## [Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Blofield & Flegg R.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

Blofield and Flegg (England). Rural District Council.

#### **Publication/Creation**

1947

#### **Persistent URL**

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# BLOFIELD AND FLEGG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1947.

Council Offices,

ACLE.

July, 1948.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Attention is drawn to the seasonal movement of the population especially during the summer months. People are attracted to the Coastal Area, the Rivers and the Broads.

This movement of people is a factor of considerable importance when considering the vital statistics contained in this report. Persons of all ages and from all walks of life gather together to enjoy the amenities of the district. This influx of visitors creates problems of a seasonal character and add to the risks of the spread of infectious diseases.

The problems of the holiday bungalow are again emphasized. Details are given in the section on housing which emphasize the need for adequate control of dwellings let as furnished accommodation on weekly terms.

The district remains chiefly agricultural in character. Nevertheless, this only places greater importance on the efforts of the Rural District Council to provide mains water supply in all parishes of the district and sewerage schemes to seven of the larger villages at present without sewers.

The provision of mains water as provided for in proposals already submitted to the Ministry of Health would materially assist in improving the standard of health and wellbeing of the community.

Careful consideration of the facts and figures contained in this report show that the health of the district has been maintained on a level comparable with other years.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	74,774
Population (estimated resident)	29,410
Mumber of premises	10,854
Rateable value (13th October, 1947).	£123,361
Product of a penny rate	£480.5s ld.

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## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND	DEATHS.			
Live	births:-	Total.	Male.	Female.
	Legitimate Illegitimate	522 31	264 13	258 18
	Totals	553	277	276

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 18.80

Stillbirths:-

10 4

6

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births: 18.08

Deaths: -

365

193

172

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 12.41

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis Other maternal causes

Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate Illegitimate	16 _2	7 2	9
Totals	18	9	9

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) Deaths from Measles (all ages) 48 Nil. Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 3 Deaths from Whooping Cough ( all ages)

The births in 1947 were 277 Males and 276 Females, a total of 553, against a total of 572 births in the year 1946, making a decrease of 19 births.

The birthrate in 1947 was 18.80 as against 19.81 in the year 1946. The birthrate for England and Wales for 1947 was 20.5.

The deaths during the year were more in number and the deathrate was 12.41 as compared with 10.15 for the year 1946 and 12.0 deathrate per thousand of population for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality rate still remains comparatively low and with a total of 18 deaths of children under one year of age shows a decrease of one on last year's figure. . PORTO DE LA COMPANSA DEL COMPANSA DEL COMPANSA DE LA COMPANSA DEL COMPANSA DEL COMPANSA DE LA COMPANSA DEL COMPANSA DEL COMPANSA DE LA COMP

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The following table gives the causes of death in 1947:(Figures given by Registrar-General.)

Causes of death	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Gough Diphtheria	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of the			,
Respiratory system Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	2	5
Syphilitic diseases	6 3 1	2 1 2	2
Influenza Measles	1 -	2	6 5 2 3
Acute inf: enceph:		3	3
Cancer of buc; cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F) Cancer of stomach &	1	1	2
duodenum	5	3	8
Cancer of Breast Cancer of all other sites	-	3 4 11	34
Diabetes	23	-	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	27	20	E 2
Heart diseases	23 45	29 45	52 90
Other diseases of circ:			
Bronchitis	10	13	17
Pneumonia Other resp: dis:	9 2 3	15 8 3 3	25 17 5 6
Ulcer of stomach or	,	)	0
duodenum Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1 7
Other digestive diseases	1 2 5 2	2	7
Nephritis	2	3	5
Other maternal causes Premature birth	ī	1 2 3 1 1	1 3 7 5 1 2
Con: mal: birth inj: infant dis:	-		
Suicide	5	3 2	8
Road traffic accidents Other violent causes	36	1	4
All other causes	34	2 1 2 25	3 4 8 59
Motol o	107	1-0	-(-
Totals	193	172	365

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Analysis of Total Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1947 in Age Groups.

		0	6			0		00	00	1.	1.	L		
Disease.	1 pr.	7-1	2:0	f -0	9	07-0	CT-07	02-61	SC-33	05-00	49-65	over	1947.	10t 81
Diphtheria	1	1				1	,			1	1		•	4
Scarlet Fever		,	1	Н	7	6	1	1	CQ	Н	1	•	15	32
Erysipelas	•					1			1	,	03	3	9	11
Pneumonia	CQ.	1	1	1	1	ર		1	63	2	11	03	29	45
Paratyphoid Fever									02	7	4	П	89	63
Cerebro-Spinal F.				1	,	83	,		03	,	,	1	4	
Dysentery						1	,	-	6	9	23	1	30	16
Poliomyelitis	1				,				23	,	1	1	4	
Encephalitis Leth.		1			ï.		•	•	,	н			1	
Measles	н	03	3	3	C)	15	3	1	CS	1		i	31	322
Whooping Cough	9	13	2	11	12	50	3		н	1	1	1	101	140
Food Poisoning			,	1	•	,	1		1	-		1	CV	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	•	1					1	•	1	Н			CQ2	-1
Ophthalmia Neon.		•		1	,	1		1	1	1		1	•	Н
Jaundice		•		1				1	3	-	1	Н	9	44
Hepatitis	•	,	1	1		1	•		1	1	1	ì		4
Maleria	•		,				,			н	1	1	н	п
Totals	10	16	6	16	16	92	7	ы	28	18	8	89	230	624
					- Harman San San San San San San San San San S	- Commence of the Commence of	Automotive Comment	Secretary of the second						

