### [Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Calne & Chippenham R.D.C.

### **Contributors**

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CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER, 1939.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: -

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., of Lowden Lodge, Chippenham, has been Medical Officer of Health since 1st June, 1958.

Dr. Freemhead in addition holds the position of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire and Medical Officer of Health for Chippenham Borough and to the Calne Borough.

### ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: -

COLONEL W. J. POWELL, C.I.E., M.D., D.P.H., has been acting Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer since October, 1939, owing to the absence of Dr. Broomhead on active service.

### SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR: -

E. W. STEVENS, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.S.E. who also holds the posts of Building and Sanitary Surveyor and Waterworks Manager.

## ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS, &c .: -

G. E. WILLIAMS, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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H. J. TAYLOR, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

## CALME AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending December, 1939.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers and Staff of the Council for their valuable assistance.

# Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

Areas (in acres)	86.031
areas (In acres)	00,094
Population (modified figure)	21,520
No. of in-habited houses (end. of 1939 according to Rate Books)	5,604
Rateable value (1st April 1940)	
Sum represented by a penny rate	E405

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are agriculture, stone quarrying at Box and Corsham, and glove making in Corsham.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births -  Legitimate.  Illegitimate.  Birth rate for E. &	Male. 126 5 131	Female	251 11 262 12.1 per 1000.
Still Births -  Legitimate. Illegitimate.  Rate per 1000 total	Male.  8  8  births.	Female. 7 7	Total. 15
Death rate  Death rate for E & W  Deaths of Infats under one	126	Female. 116	242 11.2 per 1000
Legitimate. Illegitimate.  Death rate of Infants und	Male. 10 	Female.  5 1 6 ear of a ge	Total. 15 1 16
All Infants per 1000  Death rate for E & W  Legitimate Infants p  Births	Live Bit	rths	59.7 50.0 58.3

DEATHS FROM ALL CA	USES.		
Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pneumonia (all forms) Bronchitis Other respiratory diseases T.B. of respiratory system Other Tuberculosis. Cancer. Peptic Ulcers. Appendicitis Cirrhosis of Liver Other Liver Diseases Aneurism Other circulatory disease Other digestive disease Heart Disease. Acute and Chronic Nephritis Other Puerperal Disease Congenital Debility & Premature Births Senility. Cerebral Haemorrhage. Diabetes. Suicide Other violence Other defined diseases Ill-defined or net known Diarrhoea, under two years Diphtheria Influenza Whooping Cough	2313324211112921571219012111	15 6 18 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 3 2 6 3 6 4 1 4 8 1 1 1 2 1	28 1 930 4 2 2 2 1 2 4 0 5 2 1 1 0 7 6 1 3 8 1 2 2 3 2
Total	126	116	242

1 .

# SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING 1939.

Name of School.	Period of Closure (inclusive dates).	
North Wraxall.	From 23.1.39. to 27.1.39.	Influenza.
Yatesbury.	From 31.1.39. to 17.2.39.	Whooping Cough.
Yatton Keynell.	From 6.2.39. to 24,2.39.	Chicken Pox.
Colerne.	From 13.2.39. to 17.3.39	Whooping Cough.
Christian Malford.	From 20.2.39. 6.4.39.	Whooping Cough.
West Kington.	From 2.3.39. to 3.3.39	Influenza.
Bremhill.	From 1.5.39 to 12.5.39.	Whooping Cough

## NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever		29
Diphtheria		20
Pneumonia		11
Erysipelas	All and the second	4
Typhoid		3
Puerperal Pyrexia		3

During the year an epidemic of Diphtheria in Sutton Benger and the villages round about caused some anxiety.

The first case reported was on December 14th when the Senior School Mistress was admitted to the Chippenham Isolation Hospital. Before the end of the year eight more cases were reported, of which one child lived in Seagry and one in Draycot Cerne. Both attended the Sutton Benger School. Three of these eight were adults, one was the Junior School Mistress, one the uncle of an affected child and another the mother.

