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1949

Annual Report



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Urban Sanitary Authority


OF

EAST DEREHAM,
Norfolk.

EAST DEREHAM:

PRINTED BY G. ARTHUR COLEBY, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, MARKET PLACE

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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

C. S. THOMSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
from 1-1-1949 to 28-2-1949.

A. B. GUILD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.,
from 1-3-49 to 31-12-1949.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

T. SPURR, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., C.I.S.B.
1-1-1949 to 25-3-1949.

C. McD. O'DONNELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.B.,
1-6-1949 to 31-12-1949.

Waterworks Superintendent :

R. TYE.

Housing Officer :

J. G. MARLOWE, A.F.S. (ENG)., A.R.SAN.I.

EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1949

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1949.

The estimated population of East Dereham for 1949 was 6,360, an increase of 120 over the preceding year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

125 live births, of which 9 were illegitimate, were registered during the year and there were 102 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate (19·7) has risen by 4·2 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1948 and is above the rate for England and Wales (16·7).

The death rate (16·04) was higher than last year's (13·46) and also higher than the rate for England and Wales (11·7). There was a very substantial fall in the infantile mortality rate (32) as compared with 61·85 last year, the England and Wales rate being 32.

The still birth rate is slightly lower (0.32) as against 0.51 for 1948 and the England and Wales rate of 0.39.

28 more babies were born this year and there was a slight decrease in the number who died. There were 4 deaths of infants under one year, the causes being prematurity 1, infantile diseases 2 and obstetrical injuries 1.

Excluding the diarrhoeas under two years there were no deaths from infectious diseases apart from influenza (4) and pneumonia (2).

There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis, of which 3 were respiratory and 1 non-respiratory, giving a mortality rate of 0.63 as compared with 0.32 in 1948. The rate for England and Wales was 0.45.

The importance of cancer as a cause of death will be realised when it is noted that this disease accounted for 18 out of the total number of deaths, 102.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

69 cases were notified during the year. This figure does not represent the total incidence of notifiable disease, one of the main reasons being that the parents do not always call in the family doctor when the case happens to be mild.

The most important occurrence was an outbreak of Sonne dysentery in November and December when 26 cases were notified. The outbreak was confined almost entirely to one school, which admits children under the legal school age, and the other members of the families of these children.

The original source of the infection was never traced, nor was the manner of spread in this school proved conclusively. Some of the children who did not have school dinners suffered from the disease.

The staff employed in the preparation of school dinners can be definitely excluded as the cause of the outbreak since no cases of dysentery occurred in the seven other schools which were supplied with school dinners from the affected school, and laboratory examinations on three consecutive days of the stools of the food handlers yielded negative results.

That dysentery should have spread in this particular school was rather surprising in view of the fact that before dinner all the children have to go to the lavatory and subsequently wash their hands—all this being done under supervision.

The outbreak ceased abruptly on closure of the school.

INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS.

This cause of jaundice was responsible for 8 notifications. A higher incidence had been anticipated since the disease had been fairly prevalent in the surrounding area.

PNEUMONIA.

Of the 21 cases, 7 were influenzal in type.

POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.

One case of this disease was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Dereham, and made a complete recovery.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the preceding three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	Total Cases				Admitted to Hospital	Notification Rate per 1,000 population	
	1949	1948	1947	1946		East Dereham	E & W
Whooping cough ..	1	39	5	18	—	0·16	2·39
Scarlet Fever .	2	1	6	6	1	0·32	1·63
Measles ..	7	183	3	24	3	1·1	8·95
Cerebro-spinal fever..	1	—	—	—	—	0·16	0·02
Diphtheria .	—	2	—	—	—	—	0·04
Typhoid fever ..	—	—	1	—	—		
Pneumonia ..	21	11	11	4	1	3·3	0·80
Erysipelas .	—	—	—	1			
Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	6	—	1	0·16	0·14
Infectious hepatitis ..	8	1	—	—	—		
Dysentery ..	26	—	—	—	—		
Puerperal pyrexia ..	1	3	—	1	1		
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	2	—	1			
Malaria .	—	—	1	—			
Total	69	242	33	55			

In addition one case of Weil's disease was notified.

Disease	AGE GROUPS													Total
	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	1	...	4	...	6	4	21
Infectious hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	8
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	2	2	3	4	10	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	26
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	2	4	5	4	7	20	2	6	2	7	...	6	4	69

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified, although one case did occur in an adult residing outside Dereham who developed acute symptoms soon after partaking of a meal of fish and chips cooked in a Dereham shop. No causative organism was isolated and the cause was probably a bad portion of fish.

