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Contributors

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DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF

Medical Officer
of Health

FOR 1937

G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.
Medical Officer of Health for the Devizes Rural Sanitary District

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DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1937

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in circular No. 1650 issued by the Ministry of Health to you on 4th October, 1937.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. H. WAYLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

41, Long Street, Devizes.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres—63,515 acres.

Population as estimated by the Registrar-General—12,340.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1937—3,301.

Rateable Value—£48,908.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£212.

Social conditions—Area is entirely an agricultural one. Unemployment negligible.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Live Births	92	79	171
Legitimate	86	73	159
Illegitimate	6	6	12

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—13.9.

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales—14.9.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Stillbirths—			
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 births—60.44.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Deaths from all causes	58	58	116

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population—9.43.

Adjusted Death rate—7.07.

Comparability factor—0.75.

Death rate for England and Wales—12.4.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	1
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	1
Puerperal death rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	11.0
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	5.5
From other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	5.5

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
All Infants	3	2	5
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births—29.2.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births—29.2.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births—Nil.

Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales—58.0.

Deaths from Measles —

Deaths from Whooping Cough —

Deaths from Diarrhœa under 2 years of age —

Deaths—41 % to Diseases of circulatory system; 11 % to Cancer;
5 % to Tuberculosis; 8 % to Respiratory Diseases.

There was no excessive or unusual mortality during the year calling for comment. The high stillbirth rate may be disregarded, as the figures are so small that the rate must vary widely from year to year.

Forty-eight deaths were attributed to diseases of the circulatory system, 7 to Pneumonia, 6 to Tuberculosis, and 13 to Cancer.

CAUSES OF DEATH RETURNED BY REGISTRAR- GENERAL, 1937.

Causes of Death.	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	—	—	—
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2—Measles	—	—	—
3—Scarlet Fever	—	1	1
4—Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5—Diphtheria	—	—	—
6—Influenza	3	4	7
7—Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1
8—Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
9—Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2	5
10—Other Tuberculosis	—	1	1
11—Syphilis	—	—	—
12—General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis, etc.	—	—	—
13—Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	7	13
14—Diabetes	—	1	1
15—Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	2	1	3
16—Heart Disease	19	11	30
17—Aneurysm	—	2	2
18—Other Circulatory Diseases	7	6	13
19—Bronchitis	—	1	1
20—Pneumonia (all forms)	4	3	7
21—Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
22—Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—
23—Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—
24—Appendicitis	—	—	—
25—Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
26—Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—	—
27—Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—
28—Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	2	4
29—Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	1
30—Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
31—Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	2	1	3
32—Senility	1	7	8
33—Suicide	—	—	—
34—Other Violence	3	1	4
35—Other Defined Diseases	5	4	9
36—Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—
Special causes—Small Pox, Poliomyelitis, Polio-encephalitis—Nil.			

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Medical Officer—G. H. H. Waylen, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab. (part time).

Sanitary Inspector—

January-March, 1937: Mr. D. J. Graham, Cert. R.S.I.; also held Meat Inspection Certificate of R.S.I.

April-June, 1937: Mr. S. W. Saunders (acting).

July-December, 1937: Mr. S. C. Drabble, C.R.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A.

1. *Laboratory Facilities*.—No alteration.

2. *Ambulance Services*.—(a) The Rural Sanitary District is served as to general sickness by the Devizes Borough Ambulance.

(b) The Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital Committee supply the ambulance used for infectious sick.

3. *Nursing in the Home*.—Nurses supported by District Nursing Association available over most of area.

4. *Clinic and Treatment Centres*.—(a) The Devizes Orthopaedic Clinic treated 83 cases from the area during 1937.

(b) Some cases from Rural District also attend at Infant Welfare Centre at Devizes.

Hospitals.

i. *Voluntary*.—Devizes and District Hospital.

510 patients were under treatment during the year, of which 245 patients were admitted from the Rural District. 567 out-patients received treatment.

227 operations on in-patients were performed.

Isolation Hospital.

ii. *Public*. The 16-bed block (with 8 cubicles) was completed during the year, and could have been used if needed.

Isolation Hospital.—Under treatment 1st January, 1937: 1 Observation Case (staff).

Admitted during the year: 28 cases—11 Scarlet Fever, 7 Diphtheria, 1 Laryngeal Tuberculosis, 1 Acute Poliomyelitis, and 8 observation cases.

From Devizes Borough	...	...	...	15
Devizes Rural District	...	...	...	4
Pewsey Rural District	...	...	...	9

Total under treatment for the year—29.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Diseases during Year 1937

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	...
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	1
Pneumonia	15	12	7
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	2	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	1
Dysentery	14	14	5

Of the fifteen notified cases of Pneumonia 12 occurred among inmates of the Wilts County Mental Hospital, and 7 died. These were transferable deaths. All the 14 cases of Dysentery, with 5 deaths, were also at the Wilts County Mental Hospital.

