[Report 1948] / Medical Officer of Health, Droitwich R.D.C.

Contributors

Droitwich (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1948

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DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR & SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1948.



CARTICUPAL RECEIPT HERE AND ADDRESS.

RURAL DISTRICT OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Public Health Department,
31, Ombersley Street,
Droitwich.

To the Chairman and Members of the Droitwich Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1948.

The report is divided into the following sections :-

- Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
- Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the area.
- Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the area.
- Section D. Housing.
- Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- Section F. Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres		 51,453.
Number of inhabited houses (end of according to Rate Books	1948)	 4,120.
Rateable Value		 £78,941.
Sum represented by one penny rate		 £333.5s.8d.
Registrar General's estimate of respondation (mid 1947)	sident	 13,440.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate Illegitimate	128.	103.	231. 15.
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated popul Birth Rate for England and Wales for		period	18.3

. (40 pm) . (40 . .

		_	
Still Births	males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate Illegitimate	2.	1:	3.
	Malos.	Females.	Total.
<u>Deaths</u>			
From all causes	76.	58.	134.
Death rate per 1,000 estimated post beath rate for England and Wales	populatio s	n	9.9
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Ag	c.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate Illogitimate	3.	3.	6.
Infantile Nortality Rate for th		a Malog	24.3
Infantile Mortality Rate for En	grand and	1 Waltes	34.
Deaths from Special Causes		1947.	1948.
Deaths from Cancer		21.	19.
Deaths from Measles		-	ī.
Deaths from Whooping Cough Deaths from Diarrhoga (under 2 years	of age)	-	1.
Causes of Death		Males.	Females.
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fovers			
Cerebro-spinal fever		-	-
Scarlet Fever		ī	0
Whooping Cough Diphtheria		-	100101-110
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		2	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis		-	-
Syphilitic Diseases Influenza		1	1
Measles		-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encepha	litis	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus	. 11+07110		2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	, 400140	-	1
Cancer of Breast		-	-
Cancer of all other sites Diabetes		11	5
Intracranial vascular lesions		5	10
Heart diseases		22	14
Other diseases of circulatory system Bronchitis		3	3
Pneumonia		2	1 5
Other Respiratory Diseases		2	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		1	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years Appendicitis		1 1 2	-
Other digestive diseases			1
Nephritis		5	
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis Other maternal causes		-	-

.

	Males.	Females.
Premature birth	1	-
Congenital malformations, birth injury and		
infantile diseases	-	-
Suicide	5	-
Road Traffic accidents	3	2
Other violent causes	1	2
All other causes	2	7

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

a) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Margaret C. Fell, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., Medical Officer of Health.

- R. F. Fry, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C., Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.
- D. G. Carter, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A , Additional Sanitary Inspector.

b) Laboratory Service

These are provided at the County Council's Laboratory in Worcester.

c) Ambulance Service

Under the provisions of the National Health Service fict 1946, ambulance facilities are provided by the County Council.

d) Nursing in the Home

Nursing services are provided by the County Council. Seven District Nurse-Midwives are working in the rural district, and in most instances these nurses undertake the duties of Health Visitors for their district.

e) Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

Cases of Infectious Disease needing hospital treatment are removed to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Cases of Tuberculosis are admitted to Knightwick Sanatorium and Hill Top Isolation Hospital.

f) Clinics

The district is served by the County Council's Infant Welfare Clinics at Droitwich, Worcester, Ombersley, Stourport, Cutnall Green and Crowle and Antenatal Clinics at Worcester, Droitwich and Stourport.

A new Infant Welfare Centre at Hartlebury was opened early in 1948.

Morgania C. Full M. M. B. B. B. B. B. B. B. C. H. . H. P. Sry, P.R. Sancia. H.S.I.i., A.H.Inng.P.C., and Sanciany Institutes These are provided at the County Compellie Copyrights in The district is served by general hospitals in detection, and aladored and alabatic and alabatic

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply

The parish of North Claimes and parts of St.Martin County, Warndon and Hindlip are supplied with water purchased by the Council in bulk from the County Borough of Morcester and distributed through the Council's mains.

The source of this supply is the River Severn and proved sufficient in quantity and quality throughout the year.

The parishes of Dodderhill, Upton Warren and part of the parish of Hadzor are supplied from the mains of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, as they lie within the limits of the Company's statutory area of supply.

This supply was satisfactory throughout the year.

Seventy three properties within the Parish of Hartlebury are served with piped water from a borehole in private ownership and this supply proved to be satisfactory during the year.

Twenty nine properties in the Summerfield area of the Hartlebury parish are served from the Kidderminster mains.

