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**Contributors**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Urban District of Clevedon for the year  
1953

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Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a report upon the health and sanitary conditions of the urban district for the year 1953, including a summary of some of the work done in your Sanitary Inspector's Department.

The year has been notable for an epidemic of Measles which continued from January till July, but it was attended by no fatality and very few complications. During the first quarter of the year Influenza was held responsible for five deaths while in October when we had hoped that infection had passed us by, we had six cases of Poliomyelitis in the space of three weeks. Five of these were grouped around a new housing estate and one of them, a boy of four, unfortunately died from a fulminating attack of the disease; the sixth case had probably contracted infection in Bristol.

While it is very gratifying to report the continued absence of Diphtheria from these returns there is unfortunately no cause for complacency as it is shown from the diminished number of cases reported nationally, that that the case mortality rate is actually higher than it was ten years ago. Parents and guardians should therefore see to it that their children are adequately protected by immunisation against this deadly disease; the percentage of young children so protected locally is not entirely satisfactory.

The vital statistics appended, generally conform to the pattern of former years and call for no further comment; but it may be of interest to record that in 1951, the first full year in which the new Maternity Home at the Knoll functioned, 79% of all local maternity cases were delivered at these homes; in 1952 the figure rose to 86.5%, while in 1953 it fell to 83.3%.

In spite of their efforts during the years, housing seems to remain the chief problem of your Health Committee and it is hoped that new and prospective legislation will relieve the situation by permitting the reconditioning and conversion into flats of substantially built old properties which no longer serve the purpose for which they were constructed and which will soon get beyond the state of economic recovery.

The water supply is ample and of good quality and is more palatable now that dechlorination has been instituted. The sewage system calls for no new comment at the moment. The former refuse dump is being slowly filled in but there is a considerable body of stagnant water there which should be regularly sprayed to prevent fly and mosquito infestation.

All the general medical and ancillary services commented upon in former reports continue to function satisfactorily and I have much pleasure in acknowledging support from all your staff, from my colleagues, and from the Somerset and Bristol County Health Authorities.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

G. MACLEOD

26th April 1954

## STATISTICS

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Area of District. . . . .                           | 3,464 acres |
| Registrar General's estimate of population. . . . . | 9,580       |
| Number of inhabited houses and flats. . . . .       | 4,070       |
| Rateable value. . . . .                             | £82,436     |
| Estimated product of a penny rate . . . . .         | £332        |

|                    |             |               |              |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>Live Births</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Legitimate         | 58          | 60            | 118          |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population = 13.8 (corrected)  
do. for whole country = 15.5

|                     |             |               |              |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>Still Births</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Legitimate          | 1           | 1             | 2            |

Still Birth rate per 1,000 live & still births = 16.6

There have been no illegitimate births

|               |             |               |              |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>Deaths</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|               | 72          | 97            | 169          |

Death Rate per 1,000 of population = 11.8 (corrected)  
do. for whole country = 11.4  
Average age at death (local) = 72 years

Deaths of infants under one year = 1 (male at 3 days)  
Infant mortality Figure per 1,000 live births  
would be 8.5

Comparability Factors are:

For births - 1.12  
For deaths - 0.67

Some of the principal causes of death are -

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Cancer of lung and bronchus.....       | 4  |
| Other malignant diseases.....          | 19 |
| Coronary (heart) disease.....          | 21 |
| Vascular disease of nervous system.... | 27 |
| Heart and other circulatory diseases.. | 42 |
| Pneumonia and bronchitis.....          | 10 |
| Influenza.....                         | 5  |
| Pulmonary tuberculosis.....            | 5  |

## Public Health Staff

G. Macleod, M.A. M.D. D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

J. Topham, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.I.H.E., M.R.San.I.  
Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

## Notifiable Diseases

|                        | <u>Cases</u> | <u>Admitted to hospital</u> | <u>Deaths</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Measles                | 302          | 0                           | 0             |
| Dysentery              | 2            | 1                           | 0             |
| Whooping Cough         | 3            | 0                           | 0             |
| Pneumonia              | 2            | 1                           | 1             |
| Polio-myelitis         | 6            | 6                           | 1             |
| Puerperal pyrexia      | 12           | 0                           | 0             |
| Pulmonary tuberculosis | 9            | 0                           | 5             |
| Other TB's             | 1            | 0                           | 0             |



### Pulmonary Tuberculosis

| Age Group | Notifications |        | Deaths |        |
|-----------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
|           | Male          | Female | Male   | Female |
| 15 to 25  | 1             | 1      | 0      | 0      |
| 25 to 35  | 0             | 1      | 0      | 1      |
| 35 to 45  | 2             | 1      | 1      | 0      |
| 45 to 55  | 2             | 1      | 0      | 0      |
| 55 & over | 0             | 0      | 2      | 1      |
| Totals    | 5             | 4      | 3      | 2      |

There was one case of tuberculosis of joint in a female aged 49.

### HOUSING

|                    | Houses erected during year |        | Houses in course of erection |        | Conversion to flats or dwellings |        | Temporary e.g. huts |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
|                    | Perm.                      | Tempy. | Perm.                        | Tempy. | Perm.                            | Tempy. |                     |
| By Local Authority | 50                         | 0      | 48                           | 0      | 0                                | 0      | 0                   |
| Private enterprise | 14                         | 1      | 24                           | 0      | 11                               | 0      | 0                   |
|                    | 64                         | 1      | 72                           | 0      | 11                               | 0      | 0                   |

Total number of houses, including those built during the year, owned by Local Authority - 346.

Total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year - 185.

Number of post-war houses erected to 31/12/53.

By Local Authority - 208

By Private Enterprise 80

Programme for 1954

By Local Authority - 68

Private Enterprise - 34

Grants made under Housing Act, 1949 - nil

Closing Orders made - one

Demolition Orders made - Nil

### FOOD

#### Milk.

Registered Distributors - 12

Registered Dairies - 7

Supplementary licences to outside distributors - nil

Heat treatment installations - one

Sampling is carried out by County.

#### Ice Cream

Premises registered for:-

Manufacture only - Nil

Manufacture and retail - One

Retail only - 21

Sampling is carried out by County.

Control over itinerant vendors of ice cream - no action taken.

Food condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Quantities - 421 Assorted tins  
30 lbs. raisins  
4 gross Cream biscuits  
321 lbs. beef  
44 lbs. pork  
12 lbs. mutton  
27 lbs. Danish forends

All disposed of on refuse tip.

Action taken under 'clean food' campaign:-  
General inspection of all food premises.

WATER

Samples submitted for analysis - Nil

Action taken under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - 39 - nil

There are no knackers' yards and no functioning slaughterhouse in the district.