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Contributors

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Borough of Yeovil

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. B. Smith", written over the red stamp.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1963

Telephone: Yeovil ~~0594~~ 3981

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL.

SOUTH-EAST SOMERSET (YEOVIL) DIVISION

P. P. FOX,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



Public Health Department
Preston Road,
Yeovil

Reference—

19th November, 1964.

Dear Sir,

Annual Report, 1963

Enclosed please find four copies of my Annual Report for the year 1963, in respect of Yeovil Borough, Yeovil Rural District and Wincanton Rural District.

With regard to the Yeovil Borough, I was directed by the Council to draw your attention to the article on fluoridation in the foreward of the Annual Report (pages 2 - 6).

Yours sincerely,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle,
London, S.E.1

B O R O U G H O F Y E O V I D

---ooOoo---

Mayor:

ALDERMAN CHARLES EDWARD HAWES

Deputy Mayor:


ALDERMAN JOSEPH PATRICK KELLY

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs. M.H.C. Brown	Chairman
Alderman J. P. Kelly :	Vice-Chairman
Councillor S. C. Harding	
Councillor W. Gaylard :	
Councillor R. T. Palmer :	
Councillor J.A. Jones :	

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.
Senior Public Health Inspector	:	C. G. H. RICE, M.A.P.H.I., Cert R.S.I. Meat and Food.
Public Health Inspectors	:	G.E. ROADHOUSE, M.A.P.H.I. Cert R.S.I. Meat and Food. D. F. ANTHONY, M.A.P.H.I. Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Food.
Student Health Inspector	:	D. Keir.



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TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEovil BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1963.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total number of live births during the year was 386, as compared with 387 for the previous year. The Standardised Birth Rate was 15.6, as compared with 15.7 for the previous year - the rate for England and Wales was 18.2

Deaths

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year was 9, as compared with 7 for the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate (i.e. deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) was 23.3, as compared with 18.08 for the previous year - the rate for England and Wales was 20.7. The Perinatal Mortality Rate was 42.2, as compared with 43 the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 29.3.

The Standardised Death Rate of the general population was 11.8 as compared with 11.6 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.2. Of the total deaths of all ages, namely, 314, 144 occurred in people aged 75 years or over.

Infectious Diseases

The number of infectious diseases notified was 363, as compared with 17 for the previous year. The increase was mainly accounted for by the increase of Measles notified, 334 in 1963, as compared with 16 in 1962.

Immunization

Details of immunization, and in particular, children, are set out in the Report. With regard to immunization of children, a letter to all General Practitioners in Somerset was sent out by the County Medical Officer of Health, drawing attention to the fact that only about half the young children in the County received primary immunization against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus. Since of necessity some children born in 1963 cannot be immunized until 1964, it is not possible to ascertain accurately the percentage of children immunized in 1963. I have, however, totalled the number of children who were born in 1962 and who were immunized against the above diseases in either 1962 or 1963. The total number of births in 1962 was 387, the number immunized against Diphtheria was 347, against Whooping Cough, 348 and against Tetanus 349. These figures give a percentage of children immunized against Diphtheria 89.6%, against Whooping Cough 89.9% and against Tetanus 90.1%.

The relevant figures for Poliomyelitis were 331 children immunized, the percentage being 85.5%. Figures with regard to Smallpox are not available.

FLUORIDATION

Fluorine is a substance which occurs in all public water supplies in varying amounts, in Somerset the majority of water supplies are less than 0.1 part per million (p.p.m.), the maximum concentration being 0.5 p.p.m., whereas in parts of Lincolnshire the public water supply contains 4 p.p.m. The County Analyst of Somerset in her Annual Report for 1963, reports as follows:

"A second survey was carried out on the natural fluorine content of the drinking waters. Fluorine is present in all waters, even if it is only a minute trace in most, and the results made an interesting comparison with those of the 1951 survey. Clearly, most sources are remarkably constant in this respect, the results being identical, in some cases, with those of 12 years ago, or showing very little difference indeed. The majority contain less than 0.1 part per million. In 1951, this proportion was 68.6 per cent of the 143 waters analysed. A further 13.5 per cent do at present contain between 0.1 and 0.2 part per million and only one sample, in the remaining 8.1 per cent was found to exceed 0.5 part per million fluorine. This information is necessary, should it ever be decided to implement the policy of increasing the natural amount to 1.0 part per million in order to protect children's teeth against dental decay."

