

[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, Beaminster R.D.C.

Contributors

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Public Health Office,
32, South Street,
BRIDPORT,
Dorset.

June, 1944.

ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE
BEAMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	...	Adam Armit, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor	...	C.C. Rundle, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Veterinary Surgeon (part-time)	...	K.I. Marshall, M.R.C.V.S.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	...	Miss A.M. Johnson.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Rateable Value	...	£37,312
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£158

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population	...	15.43
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	12.56

Deaths from Special Causes: -

Cancer represents the cause of	15%	total deaths.
Heart Disease " " " "	23%	" "

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	Nil
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 total births	...	28.57

Comparison Tables.

	Beaminster Rural District.	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.
Birth Rate	15.43	16.5	19.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	28.57	49.	58.
Maternal Mortality Rate	0	1.84	-
Death Rate	12.56	12.1	15.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

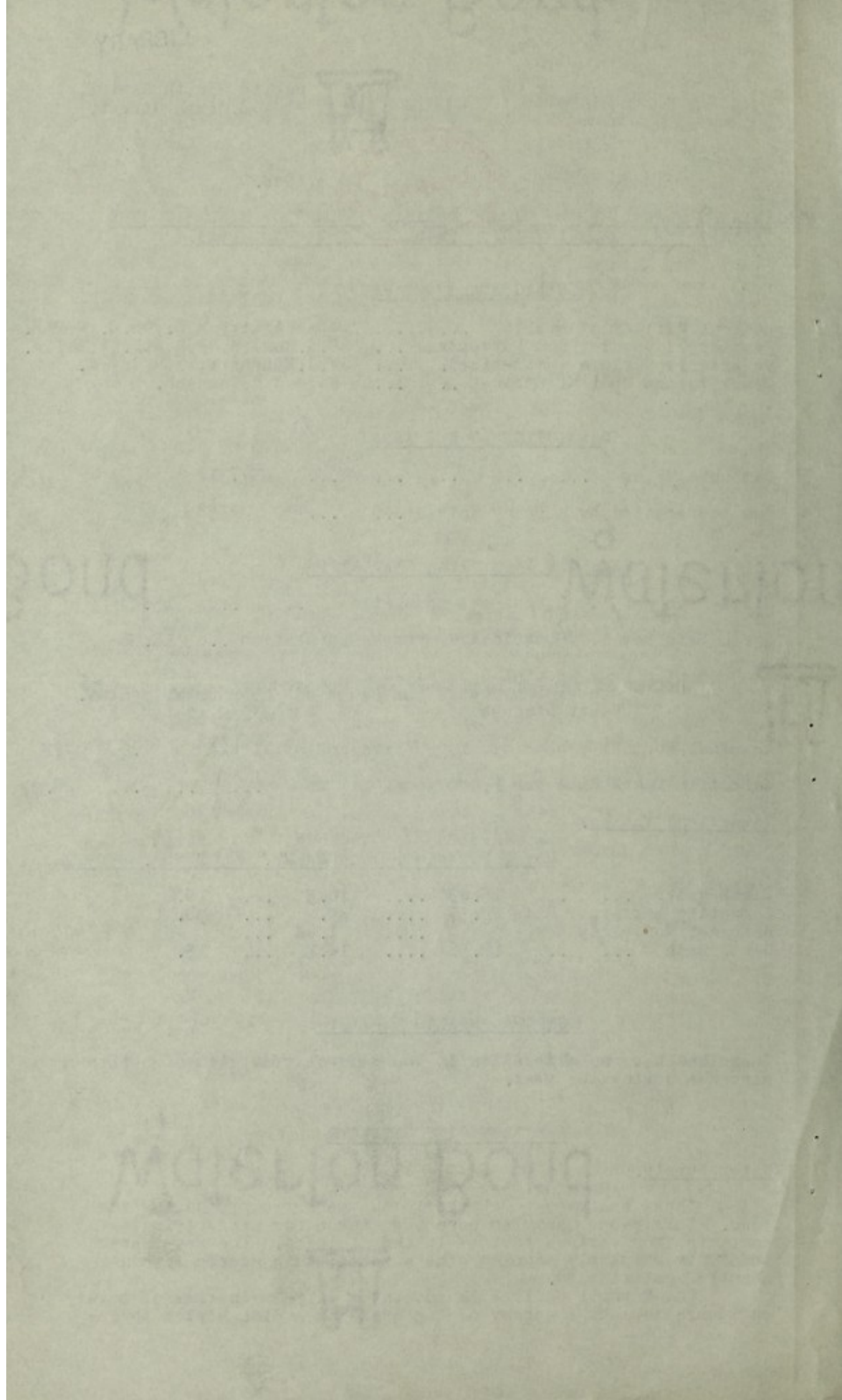
There has been no alteration in the general provision of health services during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply.

There has been no change in the water supply during the year. Thirty-one samples have been taken for bacteriological analysis from various sources in the district. The Beaminster supply is regularly sampled once a month; this source is constantly chlorinated.

The Council decided to appoint a well-known firm of water engineers to make a survey of the whole area with a view to in-



stalling a piped supply into every village, and at the same time to make recommendations with regard to sewage disposal.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new works have been carried out during the year, and deficiencies remain as before.

Beaminster is still running its crude sewage into the river, and I hope that in spite of many difficulties, the Council will find a way to have this sewage treated, including the effluent from a milk factory, thus stopping the pollution of the river which has gone on for many years.

Sanitary Inspections.

