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ANNUAL REPORT AS TO THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF
THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS FOR THE YEAR 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
DISS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended
31st December, 1945, which, in accordance with Ministry
of Health instructions has been considerably curtailed.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

G. O'B. VINCENT,

Medical Officer of Health,
Diss Urban District.



SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	3,628 (including water)
Population	...	...	...	...	3,368
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	1,049
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£16,388
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£64/ 8/10d

Social Conditions.

The housing conditions are at present unsatisfactory, overcrowding is prevalent; and the condition of many houses leaves much to be desired. Plans are in hand for erection of new houses on a limited scale. A site off Frenze Road for ultimate erection of 150 houses has been decided upon on the recommendation of the Town and Country Planning Committee, and work has commenced on the first thirty houses, this being the initial number sanctioned by the Ministry of Health for the general housing needs of the Urban District and will assist to alleviate the overcrowding and to replace some of the 55 houses scheduled as unfit.

Any relief of the overcrowding due to the return of evacuees has been compensated by the return of Service men and their families.

A very great loss to the town and district has been occasioned by the closing owing to lack of accommodation of the Private Maternity Home evacuated to Diss from Lowestoft. During the time the Maternity Home has been available, over 300 mothers have been delivered, the large majority coming from Diss and within a twelve mile radius. The facilities thus offered were greatly appreciated, especially under the present conditions of overcrowding and the extreme difficulty in obtaining help in the home. I am sure that I voice the opinion of the Council and the general public in extending thanks for the very valuable services rendered and in expressing the hope that in the near future similar facilities may again be available in the town.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply has been satisfactory during the year both in regard to quality and quantity, and the high standard of purity has been maintained. There has been no shortage in spite of a breakdown and maintenance repairs to the plant. A Report from a Consulting Engineer was received with reference to the possibility of increasing the supply to the town and with a view to collaboration with the surrounding Rural Districts. Analyses were made quarterly with very slight variations. Analyses made on 27th January, 1945 and 30th November, 1945 are shown in detail below:-

Distinctive No. or label.	Total solids in Soln.	Ammonia		Chlorine in Chlorides.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Oxygen absorbed from Perman'e.	Hardness.		Bacteriological Results.		
		Free & Saline	Albuminoid.				Total.	Permanent	Colonies per Ml. on Agar at 37°C	Bacillus Coliform	
SOFTENED WATER.	32.2	0.0105	0.0015	4.0	0.03	0.009	12.8	-	None	Present in	Absent in
HARD WATER	51.8	0.0125	0.0015	3.9	N11	0.018	36.75	15	2	Present in	Absent in

N.B. The chemical results are stated in grains per gallon.

Physical Characteristics and Remarks.

Softened Water:-

Sediment of Carb. of Lime.

The softened water is of excellent organic and bacteriological quality, free from any sign of pollution, and quite fit for drinking and all purposes of a public supply. The sample was not entirely free from precipitated lime.

Hard Water:-

Faintly opalescent, with small rusty sediment on standing. This water is of good organic quality and free from any sign of pollution. Being ferruginous and very hard, however, it needs appropriate treatment when it should prove an entirely satisfactory water for the purposes of a public supply.

Water is supplied from Public Mains to 885 houses out of a total of 1049 in the Urban District area. 16 houses at Walcot obtain their water from a stand pipe, 148 houses apart from the 16 referred to above are not supplied by the town water supply.

SEWAGE

Investigations are in hand with a view to increasing the capacity and length of the sewage system to the town and also in co-operation with Depwade R.D.C. During the year work was put in hand which has resulted in improved working of the filter beds and a more even emptying of the septic tank. The following is an analysis of the effluent from the sewage works.

Sample taken from effluent pipe from top two filter beds at 4.15 p.m. on January 16th, 1945.

Physical Characteristics.

Almost clear: no perceptible odour.