The detailed figures for Yeovil Borough (include Sutton Bingham), Yeovil Rural area and Wincanton Rural area, are as follows:

					1951	1963
<u>YEOVIL BOROUGH</u>						
Springponds	....	....	....	....	0.05	0.04
Stockwood	....	....	....	....	0.06	0.05
Haydon Wood (Higher)	....	....	....	....	0.03	0.03
Evershot Tunnel	....	....	....	....	0.01	0.06
Haydon Wood (Lower)	....	....	....	....	0.07	D.
Cattistock No.2	....	....	....	....	-	0.05
" No.3	....	....	....	....	0.04	0.07
" No.4	....	....	....	....	-	0.04
Preston Borehole	....	....	....	....	0.67	D.
<u>YEOVIL RURAL</u>						
Hazelbury	....	....	....	....	0.21	D.
North Perrott	....	....	....	....	0.18	D.
East Chinnack	....	....	....	....	0.21	D.
East Coker	....	....	....	....	0.17	0.08
Montacute	....	....	....	....	0.28	D.
Watercombe Creamery	....	....	....	....	0.70	D.
South Petherton	....	....	....	....	0.31	D.
Norton and Chiselborough	....	....	....	....	0.22	D.
Odcombe	....	....	....	....	0.34	D.
Stoke-sub-Hamdon	....	....	....	....	0.24	D.
Marston and Rimpton	....	....	....	....	0.72	D.
Tintinhull	....	....	....	....	0.36	D.
Martock	....	....	....	....	0.29	D.
Martock (Hele Source)	....	....	....	....	0.28	D.
Mudford	....	....	....	....	0.37	D.
Sutton Bingham	....	....	....	....	-	0.08

WINCANTON RURAL

Charlton Musgrove	....	....	....	-	0.08
Penselwood	....	....	....	0.10	0.10
Pitcombe	....	....	....	0.16	0.21
Castle Cary	....	....	....	0.19	0.27
Bruten	....	....	....	0.03	0.05
South Brewham	....	....	....	0.06	D.
Templecombe - Henstridge	....	....	....	0.19	0.18
Milborne Port	....	....	....	0.13	0.12
Wincanton Old Supply	....	....	....	-	0.08

Abbreviation: D = Discontinued.

It is recognized by the leading Medical and Dental authorities in the country, viz, Dental and Medical Standing Advisory Committee for England and Wales and also for Scotland, the Central Health Services Council, the Ministry of Health, the British Medical Association, and the Society of Medical Officers of Health, that fluoridation of public water supplies where the fluorine content is substantially less than 1 p.p.m. would reduce the incidence of dental caries considerably and that no other method has been shown to be as effective. Fluoridation is the correction of a deficiency of fluorine in public water supplies by the addition of Sodium Fluoride, so that there is 0.9 to 1.0 p.p.m. of fluorine and in this respect fluoridation is somewhat analogous to the addition of vitamins to margarine and of chalk and iron to white bread.

It has been conclusively shown by numerous studies and investigations that where the fluorine content of water supplies is approximately 1 p.p.m. that the incidence of disease of teeth in children is considerably reduced, 50% to 60% in areas where the fluorine content is 1 - 1.5 p.p.m. as compared with children living in areas where the fluorine content of the water supplies is low. There is also strong evidence that this beneficial effect is continued on in adult life. There is a reduction of 25% of dental decay in adults aged 31 - 35 years in a high natural fluoride area in this country and 60% reduction up to the age of 44 years of age in a high natural fluoride area in the U.S.A., as compared with adults living in areas in which water contains only a small amount of fluorine.

There is also strong evidence that both in children and adults living in areas where the water supply does contain 1 p.p.m. that the severity of caries or decay is less than in areas where the water supply is deficient in fluorine.

