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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the years

1939

and

1940



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BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEARS
1939 and 1940.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Buckingham acting
by the Town Council as the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Reports
of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough for the
years 1939 and 1940. The report has been drawn up in
accordance with Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health.
During part of this period I acted as your Medical Officer
of Health, having replaced Dr. A.M. Critchley who had joined
the army at the outbreak of war.

As I only arrived in England from abroad late
in September 1939 and took up my duties at the end of
October I was unfortunately unable to obtain Dr. Critchley's
assistance in picking up the threads of my work. However, Mr G.P.
Chilvers your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, came to my
aid and my thanks are due to him for the ready and valuable
help which he has constantly given me.

At the end of 1939 evacuation problems were still
to the fore. One difficulty I met was in securing the
necessary buildings for the treatment of sick evacuee
children. As there was already a shortage of houses and the
few that were available were lost through official delay.
/has been ~~in securing them with~~ The result that there is no hostel in
the Borough for the reception of children who are sick or
who temporarily require a home.

Accommodation for refugees was provided in the old
Casual Ward, this has proved a great boon and has at times
saved a difficult situation. Thanks are due to your Mayor
and the ladies of the Womens Voluntary Service for carrying
out the task of welcoming, feeding and accomodating these
unfortunate visitors.

In the months of August, September and October 1940
an epidemic of measles occurred but fortunately the weather
was mild and all the cases did well.

The large increase in the Borough's population
from 3286 in 1938 to about 4500 in 1939 and 5,000 in 1940
has thrown a heavy strain on all the services but owing to
the good work of all concerned the Borough has been well
served with water and sanitation.

It was contemplated by those qualified to know
that in the winter of 1940 & 41 epidemics of severe illnesses
might be expected throughout the United Kingdom but fortun-
ately these expectations were not realised and the health
of the Borough, apart from the measles epidemic has been
good and quite up to pre-war standards. A campaign of
diphtheria immunisation was begun in the latter part of 1940.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking
the members of the Council for the help they have given me;
the Mayor's wide experience has always been at my service
/for

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE RECORD
DATE: 1945

To the Mayor, Rochester and Members of Rochester
by the Town Council as the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor of acknowledging the Annual Report
of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough for the
years 1943 and 1944. The report has been drawn up in
accordance with Circular 2007 of the Ministry of Health.
During the year ended 1944 I acted as your Medical Officer
of Health, having replaced Mr. A. G. Criswell who had joined
the army at the outbreak of war.

As I only arrived in England from abroad late
in September 1943 and took up my duties at the end of
October I was unfortunately unable to obtain Mr. Criswell's
assistance in looking up the records of my work. However, Mr. G. D.
Chivers your Surveyor and Mr. J. H. Criswell, who came to my
aid and my thanks are due to him for the ready and valuable
help which he has so generously given me.

At the end of 1943 vaccination problems were well
to the fore. One difficulty I met was in securing the
necessary facilities for the treatment of sick children and the
children. As there was already a shortage of houses and the
few that were available were lost through official dining.
The results of the vaccination of children who are sick or
who temporarily require a home.

Investigation for refugees was organized in the 1940s
and proved a great boon and has been
a valuable addition. Thanks are due to your Mayor
and the ladies of the Women's Voluntary Service for their
outstanding work in feeding and accommodating these
unfortunate refugees.

In the month of August, September and October 1944
an epidemic of measles occurred but fortunately the weather
was mild and the cases were well.

The 1944-1945 season in the Borough's vaccination
from 1944 to 1945 was about 100,000 and 100,000 in 1945.
has shown a very marked increase in the number of cases
the good work of all concerned in the Borough has been well
served with water and electricity.

It was surprising to find that in the
that in the month of 1944 & 1945 a large number of severe illnesses
might be expected throughout the United Kingdom but for the
early these expectations were not realized and the health
of the Borough, even from the measles epidemic has been
good and due to the war standards. A campaign of
diphtheria vaccination was begun in the latter part of 1940.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking
the reports of the Council for the help they have given me.
The Mayor's assistance has always been at my service.

for which I am very grateful. The County Medical Officer and his staff have ever been ready to advise me and co-operate in any scheme for the promotion of health in the Borough. I am also grateful to my medical colleagues in the Borough for their co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R.Y. STONES.