Nevertheless there is no cause for complacency and the standards of food handling can be improved. Prevention of food poisoning is based very largely on clean food and this in turn on the conscientiousness and education of food handlers.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year under review 16 cases were added to the register, 12 of these were new cases, 3 were inward transfers from other districts and 1 had been diagnosed in 1947 but not previously notified.

The comparative figures for the preceding three years were :—1948—3, 1947—10, and 1946—12.

The distribution of the 16 cases by age and sex is given in the following table :—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	1
5—	—	—	—	2
15—	—	1 (a)	—	1 (a)
25—	2	—	1 (a)	—
35—	2	1	—	—
45—	3	1	—	—
65—	—	1	—	—
Total	7	4	1	4

(a) denotes an inward transfer.

The register has been brought up to date as far as possible and the next annual report should show a slight decrease in the numbers on the register.

The numbers remaining on the register were :—

	Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Grand Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
31-12-1948	12	9	21	21	20	41	62
31-12-1949	13	10	23	18	17	35	58

There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis, 3 of which were respiratory and 1 non-respiratory giving a mortality rate of 0·63 as compared with 0·32 in 1948. The rate for England and Wales was 0·45.

For information the statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population during 1949 are given below with the data for East Dereham in Brackets,

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS.

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
161 (10)	0.45 (1.57)	80 (3)	0.23 (0.47)

The mortality figures for the same period are

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
100 (3)	0.28 (0.47)	13 (1)	0.04 (0.16)

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General.

Causes of Death			Males	Females	Total
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	...	2	1	3
7	Other forms of tuberculosis ...	...	1	—	1
8	Syphilitic diseases ...	...	—	1	1
9	Influenza ...	...	2	2	4
13	Cancer of buccal cavity; and esophagus (M), uterus (F) ...	...	—	1	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	—	1	1
15	Cancer of breast ...	...	—	3	3
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	7	3	10
17	Diabetes ...	...	—	1	1
18	Intracranial vascular lesions ...	...	8	9	17
19	Heart diseases ...	...	15	20	35
20	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	...	—	1	1
21	Bronchitis ...	...	2	—	2
22	Pneumonia ...	...	1	1	2
23	Other respiratory diseases ...	...	2	—	2
24	Diarrhoea under two years ...	...	1	—	1
25	Other digestive diseases ...	...	—	1	1
26	Nephritis ...	...	1	2	3
31	Premature Birth ...	...	1	—	1
32	Congenital malformations; birth in- juries; infantile diseases ...	...	3	—	3
35	Other violent causes ...	...	1	1	2
36	All other causes ...	...	3	4	7
All causes ...			50	52	102

COMPARABILITY FACTOR.

The comparability factor or comparative mortality index is a new term introduced by the Registrar General in the Statistical Review for England and Wales. This factor is the adjusted ratio for the year in question in terms of a base year which has been selected as standard. The year 1938 has been selected as base year in the first instance and mortality in that year has been taken as unity. The comparability factor for East Dereham is 0·84 and denotes that mortality in 1949 was 16% lower than in the base year.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	5,313
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	5,643
Population (Estimated 1949)	...	...	...	6,360
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£28,393
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£109

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General.

					East Dereham	England & Wales
					1948	1949
LIVE BIRTHS.						
Legitimate	...	63	53	116		
Illegitimate	...	5	4	9		
<hr/>						
Total	...	68	57	125		

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19'7	15'5	16'7
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	Males	Females	Total	East Dereham 1948	England & Wales 1949
STILL BIRTHS.					
Legitimate ...	—	2	2		
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—		
Total ...	—	2	2		

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population	0'32	0'51	0'39
--	-----	-----	------	------	------

DEATHS (All Ages)

	Males	Females	Total			
	50	52	102			
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population ...	...	...	...	16'04	13'46	11'7

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	4	—	4
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	4	—	4

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	32'0	61'85	32'0
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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

The responsibility for this Scheme was transferred to the Norfolk County Council on 5th July, 1948, when the National Health Service Act came into force.

For the major part of the year records were not submitted by general practitioners as their precise duties under the Act with regard to immunisation had not been clarified. I am pleased to inform you that, during this period, the general practitioners were carrying out immunisations in the normal way.

Apart from immunisations performed by general practitioners, immunisations are being carried out by the Assistant County Medical Officer at the Infant Welfare Centre and at schools after routine school medical inspections.

In the absence of reliable written records it is not possible to give an accurate percentage of the immunisation state of the children. There is no reason to believe that the figure is unsatisfactory and that this is so would appear to be borne out by the fact that no case of diphtheria has occurred during the year, nor have any diphtheria carriers been detected.