In the Somerset County Council Annual Report of the School Health Service, the Principal School Dental Officer gives details of dental surveys of children aged 5 years and 12 years for the years 1948, 1953, 1958 and 1963, as follows:

Year	No. of children examined (a)	No. showing no D.M.F. teeth (b)	No. of D.M.F. teeth found (c)	% showing no D.M.F. teeth (d)	Average No. D.M.F. per child examined (e)
<u>5 yr. age group</u>					
Survey '48	2,500	544	10,666	21.8	4.3
Survey '53	2,500	284	14,069	11.4	5.63
Survey '58	2,500	307	15,419	12.3	6.17
Survey '63	2,500	480	13,898	19.20	5.56
<u>12 yr. age group</u>					
Survey '48	2,500	558	6,740	22.3	2.7
Survey '53	2,500	234	10,848	9.4	4.34
Survey '58	2,500	69	13,924	2.7	5.57
Survey '63	2,500	104	13,403	4.16	5.36

D.M.F. = decayed, missing (extracted) or filled

It will be noted that these figures show a deterioration of children's teeth in the survey of 1963 as compared with that of 1948, which is more marked in the 12 year old group of children, presumably because their teeth have been longer exposed to the effects of faulty diet, or lack of fluorine in water. A possible inference that might be drawn from the results of these four surveys is that there has been a decline in the Dental Services available, but in fact there has been an increase in the number of dentists in the County, as the following table shows:

Dentists in Somerset

		<u>1948</u>	<u>1963</u>
Somerset County Council Dentists	....	13	17
Dentists in general practice	....	91	119
		<hr/>	
Total	....	104	136
		<hr/>	

This increase of 32 dentists, approximately 30% of the 1948 figures, has been accompanied by a continued campaign amongst school children, with regard to Dental Hygiene and care of the teeth. Despite this increase in the Dental Services and prolonged attempts to improve the condition of children's teeth by education of the parents and children, only partial success has been achieved. It is recognized that caries of the teeth is associated with a diet that contains sweet sugary foods and drinks, such as biscuits, chocolates, sweets, etc. During World War II, wartime scarcities, by limiting the amount of sugar consumed, brought about a considerable reduction in the incidence of dental caries, and at the same time produced a much higher percentage of children whose teeth were caries free. It was found in North Shields, a low fluoride area, that the wartime diet had raised the percentage of 12 year old children, free from caries, from 4.8 in 1943 to 26.4 in 1949. At the same time, however, the percentage of caries free children of the same age (12 years) in South Shields, with 1.4 p.p.m. of fluoride in the water, was raised from 25.8 in 1943 to 50.6 in 1949. It would seem a valid conclusion that the public, and in particular children, will only accept a diet that does not damage their teeth, when circumstances over which they have no control dictates that they must accept this diet, and that the value of this diet is enhanced if the water they drink contains a minimum of fluoride of 1 p.p.m.

Because of this increasing incidence of dental caries, even though there is an increase in the number of practicing dentists and a continuous campaign to educate parents and children with regard to dental health, alternative methods of combating dental caries have been reviewed, and fluoridation so far has been proved to be the most effective. In May 1963, as a result of a circular from the Ministry of Health, dated December, 1962, the Clerk of the Somerset County Council wrote to all the Local Authorities in the County, stating that they were considering the fluoridation of public water supplies, and requesting the Local Authorities views on this subject. The number of Local Authorities in the County of Somerset is 36, of whom 23 (63.8%) were in favour of fluoridation, and 13 (36.2%) were opposed to fluoridation, the respective populations represented being 323,396 (62.2%) in favour, 195,794 (37.8%) against fluoridation. The County Council also appointed a Working Party to report on fluoridation, which advised in favour of fluoridation, and this opinion was endorsed by the Health Committee. Despite the majority of people in the County, as represented by their Local Authorities, and despite the County Council's own Committee, which advised in favour of fluoridation, the County Council voted against fluoridation of public water supplies, the voting being 39 against, 34 in favour of fluoridation and 9 abstentions.

Taking into consideration the weight of expert medical and dental opinion in favour of fluoridation and that approximately 2/3 of the population of the County, as represented by the Local Authority Councils, were in favour of fluoridation, the decision of the County Council appears inexplicable. The bulk of opposition to fluoridation appears to emanate from the National Pure Water Association, which so far as I know, is a relatively small body, but an extremely able and active organisation. To ascertain what proportion of the population of England Wales were members of the National Pure Water Association, I wrote to the Secretary of the Association and was informed that (1) it was not part of the official policy to divulge the membership figures and (2) it was not possible to find out the membership since many of the Branches were completely autonomous. Recently the Association issued a pamphlet stating that the higher the concentration of fluorine in the water supply, the higher will be the proportion of mongol births. This statement has been refuted categorically by the Ministry of Health, who state that following an investigation in this country, in which carefully matched pairs of high and low fluoride towns were selected, the number of mongols found corresponded closely with the known incidence of the condition. There is no basis whatever for any suggestion that fluoridation might cause even one mother to give birth to a mongol child.

