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#### **Contributors**

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DISS URBAN DISTRICT.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the report

of
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

YEAR - - 1948.

High Common, Wicklewood, Wymondbam.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Holker and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1948. The Report is prepared on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Details of vital statistics of the Diss Urban District with comments thereon are given below.

The Registrar-General estimates the population to be 3,486 at 31st December, 1948, and this is 88 more than in 1947. The birth rate per 1000 in the year under review was 15,20 which shows a slight decrease of .72 per 1000 over the previous year. The birth rate for England and Wales fell to 17.9 per 1000 for the year 1948 but Diss continues to have a lower birth rate than the Country as a whole which is probably a proflection of the housing shortage in the District.

The percentage of illegitimate births for 1948 was 11.5 which shows an increase over the previous year.

The Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births was 18.5

The Death Rate for year per 1000 estimated population was 16.35 which shows an increase of 3.99 per 1000 over the previous year. The Death Rate per 1000 for England and Wales was 10.8. The higher Death Rate in Diss is probably due to the relatively older population further aggravated by the lower birth rate.

The mortality rate among infants under one year was 3 out of 53 live births, which is fairly high. There were no deaths of mothers as a result of child bearing, which shows a satisfactory standard of maternal care.

During 1948 there was a big increase in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified over the previous year. The increase was mainly due to measles. There was an explosive outbreak of measles during the first quarter of the year, which was followed by secondary cases to the number of 96 during the second quarter. The outbreak occurred chiefly among infant school children. There were 18 cases of whooping cough notified during the first and second quarters of the year. There were no cases of infectious diseases from July to the end of September, and in the last quarter there occurred three cases of Scarlet Fever and one of abortus fever. The source of infection in the case of the abortus fever was traced to milk supplied by a dairy in the Urban District. The presence of the germ which causes abortus fever was demonstrated in the milk supplied by this dealer. Strenuous attempts were made to secure that the milk supplied by the dealer should be pasteurised permanently or banned from public supply. This failed because the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Veterinary Inspector was unable to certify on clinical grounds that the cows from whose milk the abortus germ had actually been recovered were, in fact, infectious.

Three new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year making a total of 18 known cases in the District which shews an increase of three over the previous year. The incidence is not ulduly high compared with other Districts in the County.

On the whole the Council may be satisfied that the health of the community which it serves was satisfactory during the year.

The area of your District is - - - - - - - 3,628 acres

Population (Registrar-General's estimate) - - 3,486

ditto (1931 Census) - - - - - - - - 3,421

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) - - 1,164

Rateable Value - - - - - - - - £ 18,351

Product of Penny Rate - - - - - - - £ 272/6 / 6d

## Vital Statistics for 1948. Births and Deaths.

		A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	
Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate Illegitimate	22	25	47
	S apolyos n	To redmil Lu	
			53
Birth Rate per 1000 e	stimated pop	ulation	- 15.20
Still Births.	Male	Female.	Total.
Legitimate Illegitimate	1 -		1 -
			1
Still Birth Rate per 1	1000 total b	irths	18.5
Deaths.			
Number - 56.	(Ma	le - 24. Fema	ale - 32 )
Death Rate per 1000 es Deaths from Puerperal	Sepsis and	other maternal	- 16.35 - Nil
Deaths of Infants under Deaths from Cancer (all Deaths from Infectious	ll ages)		3
Analysis of Causes of	Deatth.	Total	(all ages)
Cancer Cerebral Haemorrhage Heart Diseases Other diseases of circ Bronchitis Respiratory Diseases Nephritis Tuberculosis (Non-pulm Premature Births Congenital Malformatic Suicide All other causes	other than I		13 20 3 4 12 1 2 1 5
	TOT POLICE TO		56

## Incidence of Infectious Diseases during 1948.

	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.
Measles	23	96	-	-
Whooping Cough	15	3	y -	-
Pneumonia	4	1	-	-
Scarlet ever	+0100	-	_ name	3
Abortus Fever	-	-	-usenta	1

Total Number of Infectious Diseases ......146.

