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Contributors

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BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1939

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

-and-

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C.A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

C.M. ROBINSON, F.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.
as Sanitary Inspector, and Meat and Foods Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

H.W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B., as Sanitary Inspector.

Junior Assistant Inspector: x

D. W. POPE.

Housing Assistant:

P. MILLER.

Junior Housing Assistant:

P.C. SINGLETON.

Clerk:

Miss D. SIVYER.

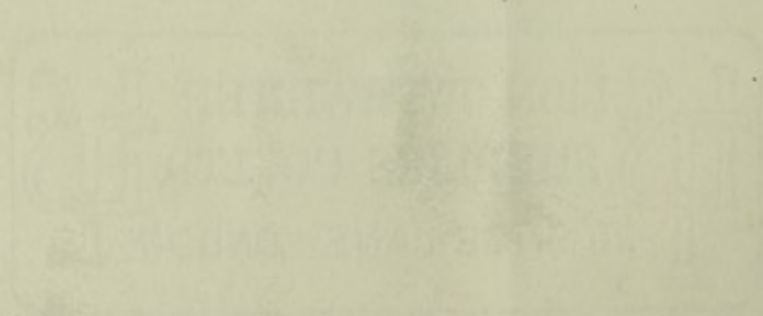
JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

Medical Officer:

FRANCIS BOLSTER, M.D.

Matron:

Miss M. WRIGHT.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	49,152
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population, mid-1939	24,060
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rate	23,870
Number of inhabited houses end of 1939 according to Rate Books	5827
Rateable Value	£88,535. 0. 0.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£321. 8. 8.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	284	142	142
Illegitimate	10	4	6

Birth-rate, 12.2 per 1,000 estimated resident population.

STILL-BIRTHS:

Legitimate	9	5	4
Illegitimate	2	1	1

Rate, 36.06 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

DEATHS:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
.....	259	139	120

x
Death-rate, 9.9 per 1,000 estimated resident population.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth:

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>
From sepsis	0	0
From other causes	1	3.2
Total	1	3.2

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 legitimate	
All infants per 1,000 live births	42.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	42.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	100.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	42
Deaths from Measles [all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

x This figure is arrived at by multiplying the crude death-rate by 0.87, the adjusting factor supplied by the Registrar-General. This is necessary in order to make the death-rate of the district comparable with that of England and Wales on the basis of equal sex and age distribution.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table gives the causes of death:-

	M.	F.
Diphtheria	0	1
Influenza	3	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
Syphilis	1	0
Cancer Malignant Disease	21	21
Diabetes	2	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	11	9
Heart Disease	28	28
Aneurysm	0	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	5
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	3	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	0	2
" " (over 2 years)	0	2
Appendicitis	1	0
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	4
Other Puerperal Causes	0	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	5	1
Senility	4	9
Suicide	3	1
Other Violence	11	3
Other Defined Diseases	9	6
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	1

139 120

WATER SUPPLY

The result of the latest examination was as follows:-

Appearance	Clear and bright
Colour	Normal
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH Neutral	7.2
Free Carbonic Acid	1.7
Electric conductivity at 20°C	390
Total Solids, dried at 180°C	26.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.4
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	18.0
Hardness: Total	19.0
Temporary	16.0
Permanent	3.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.04
Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.010
Metals	Iron 0.005
Free Chlorine	Absent

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in 1 day	1
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre growing upon Agar at 37°C. in 2 days	1
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre growing upon Agar at 20°C. in 3 days	14
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37°C.	Absent in 100 c.c. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Absent in 100 c.c.

Report

"This sample is clear and bright and of normal colour. The water is not unduly hard in character, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, no metals apart from an insignificant trace of iron, and is of satisfactory organic purity.

This is a very satisfactory sample, clear and bright in appearance, and of a high degree of bacterial purity indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".

