

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Beaminster R.D.C.

Contributors

Beaminster (Dorset, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1947

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Public Health Office,
32 South Street,
BRIDPORT.

September, 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE BEAUFORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR
THE YEAR 1947, INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR THE
PERIOD 1938 - 1947.

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.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector....David J. Davis, Cert.R.S.I.
Veterinary Surgeon (Part-time)...K.I. Marshall, M.R.C.V.S.
Clerk to the Medical Officer....Miss E. Mansford.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	58,693
Registrar General's estimate of Population.. ..	7,775.
No. of inhabited houses (according to the Rate Books as at end of 1947)	2,528.
Rateable Value	£38,246.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.. .. .	£160.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
All Births.	67	72	
Legitimate.	63	63	Birth Rate per 1,000 resident
Illegitimate.	4	9	population - 17.88

Total Births - 139.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
All Still Births.	2	-	
Legitimate.	2	-	Still Birth Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate.	-	-	resident population - 0.26

Total Still Births - 2.

Deaths of Infants under One year of Age.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Total.	2	5	
Legitimate.	2	5	Death Rate all Infants per
Illegitimate.	-	-	1,000 notified births - 50.4.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes .. Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births .. Nil.

Deaths at all Ages and from all Causes.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
	53	52	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated
Total Deaths - 105.			resident population - 13.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.....	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	2	2	3	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
7. Other forms Tuberculosis.....	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases.....	3	2	9	3	2	5	5	2	-	-
9. Influenza.....	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Measles.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio. Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buc. Cav. & Oesoph(M) Uterus(F) ..	-	-	2	-	2	2	3	1	2	1
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	-	-	5	5	3	1	2	1	1	3
15. Cancer of Breast.....	-	-	4	4	3	2	2	2	7	5
16. Cancer of all other sites.....	16	20	10	1	9	10	13	10	-	-
17. Diabetes.....	-	-	1	6	2	3	1	1	-	-
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions.....	7	-	14	1	9	11	7	7	13	4
19. Heart Disease.....	29	27	37	10	22	23	27	25	29	15
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	4	4	1	2	1	1	3	1	10	16
21. Bronchitis.....	1	5	5	5	9	3	4	6	-	-
22. Pneumonia.....	2	2	4	2	5	1	2	3	2	4
23. Other Respiratory Diseases.....	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	1	2	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1	-	-	1	1	1	3	1	2	1
26. Appendicitis.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases.....	4	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	5	1
28. Nephritis.....	4	2	-	3	3	3	4	5	2	1
29. Puerperal & Post Abortive Sepsis.....	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
31. Premature Birth.....	6	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	1	-
32. Con. Mal. Birth Injury. Infant Dis.....	-	4	3	5	3	1	6	1	2	1
33. Suicide.....	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents.....	-	1	-	2	-	2	2	1	2	-
35. Other Violent Causes.....	4	35	7	1	4	21	4	2	10	5
36. All other causes.....	14	1	18	23	9	2	22	9	10	1
TOTALS.....	102	110	137	106	87	101	122	89	96	53
										52

M F

OTHER VITAL STATISTICS.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Population.....	7635	7624	7939	8531	8293	8038	7646	7519	7682	7775
Rateable Value.....	£29603	£30572	£30762	£35769	£36070	£37312	£37443	£37851	£37851	£38246
Estimated Produce of Penny Rate.....	£131	£133	£135	£159	£155	£158	£167	£159	£160	£160
BIRTHS:-										
Live Births.....	126	114	114	137	123	124	146	122	127	139
Legitimate.....	115	108	110	128	114	118	134	105	120	126
Illegitimate.....	11	6	4	9	9	6	12	17	7	13
Still Births.....	3	3	5	5	5	7	1	3	5	2
Live Birth Rate.....	16.5	15.4	14.4	16.1	14.8	15.4	19.1	16.2	16.5	17.88
Live Birth Rate(Eng.& Wales).....	15.6	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5
DEATHS:-										
Total Deaths.....	102	110	137	106	97	101	122	88	96	105
Death Rate.....	13.4	11.7	14.3	12.4	10.5	12.6	15.8	11.7	12.5	13.5
Death Rate(Eng.& Wales).....	11.6	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0
INFANT MORTALITY:-										
Deaths under 1 year.....	9	3	8	13	2	4	7	4	6	7
Infantile Death Rate.....	71.0	26.3	66.7	90.3	14.5	32.3	47.9	32.8	47.3	50.4
Infantile Death Rate(Eng.& Wales).....	53	50	55	59	49	49	46	46	43	41
MATERNAL MORTALITY:-										
Maternal Deaths.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Maternal Mortality Rate.....	-	-	-	6.71	-	-	-	-	7.57	-
Maternal Mortality Rate(Eng.& Wales).....	2.97	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	2.29	1.93	1.79	1.43	1.17

