

**[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, Yeovil U.D.C. / Borough.**

**Contributors**

Yeovil (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1958

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jg7wcwtq>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

*Library*

**Borough of Yeovil**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31st DECEMBER, 1958**





BOROUGH OF YEOVIL

--- ooOoo ---

Mayor:

COUNCILLOR WILLIAM JOHN ENGLISH

Deputy Mayor:

COUNCILLOR DOROTHY VIOLET VINCENT.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR S. PINDER - (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR J. KELLY - (Vice-Chairman).

The Mayor

Alderman H. Seymour.

Councillor Mrs. Brown. Councillor R.T. Hawkins.

Councillor Mrs.D.V.Vincent.

--- ooOoo ---

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

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

Assistant County Medical Officer:

M. I. ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon ... .. QUENTIN DAVIES L.D.S., R.C.S.  
(England).

Senior Public Health

Inspector ... .. C.G.H.RICE, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I.,  
S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat & Food.

Public Health Inspectors ... G.E. ROADHOUSE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.San.I.,  
Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I.  
Meat and Other Foods.

F.W. Welsby, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Cert R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I.  
Meat and Other Foods.

Student Public Health

Inspector ... .. A.A.D. Charles.

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library



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

---ooOoo---

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births. The total number of live births was 326, which shows a fall of 57 as compared with the previous year (383). The live birth rate was 13.6 as compared with England and Wales 16.4.

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year was 9, the Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 27.6, as compared with 13.05 for the previous year and 22.5 for England and Wales.

The Standardised Death Rate was 11.2 as compared with 11.8 for the previous year, the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7. Of the total number of deaths, viz., 303, 225 occurred in people who were aged 70 years and over.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of infectious diseases notified was 445, an increase of 98 as compared with the previous year. The increase was in the main due to the increase in the number of cases of measles notified, 420 as compared with 236 for the previous year. There were no cases of anterior poliomyelitis notified.

Extensive inoculation of children against anterior poliomyelitis was commenced in April, 1958, and during the year, 3,560 children were inoculated. It would be premature however to draw the conclusion that the absence of cases of anterior poliomyelitis was due to the inoculations carried out, as this disease is notorious for its varying incidence.

Fluoridation.

A survey carried out in Somerset by the Chief Dental Officer has shown that only 12.3% of children aged five years have perfect teeth and that only 2.7% of children aged 12 years have perfect teeth, i.e., that 97.3% of children aged 12 years have some teeth that are decayed, missing or have been filled because of previous dental disease, and this figure of 97.3% has risen from that of 77.7% since 1948.

Prevention of dental disease and decay is, and has been, largely influenced by diet - immediately after the war, i.e., after a period when sweets and sugar had been severely restricted, a survey then showed that 21.8% of five year old children had 100% sound teeth and 12.3% of 12 year old children also had completely caries-free teeth. In 1958 these figures had altered, the five year old children had improved to 22.3%, but the 12 year old children had dropped to 2.7%. I think it is reasonable to draw the following inference; that mothers are beginning to recognize the danger of unrestricted and indiscriminate feeding of children with sweet confections and sweets, but that once the child has become aged five years then he



receives pocket money and is allowed to spend it on sweets, etc., which he can consume as and when he likes. The education of parents is beginning to take effect, but the education of the children has still a long way to go before any obvious effect on the dental health will be noted.

In previous Annual Reports I have stressed the value of fluoridation. Fluoridation consists of rectifying water which is naturally deficient of fluorine, by the addition of a fluoride salt, so that the water contains one part per million of fluorine. Unfortunately, the water supplies of Yeovil and the surrounding district contain less than 0.1 parts per million. It is difficult to comprehend why the appropriate Government Ministry, who are aware of the facts, and whose senior officials have advocated fluoridation, have not already authorized Local Authorities to arrange for fluoridation where necessary.

#### Care of the Aged

In previous Annual Reports I have advocated the appointment of a Consultant Geriatrician to the area. It would appear to be the policy of the Regional Hospital Board that as they are not at present able to provide all the hospital facilities required that therefore they are absolved from supplying the appropriate medical staff.

In the Yeovil area, i.e., the South Somerset Hospital Management Area, the population to be served is estimated at 103,000, and according to Circular H.M.(57)86, which deals with the care of the chronic sick, approximately 1.2 beds per 1,000 of population have been allocated in the National Health Service hospitals for the treatment of the chronic sick. On this basis, 105 beds should be adequate for the area's (including Yeovil Borough) needs; in fact there are 191 beds available and still the arranging of admissions of the chronic sick to hospitals remains a constant "headache" to all those who have anything to do with their admission.