Extensions or Improvements

New mains laid during the year:-

194 yards 3-inch, Lymans Road, Arlesey
96 yards 3-inch, Alexander Road, Wrestlingworth
292 yards 3-inch, Hoo Road, Meppershall

Parish.	No. of inhabited dwelling-houses, Dec. 31st, 1939.	No. of houses supplied.
Arlesey	786	796
Astwick	12	12
Blunham	181	162
Campton	107	102
Chicksands	11	5
Clifton	296	302
Cockayne Hatley	37	33
Dunton	125	130
Edworth	19	25
Everton	61	56
Eyeworth	28	26
Henlow	333	356
Langford	341	348
Meppershall	176	160
Moggerhanger	136	134
Northill	374	377
Potton	624	622
Shefford	513	512
Southill	305	291
Stondon, Upper	18	15
Stotfold	918	905
Sutton	69	65
Tempsford	130	126
Warden	99	97
Wrestlingworth	128	136
Totals	5827	5793

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During the year 14 dwellinghouses were found to be infested, 3 being Council houses and 11 privately owned. These were effectively dealt with.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

1 (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	485
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	891
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	218
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	614
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	71

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

1.	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	87
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A.- Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By Owners	9
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	None

B.- Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By Owners	25
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ..	None

C.- Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	121
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	32

D.- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	None

During the year 48 houses were built by the Council.

At the end of the year 6 others were in course of construction and nearing completion.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year:-

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	36	84	-
Diphtheria	15	15	1
Enteric Fever	8	-	-
(including Paratyphoid)			
Pneumonia	19	1	7
Erysipelas	9	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	-
Polio-myelitis	4	2	-
Measles	2	1	-

The distribution of the chief notifiable diseases in the district is shown in the following table:-

Parish.	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Polio-myelitis	Encephalitis lethargica	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Measles
Astwick	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Arlesey	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Blunham	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clifton	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Cockayne Hatley	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dunton	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Edworth	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Eyeworth	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Henlow	2	1	1	36	-	-	1	-	1
Langford	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meppershall	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Moggerhanger	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northill	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potton	2	1	1	13	-	-	-	-	-
Shefford	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Southill	5	-	1	9	-	1	-	-	-
Stotfold	2	6	11	11	-	-	-	3	-
Sutton	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wormsford	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Westlingworth	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
	15	9	19	93	2	4	1	3	2

An analysis of notified cases is set out under age groups in the following table:-

	Under one year	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	55	65	65 and over
Diphtheria	1	-	1	-	1	-	8	2	1	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever ...	1	-	3	3	7	27	19	20	9	2	2	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	1	3	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
(including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
15 -	2	4	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 -	3	1	-	2	3	-	1	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	5	1	6	6	2	1	-

The total number of notifications of tuberculosis was 47,
of which 16 had been previously notified.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1939.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellinghouses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts..	485
Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations 1925 (included above)	218
Re-Inspections and visits to works in progress	891
Visits to Council houses re defects and works in progress	4063
Visits to new buildings in course of erection	875
Inspection of factories including bakehouses	261
Inspection of dairies and cowsheds	105
Inspection of petroleum stores	50
Visits re infectious disease	110
Rooms disinfected	145
Visits in connection with Fuel and Lighting Order	42
Visits in connection with Government Evacuation Scheme	3151
Visits in connection with Food Control	32

NOTICES SERVED

63 Intimation Notices or letters were sent, dealing with 76 premises, and 4 Statutory Notices were served in connection with 4 dwelling-houses.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT

<u>Dwelling-houses</u>	<u>Private Property.</u>	<u>Council Houses.</u>
Houses redecorated	-	69
Roofs, chimneys, eaves guttering and fallpipes repaired or renewed	48	222
External walls repaired	6	2
Walls, ceilings and floors repaired or renewed ..	211	119
New windows	25	48
Stairs, doors and windows repaired	108	177
Firegrates, ranges or coppers repaired	3	639
New ranges fixed	2	6
New coppers fixed	3	91
New copper pans fixed	-	25
Dampness remedied	23	10
Chimney pots fixed	1	7
New sinks and baths provided or repaired and wastepipes trapped or repaired	8	89
Overcrowding of dwelling-houses abated	4	1
Dirty houses cleansed	5	-
Verminous houses disinfested	13	14
Taps repaired, rewashed or renewed	-	390
Burst pipes repaired	1	123
Firebricks provided	-	483
Draining boards provided	-	51
Locks repaired or renewed	-	69
Rainwater tanks repaired	-	25
Fences and gates repaired or renewed	-	29
Interoven stoves fixed	-	20
Food stores provided	21	-
Food stores lighted and ventilated	3	-
Outhouses renewed or repaired	34	-
Yards paved.....	10	-

