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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952.

BLOFIELD AND FLEGG RURAL DISTRICT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952 which has been compiled according to the directions issued by the Minister of Health and which follows the lines of last year's report.

Statistical information, including vital statistics, relating to your district, concludes the report.

Staff and Administrative Arrangements.

Throughout the year under review I have acted as your Medical Officer of Health pending the settlement of future policy and the appointment of a permanent officer. As my duties had to be carried out in addition to those of my own full time appointment elsewhere, I did not deem it wise to make any major changes in the present arrangements and have regarded my position essentially as that of locum tenens.

Nevertheless, I should like to take this opportunity of making some observations for the consideration of members, and for the benefit of my successor:-

1. It seems obvious to me that in an area such as Area 1, of which Blofield & Flegg is a part, and where distances are large, it would be to the benefit both of the District Council and the County Council for the work to be carried out as far as possible from one office.

While a great proportion of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors must necessarily be based on the District Council Offices, those matters with which the Medical Officer of Health is particularly closely concerned, such as infectious disease control, are clearly much better dealt with from one base. The keeping and supervision of records, the compilation of data and the preparation of reports are thereby much facilitated and moreover it is possible to maintain a continuity in the work and to benefit from the saving which comes from adopting standard procedures. Furthermore, general medical practitioners are able to contact their Medical Officer of Health more easily and the Medical Officer himself receives notifications of infectious diseases direct, without any delay.

In Area 5, which has much in common with Area 1, I have been convinced from experience both of the practicability and desirability of working in this way.

Population.

The Registrar-General estimates your population at 31,550, compared with 31,690 last year, - a decrease of 140 persons.

There were 368 live births and 351 deaths, giving a natural increase of 17. The tendency to movement out of your district which I mentioned last year, has therefore continued.

Death Rates.

The 351 deaths represent a rate of 11.13 per 1,000 of the population compared with 11.3 for England and Wales as a whole. There were 368 live births giving a birth rate of 11.07 compared with 15.3 for England and Wales as a whole. The birth rate has now fallen for six years in succession - (from 18.80 in 1947). There has been a similar trend in the figures for the country as a whole, which have diminished from 20.5 in 1947 to 15.3 in 1952. We can thus expect a diminishing number of entrants into the schools in the immediate years to come.

Seven children died under the age of one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 19.02 compared with 27.6 for England and Wales. This is



reasonably satisfactory and in keeping with the general tendency towards lower rates in rural areas.

#### Infectious Diseases.(Tables 11 and 12).

974 cases of infectious disease were notified of which 709 were attributed to measles. There were no deaths from this cause. Sixty-two cases of whooping cough with one death were reported. The county scheme for whooping cough immunisation has now been approved by the Ministry and is expected to be in operation early in 1953.

#### Tuberculosis.

38 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year of which 30 were pulmonary. This is about average for the post-war years. It will be noticed that 196 cases (152 of them pulmonary) remain on the register.

#### Immunisation and Vaccination.

I regret that these figures are not to hand owing to the fact that I have not been responsible for this work.

#### Housing.

During the year 69 new houses have been completed making a total of 463 completed by December, 1952.

The total number of houses owned by the Council is 1366 out of the total of 9,831 rateable dwellings in the District. Twenty-nine Demolition Orders were made during 1952.

I am pleased to say that both the number of houses completed and the number of Demolition Orders made have risen during the year but the rate of work in both fields yet needs to be further stepped up.

#### National Assistance Act, 1948, Amended Act, 1951.

No action was taken in connection with these powers during the year.

#### Fluoridation of Water Supplies.

A report of an expert committee which visited the United States recently to investigate the effect of fluoridation of the public water supply on the rate of dental caries has recently published its report and has reached the conclusion that where the natural supply is deficient in fluorine it is of very material benefit to add the chemical artificially to the water to give a figure of approximately 1.0 part per million. The report is very comprehensive and should be of interest to everyone responsible for water undertakings. I would suggest that the Council's main supplies are examined for their fluorine content and the matter thoroughly investigated if the figure is less than 0.5 parts per million.