To my mind the appointment of a Consultant Geriatrician, who would utilize the beds to their best advantage should be treated as a matter of urgent priority. The fact that there are not all the hospital facilities available should, if anything, accentuate the urgency of the appointment. That there would be a financial benefit I have no doubt, that there would be a greater humanitarian benefit to the chronic sick I am still more certain.

The present number of sessions authorized for the medical care of the patients is four sessions per week. Assuming only a 90% bed occupancy, and in general all the beds are occupied, this would mean that each patient can be visited by a doctor for five minutes once a week. I consider this medical cover totally inadequate for the rehabilitation of the chronic sick person.

#### Maternity Survey.

The upward trend of admissions of patients to maternity units has continued in 1956 the percentage was 69%, in 1957 the percentage was 75% and the figure for 1958 was 78.7%. The percentage of institutional confinements in England and Wales was 64.6% for the year 1957. The Cranbrooke Report advocated a national admission average of 70%. One effect of the high admission rate has been to cause overcrowding of beds and nursery accommodation in the Yeovil Maternity Home and overcrowding of the nursery accommodation at Balidon House. The attention of the Management Committee and of the Regional Hospital Board has been drawn to this unsatisfactory state of affairs. A more satisfactory feature of the survey was the figure of 99.5% of women who had had an Rh. investigation of their blood either during their last pregnancy or a previous pregnancy.





## YEOVIL BOROUGH

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1958

Area (in acres) .. .. .	2,256
Rateable Value (31st March, 1959) .. ..	£394,333
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31st March, 1959. .. ..	£1,570
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1959)	7,983
Population .. .. .	23,870

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 2,256 acres and is situated at the extreme South of the County of Somerset, on the borders of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural area.

The town is located on the Upper and Middle Liassic Formation. The sub-soil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

The greatest elevations within the Borough are: on the North - Mudford Road, 372 feet; on the West - Bunford Lane, 233 feet, and on the South - West Coker Road, 309 feet. The lowest point is on the East, beyond the Sewage Works, 96.7 feet.

### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is derived from the various sources, the majority being situated in Dorset. The sources of supply are as follows:- Spring Pond (two springs), Evershot Tunnel, upper and lower Haydon Wood, Stockwood and the Cattistock source, which consists of four boreholes. In addition, water is obtained from a borehole at Preston Plucknett, and as a temporary measure additional water is obtained from a borehole at Bunford Hollow. All the water is chlorinated and frequent bacteriological analyses show the water to be satisfactory in quality. Unfortunately, the quantity available does not meet the present demand, which is approximately 1,400,000 gallons per day. An arrangement has now been agreed to with the Yeovil Rural District Council to obtain an additional supply from the Sutton Bingham Reservoir, which should ensure adequate supplies for the foreseeable future.

### METEOROLOGY

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

### RAINFALL

Summerleaze Park School. Total Rainfall - 30.25 inches.

### POPULATION

The population for 1958 is 23,870.

### OCCUPATION

The main industry of Yeovil is in the manufacture of leather gloves, and includes 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 the persons of both sexes.

In addition to the gloving industry there is a thriving aircraft industry and other light engineering industries, employing nearly 3,000 persons. There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved food and dairy products.

The number of factories powered is 152, and the number of factories non-powered is 45.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services in the Borough are administered by the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are

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

The Yeovil Hospital consists of 88 beds, of which six are private, the number of in-patients treated was 2,377 and the number of new out-patients 5,210. The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 18,686. In considering these figures, it must be borne in mind that the area which the hospital now serves has considerably increased. Despite the valuable services which the hospitals carry out, it cannot be stated that the present hospital buildings and equipment are adequate for the present and potential requirements of the Borough and surrounding district. The matter is under review by the responsible authorities.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

### TUBERCULOSIS

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

### CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (97 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institute built in 1837, and the layout etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further, there is a constant shortage of nursing staff, but despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the hospital.

### LABORATORY SERVICE

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



## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

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

## HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager, Mr. A. H. M. Herington, for the resume showing the number of council houses erected by the Corporation.

