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BOROUGH OF CALNE

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1946



Public Health Officers of the Authority

- (a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

- (b) SANITARY INSPECTOR.
T. V. OLIVER, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., who in addition
holds the post of Borough Surveyor.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Calne.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year
ended 31st December, 1946

This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 13/47
dated the 13th March, 1947.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,
C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	1,276
Population (1946)	5,399
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946 according to Rate Book)	1,532
Rateable Value	£29,217 0 0
Sum represented by penny Rate	£118 11 11 ³ / ₈

Vital Statistics for 1946.

	Total	M.	F.	Rate	Cf. E & W.
Live Births	97	55	42		
Legitimate	94	54	40		
Illegitimate	3	1	2		
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				17.9	19.1
Still births	3	1	2		
Rate (per 1,000 total population)				0.55	0.53
Deaths	68	35	33		
Rate (per 1,000 population)				12.6	11.5
Deaths from Puerperal causes					
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0		
Other puerperal causes	1	0	1		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 yr.					
All infants per 1,000 live births	5	4	1	51.5	43.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	5	4	1	53.2	
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5	3	2		
" Measles (all ages)	0	0	0		
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0	0		
" Diarrhoea under 2 yrs of age	0	0	0		
Deaths from Influenza	1	0	1		
" Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23)	8	5	3		
" Diseases of Heart & Blood Vessels (18, 19, 20)	29	18	11		

**Prevalence of Infectious Diseases,
Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring
In the Borough during the year 1946.**

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	5	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis				—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			...	—	—

Deaths from all Causes

CAUSE			Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and para-fevers	...	...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of resp. sys.	...	...	1	2	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	0	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	0	0	0
Influenza	...	...	0	1	1
Measles	...	...	0	0	0
Ac. polio myel. & polio-enceph.	...	...	0	0	0
Ac. inf. enceph.	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph. (M)	...	...	0	0	0
uterus (F)	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer of breast	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	3	2	5
Diabetes	...	...	0	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	4	4	8
Heart Dis.	...	...	10	5	15
Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	4	2	6
Bronchitis	...	...	1	0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	3	2	5
Other resp. dis.	...	...	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	1	0	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	0	0	0
Appendicitis	...	...	0	0	0
Other digve. dis.	...	...	0	3	3
Nephritis	...	...	2	3	5
Puer. & Post-abortion. sepsis	...	...	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	...	...	0	1	1
Prem. birth	...	...	1	0	1
Con. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	0	2	2
Road Traffic acc.	...	...	1	0	1
Other violent causes	...	...	0	0	0
All other causes	...	...	2	3	5
			35	33	68

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			1					
15								
25	1			1				
35	2	1						
45	1				1	1		
55								
65 and upwards						1		1
Totals	4	1	1	1	1	2	0	1

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day ; from this information the following table has been compiled :—

Month	Total Rainfall Inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 hrs.	Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
January ...	2.18	.34 28th	13
February ...	2.81	.69 3rd	13
March ...	0.91	.41 21st	7
April ...	2.66	.71 4th	12
May ...	4.33	1.71 26th	14
June ...	2.96	.48 11th	23
July ...	1.25	.34 15th	12
August ...	5.54	1.26 9th	24
September ...	3.53	.90 3rd	16
October ..	1.23	.43 26th	9
November ...	5.19	.79 20th	24
December ...	2.40	.40 30th	16
	34.99		183

During the year there was a dry spell between the 2nd and 18th October, and a rainspell between the 13th November and 3rd December inclusive.

In the previous year, December was the wettest month (3.83 inches) and November was the driest (0.63 inches.)

The average rainfall for the previous 5 years was 28.43 inches.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water undertaking is in the hands of a small private company and negotiations for its purchase were still proceeding at the end of the year.

The question of adequately providing the district with a sufficient supply, especially in the higher parts of the Borough, is constantly before the Town Council.

During the year the 9 ins. ring main from Quemerford was completed, this is primarily to provide a sufficient quantity of water to the Council's post-war housing scheme on the Abberd Site, although other parts of the Borough, notably the North End and Oxford Road districts should receive considerable benefit thereby.