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

With the introduction of the National Health Scheme Act in July, 1948, the responsibility for the Public Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme passed from the Urban District to the Norfolk County Council. The percentage of children under 15 in the District immunised against Diphtheria has, however, been well maintained and is at least 80%. There were no cases of Diphtheria in the area during the year.

## Water Supplies.

The Water Supply for the District continues to be obtained from a borehole into the chalk within the District boundary. There has been an ample supply of water for the needs of the District throughout the year, and the quality and purity of the water is of a very high standard.

No. of dwelling houses supplied with main water ..... 1021.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

No new works of importance have so far been carried out in the District, but a grand scheme has been approved by the Ministry of health to replace the obsolete existing Sewage Disposal Works by an up-to-date plant and to extend and replace existing sewers throughout the District. This should greatly increase the amenities of the town and stimulate new building and industry.

## Housing.

The Council has pressed forward so far as restrictions allowed with its housing shhemes, and twenty-eight new Council Houses were built and occupied during the year. There still remain many families who require rehousing The situation is further aggravated by the fact that many of the existing houses in the District cannot be considered of a standard suitable for human habitation. A large number of houses are in need of major and minor repairs to bring them up to a proper standard. A new Housing Bill now before Parliament contains two clauses which will greatly facilitate the work of modernising old property, viz:

- I. A Local Authority will be able to give assistance to owners, by way of grants, in respect of the improvement of dwellings privately owned, provided the Local Authority is satisfied that the dwellings will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for a period of not less than 30 years from the completion of the works.
- II. A Local Authority will be able to acquire land and sell or lease it to owners of houses, adjoining such land, to enable them to carry out the works of alteration, enlargement, repair or improvement.

No doubt the Diss Urban District Council will take full advantage of these powers when they are granted under the new Act.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council and Staff for their generous co-operation during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. SINCLAIR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Diss Urban Council. No doubt the Dies Urban Dierrick Council will take Medical Officer of State in.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT. YEAR 1948.

## Sanitary Inspection of District.

Water Supply Drainage Factories Vans used for human habitation Public Conveniences Rats and Mice Shops Act 1934 Housing Infectious Diseases Schools Cinema Markets Petroleum Acts Cowsheds and Dairies Public Cleansing, Scavenging, Refuse Collection and Disposal Refuse Collection - Dustbins Visits with M.O.H. Miscellaneous	37 285 114 43 12 40 110 215 26 4 7 137 17 83 on 184 297 31 134.
stangent med and affections to paramete sery	1776.
Food Inspection Visits.	47
Regional Slaughterhouse Butchers' Shops Fried Fish shops Fishmongers and Poulterers Greengrocers Grocers Ice Cream premises Restaurants and Cafes Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts Milk Sampling Miscellaneous	361 101 30 79 51 54 68 27 400 15 32
a numerical de la rampillar de la la maria de la constanta de	1218
Nuisances.	
Complaints received Nuisances abated	17
Notices.	
Preliminary Notices Statutory Notices	35 2

### Closet Accommodation.

1 10 1

New W.Cs Council Houses	44
New W.Cs Other houses Conversions from Pail Lavatories	8
511 02 02 01 0 2 2 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1	
	54

### Number of each type - 31st December, 1948.

Privy Vaults	62
Pail Closets	304
W.Cs (Houses and other premises)	304 878 65
W.Cs (Schools and Public buildings)	65

### Scavenging.

Scavenging which includes the emptying and cleansing of pail closets, privy vaults and cesspools is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Approximately four days a week are fully employed in this work by A. Orves using a horse-drawn tumbler cart, the horse being hired from Mr. A. F. Harvey, Sturgeon's Farm, Roydon, at a charge of 15/- a day.

Nightsoil collected is disposed of on farm land at

Walcot and Stuston Road and also at the sewage works,

Victoria Road.

The free cleansing of cesspools has been inaugurated

during the year.
6 pails in Roydon are emptied weekly at an annual charge.

