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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT
for the year 1947.

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BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ROTHERWICK,

June 1948.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1947.

STATISTICS.

Population - 15,570.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Live Births	Legitimate 289	145	144	Birth Rate - 18.5 (Eng. & Wales - 20.5)
	Illegitimate 19	9	10	
Still births	7			Rate per 1,000 total births - 24
Deaths	167	99	68	Death rate - 10.7 (Eng. & Wales - 12.0)
Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births - 41				(Eng. & Wales - 41)

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	8
Pneumonia	7
Erysipelas	2
Diphtheria	1
Measles	52
Whooping Cough	7
Tuberculosis - Respiratory -	9
Other Forms -	6
Tuberculosis deaths - Respiratory -	6
Other forms -	nil

A small but rather violent outbreak of food poisoning of bacterial origin occurred at Chineham affecting some half a dozen people. two of whom needed hospital treatment.

The causal organism belonged to the Salmonella group; the actual article of food responsible was not established.

Diphtheria Immunisation was continued; 129 children under five years received this treatment.

The amount of infectious disease was again exceptionally small, less than in any year for which I have records.

WATER

It is estimated that 40% of the dwelling houses in the district are connected to a water main; standpipes are not numerous.

The Council's schemes for extensions of piped supplies progressed, and mains were laid to the parishes of Sherfield on Loddon and Bramley.

Samples of the piped supplies have given satisfactory results on analysis. The water of the Mid Wessex Company has not been sampled in this district.

The shortage of materials interferes with the connection of houses to mains.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

New houses under construction on 31st December:-

Private building	-	15.
Council	"	- 38.

Number of houses inspected under Public Health & Housing Acts - 1,528

Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - 303

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action - 103

Overcrowding continues to present a very serious problem at the present time. There were 117 known overcrowded houses on the 31st December, containing 711 persons belonging to 137 families.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Total number of houses inspected at the end of the year - 3,110.


Categories.

1. (Satisfactory in all respects) - 492
2. (Minor Defects) - 455
3. (Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement) - 1,011
4. (Appropriate for reconditioning) - 849
5. (Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense) - 303

Information which will prove invaluable for the future has been compiled and recorded in the course of this Survey. Informal notices have been served to remedy nuisances and defects of an urgent nature, and satisfactory results achieved.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year, 3324 properties were surveyed and treatment carried out at 505 properties. The infestations were mainly of a minor nature.



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SCAVENGING.

The Council possesses two 10 cubic yard Dennis refuse vehicles, and refuse and salvage collections are made fortnightly throughout the district, with the exception of a few small parishes receiving a monthly collection. All refuse is taken to a controlled tip at Old Basing.

Salvage collections amounted to:-

Paper	-	21 tons	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.
Bones	-	1 ton	11 cwts.
Rags	-		12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.
Bottles & Jars	--	20 tons	3 cwts.

Value of salvage collected - £344.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.

Cowsheds and Dairies - There are 181 registered premises in the district and regular inspections are carried out. 52 herds are Tuberculin Tested, and 32 Accredited.

Bakehouses - Periodical inspections of the 8 bakehouses are made.

Slaughterhouses - There are no Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in the district, meat being supplied from depots in Basingstoke and Alton.

Condemnation of Unsound Foods - 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts of unsound food was surrendered and condemned during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Five licences for camping sites were issued during the year. The sanitary condition of the sites is satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

M. AVENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

