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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1951.



Arthur Lucas,
I.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the Year 1951.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
of the Borough of Brackley.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report with that of Mr. Morgan,
your Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1951.

The Vital Statistics are satisfactory and there were no deaths from
infectious disease, and none of children under one year of age. No case
of Poliomyelitis was notified during the year under review, so that the
Borough has been fortunate in this respect for the past six years.

So far no chlorination plant has been installed in the swimming bath
and I hope the Council will endeavour in the near future to obtain and instal
a suitable plant.

The building of new houses is going ahead and the new flats seem to
be quite satisfactory. There is still a waiting list of applicants for new
houses as is the case of all other areas in the Country.

My thanks are due to the Council and their Officers for any help they
have given me during the past year.

Your obedient Servant,

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September 1952.

Public Health Committee, December 1951.

The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor C.J. Rose,
Aldermen H.E. Ford, Aldermen C. Pether,
Councillor H.J. Foot, Chairman: Councillor L.S. Coles,
Councillor G.C. Hodges, Councillor J.L. Alcock, Councillor
Mrs. P.A. Simons, Councillor W.A. Aldridge.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of:

Medical Officer for the Brackley Rural District

Medical Officer of Health for Daventry Borough.

Medical Officer of Health for Daventry Rural District,

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County
Council, and Assistant County School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector: C. Morgan, M.S.I.A., who also holds the
appointment of Borough Surveyor.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1951.

Area of Borough, (acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1685
Population ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2775
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	844
Rateable Value of Borough..	...	...	...	...	...	...	£13,192
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	...	...	...	...	...	...	£52

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year.

						<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>								
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	24	21	45
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	27	22	49

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population... 17.6

Still-births: No still-births were recorded during the year

	Male	Female	Total
<u>Deaths</u> (all causes)...	14	23	37

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population... 13.0

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes...	Nil

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of infants under one year..... Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil
Deaths from pregnancy, child-birth or abortion...	Nil

Area: There has been no change in the area of the Borough which remains at 1685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 2,775 and the Vital Statistics are based on this figure. The estimated population is higher by 169 than that for the year 1950. The natural increase in population, that is the increase of births over deaths was 13 persons.

Deaths:- The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 36. The death-rate, based on the mid-year estimated population was 13.0, as compared with 12.13 for the Administrative County.

A table giving the list of the causes of death classified under the thirty-six causes is given on page 3.

Births: The number of births which occurred during the year under review was 49. This gives a birth-rate of 17.6 as compared with 15.57 for the administrative County and 15.50 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality: I am pleased to be able to report that no deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during the year. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for the County of Northamptonshire was 25.26 and for England and Wales, was 29.60.

Maternal Mortality: It is again gratifying to record that no death occurred from causes associated with child-birth.

The following table gives the birth-rate, death-rate and infant mortality rate for the Borough, the administrative County of Northamptonshire and England & Wales for the past five years:-

Year	BIRTH-RATE			DEATH-RATE			INFANT MORTALITY-RATE		
	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton Shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales
1947	23.57	20.42	20.5	18.24	12.43	12.00	94.3	35.07	41.00
1948	14.3	17.46	17.90	8.9	11.00	10.8	nil	31.67	34.00
1949	13.47	16.19	16.7	13.85	12.07	11.7	26.5	33.78	32.00
1950	20.34	15.71	15.8	14.2	12.01	11.60	37.7	29.53	29.8
1951	17.6	15.57	15.50	13.0	12.13	12.5	nil	25.26	29.60

Registered Causes of Death.

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



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SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE.

Laboratory Facilities: The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Oxford carry out the bacteriological examination of pathological specimens and samples of water, free of charge. Medical Practitioners in the area send specimens direct to the Laboratory and copies of the results of examination are received at the Public Health Department.

Ambulance Service: Infectious disease cases are removed if necessary to the Isolation Hospital at Northampton.

For the removal to Hospital of surgical and non-infectious cases the St. John Ambulance Brigade Service is available and is maintained under contract with the Hospital authorities. The service, which is available by day or night is free and is a great asset to the Borough.

Treatment Centres and Clinics: The Infant Welfare Clinic continued to operate during the year under review and sessions are held every second Thursday in every month. Orthopaedic Clinics organised by Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital continued their valuable work during the year. Ante-natal Clinics were held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Nursing in the Home: The County Council operate a complete nursing service within the Area and "Home Helps" are also on call in connection with infirm or chronic cases treated at home.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply: During the year the water supply was sufficient in quantity and of high bacteriological standard. The supply is from two deep wells with 15 inch bore-holes at the bottom of each. Two submersible electric pumps and an oil engine are used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 180,000 gallons and 10,000 gallons capacity respectively. The supply was not cut off during any part of the year. The water, which is not filtered, is chlorinated and samples submitted to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory during the year showed that it was of a high bacteriological standard.