Notes. It is to be hoped that the new sewerage system will largely do away with the necessity for a scavenging service it is expensive to say the least e.g. each pail closet costs more than £1 a year to empty.

## Particulars of Work done.

Pail closets	-	emptied	weekly	304 64
Privy Vaults		-		64
Cesspools				16

## Analysis of Sewage Effluent .. 27th Sept. 1948.

Physical characteristics - Rusty sediment with humus pH 8

#### Results of Analysis. Parts per 100,000

Free and saline ammonia Albuminoid Ammonia	4.8	(0.14)
Combined chlorine Impurity figure Nitrogen as Nitrates	11.7	(14)
Nitrites Total golide in guspension	trace	(3.0)
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 F	1.26	(3.0)

Opinion. This sample shows a very good reduction in putrescible matter, the impurity figure being quite satisfactory. degree of nitration is very low, almost negligible. It is a good effluent which would be much improved by more active nitration on the filters.

(Signed) W. Lincolne Sutton.

Notes. The figures in parenthesis denote the maximum impurity permissible and although the report is satisfactory it is obvious from a close study of the figures that the disposal works are overloaded. Furthermore the maximum impurity of 14 presupposes a dilution of 10 to 1. Where there is less dilution the maximum impurity figure should not exceed 10.

Housing.

2 cottages have been re-built and made into 1 dwelling-house.

### Overcrowding.

No. of houses found to be overcrowded 12 No. of cases relieved 10

Notes.

One cannot be too complacent as regards the housing situation in Diss. The standard of amenities in a large proportion of houses is dismally low. The projected Housing Survey will give a true picture of the standards of accommodation.

Drainage in a large part of the Urban District is medieval in character or non-existent and it is to be hoped that an early start will be made on the new sewerage system in the coming year.

When the economic situation permits, an early start should be made with the demolition of unfit houses but present rents of Council Houses are much too high for many of the people who should be re-housed.

## Water Supply.

7 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination from wells and pumps. All were unsatisfactory.

6 houses have now been provided with a piped mains supply.

The purity and sufficiency of the Diss Water Supply is beyond question but it is also beyond dispute that the water is much too hard and that new softening plant is urgently needed at the Waterworks.

## New Housing accommodation provided.

New houses built and occupied - - - - - - - 28

## Vans used for Human Habitation.

During the year all vans inspected were in a satisfactory condition, special attention being given to water supply, lavatory accommodation, and refuse collection.

11

One site has been licensed for movable dwellings and two licences for movable dwellings have been issued during the year.

No. of inspections during 1948 - - - - - - 43.

### Disinfestation.

One cottage has been treated for bed bugs and one cottage disinfested upon vacation previous to reoccupation.

One cottage has been treated for fleas.

## Disinfection.

No. of visits in cases of infectious disease - 10 No. of rooms disinfected - - - - - - - 11

## Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The supervision of the cleansing services was transferred from the Surveyor to the Sanitary Inspector

as from the end of August, 1948.

Whenever possible a weekly collection of refuse is maintained and this should be quite sufficient to meet all needs. Many householders seem to think that the dustbin should be filled to capacity every week and much refuse could be burnt on the fire. In spite of all appeals a large amount of paper is still going into the bins. Ratepayers should understand that waste paper and cardboard are valuable materials, their presence in dustbins increases the amount of refuse to be collected and therefore the costs of both collection and disposal.

Garden refuse must NOT be put in bins.

The poor quality of the coal supplied to Diss is reflected in the greatly increased weight of refuse collected during the winter months.

It does not seem to be generally appreciated that the dustbin is the first vital link in the provision of an efficient refuse collection service - a recent survey showed that approximately one in six houses were without a proper covered dustbin.

Two men and one loader driver with a converted Austin 5-ton lorry (an unsuitable and inefficient vehicle) are fully employed on refuse collection and disposal and salvage. One man is employed part-time in baling up the waste paper and cardboard collected.

Refuse disposal is by open tipping on land rented by the Council at an annual cost of £15.