78 No. of cases of Scabies coming to the notice of the Department:-

77

There were 2 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 case of Erysipelas, 1 case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever and 1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia removed to the Isulation Hospital.

ø Of the 4 cases of Poliomyelitis, 2 cases were removed to Hospital, 1 was a non-civilian already in Hospital in the district and 1 was treated at home on specialist's advice.

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## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives an analysis of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1947.

			tificati			
Age Periods.	Pu	lmonary.	,	Non-Pulmonary.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years.	-	-	-	3,	1	4
5 - 15 years.	-	1	1	Ĺ	3	4
15 - 25 years.	-	2	2	-	-	-
25 - 35 years.	4	2	6	-	-	-
35 - 45 years.	4	-	4	-	-	-
45 - 55 years.	4	1	5	1	-	1
55 - 65 years.	5	-	5	-	1	1
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	17	6	23	5	5	1.0

In addition to the above, six cases were transferred to the District.

The following table gives an analysis of deaths due to tuberculosis during 1947.

			Deat	ths		
Age Periods.	P	ulmonary.		Non-	Pulmonary	
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year.	-		-	-	-	_
1 - 5 years.	-	-	-	1	->	1
5 - 15 years.	-	1	1	-	-	-
15 - 25 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years.	1	-	1	-	-	
35 - 45 years.	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 years.	1	-	1	1	-	1
55 - 65 years.	1	-	1	1	-	1
65 and over.	2	-	2	-	1	1
Totals.	6	1	7	3	1	4

A Charles & Street of the a compared the state of the sta . . . Well defer t Long to the contract A 4 A 4 C In The Take of . . . . 4. 6 . 12 1 2 3 4 3 7 120 41 Det 1

man waring the year under review to continue the immunisation of children under fifteen years of age. These efforts have included arrangement of sessions at the various schools and injections given by private doctors both at the surgery and in the home of the child. It is estimated that 74.83% of school-children and 34.39% of children under five have been immunised. Recognition should be given to the fact that no cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, and in this and the last year together, the notifications total only four. During the year 1947, there were 245 children and 3 persons over school age fully immunised by private doctors and 119 children fully immunised at sessions held at schools. First injections during the year were given to 56 children and 1 person over school age, whilst the second injection would be undertaken during 1948. In addition, 71 children and 1 person over school age were re-inoculated during the year. POLIOMYELITIS. It will be noticed that reference has been made to four cases of Poliomyelitis which were notified during the year. It is interesting to analyse the living conditions of these four cases which are taken in their order of notification. (1) A non-civilian male, notified in January and already an inmate of a hospital within the district. (2) A baby girl of five months who was the youngest of a family living in a semi-detached Swedish type Council house. Hot and cold water, water carriage system of drainage and mains water. Prior to removal to hospital had close contact with children of school age, being her brothers and sisters. (3) A young married weman residing with parents in terrace type Council house. No children in the house. Mains water and pail closet type of sanitation. The patient presented herself to doctor's surgery during surgery hours and was later removed to hospital. (4) An expectant mother who was nursed at home as a result of specialist's advice. These brief facts are given to show that each case was isolated with no known contact with any of the other cases, and no second cases occurred. -6-

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Of the thirty-three parishes comprising the Rural District, eight parishes have a mains supply available and two parishes have part of the parish supplied with mains water.

There have been no complaints of shortage of water. The quality of the water is uncertain due to absence of sewerage schemes in all but two of the parishes. During the year eleven water samples were reported on as unfit.

puring the latter part of the year, the quality of the Brundall water supply deteriorated. We are informed by the Water Engineer that chlorination of all the supply from the Brundall bore is now undertaken. This resulted in satisfactory results from bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses. Previously no treatment was undertaken.

It is a matter for regret that no progress is being made concerning the Council's major water schemes.

This means that approximately seven thousand premises in the district are without a mains water supply in or on the premises concerned and included in this number is approximately five hundred premises whose inhabitants go to a standpipe.

## DRAINAGE AND SEVERAGE

During the year under review, no advance is apparent in the Council's efforts to provide severage schemes for six of the larger parishes mentioned in the report for 1946.

