

[Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Cirencester R.D.C.

Contributors

Cirencester (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1942

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**Cirencester
Rural District Council**

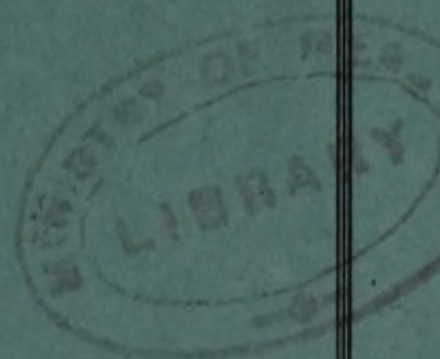
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD GREEN, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H.

1942





CIRENCESTER RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1942

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	83,437
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	12,205
and estimated 1942	...	...	...	12,890
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)				3,280
			end of 1942	3,625
Rateable value	...	...	...	£67,765
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	£270

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS (total)	134	105	239
Legitimate	... 121	97	218
Illegitimate	... 13	8	21

Birth Rate R.G. 18.5 per 1,000.

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	... 4	2	6
Illegitimate	... —	—	—

Rate per 1;000 population, 0.46.

DEATHS.	88	77	165
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Death Rate (R.G.) 12.8 per 1,000.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth...from sepsis	Nil
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from other causes	...	1
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Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	11
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per 1,000 births : 46. Males 52, Females 38.

Legitimate 46 ; Illegitimate 48.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
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„ Whooping Cough	2
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„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil
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„ Cancer	22
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BIRTHS.

The number of births actually registered during the year was 154, and of these 93 were males and 63 females. This number is similar to the one in 1941, but again this year the total number of residents born according to the Registrar General was 239, including 134 males and 105 females. This number also allows for non-resident births that occurred in this area. Of this total 21 were illegitimate, compared with 15 in 1941. Many births occurred in the maternity hospitals situated in Tetbury and Cheltenham. During the year there were 27 local births at Tetbury. Ten per cent of the births were born out of wedlock. The birth rate worked out at 18.5 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.4 in 1941, and 15.8 in England and Wales. The quarterly births were similar in the first 2 quarters, and about 10 less in the second period. Six still births were reported, the same as in 1941, equal to 0.46 per 1,000 population, all of these were legitimate. The rate in Eng-

land and Wales was 0.54 per 1,000. The opening of a maternity home for the Cirencester districts by the County Council is now under consideration of the council. The distances of some parts of the district from Tetbury is up to 20 miles, and in these days of petrol and rubber shortage motor carriage is difficult. The present hospital is not large enough to deal with all the cases in its area.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1942

(REG. GENERAL)

DISEASE		Males	Females
Whooping Cough	...	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—
Influenza	...	—	1
Tuberculosis	...	1	1
Maternal Causes (other)	...	—	—
Cancer	...	15	16
Diabetes	...	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	9	8
Heart Disease	...	18	22
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	1	5
Bronchitis	...	1	4
Pneumonia	...	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	—
Peptic Ulcer	...	2	—
Appendicitis	...	—	—
Digestive Diseases	...	—	1
Nephritis	...	1	3
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	5	1
Senility	...	8	8
Suicide	...	—	—
Other Violence	...	14	1
Other defined Diseases	...	9	3
		—	—
All causes	...	88	77