Immunisations carried out during the year were as follows:

Under 5	<u>Full Course</u>		<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
	5-14	Total	All Ages	
76	8	84	188	272

VACCINATION.

Vaccination in early childhood affords a very high degree of immunity to smallpox. The number protected during the year was very small as shown by the following table of vaccinations performed.

Under 1	<u>Primary</u>			<u>Revaccinations</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
	1-4	5-14	15 & over		
14	1	—	5	3	23

HOUSING.

The housing shortage in Dereham presents, as in all other parts of the country, a very serious problem. The condition of many properties in the town is poor and under normal circumstances many of these would have been scheduled for demolition.

The number of applicants for Council Houses increased from 300 on 31st December, 1948 to 361 on 31st December, 1949, and there is only one answer to this problem—many more houses.

The number of houses erected in 1949, was :—

- (1) By the Council—31 three bedroom houses on Sandy Lane.
- (2) By private enterprise—3 houses and 3 bungalows.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council's waterworks provide a pure and adequate supply of water, which although rather hard, is otherwise excellent in quality. The water is obtained from two bores and before passing to the storage tanks is chlorinated.

Restrictions in its use for purposes, other than domestic and trade consumption, were imposed during the summer more as a precautionary measure than a necessity.

A scheme to increase the storage capacity and to introduce a water softening plant has already been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Four samples for bacteriological examination and one sample for chemical analysis were submitted and the report in all cases was "highly satisfactory." The result of the chemical analysis is given as an appendix.

The total consumption of water from 24th March, 1949, to 24th March, 1950, was 54,381,800 gallons—a decrease of 3,150,100 gallons on the previous year (largely due to repairs on leaking services, taps, etc.) The average daily consumption was 148,991 gallons and the average daily pumping hours 15'3.

Approximately 300,000 gallons of water have been supplied to the Mitford and Launditch Rural District Council.

The number of houses supplied from the waterworks is 1,183, of which 891 are direct to the houses and 292 are by means of standpipes. In this way a total population of 4,011 are directly supplied while 2,349 are without town supply.

During the year the following works have been done—

68 premises have been connected to the town water supply.

65 Ball Type Hydrants have been converted to the B.S. Screw-down Type Hydrant. All hydrants on the town main are of the Screw-down pattern.

566 yards of 3-inch water main was installed at Stone Road, Toftwood.

430 yards of 4-inch water main and 230 yards of 3-inch water main has been laid, chlorinated and tested at Sandy Lane West.

Shallow wells in the outlying districts were affected by the low rainfall during the winter months, followed by the summer drought, and water had to be transported to the affected properties by water bowser. Ten bacteriological samples were examined from well supplies and the appropriate action was taken where unsatisfactory reports were received. This included providing a piped supply to four houses and the posting up of notices advising that all water for drinking purposes should be boiled.

In the case of Etling Green four unsatisfactory reports were received and the Council are now considering the installation of a new bore.

A new bore was installed on a farm at Dumpling Green, and as sometimes happens with new bores, the first laboratory reports were not satisfactory. The fourth report in this case was "highly satisfactory".

SEWERAGE.

Early in May it became obvious that the sewage disposal works were not producing a satisfactory effluent. Certain minor improvements were made in the settling tanks and filter beds and the Council decided to instruct their Consulting Engineers to investigate the abilities of the works to deal with the quantities of sewage now arriving there, with special reference to the discharge of trade wastes into the sewer from the town's two maltings. The results of these investigations and the consequent recommendations for improving the effluent, which has been shown by chemical analysis to be far from satisfactory, are anxiously awaited.

The provision of a sewerage system for the Toftwood end of the town has been under consideration for several years. The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a preliminary scheme for submission to the Ministry of Health and the County Council for their approval.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Of the 2,200 properties in the Urban District some 564 according to recent statistics, are on privy or pail closets. The removal of night soil is carried out at night time.

This very high proportion of privy and pail closets makes the problem of their conversion to the water borne system not a small one, and in many cases will be a difficult job.

Approximately 280 of these properties are in the Toftwood area leaving a similar number in the more densely populated town area.

Your surveyor has prepared a scheme for the conversion of 15 houses in Nursery Buildings as part of a major scheme to eliminate night soil collection in the area east of the Dereham Railway station.

The conversion of 5 pail closets in the centre of the town is also under review.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging has proceeded satisfactorily during the year and the Council has recently purchased a larger vehicle in preparation for the extension of the present collection area to the outer fringes of the district.

The fly nuisance from the tipping area adjacent to Cemetery Road has continued to be a source of trouble and it has now been decided to purchase a more suitable site in an isolated portion of Mitford and Launditch Rural District close to the town's boundary.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Under the Norfolk County Council's scheme home helps are available for domiciliary confinements, sickness, blindness, old age and infirmity, convalescence and any other emergency.

