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Contributors

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BLOFIELD AND FLEGG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1945.

Council Offices,

ACLE.

January, 1947.

To the Chairman,
and Members of the Blofield and Flegg Rural District
Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report for the
year nineteen hundred and forty-five.

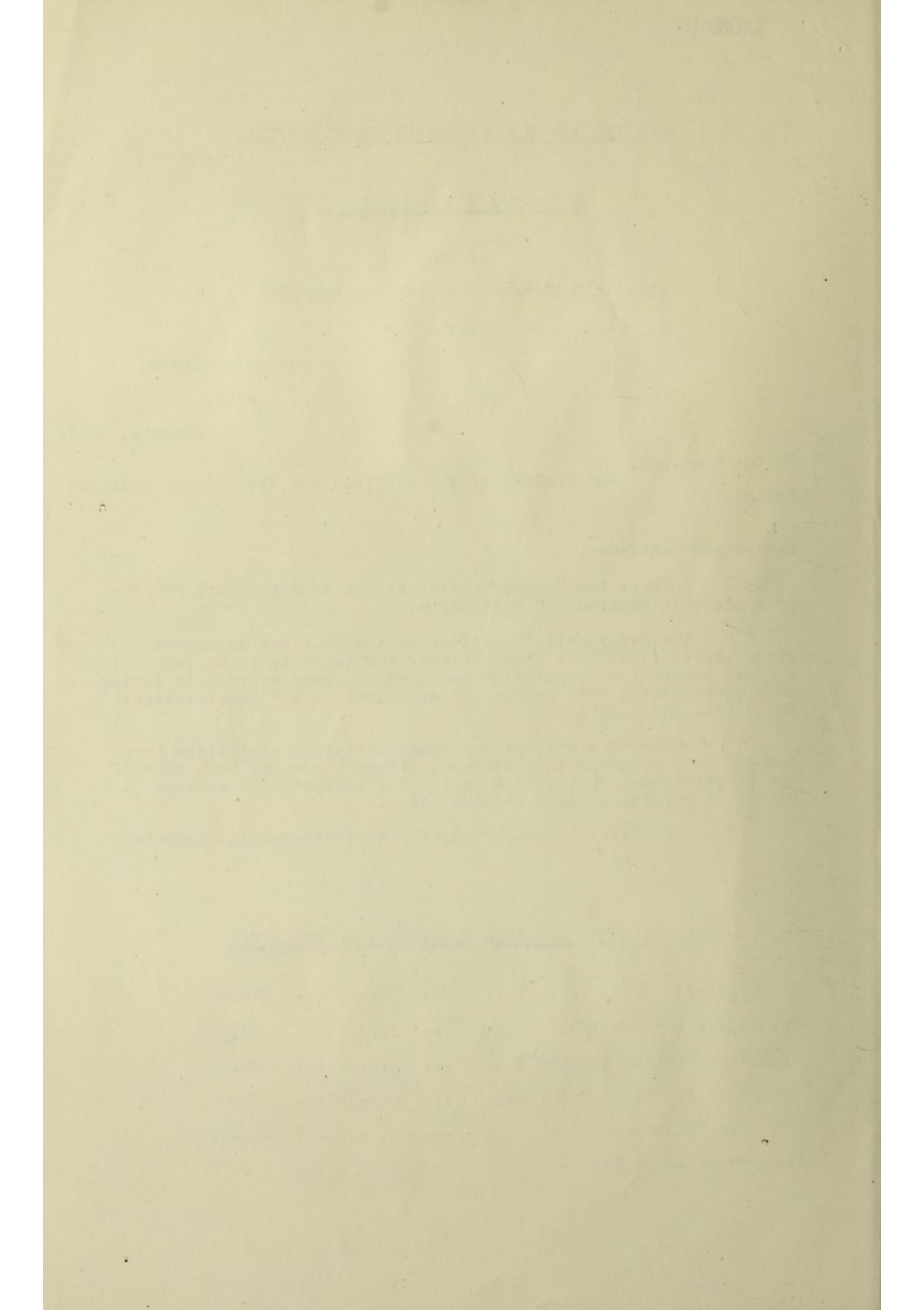
The geographical position of the District in normal
times places it as a corridor between two large towns through which
a great movement of population takes place, more especially during
the summer months when people are attracted to the Coastal Area,
the Rivers and Broads.