The old refuse tip is still burning very slowly but is not causing any nuisance.

(8)

### Salvage.

A highly successful salvage drive was carried out by your Surveyor in the three months ending 31st May. Another six month's salvage drive commenced on the 1st October is not having the same spectacular results. The weights and value of the various materials salvaged during 1948 are:-

Total	45	15	2	£299.	4.	0	
Scrap Metal Books Sundries	2	16		10.	19.	005	
Paper and Cardboard Rags	Tons.	Cwts 10	.Qrs.	£. 272.	5.	d 0 7	

### Petroleum Acts.

Your Sanitary Inspector is also responsible for the administration of the Petroleum Acts which are mainly concerned with the storage of Petroleum Spirit and the

licensing of such stores.
22 licences to store Petroleum Spirit are held in the Diss Urban District providing a storage capacity of more than 56,000 gallons.

I licence is held for the storage of Calcium Carbide.

No, of visits of inspection

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

As from the 1st October the Council entered into a contract at an annual fee of £5. 5. 0 with Mr. A. J. Goodwin, a Fodent Operator in the employ of the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee, for the treatment of all Council property as and when required by your Sanitary Inspector. Previous to this, treatment was undertaken on a daily basis by Mr. John Turner.

Private and business properties in the town are dealt with by contract with Goodwin and all complaints are referred.

with by contract with Goodwin and all complaints are referred to this man for treatment.

The following Council properties have received treatment:-

(1)	Council Housing Estates	2
(2)	Stores Yard and Stables, Chapel Street	1
(3)	Premises, 112 Victoria Road	2
(4)	Sewage Works, Victoria Road. Refuse Tip, Rose Lane Public Conveniences. Mere Street	1
151	Refuse Tip, Rose Lane	4
(5)	Public Conveniences, Mere Street	ż

Operators of the Ministry of Food have treated the lairages and slaughterhouses twice.

Other premises treated during the year:-

Private houses	18
Licensed premises Shops	5 3
Other premises	11

## Sewer Treatment.

A sewer test was undertaken and completed during the month of July. 21 manholes were treated with 2-oz.baits of sausage rusk and in all cases the results were Negative. The weather during the period was normal.

### SHOPS ACT, 1934

No.of	Shops and Stores registered	85 110
No. of	Shops and Stores registered inspections during the year	110

The following defects were found and remedied during the year at the request of your Inspector:-

Defective Sanitary Conveniences	3
Insufficient Lavatory accommodation	1
Defective drainage	1
Insufficient washing accommodation	1

2 new shop floors have been fitted.

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

## 1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number	Inspections.
Factories with mechanical power	38	61
Factories without mechanical power	9	37
Other premises under the Act	1	6
	48	104
2. DEFECTS FOUND.		Number
Particulars.	Number found.	remedled.
Want of cleanliness	8	8
Improved drainage	1	1
Improved ventilation	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences.		
Insufficient	1	1
Unsuitable or deficient	5	5
	16.	16

### INSPECTION OF FOOD.

### 1. MEAT.

Diss is a slaughtering centre under the Memoranda and Orders of the Ministries of Food and Health and supplies a wide area besides the town itself. Meat inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector of the Diss U.D.C. The approximate percentage distribution of the meat output from the Diss Slaughterhouse is:

Diss 25% Hartismere 35% Depwade 40%

## Notes.

Manure is removed weekly.

Condemned meat is removed thrice weekly.

Blood is removed daily.

Lighting is by electricity

Town main water is connected.

Drainage is connected to the town's sewerage system.

No. of visits of inspection to the Slaughterhouse .... 361.

