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**Cirencester
Urban District Council**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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

1941



CIRENCESTER URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1941

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	5,844
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	7,203
and estimated 1941	...	...	...	11,790
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)				1,886
(end of 1941)				3,368
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£65,967
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£260

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS (total)	100	101	201
Legitimate	98	94	192
Illegitimate	2	7	9

Birth Rate (R.G.) 19.2

STILL BIRTHS	...	...	...
Legitimate	2	6	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Rate per 1000 population, 0.47

DEATHS	...	61	60	121
Death Rate (R.G.)		10.2	per 1000	

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth...	from sepsis	Nil
	from other causes	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age : 11

Per 1000 births :

Legitimate, 52 ; Illegitimate, 111. Total 50.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			1
„ Cancer	...	...	11

BIRTHS

There were 201 births registered, 100 males and 101 females, practically the same number as in 1940. Nine illegitimate births were recorded, identical also with 1940. The quarterly number averaged just over 40, this not including the births that occurred outside. The annual birth rate was a good one, 17.0, and this compares with 19.2 in 1940, and a rate of 14.2 in England and Wales. The illegitimate birth rate was 0.76 per 1000 population. Eight still births were registered, equal to 0.67 per 1000, as to 0.47 in 1940.

The high birth rate and the very low death rate mean that there was a gain of 80 people on the year, which is very satisfactory.



CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1941.

(REG. GENERAL)

DISEASE				Males	Females
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	—	1
Cancer	...	...	...	5	6
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	6	9
Heart Disease	...	...	...	17	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	2	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2	3
Gastric Ulcer	...	...	...	1	—
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	2
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	3	3
Senility	...	...	...	8	7
Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
Other Violence	...	...	...	4	3
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	3	3
All causes	...	...	...	61	60

DEATHS

Deaths certified were 121, including 61 males and 60 females, there being no less than 152 deaths in 1940. The death rate was 10.2 per 1000, and the rate in 1940 was almost 50% higher, it being 14.4 per 1000. The rate in England and Wales was 12.9 and for the 6 years average the home rate was 13.9 per 1000. Owing to the mix up of populations, due to evacuations, no standard death rate can be supplied but it would probably be one to two per 1000 less than the recorded rate. There were no less than 144 deaths of non-residents in this district, chiefly at the Public Assistance and Memorial Hospitals. Only 12 residents died outside the area.

Deaths at age periods : 0-1 year 10, 1-15 years 5, 15-45 years 10, 45-65 years 20. 65 upwards 76.

CAUSES OF DEATH : Whooping cough 2, Influenza 1, Tubercle 4, Cancer 11, Apoplexy 15, Heart Diseases 29, Circulatory Diseases 3, Bronchitis 5, Pneumonia 6, Nephritis 3, Senility 15, Violence 7. During the preceding 6 years the annual average number of deaths was, from Influenza 4, Tuberculosis 4, Pneumonia 4, Cancer 15. The deaths from Influenza were only one this year, Cancer 6, Pneumonia 6, compared with those for the six year period above. There was 1 death from congenital syphilis, there being none in 1940. Suicide caused no deaths. In regard to the deaths from violence, only one was due to the road traffic, which was very satisfactory in these days. Eleven inquests were held several of them being on persons who were not residents but who died at the Memorial Hospital.

INFANT MORTALITY

The registrar-general returned 11 deaths of children aged under 1 year, but the number locally known was 10 only. Of this last number 7 were males and 3 females. As to causes of death, 3 were due to debility at birth, 3 to premature birth, 2 to pneumonia, and 1 each to injury and whooping cough. Five infants died in the first week of life, one from a week to a month, one from 1 to 3 months, and 3 at ages of 3 to 12 months. There was one death from congenital syphilis, which took place at the sick bay, at the age of 6 weeks. The infant death rate was 50 per 1000 live births, this comparing with 39 in 1940, and 59 in England and Wales for the present year. One illegitimate death was recorded, and the death rate was 111 per 1000, compared with the legitimate rate of 52. The death rate of male infants was 70 and of females 30 per 1000 live births. There was no death of a mother from puerperal causes, septic or otherwise.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Erysipelas	2	Food Poisoning	8
Scarlet Fever	10	Dysentery	1
Diphtheria	7	Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Pneumonia	12	Measles	135
Cerebro		Whooping Cough	67
Spinal Fever	3	Tuberculosis	2

