

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Blandford R.D.C.

Contributors

Blandford Forum (England). Rural District Council.

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947. .

The Minister of Health has directed that the Report for 1947 shall again be abbreviated and confined to information concerning essential and exceptional matters. . Statistics are to be preserved but not included in the Report. The Minister desires it to include remarks on the progress of diphtheria immunisation, poliomyelitis, and certain particulars regarding the water supply. .

General Health Statistics. .

These indicate that the health of the population continued on the whole good during the year. The widespread epidemic of poliomyelitis which affected the whole Country during the latter half of the year caused six cases in this District, but no deaths. .

These is a general impression that stomach and bowel disorders, causing short but inconvenient illnesses, were unduly prevalent. The only statistical indication of this is the fact that 21 notifications of dysentery were received. On the other hand there were no notifications of food poisoning or of any of the enteric fevers, and only one death from infantile diarrhoea. Some of these gastric disorders were no doubt due to the mild dysentery infections but by no means all. Medical practitioners have been asked to report all such cases, whether or not a notifiable disease is diagnosed, and to take every opportunity of getting early specimens from the patients for laboratory investigation.

The Birth Rate for 1947 was even higher than the high figure recorded in 1946, viz. 24.5 per thousand of population as compared with 22.8 in 1946 and a National Birth rate of 20.5 for 1947. .

The Death Rate was 12.3. The figure for 1946 was 10.6 and the National Death Rate for 1947 was 12.0. .

Immunisation against diphtheria. .

It is estimated that at the end of 1947 50.4 % of the child population aged 0 to 5 were immunised and 79.3 % of those aged 5 to 15. . These figures are somewhat lower than those estimated at the end of 1946. It is now 8 years since immunisation was started and its effect has been to reduce the incidence of diphtheria almost to vanishing point. The last notification received in this District was one case in 1946. Unfortunately as the disease becomes rarer parents are apt to be less heedful of the advantages of immunisation. .

Water Supplies. .

The greater part of the District is still dependent on wells. Most of these being in the chalk formation give a tolerably pure supply. If deep enough they yield plenty of water, but in some places they are too shallow and a serious shortage of water occurs in seasons of drought. .

The number of Parishes provided with piped supplies, most of them only partly, is now 14, one more than last year. The village of Stourpaine received a new supply. Its source is temporary pending the development of this Council's larger plans. It has proved a boon to a village which was formerly very inadequately supplied by wells. .

17 Parishes remain without piped supplies. .

The population with piped water available is 4,328 out of the total population of 7536. .

There are now 8 separate piped supplies in the District. Five of them are owned and managed by private estates and are for one reason or another unsatisfactory. .

36 samples of water were taken during the year for bacteriological examination. Three of them gave unsatisfactory results for temporary reasons which were remedied. .

Where there is a piped supply standpipes are the usual provision. . Until sewerage is available it is highly inadvisable to increase the number of houses with internal supplies. Already 429 houses have internal supplies. .

Sewerage. .

The Council's new housing estates, now four in occupation, have small temporary sewage disposal plants pending the construction of larger village sewerage works. .

L. B. SCOTT. M. D., D. P. H.,
Medical Officer of Health. .

The Ministry of Health has directed that the Report for 1947 shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. The Minister directs that the Report should be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and should be submitted to the Ministry of Health in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

General Public Health

The following table shows the number of deaths registered in the district during the year 1947, and the number of deaths registered in the district during the year 1946. The number of deaths registered in the district during the year 1947 was 1,234, and the number of deaths registered in the district during the year 1946 was 1,123. The number of deaths registered in the district during the year 1947 was 1,234, and the number of deaths registered in the district during the year 1946 was 1,123.

Prevention of Disease

The following table shows the number of cases of disease reported in the district during the year 1947, and the number of cases of disease reported in the district during the year 1946. The number of cases of disease reported in the district during the year 1947 was 5,678, and the number of cases of disease reported in the district during the year 1946 was 5,432. The number of cases of disease reported in the district during the year 1947 was 5,678, and the number of cases of disease reported in the district during the year 1946 was 5,432.

Water Supply

The following table shows the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1947, and the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1946. The number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1947 was 1,234, and the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1946 was 1,123. The number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1947 was 1,234, and the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1946 was 1,123.

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Sanitation

The following table shows the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1947, and the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1946. The number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1947 was 1,234, and the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1946 was 1,123. The number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1947 was 1,234, and the number of houses supplied with water in the district during the year 1946 was 1,123.