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Contributors

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Belper Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1945

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

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FRANCIS COSTELLO, A.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Certified
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Chairman of Council : COUNCILLOR SAMUEL FROGGATT, J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee : Councillor J. W. BLACKHAM.

Clerk of the Council : CHARLES PRICE, O.B.E.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	4,294
Estimated Population	14,000
Rateable Value	£76,788
General Rate for 1945	14/6d.
Product of a Penny Rate	£304
Total Debt for all Purposes	£109,014 10s. 7d.
Debt for Housing only	£79,408 19s. 9d.
Number of Houses on the Rate Book	3,935
New Houses erected during 1945	Nil
Number of Live Births registered : Boys 105, Girls 105	210
Number of Illegitimate Births : Boys 11, Girls 3	14
Still Births : Males 3, Females 4	7
Deaths of Infants under One year : Boys 2, Girls 5	7
Total Number of deaths : Males 60, Females 102	162
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	11.57
(Death Rate for England and Wales	11.40)
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	33.33
(Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales	46.00)

Riversdale,
Bridge Street,
Belper.
August, 1946.

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

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 25th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the district. The Report is for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

The year may be regarded as satisfactory from a health point of view. The total number of cases of infectious diseases (128) while higher than the year previous, was mainly owing to small epidemics of measles and whooping cough which occurred in the early months of the year.

Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the the year and there were 6 deaths from this disease, as against 4 last year and 6 the year previous. Twenty-five cases of scarlet fever is the lowest figure for 13 years, and of this number twenty-two were removed to Hospital for treatment. The cases were mild in character and soon yielded to treatment. There were no deaths from this disease.

There was only one case of diphtheria, which was an adult, who had not been immunised. The patient soon recovered from the attack, which was only in a mild form. Every effort has been made to induce parents to have their children immunised as soon as possible after reaching one year old, and sessions are held at the Clinic, Field Lane, on the afternoon of the last Wednesday of each month.

It is pleasing to note that there were no cases of Typhoid, Dysentery or Puerperal Pyrexia. Comparisons can be made on the Tables on following pages which show the incidence of Infectious Diseases over the past seven years.

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

The Council's arrangements for the treatment of Scabies again proved very satisfactory. The local Doctors notify me of any cases they have and the Nurse visits and gives treatment. The Council providing materials and paying the Nurses' fees. During the year only eight cases were notified and treated. All cases were re-visited to make sure that recovery was in full.

The Council's water services were well maintained and analysts reports show that the water is of good quality.

I have inspected all the schools of the district and found them in a cleanly condition. At one school, however, on which I reported to the Council, the closets were of the trough type and offensive. At the end of the year plans were being prepared for new closet accommodation of and up to date type.

Numerous farms have been visited and I have been satisfied in all cases with the cleanliness of the premises. A number of structural alterations have been carried out during the year.

On the following pages you will find certain figures and comparisons, and I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and the Clerk (Mr. J. Percy R. Pym) and the Sanitary Inspector Mr. F. Costello, for the help and co-operation which I received during the year.

I remain, Madam and 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 seven years.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	9	9	13	7	6	8
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	2	1	6	2	1	3
Scarlet Fever	40	67	53	80	32	33	25
Diphtheria	42	5	5	3	2	3	1
Erysipelas	4	3	6	6	4	3	2
Pneumonia	6	8	11	2	1	5	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	1	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	6	3	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	31	264	197	42	5	58
Whooping Cough	14	3	40	4	8	5	26
Totals	126	138	393	311	99	61	128

During the year a total of 162 persons died—60 males and 102 females—a decrease of 14 compared with the year previous. The death rate was 11.57 compared with 12.57 in 1944 and 11.8 in 1943. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.4

The following tables give the causes of the deaths registered in 1945.

