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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1950

J.B.M. MAYES., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

CIVIC CENTRE

WIMBORNE

P R E F A C E

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

Her Worship The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Blandford.

The Annual Report on the health and sanitary
circumstances of the Borough is submitted for your in-
formation and consideration.

Much of the routine sanitary work of the Public
Health Department has not been carried out, nor can be,
until the Department is adequately staffed.

In May, 1950, the Council lost the services of
Mr. Hoskins, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who
left Blandford for a more senior post in Wales.
Unfortunately his post has not yet been filled.

The Borough has been very fortunate in having
the honorary services of Mr. Tait, a retired Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector, who came forward to help in the
emergency. I should like to take this opportunity of
thanking him for his unfailing courtesy and for all the work
he has done.

I have much appreciated the help and co-operation
given to me by my professional colleagues in practice
in the Borough.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the
Council and other Council officials who have extended to
me courtesy and assistance.

J. B. M. MAYES.

JULY, 1951.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR

COUNCILLOR MRS. E.M. BIDDULPH

DEPUTY MAYOR

COUNCILLOR P.J. LUCAS.

ALDERMEN

Miss Castleman-Smith M.B.E., J.P.

D.S. Cuff.

B.C. Hunt.

W.J. Newman.

COUNCILLORS.

J.L. Carter.

C.B. Faulkner.

D. Gent.

G.R.J. Haskott.

Brigadier P.P.King.

R.J.W. King.

R.C.H. Legg.

C.M. Timbrell.

J. Trickett.

F. Wyatt.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.... J. B.M.Mayes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.... O.R.N. Hoskins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
(Resigned April 30th, 1950)

TEMPORARY SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.... L. Tait, C.E., C.R.S.I.

VETERINARY SURGEONS.... Major F. Beckett, F.R.C.V.S., and his Staff.
(acting as meat inspector)

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

1. Area of the Borough.....253 acres.
 2. Population (a) as at Census, 1951.....3371
(b) as estimated by Registrar General
at 30th June, 1950.....3596.
 3. Total number of inhabited houses (from Rate Book)
at 31st December, 1950.....1350.
 4. Rateable Value at 1st April, 1950.....£25, 803
Sum represented by penny rate.....£99.7.8.
-

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

for the year 1950

(As supplied by the Registrar General)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total Registered.....	66	39	27
Legitimate.....	59	35	24
Illegitimate.....	7	4	3

DEATHS

Total Registered.....	59	29	30
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INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

Total registered.....	2	1	1
Legitimate.....	2	1	1
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0

Comparative Statistics

(where available)

	<u>Blandford.</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	18.33	15.8
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 home population.	0.0.	0.37
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	16.41	11.6
Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births.....	30.33.	29.8

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1950
(Supplied by the Registrar General)

<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	1	1	2
2. Other forms of tuberculosis.....	0	0	0
3. Cancer.....	9	8	17
4. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	5	8
5. Coronary Disease.....	3	4	7
6. Other diseases of the heart.....	6	6	12
7. Other circulatory diseases.....	0	2	2
8. Pneumonia.....	1	0	1
9. Bronchitis.....	3	0	3
10. Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	0	1
11. Congenital malformations.....	0	1	1
12. Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	0	1
13. All other accidents.....	0	1	1
14. All other causes.....	1	2	3
<hr/>			
TOTALS...	29	30	59

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The birth rate for the past two years have been similar. 18.33 in 1950 and 18.6 in 1949. Live births exceed the number of deaths by seven. No stillbirths have been recorded in 1950.

DEATHS

59 persons died in 1950. 29 males and 30 females. Of these, 40 were over 70 years of age. The crude death rate was 16.41 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the comparability factor of 0.82, the standardised death rate was 13.45. The comparability factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and enable more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in other areas.

There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, scarlet fever, cerebro-spinal fever and poliomyelitis.

There were no maternal deaths.

In 1950 two infants died under one year of age, compared with one during last year.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY. .

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester has given the district generous service. The laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious, or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the District is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castlemain House. This service also covers the Rural District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre every fortnight at the Congregational Hall.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The Dorset County Council provide an Ante-Natal Clinic once a fortnight at the Congregational Hall.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

A Home Help Service was commenced in Blandford during 1950 under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The water is supplied by the Blandford Water Undertaking, owned by the Council. Full pressure was maintained throughout the year. The two sources of water are at Black Lane and Blandford St. Mary. The former, a group of "shallow wells" and the latter a "shallow well" with an adit. The depth of the wells do not exceed 40 feet. During the year both supplies were chlorinated by drip feeds into the wells.