Twenty four council houses in the village of Ombersley have a piped water supply from the Council's borehole.

The supply from this borehole continued to be good both in quantity and quality throughout the year and could very well serve other properties in the village.

Apart from those parishes mentioned above, the remainder of the rural district derives its water supply mainly from shallow wells. In many cases the supply from these is unsatisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Of nineteen samples taken from shallow wells during the year, sixteen were reported by the County Analyst to be unfit for drinking purposes.

It is hoped that the Council will press forward with schemes to provide the district with a piped water supply.

The following list of shallow wells were sampled during 1348.

Date.	Address.	Source of Supply	Result
12/3/48.	Park Cottage, Ombersley.	Well.	Unfit.
25/3/48.	The Mill, Doverdale.	Well.	Fit.
4/5/48.	St. Elmo, Martin Hussingtree.	Well.	Fit.
10/5/48.	The Hurst, Fernhill Heath.	Well.	Unfit.
27/5/48.	Retreat Cottage, Fornhill Heath.	Well.	Unfit.
10/6/48.	Himbleton School	Well.	Unfit.
28/5/48.	The Gardens, Crossway Green.	Well.	Unfit.
13/7/48.	Jacobs Ladder Lane, Claines.	Well.	Unfit.
9/8/48.	Hurst Cottage, Fernhill Heath.	Well.	Fit.
16/9/48.	7 & 8, Council Houses, Crowle.	Well.	Unfit.
23/9/48. 5/10/48.	Willow Cottage, Bradley Green. Lower Hollowfields Farm,	Well.	Unfit.
	Stock Green.	Well.	Unfit.
5/10/48.	7 & 8, Council Houses, Crowle.	Well.	Unfit.

bovers for marrie seving and the princip and to serious all Park Colerato , passed piration of the colerator of the c in in its

Date.	Address.	Source of Supply.	Result
19/11/48.	9 & 10, Council Houses, Crowle.	Well.	Unfit.
	11 & 12, Council Houses, Crowle.	Well.	Unfit.
	Netherwood Cottage, Oddingley.	Well.	Unfit.
	Rectory Farm, Upton Warren	Well.	Unfit.
	Council Houses, Hay Lane, Ombersley	Well.	Unfit.
	Rectory Farm. Upton Warren.	New Well.	Unfit.

2. Sowerage & Sewage Disposal

The projected schemes for the parishes of Hartlebury, Ombersley, Crowle and Dodderhill were advanced during the year and reached the stage of submission to the County Council. In the case of Hartlebury where the proposed disposal is by pumping main to the Kidderminster Joint Works, negotiations were opened with the Kidderminster Borough Council and the Stourport U.D.C., as to the terms for reception and treatment of the sewage and there appears to be some hope that terms will be agreed.

All the schemes are urgently required, but especially in the case of Hartlebury and Crowle where the present disposal gives rise to public nuisance.

The plant at Fernhill Heath continues to give a satisfactory effluent.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection is carried out by the Council in the whole of the area. Collection is made by Council employees using hired vehicles. A fortnightly collection in the villages and a monthly collection in the outlying areas was made during the year.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping with the use of clinker as a covering material.

Details of the cost of refuse collection and disposal during last financial years ending 31st March are given below :-

	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.
Hire of Vehicles	£2470.	£2440.	£2591.	£2345.
Wages	€ 911.	21096.	£1080.	£1478.
Totals	23381.	£3536.	£3671.	£3823.

Salvage is collected in conjunction with refuse collection, the amounts collected are shown in the following table :-

	Weight.			Value.		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	di.	S.	d.
Waste Paper	29.	-	-	200.	10.	1.
Mixed Rags		14.	-	14.	15.	-
Scrap Iron	4.	9.	-	8.	3.	2.
Totals	34.	3.	-	223.	8.	3.

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Section D.

HOUSING

In my last annual report I stressed the great need for improving the housing conditions in the district, and again I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the urgent need for re-housing families who are at present living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions.

Many houses in the district are considered to be suitable only for demolition and it is hoped that as the building of new houses proceeds it will be possible to deal with these unfit houses.

The following is a summary of the housing work carried out during the year :-

Number of new houses erected during the year :-	
(i) By the local authority	28
(ii) By other local authorities (Worcester City in R.D.C.Area)	
(iii) By other bodies or persons	5.
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)	27.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	104.
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so	
dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
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	20.
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	20.
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.