There was a short lull of a week from December 22nd and it was hoped that all was well, but cases started again and up to the end of January 25 cases had occurred. A nurse lent by the County M.O. H. was of great assistance.

All contacts were swabbed. At the beginning of the epidemic only one of these gave a positive result, but later on several carriers were reported. One boy who had a cleft palate remained a carrier for several months.

The local milk supplies proved on examination to be safe.

Routine disinfection was carried out in all cases.

It would seem that the Senior School Mistress was the fons et origo mali, but how she picked up the disease could not be ascertained.

There were two deaths out of a total of 26 cases. One of these was a boy who fell shortly after Christmas but did not come under treatment for some days later. The other case was a late one - a child, the son of a local milk dealer whose premises had been suspect and had been thoroughly disinfected, was not brought up for immunisation when the other children in the village were done as the day was wet. He developed the disease in a virulent form in February and died in hospital.

Another small outbreak with 4 cases occurred in the neighbouring village of Hilmarton in December, just before the Sutton Benger epidemic started. No connection could be traced.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Serfice was asked to help in the middle of January and readily assented. A party of doctors of Oxford started work in the area on January 23rd.

In Sutton Benger and Christian Malford between 90% and 95% of the children were schicked and where necessary immunised.

The Hilmarton Parish was also visited but here unfortunately only about 60% of the children were permitted by their parents to be immunised.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The details of the Water Supplies afforded in each Parish were given in the previous report and with the exception of the inclusion of the usual data it appears unnecessary to repeat the details in this report.

Mention, however, should be made of the good progress being made with the Regional Water Scheme and it is the intention to give a comprehensive report on the Scheme and its layout together with a map showing the Region concerned in a future report.

## WIDDENHAM WATER SUPPLY.

1939.	Gaugings. gallons per day	Consumption. gallons per day.	Rainfall. Inches.
January. February March. April. May. June. July. August. Septembe October. November	517,680 437,407 455,645 337,950 212,238 175,308 174,017 133,650 198,731	63,069 70,138 70,764 76,009 87,794 95,710 88,726 83,663 100,480 99,885 91,383	4.59 94 1.76 1.31 2.31 2.19 4.01 2.84 3.60 4.01 1.56
		The same of the sa	29.32

# NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Parish. oredw	Source	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Biddestone.	Springs (Mill supply)			1
Ditteridge. Townsend. Washwells.	Well Spring. Spring.			2 1 2
Box, Corsham & Colerne.	Hungerford Wood Springs.	5	ese les	3
Bremhill. Foxham. East Tytherton Foxham.	Well & springs at Stockham March Springs at Wick Hill. New Springs.	2	1	53
Corsham Water Company.	t to shem of filecas .	1	no trans	1
Hilmarton.	Springs at Catcombe.	1	Z OFF DE	oceros Atron
Kington Langley.	Chippenham Borough Supply.	2	ill, men	· gall
Pewsham.	Springs at Derry Hill.			1
25.8	£30. £3	11	1	19

# NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOUSE WATER SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Parish.	Source.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Charlcutt,	Well	- 3.5		1
Olivers Field, Oberhill.	Bore.	1	186 E	20,480000
The state of the s		1		1

NUMBER OF PRIVATE WATER SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND REGULTS.

Parish.	Source.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.	No.of Properties
Brembill.	Well.			1	1
Box.	ı			1	1
Christian Malford.	11		1		1
Grittleton.	11			1	1
Heddington.	15			1	1
Halmarton.	a.		Fas	1	1
Dangley Burrell Without.				1	{2
Mettleton,	п	3	1.	1	1
Morth Wraxall.	11			1	1
Sutton Benger.	7 Wells 1 Bore.		1	2	3
			3	11	14

All samples for Bacteriological Examination and Chemical Analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

## NEW WATER SERVICES.

Total number of premises connected to the Council's mains during the year 1939:-

Pavien.	
Вся 5	
Chippenham Without 2	
Christian Malford 2	
Octorne 1	
Corsham 10	
Kington Langley 2	and a market
Kington St. Michael 7	
Laughey Burrell Without 2	Tappin Commence
Powsham, 1	
32	
DAILY CONSUMPTION.	
Average daily Consumption: -	1939.
Box (excluding supply from Washwell	27 70011000
and Ditteridge)	
Colerne	3,343 "
Corsham	25,349 "
Tington Langley	10,412 "
Kington St. Michael	3,302 "
Weston	28,800 "

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A comprehensive statement was made in the previous report respecting the methods and means of drainage in the successful Parishes in the District, and as there has been no meterial alteration during the past year it appears irrelevant for the details to be reiterated.

