

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Bletchley U.D.C.

Contributors

Bletchley (Buckinghamshire, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

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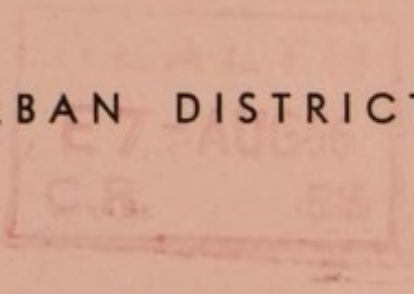
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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1955

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

1950

URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

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Chairman of the Council : Councillor T. H. CLORAN, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor W. CALDWELL

Councillors : Mrs. J. RAMSBOTHAM, T. H. CLORAN,
E. R. STANIFORD, J. W. HARMAN, L. EASTGATE

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional M.O. for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

F. SEYMOUR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

N. J. ADAMS, M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

July 10th, 1956

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Ramsbotham and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1955.

It is pleasing to note that the birth rate still remains at a satisfactory high level being $2\frac{1}{2}$ points higher than that for the rest of the country.

The death rate keeps comparatively low, the actual figure being 8.8 per 1,000 population as against 11.7 for the rest of the country. Against diseases of the heart and cancer have taken a heavy toll, 69 of the total of 105 deaths being due to these causes.

Infantile mortality shows an increase on last year but still the figure of 17.8 per 1,000 live births compares favourably with that of 24.9 for the rest of the country. There were actually 4 deaths in this group, all of them under the age of 4 weeks.

In the realm of Infectious Diseases we were unfortunate in that 11 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the period August to October. Of these nine were subsequently confirmed and unfortunately there was one death. Seven of these cases were paralytic and two non-paralytic. It is heartening to report that at last a positive measure against this disease has emerged in the form of the new "polio" vaccine. This vaccine which had been extensively tried in America, Canada, South Africa and Germany was at last given the blessing of the Ministry of Health and a modified and safer vaccine was produced in this country. Production started so recently that only a limited amount of the vaccine was available for use before the beginning of what we now term the "polio season", i.e. from July to October. However, we were promised that in early 1956, a limited amount would be made available for the North Bucks Area and, at the time of writing, 73 Bletchley children have had the benefit of inoculation. We have been promised larger supplies in the late autumn of 1956 and it is hoped that, in time to come, everybody will have the opportunity of getting the benefit of this protection against the disease, the epidemiology of which still puzzles the Public Health Authorities.

I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with Mr. R. L. Sherwood, your Clerk, Mr. J. F. Smithie, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and their Staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

	1954	1955
Area (in acres)	4456	4456
Population	12290	13060
Number of Inhabited Houses	3685	3920
Rateable Value (1st April)	£72,011	£78,098
Rate per £1	27/6	27/-
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£300/-/11	£325/8/2

BIRTHS :

Legitimate		Males	107		115
		Females	95		106
Illegitimate		Males	1		2
		Females	5		2
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population			17.2		17.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—					
Bucks County			15.6		15.4
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—					
England and Wales			15.2		15.0
Still Births		Males	4		1
		Females	4		5

DEATHS :

		Males	47		54
		Females	47		51
Death Rate per 1,000 Population			8.3		8.8
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—					
Bucks County			9.5		9.8
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—					
England and Wales			11.3		11.7
Maternal Mortality			Nil		Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and					
Wales			0.47		0.64
Maternal Mortality—Bucks County					0.31

INFANTILE MORTALITY :

	1954	1955
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	9.6	17.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	22.4	20.0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	25.5	24.9

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	1954			1955		
	M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	1	1
Measles	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cancer	8	4	12	10	13	23
Leukaemia	1	0	1	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	7	7	14	7	5	12
Heart Disease	17	20	37	23	11	34
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	0	2	2	1	1	2
Influenza	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pneumonia	3	1	4	2	7	9
Bronchitis	2	2	4	5	2	7
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases	0	0	0	2	1	3
Nephritis	1	0	1	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1	0	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	0	0	0	1	0	1
Accidents	2	3	5	1	3	4
Suicide	3	2	5	0	0	0
All Other Causes	1	6	7	1	2	3
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	47	47	94	54	51	105

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Bedford, Luton and Oxford. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services are administered by the County Council. An Ambulance Station with three Ambulances, two Sitting Case Cars and two Buses has been established in the Town which has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents.