The total number of deaths certified in the district was 165, and of these 88 were males and 77 females, according to the figures of the Registrar General, although the local returns showed 5 more deaths. The annual death rate was 12.8 per 1,000, compared with 12.4 in 1941, and a 7 years average of 12.7. The rate in England and Wales was 11.6 per 1,000. Eleven deaths occurred at 0-1 years, 3 at 1-5 years, 2 at 5-15 years, 2 at 15-25 years, 39 at 45-65 years and 103 at ages of 65 upwards. Causes of death: the only death from the notifiable diseases was 1 from Whooping Cough, a young infant. Tuberculosis caused 2 deaths, both aged over 45 years. No deaths were certified from puerperal causes. From cancer there were 31 deaths, 15 males and 16 females. Twenty were aged over 65 years, and 12 between 45-65 years. The average deaths in the last 7 years was 21, and the number in 1941 was 30. Apoplexy and other vascular brain affections caused 17 deaths, there being 18 in 1941. No deaths were due to diabetes, this disease, owing to the use of insulin, discovered several years ago, causing very few deaths. Heart disease, in its varying forms, caused 40 deaths, the number being 33 last year. Only 6 deaths were due to other circulatory diseases. Of respiratory complaints, 5 were due to bronchitis, and 5 to pneumonia, 4 of the latter being at ages under one year. The doctors have been encouraged to have pneumonic infants treated at Baunton Hospital, but so far none have been sent there. Kidney disease caused 4 deaths, the same as in 1941. There were 16 deaths from senility, 8 of each sex. Violence was the cause of 5 deaths, 4 males and 1 female, mostly due to transport accidents. As usual, deaths occurred in nearly all the parishes, there being 24 in Fairford, 12 in Kempsford, and 10 in Lechlade and Siddington. In five parishes 8 deaths were certified. 62 residents died chiefly in institutions in Cirencester, and 32 non-residents died in the area. Eight inquests were held in the district.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Eleven infants, aged under one year, died, 7 males and 4 females, the same as in 1941. The infant death rate was 46 per 1,000 live births, compared with 50 in 1941. The rate averaged 40 during the last 7 years. In England and Wales the rate was 49, the lowest one recorded. The death rate of male infants was 46, and of females 38. The legitimate death rate was 46, and the illegitimate 48. Four deaths took place at ages under 1 week, 6 within 4 weeks, and 7 under three months. Four deaths were due to premature birth, and 2 to congenital defects, 3 to pneumonia, and 1 to whooping cough. Some of the latter cases were removed to Baunton Hospital, these being very ill indeed. They all recovered however. The case of whooping cough which proved fatal was not notified, as the doctor did not know that notification was compulsory. The Welfare Centres were carried on efficiently in the area, and the District Nurses visited all new-born infants at intervals until of school age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASE		Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	11	8	—
Diphtheria	...	3	3	—
Pertussis	...	58	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	9	3	6
Other diseases generally notifiable—Erysipelas		—	—	—
Other diseases notifiable :				
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	1	1	—
Measles	...	23	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	3	—	—
B. Abortus	...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	1	1	—
Tuberculosis	...	3	3	2

Only 11 cases of scarlet fever were notified, compared with 24 in 1941, and 41 in 1940. There were 4 males and 7 females reported. Four cases came from the school at Poulton Priory, which is for invalid children from London. There was one patient from an evacuated girls' school. Two adults took the disease, one a man whose children had had the disease, and the other the wife of a dairy farmer. Two cases occurred in South Cerney, and one in each of 3 other parishes. All the patients, save one, were treated in hospital. Three cases of diphtheria were notified, there being 25 in 1941; only one child, aged 7 years, was reported, a pupil at an evacuees' school, which has now left the area. This child had been immunised 9 months before. Two adult cases cropped up, both young married women, and both living in South Cerney. One was a sister of a young Air Force man who came into the district last year and developed the disease. A number of relatives of this man had the complaint in 1941. The other patient was a teacher who worked in an elementary school in Cirencester, travelling in and out each day by bus. It was not found necessary to take swabs in any school during the year. No local case of cerebro-spinal fever was reported, but a soldier who had just come to stay at a Red Cross Convalescent Home, was notified after he had been admitted to a hospital in Bath. There were 9 cases of pneumonia reported, several old men and 2 young infants being included. 1 infant was not notified, the doctor having overlooked the case until after death. As there were 6 deaths, if 10 per cent is allowed for the death rate, probably 60 cases occurred in all. A case of ophthalmia neonatorum was reported from South Cerney in an illegitimate child, which was fortunately treated at Cheltenham hospital, and made a good recovery. The mother, who was unmarried, was confined at the home of her brother. This disease is due to venereal disease in the parents. There were 3 reported cases of Food Poisoning, 2 in

one family, and all of them had eaten brawn which came from a local firm; at the same time many other cases occurred in other areas. I understand that the firm have now given up the manufacture of this article of diet. No cases of erysipelas came to the knowledge of the department. Only 28 cases of measles were reported, 19 males and 9 females, whereas there were 155 in 1941. All the cases were at ages under 15 years, one being under one year, and 11 under 5. This was distinctly a "between epidemic year." There were 58 cases of whooping cough, compared with 11 in 1941, that is cases reported by doctors. Epidemics occurred in various parishes, there being 11 cases in Somerford Keynes, 7 in North Cerney, 12 in Kempsford, and 6 in Sapperton. In some of these schools practically all the children had coughs, most of which were, no doubt, due to this disease. At school age there were 23 patients, under 5 years 33, and over 15 only 2 cases. To all the affected schools leaflets were sent and visits paid, the usual advice being given orally to exclude all children with coughs. On the whole the disease was mild in type, but infants often have a rough passage. Letters were sent to the local doctors advising the removal of bad cases to Baunton Hospital, and several bad cases were treated there who would probably not have pulled through at home. One young infant died from this disease at home. Mumps and Chicken Pox were prevalent in a number of schools, and a few cases of epidemic jaundice occurred. Occasional cases of scabies were reported from the schools. It has been suggested that the Councils should purchase a well-known drug for treatment, and that the district nurses should tell the parents how to apply it.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Five cases of pulmonary tubercle were reported during the year, but only two were fresh cases, the

