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Contributors

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DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female
	62	29	33
Death Rate per 1000 of population
			18.52

This death rate appears alarmingly high when compared with 12.4, the rate for England and Wales and 13.8, the average death rate in Blandford for the last 15 years.

The ages of those who died were as follows :

Over 90	.....	3
Over 80 and under 90	..	14
„ 70 „ „ 80	.....	20
„ 60 „ „ 70	.....	12
„ 50 „ „ 60	.....	8
Under 50	.....	5

Thus 49 out of the 62 deaths occurred in people over 60. The principal causes of death were the diseases of advanced life, viz. : Heart disease 17, cancer 14 and cerebral haemorrhage 7. The high death rate may therefore be ascribed to the survival of a large part of the population to an unusually old age during the last decade or two.

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1000 live births	.....	48.78
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	.....	25.00
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	.....	1000.00

Deaths from Measles	.....	0
Whooping Cough	.....	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	.....	1
Puerperal Causes	.....	0

3.—NOTIFIABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Apart from a widespread epidemic of mumps the Town was remarkably free from infectious diseases during the year. The only notifications were 7 cases of pneumonia, of whom 3 were admitted to hospital and 3 died, and 5 cases of tuberculosis. Some details of the latter are given in the table below.

A serious outbreak of food poisoning occurred in August, causing two deaths and 39 cases of illness. It was traced to a tin of corned beef. I have made a special report to the Council on this outbreak and it is unnecessary to give full details here.



TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0				
1	0	0	0	0				
5	0	0	0	0				
10	0	0	0	0				
15	0	0	0	1				
20	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
25	0	0	0	0				
35	1	0	0	0				
45	1	0	0	0				
55	0	1	0	0				
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0				
Totals	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0

No non-notified deaths from tuberculosis occurred.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS 1925.

No action was required under these regulations relating to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

No action was required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925. to procure the compulsory removal of cases to hospital.

DISINFECTION.

There is a steam disinfectant at the Isolation Hospital which is freely used. All houses in which infectious disease has been notified, have been disinfected. Verminous persons and their belongings when necessary are sent to the Isolation Hospital to be cleansed and disinfected.

No scheme for immunisation against diphtheria has been adopted.

4.—HEALTH SERVICES OF THE BOROUGH.

HOSPITALS.

The Blandford Cottage Hospital, with 12 beds, continues to do excellent work. 229 patients were admitted during the year, and 265 out-patients were treated. These are the highest figures so far recorded.

The Blandford Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital has 24 beds, and takes the infectious cases from the town. Two motor ambulances are available, one for infectious cases and the other for non-infectious. Both are found invaluable.

Arrangements have been made with Shaftesbury to use the Isolation Hospital at Foyle Hill for cases of small-pox should they occur.

CLINICS.

The Blandford Infant Welfare Centre meets twice a month. The attendance was good, viz : 664 attendances with 122 babies on the register.

The attendances at the Antenatal Clinic declined a little during 1937, chiefly due to fewer mothers coming in from the villages. 23 mothers attended and there were 39 attendances.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The council employs a part time Medical Officer of Health, who holds the Diploma of Public Health of Oxford University, and a whole time Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and is also Inspector of Meat under the 1924 Meat Regulations.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

The County Nursing Association provides a Nurse for the town, who is also a Midwife. Her salary is paid largely from local subscriptions and partly by grants from the County Council and Ministry of Health. One other midwife practised in the town during the year.

There is also a nurse appointed by the County Council as Health Visitor for the Town and Rural District.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Specimens are sent away when laboratory examinations are needed, usually to the Clinical Research Institute.

5.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

WATER.

The Blandford Water Supply from deep chalk wells is excellent and plentiful. The water is naturally a hard one but analyses have always shown a high and uniform standard of purity. Hitherto only chemical analyses have been made yearly but recently two bacteriological examinations have given good results. For greater security it is intended in future to have a bacteriological analysis made twice every quarter and a chemical analysis once a quarter.