Houses completed in the years to 31st December:-

1946	..	..	..	..	150 Prefabs.
1947	..	..	..	..	61 houses
1948	..	..	..	..	19 houses
1949	..	..	..	..	95 houses
1950	..	..	..	..	80 houses
1951	..	..	..	..	132 houses and flats
1952	..	..	..	..	120 houses and flats
1953	..	..	..	..	138 houses and flats
1954	..	..	..	..	178 houses, flats and bungalows
1955	..	..	..	..	102 houses and flats
1956	..	..	..	..	112 houses and flats
1957	..	..	..	..	56 houses and flats
1958	..	..	..	..	Nil.

---

1,243

---

Houses etc., erected pre-war	..	..	..	..	1,596
" " sold pre-war	..	..	..	..	182
Houses owned at 31.12.58.	..	..	..	..	1,414
Houses etc., erected post-war	..	..	..	..	1,243
" " sold post-war	..	..	..	..	69

Houses etc., erected by the Local Authority and still owned by them = 2,652

The number of applicants on the waiting list as at the 31st December, 1958, was 954 as compared with 847 in December, 1957.



## VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

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

Live Births .. .. .	326
Live Birth rate .. .. .	13.6
Stillbirths .. .. .	7
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	21.2
Total Births .. .. .	333
Infant Deaths .. .. .	9
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .	27.6
" " " " 1,000 legitimate births .. .. .	29.4
" " " " 1,000 illegitimate births .. .. .	Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 related live births .. .. .	24.5
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births .. .. .	21.4
Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths + deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births ..	48.4
Percentage of illegitimate live births .. .. .	3.06
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion) .. .. .	1
Maternal Mortality rate (including abortion) per 1,000 total births .. .. .	3.06

### DEATHS

			1958	1957
	Male	Female	Total	Total
Total Deaths .. .. .	163	140	303	312
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	12.6	12.9
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	11.2	11.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			51	59
Deaths from Heart Diseases (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	112	103
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	2	-

### BIRTHS

The total number of births was 326, 160 male and 166 female. Of these, 10 were illegitimate, 6 male and 4 female. The table shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

#### BIRTH RATES

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
15.8	14.6	15.3	15.08	14.9	13.5	15.0	14.2	15.9	13.6

# DEATHS

There was a decrease in the total number of deaths, 303 in 1958 as compared with 312 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 11.2 as compared with 11.8 for the previous year: the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.2

The following table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 163 deaths, 150 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 95 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 140 deaths, 130 were 65 years and over and 96 were 75 years and over.

					1958		
Ages at Death in years					Males	Females	Total
Under 1	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
1	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
5	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
15	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
25	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
45	..	..	..	..	7	5	12
65	..	..	..	..	34	21	55
Total under 70	..	..	..	..	47	31	78
70	..	..	..	..	21	13	34
75	..	..	..	..	24	24	48
80	..	..	..	..	35	29	64
85	..	..	..	..	21	22	43
90	..	..	..	..	9	13	22
95	..	..	..	..	6	8	14
Over 100	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total over 70	..	..	..	..	116	109	225
Totals	..	..	..	..	163	140	303

The following table shows the causes of death during 1958.

Causes of Death					Males	Females
Tuberculosis respiratory	..	..	..	..	2	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	-	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	..	..	..	..	5	7
" " lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	4	1
" " breast	..	..	..	..	-	4
" " uterus	..	..	..	..	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	18	9
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	18	26
Coronary disease angina	..	..	..	..	29	13
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	-	6
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	33	31
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	8	10
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3	3
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	10	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	..	..	..	..	-	1
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	13	13
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	2	1
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	8	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	3	-
Totals	..	..	..	..	163	140



### DEATH RATE

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
10.08	10.59	14.23	10.57	10.85	9.57	11.34	12.02	11.8	11.2

### CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) was 51. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
50	38	46	48	51	41	49	40	59	51

### CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

Year	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Yeovil Borough	2.1	1.58	2.06	2.02	2.14	1.7	2.04	1.6	2.04	2.1
County of Somerset	1.9	1.89	2.00	1.98	1.84	2.06	2.045	1.89	2.054	2.018
England & Wales	1.8	1.94	1.96	1.99	1.99	2.035	2.056	2.1	2.1	2.12

### INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 9 as compared with 5 for the year 1957. The rate per thousand of live births was 27.6 as compared with England and Wales - 16.4.

