

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Brackley Borough.

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BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1944

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending December, 1944.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report of your Medical Officer of Health combined with that of your Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1944.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., F.R.San.I,
Medical Officer of Health.

September 17th, 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. S. Leff, M.D., D.P.H., resigned his appointment in January of the year under review and continued in office until 30th April. Dr. C. T. Darwent, who was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Leff, commenced duties on the 1st May. Dr. Darwent's appointment is a part-time one as District Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the Northamptonshire County Council, his duties extending to the Rural Districts of Brackley, Brixworth and Daventry and the Borough of Daventry. By his appointment under the County Council he is responsible for the examination of elementary school children in those areas, and in addition conducts Child Welfare Clinics at Brackley, Moulton, Brixworth, Welford, and Weedon, and the Ante-Natal Clinic at Middleton Cheney.

Sanitary Inspector. The duties of the appointment of Sanitary Inspector are carried out by Mr. C. Morgan, who is also your Surveyor, Rating Officer and Farm Manager.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of Borough	1,685 acres
Population (Registrar General)	2,494
Number of inhabited houses	740
Rateable Value of Borough (1st April, 1944) ...	£12,768
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£51

The health of the inhabitants of the Borough maintained its high level and the incidence of all notifiable infectious disease was particularly low. The following are the schools in the Borough: Winchester House School, a preparatory boarding school for boys; Magdalen College, a secondary school for boys; The High School, a secondary school for girls; Brackley Council School, a mixed school for senior elementary school children; Brackley Church of England Schools, a mixed school for junior children and infants. The approved school for girls, which accommodates 24, governed by the Church Penitentiary Association under the supervision of the Children's Branch of the Home Office continued to operate during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate	
				per 1000 of est. resdt. pop.	Eng. & Wales
Live Births, Legitimate	32	15	17	13.2	17.6
Live Births, Illegitimate	1	—	1		
Totals ...	33	15	18		
Still-births					
Legitimate	—	—	—		
Illegitimate	1	1	—	0.40	0.50
Total ...	1	1	—		

The birth-rate of 13.2 per 1,000 of the population is lower by 2.2 than the rate for the year 1943, and is lower by 4.4 than the rate for England and Wales for the year under review.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 live births.	
				Brackley	Eng. & Wales
Deaths of Infants, under 1 year :—					
Legitimate	1	1	—	30.3	46.0
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from all causes					
	40	16	24	16.04	11.6

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Resp. System ...	2	—	2
Influenza ...	1	—	1
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	—	3	3
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions ...	2	5	7
Heart disease ...	3	6	9
Bronchitis ...	1	—	1
Pneumonia ...	1	1	2
Other Respiratory diseases ...	—	1	1
Other Digestive disorders ...	—	1	1
All other causes ...	5	7	12
Total ...	16	24	40

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities. All pathological specimens and samples of water were examined at the Oxford Branch of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory under Professor Wilson.

Ambulance Facilities : Infectious Diseases. The Council is a participating authority in the West Northamptonshire Joint Hospital Board Scheme and the Board's ambulance is available for the removal of infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital at Staverton. A nurse accompanies the ambulance.

For **Surgical and Medical Cases**—the local St. John Ambulance is available and has in the past rendered prompt and valuable service.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics continued to operate during the year, sessions being held every second Thursday of the month; talks and demonstrations on health matters were given. Ante-natal care, advice and supervision is also available at Middleton Cheney for Brackley residents on the first Wednesday afternoon in each month.

A Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital Surgeon conducts a Clinic once monthly in the Brackley Council School.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. (i) **Water Supply.** In order to conserve water the Council continued to curtail the supply, which was commenced in December of the previous year, for the whole of the year under review. As a result of a report received by Consulting Engineers, a new 10 inch bore hole 35 feet deep was cut at the well bottom as the old bore hole was choked. When the work was completed it was found that the water regained its level appreciably quicker than it did before. The height of the water in January of the year under review was 8ft. 9ins. and in December 9ft. 6ins. the minimum height being recorded in September when it was 5ft. 9ins. Specimens of blood and faeces taken from the men engaged in the construction of the new bore hole and submitted for examination proved satisfactory. The chlorination plant continued to operate satisfactorily, and samples of water taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination showed it to be a Class 1 water according to the Ministry of Health's grading.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The sewage works continued to function satisfactorily during the year. With the exception of 18 houses in outlying parts of the Borough, all houses are connected to the Council's system of sewers.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No complaints were received regarding the pollution of streams by the effluent from the sewage disposal works.

3. **Public Cleansing.** House refuse is collected weekly, utilising carts and horses owned by the Council. The disposal dump is far removed from residences and no nuisance occurred.

Camping Sites. There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement. No action was found to be necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Baths and Pools. Owing to the shortage of water the public swimming pool, which is usually filled from the Council's water mains, was not used during the year.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	84
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	95
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	—

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation...	30
(4)	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 ...	12
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers ...	12
3.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners ...	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

Statistics in relation to overcrowding are not available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.** The number of milk producers in the Borough is six ; their premises were inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a proper manner. All milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area. Six samples of milk were submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Test : 5 samples proved to be satisfactory and one moderate. Two samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination by the Phosphatase Test proved satisfactory, both samples being reported upon as falling into group No. 1.

(b) **Food and Drugs Act, 1938.** Premises used for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

(c) **Meat and Other Foods.** The Government Slaughterhouse continued to operate during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows :—801 cattle, 4426 sheep and lambs, 123 calves and 37 pigs. Upon inspection meat and offal weighing 5 tons 5 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lbs. were voluntarily surrendered, being diseased and unfit for human consumption.

The following unsound foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered during the year :—5lbs. ham, 46 eggs, 70lbs. wet fish, 26½lbs. canned meat, 7lbs. cheese, 112lbs. milk powder and 12 tins condensed milk.

Diseased meat and offal were collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	1
Erysipelas	...	1
Measles	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	4

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1944.

Disease	Und. 1 yr. 1-2 yrs. 2-3 yrs. 3-4 yrs. 4-5 yrs. 5-10 yrs. 10-15 yrs. 15-20 yrs. 20-35 yrs. 35-45 yrs. 45-65 yrs. 65 yrs. & over													Total Remvd. all to ages Hosp. Dths.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Following are particulars in connection with Diphtheria immunisation during the year under review :—

	Under 5 yrs. 5—15		Total
Number of Immunisations completed during 1944	30	36	66
Number of children considered Immunised at 31st December, 1944	87	292	379
Percentage of population Immunised	49	57	

Parents who desire their children immunised should notify the Medical Officer of Health; Miss Green, Health Visitor; or Mr. C. Morgan, Sanitary Inspector, at 29 Market Place, and arrangements will be made for the treatment.

Tuberculosis. New cases during 1944 :—

Respiratory—Male, 1 (18 years of age).

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year :—

Pulmonary—Male, 2; Female, Nil. Non-Pulmonary—Nil.

Age Group, 20—25. Total, 2.

Scabies. During the year no cases of scabies were reported.

