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BOROUGH  of CHARD



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year ended 31st December, 1965

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

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Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

D. V. HAGUE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

D. H. TILL, D.S.C., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to Medical Officer:

MISS Y. MICHAEL, M.A.

HEALTH VISITORS:

Mrs. E. G. Major, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

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Annual Report of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chard.
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1965.

This year I have confined the text and tables to those services for which the Council themselves are responsible. The services provided by the local health authority are already reported by the County Medical Officer in his Annual Report and were only included in my previous reports for the convenience of members.

1965 was a healthy year in Chard and little infectious disease was notified other than measles. It is hoped that in due course these outbreaks will be minimised by the use of measles vaccine which has recently been developed.

I would draw attention to an interesting survey carried out by one of the practices in the town which resulted in the discovery of four previously undetected diabetics.

Once again the Council's progress in housing is outstanding.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A. M. McCALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Population.

The estimated mid-year population for 1965 was 6,310, slightly up on last year's figure. This gives a population density of six per acre. The rateable value was £229,962 and a penny rate produced £920.

Birth Rate.

The Corrected Birth Rate for 1965 was 16.11 per thousand live births which is below the national figure of 18.1. There were seven illegitimate births giving a rate of 7.7% of total live births.

Death Rate.

The Corrected Death Rate for the year was 11.33, the national figure being 11.5. Details of deaths are given in Appendix A, Table 3. Once again heart disease was the greatest killer, accounting for 28 deaths, 14 of whom died from coronary thrombosis. Both of these figures show an increase on last year. Vascular lesions of the nervous system also showed a considerable increase on 1964 and

24 deaths were due to this cause. There were 13 deaths due to cancer, six fewer than last year. Deaths due to diseases of the respiratory system were approximately the same as 1964.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths in 1965.

Stillbirths.

There was one stillbirth in 1965 which gives a rate of 10.9 per thousand live and stillbirths.

Infant Mortality.

I am pleased to be able to report for the third year running that there were no infant deaths in 1965. This reflects very great credit on the maternity and child welfare services in the Borough.

Social Conditions.

There was little change in the general conditions of the residents of the Borough during the year. The town is expanding and there appears to be ready employment for all those able and willing to work.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The general health services are provided and administered by the local health authority of the County Council.

No substantial change occurred in these services during 1965. They continued to function satisfactorily and were well supported.

SECTION C.

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases.

In the late spring and early autumn a number of cases of measles were notified, otherwise there was little infectious disease. Details of all notifications are shown in Appendix C, Table 1.

Routine immunisation of children against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continued to be given throughout the year by general practitioners and the clinic Medical Officer using Trivax vaccine. Oral vaccine was used against poliomyelitis as a routine measure. Vaccination against smallpox was carried out by the general practitioners.

I carried out my B.C.G. vaccination programme against tuberculosis in February and March. This protection was offered to all children born in 1951 and those who had missed it in the previous year. It is the intention to lower the age group of children to which this is offered in future.

Diabetic Survey.

Early in the year one practice in the town planned a survey of their patients to discover whether there were any undetected diabetic patients. The Local Health Authority was contacted requesting help. After discussion it was decided that the County would give help with printing and postages. This worked very well and four undetected diabetics were discovered. Details of the survey are shown in Appendix C, Table 2.

SECTION D.

Environmental Health Services.

A. Sanitary Circumstances.

Climatic Conditions.

1965 was generally wet and the summer was most disappointing. The total annual rainfall was slightly above the recent average of 38 inches.

Water Supply.

The Wessex Water Board completed the laying of a new 8 inch main from Pole Rue to the Borough supply. This obviated many shortages experienced in previous years, although there were some complaints in the Furzehill area. I received reports on water samples taken by the Wessex Water Board each month and details of these are shown in Appendix D, Table 1.

It will be seen that both Well A and Well B are polluted from time to time and when this is discovered the chlorination is immediately increased and this frequently gives rise to complaints from residents.

The fluoride content of the water is 0.04 parts per million, below the optimum of one part per million for the prevention of dental decay. The Council, having considered the Ministry Circular on the Fluoridation of Water Supplies 15/65, reversed their previous decision and are now in full support of fluoridation as a safe preventative of dental decay.

Chemical analysis of the water showed it to be a hard water of satisfactory chemical purity.

Sewage Disposal.

Work continued in extending the main sewer from the works to Holbear to serve the industrial area. At the same time the remodelling of the sewage works continued at a combined cost of £175,000. When this work is completed it will enable the Council to discontinue cess pool emptying which at present is done by contract. Cess pools are emptied once per annum free of charge; additional emptying is charged at cost to the occupier.