The supply is obtained from Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the South-east of the town.

It is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent. The water is chlorinated at the source.

The consumption per capita per diem is now estimated at 26 gallons for all purposes.

The number of houses still relying on well water for their domestic supply is 26 or 1.7% of all the houses in the district.

There are no street standpipes.

Samples of water are taken periodically for bacteriological examination and the analyst's report on the most recent sample taken, which was subjected to Chemical and Bacteriological Examination, gave the following results :

Appearance	—	Clear and Bright
Odour	—	Nil
Residual Chlorine	—	0.1 p.p.m.

Chemical Examination.

Figures in parts per 100,000 parts water

Hardness as Calcium Carbonate

Total Solids	39.0
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Chlorine as Chlorides	1.2
-----------------------	-----

Hardness, Total	34.4
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„ Temporary	29.4
-------------	------

„ Permanent	5.0
-------------	-----

Nitrogen in Nitrites	Nil
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Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.16
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Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
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Albuminoid Ammonia	0.001
--------------------	-------

Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 27 °C	0.0033
--------------------------------------	--------

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 °C	0.021
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Bacteriological Examination.

Presumptive coliform organisms absent in 100 millilitres of the water.

From the above results, the water shows a high degree of purity, and is suitable for potable use.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although there will always, of necessity, be a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into cesspools or are provided with earth closets.

The sewage disposal works situated in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north-west of the town were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000 and continue to function satisfactorily.

The effluent which discharges into the river Marden just below Hazeland Mill, about one mile below the sewage works is normally up to the required standard.

The sewage disposal works were inspected by Dr. Gray (Assistant County Medical Officer of Health) and the County Sanitary Inspector (Mr. T. R. Cox) on the 3rd April and they reported as follows:

"These works appeared to be well supervised. The filters were in good order, storm tanks empty, no accumulations of sludge or screenings and no evidence of river pollution at the point of outfall.

A sample was collected from the outlet of the humus tanks, which were due for cleaning out. The Analyst's report however that although the sample was below the standard of the Royal Commission, it was not likely to cause nuisance or pollution."

The report in detail is as follows :

Appearance.

Slightly brown (fair amount suspended matter) smell suggestive seaweed.

Reaction PH 7.1

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.65	part	per	100,000
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Albuminoid Ammonia	0.25	"	"	"
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Chlorine as Chlorides	79.5	"	"	"
-----------------------	------	---	---	---

Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	131.2	"	"	"
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Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)	1.7	"	"	"
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Nitrite	strong reaction			
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Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrates	3.2	parts	per	100,000
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Dissolved Solids	197.0	"	"	"
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Suspended Solids	5.3	"	"	"
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Total Solids	<u>202.3</u>			
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Dissolved Oxygen absorbed after 5 days incubation (B.O.D.)
2.4 "Impurity" figure 21.

Stability Test

No change in appearance or odour on incubating 2 days at 37°C.

This is a well oxidised effluent, and though it does not come up to Royal Commission Standards, is not likely to cause nuisance. The large amount of Chloride is noteworthy.

(Sgd) Waterfall & O'Brien.

The condition of the outfall sewer, which has been in existence for more than 60 years, gives rise to constant anxiety, particularly where it runs parallel with and/or close to the river Marden. During the year one bad land slip occurred near Studley Brook Farm, caused by the heavy winter rains eroding the supporting bank, which jeopardised the safety of the sewer. A retaining wall has now been constructed by the riparian owner; the Town Council and other interested bodies contributed towards the cost, thus ensuring the future safety of the sewer at this point.

The construction of the roads, sewers and surface-water drains on the Council's post-war housing site at Abberd, on which German Prisoner-of-War labour was employed, has now been completed.

The number of houses not connected to the main drainage system at the end of 1946 was 89 or 5.8%.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

House refuse is collected weekly from every house, the Contractors emptying the receptacles from the kerbside, where they are placed ready by the householder. The Contractor also provides the tip, which is in the adjoining Rural District, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town in a north-easterly direction. The refuse is dealt with by the Contractor on the 'Bradford' system, and causes no nuisance.