others being evacuees who had been ill before they reached the area. One patient was in the R.A.F., and came here after his discharge. A woman evacuated to Fairford was admitted to a nursing home there, where she afterwards died. One patient, aged 43, with disease of the neck glands, was notified from an Oxford hospital. Another R.A.F man was discharged with disease in the intestines, but he seemed to have made a good recovery after treatment. A child reported from Whelford was for many months in a home in Gloucester, where he finally died, but the death was not certified as due to Tubercle. Two patients were treated at Standish House. In a recent investigation by a Professor of Bacteriology it was stated that 1,500 to 2,000 deaths per annum from tubercle were due to bovine milk infection, and that 5—10% of farms are sending out milk containing the germ.

BAUNTON HOSPITAL.

Only 88 patients were treated here during the year, and of these 25 were whooping cough, 36 mumps and chicken pox 13. Nine patients had 2 or more diseases, mostly from various baby convalescent hostels. From this area there were 59 patients, and from the Urban 15.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

The campaign has been carried on with renewed energy, and at the middle of 1943 there were 1,696 under 5 years, and 2077 aged from 5—16 years inoculated, including those done in private schools, and those done privately by medical men. These numbers include many children who have left school, and also a

number of evacuees who have returned to their homes. The "under fives" inoculated are now 76 per cent of the total number of children at that age, as shown by a return provided by the local food officer. At school ages there are more than 100% immunised, accounted for by those who have left school or left the district. As all children aged from 1 year upwards should now be injected, and not before that age, there are about 100 of the 'under fives' who are not eligible, and this would bring up the proportion done to about 90 per cent. It has been suggested by the Ministry that all children aged about one year when immunised should receive another dose when they enter school.

The County Council still carry out their various duties in regard to medical inspection of school children, tuberculosis, infant welfare, and orthopaedics. Increasing attention is now being paid to the spread of venereal disease, and it is probable that a clinic will be started at the Cirencester Memorial Hospital in a short time. The notification of ophthalmia of the new born has now to be made to the County M.O.H. The certificate is now passed on to the local M.O.H. The hospitals in this district are the same as in 1941.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Despite war conditions efforts have been made to maintain the sanitary services of the district in a satisfactory manner, and while there has been unavoidable suspension or curtailment of the duties performed under normal conditions, the additional task of Salvage, Government Evacuation, Emergency Civil Defence Scheme, etc., New Buildings, and the consequent collaboration with Government Departments kept the Department working at high pressure throughout the year.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The built up areas of the district supplied with water under Statutory Powers remain as hitherto. The Pumphouse on the Poulton Undertaking was electrified and an automatic electric power unit installed. The electrification of the pumphouse on the Lechlade supply was in progress towards the end of the year.

Numerous complaints of shortage of water were received regarding the private supplies serving properties in the villages of Barnsley and Ewen. The supplies were restored to normal by the owners after representations had been made on behalf of the Council.

A new source for the Fairford Estate Water Supply was decided upon owing to possible pollution from a new sewage outfall. The proposed new source will be treated water from the Coln taken from a point approximately half a mile up river from Fairford town.

All water samples were examined by the County Analyst. Samples were submitted quarterly from the Council's undertakings and proved satisfactory. 16 samples were submitted from Private Supplies, 8 were found to be fit, 6 suspect and 2 unfit. Steps were taken to improve the quality of the water on the supplies which were suspect by the owners, and the owner of the unfit supplies which served one farm premises was asked to make an alternative supply available.

SEWERAGE.

The Fairford Sewerage system continued to be maintained by a private firm of builders, who, under

the direction of your officer, carry out necessary work to the sewers and irrigation land.

A new agreement was entered into between the Council and the Owner respecting the use of the irrigation land.