	M.	F.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Cancer	10	13
Diabetes	—	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	8	8
Heart Disease	19	33
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	5
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	4	7
Diarrhoea, under two years.....	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	6
Nephritis	1	1
Premature Birth	—	2
Congenital Debility	—	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
Other Violent Causes	1	1
All Other Causes	9	16
	—	—
Totals	60	102
	—	—

Births registered during the year totalled 210, 105 males and 105 females. This total is a decrease of 41 compared with the year previous. The Birth Rate was 15, as against 17.93 in 1944 and 16.18 in 1943. There were 7 still-births, an increase of 1. The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 16.1 There were 14 illegitimate births.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT VARYING AGES DURING 1945.

	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	60	Ttl
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	1	—	12	2	2	4	1	—	—	25
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Measles	2	4	5	11	11	23	2	—	—	—	—	—	58
Whooping Cough	1	3	3	3	4	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	2	—	8
Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	4	8	10	15	15	49	5	3	9	5	4	1	128

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my sixth Annual Report which is for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

The termination of the War has far from eased the many difficulties with which we have been impeded for the past six years. In fact the problems connected with labour and materials have increased and the greatest difficulty has been experienced in property owners obtaining sufficient labour to comply with notices which I have issued during the year. However, it will be seen from figures given below, that a great many nuisances have been abated and repairs carried out to a great many properties.

The Council is proceeding with its Housing Schemes and their programme is not unreasonable. It is my hope that rapid progress is made in the erection of a considerable number of houses so that we can make a start at an early date with our Slum Clearance Schemes. I have now had six years in this district and in my opinion what may be called "Old Belper" should be tackled in a vigorous manner and a large proportion of such houses demolished and the areas re-planned. Many of these houses are seriously lacking in essential facilities, many are back to earth and a large number have no through ventilation, having only one door. No remedial action short of demolition can be effective with such houses, and as soon as the Housing shortage is remedied strong action should be taken as I am quite certain that it is injurious to the health of the community to have so many houses of this condition.

As reported last year, the work of the Department increases. The essential records which a Health Department has to keep are very considerable, coupled with this is the fact that your Medical Officer of Health has no clerk and so this work devolves on me. A large amount of my time which should be spent on outside work is now taken up in keeping records for infectious diseases, births and deaths, immunisation against diphtheria, tuberculosis, salvage sales together with monthly and quarterly returns which the various Ministries require. However, I am hopeful that in the near future some clerical assistance will be provided if only for typing purposes.

NOTICES COMPLIED WITH DURING THE YEAR.

Conversion of pail closets into water closets	....	....	....	7
Repairs to defective closets	....	....	....	94
Provision of additional closets	....	....	....	10
Dustbin renewals	....	....	....	286
Defective and choked drains	....	....	....	38
Repairs to roofs and spouting	....	....	....	18
Provision of glazed sinks	....	....	....	6

Repairs to windows	29
New windows provided	10
Pointing of outside walls	10
Cleansing of houses, including disinfestation	7
Repairs to floors	26
New tiled floors laid	6
New firegrates	16
Repairs to firegrates	14
Defective plaster made good	18
New chimney pots fixed	6
Repairs to stairs	4

Inspections and re-visits with regard to the above work and drainage works in progress, together with visits to farms, dairies, etc., amounted to 1,489.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

It would appear that the number of pail and privy closets is not so high as shown in Annual Reports since 1939. It has been my custom to deduct annually, pails and privies which have been converted into water closets, from the figure shown in the Annual Report for 1939, which was compiled before I took Office in Belper. On looking up Annual Reports prior to that date I find that the figures given in the 1939 report do not compare with those for the year previous. I show figures as given in the reports mentioned :—

	1938	1939
Privies	41	147
Pails	383	365
Trough, tippler and Slop-water closets	111	—

It appears that the tippler and other closets were added to the privies by the person who compiled such report and I propose to take the 1938 figure as correct since they were given by Mr. Statham, your Sanitary Inspector at that time. Although no proper records are available, I am quite sure that we have nothing like 147 privies in the district. The collection of nightsoil is done by a Contractor and those of you who know him will quite appreciate that it is impossible to compile records from information which he would be able to give, but some time we shall have to obtain records which are accurate.