To sum up:

- (1) There is ample evidence to show the need for improved preventive treatment of disease of the teeth.
- (2) That fluoridation is the best practicable means available at present.
- (3) That the improvement achieved in children extends into middle age.
- (4) There are no medical contra-indications to fluoridation.
- (5) That the opposition to fluoridation is mainly due to ignorance, apathy and groundless prejudice.
- (6) Relevant to the above, an appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice McGregor that the Lower Hutt population (New Zealand) were entitled in law to add fluoride to water, was considered by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, who upheld the decision of Mr. Justice McGregor. Lord Upjohn, member of the Judicial Committee, quoted from the judgement of Mr. Justice McGregor, when he said:- "I was satisfied on the evidence that (1) there is a high incidence of dental caries in New Zealand generally. (2) there was almost a complete absence or at least a high deficiency in the fluoride content of the natural artesian well water supply of Lower Hutt; (3) that the absorption of fluoride has a substantial effect in reducing the incidence of dental caries, especially in young children; (4) there are no deleterious or toxic effects on the human body from the absorption of fluoride, more emphatically in the minute proportion of one part per million; (5) any surplus fluoride taken into the body is excreted without harmful results; and (6) tablets or other vehicles for the taking of fluoride are unsatisfactory in that the required regularity with children would not be achieved, and natural water is the only satisfactory vehicle."

Also relevant to the above is that the Eire Supreme Court in Dublin on Friday, 3rd July, 1964, declared the Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Act, 1960, to be constitutional and the appeal of Mrs. Gladys Ryan, of Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin, was dismissed with costs against her. According to a report in the Irish Times of Saturday, 4th July, 1964, the costs of the action are believed to be in the region of £60,000. In the course of giving judgement, the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Cearbhall O Dalaigh, said that the question of dental caries had become a national problem in Eire. It could result not only in damage to the teeth themselves, but through them might be injurious to general health. The State was organized for the Common

welfare of its citizens and had a duty of protecting the citizens from danger to health in a manner not incompatible or inconsistent with the rights of those citizens as human persons. The Court did not accept that the fluoridation of water was, or could be, described as the mass medication or mass administration of "drugs" through water. It was misuse of words to refer to the process in such terms.

I am confident that within the next decade fluoridation will be much more widely used and will be recognized as an extremely important measure in Preventive Medicine.

I again have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee and from members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEOVIL BOROUGH

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1963

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	2,293
Rateable Value (31st March, 1964)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,376,664
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31.3.64	...	...	...	...	...	£4,522
Number of inhabited houses (31.3.64)	...	...	...	...	...	8,230
Population	...	...	...	...	...	24,650

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 2,293 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, 371 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. All the water is chlorinated, and frequent bacteriological analyses show the water to be satisfactory in quality. The present demand for the Borough is 1,750,000 gallons per day, which necessitates the water supply from the above sources being supplemented with water derived from the Sutton Bingham Reservoir.

METEOROLOGY

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

RAINFALL

Pen Mill. Total rainfall = 28.32 inches.

POPULATION

The population for 1963 is 24,650.

OCCUPATION

One of the main industries 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 persons of both sexes.

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

YEOVIL HOSPITAL

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 & 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 82 beds, of which 6 beds are private. The number of patients discharged throughout the year was 2,725 (2,620 in 1962), the average length of stay being 10 to 21 days. In addition 6,069 new patients attended the Specialist and Out-patient clinics, making a total number of attendances of 24,258.

In addition, there were 1,875 attendances at the Orthoptic Department, and 26,435 units of work were carried out in the Radiological Department.

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 Taunton.

CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (100 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 lay-out, etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further, there is a shortage of nursing staff, but despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the Hospital.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A laboratory is located at the Yeovil Hospital. The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory at 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.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the resumé showing the number of council houses erected by the Corporation.

Houses etc., completed during the year ended 31.12.63	...	43
Houses etc. erected post-war	...	1,373
Houses etc. sold post-war	...	115
Houses etc. erected by Local Authority and still owned by them	...	2,769
Number of applicants on the Waiting List as at 31.12.63	...	534

The above figures do not include prefabricated bungalows. 150 of these were erected post-war, but at 31.12.63, 29 had been demolished.