3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

4. CLINICS

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic has been held weekly at the Clinic in Bletchley Road. The voluntary committee, District Nurses and Health Visitor attended each time and a doctor attended once a fortnight. The Mobile Welfare Unit also visited the town once a month to deal with the increased population in Far Bletchley. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time, ungrudgingly, to this work. The total number of children who attended during the year was 2,664.

(b) Chest Clinic: This clinic continues to do excellent work. It is a self-contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly at the Clinic, Bletchley Road.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic: This Clinic, which is under the aegis of the British Red Cross Society and which is admirably directed by P. H. Diddams, Esq., M.S.S.P. continues to do excellent work for the town and district. During 1955 there were 6,570 attendances with 11,665 treatments, an increase of 500 and 2,406 respectively, on the previous year. This is an excellent achievement when one considers the difficulty under which the Clinic works. It is still housed in the temporary accommodation provided some years ago by the Urban District Council in the Council yard and still awaits the pleasure of the Regional Hospital Board before being housed in a proper building.

(d) Ophthalmic Clinic: An ophthalmic surgeon and an orthoptist hold weekly clinics at Bletchley Road. In addition there is a special session on the first Saturday of each month for school children.

(e) Dermatological Clinic: A specialist in skin diseases attends twice monthly.

(f) Dental Clinic: This clinic continues to do very good work amongst the school children. A full time dental surgeon attends.

(g) Toddlers' Clinic : Due to increased work at the Child Welfare Clinic a special clinic was instituted for the toddlers. This is held on the fourth Friday of each month.

(h) Health Visiting : Three whole time Health Visitors have been appointed to the Bletchley area and they are doing excellent work.

(i) Speech Therapy : A qualified Speech Therapist attends weekly and is doing very excellent work among school children.

(j) Care of the Blind : The Home Teacher for the Blind has her headquarters at Bletchley Road Clinic, and attends there weekly.

All of these services, except Physiotherapy, are administered by the County Health Department, the Regional Hospital Board, or both, and all are housed in the Bletchley Road building which was originally intended as a School Clinic and Child Welfare Clinic only.

With monotonous regularity, for the past few years, I have emphasised the need for one central building to house all these services with some additional departments such as X-rays and Orthopaedic. In my report for 1954 I said there was great hope that something practical would emerge in 1955. Alas this is not so. As I write the chances of a Diagnostic and Treatment Clinic seems more remote than ever!

5. HOSPITALS

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Bedford General Hospital
Creton Sanatorium
London Hospitals
Northampton General
Royal Bucks Hospital
St. John's Hospital, Stone
Slade Hospital, Oxford
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Tindal General Hospital

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 206 cases were assisted during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A. WATER

Trouble by the discoloration of the water has again been prevalent, but the new Water Treatment Plant in process of erection at the Sandhouse Waterworks should go far to eradicate this trouble.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Nature of Sample	Place	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.
(i) Tap	36 St. Georges Road	Nil
(ii) Tap	3 Denbigh Road	Nil
(iii) Tap	201 Simpson Village	Nil
(iv) Tap	120 Simpson Road	Nil
(v) Tap	37 Saffron Street	Nil
(vi)	Sandhouse	Nil

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

	Parts per 100,000
Suspended Solids	1.38
Dissolved Solids	15.3
Chloride (as Cl ₂)	4.7
Free Ammonia	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0006
Nitrate (as N ₂)	0.07
Nitrite	Nil
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80° F.)	0.0032 (N/80)
pH Value	7.2
Temporary Hardness	7.29
Permanent Hardness	1.43
Iron as Fe	1.0

B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The new disposal works came into use during the year and whilst a satisfactory effluent was produced, some considerable smell troubles were experienced arising from certain trade effluents. Research into the best method of overcoming this trouble is continuing.

The old works was closed, the filters demolished and the old contact beds are in process of being filled.