The results of the samples taken through the year were satisfactory. The need for constant and careful chlorination of both supplies is essential as both are potential sources of easy pollution.

The estimated total pumped into the supply during 1950 was 124,799,875 gallons, but as part of this was consumed by the Rural District, exact town figures are not available.

The new borehole at Black Lane has not been developed this year.

A series of samples were taken of the new borehole supply at the beginning of the year and they were very satisfactory.

A copy of the Certificate of Analysis from the Public Analyst is appended:-

COPY OF A CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

of a sample of water from Black Lane Bore Hole taken on the 9th January, 1950.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned Sample with the following results:-

Chemical Analysis (results expressed in parts of a million)

Ammonia, free.....	0.058
Ammonia, Albuminoid.....	0.142
Nitrites.....	Absent.
Nitrates.....	2.34
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins at 80 deg. F.....	0.3167
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80 deg. F.....	0.4333
Chlorine.....	15.5
as Sodium Chloride.....	25.5
Hardness, temporary.....	220.0 p.p.m
Hardness, permanent.....	35.5
Hardness, total.....	255.5.
Total solids.....	326.0
Free carbon dioxide.....	Nil
Ph. Value.....	6.8
Metals.....	None
Colour.....	Colourless and
Odour.....	None clear.

Bacteriological Examinations:-

B. Coli Presumptive Test at 37 deg. C after 24 hours... absent in 100 ml
Organisms growing on Agar Agar at 37 deg. C. in 48 hours.. 1 per ml, organisms
growing on Agar Agar at 22 deg. C in 72 hours..... 180 per ml

Remarks:-

The above results are very satisfactory and indicate that this water is
eminently suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed.... Arthur S. Carlos, B. Sc (Lond) F.R.C.I.
Public Analyst

Houses supplied with standpipes.....	257
Houses supplied with water inside the premises.....	82

REPORTS ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

New Porehole at Black Lane.	Class 1.	10/1/50
Black Lane Pumping Station.	Class 1.	10/1/50, 28/8/50, 16/10/50
St. Leonards School.	Class 2.	8/3/50
Blandford St. Mary Pumping Station.	Class 1.	10/1/50, 31/7/50, 11/9/50.
	Class 2.	16/10/50.
Swimming Baths.	Class 4.	10/5/50
Inlet to Swimming Bath.	Class 4	10/5/50.

Explanation of the standards and classification of water, based on the
presumptive findings.

Non-chlorinated piped supplies.

Presumptive Coli - aerogenes Count per 100 ml

Class 1.....Highly satisfactory	- less than 1
Class 2.....Satisfactory.	- 1 - 2
Class 3..... Suspicious.	- 3 - 10
Class 4..... Unsatisfactory	- greater than 10

Throughout the year 50 per cent of samples should fall into Class 1,
80 per cent should not fall below Class 2, and the remainder should not fall
below Class 3.

In chlorinated piped supplies the water should come into
Class 1, and efficient chlorination should yield a water free from Coli-
aerogenes organisms in 100 ml.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town sewers gave little trouble during the year. During periods of heavy rainfall, flooding occurred in West Street. The cause was the accumulation of sewage in the sewer as the pumps were not powerful enough to deal with the quantity of sewage in these periods of heavy rainfall.

The sewage disposal works have been working as well as can be expected, but they are unable to work efficiently for the percolating beds require renewal. The Works are in urgent need of a supply of clean water and sanitary accommodation. Any cleaning done by the workmen necessitates using sewage as there is no clean water available.

DRY REFUSE

Household refuse is collected from the town once weekly and the Council control one tip. Structural repairs were necessary before the incinerator could be used. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining materials, the incinerator was not in use during the year.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' ANNUAL TABULAR STATEMENTS VISITS.