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

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Number of Deaths	14	7	9	11	8	7	5	8	5	9
Rate per 1,000 live births in Yeovil	37.4	20	25	30	22.5	21.7	13.8	23.3	13.05	27.6
Rate per 1,000 live births in England & Wales	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.5	25.5	24.9	23.8	16.1	16.4

### CAUSES OF DEATH

Congenital Defect	..	3
Pneumonia	..	3
Prematurity	..	2
Meningitis	...	1
		<hr/> 9 <hr/>



## AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1 month or under	Under 1 year
2	7	9	9

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one maternal death during the year.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

Disease	Cases notified	
	1958	1957
Poliomyelitis	-	5
Scarlet Fever	-	2
Measles	420	236
Pneumonia	7	17
Erysipelas	2	5
Whooping Cough	7	71
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	9
Dysentery	1	2
Paratyphoid	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	-
Typhoid	1	-
Total	445	347

## DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNIZATION

### Diphtheria

The number of children under the age of 12 months immunized against Diphtheria during the year 1958 was 262, the total number immunized under the age of five years was 384 and the total number under the age of 14 years was 431. So far as possible all children should be immunized against Diphtheria before their first birthday, but the minimum percentage to aim at is 75%. The proportion of children immunized during the year 1958 under the age of 12 months as compared with the number of children born in 1957, was 68.4%. This figure compares favourably with 56.7% for the year 1957. In addition, 197 children received "reinforcement" doses.

### Whooping Cough

The number of children who completed a primary course of whooping cough vaccine was 366, of whom 262 were under the age of 12 months. In the majority of cases the whooping cough vaccine is given combined with the diphtheria inoculations. During the year no deaths from whooping cough were reported, and only 7 cases of whooping cough were notified. I think it reasonable to assume that the number of cases of whooping cough were more than the 7 notified, but that due to the effect of the whooping cough inoculations, such cases were of such a mild nature as not to be recognizable by normal clinical examination.

## VACCINATION

The number of primary vaccinations carried out was 316, of which 268 were for infants under the age of 1 year. In addition, 34 re-vaccinations were carried out. It is pleasant to note that despite other Urban authorities in the County having larger populations, that as regards the number of primary vaccinations, Yeovil Borough figures are the highest for the second year in succession.

The number of births for the preceding year was 383, so that the number of infants vaccinated was approximately 69.3% as compared with 53.2% for the previous year.

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The total number of persons inoculated against Poliomyelitis was 3,623. This figure included 17 young persons (1933-1942), 3,560 children (1943-1948), 136 expectant mothers, 44 doctors, ambulance staff and their families. In addition, 49 people received a third reinforcement dose.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year was 12, non-pulmonary 2. There were 2 deaths recorded as due to Pulmonary tuberculosis, and none for non-pulmonary.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ...	12	17	24	28	26	18	24	31	23
No. of cases notified Non-pulmonary	2	4	4	4	4	7	3	3	8
No. of deaths Pulmonary	2	-	2	2	5	4	9	12	8
No. of deaths Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-
Death Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population ...	0.08	-	0.08	0.08	0.20	0.17	0.38	0.51	0.33

The Death Rate of all forms of Tuberculosis for England and Wales was 0.104 as compared with Yeovil 0.08.



Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 .. ..	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 .. ..	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 .. ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 .. ..	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	6	6	-	2	2	-	-	-

#### MASS RADIOGRAPHY

No examinations by the Mass Radiography Service were carried out in Yeovil during the year 1958. Details of examinations carried out in previous years are set out below.

No. of Examinations Carried Out				No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diagnosed	
				Active	Inactive
1948	..	..	4,260	9	32
1949	..	..	2,298	13	31
1950	..	..	2,316	4	41
1951	..	..	3,015	8	34
1952	..	..	4,191	9	37
1953	..	..	4,460	12	22
1954	..	..	4,561	6	32
1955	..	..	4,109	1	24
1956	..	..	3,490	2	75
*1957	..	..	7,520	3	4

\*This figure includes examinations carried out in the Yeovil Rural District.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT

Number of Ante-natal cases .. 60  
 Number of Post-natal cases .. 38  
 Number of children under 5 yrs. 309



## HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

### Infants:-

Primary visits .. ..	330
Subsequent visits .. ..	3,658
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	5,404

## BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

This clinic was commenced in 1947, and was, I think, the first local authority clinic in Somerset. It is held at the Preston Road Clinic, Yeovil. Since its inception, 4,861 individual pregnant women have been examined, 621 examinations being carried out in 1958. The area from which the patients are drawn, are, as would be expected, mainly the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. Patients are referred by the private practitioner or midwife, without previous appointment. A card showing the patient's blood group, and whether she is Rh. Positive or Rh. Negative, is forwarded to her direct, together with a covering letter emphasizing the importance of her retaining the card in case she ever requires a blood transfusion for any purpose. A report giving further information, including percentage of haemoglobin and W.R. test, is forwarded to the private doctor, and a copy of this report is also forwarded to the midwife or Matron of the maternity home, depending on where the patient is having her confinement. Previously, similar information was forwarded to Yeovil Hospital in case the patient was admitted there for any reason and required a blood transfusion, but a copy is now forwarded direct by the Laboratory doing the tests.

A record of all blood tests is also kept at the Public Health Department. In the case of second or subsequent pregnancies of Rh. Negative women, as the test is normally carried out early in pregnancy, a further test is carried out 6 to 8 weeks before the expected date of confinement, to exclude antibodies. If antibodies are found to be present, and if in sufficient quantities to threaten the welfare of the baby when born, arrangements are made for the baby to be born either at Bristol or Taunton, so that the blood transfusion of the baby can be carried out if necessary. The number of babies whose life has been saved by this procedure now runs into double figures and is a source of considerable gratification.

## MATERNITY SURVEY

As in the previous year, a survey was again carried out, based on women whose babies were born during the year 1958. In order to obtain sufficient large figures, the survey includes confinements both in the Yeovil Borough and the Yeovil Rural District. Analyses of these figures gave the following results.

### Domiciliary Confinements

105 women had their confinements at home, i.e. 21.2% of the total number of confinements under review. A medical practitioner was present in 46.6% of confinements and Analgesia was given in 84.8% of confinements. 5.7% of the women who had their confinements at home attended for ante-natal exercises.

### Confinements in Maternity Units

389 women had their confinements in a maternity unit, i.e. 78.7% of the number under review. This percentage is higher than the previous

year (75.2%) and shows the increasing trend in institutional midwifery. It is doubtful whether this trend is a desirable one, since apart from other factors, there is an increased risk of infection, especially that due to Staphylococcal organisms. Of the 389 patients admitted to maternity units, 149 were admitted on obstetrical grounds, 173 on social grounds, 8 as emergencies, and 39 patients availed themselves of the amenity beds. A medical practitioner was present in 50.6% of confinements in maternity units.

#### Blood Tests

The number of women who had had a blood test, either for the pregnancy under review, or for a previous pregnancy, was 423, i.e. 99.5%. This figure I regard as highly satisfactory.

#### Analgesia

84.8% of women who had a domiciliary confinement received some form of Analgesia. In the case of patients confined in maternity units, the figure was 92.3%.

#### Dental Treatment

The percentage of expectant mothers who had had dental treatment was 52.4%. It is recognized that all women should be dentally examined during pregnancy, and if necessary receive the appropriate treatment, since because of the demand of the foetus on the mother, there is an increased risk of dental caries.

#### Ante-natal Talks

As in previous years, invitations are forwarded to expectant mothers having their first babies, to attend for a series of Ante-natal Talks. The number of women attending during 1958, was 100. In general, it is difficult for patients living in the Yeovil Rural District to attend.

#### INFANT WELFARE

##### Preston Road Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	364
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	262
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	2,012

##### Larkhill Road Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	92
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	67
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	493

##### Southville Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	167
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	75
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	665



## HOME HELP SERVICE

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

### No. of cases who received help in 1958

<u>Type of Case</u>	<u>Yeovil Borough</u>
Maternity ... ..	31
Old Age and Infirmary ... ..	147
Tuberculosis ... ..	3
Chronic Illness ... ..	19
Emergency Illness ... ..	19
Families of motherless children ... ..	1
Total ... ..	220

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

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

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

## REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The school health service provides for remedial and preventive treatment, and consists of:-

- (a) Routine and Special medical inspections.
- (b) Minor Ailments treatment.
- (c) Cleanliness inspections of children by Health Visitors.
- (d) Dental inspection and treatment.
- (e) A much expanded scheme, in co-operation with the Hospital Services, for the treatment of defects of vision, and of ear, nose and throat.
- (f) Routine colour vision testing of children.
- (g) Routine and special testing of children's hearing acuity.
- (h) Speech Therapy.
- (i) Ultra Violet Light clinics for debilitated children.
- (j) Routine immunization of children against diphtheria. This consists mainly of reinforcement inoculations of children already immunized, but children who have been "missed" in infancy are immunized.
- (k) Breathing Exercises Clinic.