Results of Analysis:-

	<u>Parts per</u> <u>100,000.</u>
Free and Saline Ammonia	1.60
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.06
Combined Chlorine	8.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates	1.44
Nitrates	Absent
Impurity figure	5.4
Suspended Solids	Negligible.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F	0.48
Poisonous Metals	-
Hardness before Boiling (Total)	-
Hardness after Boiling (Permanent)	-

Opinion:-

This is an excellent effluent. With a rather greater degree of nitrification it would be a model of what a sewage effluent should be.

(Signed) W. Lincoln Sutton, F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst.

Vital Statistics of the Year.

		<u>Total.</u>	M.	F.
Live Births	(Legitimate	35	19	16
	(Illegitimate	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
		<u>44</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u>
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	2	2	-
	(Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
Deaths		39	22	17
Deaths of Infants under 1 year.				
	Legitimate	1	1	-
	Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		3	3	-
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		-	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)		-	-	-

The Birth Rate is in excess of the Death Rate and the general health of the community has been good. There is an increase in the illegitimate birth rate.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

See Report for the year 1940.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Closet Accommodation.

1. Number of W.Cs. fixed on premises connected by drainage to the sewer during the year	4
Number converted from Pail Closets to W.Cs.	2
Number converted from Privy-Vault to Pail Closets	2
	<hr/>
Total	8
2. Number of closets of each type remaining at end of Year:-	
Number of Privy-Vault (fixed type)	65
Pail Closets (removable receptacles)	291
W.Cs. - houses, cottages, shops and offices.	735
W.Cs. - Schools and Public Buildings	65

Scavenging.

The work of scavenging is done by the Council by direct labour, a 5-ton lorry being used for the collection of house refuse and also for the collection of salvage.

The refuse collection and salvage is supervised and directed by the Surveyor.

Refuse disposal is by open tipping, which, after tipping is consolidated, levelled and surfaced with suitable covering material for the ground to be eventually brought into agricultural tillage.

The cleansing, emptying, and disposal of vault-closets, pail closets and cesspools is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The work is under transport by horse drawn vehicle.

Arrangements have been made for all excreta deposits to be disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes. Two farms are supplied for this purpose, one at Walcot Green, Diss, and one at Stuston, Suffolk.

The alternative means of disposal in any case of emergency is at the Council's Sewage Works, Victoria Road, Diss.

Particulars of Work, year 1945.

	<u>No. emptied.</u>	<u>Loads removed.</u>
Pail closets emptied weekly ...	291	332
Dustbins " " ...	641	-
Privy-Vault Closets, fixed type	39	57
Dustbins, fixed type	Nil	Nil

Number of inspections made in respect of Scavenging... 546.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

1. Number of Inspections and Particulars:-

Housing	167
do with Medical Officer of Health	1
Scavenging	546
do with Medical Officer of Health	12
Drainage	407
Markets	177
Factories	72
Infectious Diseases	37
Slaughterhouse	307
Cowsheds and Dairies	103
Vans used for human habitation	57
Shops Act, 1934	254
Evacuees	45
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	133

Total Number of Inspections 2318

2. Notices.

Number of formal Preliminary Notices	30
Number of Informal Notices	14
Number of Statutory Notices	2

Total 46

3. Nuisances.

Complaints received	20
Found on inspection	23

Total 43

Number abated by Formal Notice	30
Number abated by Informal Notice	14
Number abated by Statutory Notice	2

Total 46

4. Defects other than Nuisances.

Number found on inspection	17
Number remedied by informal notice	17

Shops and Stores.Shops Act, 1934.

Number of Inspections during the year	254
Number of Shops and Stores registered	85
Number of Offices in the District	18

The following defects were found during the year:-

Insufficient Lighting	Nil
Cleansing of Premises	7
Insufficient Lavatory Accommodation	1
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	4
Insufficient Ventilation	1
Defective Heating	3
Total ...	<u>16</u>

Number of Statutory Notices issued Nil

Number of defects remedied upon the Official Request of the Inspector 16

Notes of the Year 1945.

- 3 shops have had the heating arrangements improved.
- 7 shops have had the interiors cleaned down and painted.
- 1 shop has had the flooring repaired.
- 4 defective Water Closets have been repaired.
- 1 shop has had the Ventilation improved.