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	...	...	...	...	...	386
Live Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.6
Standardised Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	16.5
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	11
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	27.7
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	397
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	9
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	23.3
" " " per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	24.6
" " " per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	144
Neonatal Mortality Rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	18.1
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths+ deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	42.2
Percentage of illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	-
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	-
Maternal Mortality Rate (including abortion) per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	-

DEATHS

			<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Deaths ...	163	151	314	298
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population ...			12.7	12.1
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ...			11.8	11.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			51	53
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)			91	89
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)			1	1

BIRTHS

The total number of births was 386, 192 male and 194 female. Of these 21 were illegitimate, 11 male and 10 female. The Table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

BIRTH RATES

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
13.5	15.0	14.2	15.9	13.6	15.3	14.7	15.3	15.7	15.6

DEATHS

There was an increase in the total number of deaths, 314 in 1963, as compared with 298 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 11.8 as compared with 11.6 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.2. The following Table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 163 deaths, 113 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 65 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 151 deaths, 118 were 65 years and over, and 79 were 75 years and over.

Ages at death in years	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year ...	4	5	9
1 ...	-	1	1
5 ...	-	1	1
15 ...	3	2	5
25 ...	4	-	4
35 ...	1	3	4
45 ...	13	9	22
55 ...	25	12	37
65 ...	48	39	87
75 & over ...	65	79	144
Total ...	163	151	314

The following table shows the causes of death during 1963.

Causes of death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	1	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach ...	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	2
Malignant neoplasm, Breast ...	-	8
Malignant neoplasm, Uterus ...	-	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	12	12
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	1	1
Diabetes ..	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	34
Coronary disease, angina ...	35	16
Hypertension with heart disease ...	5	2
Other heart disease ...	15	18
Other circulatory diseases ...	6	5
Influenza ...	1	2
Pneumonia ...	8	10
Bronchitis ...	14	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	3
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	-
Congenital malformations ...	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	9
Motor Vehicle accidents ...	3	2
All other accidents ...	1	1
Suicide ...	4	1
Homicide and operations of war. ...	1	-
Total	163	151

DEATH RATE

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
9.57	11.34	12.02	11.8	11.2	10.1	13.03	11.3	11.6	11.8

CANCER

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

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
41	49	40	59	51	48	50	59	54	51

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION:

Year	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Yeovil Boro'	2.14	1.7	2.04	1.6	2.04	2.1	1.9	2.13	2.4	2.1	2.06
County of Somerset	1.84	2.06	2.046	1.89	2.054	2.018	2.12	2.157	2.22	2.17	2.17
England & Wales	1.99	2.05	2.056	2.1	2.1	2.12	2.13	2.15	2.16	2.177	2.1

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 9, as compared with 7 for the previous year. The rate per thousand of live births was 23.3, as compared with England and Wales - 22.3.

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

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
No. of deaths	8	7	5	8	5	9	12	9	10	7	9
Rate per 1,000 live births in Yeovil	22.5	21.7	13.8	23.3	13.05	27.6	32.6	25.4	26.6	18.08	23.3
Rate per 1,000 live births in Eng. & Wales	26.5	25.5	24.9	23.8	23.1	22.5	22.6	21.9	22.4	20.7	22.3

CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE

	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1 month or under	Under 1 year
Atelactasis	1	-	-	-
Prematurity	1	2	-	-
Erythroblastosis Foetalis	-	1	-	-
Congenital Heart	-	-	1	-
Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1	1	-

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths 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.

CAUSES	Cases notified	
	1963	1962
Scarlet Fever	4	1
Measles	334	10
Pneumonia	5	1
Erysipelas	3	1
Whooping Cough	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	2
Meningococcal Infection	-	1
Total	356	17

IMMUNIZATION

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

The following Table shows the number of children who completed a course of primary immunization during the year 1963.

Children born in the years:-

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954 - 58	1949 - 53	Total
Diphtheria	153	192	12	1	3	23	13	397
Whooping Cough	154	192	17	1	2	1	-	367

In addition, 261 children in the same age groups received re-inforcement or "booster" doses.