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(b) P	roce	edings	under	· Publ:	тс не	altn	ACTS	•			
n		es wer		red red				of whi			1.
								fects ices :-			
((a) B	y own	ers								1.
. ((b) B	y loca	al auth	ority	in de	efaul	t of	owners			Nil.
			under , 1936		ions :	ll an	d 13	of the			
			lwellir Orders				poct	of whi	ch		Nil.
			iwollir ion Ord		ses d	omoli		in pur		• • • •	Nil.
(a) P	Proce	edings	under	sect	ion 1	2 of	the H	Housing	Act,	1936:	
			eparat which					rground made	rooms	in 	Nil.
r	respe	ct of	which	Closi	ng Ore	ders	were	rground determ d fit	ined,		Nil.
4. Ho	ousin	g Act	1936.	-Part	IV.	- Ovc	rerov	vding :	-		
(a) (of dw			ercro	wded	at the	end.	}	
(i	ii)	Number	of fa	milie	s dwe	lling	ther	rein		;	N.
(ii	ii)	Number	of po	ersons	dwel	ling	there	ein		3	No detailed
	-		ngw cas				ing n	reporte		ing {	figures available.
(c) (r of ca					reliev		{	
(i	ii)	Number	r of po	rsons	conc	erned	in s	such ca	ses	}	
(ii			of he			over	crowd	ded aft	or bet	ing)	

consusing of carbiforns source-galiforn in second (6) Date of the Department and the transmit (1) (a) --- The all the signature of the transmit (12) mand forth believe was also proper to ground this.

Camping Sites and Temporary Dwellings

The licenced camping grounds mainly situated near the River Severn were again fully occupied during the holiday periods and were kept under regular supervision by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The very assorted and growing collection of temporary dwellings along and near the riverside at Holt Fleet seriously depreciates the amenities of the district and it is hoped that when conditions permit vigorous action will be taken to improve this.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Regular inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored, or sold were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

The following articles of food were condemned during the year :-

	No. of Tins	lbs.	ozs.
Sugar Blackberries Milk Milk Beans	2 1 (2pt) 1 ((13pt) 1	83.	19½ cn.
Sun Maid Raisins Hazel Nuts Bacon Salad Dressing (2 gallon)		30. 381. 13.	-
Marmalade Orange Juice Peaches Rhubarb	53 1 2 1	394.	- - 2½.

Milk Production & Distribution

Registrations required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations were as follows :-

Registered	Dairy Farms	 	166.
"	Producers	 	144.
	Purveyors	 	71.

The following licences issued by the County Council to producers of designated milk within the rural district were in force at the 31st December, 1948:-

Accredited	Milk	 	27.
Tubercul in	Tested Wilk		15.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations by the Council :-

Principal Pasteurisers L Dealers for Tuberculin T			3.
Accredited Milk		 	3.
Supplementary Licence to	soll		
Pasteurised Milk			2.

Rodent Control

During the year the general survey was completed and with the exception of the refuse tip at Battenton no major infestations were found.

Poisoning operations were carried out at every place where infestations were found namely at 12 business promises and 29 private dwellings. Of these two cases were infestations by mice and the remainder were rat infestation.

Routine treatment of the Council's refuse tips and sewers was carried out and also the sewage works at Fernhill Heath.

The sewers at Fernhill Heath and Ombersley showed no signs of infestation, and satisfactory primary and secondary poisoning operations were carried out at Battenton tip during the year

Section F.

PREVALANCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria Immunisation

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1946, children can be immunised against Diphtheria, free of cost, by their own doctor or at one of the County Council's Clinics.

The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year :-

a course	f children who of primary in uthority's are 1948.	munisation	Number of children who were given a Secondary or re- inforcing injection during the year.
Under 5 yrs.	5-14 years.	Total.	Under 14 years.
159.	9.	168.	54.

No case of diphtheria was notified in the district during the year.

No serious outbreak of infectious disease occurred in the district during the year.

Theincidence of notifiable disease during 1948 is shown in the following table :-

The Incidence of cases of Notifiable Disease during 1948 is shown in the following table :-

