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Contributors

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BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	26,881 acres
Population	9,797
Number of inhabited houses	2,710
Rateable Value (1st April, 1947)	£65,473
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£306
	1947/48

Although on first seeing this district would appear to be entirely rural and therefore it might be concluded our villages would depend entirely on agriculture, the close proximity of several small industrial towns has had effect on the population. Also, as a result of the war, several villages have had influxes of industrial workers, some of whom are still resident in the new houses provided for them.

Population.			
Atworth	780	Agriculture	One new industry
Broughton Gifford	690	Mainly Agriculture	
Hilperton	850	Agriculture	
Holt	1,200	Agriculture	Tanyard and Leather Factory Mattress Factory
Limpley Stoke	500	Agriculture	Residential
Melksham Without	2,130	Mainly Agriculture	
Monkton Farleigh	410	Agriculture	Large Government works
Semington	440	Mainly Agriculture	
South Wraxall	430	Mainly Agriculture	
Staverton	270	Agriculture	Large " Milk " factory
Westwood	850	Agriculture	Industrial transferred war industry
Wingfield	290	Agriculture	
Winsley	950	Agriculture	Residential

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.		M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	91	97	188
Illegitimate	...	10	4	14
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		101	101	202
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Births—Legitimate	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2	1	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :				
Legitimate	... ..	2	4	6
Illegitimate	... ..	1	—	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		3	4	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deaths of Infants under 2 years from Diarrhoea and Enteritis		—	—	—
Deaths from all causes	...	53	54	107

Birth and Death Rates.

		England and Wales	
Live Birth rate	20.62 per 1,000 of population.	Comparison	20.5
Still Birth rate	0.30 per 1,000 of population.	„	0.50
Death rate under 1 year	34.65 per 1,000 live births.	„	41
Death rate under 2 years from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	0 per 1,000 live births.	„	5.8
Death rate—all causes	10.92 per 1,000 of population.	„	12.0

Analysis of deaths from all causes.

		Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	... ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria	... ..	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	... ..	1	2	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	... ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	... ..	—	—	—
Influenza	... ..	1	0	1
Measles	... ..	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	... ..	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	... ..	—	—	—
Cancer of Mouth, Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	... ..	2	1	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	... ..	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	... ..	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	... ..	6	3	9
Diabetes	... ..	—	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	... ..	5	15	20
Heart Diseases	... ..	16	12	28
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Carried Forward</i>	...	31	35	66
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Male	Female	Total
<i>Brought Forward</i> ...	31	35	66
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	—	—	—
Bronchitis	4	4	8
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	1	2
Diarrhoea, under 2 years ...	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	2	2
Nephritis	2	2	4
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	3	1	4
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	1	2	3
All Other Causes	7	3	10
TOTAL	53	54	107

NOTE.—By far the largest “cause of death” it will be seen, is from “heart disease.” It must be realised that nearly all the deaths from this cause occur in the very old age groups and it is not to be taken as evidence of rheumatic or other acute heart affections.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

- I(a) One part-time Medical Officer who is a full-time Public Health Officer acting also for the Bradford-on-Avon U.D., the Trowbridge U.D., and being in addition an Assistant County Medical Officer. One part-time M.O. General Practitioner.
- (b) One whole-time Sanitary Inspector.
- II(a) **Laboratory facilities:** No change. The County Pathologist, Salisbury General Infirmary, undertakes all routine examination of swabs, blood and sputum specimens and water samples for bacteriological and chemical analyses.
- (b) **Ambulance facilities:**
1. Melksham portion of area—Melksham Hospital ambulance.
 2. Bradford-on-Avon portion of area—St. John’s ambulance; Bradford-on-Avon ambulance.
 3. Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham Town ambulances, and Red Cross and St. John ambulance and Hospital Car Service. (Local Organiser, Miss Bond, Court House, Trowbridge).
 4. Bath portion of area—Ambulances from Bath as required; and the Car Pool Service operating through the County Council.
- (c) **Nursing in the Home:** The villages are covered by the Wilts Nursing Association; most of the nurses have more than one village to attend.

- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics:** The Child Welfare Clinics in each of Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham, receive children from the neighbouring districts. Westwood village has a Weighing Clinic taken by the County Health Visitor for the district.
- (e) **Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes.**
1. Melksham and District Hospital.
 2. Trowbridge and District Hospital, with Maternity Block.
 3. Bradford-on-Avon and District Hospital.
 4. Bath Royal United and St. Martin's Hospitals; Mineral Water Hospital.
- (f) **Infectious Diseases Hospital:**
Bradley Road, Trowbridge.—This hospital, originally intended for Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon, Melksham and the neighbouring rural districts, has for the last few years also had to admit cases from the Westbury-Warminster area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There is no change to report on supplies as existing in 1946, but the preparation of a major water distribution scheme is well advanced and it is hoped that certain of the much needed work below referred to will actively commence in 1948.

Atworth and South Wraxall.

The arrangement outlined in last year's report has been modified after further consultations with the Ministry of Health, and plans are in an advanced stage for inviting tenders for laying a large trunk main which when completed will benefit the above-named parishes.

Shaw and Whitley.

The original joint scheme having been abandoned, the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board are investigating the possibilities of increasing the supply to Shaw and Whitley.

HOUSING.

Permanent. Sites have been arranged for houses in each village. By the end of the year the position was as follows:—

Broughton Gifford	...	...	18 still under construction (Traditional Type).
Hilperton	...	...	4 completed (Swedish Timber).
Staverton	...	...	2 under construction (Swedish Timber), 2 completed (Swedish Timber).
Wingfield	...	...	4 still under construction (Traditional Type).
Atworth	...	...	No change. (Site approved and purchased).
Hilperton	...	...	No change. (Site approved).
Holt	...	...	No change. (Site approved and purchased).
Limpley Stoke	...	...	No change. (Site approved and purchased).
Melksham Without	...	...	No change. (Site submitted for approval).
Monkton Farleigh	...	...	No change. (Site submitted for approval).
Semington	...	...	Site works practically completed.
South Wraxall	...	...	No change. (Site approved and purchased).
Westwood	...	...	No change. (Site submitted for approval).
Winsley	...	...	No change. (Site approved and Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received arranged for Sex and Age Groups.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	3	2	2	—
1	—	—	8	5	7	10
3	1	—	6	9	10	16
5	1	—	6	11	22	31
10	1	1	1	2	4	4
15	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	1	24	29	45	61
Non-civilian 15 and upwards	11	—	—	—	—	—

Age Group	Pneumonia		Encephalitis		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	1	1	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1	—	—	1	1	—
Non-civilian 15 and upwards	5	—	—	—	3	—

Diphtheria. Immunisation was carried out continuously by the County Council, great assistance being given by the school staffs, who assisted greatly by allowing the under school-age children to attend the sessions held at the schools.

We are grateful to the County Medical Officer for supplying the following details.

 IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31st December, 1947	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
<i>i.e.</i> , born in year ...	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1938-42	1933-7	
Number Immunised ...	2	42	103	94	95	486	541	1363
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1946 ...	836			1314				2150

It cannot be emphasised too greatly that the protection of child life offered by immunisation is of the greatest value; both to parents of individual children and to all children and the State in general.

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

D. LEIGH SPENCE, M.A., M.B.

Medical Officers of Health.

July, 1949.