SLAUGHTERING. Cattle. Calves. Sheep. Pigs.								
	OSPOTE		<u>val</u>	ves.	oneep	*	4.4	EE.
General.	1204 (	1065)	1017	(1830).	1829(1	004).	38	(37)
Casualties	109 (	59)	15	( 15)	23(	4)	97	(86)
Private	-	NO RECORD		mapner ,	-	-	61	(17)
agraf I	1313 (	1124)	1032	(1845)	1852(1	008)	196	(130)
CONDEMNATIONS	3 - Who:	le carca	ses.					
Tuberculosis only.	14 (	15)	a deal	(1)	- 18		5	(-)
All diseases except T.B.	10 (	4)	5	(2)	9	(12)	2	(2)
Total	24 (	19)	5	(3)	9	(12)	7	(2)
CONDEMNATIONS	CONDEMNATIONS - Part carcages							
Tuberculosis only All diseases	5 (	23)		(1)			-	(1)
except T.B.	40 (	586)	1	(11)	1 (	(23)	11	(10)
		WEIGHTS	OF ME	AT COND	EMNED.	T	cwt.	qr.1b
	auses)	4 tens	Ocyt 14 1 " 7 "	8. lqti 1 " 1 " 3 "	r 5 lb:	s { <del>\$</del>	. 8:	3:25 }
		12 "	3 "	3 "	15 "	-		

N.B. The figures in parenthesis are comparative figures for 1947.

Notes.

It is lamentable to note the high number of calves killed, a policy which endangers our future supplies of home produced beef. The ludricously small number of pigs killed and the high number of calves show the tragic results of lack of feeding stuffs.

More should (and could) be done to reduce the enormous losses of liver caused by the Liver Fluke (Distoma Hepaticum).

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. J. A. Smith (Slaughterhouse Manager) for his willing co-operation and unfailing courtesy.

## Cysticercus Bovis.

Several cases of this parasitic disease have been found recently in home produced cattle after being almost extinct for many years. No cases have as yet been found at the Diss Slaughterhouse.

## CONDEMNED CANNED AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

Total number of tins condemned (including meat, fish, vegetables and milk) - - - - --

858

Other foodstuffs condemned include the following:

Dried Eggs Cheese		l box l large
Pudding Mixture		10 lbs
Cooked Meat		55 lbs
Savoury Ducks	l box.	20 lbs
Peeled shrimps		1 keg
Bread	and the second	210 loaves
Prunes		6 lbs
Boiled sweets		20 lbs
Chocolate		21 bars
Oats		2 lbs

### FOOD PREMISES.

There are:-

7 Bakehouses. 7 butchers shops. 4 fried fish-shops 3 fishmongers

9 premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

## I E CREAM.

There is only one manufacturer in the town. Three shops are registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

The manufacture of Ice Cream is subject to the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, which came into operation on the 1st May, 1947. Many manufacturers have had difficulty in maintaining the high bacteriological standard prescribed in these Regulations, and difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies of new machinery.

The provisional Methylene Blue test is divided into 4 Grades - Grades 1 and 2 being Satisfactory and 3 and 4 Unsatisfactory.

4 samples of Mr. S. F. Driver's Ice Cream have been taken:-

2 were reported Grade 1 1 was reported Grade 2 1 was reported Grade 3.

An analysis of 103 samples taken in the County for the period 1st May to 31st October shows that:

45 (43.69%) proved satisfactory - Grades 1 and 2 (56.31%) proved unsatisfactory- Grades 3 and 4

This was an improvement on 1947 when 76.54% of samples submitted were Unsatisfactory.

### MILK SUPPLY

No.	of	registered cow keepers	19
No.	of	T.T. producers	3
No.	of	accredited producers	5
No.	of	dealers retailing bottled pasteurised milk	1
		dealers retailing T.T. milk	1
No.	of	retail dealers	6
		inspections of cowsheds and dairies	83

Approximately 260 cows are milked on the 19 registered farms.

## MILK SAMPLING.

Sampling is carried out by the staff of the County P.H.Dept.

The Methylene Blue test is prescribed for all designated milks. In addition, pasteurised milk must also satisfy the Phosphatase test. There is no legal bacteriological standard for non-designated milks.

27 samples of milk were taken of which 23 were satisfactory and 4 were unsatisfactory.

L. WILSON.

M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(13) Sanitary Inspector.

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L. WILEDE,

Smitary Impector.

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