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Contributors

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ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report for 1953 is a short one on lines similar to that of previous years.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the District remains unchanged at 4,778 acres.
The number of inhabited houses is 2,469.
The number of new houses completed during the year was 59, and of these all but one were built with state assistance.
The Rateable Value is £45,897, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £185.
The estimated (mid-year) population is 7,386, this is the figure taken when calculating the Vital Statistics.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of births, corrected for inward and outward transfers is 170 of which 79 were males and 91 females. Of this number six were still births and nine illegitimate.

Birth rate 1953	- 23.0	per thousand per annum.
" " 1952	- 18.3	" " " "
" " 1951	- 15.7	" " " "

The birth rate for England and Wales 1953 - 15.8 per thousand per annum.

Deaths.

The number of deaths, corrected for inward and outward transfers is 84, of which 32 were males and 52 females.

Death rate 1953	- 11.37	per thousand per annum.
" " 1952	- 10.56	" " " "
" " 1951	- 14.3	" " " "

The death rate for England and Wales 1953 - 11.4 per thousand per annum.

Infantile Deaths.

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 4. (two male and two female) of which one was illegitimate.

The infantile death rate 1953	- 24.3	per thousand live births.
" " " " 1952	- 15.1	" " " "
" " " " 1951	- 8.8	" " " "

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Tuberculosis	1	Gastro-enteritis	1
Cancer & Malignant Diseases	12	Other Respiratory diseases	1
Vascular diseases of nervous system	3	Kidney Disease	1
Heart Disease	23	Prostatic disease	3
Other circulatory diseases	3	Congenital Malformation	1
Influenza	1	Accidents	6
Pneumonia	3	Suicide	1.
Bronchitis	1	Other diseases	8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified to me during the year was 14.

Measles	7	Scarlet Fever	2
Dysentery	1	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	(non-paralytic)	

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Consulting Physicians, Surgeons, Gynaecologists and Radiologists visit regularly at Alnwick Infirmary where Ante-natal and Orthopaedic Clinics are also held. There are child welfare and dental clinics in the Town. The Hospitals in the Urban District consist of the Infirmary, the Fever Hospital and the Hillcrest Maternity Home.

WATER SUPPLY.

One of the sources of supply was abandoned owing to contamination and it was necessary to instal machinery to pump water from Rugley Borehole in order to maintain a pure and adequate supply. Most of the houses in the District have a piped supply available. The new water scheme is making slow progress, but this may possibly be commenced in 1954.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Steady progress is being made with the scheme for the provision of new sewerage disposal works.

DISINFESTATION.

Rodent Control was effectively carried out during the year. The refuse tip received regular treatment against vermin. The sewers were treated in accordance with the scheme recommended by the Ministry of Food with good results.

ICE CREAM.

There are two manufacturers of ice cream. Their premises are regularly inspected and found to be satisfactory. A number of shops have installed refrigerators and sell wrapped ice cream supplied by a limited number of ice cream manufacturers operating on a National Scale. There has been no trouble with the sale of ice cream during the year.

FOOD PREMISES.

There are 54 premises in the District which sell food and are regularly inspected. Sixteen premises retail milk. All condemned food has been voluntarily surrendered by the shop keepers concerned. With few exceptions condemned food is replaced by the wholesaler free of charge. Some condemned food is disposed of by burying at the refuse tip and some is returned to the wholesaler as a check on replacement. No large consignments of food have been condemned during the year. Meat inspection of the Slaughterhouses was carried out by a part time Veterinary Surgeon.

B. TREVOR ROPER.

Medical Officer of Health.