<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Private Property.</u>	<u>Council Houses.</u>
Cesspools cleansed	11	-
New cesspools	1	-
Drains cleared, trapped and repaired	20	103
New drains laid	7	-
New gullies	4	-
New Manhole covers provided	1	8
Vent shafts and soil pipes	4	-
Dishing to gullies	5	-

Sanitary conveniences and ash receptacles

New W.C. apartments erected	3	-
W.C. flushing cisterns regulated, repaired or renewed	3	145
New E.C. pails provided	-	103
New pedestal W.C. basins fixed	9	12
Lavatory seats refixed, repaired or renewed	-	17
W.C. flush pipe joints repaired	1	20
New ashbins provided	19	89
New E.C. apartments	3	-
Privies converted to pails	3	-

Miscellaneous

Repairs to hot and cold water supply tanks	-	6
Houses supplied with public water supply	14	-
Pumps repaired	2	-
Slaughterhouses cleansed	2	-
Cowsheds limewashed	13	-
Bakehouses cleansed	7	-
Factories cleansed	3	-
Workshops cleansed	2	-
Piggeries cleansed	1	-
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	18	-
Miscellaneous repairs	9	10

NEW BUILDINGS

During the year 66 plans in respect of 86 proposed new buildings were deposited and approved, and the following were erected:-

Dwelling-houses	49
Other buildings	41

Alterations and Additions

Alterations and additions to dwelling-houses	13
Other alterations and additions	5

In addition to the above, 48 dwelling-houses were erected by the Council in the following parishes:-

Arlesey	18	Stotfold	10
Northill	8	Wrestlingworth	12

FACTORIES

There are 83 factories on the Register and 261 visits of inspection have been made.

In addition, there are 31 outworkers in the district.

FOOD SUPPLY

Slaughterhouses and Foodshops

There are 21 slaughterhouses in the district; also 1 knacker's yard.

During the year 1,180 visits of inspection have been made.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1,300	233	125	3,452	91,537
Number inspected	735	158	72	1,007	8,408
<u>All diseases except</u>					
<u>Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	-	2	2	305
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	13	-	-	2,625
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	0.816%	8.227%	2.77%	0.198%	34.847%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	2	2	1	-	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	26	1	-	1,613
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	0.952%		2.77%	-	19.469%
		17.721%			

Total weight of meat unfit and voluntarily surrendered:-

29 tons 15 cwts 2 qrs 6½ lbs.

MILK SUPPLY

At the close of the year 76 persons were registered under the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926; 2 new dairymen were added to the register.

Of the 76 persons registered, 60 are cowkeepers and 16 purveyors of milk only.

RAINFALL

Rainfall is recorded at Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold Sewage Works, the amounts recorded during the year being as follows:-

MONTH.	ARLESEY.		POTTON.		STOTFOLD.	
	Rainfall in inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Rainfall in inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Rainfall in inches.	Days on which rain fell.
January	4.32	21	3.21	18	3.76	22
February	.625	8	.50	6	.44	7
March	1.42	17	1.57	13	1.40	17
April	2.69	15	3.25	12	2.72	15
May	1.56	7	1.18	5	1.515	8
June	1.70	12	1.91	11	1.71	11
July	1.925	19	2.70	15	1.66	18
August.....	4.63	17	3.32	13	6.26	15
September	.96	10	.89	9	.98	11
October	3.74	18	3.68	16	3.68	19
November	3.255	15	3.03	16	2.94	20
December	1.11	8	1.11	9	.94	11
Totals	27.935	167	26.35	143	28.005	174

PETROLEUM LICENCES

Licences renewed January 1st, 1939	72
New licences granted during the year	6
Number of stores licensed December 31st, 1939	78
Quantity of petrol permitted to be kept in licensed stores, 52,836 gallons.	

CARBIDE OF CALCIUM

Licences renewed January 1st, 1939	8
New licences granted during the year	0
Number of stores licensed December 31st, 1939	8
Quantity of carbide permitted to be kept in licensed stores, 13 cwt.	
Amount collected in fees for Petrol and Carbide licences - £46- 10- 10d.	

C. M. ROBINSON.