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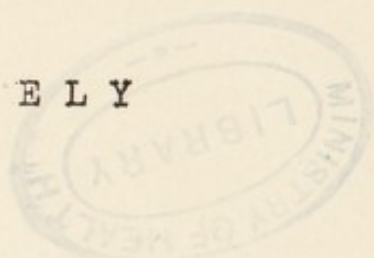


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THE  
RURAL DISTRICT OF ELY

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the year

1 9 4 8

by

K. S. MAURICE - SMITH

M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P.

Medical Officer of Health

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ELY

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH FOR 1948

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st. December, 1948.

1. STATISTICS:

During 1948 the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report according to instructions.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances.- Up to the 5th. July, 1948 - (a) The Ambulance for Infectious Diseases was owned and operated by the Joint Hospital Committee as in previous years, and (b) the Ambulance for Non-infectious Diseases for the Urban and Rural Districts stationed at Ely was owned and operated also as in previous years. As from the appointed day these two vehicles were taken over by the County Council, but they continued to carry out the same duties to the end of the year.

The St. John Ambulance at Littleport carried on as before, after the Appointed Day, agency arrangements having been effected with the County Council. This vehicle, driven and staffed by members of the local St. John Divisions has done magnificent work in both Urban and Rural Areas and has a very proud record. I am very glad that the vehicle and personnel remained available for the use of the inhabitants of the two Districts after 5th. July, and I want to take this opportunity of acknowledging with grateful thanks the devoted services carried out by these volunteer members of the St. John Organisation.




## 2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES (Contd.)

- (b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements - These are the same as for previous years. The Rural District must be very proud of its District Nurses who give a wonderful service.
- (c) Isolation Hospital - On the Appointed Day this Hospital came under the authority of the Regional Hospital Board. The Matron, Miss Pickersgill S.R.N. continues her untiring efforts to maintain and increase the efficiency of the Hospital. The high standards of treatment and nursing which are obtained in this hospital are due entirely to her efforts and those of her predecessors and their staffs. The Rural District owes a very great debt to these members of a Profession who receive proper thanks only too seldom.

## 3. WATER.

- (a) The supply for the District is drawn from 2 chalk wells at West Row. The efforts of the Water Engineer and his Staff have maintained adequate supplies throughout the year. The quantity and quality were satisfactory.
- (b) (i) The Chloramine Plant has been in use continually and has proved satisfactory. The chloramine process permits of the treatment of the water at the source.
- (ii) Four chemical and bacteriological examinations were made during the year, and proved satisfactory.
- (iii) No contamination was found during the year.
- (iv) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (v) The following table shews the percentage of houses in each parish which are supplied respectively with water either direct or by stand-pipe:-

<u>Houses Supplied:</u>			
Coveney . . . . .	.116	direct . . . . .	6 stand-pipe
Little Downham . . . . .	.542	" . . . . .	37 "
Haddenham . . . . .	.497	" . . . . .	36 "
Littleport . . . . .	.1545	" . . . . .	40 "
Mepal . . . . .	.111	" . . . . .	13 "
Stretham . . . . .	.325	" . . . . .	11 "
Sutton . . . . .	.438	" . . . . .	21 "
Little Thetford . . . . .	.69	" . . . . .	8 "
Wentworth . . . . .	.36	" . . . . .	1 "
Wilburton . . . . .	.173	" . . . . .	9 "
Witcham . . . . .	.114	" . . . . .	5 "
Witchford . . . . .	.199	" . . . . .	10 "
	4165		197



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### 3. WATER (Contd.)

- (b) As will be seen from these figures, the whole of the population is supplied either directly or indirectly with water.

### 4. SEWAGE:

During 1948 there have been no extensions made in the District, neither have there been any additions. The number of houses in the District which are:-

- (a) Connected to main sewers - 1169  
(b) Not connected to main sewers - 3193.

### 5. HOUSING:

- (a) The Sanitary Inspector and I continue to do our utmost so far as the housing problem is concerned. Necessary inspections continue to be carried out, and action taken where indicated.
- (b) The Council continues to press on energetically with the new housing schemes, and it can be claimed, with little fear of contradiction, that it is in the forefront of Rural District Councils in East Anglia. It is well that the public should know how deeply concerned the Council is with the housing position in its District.
- (c) During the year, 96 permanent houses have been completed throughout the District, with the exception of the parishes of Sutton and Wentworth. There have been 55 temporary conversions of service hutments.

### 6. SCHOOLS:

For the most part, school buildings in the District are old-fashioned; and in many ways unsuited for modern conditions. The whole question of the provision of schools is one of urgency.

### 7. MILK SUPPLY:

- (a) Cowsheds: It is a tragedy, I think, that owing to an apparent lack of imagination and of an appreciation of probable consequences, so many cow-keepers are content to produce milk under circumstances which can only be compared to a badly-kept and neglected pig-sty. A more consistent enforcement of the legal penalties prescribed for persistent disregard of the statutory standards of cleanliness will, I am confident, result in a much needed and very welcome improvement.





8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

- (a) 104 cases of infectious diseases were received, including 80 cases of measles. These cases were mostly mild in character with a minimum of complications. There were 158 cases of this disease last year, and it is interesting to note the continuation of or the appearance of the epidemic of 1948. I am still of the opinion that in epidemics of this character early closure of the schools results in a diminution of the incidence of the disease.

The total of 104 is made up as follows:-

Measles . . . . .	80
Whooping Cough . . . . .	11
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	5
Pneumonia . . . . .	4
Infective Hepatitis . . . . .	3
Eurysipelas . . . . .	1
Total . . . . .	<u>104</u>

- (b) Disinfection of premises etc., is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also when infection is reported, or requests are received for any special reasons. Clothing and bedding are disinfected at the Isolation Hospital.
- (c) Tuberculosis: 14 New cases were notified during the year. After making the necessary adjustment, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

<u>Respiratory:</u>		<u>Non-respiratory:</u>	
Male	24		13
Female	19		12.

Compared with 1947, the increase in the total number of cases on the Register is 5 made up as follows:-

Male	3	-
Female	2	-.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

K. S. MAURICE-SMITH  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Ely Rural District Council.