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

The Breathing Exercises Clinic was established in 1950, and is intended mainly for children who have Asthma, but also for other children with a history of chest trouble and for whom breathing exercises are valuable. The



number of children initially enrolled was 39, the number on the roll in December, 1958, was 39. The total number of attendances in the year was 536, and since the inception of the scheme 118 children have been or are treated. There is a marked improvement physically of children attending regularly, as shown by the increase in chest expansion and also by clinical examination of the chest. In addition, the children develop a sense of self confidence as they learn how to combat an impending attack of Asthma, and there is a marked improvement of physique and general posture.

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

In the final paragraph of his Report for the years 1952 and 1953, Sir John Charles, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, states; "Change is a characteristic of all living things and if there is vitality in the school health service, it will adapt itself to changing circumstances." It is hoped that the foregoing remarks regarding the school health service in the South-East Somerset (Yeovil) Divisional Area are evidence that the service is endeavouring to cope with the present day problems.

# R E P O R T

## OF THE

### CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958.

TO:

The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee:-

I present herewith my Report for the year 1958, in which unfit housing continued to receive attention. A summary of the years work is given below:-

(1)	Total number of unfit houses dealt with .....	78
(2)	Number included in 8 Clearance Areas .....	45
(3)	Houses included in "grey land" in connection with Clearance Areas .....	9
(4)	Number of unfit houses demolished during the year ....	5

#### A. CLEARANCE AREAS:

##### Houses demolished:

	<u>Unfit Houses:</u>
i. in pink areas .....	nil
ii. in pink hatched yellow areas .....	3
iii. in grey areas .....	nil

#### B. UNFIT INDIVIDUAL HOUSES:

i. demolished formally or informally .....	2
ii. Closing Orders made .....	16
iii. closure procedure and undertakings accepted ....	12
iv. closure of part building .....	3

NOTE: During the four years ended December 1958, a total of 192 houses were dealt with as unfit under the Housing Acts.

### NUISANCES.

#### COMPLAINTS:

Included below is a list of the various complaints received by the Department during the year:-

General housing defects .....	45
Defective drainage, cesspools, etc.....	16
Smoke, dust and effluvia .....	29
Rats and mice .....	60
Verminous premises .....	3
Foodstuffs and food premises .....	15
Keeping of animals and poultry .....	3
Factories and other premises .....	15
Miscellaneous .....	7

#### HOUSING INSPECTIONS:

##### Houses and other premises inspected:-

(a) under the Public Health Act .....	49
(b) under the Housing Act .....	185

##### Reinspections:-

(a) under the Public Health Act .....	59
(b) under the Housing Act .....	206

##### Defective houses rendered fit:-

(1) Informally under (a) .....	25
Informally under (b) .....	2
(2) Formally under (a) by owners .....	6
(3) Formally under (b) .....	2



### OVERCROWDING:

No cases of overcrowding were recorded during the year.

### RENT ACT 1957.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair .....	26
Undertakings submitted and accepted .....	10
Certificates of Disrepair granted .....	23
Certificates cancelled .....	5

### OTHER INSPECTIONS:

Complaints .....	193
Drainage .....	73
Verminous premises .....	9
Offensive trades .....	2
Movable dwellings .....	13
re: Rodents:-	
(a) by the Public Health Department .....	13
(b) by the Rodent Operator .....	47
Smoke nuisances .....	14
Smoke observations .....	10
Dust nuisances .....	5
Interviewing owners, builders, etc.....	364
Inspections re: Certificates of Disrepair .....	26

### RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

#### General Defects:

Roofs renewed or repaired .....	11
Chimneys rebuilt or repaired .....	9
Walls repaired .....	23
Walls rendered .....	21
Walls decorated .....	32
Windows renewed .....	6
Windows repaired .....	5
Eaves guttering repaired .....	5
Doors renewed or repaired .....	13
Ceilings renewed .....	5
Ceilings repaired .....	11
Ceilings whitened .....	20
Floors renewed .....	15
Floors repaired .....	13
Scullery provided .....	1
Food cupboards provided .....	1
Staircases repaired .....	2
Ventilation improved .....	16
Dampness remedied .....	8
Yards paved .....	2
Yards repaired .....	5
Bedding destroyed .....	17
Artificial lighting provided .....	10
Improvement grants .....	7