The tip is inspected periodically by the rodent operator and dealt with as found necessary to prevent rat infestation.

No complaints have been received regarding any nuisance arising.

Salvage.

The amount of salvage collected during the twelve months was 81 tons, $14\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. valued at £348 15s. 11d. compared with the previous year's figures of 101 tons, $14\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. valued at £405 16s. 9d.

The total tonnage for the whole salvage collecting period (1940—1946) being 1395 tons $12\frac{3}{4}$ cwt., valued at £3,959 2s. 1d.

This year, waste paper continued to bring in the largest revenue, viz: £263 18s. 4d.

The collection of kitchen waste has been in operation for three years. There are 50 communal bins placed at strategic points throughout the district. The waste is sold in a raw state to National By-Products Ltd., and dry rendered in a solvent extraction plant in Messrs. C. & T. Harris' by-products factory in the Borough and sold by them to local farmers.

The communal bins are brought in periodically and steam sterilised.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The appointment of Veterinary Inspector at Messrs C. & T. Harris's Bacon Factory in place of the late Mr. C H. Ducksbury had not been filled at the end of the year and Mr. D. M. Hale, M.R.C.V.S., a veterinary surgeon in private practice in Chippenham continued in office as part-time Veterinary Inspector.

Meat.

Since 7th May, 1943, all slaughtering of animals to provide meat for human consumption has been centralised at Chippenham.

There are two holders of Game Licences.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 the number of licensed slaughtermen in the district is 22. They are employed at Messrs C. & T. Harris's Bacon Factory.

Fish.

There are two retailers of fresh fish and two fried-fish establishments in the district, the supply has been fair throughout the year, having regard to the difficult circumstances prevailing.

70 lb. of headless cod was condemned as unfit for fish frying.

Milk.

There is one producer of "accredited" milk and six other cowkeepers in the district. Two retailers are licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested milk bottled in the district.

There are also two purveyors of ordinary milk, resident in the district, and two who operate from without. One retailer is licensed to sell "Pasteurised" milk produced in a neighbouring district.

Milk is supplied daily, during term, to the Secondary School, Senior, Junior and Infant Schools in the town.

Generally speaking the trade is carried on satisfactorily.

6 tons of damaged tinned-milk were passed for animal and poultry feeding purposes only.

Ice Cream.

Eight premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, two of which are registered for manufacture as well as for sale.

Of two samples of ice-cream submitted for bacteriological examinations during the year, one contained 700 colonies per c.c. with B.Coli present in 1 c.c. and 1/10 c.c. whilst the other containing 20 colonies per c.c. with B.Coli present in 1 c.c.

The analyst's opinion being that both samples were reasonably clean, though he would have preferred that coliforms had been entirely absent.

Other Foods.

During the year, 364 tins, bottles or jars of foodstuffs were condemned owing to the contents having become unfit through blown or damaged tins, etc., also 48 boxes of prunes weighing 10 cwt. 2 qrs. 23½ lbs., 4 boxes of peaches weighing 1 cwt. 8 lbs. and 4 boxes of raisins weighing 1 cwt. 8 lbs.

The food shops (including the five registered bakehouses) and vehicles are inspected from time to time. No official action has been necessary, either with regard to the vehicles, shops or the sanitary conveniences used in connection therewith.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

A rodent operator is employed to act jointly as between the Borough and the adjoining Calne and Chippenham Rural District in proportion of 20% and 80%

The district has been surveyed and all complaints investigated. Pre-baiting, poison-baiting and post-baiting are carried out where necessary, including the banks of the river running through the town.

Several large retail food-stores, as well as the bacon factory, have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the over-riding supervision of the rodent operative, and there is close co-operation between all parties concerned.

The town sewers have been baited but only a moderate take was made, the sewers being remarkably free from rats.

The recorded number of rats actually killed in the area was 685.

HOUSING.