Work necessary for the prevention of river pollution and the abatement of nuisances was carried out at the sewage outfalls at Lechlade, North Cerney and Preston.

Drainage improvement works were carried out at the Council houses at Poole Keynes and Ewen. In each case effluent conductors were provided to irrigate on adjoining land the discharge from sewage tanks.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse collection in 29 out of the 35 parishes was carried out efficiently by the contractor. Disposal was by controlled tipping at three tips, the work being done by the Council's own labour. Deratisation of tips continued to be carried out under the County Council Scheme, and the tips were reasonably free from vermin.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The Council's main salvage effort was hinged to the refuse collection scheme by arrangement with the Contractor. Voluntary Organisations accomplished much useful work, especially regarding waste paper collection. Metal food containers, tins and light iron were transported from the Council's dumps to the Cirencester Urban District Council yard for flattening and disposal. The metal dealt with in this way is not included in the quantities shown for the year.

The following salvable materials were collected and returned to industry from the Council's area during the year:

Paper, 128 tons. Iron, 33 tons. Non-Ferrous Metals, $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Rags, etc., $9\frac{1}{4}$ tons. Bones, $12\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Rubber, $12\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Farms of Register ...	210.
Number of Farms inspected ...	94.
Total number of inspections ...	137.

In accordance with announced Government Policy for the Milk Industry, the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme came into operation towards the close of the year. The object of the Scheme is primarily to prevent milk of poor keeping quality passing into bulked supplies or reaching the liquid market direct. The Scheme is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A standard routine test is applied at frequent intervals to all farm milk supplies at the place of first delivery. Unsatisfactory results are brought to the notice of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee who, in collaboration with your Officer visit the farm and endeavour to remedy matters. The Scheme does not alter any requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and Orders and Regulations thereunder, relating to milk, and administered by the Council.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughtering of food animals for the area continues to be carried out by the Food Ministry in slaughter houses outside the Council's area. Frequent inspections are made of premises where food is prepared and offered for sale.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Building work carried out during the year and respecting which plans were submitted are as follows:

Alterations or additions to dwellings ...	7
New Garages	1
Sheds, etc.	3
Drainage improvements	4

Formal action had to be resorted to respecting an addition to a dwelling at Fairford where the mode of construction did not comply to the Council's requirement. The offending work was pulled down and properly re-constructed by the owner.

SCHOOLS.

As the result of inspection of School buildings the sanitary accommodation at Whelford Church of England School was overhauled, and the sanitary fittings at South Cerney Church of England School were repaired.

HOUSING.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The number of houses owned by the Council remains as in the previous year, and are as follows:—

Ampney Crucis	...	6	North Cerney	...	12
Coates	...	18	Poultton	...	4
Down Ampney	...	2	Quenington	...	20
Fairford	...	44	Rodmarton	...	16
Kemble	...	28	Siddington	...	14
Kempsford	...	22	Somerford Keynes	...	8
Lechlade	...	22	South Cerney	...	40
			Poole Keynes	...	6
Total	...	262.			

As the result of complaints received, repairs and maintenance work was carried out at 192 houses owned by the Council.

The following information regarding Housing statistics is set out to comply with the Ministry of Health Circular 1728.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 66
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 163
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... —
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose —
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... —
 - (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 ... 66

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices	...	...	64
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	64
3. Action under Statutory powers during the year.			
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	—
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	...	—
(a) By Owners	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	—
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	2
(a) By Owners	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	—
(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	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	—
(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	...	...	—
(2) Number of separate rooms or tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	—

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Public Health inspections made	...	...	1944
Number of Complaints dealt with	...	...	121
Nuisances found	...	...	60
Nuisances abated	...	...	54
Nuisances reported to the Council	...	...	2
Statutory Notices served	...	...	2
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	50
Samples of Water submitted for analysis	...	...	33
Milk samples taken	...	...	9
New Connections to Council's Water Mains	...	...	1
Infectious Disease Inspections	...	...	37
Houses Disinfected	...	...	22
Houses Repaired (excluding Council Houses)	...	...	66
Council Houses repaired	...	...	192
Inspection of Water Mains	...	...	291
Inspection in connection with refuse disposal	...	...	255
Inspection of sewage and drainage works	...	...	190
Inspection of Factories	...	...	63
Inspection of Bake-houses	...	...	11
Inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	137
Inspection of Food Premises	...	...	101
Inspection of work in progress	...	...	175
New Building Inspections	...	...	139
Miscellaneous	...	...	390

