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ALFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
ANNUAL REPORT

For 1945

June, 1947

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for 1945

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year ending March 31st, 1945, on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Alford Urban District.

1945 saw the end of the second World War and found the people of this town, as of the rest of the country, tired and strained, but, on the whole, in very much better condition than most of us had dared to hope when the war broke out. Alford spent many sleepless nights, but we must consider ourselves fortunate in that we escaped any serious damage to the town and that our casualties were few. The long and rigid rationing to which the Nation was subjected was dull, monotonous and depressing, but, unquestionably, the general health and vitality of the community was not adversely affected, and the fruit and vegetables which most people in Alford were able to get was a tremendous boon and of great value to the health of all.

Vital Statistics.

The area of the District is 1,138 acres.

The population of the town is 1,978.

The rateable value is £10,034 and the value of a penny rate is £39 16s. 11d.

The number of inhabited houses is 769.

The BIRTHS numbered 27; of these 16 were male and 11 female. This represents a birth-rate of 13 per thousand of the population. That for the whole of England and Wales was 11.1.

The DEATHS numbered 21; 9 male and 12 female. This represents a death-rate per thousand of the Alford population of 10.6. A similar rate for the whole country was 11.4.

There was one death of an infant under one year representing an infant death-rate per thousand live births of 45.5. This compares with 46 for the whole country. All figures for the Alford District are too small to make a true comparison.

General provision of Health Services.

Laboratory Examinations are carried out by the Emergency Public Laboratory Service. This service, originally instituted as a war emergency, has now become a permanency.

Water analyses are carried out by Messrs. W. W. Taylor, of Nottingham. Cases of infectious diseases, if requiring Hospital treatment, are sent to Scartho or Osgodby Fever Hospitals.

Midwifery and Nursing Services.

The County Council is the local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Act for the whole of Lindsey. Nursing services are unchanged. The welfare of the aged sick has now become a more difficult problem than the nursing of ordinary cases.

Scabies.

This skin disease has been much less prevalent in 1945 than in the earlier war years. It is to be hoped that with improved housing conditions, education, etc., this trouble, originating in dirty conditions, will before many years be stamped out altogether.

Venereal Diseases.

There was very little Venereal disease in Alford among the civil population in 1945. A Clinic for treatment of these cases is in operation at Skegness.

Prevalence of Disease.

Whereas the general health of the town was good in 1945, there were more cases of Infectious diseases than usual. There were during the year many cases of infectious throats and probably the three cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and two of Scarlet Fever were allied to them. There was a sharp outbreak of Measles in the Spring; 20 cases were notified, but undoubtedly there were others not brought to the notice of the Local Practitioners.

The following notifications were made during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	2
Measles	20
Dysentery	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

There were two cases of Tuberculosis reported, both of Pulmonary type.

Water.

The water supply to the town continues to be excellent in quality and quantity. Regular analyses were taken throughout the year. There are still several areas of the town not yet supplied from this source.

Housing.

There were no houses completed in 1945.

Sewerage.

The new sewerage works have proved quite satisfactory and there have been very few complaints.

Offensive Trades.

There have been no offensive trades in the town during the year.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

C. S. E. WRIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

JUNE, 1947.