A generally good standard of efficiency is maintained in all the shops and stores in the District and special attention is given to the observance of cleanliness.

Camping Sites.

There are no sites available for this purpose in the area.
There are no sites used as camping sites in the district.

Vans used for Human Habitation.

57 visits of inspection have been made of Vans used for human habitation. All were found in a satisfactory condition and provision made for lavatory accommodation, water supply and refuse collection. There was no case of Infectious Disease.

Swimming Baths or Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools provided, or available for the public in this area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There has been no case of infestation reported during the year, either of Council Houses or any other houses in the District.

Disinfestation of Fleas.

No disinfestation of Fleas has been done during the year, no case being reported during the period to 31st December, 1945.

Disinfection and Cleansing.

Number of visits in cases of Infectious Diseases	37
Number of Rooms disinfected	12
Number of houses cleansed before re-occupation following insanitary conditions	3

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year, and inspected for defects.	51
Number of inspections made for the purpose	167
Number of dwelling-houses recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925-1932.	10
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	45
2. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit by informal action of Officer of Local Authority.	34
3. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
Number of dwelling-houses of which defects were remedied after informal notice:-	
(a) By the Owners	7
(b) By the Local Authority	Nil
Remedy of defects during the year by the service of Formal Notices	11
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Officer of the Local Authority.	

Housing Act, 1936. Part II.

Number of Representations made by the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices served on Owners ... Nil	Nil

Housing Summary.

Unfit houses in Representations to 31st December, 1945.

Number of houses included in representations	19
Total Number in occupation - Adults, 58. Children 11.	11.
Number of houses demolished ...	2
Number of houses in the above void and uninhabitable:	4

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

1. Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at 31st December, 1945	6
2. Number of cases reported during the year	1
3. Number of cases found existing during the year	4
4. Number of persons concerned in such cases	29
5. Number of cases relieved during the year	3
6. Number of cases existing at 31st December, 1944.	4

Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after steps taken by the Officer of the Local Authority for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil

Number of dwelling-houses surveyed for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1936, Part IV to the 31st December, 1945 and recorded 854

The present conditions of overcrowding are caused by:-

- (a) The return to civilian life of members of the Forces.
- (b) The number of young newly married people sharing a house with parents or with relations or friends.
- (c) The billeting of members of the forces in private houses on the householders.
- (d) The general shortage of the housing accommodation.

Housing - Evacuation - Settlement of Evacuees.

Report on the work of repair and maintenance of the houses and cottages requisitioned and taken over by the Council for the purpose of housing Evacuees:

Number of houses and cottages occupied by requisition or under licence of the Local Authority.. 7

Number of houses released from requisition for this purpose during the year 8

Number of families removed, returned or the changing of occupation of houses or cottages 19

Number of inspections made to these premises ... 45

Number of inspections made in connection with repairs and for the maintenance of cleanliness ... 36

Particulars of Sanitary Defects found on Inspection:-

Want of cleanliness in yards	5
Blocked drainage	3
Insanitary Condition of Water Closets	2
Defective Water Flush to W.C.	1
Structural defects reported and remedied	6

All the repair works have been carried out without the issue of any formal notice. Periodical inspection will continue to be made in respect of the evacuees still in the occupation of houses or cottages.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Register:

Number of Producer Retailers	4
Number of Producer Wholesalers	<u>11</u>
Total	<u>15</u>

Number of Inspections made to Dairies and Cowsheds ...	103
Number of Samples taken for "Accredited" Standard ...	17
Number of Samples taken for "T.T." Test (under the County Council Scheme)	40
Number of Samples delayed in transit and therefore failed to qualify for testing ...	2

During the year 1 Producer Wholesaler has removed from the district.

During the year 3 Producer Retailers of outside areas have ceased to retail milk in the District.

Number of Dairymen retailing milk in this district produced in outside areas 2

Number of Retail Dealers' Licences issued authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" 1

Number of Producers granted "Accredited" Licences ... 4

Number of Producers granted "T.T." Licences 2

Number of Retail Producers retailing "T.T." Milk ... 2

Number of Retail Dealers retailing in the district bottled "Pasteurised" Milk. 1

Meat.

