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HEALTH
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57

DOROUGH OF BRACKLEY.

Lucy

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956



ARTHUR LUCAS
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1956

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 1956.

The Vital Statistics for the Borough compare very favourably with those for the Country generally, and it is pleasing to note that no case of infectious disease was reported during the year under review. The Borough has been free from Poliomyelitis for many years, and it is hoped that with the use of Poliomyelitis vaccine generally throughout the Country the incidence of this dreaded infection will reduce progressively.

Your obedient servant,

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

September 1958.

Public Health Committee.

Councillor L.S. Coles, Chairman, Councillor G.C. Hodges, Vice
Chairman, The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor J. Tweedale,
Alderman Mrs. P.A. Simons, Councillors: W.S. Pope, E.A. Tutton,
E.V.H.G. Wherry, R.J. Staniforth and G. Law.

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

Public Health Inspector: Clifford Morgan, C.R.S.H., who also
holds the appointment of Borough Surveyor.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1956.

Area of Borough (acres)...	1,685
Population, estimated mid-year ...	3,090
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1956...	979
Rateable Value of Borough 1st October 1956 ...	£30,551
Sum represented by a Penny Rate...	£118

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births:	Males	Females	Total	Eng&Wales.
Legitimate...	37	26	63	
Illegitimate...	-	-	-	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:	20.3	14.6		

Still Births: One still-birth was recorded during the year. This is equivalent to a still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still-births) of 15.6. The rate for the Administrative County is 18.25 and that for England and Wales 23.3.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths(all causes)...	15	16	31
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 10.0: Eng & Wales 11.3.			
Deaths from Puerperal causes:-			
Puerperal sepsis ...		nil.	
Other Puerperal causes..		nil.	

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of infants under one year...	1.
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, childbirth or abortion..	nil.

Area: There was no change during the year in the administrative area of the Borough which remains at 1,685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 3,090, and the vital statistics are based on this figure. The estimated population is higher by 70 than that for the year 1955 the natural increase in population, that is, the increase of births over deaths was 32.

Deaths: The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 31. The death-rate, based on the mid-year estimated population is 10.0 as compared with 11.24 for the administrative County of Northamptonshire and 11.3 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 63. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 20.3. The rate for the administrative County was 16.67 and for England and Wales 14.6.

Infant Mortality: One infant death under one year of age was recorded during the year under review. The rate per 1,000 live births was 15.8.

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.
1952	15.6	15.50	15.3	10.4	11.04	11.3	22.2	24.96	27.60
1953	17.0	16.16	15.50	10.2	11.51	11.40	nil	24.70	26.80
1954	17.1	16.20	15.2	12.8	11.04	11.3	58.8	23.49	25.50
1955	19.2	15.49	15.00	13.5	11.38	11.7	nil	20.79	24.90
1956	20.3	16.67	14.6	10.0	11.24	11.3	15.8	19.68	23.8

Registered Causes of Death 1956.

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

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities: The examination of pathological specimens and samples of water is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford. The service is free and Medical Practitioners in the Borough submit specimens direct to the laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities: Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are removed and treated at the Isolation Hospitals at Northampton or Oxford.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade Service continued to operate during the year under review. The Service operates 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 residents of the Borough and surrounding area.

Treatment Centres and Clinics: The Infant Welfare Clinic continued to operate during the year and sessions were held on the second Thursday in every month at the Women's Institute, Manor Road. Orthopaedic Clinics, Vision Clinics and Dental Clinics for School Children which are organised by the County Council operated during the year under review. Preventive and after-care services for tuberculous cases are administered by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home: The County Council operate a complete nursing service within the Borough and "Home Helps" are available in connection with infirm or chronic cases treated at home. The "After-care" Committee which was established during the year 1955, continued to operate, and a body of willing workers organised efforts to obtain funds, and collect clothing for distribution to those in need.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply: The main supply of water for the Borough is from a deep well with a fifteen inch bore hole at the bottom. A submersible electric pump is used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 120,000 and 12,000 gallons capacity respectively. The old well was not used during the year as the supply had given out, and the old oil engine plant was dismantled. The water is chlorinated but not filtered and samples taken periodically and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory showed that it was of good bacterial purity.

Water from the supplementary main of the Bucks Water Board System was used during the year in order to rest the water in the Council's Well and not unduly to reduce the head level of the water in the bore-hole. With the exception of the month of April water was taken from the supplementary main every month of the year and the total gallonage taken was 4,655,740.

I have stated previously that the storage capacity at the Water-works represents approximately one day's consumption, and as the maximum gallonage daily which can be taken from the Bucks Water Board supply is 60,000, the need for greater storage capacity at the Waterworks is felt when it is found necessary to change the submersible pump which is a fairly major operation.

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 heavy rains part of the sewage has to be diverted to the land as the works cannot deal with these increased volumes. With the exception of twenty-two houses in outlying parts of the district where levels will not permit connection with the system of sewers, all premises are connected to the sewerage.

Rivers and Streams: No complaints were received regarding 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. Two caravans were licensed during the year for occupation and these were conducted in a proper manner.

Smoke Abatement: No action was necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Pool: The public swimming pool owned by the Council was used during the year and was filled with water from the mains. Chloros is regularly added to the water in order to maintain a reasonable standard of purity, but it is not practicable to obtain a constant residual chlorine content in such a large volume of water as 60,000 gallons when the water is changed only three or four times during the season.