- 1 2 1 12 10 - 1 - 27. 16. 2 - 2 2 18 - 1 - 1 - 27. 16. 1 2 2 3 2 1 - 1 - 2 - 26 27. 2 - 1 1 1 1 1 - 2 - 26 27. 3 3 6 6 34 11 - 6 2 1 - 74. 18.	1							
Scarlet Faver	1	0.	<u>ن</u>	4	CA	20	۲	
Year. 1 2 1 12 10 - 1 - 20. 35. 45. 65. Cases admitted to Hosp: 1 2 2 18 1 - 26 26. 2 2 18 1 26 36. 2 - 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Totals	Enysipelas		Acute Pneumonia (primary & influenzal			Scarlet Fever	
1 2 1 12 10 - 1 - 20. 30. 45. 65. Cases admitted to Hosp: - 1 2 1 12 10 - 1 27. 16. - 2 2 18 1 26 27. 2 - 1 13 3. 1 1 1 2. 3 6 6 34 11 - 6 2 1 - 74. 18.	w				Н	Н	1	Unler one Year.
L 2 1 12 10 - 1 - 20. 30. 45. 65. Cases to Mosp: 2 2 18 - 1 - 2 - 27. 16. 2 3 2 1 - 1 26 26. 2 - 1 1 26 33. 1 1 1 2. 5 6 6 34 11 - 6 2 1 - 74. 18.	CA		1	1	1	10	1	1:
2 1 12 10 - 1 - 27. 16. Cases to Hosp: 2 1 12 10 - 1 27. 16. 2 2 18 - 1 - 1 26 27. 2 3 2 1 - 1 26 26. 2 - 1 1 26 27. 2 - 1 1 1 26 27. 2 - 1 1 1 3 2. 1 1 1 - 3 2.	CA		1	1	N	1	Н	N.
1 12 10 - 1 - 27. 16. Cases to Hosp: 1 12 10 - 1 27. 16. 2 18 1 26 26. - 2 1 1 3 3. - 3 2 1 1 1 1 3. 1 1 1 26. 1 1 1 27. 18.	0	1	1	1	83	N	10	3
12 10 - 1 27. 16. 18 1 26 26 26. 2 1 - 1 3 3 3. 14 11 - 6 2 1 - 74. 18.		1	1	1	Ci	10	٢	-
Consess admitted to Hosp: - 1 27. 16. - 1 26 27. - 1 26 26. - 1 1 3 2. - 6 2 1 - 74. 18.	34		1	10	10	18	12	Çī.
- 1 27. 16 1 27. 16 1 26 16 1 3 2 1 1 3 2 6 2 1 - 74. 18.	F	'	1	1	1	1	10	10.
1 27. 16. 1 27. 16. 1 28.	1	1	,	,	1	1		15.
20. 45. 65. Cases notified to Hosp: 27. 16 26 13 3 2. 2. 2 1 - 74. 18.	0	- 1	٢	٢	н.	۲	٢	20.
- 27. admitted to Hosp: - 27. 16 28 13 3 2 74. 18.	N	٢	٢	1	1	1	1	35.
Cases admitted notified to Hosp: 27. 16. 28 13 2. 2. 2. 74. 18.	1	4	-	1	1	1	1	45.
admitted to Hosp: 16. 18.	'	1	1	1	1	1	1	65.
	74.	٠	٠.	3.	13.	26.	27.	Total Cases notified
Deaths.	18.		20	1	1	1	16.	Cases admitted to Hosp:
		1	1	1	-	1	1	Total Deaths.

The following table shows the occurrence of Infectious Disease in Parishes during the year.

Totals	Westwool	Warndon	Upton Warren	Tibberton	St. Martin Co.	Salwarpe	Omberslay	Martin Hussingtree	Hindlip	Himbleton	Hartlebury	Hanbury	Elmley Lovett	Simbridge	Dodderhill	Crowle	North Claines	Parish.
27		-	1	1	1		1	1	10	CI	1	1	1	,	ъ	1	7.	Scarlet Fever.
26	—	1	-	1	1	-	ca	7	CI	-	CA	CA		1	Ci		7	Moasles.
13	1	1		1		N	7	1	1		Co	CI	1	1	Н			Thooping Cough.
Ci	-	1	1	1	1					-	1	-	1	Н	1		1	Acute Pneumonia.
N	1	1	1			1	H	ı	1	1	1	1	٢	1		1	1	Puorperal Pyrexia.
C3	1	1	1	1	1	1			1			1 -		1	ı	1	ડ	Erysipoles.

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TUBERCULOSIS

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New Cases and Deaths notified during 1948 (excluding transferred deaths)

	NEW (CASES		-	DEAT	HS			
Respi	ratory.	Non-Rest	oiratory.	Respiratory. Non-Respiratory					
M.	F.	15.	F.	1/1.	F.	и.	F.		
3.	1.	1.	1.	2.	2.	-	-		

Cases remaining on Register at end of December 1947

Cases remaining on Register at end of December 1948

Pulmo	nary.	Non-Pul	monary
м.	F.	м.	F.
23.	27.	7.	3.
24.	25.	8.	4.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

MARGARET C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

R. F. FRY,

Surveyor & Chief Sanitary Officer.

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