During the present emergency certain restrictions have
reduced this movement to a minimum, although use has been made of
the District as a "Cushion" Area for the reception of a large
number of persons needing accommodation.

The District remains chiefly agricultural in character.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	74,774
Population (Census 1931)	24,566
Population (Estimated 1945)	27,380
Number of Inhabited Premises	11,000
Rateable Value	£117,414
Produce of ld. Rate	£477



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births:-			
Legitimate	453	262	191
Illegitimate	<u>57</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>27</u>
Totals	<u>510</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>218</u>

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 18.62

Stillbirths:-	13	6	7
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Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births: 24.36

Deaths:-	314	154	160
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Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 11.47

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate	16	11	5
Illegitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
Totals	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	66
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	2

The Births in 1945 were 292 Males and 218 Females, a total of 510, against 278 Males and 299 Females, a total of 577 for the year 1944, making a decrease of 67 births.

The Birth-Rate in 1945 was 18.62 as against 20.49 in the year 1944. The Birth-Rate for England and Wales for 1945 is 16.1.

The Deaths during the year were less in number and the Death-Rate of 11.47 compares favourably with 12.46 for the year 1944.

The Infant Mortality Rate still remains comparatively low, it stands at 23 deaths of children under 1 year of age, an increase of 3 on last year's figure.

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The following table gives the causes of death in 1945:-
(Figures given by Registrar-General)

Causes of death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Whooping Cough	-	2	2
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system	3	6	9
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	2	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	1
Influenza	-	1	1
Cancer	36	30	66
Diabetes	2	2	4
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	14	16	30
Heart Disease	37	38	75
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	6	9
Bronchitis	5	9	14
Pneumonia	7	4	11
Other Respiratory diseases	6	2	8
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	5	1	6
Premature Birth	3	-	3
Con. Mol., birth inj., infant dis.	9	3	12
Suicide	1	-	1
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1	5
Other violent causes	1	3	4
All other causes	14	31	45
Totals	154	160	314

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified:-

Diphtheria	2
Scarlet Fever	54
Erysipelas	22
Pneumonia	21
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1
Paratyphoid Fever B.	3
Dysentery	21
Measles	295
Whooping Cough	43
Food Poisoning	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Jaundice	61
Scabies	109

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Council's scheme for treating of children up to the age of 15 years has made further progress during the year under review; at the end of the year it was estimated that approximately two thirds of all children under the age of 15 had been immunised.

Efforts are being continued to obtain a higher percentage of children immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives an analysis of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1945.

Age Periods.	Notifications.					
	Pulmonary.			Non-pulmonary.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	7	4	11
15 - 25 years	4	3	7	1	1	2
25 - 35 years	1	1	2	1	1	2
35 - 45 years	2	4	6	-	1	1
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	2	2	-	-	-
Totals	7	10	17	9	7	16

There were 11 deaths due to tuberculosis. This total is made up of 3 Male pulmonary, 6 Female pulmonary and 2 Female non-pulmonary.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

In the Eastern part of the Area, five parishes have a mains water supply available and many owners have availed themselves of this service.

The parish of Thorpe in the Western part of the Area has a mains water supply along with part of the parish of Plumstead.

Also part of the parish of Brundall has a mains supply.

The large number of shallow wells throughout the District are always a cause of concern, owing to the danger of pollution, especially as there is no drainage system in operation in the majority of the parishes.

There have been no complaints of shortage during the year.

The Council have considered the necessity of providing a piped water supply to all the parishes in the Area and consulting engineers were engaged to prepare details of the necessary schemes.

Writing in 1946, the schemes have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for their consideration.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Council have considered the needs of the District concerning the collection and disposal of sewage and I can report that consulting engineers have been instructed to prepare schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for a number of parishes including those parishes in the Broads Area.

The cesspool emptying vehicle has been extensively used during the year under review dealing with many cesspools in the area.

SCAVENGING.