With the exception of two outlying farms in the area all premises are connected to the Council's mains.

Sewage Disposal: The sewage disposal works comprising two filter beds, two sedimentation tanks, humas and sludge lagoons and electrical plant for lifting the level of one outfall sewer continued to function satisfactorily during the year. The system of sewers comprise 6", 9", 12" and 15". With the exception of eighteen houses in outlying parts of the district all premises are connected to the system.

Rivers and Streams: No complaints were received regarding the pollution of the River Ouse into which the effluent from the sewage disposal works discharges.

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 Bath: The public swimming pool now vested in the Council was in use during the year and was filled with water from the Council's mains. As I have previously stated in the Report, I shall be glad to see the installation of a filtration and chlorination plant in the near future.

Eradication of Bed Bugs: During the year one premises was found to be infested by bed bugs. Malathion containing D.D.T was used and the premises were successfully disinfested.

Public Cleansing: House refuse was collected weekly by direct labour using a two-ton Bedford truck for the purpose. During August of the year under review the Committee obtained delivery of a Bantam Karrier refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding covers. This vehicle is a great improvement on the old Bedford truck. Where formerly the district was covered in one day it was found necessary during the commencement of the

Winter to resort to two days collection, covering one part of the area on Thursdays and the other part on Fridays. Considering labour difficulties in connection with the collection of house refuse which is generally experienced by many local authorities, the Committee is fortunate in being able to maintain a weekly collection of refuse.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: In connection with the provisions of this Act, one of the Council's workmen carry out the duties of part rodent operative, and good results were obtained by the use of sausage rusk and zinc phosphide.

Summary of Sanitary Inspections.

Number of visits and inspections:-

Visits to Government Slaughter-house...	...	...	195
Inspections of butchers' shops	...	...	14
Inspections of meat hawkers' vans	...	...	5
Visits to bakehouses...	...	...	6
Number of drains tested	...	...	25
Number of premises disinfested	...	...	1
Visits to Factories & workplaces	...	...	18
Number of houses inspected...	...	...	68
Number of visits to Fish shops	...	...	8
Number of visits to other food premises	...	...	25
Inspections made in connection with rodent infestation	...	...	32
Number of minor infestations treated	...	...	12

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)... 68
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. 84
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.. -
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... -
 - (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 ... 32
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 of their officers ... 31
3. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners ... 1
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners -

During the year 32 flats of the programme of 40 "Gregory Flats" were completed and occupied bringing the total number of dwellings completed and occupied since the War to 92. The fourth housing programme of 22 dwellings, (18 houses and 4 two roomed bungalows) was commenced during October of the year under review.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply: The number of milk retailers in the Borough is 2. All milk retailed is produced outside the area.

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.

Meat and Other Foods: The Government Slaughter-house continued to function during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows:- 685 Cattle, 379 calves, 1760 sheep & lambs and 265 pigs. Upon inspection meat and offal weighing 14,351 lbs were found to be diseased, unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered. Diseased meat and offal were collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

The following unsound foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered during the year:-

Boiled Ham...	...	...	...	135 lbs
Tinned soup..	...	...	...	3½ lbs
Poultry ...	...	...	...	56 lbs
Sausages ...	...	...	...	26 lbs
Faggots ...	...	...	...	31 lbs
Liver sausage	...	...	...	12 lbs
Pasties No...	...	...	...	24
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	6 lbs
Cheese ...	...	...	...	32 lbs
Kidneys, Tinned	...	...	...	¾ lb.
Cod Roes ...	...	...	...	6 lb
Fish-cakes...	...	...	...	10 lbs

Food Shops: Food-shops were inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a cleanly manner. Retailers were most co-operative and welcomed the opportunity to display printed cards supplied by the Council asking for the exclusion of dogs from food-shops.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

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

Pneumonia...	...	...	4
Measles ...	...	...	75
Whooping cough ...	...	...	1

There were no deaths from infectious disease.

Tuberculosis:-

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported during the year. Two cases of Pulmonary were reported as cured; there was one inward transfer and one case removed from the district. The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year was as follows:-

				<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary...	...	...	...	2	6	8
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	2	1	3
Totals...	..	...	...	4	7	11

Scabies: No case of scabies was reported during the year.