SEWERAGE AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Sewerage System is working well. There have been no complaints of smells from the disposal works, an improvement on former years. Analyses of the effluent have resulted in satisfactory reports.

Dry house refuse is removed under contract by a lorry to a refuse dump. The dump is frequently a cause of complaint. It harbours rats, breeds flies and emits smoke from unavoidable smouldering fires. It is impossible to find a site for a dump where these nuisances are not felt. They should be entirely overcome when the new incinerator is brought into use. This it is hoped will be early in 1938.

6.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The following samples were taken and analysed by the public analyst. None of them were found adulterated except 2 samples of milk.

Cream, Dried Milk, Sponge Mixture, Pearl Barley, Brawn, Camphorated Oil, Cake, Corned Beef, Cornflour, Fish, Lard, Margarine, Fresh Milk (5), Meat Pie, Nutmeg, Pork Pie, Steak and Kidney Pudding, Sugar, Tenspirin and Tinned Cream. One sample of milk was 7% deficient in fat, and the vendor was cautioned. Another contained 10% added water. The case was dismissed.

There is no Milk Pasteurising Plant in the Town.

7.—FACTORIES.

45 inspections of factories and 120 of workshops were made. Two cases of uncleanness and one of defective sanitary accommodation were found and remedied.

8.—SWIMMING BATHS.

The town has an open air Swimming Bath which is very popular during the summer. It has an intake from the river above the weir and an outlet below the weir so that a constant flow of fresh river water passes through the bath. It is estimated that the flow is sufficient to renew the whole water in the bath twice in 24 hours.

In addition chlorination with bleaching powder is done once a day. This has been found more satisfactory than other methods of chlorination in preventing a deposit of slime on the sides and bottom of the bath.

The river water, though turbid at some times of the year, appears to be quite safe for bathing and no diseases have occurred amongst bathers which could be attributed to infection from the bath water.

9.—HOUSING.

(a) GENERAL REMARKS.

The general standard of housing is good but there is much old house property which needs constant vigilance to see that it is kept in decent repair. There are also many houses which lack such necessary amenities as larders and washing arrangements, and some are badly lighted and ventilated.

A Clearance Area in East Street is under consideration which will remove eight or nine of the worst of these houses.

Overcrowding is not a serious problem. Only four cases needed attention during the year.

(b) STATISTICS.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	6
(i) By the Local Authority	0
(ii) By other Local Authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies and persons	6
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts	0

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	180
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	195
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	67

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	67
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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	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	0
(a) By owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ;	0
(a) By owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0
(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	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	0
Number of houses owned by the Local Authority and held under	
Part III. of Housing Act, 1925	0
Part II. of ditto	0
Other Powers	66
Approximate number of working class houses in the Town	1000

HOUSING ACT 1935. Overcrowding.

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
Number of families dwelling therein	4
Number of persons dwelling therein	20
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
Number of persons concerned in such cases	11
(d) Particulars of any cases in which houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement	Nil

10.—SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT.

Number of Inspections	54	
Number of informal notices	12	Number complied with 12
Number of statutory notices	0	

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Number of persons on register at end of 1937			8
Number of dairy farms and other dairy premises on register at end of 1937			8
Number of dairy farms inspected		(none in the town)	0
Number of Inspections			0
Number of milkshops inspected			8
Number of Inspections			24
Number of notices served	0	complied with	0

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number registered	0	Number licensed	2
Number newly licensed in 1937			0
Number inspected			2
Number of notices served	1	complied with	1

MEAT REGULATIONS 1924.

Number of notices of slaughtering received		160
Number of notices of diseased or unsound carcasses or meat received		2
Number of slaughterings attended by M.O.H.		0
Number of slaughterings attended by Inspector		140
Number of carcasses or organs or meat found diseased or unsound		0

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. BODLEY SCOTT, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.