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Apart from isolated Council house supplies, there is only one pipe supply owned by the Council, namely in Beaminster Parish. The average yield from this source is approximately 100,000 gallons per day. It is continuously chlorinated and serves a population of 1,700. Thirteen samples were taken for analyses and all proved satisfactory. There are piped supplies in the villages of Cheddington, Corscombe, Evershot, Melbury Osmond, Halstock, Powerstock and South Perrott, all privately owned. The remaining villages depend upon wells. Preparations have gone forward in the proposed scheme to supply the parishes of Corscombe and Halstock. This scheme is part of the proposed major scheme put forward over two years ago by the Council's Consultant Engineers to supply the whole of the Rural District. These preparations have practically reached the stage when the scheme could be put forward at a Public Enquiry. This stage has also been reached in extending the Beaminster main to Netherbury village. As regards the Thorncombe supply which has been taken over by the District Council, work has been completed in protecting the collecting area, cutting out unsatisfactory feeders, and enclosing in concrete chambers, the sources of satisfactory springs.

Very little progress has been made in the major scheme. Difficulties were experienced in the original source, and negotiations are going on for the acquisition of a proposed new source.

Several meetings of the West Dorset Joint Water Committee have taken place during the year, but no progress has been reported.

Total number of Water Samples taken for analyses during the year was 74. Of these, 31 were satisfactory, 11 suspicious and 32 unsatisfactory. More than half of the latter were samples from wells.

SEWERAGE.

Apart from a few septic tanks, there is no sewage treatment in the Area. The rivers and streams act as the sewers of the District, with the result that all these water courses are polluted. This is especially so at Beaminster where the River Brit is very foul owing to the fact that it takes the effluent from a Milk Factory and a Gas Works, and all the domestic sewage from the town. No report has been presented by the Council's Consultant Engineers regarding the detailed scheme which they were asked to prepare embracing the parishes of Beaminster, Netherbury, Stoke Abbott, Broadwindsor, Corscombe, Halstock, Hooke, Powerstock and Thorncombe.

PUBLIC CLEANING.

All household refuse and salvage is collected weekly from Beaminster Parish. In the remaining parishes, indestructible household refuse and salvage is collected monthly, the work being carried out with a lorry owned by the Council, who employ two men for the purpose. The refuse is tipped on the Council's dump about a mile north of Beaminster Town. This dump is kept in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

The County Council act as agents for the District Council for the area, over which the District Council is responsible.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

No. of Inspections.....	1268.	(Including all inspections).	
No. of Informal Notices...	73.	No. complied with.....	66.
No. of Statutory Notices..	7.	No. complied with.....	6.

Allocation of Inspections.

Shops.....	Nil.	Refuse and Salvage.....	33.
Factories.....	5.	Nuisances - General.....	46.
Foodstuffs.....	29.	Building Byelaws and	
Drains.....	111.	Civil Building Control...	592.
Housing.....	252.	Patrol Storage.....	3.
Milk and Dairies.....	40.	Water Supplies.....	144.
Infectious Diseases.....	10.	Kneackers Yards.....	3.

Total Inspections - 1,268.

Petroleum, Spirit and Carbide.

Three inspections were made of the premises storing the above, and these were found to be satisfactory.

School Premises.

There are 19 schools in the Area, these have been inspected regularly. Most of the buildings are very old and are out of date. Eight schools have their water supply from wells, nine have pipe supplies and two have no water on the premises. There is no drying accommodation for childrens' wet overclothes. As regards lavatory accommodation, four have water closets and fifteen use bucket or vault closets. The playgrounds are, as a rule, small, and in several cases require re-surfacing.

Milk Supply.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of persons on Register...	471.	No. of dairy farms etc. on Register.....	470.
No. of dairy farms inspected.	35.	No. of inspections.....	40.
No. of Notices served.....	2.	No. complied with.....	1.
No. of milk shops inspected..	Nil.	No. of inspections.....	Nil.
No. of Notices.....	Nil.	No. complied with.....	Nil.

Data received from the County Council show that of 470 Dairy Farms in the District, 40 are on the Tuberculin Tested Register, 62 are on the Accredited Register, while 368 are producing Ungraded milk.

Milk production which is the chief industry in this Area is dependant upon a satisfactory and wholesome water supply, both for the quality and quantity of milk produced, hence the need for the speedy bringing into force of the proposed comprehensive water supply to West Dorset.

Meat Inspection.

All the slaughtering for West Dorset takes place at a Slaughter House in the Bridport Rural District, where a Veterinary Surgeon, appointed by the four Councils concerned, is responsible for the inspection of carcasses on every day that slaughtering takes place.

Condemnation of Food.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Various foodstuffs.....	110 tins.	Smoked Fish.....	6 stones.
Beef.....	1 hind quarter.	Dried Peaches.....	30 lbs.
do	1 fore quarter.	Pearled Barley.....	24 lbs.
do	Trimnings - 1 lbs.		