#### Food premises:

Food preparation tables covered .....	9
Protection provided for open food .....	4
Hot water supplied .....	12
Clothes lockers provided .....	7
Cold storage provided .....	3
Cold storage renovated .....	2
Wash-hand basins provided .....	10
Refuse bins provided .....	4



### Drainage:

Drainage relaid .....	8
Drainage repaired .....	25
Cesspool systems converted .....	2
Choked drains cleared .....	34
W.C.'s built .....	3
W.C.'s repaired .....	3
Sinks provided .....	13
Gulleys provided .....	3
New W.C. Pans provided .....	2
Baths fixed .....	6
Urinals fixed .....	1
Inspection chambers built .....	10
Interceptors fixed .....	2
C.I. Covers provided .....	13
Soil and vent pipes provided .....	4
Basins fixed .....	3

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following disinfections were carried out:-

Houses disinfected .....	16
Rooms sprayed or fumigated .....	65
for tuberculosis .....	17
for cancer .....	16
for vermin(disinfestation) .....	12
Library Books .....	68
Gloving fumigated .....	5
Clothes .....	22
Miscellaneous .....	17

### INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses .....	1356
Butcher's Shops .....	49
Cafes, restaurants, etc.....	27
Bakehouses .....	3
Dairies .....	16
Icecream premises .....	10
Re: Applications for registration .....	11
Fish Shops .....	25
Provision dealers .....	80
Cooked Meat Shops .....	5
Other premises .....	53

### FOOD INSPECTION.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

The premises in Queen Street still continue to serve for the Borough and parts of the rural area. Some killing is done for markets outside the area. In order to maintain 100% inspection, a considerable amount is carried out at weekends.

YEAR	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves	TOTAL
1954	2149	7480	12276	788	22,693
1955	2270	3598	13761	1318	20,947
1956	2176	2896	12283	2715	20,070
1957	2047	3951	9038	1774	16,810
1958	2205	3599	11050	1387	18,241

The following statement contains particulars of the number of animals killed and inspected during the year, together with the amount of meat condemned.

	Cattle excludg. cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1981	224	387	3599	11050
Number inspected	1981	224	387	3599	11050
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	7	2	6	49
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	158	14	14	68	289
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.98	9.38	4.12	.06	3.06
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	13	1	-	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	47	89	-	-	288
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.42	45.95	.26	-	2.64
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	1	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-



	Cattle excl'dg. cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Weight of meat condemned(in lbs) for:					
(a) Tuberculosis	1580	5944	60	-	3880
(b) Cysticercosis	179	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	1394	2653	150	486	6923
Total (in lbs)condemned	3153	8597	210	486	10803

The figures show an increase in the incident of T.B. amongst cow carcasses. This was due to the fact that a number of reactors passed through the Slaughterhouse during the early part of the year.

OFFAL CONDEMNED:	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Heads and Tongues	40	-	1	79
Flucks	4	-	7	118
Lungs and Hearts	52	-	5	73
Lungs	30	-	73	231
Skirts	16	-	-	-
Kidneys	7	-	-	42
Livers	119	-	56	146
Part Livers	162	13	6	14
Stomachs	25	3	-	-
Milts	21	-	-	-
Guts	51	-	-	80
Mesenteries	-	-	-	32

Note: The large number of whole or part livers condemned is due chiefly to parasitic infestation.

#### CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED.

Jam .....	16 tins
Meat .....	256 "
Milk .....	184 "
Fruit & Vegetables .....	522 "
Fish .....	120 "
Hams .....	58 "
Soup .....	90 "

TOTAL 1246 tins  
=====

#### Other Food Condemned:-

Oranges .....	69 lbs.
Geese .....	9

#### FOOD AND DRUGS - MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.

(a) Number of registered distributors .....	12
(b) Number of registered Dairy Premises(other than dairy farms)...	16
(c) Number of Licensed dealers of designated milk .....	13
(d) Number of supplementary licenses issued to distributors whose dairy is outside the area .....	3



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED FOR REGISTRATION OF PERSONS AND PREMISES.

For the sale and storage of Icecream ..... 8  
For the preparation of Preserved Food ..... nil

ICECREAM:

Total number of premises registered at the end of the year:-

- (a) Manufacture, sale and storage ..... nil  
(b) Sale and storage only ..... 90

SAMPLES TAKEN.

