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Contributors

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ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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To: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.

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.

b. Nursing and Clinic Arrangements: These are the same as for previous years. The Urban 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 obtain in this Hospital are due entirely to her efforts and those of her predecessors and their staffs. Ely owes a very great debt to these members of a Profession who receive proper thanks only too seldom.

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 three bore-holes have given a supply adequate for the need of the locality, including the R.A.F. Hospital and West Fen Camp Site. The quantity and quality of the water has proved satisfactory.
- b. i. New Chloramine plant (chlorinator and ammoniator) has been installed, and is satisfactory. The Chloramine process permits of the treatment of the water at the source.
ii. Two chemical analyses were made during the year and both proved satisfactory.
iii. Two bacteriological analyses were made during the year and both proved satisfactory.
iv. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
v. No contamination was discovered during the year and, therefore, no action in respect of this has been necessary.
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 extensions or additions in the District during the year.

In June 1948 it was alleged that contamination of the River Ouse was being permitted by the Council and a Summons was taken out against the Council. This Summons, however, after the hearing of evidence before the local Magistrates Court, was dismissed.

5. HOUSING:

- a. During the year under review the following work was done:-

No. 1.Site (Walsingham Way).	Completed.
No. 2.Site (St. John's Road).	Work continued throughout the year.
No. 3.Site (West Fen Road).	Building on site commenced.
No. 4.Site (Stuntney).	No action.
No. 5.Site (Adelaide).	Abandoned.
No. 6.Site (Prickwillow).	Building on site Commenced.

During 1948 the following have been completed:-

8 Flats.
80 Houses.
24 Family Units - 17 at Cambridge Road Camp Annexe.
- 7 at the Barrack Square, Silver Street.

5. HOUSING (Continued).

- b. The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector and I continue to do all that is possible with regard to the many problems arising from the housing situation in the City. Inspections are being constantly carried out by one or other, or both of us, and action initiated as and when necessary. I am of the opinion that whenever consideration is given by the Council to property which cannot be brought up to a reasonable standard at a reasonable cost, a Demolition Order should invariably be made, even if the Order needs to be suspended for a time until alternative accommodation becomes available. It is only in this way that an adequate picture of the state of property in the City can be kept under the Council's notice.
- c. With the increasing number of new houses to be seen in the City, the great efforts of the Council in general, and of the Housing Committee in particular to cope with the ever-pressing problems of re-housing, are becoming more obvious to all. It is only fair to say, however, that it is appreciated that there is still much work to be done before the position can be accounted really satisfactory.

6. SCHOOLS:

So far as schools in this District are concerned. I have said all that I can in past reports (although my thoughts have been a good deal more fiery). Until the City has new schools built I can only say that it is not possible to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear!! I must emphasise that the problem of Ely's schools should now be considered by those concerned, to be very highest priority; especially after consideration of what has happened in other parts of the Isle.

7. MILK SUPPLY:

- a. Cowsheds: It is a great tragedy that some cow-keepers fail to realise what an appalling danger they are to the community by producing milk under such putrescent conditions as prevail in some parts of the District. I would like a warning made that in cases where cautions are disregarded, the severest penalties possible will be applied to all offenders in future.

To quote Mr. Lawrence Abel, F.R.C.S.:—

"Little Miss Muffett sat on a tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey,
The milk was not pure and smelt like
a sewer,
And carried Miss Muffett away".

Mr. Bert Lee, as usual, is to be congratulated on the conditions prevailing at his Farm in Ely.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

- a. 48 notifications of infectious diseases were received, which I consider is a satisfactorily low figure.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES: (Continued).

The total was made up as follows:-

Whooping Cough	17.
Pneumonia	11.
Diphtheria	6.
Scarlet Fever	5.
Measles	4.
Infective Hepatitis	4. (Non-civilian cases).
Erysipelas	1.

48.

- 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: 8 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. 17.	16.
Female. 5.	6.

Compared with 1947, the increase in the total number of cases on the Register is 7, made up as follows:-

<u>Respiratory:</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
Male. 2.	2.
Female. 2.	1.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) K. S. MAURICE-SMITH.

Medical Officer of Health.

1.9.49.