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BELPER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR - 1943.

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN.
M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.)
D.P.H. (Birm.)


REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Southern Area:

JAMES LAYCOCK.
Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat
and other Foods.

Northern Area:

W. G. COOPER.
Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Insp.
Meat and other Foods.



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STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area of District in Acres	48,118
Rateable Value	£162,344
Product of a Penny Rate...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£655. 9. 4
Total Debt for all purposes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£246,173.18. 7
Debt for housing only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£137,169. 9. 4

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Number of houses on the Rate Book...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,739
New houses erected during the year..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	N17.
Number of Live Births registered: Boys 213; Girls 211.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	424
Number of Illegitimate Births: Boys 8; Girls 8.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Still Births: Males 5; Females 4..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Deaths of Infants under one year: Boys 12; Girls 9.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Total Number of Deaths: Males 159; Females 146...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Death Rate for 1,000 of Population..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.74
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49.53
(Infantile Mortality Rate for England & Wales..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49.00)

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Belper Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 12th Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district. The Report is for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

War-time conditions have again made it necessary to keep the Report short, and in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, reference to Population, Industries and Occupation of the Inhabitants are not considered.

During the year progress continued in the immunisation of children against diphtheria, and on the 31st December last, 806 children under 5 years of age had received the full treatment, while 2,565 others between 5 and 15 years had also been immunised. It is pleasing to note that there were only 2 cases of diphtheria in the whole of the year, neither of which had been immunised. Both were mild in character and soon recovered. This figure is similar to the previous year and compares with 13 cases in 1941.

The number of cases of notifiable disease is more than 100 higher than last year, but this is accounted for mainly by measles, and whooping cough, although scarlet fever cases are 14 more than the year previous.

Figures for pulmonary tuberculosis show a reduction of 5, and non-pulmonary tuberculosis a reduction of 2. The Tuberculosis Dispensary at the County Offices, Derby is open on Friday of each week for the treatment of patients, who are also visited at their homes by the Tuberculosis Officer and the Health Visitor. Advice concerning the New Allowances Scheme may also be obtained at the Dispensary.

It is pleasing to note that we had no deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough or measles. Comparisons of the incidence of infectious disease can be made on the following tables.

Free private treatment can be obtained at the Derby Infirmary by persons suffering from Venereal Disease. Patients should, however, obtain a letter from their local doctor before presenting themselves. All local doctors will give advice as to times and places of treatment.

From time to time I have visited the schools of the district, and the health of the children would appear to be good.

Together with your Sanitary Inspectors, I have made many visits to farms, food premises and houses, and many defects have been attended to. In other cases your Sanitary Inspectors have taken action to improve unsatisfactory premises.

In my last Report I asked the Council to consider the question of a regular collection of refuse from the Holbrook Parish. I am very pleased that the Council saw fit to accede to my request, and the public of Holbrook appreciate the service they now receive. The Council's services would appear to have been well maintained, and there are no matters, so far as I know, to which your attention should be directed.

On the following pages you will find certain tables and comparisons, and I would take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk (Mr. H. H. Creaser), the Sanitary Inspectors and other officials for their help and co-operation during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the rise and fall of the various notifiable diseases during the past 6 years:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	10	9	14	16	11
Non-pulmonary "	4	7	5	13	8	6
Scarlet Fever	55	53	31	65	38	52
Diphtheria	36	29	14	13	3	2
Puerperal pyrexia	4	1	1	1	2	4
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	-	1	1	3	1	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	4	5	-	-
Erysipelas	9	5	10	5	8	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	3	1	-	-	3
Polio-myelitis	2	1	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	24	17	28	28	20	21
Measles	-	-	380	256	159	240
Whooping Cough	-	9	37	59	15	55
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	27	-
Totals	140	136	521	462	298	399

During the year 305 persons died:- 159 males and 146 females - an increase of 12 on the previous year. The death rate was 11.74 compared with 11.08 last year and 11.3 in 1941. (Death rate for England & Wales was 12.1).

Births registered during the year totalled 424:- 213 males; 211 females. The total represents an increase of 7 over 1942 and 53 over 1941. The birth rate was 16.31 as against 15.77 in 1942 and 13.25 in 1941. There were 9 still births, a decrease of 2. (Birth rate for England & Wales was 16.5).