HOUSING.

No. of dwelling houses inspected..	161.	No. of inspections.....	252.
No. inspected under Housing Regs...	91.	No. of inspections.....	91.
No. unfit for human habitation.....	22.	No. not reasonably fit.	69.
No. rendered fit after Informal action by Local Authority.....			Nil.

Statutory.

No. of Statutory Notices..... Nil.

Public Health Acts.

No. of Notices served:-

a) Informal.....	19.
b) Formal.....	4.
No. of Houses in which defects were remedied:-	
a) By Owner.....	17.
b) By Local Authority in default of Owner.....	Nil.

Housing Act 1936.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made during the year.....	Nil.
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders made in previous years.....	3.
No. of Closing Orders.....	Nil.

Re-Housing.

No. of houses re-constructed into Flats.....	4.
No. of families re-housed.....	7.
No. of persons re-housed.....	20.
No. of new houses erected:-	
a) By Local Authority.....	2.
b) By Other Bodies.....	9.
No. of families in new houses.....	11.
No. of persons in new houses.....	35.
No. of new houses in course of construction:-	
a) By Local Authority.....	20.
b) By Other Bodies.....	5.
No. of building sites acquired.....	11.
No. of houses owned by Local Authority.....	92.
Approximate No. of working class houses in District.....	2,200

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1947.

DISEASE	Total Cases at all ages. Year.	Under 65											Total Cases re- moved to Hosp. in Diet	Dths. in Hosp. of persons be- longing to Diet.
		1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-
Erysiperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum.....	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Non-Pulmonary ".....	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Measles.....	21	-	1	1	2	1	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	35	4	3	3	1	5	18	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.....	72	5	4	5	3	6	39	-	1	5	2	2	2	-

From the Schools we've notified the following Infectious Diseases: 84 Chicken Pox, 9 Measles, 1 German Measles, 2 Ringworm, 6 Whooping Cough, 9 Impetigo, 4 Vermin and 4 Mumps.

C - Cases. D - Deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1938 - 1947.

DISEASE.	1938 C. D.	1939 C. D.	1940 C. D.	1941 C. D.	1942 C. D.	1943 C. D.	1944 C. D.	1945 C. D.	1946 C. D.	1947 C. D.
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	6	1	2	-	3	1	5	-	1	-
Erysipelas.....	4	-	5	-	4	-	1	-	7	-
Scarlet Fever.....	17	-	6	-	4	-	8	-	28	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	-
Puerperal Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever....	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Foliomyelitis.....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia.....	4	-	3	-	8	1	2	-	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	8	2	3	2	7	3	11	2	9	3
Non-Pulmonary "	3	1	1	-	2	-	2	1	4	3
Measles.....	Not Known.	1	-	60	.	277	3	32	36	21
Whooping Cough.....	Not Known.	Not Known.	12	-	60	1	1	-	31	35
TOTALS.....	46	4	21	2	108	6	370	7	72	11

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases notified during 1947.				Deaths during 1947.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
25-35	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
35-45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55-65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and Over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	3	2	1	2	4	1	-

Particulars of Deaths:-

Pulmonary. Male 25 years. Duration of Disease - 18 months.
do Male 56 years. Ex Baker. -do- - Unknown.
do Female 20 years. Nurse. -do- - 21 months.
do Female 52 years. Housewife. -do- - 1 year.
do Female 27 years. Domestic. -do- - 1 year.
do Female 26 years. Housewife. -do- - 4 months.
Non-Pulmonary. Male 20 years. Farmer. -do- - 8 months.

New Cases and Mortality 1938 - 1947.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1938.	4	2	1	2	1	1	1	-
1939.	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-
1940.	4	4	2	-	2	1	-	-
1941.	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	1
1942.	6	5	1	1	1	2	-	-
1943.	5	4	1	2	1	-	1	-
1944.	4	2	2	2	1	-	-	1
1945.	5	4	3	-	3	-	-	-
1946.	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	-
1947.	1	3	2	1	2	4	1	-

	Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total Cases on Register at end of 1946.	11	12	10	8				
New Cases notified during 1947.....	2	2	1	1				
Cases from other Areas now living								
in the District.....	3	-	-	-				
Deaths during 1947.....	2	4	1	-				
Removals from District into other								
Areas.....	4	1	1	2				
Removed from Register - Cured.....	-	-	1	-				
Total on Register at end of 1947.....	10	9	8	7				

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1947.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation
at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age. Year born.	Under 1 1947.	1 1946.	2 1945.	3. 1944.	4 1943.	5 - 9 1938 - 1942.	10 - 14 1933 - 1937.	Total under 15
Number Immunised.	26	61	70	73	104	575	465	1374
Registrar General's Estimated Mid-Year Population 1947.		620				1080		

Percentage Immunised - Pre-School Children - 54.
" " - School Children - 96.