A. VITAL STATISTICS.	1939	1940
Area	5723 a.	5723 a.
Registrar Generals estimate of population	3473	
Number of inhabited houses	1118	1118
Rateable Value	£21767	£21951
Sum represented by a penny rate	£85	£88
Rates	12/11	13/2
Live Births (Legitimate)	M 24	F 36
(Illegitimate)	-	1
Still Births (Legitimate)	-	1
(Illegitimate)	-	-
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officials. MAYOR: COUNCILLOR T. H. SMITH.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman - Alderman A. E. Busby.

Aldermen B. L. Ackerman, E. Holton, J. M. Tilley.
Councillors the Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, C. W. Cantell, J. G. Denny,
E. T. Hawes, Hon. F. S. Hubbard, W. O. Parker, W. S. Pringle,
O. Rodwell, P. J. Small, W. H. Thomas, S. G. Williams.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

R. Y. Stones, O.B.E., M.C., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

in place of

A. Michael Critchley, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

The M. O. H. is also M. O. H. for Bletchley
U. D. C. and Assistant County Medical Officer, Bucks.

It is a very serious matter. The Board of Health has been advised that the disease has been found in the community for the first time. It is a very serious matter and the Board of Health is taking the necessary steps to prevent its spread.

W. H. HARRIS

Health Officer

N.Y. STONE

VITAL STATISTICS		1939	1940
Area		5,725 sq. mi.	5,725 sq. mi.
Register General Statistics of population		5,725	5,725
Number of inhabited houses		1,118	1,118
Relative Value		2,176.7	2,176.7
Sum represented by a penny rate		283	283
Notes		12/11	12/11
Live Births		24	24
Deaths		1	1
Still Births		1	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		1	1
Deaths of one		1	1
Illnesses		1	1

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH ACT FOR THE AREA.
1. Public Health Officer: W. H. HARRIS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

Public Health Department

W. H. HARRIS - M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

W. H. HARRIS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.
W. H. HARRIS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.
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W. H. HARRIS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Temporary Medical Officer of Health

W. H. HARRIS, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

in charge

A. Michael Crispin, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

The M. O. H. is also M. O. H. for the area.
U. D. C. and Assistant County Medical Officer, W. H. HARRIS.

Sanitary Inspector.

George Belson Chilvers, F.I.S.E., M. Inst. H. & Cty Eng.,
Crt. Royal Sanitary Institute.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

The Council has arranged with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service of the School of Pathology Oxford to perform its pathological investigations. An economy has thereby been effected and a fuller service been acquired.

3. Ambulance Facilities remain as heretofore.

4. Nursing in the Home remains as heretofore.

5. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.- The Welfare Centre has been continued at the Oddfellows' Hall and has carried on its functions satisfactorily. The national pool milk has been available for supply to mothers but there seems to have been no shortage of fresh or certain brands of tinned milk so the demand for pool milk has not arisen.

Other Clinics under this head have been held as in previous years.

6. Hospitals.

No change in the hospitals serving this area has occurred since the last report.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water.

Though the population of the Borough has been largely increased by the influx of evacuee families and children and refugees from bombed areas both the quantity and quality of the water supplied has been consistently good.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

The satisfactory report on the water supplied to the Borough applies to the sewerage work also.

As reported by your medical Officer in 1936, 1937 and 1938 the present disposal system of sewerage is unsatisfactory and the scheme for reconditioning the works is still in abeyance. As soon as the war conditions allow it is very necessary that this be done. It can, however, be said that the condition of the works is tolerable due partly to the chlorinating plant which has been installed and to the care exercised in alternating the flow of sewerage over the land so as to use every portion of it as fully as possible. This land has again been used in cultivation and has raised a crop of mangolds. No complaints have been received recently of any nuisance arising from this land.

3. Rivers and Streams.

No complaints were received during the years 1939 and 1940.

George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20057

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you in response to your letter of the 10th of February, 1960, regarding the matter of the National Institute of Health.

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time.

I am sure that you will understand my position. The National Institute of Health is a very large organization, and it is not possible for me to give you a more definite answer at this time.