Number of houses inspected as a result of complaints.	95
Amusement places.	2
Schools	2
In connection with water supplies.	52
Refuse tip	10
Public conveniences.	15
Sewers	20
Drains	200
Rat infestation	1
Sewage disposal works	10
New buildings	40
Visits not classified	20
Number of houses in respect of which informal notices were served.	79
Number of informal notices complied with	50
<u>Nuisances abated.</u>	
Inside plastering repairs	1
Floors renewed or repaired.	1
Roofs renewed or repaired	8
Down-piping or guttering renewed or repaired	15
Coiling repaired	7
Staircases repaired	2
Grates or ovens renewed or repaired	6
Walls or ceilings cleaned or re-decorated (rooms)	2
Accumulations removed	1
Water taps or pipes repaired	20

Drainage Work

Drains tested with water.	1
Drains tested with smoke .	90
New drains constructed.	36
Drains relaid.	2
Drains repaired.	12
Drains cleansed .	50
Intercepting traps fixed.	1
Soil pipes or vent shafts fixed or repaired.	3
Lavatory basins provided.	2

Water Closets

Additional W.C's provided.	2
W. C's re-constructed.	1
New pedestal pans fixed.	2
W.C's cleansed.	3

SWIMMING BATHS

The baths, being in an unsatisfactory condition, were not re-opened in 1950. The Council resolved to find out the cost of building a modern swimming bath on a suitable site.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year, the Local Authority had no scheme for dealing with rodents in the town. In the future it is hoped this Council, in conjunction with the Blandford Rural District Council, will employ one rodent operator working full time for both Authorities. Plans were discussed at the fall of the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE

During the year, certain improvements have been made to the buildings by the Ministry of Food and the administration of the meat inspection has been improved. The premises are old, congested and badly sited, therefore cannot attain a good standard.

MORTUARY

There is a need for a mortuary to accommodate four cadavers. The one in Danory Street could be made quite satisfactory provided the building is repaired and re-decorated. Discussions will be taking place early next year with the Blandford Rural District Council concerning the upkeep of the premises as both Authorities use it. During the year nine cadavers were accommodated.

FACTORIES

The number of factories registered..... 40

The number of inspections made during the year..... 16

The Factories Act, 1937 - Part One of the Act

<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>Number on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>
1. Factories in which <u>no</u> mechanical power is used.	5	-	-
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.	35	16	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	40	16	-

OUTWORKERS

The number of outworkers employed in the district during the year was 13.

No infectious diseases occurred during the year in any of the premises where outworkers were employed.

SECTION D
H O U S I N G

Owing to the lack of staff, no routine inspection of houses has been possible.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Number of new houses erected during the year.....	20
Number of new houses under construction but not completed by December 31st 1950.....	16
Total number constructed before 1950.....	125

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Number built in 1950.....	4
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There are 22 requisitioned properties.

SECTION E
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.
FOOD PREMISES

The standard of food premises is slowly improving though there are premises in which there is a great room for improvement both in handling, storage and manufacture of various items. Owing to the shortage of staff, routine inspections have not been carried out.

ICE CREAM PREMISES.

Number of Registered Ice Cream Premises.....	8
Visits.....	6
Samples taken.....	16
Provisional Grade 1.....	4
Provisional Grade 2.....	9
Provisional Grade 3.....	3
Provisional Grade 4.....	0

The test used is the methylene blue reduction test recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory, Grade 3 suspicious and Grade 4 unsatisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT

At Abattoir

Weight of meat condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption..... 30528 lbs.

Weight of offal condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption..... 25779 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

ANIMALS INSPECTED.

Cattle..... 1313

Sheep..... 1984

Calves..... 484

Pigs..... 164

Goats..... 340

AT BUTCHERS' PREMISES (Since June 1950)

Weight of meat condemned.... 742 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Weight of tinned meat condemned.... 530 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

FISH INSPECTION

Quantity condemned..... 338 lbs.

TINNED GOODS

Inspection at provision shops and stores condemned.. 163 tins.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Restaurants and food preparing premises..... 9
Butchers' premises.....36
Provision shops and stores.....11
Groengrocers and fishmongers..... 6
Slaughterhouse. 9
Visits to Railway Stations re food.....11

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1950

Scarlet fever.....	2
Whooping Cough.....	13
Measles.....	17
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis.....	1

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>SCARLET FEVER</u>	<u>AGE INCIDENCE</u>		<u>POLIOMYELITIS</u>
		<u>WHOOING COUGH</u>	<u>MEASLES</u>	
0-1	-	-	1	-
1-2	-	10	4	-
3-4	1	2	2	1
5-9	1	1	10	-

NUMBER OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Pulmonary..... 6 Male. 5 Female.
Non-Pulmonary..... 0 Male. 6 Female.

TOTAL.....17.

Number of new notifications received during the year:-

Pulmonary..... 2 Non-Pulmonary..2

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was transferred into the area during the year and is included in the total of 17

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year have been small and the only case of poliomyelitis was non-paralytic and made an uneventful recovery.