The extensions of public cleansing schemes to cover the greater part of the District is one that should receive the consideration of the Council, the present methods of disposal of refuse and night-soil in a number of parishes are in many cases a possible source of danger to Public Health, particularly where deposits take place near shallow drinking water wells.

WATER SUPPLY

In the 20-year past of the Area, five parties have a main water supply available and many others have available themselves of this service.

The parish of Thorne in the West of the Area has a main water supply along with part of the parish of Hunsford.

Also part of the parish of Bramhall has a main supply.

The large number of shallow wells throughout the District are a cause of concern, owing to the danger of pollution, especially as there is no drainage system in operation in the majority of the parishes.

There have been no complaints of shortage during the year.

The Council have considered the necessity of installing a light water supply to all the parishes in the Area and consulting engineers were engaged to prepare details of the necessary scheme.

During the year, the scheme has been reported and submitted to the Ministry of Health for their consideration.

SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE

The Council have considered the waste of the District concerning the collection and disposal of sewage and I can report that consulting engineers have been instructed to prepare schemes of sewers and sewage disposal for a number of parishes including those parishes in the Waste Area.

The Council employ a vehicle for the collection of refuse during the year under review dealing with many cesspools in the area.

REFUSE

The collection of refuse is carried out by the Council's refuse men of the District. I can report that the Council have considered the present methods of disposal of refuse and night-soil in a number of parishes and in many cases a possible scheme of sewers is being prepared, which would deposit the refuse in a new shallow drainage system.

GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The general standard of the health of the District has been maintained in spite of the movement of population throughout the year; the Council's officers have contributed in no small manner to this by their prompt action and vigilance.

The overcrowding of many dwellings has given cause for concern, every effort has been made to provide alternative accommodation for those families living in such conditions. The reception of a large number of evacuees created a great deal of work but accommodation was provided in spite of the acute housing shortage.

The continued prevalence of Scabies has received the attention of the Council's officers throughout the year. These conditions are difficult to control without proper notification, treatment is supplied to each case and disinfection of bedding and clothing carried out in necessitous cases.

Spasmodic outbreaks of Scarlet Fever of a mild type occurred in various parts of the District, which extended throughout the greater part of the year. Many of the cases were placed in the County Isolation Hospital and disinfection of premises carried out.

HOUSING.

Although efforts have been made to have defects remedied to a number of working class dwellings, the general condition of such dwellings continues to deteriorate. Shortage of labour and materials have created many difficulties.

The great problem of bringing a large proportion of dwellings up to a satisfactory standard is one that calls for serious consideration. Many cottages need major repairs, many more are of such a low standard as to be incapable of being rendered fit for habitation at a reasonable expense.

A number of areas were scheduled for Clearance previous to the outbreak of war, these and other areas should be dealt with as early as possible, although there must be some delay, pending the provision of new housing accommodation.

The need for many more working class dwellings is one that must be met to provide the necessary accommodation for families inadequately housed and also for many service men's families who are at present living with parents.

A survey and inspection to cover the whole District will place a great deal of work on the Sanitary Inspector, but it is one that must be undertaken if an accurate statement is to be made of housing conditions.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Supervision of food depots and shops have continued throughout the year. Examination of meat and other foods has entailed many visits to premises, a quantity of meat, tins of foodstuffs, in addition to a variety of other foodstuffs were examined, resulting in the condemnation of those affected with disease, or otherwise unwholesome.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT

The district is one of the poorest in the country. It is a large area of low-lying land, with a population of about 100,000. The district is one of the poorest in the country. It is a large area of low-lying land, with a population of about 100,000.

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WATER AND OTHER SERVICES

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The duties connected with the protection of the public food supply are of the greatest importance, and it is satisfactory to both the Council and their officers that the protection of the health of the population of the District has been maintained by the efforts of those officers engaged in this valuable public service.

GENERAL.

During the year every assistance has been given to the Military Authorities in connection with drainage, scavenging and water supplies, in fact a spirit of co-operation between the Civil and Military Authorities has been in evidence throughout the whole District.

The requisitioning of properties by the Military Authorities has called for re-housing certain families, accommodation, although very limited, has been found for displaced families.

We are, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

W. ROYDEN.

J. D. MCKELVIE.

Medical Officers of Health.