Smallpox

0 - 3 mths.	4 - 6 mths.	7 - 9 mths.	10 - 12 mths.	1 year	2 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	15 or over
P.	P.	P.	P.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.	P. R.
17	12	5	7	36 -	9 4	65 120	11 49

Poliomyelitis

No. of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections or Salk vaccine, three injections of quadruple vaccine or three doses of Oral vaccine during the year 1963.

Children born in 1963		Children born in 1962		Children born 1943 - 61		Young Persons born 1933-42		Persons under 40 yrs. of age + priority grps.	
Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral
-	53	15	263	2	73	1	14	1	12

No. of persons (all groups) who received a 3rd Salk inj. or 4th inj. of Quad-ruple vaccine	No. of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a 4th Salk inj. or 5th inj. of quadruple vaccine	No. of persons (all groups) who rec'd a reinforcing dose of Oral vaccine following two Salk inj.	No. of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral vaccine after three Salk inj. or 3 Oral doses or 2 Salk. inj. plus 2 Oral doses
48	2	42	239

Tetanus

No. of children who received a full course of primary immunization (Tetanus Toxoid) in the year 1963.

Children born in the years:-

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954 - 58	1949 - 53	Total
154	193	17	1	4	134	170	673

Re-inforcement dose

Children born in the years:-

1962	1961	1960	1959	1954 - 58	1959 - 53	Total
35	68	3	7	81	24	218

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year 1963 was 5, non-pulmonary 2. There was one death recorded due to pulmonary tuberculosis, and no deaths due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ...	5	5	8	9	12	12	17	24	28
No. of cases notified Non-pulmonary	2	1	4	1	4	2	4	4	4
No. of deaths Pulmonary	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	2	2
No. of deaths Non-Pulmonary ...	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Death Rate of Reppiratory T.B. per 1,000 pop.	0.04	-	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.08	-	0.08	0.08

The Death Rate of all forms of Tuberculosis for England and Wales was .063

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	1	1	1	1	-	-	-

DENTAL TREATMENT

No. of ante-natal cases	...	79
No. of post-natal cases	...	54
No. of children under 5 years		193

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

Infants:

Primary Visits	...	...	490
Visits 1 - 5 years	...	...	5,606
Ante-natal visits	...	...	13
Old Persons	...	...	63
Liaison Visits, Hospital, etc.			69
Visits all types	...	...	51
Futile Visits	...	...	1,309

7,601

BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

This clinic was commenced in 1947. It is held at the Preston Road Clinic, Yeovil. Since its inception, 7,837 individual pregnant women have been examined. 866 examinations being carried out in 1963.

The areas 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 unit, 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 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 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.

INFANT WELFARE

Preston Road Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	782
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	406
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	4,377

Southville Clinic

Total number of children attending	...	...	...	191
Total number of children attending for the first time	...	...	...	78
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	748

HOME HELP SERVICE

I am indebted to the Home Help Organiser for the following observations.

Doctors, Nurses and Almoners now regard the Service as a source from which reliable help will be forthcoming. The public do not hesitate to avail themselves of its help in times of emergency, and a strict eye is kept on the ever present few who would seek to abuse the Service, and families are encouraged to look after their aged parents wherever possible.

The 52 women working as Home Helps in Yeovil, know only too well that they must be adaptable, kind, know what is best for the patient, and use good common sense when discharging their normal household duties.

Since the new Mental Health Act started, fewer cases are being admitted to hospital, and the Home Help has been found invaluable where not only housework is essential but someone who is able to ward off the moods of depression and self-pity.

The work of the Home Help Service continues to be an essential auxiliary to the health and welfare services, and we go forward with hope and enthusiasm to meet the ever increasing demand.

No. of cases who received help in 1963

Type of Case	Yeovil Borough
Mental Health	4
Maternity	29
Old Age and Infirmary	166
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic Illness	12
Emergency Illness	15
Families of motherless children	3
Post-operation	17
Accidents	1
Total	251

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

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

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

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

- (a) Routine and Special medical inspections.
- (b) Minor Ailment 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 of children's hearing acuity.
- (h) Speech Therapy.
- (i) Routine immunization of children against diphtheria. This consists mainly of re-inforcement inoculations of children already immunized, but children who have been "missed" in infancy are also immunized.
- (j) Breathing Exercises Clinic.

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 34, the number on the roll in December, 1963, was 21. The total number of attendances in the year was 294, and since the inception of the scheme 216 children have been, or are being, 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.

R E P O R T
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1963

To: The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I present herewith my Report for the year 1963.