Public Conveniences.

The Council conveniences are maintained in a very satisfactory condition despite the unwelcome attention of vandals.

Refuse Collection.

Weekly kerbside collection continued throughout the year using one vehicle. Trade refuse is removed free but anything in excess of two bins is charged at the rate of 6d. per bin per week. Control of the tip is done by contract and this has proved a satisfactory arrangement.

Rodent Destruction.

One part-time operator continued to work in the town for two weeks every month. There are occasional delays before treatment can be carried out but there were no heavy infestations and routine test baiting continued throughout the year.

Swimming Baths.

The only two swimming baths in the town are at Chard School and at the Holyrood Secondary Modern School. The residual chlorine is checked regularly by a member of the teaching staff in each school. The County Council have produced an excellent handbook which lays down the rules for routine maintenance of pools and when these instructions are carried out there is seldom, if ever, any difficulty.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was necessary during 1965 under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

B. Factories Act.

Details of inspections carried out can be found in Appendix D, Table 2.

C. Offices, Shops & Railways Premises Act.

There are 108 premises registered under this Act. A good start was made in 1964 when all the initial survey work was carried out by a temporary inspector. Since then only six follow-up inspections have been made due to the fact that our Public Health Inspector is too busy on other work.

D. Housing.

One hundred and thirty-six houses were built by the Council in 1965 and there were a further 82 completed by private builders. The Council had a further 81 in course of erection by 31st December and 35 private houses were in course of completion. Full details of the housing situation can be found in Appendix D, Table 3. Consideration of these tables will show the tremendous amount of new housing which is becoming available in the town. People are moving into Chard from surrounding districts and while increasing the prosperity of the town it is also posing problems, particularly for the local education authority.

E. Caravan Sites.

There are two licensed sites within the Borough and it is estimated that some seventy persons are resident throughout the year. The Furnham site now complies with the Council's standard conditions for caravan sites. The Oaklands site is to be re-organised and negotiations for this were continuing at the end of the year.

F. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

There are three registered distributors and two registered dairy premises. Regular sampling is carried out by the County Council Health Department. No organisms of brucella abortus were reported to me in any sample taken during 1965.

Ice Cream.

There is one manufacturer and 25 other premises registered for the sale of ice cream. Twenty-eight samples were taken, all being in Grade I with one exception.

Meat.

Appendix D, Table 4, gives full details of the inspections carried out. The Chard abattoir was extended and re-organised during the year and now operates on the line system of "dressing," which has increased the kill substantially. This has put a considerable strain on our Public Health Inspector, who has maintained one hundred per cent. inspection. As a result other public health work has not been carried out. At the end of the year the Council were actively seeking an additional meat inspector.

Food Premises.

Forty-nine visits were paid to butchers, cafes, confectioners, fishmongers and grocers' premises to ensure that they complied with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. However, the Public Health Inspector would have liked to be able to devote more time to this work if it had been available.

Nuisances.

When a complaint of nuisance is received by the Public Health Inspector it usually demands his immediate attention. Seventy-one such complaints were received and four informal notices served.

Routine visits concerned with sewage, drainage, housing and caravan sites required a total of 830 separate visits, these being in addition to the 1005 visits to the abattoir.

The renewal of annual licences under the Petroleum Regulations, Pet Animals Act, Explosives Act, Slaughter of Animals Act and Factories Act required a further 68 visits and the issue of 45 licences.

It is obvious from the foregoing that the Public Health Inspector is fully committed on pressing work and quite unable to take his normal off-time in lieu of evening meetings and week-end meat inspection. I hope that the situation will improve when the meat inspector starts work.

APPENDIX A—TABLE 1

Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1965	6,310
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1965 according to the Rate Book	2,295
Rateable Value	£229,962
Sum represented by a penny rate	£920
Area	1,030 acres

APPENDIX A—TABLE 2

BIRTH RATE: 16.11.

Comparability Factor: 1.13.

		M	F
Live Births:	Total	44	46
	Legitimate	43	40
	Illegitimate	1	6
Still Births:	Total	1	—
	Legitimate	1	—
	Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:	Total	—	—
	Legitimate	—	—
	Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:	Total	—	—
	Legitimate	—	—
	Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 week:	Total	—	—
	Legitimate	—	—
	Illegitimate	—	—

APPENDIX A—TABLE 3

DEATH RATE: 11.33.

Comparability Factor: 0.73.

Causes of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	Under 1 yr.	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
					5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	
Cancer of Lung	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Cancer of Other Sites	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1
Diabetes	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2
	F	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	3
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9
Other Circulatory Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bronchitis	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suicide	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	48	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	10	16	16
	F	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	9	34

APPENDIX C—TABLE 1

Infectious Diseases.