There were only 10 cases of scarlet fever reported, all of whom were children, whereas there were 29 in 1940. All of the patients were treated at the isolation hospital. Of 7 cases of diphtheria notified, only one was a child. Three adults aged over 25 years, occurred in relations of a child who had been under treatment at the fever hospital, suffering from scarlet

fever. He was found to be 'carrier' of diphtheria germs. All the patients at the hospital under treatment for scarlet fever are now swabbed before discharge, so that no carriers of diphtheria can be sent out. One of the other patients was a maid in a local doctor's house, and the infection possibly came from her home near Bibury. A soldier who had recently come home on leave also had the disease, and was isolated at a military hospital. All the patients were treated in hospital. Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever occurred, one a soldier taken ill on his arrival at the station: another a school child at a house where a soldier had stayed a few days before: and a third who worked at a camp in the rural area. So far as is known all the patients recovered. One case of dysentery was notified, a man aged 45 years. This disease is common in many places, but only 3 cases have ever been reported in these areas. During the last 6 years there was an average of 13 cases of scarlet fever and 2 of diphtheria notified. The number of pneumonia cases reported was 12, compared with 22 in 1941, and a six year average of 9. As there were 6 deaths, if all cases were notified, the death rate would be 50%, whereas the rate should be about 10% with modern drugs and methods. There were 3 cases of puerperal pyrexia, the same as in 1940. Two of the cases were admitted to Cheltenham Hospital, but after some time they all recovered. This admission was probably arranged by the County officials. There were 2 outbreaks of food poisoning, the first was one case only, a man who had eaten two highly spiced meat pies at a camp canteen. The other affected eight persons, nearly all relations from Bristol who had come for August Bank Holiday to the parents' home in Stratton. This was no doubt due to the eating of pickled beef, bought from a butcher in Bristol. They all suffered from sickness and diarrhoea, but recovered in a day or so. A specimen was sent to the County bacteriologist, who found at least one microbe that might have been the cause of

it. It was reported to the Medical Officer of the City of Bristol. In all 135 cases of measles were reported, 71 males and 64 females. Five were aged under one, 60 at 1-5 years, 57 at 5-15 years, and there were 13 adult cases. From the schools only 74 cases were reported. This is strange as in 1940, there were 452 cases received from the head teachers, and only 235 notified by the medical profession. It is quite possible that a large proportion of these cases were German Measles, which is not compulsorily notifiable by doctors, but which would be reported as 'Measles' from the schools. Only 67 cases of whooping cough were notified, including 21 males only, but 41 females. Of these 40 were under school age, 27 at school age, and there was one adult case. There were 2 deaths from the disease, one aged a few weeks, the other just over one year. These are the first deaths from whooping cough in the area for many years, but in 1937 there was one death from measles. One death occurred in a village miles away : the other was of an evacuee, which occurred at the Baunton Hospital. This child's father had died from tuberculosis a short time before.

TUBERCULOSIS

One case of disease in the lungs was reported, an evacuee, who was possibly ill before arrival. One man and three woman, all evacuees, were notified, all of whom had been ill before they came to the district. Two of these were convalescent, and working in the town. One local child had the disease in the knee, and a young woman suffered from spinal tubertulosis. Of the male lung cases, two were aged 27 years, and of the females, one was 18, one 27, and one 30 years. Two patients were treated at Standish House. Four deaths were certified from phthisis,

two males and two females. Seven deaths occurred in 1940 from this form of the disease, the average for the preceding 6 years being three, whilst the average number of cases reported was five.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The arrangements are similar to what they have been for many years. The General Hospital and the Joint Isolating Hospital still do yeoman service in the struggle for health. The County carries on its services in regard to school children, infant welfare, special clinics on tuberculosis, and for school children's ailments. The special Hospitals in Cheltenham and Gloucester provide treatment for many residents. There are several resident hostels for young children, and sick bays for evacuees. In addition there is the Baunton Mill infectious hospital for the minor infectious complaints of evacuees. Arrangements have been made for the treatment of severe cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia among residents who are very young. The Tetbury Maternity Hospital still deals with many local confinements, this being specially necessary in war time. There is no venereal disease clinic nearer than Stroud or Cheltenham, and one should be established in this area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The water works at Baunton are still producing a million gallons a day of very pure water, as the analysis shows. Like all Cotswold water it is on the hard side, 25 degrees, but only 4 are permanent. The cultures at 20°C, and at 37.5°C, showed very few microbes, and B Coli was absent in 100 c.c's water. As the Analyst said "It was a very pure water." Four samples of water from private wells were taken, and all of them were very bad. They were all closed, and