HOUSING ACT, 1957

A total of 542 houses has been dealt with in accordance with the Housing Acts since 1955. As I reported last year the numbers of properties remaining to be dealt with, are now reducing, and within the next 12 months or so, should be down to the odd small group of houses or isolated individual properties.

DETAILS OF HOUSING ACTION

A. Clearance Areas

No. of areas declared	2
Houses in pink land.....	11

B. Individual Unfits

No. dealt with under Section 16 Housing Act	
1957.....	13
No. dealt with under Section 18 "	1

C. Unfit Houses rendered fit.

Formally under Housing Act, 1957	6
Unfit houses made fit or where defects	
remedied informally	59

D. Houses Demolished 55

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

House Purchase and Housing Act 1959

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 42/62 and White Paper (Command 2040).

A survey was made during the year of the Crofton Park area with a view of ascertaining:

1. the condition of repair and
2. the amenities existing.

The houses involved are such that the life of the structure would obviously warrant improvement. Of the 79 houses inspected, 66 were owner occupied, 41 houses were short of some standard grant amenities, and 20 houses had certain defects. The owners of the houses without all amenities were advised that grants were available for the improvement of their properties.

Housing Inspections carried out

Properties inspected:

(a) Under the Public Health Act	140
(b) Under the Housing Act	251

Re-inspection

(a) Under the Public Health Acts	132
(b) Under the Housing Acts	399

Other visits in respect of Housing Acts and Small Dwelling Acquisition Acts

S.D.A.A. Loans	24
Discretionary Improvement Grants	56
Standard Grants	15
Searches (Local Land Charges Register) Curserly Inspections	189

COMPLAINTS

There was an increase in numbers on the previous year, mainly due to complaints of rats, an increase which corresponds with the extensive cold spell experienced in the early part of the year, when owing to shortage of food there was a certain amount of movement of the rat population.

During the year also, there was an increase in the demolition of houses and derelict properties. This probably resulted in some rat migration.

There were 394 complaints received during the year comprising the following:

General Housing Defects	35
Defective Drains, cesspools etc	73
Smoke, Dust and Effluvia	7
Rats and Mice	253
Unsound Food and Food Premises	17
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	5
Infestations	30
Noise	2
Moveable Dwellings	2

Rent Act, 1957

One certificate of dis-repair applied for and issued during the year.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS

Complaints	152
Drainage, cesspools, etc.,	172
Verminous premises	23
Stream pollution	12
Complaints of Rodents:	
(a) by P.H.I.'s	52
(b) by Rodent operator	756
Interviewing owners, builders, etc.	480
Moveable Dwellings	5

Factories Act, 1961

Inspections under Section 7	24
Inspections under other Sections	6

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

It will be seen from the total of complaints regarding industrial smoke and dust nuisance that there has been marked decrease on previous years. This, I believe, to be due to a steady change over from hand fired Somerset Coals to fully automatic oil firing and it is hoped that the trend of resorting to automatic firing will continue. Industrial smoke pollution is nothing like it was 25 years ago; at the same time, the same degree of improvement is not evident in the case of domestic smoke, although central heating is on the increase in certain directions.

During the year there were:-

Smoke nuisances	5
Smoke observations	21
Boiler inspections	6

DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

Disinfections

Rooms sprayed or fumigated for Tuberculosis	20
Rooms sprayed or fumigated for Cancer.....	22
Library Books	53
Miscellaneous	6

Disinfestations

Rooms sprayed or fumigated for vermin	23
Premises dealt with for wasps.....	20

There were 23 visits made to premises by Public Health Inspectors concerning infestations.

WATER SUPPLY

The following samples were taken during the year.
Two of the bacteriological samples were slightly unsatisfactory and this was immediately remedied by increased chlorination for a temporary period.

<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>
Main Supplier 24	22	-	-
Source Supplier 3	2	6	6

There are 8,201 dwellings with mains supply and only two dwellings without.

During the year the control of the water supply passed from the Borough Council to the newly formed Wessex Water Board.

DRAINS AND SEWERS

Section 24 Public Health Act, 1936

Number of lengths of sewer cleared 8
Number of houses involved30

During the year it was resolved by the Public Health Committee that the cost of maintenance of such public sewers to which Section 24 applies be not charged to the owners of the properties concerned. This has proved advantageous in accelerating action to remedy any defects found.

FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Two Slaughterhouses continue to function in the Borough and 1,292 visits were made during the year. One hundred per cent inspection of all animals slaughtered, is carried out. With the advent of the new Meat Inspection Regulations, necessitating detailed inspection and marking before carcasses are removed, (with certain provisos), more time has to be spent at the Slaughterhouses, especially on Sundays and some Bank Holiday weekends.

The Council fixed the maximum charges under the Regulations during the year in respect of the animals slaughtered:

Bovine 2/6d.
Calves and Pigs .. 9d.
Sheep 6d.

Number of animals killed during the past 4 years.

YEAR	CATTLE	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CALVES	TOTAL
1960	1,678	3,223	4,585	156	9,642
1961	1,679	6,503	2,479	188	10,677
1962	1,571	4,992	2,394	135	9,091
1963	1,619	5,788	2,613	95	10,115

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole, or in part during the year:-

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed ...	1,566	53	95	5,788	2,613
Number inspected ...	1,566	53	95	5,788	2,613
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	5	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	165	6	-	240	125
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.54	11.51	-	4.02	5.05
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.06	-	-	-	.19
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to refrigeration treatment	14	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-</u>					
(a) Tuberculosis	20	-	-	-	83
(b) Cysticercosis	200	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	-	-	-	188	683
Total (in lbs.) condemned	220	-	-	188	766

OFFAL CONDEMNED

	<u>Bullocks.</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Heads and Tongues	14	-	2	16
Plucks	-	-	2	21
Lungs and Hearts	9	-	2	20
Lungs	23	-	71	92
Skirts	3	-	-	-
Kidneys	5	-	1	31
Livers	70	-	69	32
Part Livers	49	-	4	-
Melts	3	-	-	2
Mesenteries	1	-	-	-
Stomach	-	1	-	2
Intestines	13	-	-	17

CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED

Jam	12 tins
Meat	541 tins
Milk	65 tins
Fruit & Vegetables ..	873 tins
Fish	486 tins
Hams	30 tins
Soup	36 tins

OTHER CONDEMNED FOODS

Wet Fish	12 stone
Chickens	19 lbs.

FOOD PREMISES

During the year periodical inspections have been carried out of the food premises in the area. The standard of Food Hygiene on the whole is satisfactory and in the majority of instances the proprietors of the food businesses are anxious to co-operate with my Staff to maintain a good standard of hygiene.

The following is a record made of visits made to food premises during the year:

Butchers' Shops (including Cooked Meats	68
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	43
Bakehouses	13
Ice Cream Premises	41
Fish & Chip and Fish Premises	40
Provision Dealers	150
Public Houses	14
Stalls	318
Dairies	2
Mobile Food Vans	15
Other Premises	82

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SECTION 16

Applications received for Registration of premises:

(a)	for sale and storage of ice cream	5
(b)	for the preparation of preserved foods	1

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

(a)	for the sale and storage of ice cream	96
(b)	for the preparation of preserved foods	26

Samples of Ice Cream taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:

Total No. of samples 27

Results of samples as follows:

No. of Samples taken	1	Provisional Grades			
		2	3	4	
27	24	1	1	1	

MILK SAMPLES - Taken by Somerset County Council of milk bottled either in the Borough or milk being bottled outside the boundary and being retailed within the Borough.

	<u>Pasteurized</u>		<u>Sterilized</u>		<u>Raw Milk</u>	
	Satis'y	Unsatis'y	Satis'y	Unsatis'y	Satis'y	Unsatis'y
By Somerset C.C. (a) Bottled with- in County	172	4	2	-	25	5
Bottled outside County. Retailed in Borough	57	11	-	-	4	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

1. Sewage System

The systematic baiting of the sewers for rats has continued during the year and no serious infestations were found.

Areas test baited	10
Manhole points baited	295
Negative results found (presumed clear)	265
Total No. of visits made	634

2. Private Premises (including business premises)

No. of visits made for pest eradication	1,392
No. of points baited	5,276
No. of infestations cleared	254

3. Corporation Premises

72 visits were made and more than 600 points baited.

4. Contracts

Approximately 120 visits were made in connection with two contracts at businesses and factory premises.

CONCLUSION

I would again like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and also the Members of my Staff for their continued support during the year.

I am, your obedient servant,

C. G. H. RICE.

