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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1953



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



BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1953.

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

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1953.

The Vital Statistics are satisfactory and compare very favourably with those of the rest of the Country. There were no deaths from infectious disease and no case of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year under review; in fact there has been no case of Poliomyelitis during the past five years in the Borough, which is one of the few places in the Country with such a record. It is gratifying to record that there were no infant or maternal deaths during the year.

The main worry of the Borough is the lack of water which became evident during the year when emergency supplies had to be used. A new source of supply is being obtained from the Bucks Water Board and it is hoped this will augment the normal supply sufficiently for the Town's needs. If Brackley is to expand and industry introduced it is obvious that a good supply of water must be ensured otherwise no industry will be attracted to the Borough which it requires if it is to survive as a self contained unit.

Again I must thank Mr. Morgan your Sanitary Inspector and his Staff for all the help given me and also the Water Engineer during the water crisis.

Your obedient Servant,

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

October 1954

Public Health Committee, December 1953

The Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman Miss E.M. Traneker, Chairman,  
Alderman C. Pether, Alderman H.E. Ford, Councillors L.S. Coles,  
(Vice-Chairman) E. G. Lovegrove, G. Webb, G.A.H. Lew.

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 of Health, Brackley Rural District Council.  
Medical Officer of Health, Towcester Rural District Council.  
Medical Officer of Health, Northampton Rural District Council,  
Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County  
Council, and Assistant County School Medical Officer.

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

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1953.

Area of Borough, (acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	1685
Population (estimated mid-1953)...	...	...	...	...	...	2935
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	917
Rateable Value of Borough...	...	...	...	...	...	£14,671
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	...	...	...	...	...	£53

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year.

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Eng. &amp; Wales.</u>
Legitimate... ..	23	26	49	
Illegitimate ... ..	-	1	1	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:			17.0	15.5





Still-births: No still-births were recorded during the year under review.

The still-births per 1,000 (live and still-births) for the administrative County of Northamptonshire was 21.18

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths (all causes)...	14	16	30

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 10.2 Eng. & Wales: 11.4

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) ...	4
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 administrative Borough which remains at 1,685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 2,935, and the Vital Statistics are based on this figure. The estimated population is higher by 66 than that for the year 1952. The natural increase in population, that is, the increase of births over deaths was 20.

Deaths: The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 30. The death-rate, based on the mid-year estimated population is 10.2 as compared with 11.51 for the administrative County and 11.40 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

A table giving a list of the causes of death in the Borough classified under the various causes is given on page 3.

Births: The number of births which occurred in the Borough during the year was 50. This gives a birth-rate of 17.0, as compared with 16.16 for the administrative County and 15.50 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality: It is gratifying to record that no infant under one year died during the year under review. The infant mortality rate for the County was 24.70 and that for England and Wales 26.80 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality: It is also 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 and Wales for the past five years:-

Year	Birth-rate			Death-rate			Infant Mortality-rate		
	Brackley Borough	Northamptonshire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northamptonshire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northamptonshire	England & Wales
1949	13.47	16.19	16.7	13.85	12.07	11.7	28.5	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
1952	15.6	15.50	15.3	10.4	11.04	11.3	22.2	24.96	27.6
1953	17.0	16.16	15.50	10.2	11.51	11.40	nil	24.70	26.80





Registered Causes of Death

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





Laboratory Facilities: The examination of pathological specimens and samples of water is carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Oxford free of charge. Medical Practitioners in the area submit specimens direct to the Laboratory and copies of the reports of examination are received at the Public Health Department.

Ambulance Facilities: Infectious disease cases requiring hospital treatment are removed to the Isolation Hospital Northampton.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade Service was maintained during the year under contract with the Hospital Management Authority and was available for the removal to Hospital of surgical and non-infectious cases. The service, which is available by day and 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 were held every second Thursday in every month. Orthopaedic Clinics organised by the 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: The supply of water to the Borough is from two deep wells with 15 inch bore-holes at the bottom of each. Two submersible electric pumps and an oil engine comprise the plant used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 180,000 and 10,000 gallons capacity respectively. One of the wells was not used during the year as continued pumping reduced the level of the water below the suction of the oil engine pump. The water, which is not filtered, is chlorinated and samples submitted regularly to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory during the year showed that it was of high bacteriological standard.

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

In September of the year under review the water was cut off due to a failure in the supply, and following is a report of the events leading to the failure:

In the Spring of the year under review the head level of water in the bore-hole was 6" lower than in the Spring of the previous year. At this time the Council's Consultants were instructed to submit a scheme for an alternate supply. During July the attention of householders was called to the necessity of conserving as much water as possible.

The pumping level at 9 a.m. each morning during August was 20 to 25 feet according to the number of hours pumped, and on 18th August at 8.30 p.m. when pumping finished the pumping level was 16'6". This was reported to a Committee of the Council on 24th August.

The rest level of the water dropped slowly from 29'6" at the beginning of August to 29' at the end of August, pumping approximately 7,000 gallons per hour for a fifteen hour period, lifting approximately 108,000 gallons per day. On 4th September the rest level of the water was still 29'.