The following table gives the causes of deaths registered during 1943:-

	Male	Female
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1
Other Tuberculosis	3	-
Syphilitic Diseases	2	-
Influenza	6	2
Cancer	25	27
Diabetes	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	10	10
Heart Disease	46	33
Other circulatory diseases	4	4
Bronchitis	9	6
Pneumonia	3	7
Other respiratory diseases	3	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	1
Other digestive diseases	5	5
Nephritis	6	9
Premature Birth	3	4
Congenital debility	7	3
Suicide	2	1
Road traffic accident	2	2
Other violent causes	6	4
All other causes	15	21
Totals -	159	146

Cases of Notifiable Diseases at Varying Ages during 1943.

	Under 1 yr.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	60.	Totals.
Scarlet Fever			1	3	2	27	8	5	3	2	1		52
Diphtheria			1						1				2
Puerperal Pyrexia									4				4
Pneumonia	1	3			1	1		1	4	2	3	5	21
Measles	7	14	24	25	21	126	18	4	1				240
Whooping Cough		8	3	7	10	27							55
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						1		3	5	2			11
Non-pulmonary "				1	1	2	2						6
Erysipelas										1	1	3	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3												3
Totals	11	25	29	36	35	184	28	13	18	7	5	8	399

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

for the year 1943.

Gentlemen,

As you are aware, no change has occurred during the year in the personnel of our Department. Neither can we refer to some outstanding item of interest, war conditions restricting activities largely to matters of routine. Building operations have been at a standstill, and even repairs of prior importance have been difficult to carry out, lacking labour for the work. No new houses have been erected either by the Council or private enterprise.

Housing. War conditions also have to some extent put housing procedure into reverse, the policy being to retain all houses, possible of temporary repair, still in commission. Therefore neither Clearance nor Demolition Orders have been sought. But this has not held up planning for the future and in connection with the Council's post war housing scheme it is proposed that 124 houses be erected in one year after the war, immediately labour and materials are available. The houses have been allocated to 11 parishes, in numbers varying from 6 to 30, and sites in the parishes have been selected. The remaining 324 houses in the long term programme are proposed to be erected as soon as the circumstances permit. Each parish council/meeting was contacted by the Clerk, and the programme prepared by the Sub-Committee is the result of replies received in answer to the carefully prepared questionnaire.

Milk. In view of the present uncertainty of the position regarding the future administration of the Milk and Dairies Orders and the criticism levelled at rural authorities, it is interesting to note that in the area there is one farm producing Tuberculin Tested Milk and 130 farms where Accredited Milk is produced. These figures are some indication that supervision of dairy farms has been progressive.

Sewers and Water Supply.

Under this section there are no new features to record. Holbrook, though served by a piped supply still has its problem of water shortage in the higher parts of the parish, and other parishes are dependent upon wells, as shown by previous Reports. These problems, and also the suggested need of the treatment of sewage in certain districts, are the terms of reference of another Sub-Committee considering post war schemes.

Record of Work.

Area of District 48,118

Number of houses 7,745.

	Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Notices Served.		Number of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
		Informal	Legal	
CLOSETS AND ASHPITS -				
Defective Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits (not for conversion)	287	222	7	220
Conversion of Privies into W.C's	17	17	-	17
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C's	26	7	-	7
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets.	2	2	-	2

Record of Work continued.

	Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Notices Served		Number of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
		Informal	Legal	
CLOSETS AND ASHPITS contd.				
Defective Water Closets	95	57	-	66
Provision of Additional Water Closets.	1	1	-	1
Provision of Portable Ashbins	182	107	-	101
Dirty Closets.	27	21	-	21
DRAINAGE.-				
No disconnection of Waste Pipe	-	-	-	-
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets and Drains.	55	21	1	23
Drains Obstructed.	140	111	-	118
OTHER DEFECTS -				
Paving of Courts and Yards	-	-	-	-
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts	113	59	5	64
Sinks	38	8	-	8
Insufficient Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Windows	-	-	-	-
Dampness	14	7	-	6
Water in Cellars	10	4	1	3
Water Supply	12	6	-	6
Overcrowding	3	3	-	2
Foul Condition of Houses	9	6	-	6
Offensive Accumulations	23	18	-	19
Animals Improperly kept	18	14	-	14
Pigsties	25	12	3	21
Smoke Nuisances	-	-	-	-
Urinals	-	-	-	-
Nuisances not specified above	106	97	-	96
TOTALS -	1,203	800	17	821

	Number on Register.	Inspect- ions made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	985	350	12	12
Bakehouses	5	29	4	4
Slaughterhouses	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	1	14	-	-
Common Lodging-houses	-	-	-	-
TOTALS -	991	393	16	16

We remain, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

JAMES LAYCOCK
W. G. COOPER.

