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**Contributors**

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ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Etheldreda House,  
ELY, Cambs.

TO The Chairman and Members,  
Ely Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

1. STATISTICS: For this year, I have kept the usual statistics and the figures are available, but in accordance with war-time custom they are not included in this report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

- a. Ambulances.
  - i. Infectious Cases - Motor Ambulance owned by the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.
  - ii. Non-infectious Cases
    - A. Motor Ambulance for Ely Urban and Rural cases stationed at the Council's Depot in Barton Road.
    - B. Motor Ambulance at Littleport. This is the property of the Joint War Organisation of the Red Cross & St John, and is run by the Littleport Divisions of The St. John Ambulance Brigade. It is available for civil cases of illness or injury.

Excellent work has been done throughout the year by these vehicles.

- b. Nursing and Clinic Arrangements. - These are materially the same as in previous years, and very little comment is necessary here. I would draw attention to the devoted and unfailing service rendered by the District Nurses throughout the area.
- c. Isolation Hospital. - An efficient service has been maintained throughout the year, despite difficulties arising from the scarcity of nursing staff. The Matron (Miss J. Doring) and her staff are to be congratulated on their untiring efforts.

3. WATER

- a. The supply for Ely, including Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow, and Chettisham, is obtained from three wells at the Council's Waterworks at Isleham. The third borehole with a submergible pump was installed early in the year, as very considerable demands have been made on the supply (e.g. RAF Hospital, Convalescent Hospital, P.O.W. Camps, etc.). In October a booster was installed to increase further the supply at Water Tower. By this means an increase of 8,000 gallons was obtained. An adequate supply was maintained throughout the year.
- b.
  - i. The Chloromaine Plant has been in use continually and has proved satisfactory. The chloromaine process permits of the treatment of the water at the source.



ii. No chemical analyses were made during the year.

iii. Three bacteriological examinations were made during the twelve months under review (two from distribution points and one from the borcholo). These all proved satisfactory.

iv. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

v. No contamination in any form was discovered during the year.

vi. 96% of the dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water direct from public water mains.

4% of the dwelling houses in the area are supplied by stand-pipe.

It is estimated that the percentage of the population supplied approximates to the figures given above for houses.

4. SEWAGE There have been no further extensions to the existing plant.

5. HOUSING

a. A watch has been kept on houses throughout the year, and necessary inspections have been carried out by either the Sanitary Inspector or me, and there is the closest co-operation between us. Where statutory nuisances have been found, necessary action has been taken.

Difficulties in regard to poor premises have been encountered owing to the absence of suitable alternative accommodation being available. Over-crowding has been unavoidable in many cases, as Ely is a Reception Area.

b. Further difficulties were also met during the second half of the year as a result of V.1 and V.2 bombing by the enemy, causing an increased inflow of evacuees into the area. I feel that I should draw your attention to the increased strain which was thus thrust on the native population in the area - a strain which, I consider, was faced in a remarkable way by the inhabitants of the City and surrounding areas.

My duties as a general practitioner in the area, as well as being your District Medical Officer, gave me first-hand information on these points. Only those of us who were daily in and out of the houses in the area can appreciate fully the grim cheerfulness which was displayed by many a harassed housewife.

Despite a certain amount of enemy activity in and around the area, it gives me satisfaction to report that no houses were damaged, or lives lost thereby.

c. Schemes are being prepared for the building of 88 permanent houses and 20 temporary bungalows. Plans are ready for submission, and the examination made of possible sites.



6. SCHOOLS. The majority of the school buildings in the area are far from good still. I had hoped that some, at least, of these schools would have been bombed by the enemy during the hours of darkness, but it is with the greatest regret and disappointment that I have to report that none have been damaged.

I have commented on this already in a pre-war Report. I merely refer once again to a subject on which my earlier remarks have already made me unpopular in certain quarters, as I feel very strongly that Ely schools should be given some priority at the cessation of hostilities; and, rather than saying that new schools in Ely are desirable, I prefer to say that they are absolutely essential.

7. MILK SUPPLY

- a. Cowsheds: Generally speaking the condition of the cowsheds in the area is poor, with several extremely bad cases. The Sanitary Inspector and I are watching the latter particularly. Until really drastic action is taken, however, I do not hope, even faintly, for any material improvement. There is one T.T. herd in the area, owned by Mr B. Lee, of Lynn Road, Ely. He has some first-class cattle, and the conditions are excellent. I only wish that there were more premises and cattle of similar quality in the Urban District.
- b. Milk examinations: These are carried out as and when thought fit, and the results vary from very good to bad.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- a. Measles was the pre-dominating infectious disease during the year. Fortunately, it was of a comparatively mild type, with few complications and no deaths.

The other infectious diseases showed an incidence which appeared abnormally low.

Altogether 77 cases of infectious diseases were notified.

- b. Disinfection of premises, etc. is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also, when infestation is reported, or requests are received for any special reasons. Clothing and bedding are disinfected at the Joint Isolation Hospital.
- c. Scabies Clinic, Tower House, Ely, which had been set up in 1943 to deal with personal infestation was closed during the course of the year, as there were insufficient cases attending to justify the considerable cost. Arrangements have been made for the treatment of cases in Wisbech.
- d. Tuberculosis: 3 new cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustments, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Male	8	6
Female	2	2

Compared with 1943, the increase in the total number of cases on the Register is 2, made up as follows:-

Male. - 2 Respiratory.	0 Non-Respiratory.
Female- 0       "	0       "

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

"H.S. Maurice-Smith"

Medical Officer of Health.