On 5th September the pumping level was 20' at 9 a.m. and the water suddenly assumed a greyish turbidity; continued pumping did not improve the condition of the water. Pumping level at 9 a.m. on 6th September was nil feet head. The pump was cut out and after resting the bore-hole the head level returned to 29'. Pumping was re-commenced and by operating valves, restricted the rate of delivery of the pump to 2,000 gallons per hour, gradually increasing to approximately 3,000 gallons.

On 7th September the water began to clear slightly and it was decided to stop pumping and allow the water in the borehole to settle and to find out what recovery of rest level would be. The water was therefore cut off from 9.30 p.m. on Monday 7th September to 5 a.m. Wednesday, 9th September, when the rest level recorded was 29'6". Pumping was resumed at a rate of delivery to the supply tanks of three to four thousand gallons per hour. Pumping level was 28'3" and the water was clear. At 8.40 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th September pumping level was 28' and it was attempted to increase the rate of delivery. Immediately the water began to 'cloud' so delivery was restricted to the original rate of three to four thousand gallons per hour. Further attempts were made to increase delivery but the water became turbid. After 24 hours pumping the rest level of the water was 28' and was clear.

On 6th September the Army Authority was contacted who were able to help with mobile water tanks and also the Firebrigade. Water, obtained from the Bucks Water Board 3" main about a mile away, was delivered in small quantities to all householders.





On 7th September tanks of varying capacities, loaned by neighbouring Authorities were set up throughout the Borough and filled with Water from the Bucks Water Board main. Two 300 gallon mobile tanks arrived from the Army Authority and were operating on 8th September. The U.S.A.F. also kindly loaned four mobile tanks from their neighbouring base. On all static water tanks throughout the Borough notices were displayed to boil all water for drinking purposes.

A sample of our well water submitted for analysis showed no difference in its chemical composition to previous samples. Many samples were also submitted for bacteriological examination and these were satisfactory.

After approximately ten days emergency supplies were discontinued and by restricting the rate of delivery by the pumps, and by the public who helped in restricting and conserving as much water as possible, the amount of water pumped, which remained clear, was sufficient.

Before the water was turned on in the mains, all ball type hydrants were washed with a strong solution of chlorox.

Before the end of the year negotiations were proceeding with the Bucks Water Board for an emergency supply of water from their mains, by laying and connecting a supplementary main to our system. The supply, however was not in operation by the end of the year.

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 sewerage of the Borough comprise 6", 9" 12" and 15" pipes. With the exception of sixteen 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 owned by the Council was in use during the year and was filled with water from the Council's mains. As I have stated in previous reports I shall be glad to see the installation of a filtration and chlorination plant at this pool. The bacteriological standard of water in a swimming pool should be comparable to drinking water and this cannot be maintained without the use of proper plant.

Eradication of Bed Bugs No infestation by bed bugs was found during the year under review.

Public Cleansing: House refuse was collected weekly using direct labour and a Bantam Karrier refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding covers. One part of the Borough is covered on Thursdays and the other on Fridays.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: In connection with the provisions of this Act, one of the Council's workmen and the Sanitary Inspector carry out the duties, 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...	215
Inspections of butchers' shops	16
Inspections of meat hawkers' vans	4
Inspections of bakehouses	6
Number of drainages tested	35
Visits to Factories and Workplaces	25
Housing Inspections	65
Visits to fried fish shops	14
Number of visits to other food shops...	35
Inspections in connection with rodent control	39
Number of minor infestations treated.	22





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)... .. 65
  - (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 ... .. 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 ... .. 18
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 -

No serious cases of overcrowding were found during the year under review.

During the year 4 one-bedroomed bungalows, 12 two-bedroomed houses and 14 three-bedroomed houses, a total of 30 dwellings were erected and completed by the Council, bringing the total number completed since the War to 148. Five houses erected by private enterprise were completed during the year.

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 & 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:-

Cattle...	...	...	637
Calves...	...	...	409
Sheep & Lambs	...	...	2296
Pigs ..	...	...	595

Upon inspection meat and offal weighing 6 tons 19 cwt 2 qrs 15 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 utilization.

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

Fork & vegetables...	...	45 tins	Pressed Beef...	...	24 lbs
Cheese	...	18 lbs	Corned Beef	...	5 tins
Luncheon Meat	...	15 tins	Pilchards	...	2 tins
Cooked ham	...	23½ lbs	Fruit	...	11 tins



Food Shops: Food shops were regularly inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a cleanly manner. Retailers continue to display notices requesting the public to refrain from taking dogs into their shops.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	3
Whooping cough	...	...	2

There was one death from Pneumonia during the year

The following figures show the numbers of children vaccinated, immunised for diphtheria and vaccinated for whooping cough during the year:-

	<u>Vaccination</u>					<u>Total</u>
	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	
Primary	30	-	3	-	4	37
Re-vaccination	-	-	1	2	11	14

	<u>Diphtheria Immunisation</u>							<u>Total</u>	<u>Booster.</u>
	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14 yrs.</u>		
Immunised	24	10	10	1	-	1	-	46	9

	<u>Whooping Cough Vaccination</u>			
	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1-4</u>	<u>5-14 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping cough		3	-	3
x Combined Diphtheria & Whooping cough	14	24	1	39

x The combined diphtheria/whooping cough figures are included in the figures for diphtheria immunisation.

TUBERCULOSIS There were no new cases of Tuberculosis reported during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year:

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... ..	3	7	10
Non-Pulmonary .. ..	3	1	4
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 14