Diss is a slaughtering centre under the provisions of the Memoranda and Orders issued by the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Health.

The duties of inspection and examination are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Slaughtering at the Diss Centre covers the Meat Supply and Distribution of the following areas:-

- Diss Urban District.
- Eye Borough.
- Depwade Rural District.
- Hartismere Rural District.

Particulars of the Inspections are as follows:-

Number of visits to the Slaughterhouse by the Inspector	307
Number of visits in company with the Medical Officer of Health	2
Number of carcasses inspected	6369
Number of Carcasses with Organs examined	2507
Number of carcasses submitted to a detailed examination including Organs and Glands	554
Number of Tuberculous Carcasses examined	98

Notices received during the year 1
 Details: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Tuberculosis
 Order of 1938. Form C (Article 4).
 Affected with tuberculosis of the udder.

A post-mortem examination of the carcase of the animal was made in the presence of the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 11th October, 1945, and dealt with according to the requirements of the Order.

Summary of details of Inspections.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Pigs.	TOTAL
General	1,989.	1,482.	2,100.	5	835.	6411.
Casualties.	102	17	12	5	216	352
Private	-	-	-	-	42	42
Suspects.	-	-	-	-	12	12
Emergency	-	-	-	-	5	5
T.B. Order	1	-	-	-	-	1

Condemnations.

All diseases except Tuberculosis -						
(a) Whole carcasses.	6	-	2	-	15	23
(b) Part carcasses.	506	2	19	-	18	545
Tuberculosis only:						
(a) Whole carcasses	7	1	-	-	-	8
(b) Part carcasses	89	1	-	-	-	90

Weights of Meat Condemned.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Stns.	Lbs.
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis.	5.	17.	2.	1
(b) Tuberculosis only	4	-	-	-
Total weight	9.	17.	2.	1

Note: The situation of the slaughterhouse in the centre of the town surrounded by dwelling-houses and having poor road access, is considered very unsatisfactory.

Canned and Other Foodstuffs including Imported Meat.

The following particulars of Canned and Other Foodstuffs, including Imported Meat, condemned as being Unfit for Food are given for the year 1945.

Total number of Tins condemned 461

The tins included corned beef, preserves, fish, cooked meat, milk and vegetables.

Official condemn notes were issued in all cases and where necessary notification was passed on to the local Food Office for official information.

Also the foodstuffs stated below were condemned as being Unfit for Food:-

Cheese 3½ lbs.
Rice 10 lbs
1 whole carcase of imported mutton.
13 lbs of imported mutton.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a slight epidemic of Measles and Scarlet Fever of a mild type.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation was undertaken by Local Practitioners privately and at the schools.

From January 1st to December 31st, 1945, the following Children received a full course:

	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 & over but under 15.</u>
Estimated population	14 269	7 452
Estimated percentage immunised	5.55%	1.248%

Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	2	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Measles	23	-	-
Whooping Cough	6	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-

An analysis of the total Notified Cases.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-
2 -	2	-	-	-
3 -	-	-	-	6
4 -	1	-	-	1
5 -	1	-	-	-
10 -	1	-	-	13
15 -	1	-	-	2
20 -	-	-	2	1
35 -	-	1	1	-
45 -	-	-	-	-
65 & Over.	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Non- Respiratory.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>		<u>Non- Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTE.

Sections C, D & E are taken from the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

A P P E N D I X.

Diss and District.

NURSES' REPORT FOR 1945.

General Nursing.

Number of cases nursed	78
Number of nursing visits	2150
Number of tuberculosis visits	Nil
Number of casual visits	293

Midwifery and Maternity.

Number of Midwifery cases	22
Number of nursing visits to these cases	461
Number of maternity cases	11
Number of nursing visits to these cases	419
Number of ante-natal visits	235

Health Visiting.

Number of infants visited under 1 year	33
Total number of visits to these infants	400
Number of children visited over one year and under five	52
Total number of visits to these children	341

The Infant Welfare Centre held at the Church Hall,
each month, had an attendance of from 15 to 25.