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4. Public Mortuary.

The Public Mortuary has again been of service to the Borough and Rural District.

5. Swimming Baths and Pools.

The bathing place in the river was again well patronised but there was no possible scheme by which the purity of the water could be ensured.

6. Schools.

The old Church School which had been closed was re-opened for the accommodation of the L.C.C. Marylebone School.

7. Factories.

Four factories have been admitted into the Borough, having removed from dangerous areas elsewhere. The Paint Factory in Nelson Street causes unpleasant smells in a thickly populated part of the town. It is a pity that such a factory was allowed to occupy so central a site. On the other hand this factory is offering useful, well-paid employment to a number of young people and is performing national service.

D. HOUSING.

The Westfields Housing Estate of sixty-two houses was completed during 1939.

The inspection of reconditioned houses for the accommodation of refugees was carried out.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Visits have been made to the Farms supplying milk to the town.

are
There/thirty-one Registered Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

All slaughtering is now done at the Government Slaughterhouse. This has enabled the Sanitary Inspector to carry out regular visits to inspect the meat.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

General.

During the months of August, September and October 1940 269 cases of measles occurred. This epidemic appears to have been started by a child who was taken to Banbury to stay with relations. While there a case of measles occurred in the house but the visiting child was not isolated and on returning to Buckingham she was sent to school where she remained till the rash was out.

4. Public Health
The Public Health Department has again been of service to the community and the people.

5. Sanitary Measures
The sanitary measures in the river were again well maintained but there was no reliable evidence by which the purity of the water could be ascertained.

6. Schools
The old Union School which had been closed was re-opened for the accommodation of the L.C.C. children.

7. Factories
Four factories have been admitted into the Borough having removed from dangerous areas elsewhere. The Town Factory is without doubt a most important establishment in the Borough. It is a very large and modern factory and is situated in a very healthy area. On the other hand this factory is offering a most well-paid employment to a number of young people and is performing a national service.

8. Housing
The Westville Housing Estate of sixty-two houses was completed during 1933.

The inspection of reconstructed houses for the accommodation of refugees was carried out.

9. Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

Visits have been made to the farms supplying milk to the town. There are thirty-one registered dairies, cowsheds and milking machines.

(b) Meat and other foods

All abattoirs are now run as the Government abattoirs. This has enabled the Sanitary Inspector to carry out regular visits to inspect the meat.

10. Prevention of the Spread of Disease, Infection and Other Diseases

General

During the month of August, September and October 1933 cases of disease occurred. This epidemic appears to have been started by a child who was taken to hospital to stay with relatives. While there a case of disease occurred in the house but the visiting child was not isolated and remained in the house. The child was sent to school where she remained till the term was out.

Twenty cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during 1940, the majority in the summer. The cases were mild ones and all did well. Fortunately the small epidemic was soon over though the action taken by the Postal Authorities in allowing a contact to continue working at the local Post Office counter might have been inimical to the health of the Borough.

The individual action of ^{the Post Office} ~~this service~~ in allowing contacts to remain on duty in public places makes it difficult to persuade other contacts employed in shops and hotels to remain in quarantine, especially when the absence entailed may mean loss of pay.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1939 and 1940				
Disease	1939		1940	
	Noti- fied	Admitted to hosp:	Noti- fied	
Diphtheria	-	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	7	7	20	18
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	2	-
Measles	-	-	299	-
Chicken Pox	-	-	1	-

R. Y. STONES,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Twenty cases of Hemlock River occurred during 1940. The majority in the summer. The cases were mild ones and all did well. Fortunately the small epidemic was soon over through the action taken by the Postal authorities in allowing a company to continue working at the local Post Office. However, it was found that the health of the

The Post Office. The continued action of the service in allowing contacts to remain on duty in public places makes it difficult to prevent other contacts employed in shops and houses to remain in quarantine, especially when the epidemic is in its early stages.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1940 AND 1941			
Disease	1940	1941	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	7	7	1
Dysentery	1	1	1
Cholera	4	-	1
Typhoid	-	-	1
Smallpox	-	-	1

W. H. HENDERSON

Medical Officer of Health