I would like to express my thanks to Council members for their co-operation, to Mr. G. Hollier and Mr. B.J. Dawson and other officers of the Council for their willing assistance.

A.E. Brown, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.



Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS. 1952.

Area in acres	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ,77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Estimated Resident Population (mid-year)	31,550
Rateable Value (as at 31.12.52)	135,830
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1952/53	£570

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate	176	175	351
Illegitimate	7	10	17
TOTAL	183	185	368

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population

Blofield &amp; Flegg R.D. 11.07

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	5	9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births .. 23.07

Table 4. DEATHS (all ages)

MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
164	187	351

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident Population:

Blofield &amp; Flegg R.D. 11.13

Table 5. INFANT MORTALITY (DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR)

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	4	7

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births

Blofield &amp; Flegg R.D. 19.02

Table 6. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Prematurity	1	3	4
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	-	-	-
Broncho- 23. Broncho-Pneumonia	-	1	1
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
34. Accident - suffocation	1	-	1
Cardiac failure	1	-	1
TOTAL	3	4	7

Table 7. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (REGISTRAR - GENERAL).

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	4	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	1	1
6. Meningococcal infections	-	1	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	19	23	42
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	3	4	7
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	27	47
18. Coronary disease, angina	20	15	35
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	39	36	75
21. Other circulatory disease	11	6	17
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	4	4	8
24. Bronchitis	9	4	13
25. Other disease of respiratory system	-	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	6
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill - defined diseases	12	35	47
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	4	4	8
35. Suicide	3	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1
TOTALS	164	187	351



Table 8. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1952  
(According to Age Groups)

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Under 1 year	3	4	7
1 and under 5	-	2	2
5 " " 10	-	-	-
10 " " 20	-	2	2
20 " " 30	3	1	4
30 " " 40	-	1	1
40 " " 50	6	5	11
50 " " 60	13	14	27
60 " " 70	42	34	76
70 " " 80	54	61	115
80 " " 90	39	53	92
90 " " 100	5	9	14
100 and over	-	-	-
TOTAL	165	186	351

Table 9. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
<u>Live Births (per 1000 pop)</u>					
Blofield & Flegg R.D.	14.74	13.75	13.83	12.50	11.07
England and Wales	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3
<u>Still Births (per 1000 total births)</u>					
Blofield & Flegg R.D.	21.09	11.25	15.63.	31.70	23.37
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1000 pop)</u>					
Blofield & Flegg R.D.	9.15	10.71	9.45	11.71	11.13
England and Wales	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3
<u>Infant Mortality (per 1000 live births)</u>					
Blofield & Flegg R.D.	30.17	25.06	18.14	25.25	19.02
England and Wales	34.0	32.0	29.8	29.6	27.6



Table 10.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERIAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London. 1951 Census.	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census.	Blackfield and Fleet
<u>Rates per 1,000 Home Population.</u>				
<u>Births:</u>				
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5	11.07
Still Births	{ 0.35	0.43	0.36	0.29
	22.6 (a)	24.6 (a)	23.0 (a)	23.87(a)
<u>Deaths:</u>				
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	11.13
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.20	0.22	0.19
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.25
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.095
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	2.44
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.97
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.29
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.96	10.11	9.49	22.47
Pneumonia	0.72	0.90	0.62	1.27
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis) Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.03
Non paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11 suspected( confirmed)	0.43 0.13
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</u>				
<u>Deaths:</u>				
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6 (b)	31.2	25.8	19.02
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.00
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live &amp; Still) Births</u>				
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	17.87	23.94	10.22	5.31

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

Intermediate List No. and Cause.	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44.
A.115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	61	0.09	1
A.116 Abortion with toxæmia	13	0.02	
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	147	0.21	
A.117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	59	0.09	3
A.118 Abortion without mentioned of sepsis or toxæmia	31	0.04	
A.119 Abortion with sepsis	47	0.07	
A.120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	138	0.20	5

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.