16 houses now have a pure water supply. An official enquiry was held as to the backing up of the sewage in the Watermoor district, and this, as well as the sewerage of Stratton, have been postponed until the end of the war. The sewage works are still working well, and no nuisance has been caused from them. The treatment is on the land, away in the country. There are very few closets, not W.C.'s, in the town, and only two earth closets were abolished.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No pollution of the streams that pass through the town on their way to the Thames was detected, and they seemed very pure.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

All the waste refuse, consisting chiefly of ashes, is carted away twice weekly to the tip in the Fosse Way. This tip, which is on a main road, is well looked after, and does not become a nuisance. All the waste vegetable stuff is now carted away separately and is ultimately made into food for pigs. This amounted to 194 tons in the year. As to War Salvage, there were collected 132 tons of paper, $6\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bones, 2 tons of rags, 97 tons metal and $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of rubber. The amounts are all much less than those of 1940, but that is quite to be expected.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

Under the Public Health Acts 466 inspections were carried out, 39 nuisances found, and 84 complaints received. There were 27 informal notices sent out, and only 1 statutory notice. Nuisances all abated were 39. No legal proceedings were found necessary.

SANITARY INSPECTION

(a)	Inspections made under Public Health Act	...	...	466
(b)	Nuisances discovered or reported	...	...	39
	Swine only	...	...	2
(c)	Complaints received	...	...	84
(d)	Informal or preliminary notices sent	...	...	27
(e)	Statutory notices sent	...	...	1
(f)	Nuisances abated	...	...	39
(g)	Summonses issued	...	...	—
(h)	Convictions obtained	...	...	—

SHOP ACT.

Under the Act 53 inspections were made, but no legal action had to be taken.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

36 inspections took place, and in 4 instances improved sanitary accommodation had to be made for workers. Bakehouses visited regularly and lime washing carried out when necessary. 3 outworkers premises were inspected. The 17 registered food shops were inspected, and, where necessary, cleansing was enforced. One "fish and chips" shop had to be altered before permission was granted.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Several visits were made to the 12 cowsheds and dairies in the area, and 6 needed lime washing. In 4 instances manure heaps were removed from the proximity of the cowshed. Visits had to be made to a pasteurising dairy, and certain improvements had to

be carried out to prevent contamination. 17 samples of milk were taken, and of these 8 were not good, showing excess of B. Coli. The others were normal. One sample of pasteurised milk was also below the standard. Further samples were taken of the poor milk, and they were passed by the Analyst.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

14 smoke observations were taken, and a nuisance was found at a local flour mill. After a letter had been sent the nuisance was abated.

DISINFESTATION.

Two premises were fumigated after bugs had been found there. No Council houses were affected. The furniture of all new tenants to Council houses are inspected for possible "lousiness."

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one public open air bath, and one private school bath in the town. Arrangements have been made for military bathing.

HOUSING ACTS.

Some 89 premises were inspected under these Acts. No houses were found unfit, and 16 needed slight nuisances remedied. Lack of time prevented the further carrying out of these Acts.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Animals Slaughtered.

Beasts 2145. Calves 852. Pigs 42580. Sheep 9396.

Condemned Meat.

Total amount condemned was 21 tons, 2 cwts 1 quarter, including 6 beasts, 32 pigs, and 9 sheep with all offal. 338 lbs. of fish were also condemned as unfit for human food. 26 tins, containing milk, meat or vegetables were found to be unfit for human food. Most of the pigs were killed at the two bacon factories, and of these probably 25% were inspected officially. Of the animals killed in the 3 slaughter houses, practically all were examined by the inspector.