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

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 was covered on Thursdays and the other on Fridays.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act: The provisions of this Act were operated by Mr. W.G. Bartlett who is engaged as a part-time operative. Good results were obtained by the use of Warfarin with oatmeal baits. Sewers were test-bated with sausage rusk but no take was observed. The number of premises inspected were as follows:-

Local Authority...	...	...	...	...	4
Dwelling houses...	...	...	...	...	54
All other including business premises	...	...	...	...	12
Agricultural premises	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	73

The number of minor infestations found was 28 and these were treated with good results. The refuse tip and sewage disposal works are regularly test-bated.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Number of visits and inspections:

Visits to slaughter-house...	...	...	...	...	176
Inspections of butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	28
Number of old drainages tested	...	...	...	...	12
Number of new drainages tested	...	...	...	...	4
Inspections of bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection of meat hawkers' vans...	...	...	...	...	10
Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	154
Inspections of fried fish shops...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspections of other food shops...	...	...	...	...	44
Inspections with rodent control...	...	...	...	...	73
Inspections of factories and workshops..	...	...	...	...	15

SECTION D

HOUSING

Slum Clearance During the year 1955 the Council submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government a statement in which the estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, was 21. These houses are required to be demolished within a period of five years. No action was taken regarding these houses during the year under review.

No Council Houses were erected during the year under review. The total number of Council Houses built since the War is 204. Four private enterprise houses were completed during the year and there were 3 under construction at the end of the year.

Improvement Grants: Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, owners of dwelling houses may apply to the local authority for a grant towards providing additional amenities to their houses, such as the provision of constant hot water and indoor sanitation etc., and the local authority may, subject to the submission of plans and competitive tenders for the work, give a grant towards the cost which may be up to fifty per cent of the total cost, subject to a maximum grant of £400. During the year one grant was made.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 Some of the Regulations came into operation on 1st April of the year under review, and others on 1st July. The Regulations provide for the cleanliness of food premises, hygienic methods for handling food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the food trade and the action to be taken when they suffer from or are carriers of certain infections. The provisions of the Regulations were circularised to all food shops in the Borough. There are 20 food shops in the area and these were visited regularly to see that the provisions of the Regulations were being observed.

Retailers continued to display notices requesting the public to refrain from taking dogs into their shops.

Meat and Oether Foods: The licenced slaughter-house continued to operate during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows:-

Cattle...	...	...	...	380
Sheep and lambs	...	...	...	1932
Pigs	...	...	...	394
Calves...	...	...	...	27.

Regular visits were made to the slaughter-house and upon inspection meat and offal weighing 14 cwts. 15 lbs were found to be diseased, unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered. Diseased meat and offal were regularly collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

The following foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered from food shops: Part top side of beef 59 lbs; 6 lbs corned beef; 56 lbs luncheon meat; 28 lbs dried apricots and 45 tins of various foods.

The Northamptonshire County Council under powers conferred by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 took samples of various foods in the Borough during the year and I am indebted to Mr. A.E.Waller, Chief Inspector for supplying the following details of samples taken:-

Milk...	...	...	8	Marmalade...	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	1	Soft Drink..	...	...	1
Golden Raising Powder	1			Tomato Cocktail...	...	...	1
Self-Raising Flour	1			Vinegar	...	...	1
Jam	...	...	1	Condensed Milk	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	1	Total...	...	...	18.

Remarks:

One sample of non-designated milk contained 2.9 per cent of fat instead of the presumptive minimum of 3.0 per cent and a sample of Channel Islands Milk contained 3.8 per cent fat instead of the standard quantity of 4.0 per cent. There was no question of adulteration, the slightly low fat content being almost certainly due to seasonal conditions. All the remaining samples were entirely satisfactory.

Sale of Food (Weights and Measures) Act, 1926: Labelling of Food Order, 1953.

610 pre-packed articles of food were checked for weight or measure. Only 1 article was slightly deficient and 2 were not correctly labelled. No legal action was necessary.

SECTION F PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Borough was remarkably free from infection during the year and no case of infectious disease was reported.

Vaccination and Immunisation: The following details of vaccination and immunisation carried out during the year have been supplied by Dr. C.M. Smith, County Medical Officer of Health to whom I am indebted:-

<u>Vaccination:</u>	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total			
Primary	35	-	2	1	1	39			
Re-vaccination	-	-	3	-	2	5			
<u>Immunisation:</u>	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total	Booster
Diphtheria immunisation only...	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	8	8
Combined Diphtheria Whooping Cough ...	12	6	1	1	-	-	2	22	4
Total Diphtheria Immunisations ...	13	6	1	1	-	3	6	30	12
Whooping Cough only	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis Vaccination...	-	-	1	3	3	6	-	13	-

Number of children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria
Immunisation:-

Age at 31.12.56 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1956	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5-9 1947- 1951	10-14 1942 - 1946	Total under 15
Number immunised	5	31	38	27	34	103	136	454

Tuberculosis:

There were no new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year.
One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified as cured and one case
removed from the Borough. The numbers of cases remaining on the Register
at the end of the year were as follows:

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary...	...	...	2	7	9
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	3	1	4
Total	...	...	5	8	13