Working on the 1938 figures, the position would appear to be as follows :—

Pails	336
Privies	31
Tippler and other closets	77
Water closets	3,586

During the year seven pail and six tippler closets were converted to the water carriage system.

It is pleasing to note that the Council was making provision for the sewerage of Broadholme and improving the water supply to Makeney. When these works are carried out the number of pails and privies can be reduced by a further sixty.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As in previous years I am again pleased to report that a weekly collection prevailed throughout the district with the exception of certain isolated cottages on the outskirts of the district which were on occasions left for two weeks.

The refuse was disposed of as follows :—

Tip, 3,490 tons.

Destructor, 354 tons.

Owing to shortage of labour the destructor had to close down in April and all refuse disposed of by controlled tipping. When the Council has less business on hand than at present, I would like to re-submit a scheme on which I reported in 1943, which was for re-modelling of the destructor and the provision of a separation plant to remove cinders, ash and salvage.

During the year 251 notices were issued for the renewal of dustbins. There are no ashpits in the district and every effort is made to ensure that each house is provided with a proper dustbin.

Salvage work took up much time and £782 was received from sales of which £224 was profit.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Your Surveyor takes samples of water for analyses and all such samples were satisfactory. Arising out of samples which I had analysed and which were from private supplies, two houses were connected to the Town's Supply. Four other houses which were previously supplied from one common tap had water laid on to the houses over proper sinks.

I again have to refer to the Strutt's Private Water Supply on which I reported in November, 1944, and which undertaking was refused as a gift by the Council. The Estate carried out certain repairs to the pipeline to reservoir and subsequent samples were satisfactory but of course the plumbo-solvency still remained.

The Estate carried out certain work to the spring-flow and while this work was in progress I forbade the use of the water and a supply was made from the Town's Supply. At the time of making this report the Council are again considering an offer of the undertaking and it is hoped that the matter is cleared up in the near future.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

A number of visits were made and the water on all occasions appeared to be very satisfactory. Two samples were analysed and proved sterile, proving that the chlorination plant was up to its work.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Eleven farmers in the district are supplying Accredited Milk and at the end of the year a number of other farmers were considering making the necessary alterations to permit of going on to this Standard.

One hundred and seven inspections were made of cowsheds and as a result of such visits and notices served, 6 cowsheds were cleansed and limewashed, dairies and milk coolers were provided to 4 farms and 6 cowsheds were completely re-modelled up to modern standards. Generally speaking, the cowsheds of the district were well maintained. Four samples of milk were analysed and found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODSTUFFS.

During the year 79 condemnation notes were issued regarding the following articles of food which were unfit for human consumption :—

Corned Beef, 61 lbs. ; Corned Mutton, 138 lbs. ; Luncheon Meat, 64 lbs ; Canned Pork, 726 lbs. ; Bacon, 87 lbs. ; Ham, 5 lbs. ; Soup, 5 tins ; Peas, 32 tins ; Beans, 72 tins ; Pilchards, 65 tins ; Milk, 62 tins ; Salmon, 5 tins ; Meat and Vegetables, 5 tins ; Herrings, 196 lbs. ; Tea, 3½ lbs. ; Barley, 112 lbs. ; Cake, 14 lbs. ; Flour, 70 lbs. ; Sugar, 284 lbs. ; Rusks, 112 lbs. ; Dates, 70 lbs. ; Sultanas, 75 lbs. ; Raisins, 275 lbs.

In cases where the quantities of food is fairly large it is returned to the Ministry of Food for salvage.

Many visits were made to all premises where food is prepared or stored and same were found to be in a cleanly condition.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Forty-four houses were fumigated after infectious diseases and the usual enquiries made. I also attend at the Clinic when Sessions are held for Immunisation against Diphtheria and keep all the records.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the help afforded me during the year.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. COSTELLO,

Sanitary Inspector.