There is still a great need for houses in spite of the Town Council's activities in the years between the two wars; some 420 applicants are still awaiting houses. The Town Council have erected 289 houses out of a total of 1532 dwelling houses of all classes in the Borough, besides subsidising 73 under the various Housing Acts and lending money in 23 other cases under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

In addition to this they have requisitioned 20 other houses and are owners of thirteen more, making a grand total of 418 houses in which the Council are directly interested or 27.28% of all the dwelling houses in the Borough.

Another dwelling-house has recently been requisitioned and is in process of conversion into flats.

Of the Town Council's post-war housing scheme, 64 houses (all traditional) are under construction, of which 22 were nearing completion at the end of the year.

One house was completed by private enterprise.

Six cases of overcrowding have been abated by the voluntary interchanging of Council House tenancies arranged through the Council's rent collector,

In connection with the housing of the aged, there is one aspect of the case which seems to have escaped general notice and that is what can best be done for old people who may have degenerated mentally and physically to the point when they are incapable of looking after themselves properly.

There is an inborn tendency amongst them to carry on alone. With a little more legal power the Medical Officer of Health could direct their removal where they could have proper care and attention.

Under the scheme for the Control of Civil Building, 141 Licences were issued for housing repairs, etc., 58 for work other than housing, 11 for new dwellings and 4 for conversions and adaptations of buildings into dwellings, to the total value of £22,000 15s. 4d.

One large house has been purchased by the Home Office during the year for conversion into an Approved School for delinquent girls, and is expected to be occupied at a fairly early date.

Factories Act 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act 1937 which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act with respect to the matters under Part I and Part VIII, which are administered by the District Council.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	54	13	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938†	2	—	—	—	—	2
(b) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other premises under Act‡ (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL		54	13	—	—	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	1	1	—	—	—	5
Overcrowding (S.2)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	10	1	1	—	—	—	10
(a) insufficient	11	1	1	—	—	—	11
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	2	1	—	—	—	12
(c) Not separate for sexes	13	—	—	—	—	—	13
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	60	5	4	—	—	—	60
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

So far as Part VIII of the Act is concerned (Sections 110 and 111—Homework, etc.) it is a "Nil" Report.

SCHOOL CHILDREN.

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 259 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these 66.8% were found to be of normal nutrition and 20.8% were excellent. 12.35% were found to be slightly sub-normal and .77% badly undernourished.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

NIL.

Average Attendance October, 1946	758
No. taking milk on a day in Oct., 46.	674 (88.9%)
Pasteurised milk supplied to	674 children.

By the end of 1946 every school had a supply of fresh milk daily, provided free of cost, but limited for the present to one-third pint per child.

School milk supplies are sampled by the County Sanitary Inspector for biological examination four times a year and endeavours are made by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake clinical examinations of the Accredited and Non-Designated herds four times annually. This is not always possible, however, owing to shortage of staff.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Up to the end of the year, the following number of children have been successfully immunised:

Ages 1-4 ...	255 (68%)	Ages 5-14 ...	742 (100%)
Total 997 (93.3%)			

SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE.

Number of children receiving mid-day meals at school:
Full or part payment ... 192. Free ... 7

SANITARY INSPECTION.

Routine sanitary inspection has again been limited during the year: complaints have been dealt with as they arose.

However the following list gives some of the details of the work executed:

Inspection for housing records	...	79
Dwelling houses inspected	...	236
Re-inspection and visits	...	85
Other inspections	...	326
Number of cases of overcrowding abated		6

Drains cleared	...	...	30
New sinks provided	...	...	7
New W.C.'s constructed	...	...	7
W.C. pans renewed	...	...	6
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	7
Connections to sewer	...	...	2
New drain lengths constructed and tested			55
Floors repaired	...	...	16
Roofs repaired	...	...	63
Rain water pipes and guttering repaired			48
Plaster repaired	...	...	28
Houses redecorated internally	...	...	17
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	21
Water fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	131
Pail or insanitary closets replaced	...	...	4
Dampness remedied	...	...	12
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	29
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	—
Number of existing houses connected to Town Water Supply	...	...	—
Houses disinfected	...	...	16
Nuisances re pig-keeping abated	...	...	—
Rats and mice nuisances abated	...	...	11
Polluted wells closed for domestic purposes			—
Number of samples taken for analysis			4







