTY CLEANSED MILK BOTTLES

	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Passed</i>	<i>No. Failed</i>
Taken within Borough by S.C.C.	38	23	15
Taken by Public Health Department	6	3	3

CHURN RINSINGS

	<i>No. Taken.</i>	<i>No. Passed.</i>	<i>No. Failed.</i>
Taken within Borough by S.C.C.	8	7	1

WATER

<i>Source.</i>	<i>No. Taken.</i>	<i>Satis- factory.</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory.</i>
(a) Domestic Supplies	13	9	4*
Other Sources, (e.g. Private Wells, etc.).	5	—	5
(b) Private Factory Supply (Dairy Premises)	14	12	2
(c) Swimming Baths Samples	10	10	—

* Includes samples taken from new main.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The number of inspections made, together with the results are given in the following Table :—

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS

House Inspections	135
Housing re-inspections	102
Nuisances	114
Nuisances, re-inspections	123
Visits re Housing defects	88
Complaints	123
Drainage	72
Visits to Slaughter Houses	875
Visits to Butchers Shops	46
Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	36
Inspection of Bakehouses	45
Complaints re Rats and Mice	38
Visits re Infectious Disease	7
Smoke Nuisances	7
Smoke Observations	18
Food Inspections (other than meat)	83
Interviewing Owners' and Agents	92
Visits re Ice-cream premises	42
Miscellaneous visits	187

WORK CARRIED OUT HOUSING

Amended Ventilation to rooms	7
Dampness remedied	14
Floors repaired	9
Roofs repaired	17
Yards paved	1
New floors	6
Walls repaired	17
Windows provided	2
Ceilings repaired	14
Chimneys repaired	8
Water supplies provided	4

HOUSE DRAINAGE AND SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

New Drainage to existing premises	9
Interceptors fixed	7
Inspection chambers built	7
Gullies provided	18
Vent shafts fixed	4

House Drainage and Sanitary Accommodation—Continued.

Alterations and repairs to existing drainage	11
New W.C's fixed	9
Flushing apparatus provided	8
Defective traps removed	8
Drains tested	27
Choked drains cleared	24

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT

Visits to Factories	14
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The following improvements have been carried out at premises under the Factory and Workshop Act :

INSPECTIONS UNDER SECTION 34 FACTORY ACT

Re Means of escape in case of fire	30
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SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS

SEWAGE WORKS

During the year a considerable amount of technical data was collected and forwarded to Messrs. J. D. & D. M. Watson, the consulting engineers, in connection with the scheme for the proposed new works. The problem of dealing with hair coming into the works from the leather dressing factories has called for special attention, especially in connection with the details for the new scheme.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Destructor has continued to function for another 12 months, again with the disposal of approximately half the town refuse at the Tip. The plant, as stated last year, is worn out and has been kept repaired in order to keep it going, but is becoming increasingly costly in so doing.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. H. RICE.