Pneumonia is notified by some Doctors, not by others.

Influenza was prevalent in the first quarter. Schools in your area at Seend, Bishop's Cannings and All Cannings closed on account of it.

Otherwise an exceptionally healthy year; only two cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria were notified.

Sanitary Circumstances of Area.

1. *Water*.—The new water supply to seven parishes started on 10th June, 1937. Analyses of water dated 29th September, 1937, showed the supply to be a "water of the highest purity."

Total number of private consumers—631.

Total number of Farms and Business Premises—85.

Total figure—716.

Average consumption on the 31st December, 1937—30,000 gallons per day (approx.).

2. *Drainage and Sewerage*.—A small sewerage plant for Dauntsey's School, West Lavington (200 users) came into use in 1937. Is working well. Analysis 25th November, 1937. Analyst report:—Excellent effluent.

3. *Rivers and Streams*.—No action required or taken.

4. *Closet Accommodation*.—Pail closets mainly in use in villages. There are very few old-fashioned privies about, and these are gradually being done away with.

5. *Public Cleansing*.—Collection and disposal of household refuse is done by contract. Night soil and ashes are disposed of by occupiers.

The district is a scattered one, and up to date no regular staff has been engaged for above purposes.

6. *Eradication of Bed Bugs*.—No action called for during the year.

7. *Shops Act*.—No action called for during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The Sanitary Inspector's report appended.

1. *Schools*.—The sanitary conditions generally good. Water supplies generally suitable.

Housing.

Since I commenced my duties as Medical Officer of Health to your Authority in July, 1934, I have become increasingly aware that wider inspection and more active measures were needed to deal with unfit dwellings.

The existing programme of 31 unfit houses to be demolished under the Housing Act, 1930, was practically completed in 1937. A further 30 houses had been demolished or reconditioned mainly with State Aid under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, during 1934-1936 inclusive.

The condition of the latter had come to my notice in various haphazard ways; as the result of specific complaints; during inspection of wells or for the overcrowding survey; or quite unofficially in the course of my clinical work.

Existing records gave little help towards finding out the extent or whereabouts of bad housing conditions. The last survey was commenced in 1911 and completed in 1921, taking over ten years to complete. The

necessity for an up-to-date survey, completed in reasonable time, appeared imperative, were I to advise you with any accuracy on housing needs. This could not be done by your Sanitary Inspector without additional help.

I formally reported therefore on November 22nd, 1937, that I had insufficient data on which to estimate future building programmes, and advised that a competent officer be obtained to assist your Inspector in making a new Housing Survey. This recommendation was accepted by your Council on November 23rd, and Mr. Lockwood was appointed on 16th December, 1937.

In October, 1937, I had reported a group of houses at The Butts, Potterne, to be "unfit for human habitation." A Sub-Committee appointed to view these houses were unable to bring forward an agreed report to your Council. As a result of this obvious difference in opinion as to the standard of unfitness applicable in your area, your Council instructed me to approach the Ministry of Health unofficially, and request that one of their Housing Inspectors should, if possible, visit your District; see the housing conditions therein, and advise you as to your housing needs, and your officials as to the standards they were expected to work to by the Ministry. This request was acceded to, and Mr. Thorp visited Devizes early in January, 1938.

The term "fit for human habitation" implies generally that a dwelling should be free from serious dampness, satisfactorily lighted and ventilated, properly drained, provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, and with a sink and suitable arrangements for disposal of slop water. Be in good general repair, have a satisfactory water supply, adequate washing accommodation, facilities for preparing and cooking food, and a well-ventilated food store.

This standard is seldom reached by workmen's dwellings built before this century. Numerous houses fall grossly below it; especially those built between 1775-1875, when there were neither Statutes nor Bye-laws to enforce the provision of the bare minima now recognised as necessary for a healthy dwelling. Still older cottages having thick walls and good-sized rooms often lend themselves to reconditioning, and should where possible be saved in this way. They have, as it were, grown into the countryside, and show the beauty of traditional building.

The drift from the land is vitally influenced by the housing conditions of the farm worker. He must at present forego a bathroom and water closet, but a dry and weather-proof home with adequate sleeping accommodation, with space and facilities for his wife to do her never-ending work, he should have.

Too often cramped little dwellings, ill-designed, poorly built, structure now worn or badly wearing out deny him this.

To patch up such dwellings on grounds of economy is a short-sighted policy. It is merely to perpetuate conditions which foster mental and physical ill-health, waste public funds maybe, and stifle the natural wishes of country lads and girls to work and live on the land.

For further particulars of Statement of work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1937, see Sanitary Inspector's report.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

Grants were made by the Wilts County Council in respect of nine Cottages in your District during 1937.