Measles	163
Scarlet Fever	4
Erysipelas	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1

Analysis of Cases Notified.

	Under												
	1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	35-45	45-55	55-65	65+
Measles	7	15	18	28	20	73	2						
Scarlet Fever						3	1						
Erysipelas											1		

Tuberculosis

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
-1 ...									
1-5 ...									
5-15 ..									
15-25 ...									
25-35 ..									
35-45 ...									
45-55 ..									
55-65 ..									
65+ ...	1								
Total	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX C—TABLE 2

Diabetic Survey.

No. of patients circulated	2,700
No. of returns	1,100
Clinistix Positive (excluding known diabetics)	25
1. Negative on re-testing (re-check 6—12 months)	14
2. Positive on re-testing = Low Renal Threshold	4
3. Positive on re-testing, diagnosis pending, but unlikely to be diabetic ...	3
4. NEW DIABETICS	4

APPENDIX D—TABLE 1

Water Supplies

Bacteriological Examinations.

	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chard Well A	17	14	3
Chard Well B	16	15	1

APPENDIX D—TABLE 2.

Factories Acts, 1937 — 1959.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	16	2	—
(iii) Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	48	16	2	—
Cases in which defects were found				2
Cases in which defects found were remedied				2
Outworkers.				
No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 10				14

APPENDIX D—TABLE 3.

Housing.

Action taken during year.

1. No. of houses included in Clearance Areas for which Orders are still to be made	31
2. No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
3. No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	3
4. No. of houses demolished or closed (a) under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 (individual unfits)	1
(b) for other purposes (road improvements, etc.)	Nil
5. No. of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	Nil
6. No. of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 (capable of repair)	Nil

7. No. of houses made fit during year	Nil
8. No. of unfit houses occupied under licence	Nil
9. Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Act, 1961)	Nil
10. Reconditioning of Condemned Houses—Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961)	Nil
11. Substitution of Closing Order for Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken	Nil
12. Housing Act, 1964. Any action taken during year	Nil
13. Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule)	
Certificates of Disrepair:	
(a) No. of applications received.....	Nil
(b) No. of Certificates issued	Nil

	Houses erected during the year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes		
Local Authority	7	129	20	61	—	—
Private Enterprise	—	82	—	35	—	—

No. of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1965

By Local Authority	724	By Private Enterprise	306	Housing Programme	75
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(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied—	(i) Prefabs	Nil
	(ii) Huts, etc.....	Nil
(b) No. of houses found overcrowded.....		1

Houses required:—

(i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition	55
(ii) To abate overcrowding	Nil
(iii) For other purposes	245
(iv) Applications for Council houses at end of year	
(a) Urgent bona fide cases	40
(b) Applications for Old People's Dwellings	70
(c) Others	149

Total Applications

259

(v) Total No. of Council Houses sold during the year

Nil

No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.64 (a)	Gained from conversions and erected during 1965 (b)	Total (a) + (b)	Less houses demolished, closed, etc., during year	No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.65		
				L.A. P.E.		
L.A.	736	136	872	19	853	1466
P.E.	1387	82	1469	3		
Totals	2123	218	2341	22		2319

Old People's Dwellings.

Number erected to 31.12.65		No. in course of erection	
With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid	With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid
88	—	—	—

Improvement Grants.

A. Discretionary.

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during year:

(1)		(2)	
Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
1	1	1	1

NOTE—Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year	1
Average cost per dwelling approved during year	£800
Amount of grant payable by Local Authority	£400

B. Standard.

1. Number of applications	(a) Received	10
	(b) Approved	10
2. Number of houses where Standard Amenities have been provided...		10

NOTE—Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year	7
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APPENDIX D—TABLE 4.

Meat Inspection.						
	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1182	10970	211	687	1221	—
Number inspected	1182	10970	211	687	1221	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	20*	7**	1+	10‡	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	425	8519	—	2	52	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	36	77	3.3	0.4	5	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	19	—	—	53	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	0.18	—	—	4.4	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	21	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	21	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:—						
(a) Tuberculosis	—	400	—	—	530	—
(b) Cysticercosis	130	630	—	—	—	—
(c) Other	650	8347	234	53	989	—
Total (in lbs.) condemned	780	9377	234	53	1519	—

* Oedema (14), Carcinoma (2), Sarcoma (1), Septicaemia (1), Acute Enteritis (1), Acute Pleurisy and Peritonitis (1).

** Immaturity (3), Moribund (2), Pneumonia (1), Multiple Injuries (1).

+ Moribund (1).

‡ Pyaemia (5), Emaciation (4), Acute Enteritis (1).