With the provision of mains water and sewarage it is considered that these larger villages will develop towards being self-contained communities. Opportunities will be available for the expansion of suitable trades thus providing employment for local residents.

Thus, any schemes of sewerage should include a good margin of capacity for future development.

#### HOUSING

The years of inactivity in repair and renewal of houses is evident in the present housing situation.

Not only are many new nouses needed but also many of the existing dwellings are urgently in need of modernising,

The policy of providing sites with small numbers of houses having all the modern conveniences is worthy of every support. Hevertheless, it does make the inhabitants of the older type of house less liable to put up with the lack of amenities. This is very obvious when houses of both types occupy one site.

As an example, ten houses have been provided with water carriage system of drainage and a constant supply of water.

The water was obtained from an existing well in use by eighteen old type Council houses. The well was covered over. Ten new houses have water inside. The inhabitants of eighteen old type houses have to get their supplies of water from one standpipe.

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We suggest that great care is needed in the siting of the new houses for reasons of maintaining as much of the wage packet for food as is possible. High rents, coupled with travelling expenses, mean less money available for nutrition. Due to the importance we attach to the problems created by the holiday bungalow, our remarks of last year are repeated. Along the coast and rivers are hundreds of temporary dwellings of the week-end type. Due to the housing situation generally, these temporary dwellings are being used either as permanent houses all the year round or as weekly furtished lets in the summer months. Absence of proper roads and path approaches, absence of water supply and drainage and pail closet sanitation coupled with absence of control on the number of persons occupying these bungalows on weekly lets present problems which do not appear to be covered by present legislation. There is a real need for new logislation to give adequate control to the dwellings let as furnished accommodation on weekly terms. The Council are to be congratulated on their efforts to provide as many new houses in the district as possible. From time to time our attention is drawn to examples of how three bedroomed houses have ever a period of years housed a large family. One by one the younger members have become of age and found other accommodation for a variety of good reasons. In due course the parents are using a large house, which is maintained with effort, especially in cleaning and polishing. There does appear to be a need for a type of house half way between a three hedroomed one and an old people's bungalow. Accommodation with two bedrooms, modern conveniences and one good room could attract elderly couples out of large houses, thus providing for families with a large number of children. Should such accommodation be considered, it is important to note that elderly people are loathe to le ve their existing surroundings and circle of friends. Therefore, such intermediate accommodation should be adjoining or on existing housing sites. PUBLIC CLEANSING. During the year the Council have placed orders for two new vehicles for use with the cleansing schemes. The extensions of their present schemes will help eliminate possible sources of danger to public health, particularly where deposits take place near shallow wells. We support the efforts of the Senior Sanitary Inspector in extending these collection schemes and particularly refer to his detailed report presented in January, 1948. This was prepared in December, 1947, and contains recommendations for extension of collections to collect from all the parishes in the area. -8-

## RAT INFESTATION.

Two rat-catchers have been employed throughout the year. There were 545 premises visited with the bodies of 449 rats recovered.

The methods of the Ministry of Food have been adopted, thus it is considered that many more rats have been poisoned even though the bodies have not been recovered.

The administration of the scheme to destroy rats will be simplified when one authority is responsible for the destruction on all premises. The Council are responsible for the administration on all non-agricultural premises.

## FOOD SUPPLIES.

Supervision of food depots, shops and premises where food is prepared for sale has continued.

These visits and examinations of particular foods have resulted in a variety of foodstuffs being condemned due to disease or otherwise being unwholesome.

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.

Attention is drawn to the sale of ice-cream with particular reference to the itinerant vendor. As this is a rural area with attractions for holiday-makers, it is obvious that these travelling salesmen can take every advantage of the fact that the sale of ice-cream from a vehicle is permissable without registration of the vehicle with the local authority.

This means that the Officers concerned with the inspection and supervision of the food supplies have a very difficult task to keep a check on the quality and cleanliness of ice-cream sold from vehicles. The area of the district covers approximately one hundred and twenty square miles and such vehicles can come and go as it suits the pleasure of the salesman.

As ice-cream is an attraction for children of all ages, we consider that there is a need for increased control of the vendor who sells from a vehicle of any kind.

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## GENERAL

The general standard of the health of the District has been maintained in spite of the movement of population throughout the year.

This is all the more commendable when due regard is had to the absence in some areas of public services usually found in all urban areas with particular emphasis on sewerage and water services.

Cases of Infectious Diseases were removed to the County Isolation Hospital when necessary and disinfection of premises carried out as required.

In conclusion, we acknowledge the co-operation of the Council, Officers and all those concerned with the maintenance of the health and wellbeing of the inhabitants of the area during the year under review.

We are,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

J. D. MCKELVIE,

T. W. E. ROYDEN,

Medical Officers of Health.

en all or parties of the