Table 11. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)  
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	Age Unknown	Under 1	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	8	53	9	3	1	77
Measles	4	8	87	158	410	18	11	13	709
Whooping Cough	-	3	9	17	21	7	-	5	62
Pneumonia	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	35	40
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	3	22	6	4	10	45
Polio-myelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	9
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5
Undulant Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P. Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Food Poisoning (suspected)	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	12	15
Food Poisoning (confirmed)	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	4
Polio-myelitis, Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
TOTAL	6	12	100	190	512	40	18	96	974

Table 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1952 (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

	QUARTERS				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	9	14	19	35	77
Whooping Cough	35	24	2	1	62
Measles	427	214	64	4	709
Pneumonia	16	8	4	12	40
Abortus Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	6	1	-	2	9
Polio-myelitis (paralytic)	-	-	1	-	1
Polio-myelitis (non-paralytic)	-	-	1	-	1
Infective Jaundice	18	17	3	7	45
Food Poisoning (suspected)	13	1	1	-	15
Food Poisoning (confirmed)	-	-	4	-	4
Dysentery	5	-	-	-	5
Undulant Fever	-	-	-	-	-
P. Pyrexia	-	1	-	1	2
Meningococcal Infection	2	-	1	-	3
TOTAL	531	280	100	63	974

Table 13. TUBERCULOSIS. (Details of New Cases during 1952).

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	1	-
15 - 24	3	5	1	1
25 - 34	4	3	2	-
35 - 44	2	2	-	1
45 - 54	6	-	2	-
55 - 64	3	-	-	-
65 and over	1	1	-	-
	19	11	6	2

Total .. .. 30



Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS. (Number of Cases on T.D. Register ended 1952)

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Pulmonary	81	71	152
Non-Pulmonary	21	23	44
TOTALS	102	94	196

Table 15. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS. (Excluding Inward Transfers from other Districts)

		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Pulmonary	M.	29	22	15	15	19
	F.	17	15	17	15	11
Non-Pulmonary	M.	5	1	6	2	6
	F.	5	5	1	2	2
TOTAL		56	43	39	34	38

Table 16. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Number of Deaths	48	72	45	53	63
Percentage of Total Deaths	16.7	21.1	14.6	14.3	17.95



Table 17. CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED - 1952.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	-	52	1	57	117
Number inspected	-	52	1	57	117
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis -</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	15	-	1	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	-	28.8%	-	1.8%	2.6%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	11	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	23.1%	-	-	2.6%



MEDICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE IN BLOFIELD AND FLEGG  
RURAL DISTRICT

In my Annual Report for 1951, I gave a summary of the Medical Services available in Area No. 1. There have been only minor amendments during the year and these are given below:-

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Infant Welfare Centres (Doctors in attendance) are held as follows:-

Blofield (Margaret Harker Hall)	- Last Thursday each month.
Caister (Parish Hall)	- Last Wednesday each month.
Thorpe (Roxley Village Hall)	- Last Monday each month.
Thorpe (St. John's Hut)	- Second Wednesday each month.

Village Infant Welfare Centres (District Nurses in attendance) are held monthly at the following villages :-

Acle	Martham	S. Walsham
Cantley	Ormesby	Winterton
Fleggburgh	Reedham	Halvergate
Lingwood	Runham	

N.B. Week ending 17th September 1952 all centres regarded as of equal status.

Domestic Helps.

During 1952, assistance was given in 97 households as under :

Maternity	29	Sickness	39
Children without mother	1	Old age and infirmity	22
Post operative	3	Blindness	1
		Tuberculosis	2.

The number of Home Helps available in the districts was 41 of which 2 are Full-time, 1 Part-time and 38 occasional.