Factories and Workshops.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

Tuberculosis

New cases notified and deaths during 1937, exclusive of inmates of the
Wilts County Mental Hospital.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 Year
1 Year
5 Years	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 Years	1	1	...	...	...
25 Years	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
35 Years	1	...	...	1
45 Years	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 Years
65 Years	1	...	...
TOTAL	1	3	1	1	3	2	...	1

No action was taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

No action was taken by the Council under Sec. 62 P.H.A., 1925.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

HOUSING ACTS. 1909—36.

Statement of work carried out during the year ended 31st December,
1937, under the above Acts, in the Devizes Rural District.

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) ... 178
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 320
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 77
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 143
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 24
 - (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 ... 154
- (In respect of some of these Demolition Orders may be served if Owners decline to carry out Schedules of repairs.)

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 ... 87

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By Owners ... Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 5
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By Owners ... 3
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (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 ... 7
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 3
- (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 ... Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 68
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 68
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 336
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 3
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 14
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 87
- (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 ... Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

Delay has been experienced in completing the Council's Building Programme, and consequently cottages which were to be erected to

abate overcrowding are not yet commenced. It is also anticipated that when the new Housing Survey of the District has been made that other cases of overcrowding will have to be dealt with.

The District was without the services of a full-time Sanitary Inspector for a considerable period of the year.

Housing Accommodation—Year 1937.

Total built—8.

Privately with State assistance—*Nil*.

By Local Authority with State assistance—*Nil*.

By Private Enterprise without State Assistance—8.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 31 Factories and 52 Workshops, as below :—

Factories.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4
Brickworks	...	...	...	...	3
Dairy	...	...	...	...	1
Engineering	...	...	...	...	7
Fruit Preserving	...	...	...	...	1
Grist Mills	...	...	...	...	5
Joinery	...	...	...	...	5
Laundry	...	...	...	...	1
Saw Mills	...	...	...	...	4
					—
					31
					—

Workshops.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	18
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	9
Boot Repairing	...	...	...	...	2
Cycle Repairing	...	...	...	...	5
Harness Making	...	...	...	...	3
Joinery	...	...	...	...	13
Laundry	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbing	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					52
					—

1.—Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occu- piers prose- cuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	31	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	58	...	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	...	...	...
Total	89	...	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects		Referred to H.M. Inspector or prosecutions instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>			
Want of cleanliness ...	9	9	...
Want of ventilation ...	1	0	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommoda- tion:—			
insufficient ...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective ...	...	...	...
not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Fac- tory and Workshop Acts:</i>			
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (sec. 101) ...	...	...	...
Other offences ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the secs. mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)	...	...	...
Total ...	10	9	

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The number of persons registered as Cowkeepers, Dairymen or Wholesale Purveyors of Milk is 314.

There are 60 registered Retail Purveyors of Milk.

The number of farms and other premises registered as Dairies is 319. 140 inspections were made during the year.

Meat Inspection.

As a result of inspections under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, 1,425lbs. of meat intended for human consumption was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Summary of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the Year 1937.

Total number of inspections recorded ...	1147
Informal notices served ...	48
Informal notices complied with ...	34
Statutory notices served ...	5
Slaughterhouses limewashed ...	3
Legal proceedings taken ...	—
Water closets constructed for new houses ...	9
Earth closets constructed for new property ...	2
Additional W.C.'s constructed for old property ...	5
Additional E.C.'s constructed for old property ...	3
Privies converted to E.C.'s ...	5
New house drains laid ...	9
Drains cleansed or repaired ...	29
Wells cleansed or repaired ...	12
Foul ditches cleansed ...	37
Heaps of refuse removed ...	21
Foul privies cleansed ...	8
Dwelling-houses limewashed and cleansed ...	23
Bakehouses limewashed ...	11
Slaughterhouses limewashed ...	3

S. C. DRABBLE,

Sanitary Inspector.



Health and Sanitation Order, 1930.

The number of persons registered as Cerebrum, Dementia or
Wholesale Purveyors of Milk is 314.

There are 94 registered Retail Purveyors of Milk.

The number of farms and other premises registered as Dairies is 213.
130 inspections were made during the year.

Rest Inspection.

As a result of inspections under the Public Health (Meat) Regula-
tions, 1924, 1420 lbs. of meat intended for human consumption was
voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Summary of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the Year 1931.

Total number of inspections conducted	1147
Informal notices served	2
Informal notices complied with	24
Statutory notices served	5
Sloughing-outage, prosecuted	3
Legal proceedings taken	—
Water closets notified for stop notice	3
Earth closets prosecuted for stop notice	2
Additional W.C.s. notified for stop notice	3
Additional W.C.s. notified for stop notice	3
Private water supply	2
New house built	2
Drains cleared & repaired	21
Wells cleaned & repaired	18
Food stores inspected	17
Stalls of refuse removed	21
Four premises inspected	2
Overhauled houses inspected and cleaned	10
Overhauled premises	11
Overhauled premises	2

S. C. BRIDGES

Sanitary Inspector