C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Ousel at Simpson has been widened and work carried out to prevent flooding. The condition of the River Ousel was much improved.

D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A few isolated houses are not yet on main drainage.

Practically 100 per cent of the houses in the district are now on the water carriage system.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection is carried out weekly using two side loading vehicles. Controlled tipping has been maintained but lack of suitable ground has made it necessary to use a site adjoining the Simpson Road sewage works. A new tip outside the urban district near Newton Longville is now being prepared for use.

F. SHOPS ACT, 1950

No contraventions have been observed.

G. MARKETS

The market is inspected weekly. Only one stallholder sells open food.

H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Several complaints were received during the year. The previous solid fuel boilers at one factory have now been converted to oil burning, since when no complaints have been made.

I. SWIMMING BATH

A site has been chosen, and plans are in course of preparation, but lack of finance still delays a start to this much needed amenity.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT (J. F. Smithie) INSPECTIONS MADE

Butchers	...	...	35	Drainage and Sewerage	866
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	26	Tips	1144
Food & Drugs Act	...	...	132	Slaughterhouses	1744
Housing	...	...	607	Ice Cream	544
Infectious Disease	...	...	31		
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	12597
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	522
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	122

SECTION D HOUSING

A survey of the district for unfit houses has been carried out and proposals for dealing with them submitted to the Ministry. 106 dwellings were found to be sub-standard. A start has been made in re-housing the worst cases and six houses have now been closed or demolished.

1.	(i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	607
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	106
	(iii) 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	52
2.	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	35
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
	Public Health Act:—	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	9
4.	HOUSING ACT, 1936: Part IV. OVERCROWDING	
	(i) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	—
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	—
	(ii) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
	(iii) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	—
	(iv) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
	(v) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

Two hundred and thirty-five new Council Houses have been completed in 1955.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle		Sheep & Lambs		Pigs	Horses
	Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	& Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	206	18	4	337	1170	Nil
Number inspected ...	206	18	4	337	1170	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	2	Nil	28	70	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	4.3%	11.1%	Nil	8.3%	6%	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	17	6	Nil	Nil	15	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	8.2%	33.3%	Nil	Nil	1.2%	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Generalised and totally condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(a) **FOOD PREMISES.** There are 89 shops, 5 cafes and 13 industrial canteens in the district. Most of these have been inspected in 1955. Further powers are now in force to ensure cleaner food and it is hoped that a more detailed report will be available for 1956.

(b) **ICE CREAM.** There are 32 registered premises within the district. Twenty-four samples were submitted for bacteriological test from five different manufacturers during the year. Only two were found to be doubtful and this was traced to a defect in a shop refrigerator.

(c) **MILK.** There are six distributors in the district. All milk produced in the area is pasteurised at premises outside the district. The Bucks County Council keep a check on the milk at all stages of production and the local authority is responsible for licensing of distributors.

(d) **MEAT.** There are 13 butchers' shops and two slaughterhouses in the district. 209 visits to these premises were made during the year. Killing and inspection figures are given on page 10.

The animals were of good quality and free from serious disease. Of a total kill of 1,731 animals there was a loss below 1 lb. per head 969 lbs. of meat were condemned.

Seven hundred and seventy-two lbs. of other foods, tinned fruit, fish, etc., were also condemned during the year.

SECTION F

FACTORIES ACT

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and copies forwarded to the relevant authorities.

SECTION G

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

We had an epidemic of Measles during the year, most of the cases occurring during May, June, July and August. The epidemic was general throughout the country. Poliomyelitis also hit the town. Eleven cases were notified of which nine were confirmed.

2. NOTIFICATIONS

Measles	...	...	311	Pneumonia	...	...	101
Whooping Cough	...	...	17	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	17	Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	9
Dysentery	...	...	5				

3. TUBERCULOSIS

Five cases were notified during the year, four Pulmonary and one non-Pulmonary. There were no deaths for the second year running. There is no doubt that modern methods of treatment coupled with early diagnosis and B.C.G. vaccination are now winning the battle against this erstwhile "captain of the man of death".

4. CANCER

This disease continues to take its toll. There were 23 deaths notified as against 12 in the previous year.