DESIGNATED MILKS: (for keeping quality only).

	<u>By Public Health Inspectors' Dept.</u>	<u>By Somerset County Council.</u>
Number taken	23	148
Number passed	22	148

ICECREAM:

Placed in provisional grades

Number taken	$\frac{1}{87}$	$\frac{2}{18}$	$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{4}{1}$
112				
A good grade was maintained throughout the year.				

SWIMMING BATHS WATER:

Samples are not sent off, but 66 readings for residual chlorine were taken and proved satisfactory.

WATER:

	<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
	<u>Number taken.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Number taken.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>
Main supplies (to cover all sources).	45	45	-	-
Source supplies (supplying mains)	7	7	8	8

Note: Tests are now made for residual chloride in each sample taken.  
All water supplies are chlorinated before passing into the mains.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

1. Sewerage System:

During the year the sewerage system in the Borough was again systematically tested for rats. The following figures show the work carried out. The infestations found have proved to be of a minor character.

Areas test baited .....	11
Points baited .....	227
Negative results (presumed clear) .....	186
Total number of visits made .....	595

2. Private premises (including business premises):

Number of premises visited .....	595
Number treated for some degree of infestation .....	179
Number with no infestation .....	421
Number of points baited .....	3015
Number of premises cleared .....	174

3. Corporation Premises:

Inspection and treatment are carried out at the Corporation Sewage Works and refuse tip regularly. The work is done as a routine measure in order to keep any infestation under control.

During the year approximately 120 visits were made and more than 1,000 points baited.

Approximately 120 visits were made in connection with 5 contracts at business and factory premises.

STATUTORY ACTION UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:

Act and Section	Statutory notice served.	Court Action.	Abated.	In hand.
Public Health Act:- Section 93	1	-	-	1
Section 24	5		5	

I again record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support throughout the year, also the Members of the staff in my department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. H. RICE.

# REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF REVENUE

## 1. General Statement

During the year the Bureau has been engaged in the study of the various problems connected with the collection of the duties on imports and exports. The information furnished here is based on the results of this study.

Amount paid for duties on imports ..... \$1,000,000,000  
 Amount paid for duties on exports ..... \$500,000,000  
 Total amount of duties paid ..... \$1,500,000,000

## 2. Private Revenue (Estimated)

Number of persons who have been convicted of smuggling goods ..... 100  
 Number of persons who have been convicted of smuggling persons ..... 50  
 Number of persons who have been convicted of smuggling money ..... 25  
 Number of persons who have been convicted of smuggling other goods ..... 15

## 3. General Statement

Inspection of the records of the Bureau shows that the amount of private revenue has increased during the year. This is due to the fact that the Bureau has been able to collect more duties on imports and exports.

During the year the Bureau has been engaged in the study of the various problems connected with the collection of the duties on imports and exports. The information furnished here is based on the results of this study.

Amount paid for duties on imports ..... \$1,000,000,000  
 Amount paid for duties on exports ..... \$500,000,000  
 Total amount of duties paid ..... \$1,500,000,000

## 4. General Statement

Year	Amount paid for duties on imports	Amount paid for duties on exports	Total amount of duties paid
1910	\$1,000,000,000	\$500,000,000	\$1,500,000,000
1911	\$1,100,000,000	\$550,000,000	\$1,650,000,000
1912	\$1,200,000,000	\$600,000,000	\$1,800,000,000
1913	\$1,300,000,000	\$650,000,000	\$1,950,000,000
1914	\$1,400,000,000	\$700,000,000	\$2,100,000,000
1915	\$1,500,000,000	\$750,000,000	\$2,250,000,000
1916	\$1,600,000,000	\$800,000,000	\$2,400,000,000
1917	\$1,700,000,000	\$850,000,000	\$2,550,000,000
1918	\$1,800,000,000	\$900,000,000	\$2,700,000,000
1919	\$1,900,000,000	\$950,000,000	\$2,850,000,000
1920	\$2,000,000,000	\$1,000,000,000	\$3,000,000,000

The amount of private revenue has increased during the year. This is due to the fact that the Bureau has been able to collect more duties on imports and exports.

During the year the Bureau has been engaged in the study of the various problems connected with the collection of the duties on imports and exports. The information furnished here is based on the results of this study.

O. J. H. RICE