There is, however, one exception and this refers to the new Sewerage and Disposal Works now being executed at Corsham. It is not proposed, at the moment, since the works are only in course of construction, to describe the details of the Scheme. Hence it is proposed to give details in a subsequent report.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There was no specific case in which it was considered necessary to take any action to check the pollution of any liver or stream.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This essential service of Public Health administration, which was originally undertaken by several individual contractors is now under the control of one Contractor.

The household refuse is now collected in a properly designed Scavenging Vehicle and periods of collection vary according to the Urban or Rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly intervals.

The only Parishes from which refuse is not collected by the Conncil are Castle Combe, Grittleton and Stanton St. Quantin. The Parishes of Nettleton and Sutton Benger were included in the area of collection during the current year.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like are used for deposition of refuse. Tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of any new ips provides an opportunity for a method of controlled apping to be adopted.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints have been received concerning offensive des. All fish frying premises in the district have been pt in a satisfactory condition.

# RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1923.

There are no premises in this district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

## RAT AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACTS.

During the year under review, the refuse tips in this district have been baited with a proprietary rat poison by the Council's employees.

In addition the Council engaged the services of a professional Rat Catcher to bait and attend to the Council's refuse tips twice yearly, and I am pleased to report that our refuse tips are now reasonably free from vermin.

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# HOUSING.

The information regarding Housing Statistics is out to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Circular 1728.	s set Health
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:	1939.
(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	63 590
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1)above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	63 563
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(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	54
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	45
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:	
(a)Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1536: (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	1939.
(a) By owners.	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	1 Total
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	1011-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners.	200
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	(0)-
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	To Tour
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	10
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	aux al. sua
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	Lots .
Housing Act, 1736;	
7 erisqui zairing reputes erew meets	

	1939.
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part 1V - Overcrowding.	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	42
(2) Number of families dwelling therein.	42
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.	261
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	1
(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	11
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	68
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling- houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	-
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	_

## COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council has built 228 houses, situated in the following Parishes:-

Parish.	No.
Biddestone.	2
Box.	30
Bremhill.	7
Calne Without.	20
Cherhill.	18
Christian Malford.	10
Compton Bassett.	4
Consham,	68
Heddington.	6
Hilmarton.	11
Kington Langley.	12
Kington St. Michael.	6
Lacock.	20
Nettleton.	2
Sutton Benger.	, 11
	228

The cesspool at the Nolands Council Houses was converted into a septic tank, and a filter bed constructed, following complaints received that a nuisance existed in the ditch into which the effluent from the cesspool discharged. Since this work has been completed no complaints have been received and the works are functioning satisfactorily.

External painting was only necessary on the four Council Houses at Yatesbury.

## RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT 1923.

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

## NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.

Parish.	New Dwelling Houses.	Alterations & Garages. Additions to Existing Houses.	Miscel- laneous.
Biddestone.	**********		-
Box.	. 6	5 1	1
Bremhill.	- coming		
Calne Without,	AND ADDRESS OF A	1 -	1
Castle Combe.		2	- 44
Cherhill.	4	6 1	2
Chippenham Without		1	2
Christian Malitord,	-	-	1
Colerne.	free C	1 -	- 100
Compton Bassett,	~	-	-
Corsham.	52	3 2	4
Grittleton.	-	-	-
Heddington.	-	1	-
Hilmarton,		1	-
Kington Langley.	Mar. To selle an	1	-
Kington St. Michael	1		-
Lacock.	2	3	2
Langley Burrell			
Without.	30	Choracte hand	2
Nettleton.		7	1
North Wraxall.	-	3	208
Pewsham.	- 0		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Stanton St. Quinti	n. 2		- andord
Sutton Benger.	4		, monte (00)
Yatton Keynell.			N 8 2 5 8 3 7 4
	-	The state of the s	Vary) self
	80	27 5	18
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	- 00	<u> </u>	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.	er has nelg
Number of Farms on Register	505
Summary of Work carried out.	
Total number of farms inspected during the year	61
Farms requiring structural alterations, cleansing, etc	36
Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed	52
Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition	25
Total number of inspections	172
SLAUCHTER HOUSES.	
The number of such premises are as 6 Registered. 5 Licenced.	follows:~
Parish. Registered.	Licenced.
Box. 1 Calne Without	1
Corsham. Grittleton.	7
Heddington (Slaughter House)	1
Heddington (Knacker's yard)	,
Lacock. 1	=
Total. 6	_5_

During the year 278 visits were made for the purpose of examining carcases.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The extent of disease in animals slaughtered locally is shown in the table below, together with details of carcases examined.

Carcases.	No. inspected.	
Bovines. Pigs. Sheep. Calves.	162 349 176 	
	698	

The following carcases, organs, etc., were condemned as being unfit for the food of man and in every case the meat was voluntarily surrendered, and with the exception of Bovine carcases, was burnt by the Council's employees.

The Council have arranged with the Bath City Council for Bovine carcases to be burnt at their Destructor Works. The fee charged by that Authority for such services is ten shillings per carcase.

BOVINES.	Tuberculosis.  Generalised Tubercul-	5 Forequarters. 3 Stomachs and Intestines. 17 Heads. 5 Livers. 36 Sets of Lungs. 4 Mesenteries. 1 Viscera.
	osis.	3 Carcases.
	Cirrhosis.	8 Livers.
	Distomatosis.	4 Livers. 1 Set of Lungs.
700	Actinomycosis.	1 Head. 1 Tongue.
	Davernous Angioma.	1 Liver.
I.	Melanosis.	1 Set of Lungs.

	Pyaemic Abscess.	3 L	ivers.
vilno	Abscess.	1 8	et of Lungs.
	Carcinoma.	1 %	iver.
	Induration.	1 0	dder.
	Tumour,	1 L	iver.
PIGS.	Tuberculosis.	2 S	Heads. ets of Lungs. Mesenteries. isceras.
an beisen	Pleurisy.	1 8	et of Lungs,
any Josif e	Pneumonia.	1 S	et of Lungs.
	Pericarditis.	1 H	eart.
avingili tox	Cirrhosis.	1 L	iver.
enailline de	Abscess.	1 F	orequarter.
	Strongylus Rufescens.	3 S	ets of Lungs.
estinos.	Emaciation & Qedema.	1 0	arcase.
	Echinococcus Veterinorium.	l L	iver,
	Peracarditis.	1 H	eart.
	Tenuicollis Cyst.	1 0	mentum.
	Degenerated Cysts.	2 L	ivers.

3 1 1 2

## SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Visits to Houses in connection with Systematic Housing Inspections. Houses Repaired. Council House Inspection.	590 64 503 480
New Building Inspections, Premises connected with water mains of Council.	32
Water Samples secured for Analyses.	52
Waterworks, Main Extensions, etc., Inspections.	420
Privy Vaults converted to Pail Closets. Privy Vaults converted to Water Closets.	(
Earth Closets to Water Closets.	3
New Pail Closets.	3 15 97 35
New Water Closets.	97
New Drainage Systems provided to old premises.	35
Inspections of Sewage Works, sewer extensions and drainage systems,	126
Inspections of Refuse Tips.	45
Inspections of Farms and Dairies.	172
Slaughter house Inspections.	278
Overcrowding complaints dealt with.	106
Factory and Workshops Inspections.	7279
Notices, Letters, etc., sent out. Statutory Notifies served.	3279
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases.	33
Nuisances' Inspections.	33 84
Inspections under the Petroleum Act, 1926.	33

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. POWELL.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.