Two part time—guaranteed a 22 hour week—and two occasional home helps were employed in Dereham, but these were also available for duties in the Mitford and Launditch Rural District. 28 households have been provided with the services of a home help.

MENTAL HEALTH. ADMINISTRATION.

Two Local Welfare Officers, designated Duly Authorised Officers, cover the Dereham U.D.C. and Mitford and Launditch R.D.C. areas.

Both Officers have several years experience in Lunacy work and have attended a short course on Mental Health work arranged by the County Council.

There is close co-operation between the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council for the supervision of patients on trial from Mental Hospitals and Mental Deficiency Colonies and the supervision of such patients is exercised by the Local Welfare Officers.

During the year no cases were admitted to Mental Hospitals. 2 discharged patients were referred by the hospital for after-care and follow-up reports.

Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, no mental defectives were ascertained during the year.

The classification of the mental defectives living in the community is as follows : —

Under guardianship	...	1
On licence	...	2
Under statutory supervision	...	6
Under friendly supervision	...	—

There is no training centre for mental defectives and owing to the small number of defectives who are likely to benefit from training it is unlikely that a centre will be established in the area. At the present time the British Red Cross Society undertake the teaching of handicrafts in the homes of defectives who are capable of benefiting by such training.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action has been required under Section 47 of this Act whereby persons in need of care and attention can be removed to suitable premises.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. GUILD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the Year 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for 1949.

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year:—

	Inspections	Informal Notices
Drainage	42	4
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	141	1
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops ...	208	—
Food Shops	37	—
Cowsheds, Dairies, etc.	5	—
Restaurants	10	—
Verminous and Filthy Premises ...	—	—
Housing	38	8
Nuisances	8	—
Infectious Diseases	8	—
Rats and Mice	42	—
Refuse Collection	25	2
Schools	6	—

SHOP ACTS.

I have not been delegated as Inspector under these Acts.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no authorised camping sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints were received during the year,

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no swimming baths in the district and no reports have been received of nuisances from pools.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No cases of bed bugs were reported in the District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year milk production and distribution was satisfactory and in only one case was a dirty bottle reported. Action was taken to prevent its reoccurrence.

ICE CREAM.

Twelve samples were submitted for laboratory examination during the year. The reports were Grade I—2, Grade II—4, Grade III—1, Grade IV—5.

This is not too satisfactory and it is hoped that improvement will be effected next year.

MEAT.

Slaughtering of animals continues to be carried out at the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse in Norwich Street. A number of complaints have been received regarding the smell nuisance from these premises and the Council are now investigating the possibility of adapting the building at the Depot in Cowper Road for use as a slaughterhouse,

The following animals have been slaughtered during the year :—

Cattle	...	...	1,026
Calves	...	...	510
Sheep	...	...	1,724
Pigs	...	...	337

An arrangement whereby inspection of meat was shared by the Urban and Rural Sanitary Inspectors has now fallen through. This necessitates all the meat inspection being done by your Council's Sanitary Inspector. Some 208 visits were made during the year most of them being after office hours with not infrequent Saturday and Sunday inspections.

The results of the inspection of carcasses is given in the following table.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

		Cattle Ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	..		1026	510	1724	337
Number Inspected	..		1026	510	1724	337
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	} ..		8	4	6	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	} ..		467	5	38	97
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	} ..		45%	1%	2%	29%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	} ..		6			3
Carcasses in which some part or organ condemned	} .		260			7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	} ..		25%	Nil	Nil	2%

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1938.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	18	2	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	120	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	One housing site	3	Nil	Nil
Total	51	141	2	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—
Other offences against the Act	1	1	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

C. McD. O'DONNELL,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector,

APPENDIX

W. LINCOLNE SUTTON, F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

Norfolk & Suffolk County Laboratories,
Clement Court,
Redwell Street, Norwich.

24th October, 1949.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

No. 2149. Book A.

Sample received from East Dereham U.D.C. per Waterworks
Manager.

Mark or Seal : No. 3 Settling Tank. 5.0 p.m. 14-10-49.

Physical Characteristics : Slight sediment.

Results of analysis	Grains per Gallon	
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	0.013
Albuminoid Ammonia...	...	0.0007
Combined Chlorine	1.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates	nil
Nitrates	nil
Hardness before boiling (total)	...	19°

Opinion : The organic quality of this water is very good. It
is a pure and wholesome water, and quite fit for
drinking purposes.

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD,

(signed) ERIC C. WOOD.