No. of Inspections, for all purposes	1,517		
No. of Informal Notices	...	122	No. complied with	...	113
No. of Statutory Notices	...	4	No. complied with	...	4

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts).....	34
Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	66
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation....	23

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of action informally taken by the Local Authority.....	18
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Action Under Statutory Powers.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notice.....	1

New Houses.

Total number of new houses erected during 1943	0
Number of houses owned by Local Authority.....	86
Approximate number of working class houses in the district.....	1,600

MISCELLANEOUS SANITARY REPORTS

Thirty rooms were fumigated during the year after cases of infectious disease had been removed to Hospital.

stating a supply into every village, and at the same time to make recommendations with regard to sewage disposal.

Sanitation and Sewerage.

No new works have been carried out during the year, and betterment remains as before.
Sewerage is still running its course down the river, and I hope that in spite of many difficulties, the Council will find a way to have this sewage treated, including the effluent from a milk factory, thus stopping the pollution of the river which has gone on for many years.

Sanitary Inspections.

No. of Inspections, for all purposes	1,217
No. of Internal Notices	128
No. of Statutory Notices	4
No. complied with	117
No. complied with	4

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts).....	34
Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	55
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	57

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling houses remedied in consequence of action taken by the local authority.....	18
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Actions Under Statutory Powers.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notices.....	1

New Houses.

Total number of new houses erected during 1947	0
Number of houses owned by local authority.....	58
Approximate number of existing houses in the district.....	1,600

MINOR SANITARY MATTERS

Thirty seven cases of insanitary conditions were reported during the year after cases of insanitary conditions had been removed to hospital.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of persons on Register at end of 1943	456
No. of Dairy Farms and other Dairy Premises on Register at end of 1943	455
No. of Dairy Farms inspected during 1943	128
No. of Inspections made for the purpose	165
No. of Notices served	27
No. complied with	22

Milkshops

No. of Milkshops inspected during 1943	1
No. of inspections made for the purpose	1
No. of Notices served	0
No. complied with	0

Three samples of milk were taken for analysis.

There is close co-operation between the Local Authority and the County War Agricultural Executive Committee regarding the production of clean milk, and its keeping qualities.

TUBERCULOSIS

Meat Supply.

The meat supply comes from a slaughterhouse in the Bridport Rural District. All slaughtering of animals for West Dorset is done on these premises, where the meat is inspected by a veterinary surgeon appointed for the purpose.

Food and Drugs Act.

Food stores in the district were inspected regularly. A total of sixty-nine tins of various foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

RODENT CONTROL

West Dorset Authorities agreed to be a "Workable area" under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and a Rodent Officer was appointed to make a survey of the Rural Districts of Beaminster and Bridport. Beaminster Rural District Council applied to the Dorset County Council for delegated powers under the above Act; these were granted on 3rd January, 1944.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 129 cases of notifiable infectious disease during the year, as follows:

1	case of Diphtheria
3	cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.
2	" " Pneumonia.
3	" " Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.
7	" " Erysipelas.
9	" " Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Continued over

Table of Incidence of Infectious Diseases.

Disease	Total cases all ages.	Under 1 yr.										Over 65	Total to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
		1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	
Diphtheria ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas ...	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	2	-
Scarlet Fever ..	28	1	2	-	4	1	8	5	1	5	1	-	26	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	-	-	-
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-
Measles ..	36	-	2	3	2	5	13	5	3	2	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	31	-	-	3	3	5	8	10	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ...	120	1	4	6	9	11	29	20	8	14	11	7	32	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Table showing position up to 31.12.43 in the Schools. (5-15 age group).

School.	Total on Register Dec. 1943.	Locals.	Temp'y Resid- ents.	Total Locals Imm'd.	Total Temp'y Imm'd.	Percent Locals Imm'd.
Beaminster Grammar School....	146	143	3	128	2	90%
Beaminster Boys' School	62	49	13	47	12	96%
Beaminster Girls' & Infants' School..	116	104	12	95	8	91%
Broadwindsor.....	66	58	8	53	8	92%
Ghedington.....	8	4	4	3	1	75%
Gorscombe.....	30	25	5	23	4	92%
Drimpton.....	23	23	-	22	-	96%
Evershot.....	91	80	11	75	9	94%
Halstock	22	21	1	13	1	62%
Holditch Manor.....	32	31	1	31	1	100%
Hooke.....	24	21	3	21	1	100%
Marshwood.....	61	46	15	39	7	85%
Melbury Osmond	54	50	4	46	3	92%
Melplash	28	23	5	14	2	69%
Moeterton	32	27	5	25	4	92%
Netherbury	46	39	7	39	5	100%
Powerstock	70	52	18	46	9	89%
Rampisham	17	17	-	16	-	94%
Salway Ash	46	42	4	38	4	90%
South Perrott	11	9	2	9	2	100%
Stoke Abbott	20	17	3	16	-	94%
Thorncombe	85	75	10	62	10	83%
TOTALS	1,090	956	134	861	93	90%

Approximately 100 children of school age were immunised during 1943.

Washburne Immunization

Table showing progress of immunization among pre-school children during the year: -

Month	Maternity & Child Welfare Centers		School Children (Villagers)	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
January	3	6	4	11
February	-	-
March	1	3	1	2
April	2	1	-	-
May	4	1	7	2
June	1	2	6	7
July	25	12
August	2	...	10	3
September	4	2	-	-
October	2	4	-	-
November	3	4	3	1
December	...	-	2	6
TOTALS	26	25	62	47

Total number children in 0-5 age group completed immunization during the year 75
 Estimated number of children of 0-5 age group in district 226
 Total number of above now immunized 432
 Percentage 74%