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Contributors

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"Etheldreda House",
ELY.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

1. STATISTICS: During 1950 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: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council. One is for Infectious Diseases and the other for non-infectious diseases.

The St. John Ambulance at Littleport has been also available throughout the year. This Ambulance works under an agency agreement with the County Council. Members of the Littleport Ambulance and Nursing Divisions man and drive this vehicle. Their efforts are very much appreciated in the District, and their record is an excellent one.

b. Nursing and Clinic Arrangements: These are the same as for previous years. The District Nurses continue to maintain their fine record of service.

c. The Isolation Hospital - under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. The District owes much to the Matron Miss A. Pickersgill S.R.N., and her staff, who are untiring in their efforts to maintain an efficient, happy Hospital.

3. WATER:

a. The supply for Ely, including Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow and Chettisham is obtained from the three wells at the Council's Waterworks at Isleham. The condition of the plant including the pumping equipment is satisfactory. A larger motor has been installed giving an increased and satisfactory output. The quality and quantity of the water has proved satisfactory. I must repeat the warning given in my Annual Reports for 1937, 1938 and 1949, as to the condition of the 12" pumping main.

- b. i. Four routine Chemical and four bacteriological examinations were made during the year, and all proved satisfactory.
- ii. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- iii. No contamination was discovered during the year, and, therefore, no action in respect of this has been necessary.
- iv. 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.

During August 1950 there was a serious burst in the pumping main in its course through Qua Fen, where a split some 6 feet long was found in the pipe. The strenuous and efficient efforts of the Water Engineer and his Staff resulted in repairs being carried out in 24 hours, and very much credit is due to Mr. King and his Staff for this.

A very severe strain was placed on the water reserves in the City. This should be noted carefully as a warning of possible future trouble, because of the poor condition of parts of the pumping main. I must also draw attention to the need for the early consideration of the plans for greatly increased Water storage in the City. At present the available maximum reserve is about 24 hours capacity only.

During and on the completion of the above burst, the Water Engineer and I took special care in safeguarding the quality of the water. Tests carried out after the completion showed that the water reaching the City was in a satisfactory condition in every way and suitable for drinking purposes.

A Comprehensive scheme for increased storage and for new pumping mains has in fact been considered and is now under examination by the Consulting Engineer.

4. SEWAGE: There have been no extensions or additions in the District during the year.
Plans and Details of a Comprehensive scheme have been sent to the Consulting Engineer.
5. HOUSING:

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

	<u>HOUSES</u>
No. 3. Site (West Fen Rd).....Completed.....	32.
No. 4. Site (Stuntney).....".....	8.
No. 6. Site (Prickwillow).....Work Commenced	16.

and continued throughout the year.

Works has also continued at the Cambridge Road Camp on the conversion of huts:

During 1950 the following have been completed:

30 Family Units (Huts).

b. Inspection of houses under the Public Health Act 1936 & Housing Act 1936, have continued throughout the year. Complaints of nuisances have been dealt with

promptly. Generally these inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, but invariably I accompany these Officers when the circumstances indicate.

33 Notices were served. Most owners carried out all requirements without delay.

32 Demolition Orders have been made, which is satisfactory, although there is much to be done yet. If only the Council was given permission by the authorities to build a greater number of new houses, we could then tackle this question of slum and near-slum property quicker and more efficiently. I am sorry to say that there are a few houses in Ely which are so insanitary and in such a state of disrepair that they do come under the heading of "slum property".

6. SCHOOLS: No comments this year. All the comments possible are covered in those Annual Reports which have been drawn-up by me since 1936. It will be indeed a day of rejoicing when the Citizens of Ely can be as proud of their school buildings as those in most, if not all, of the other towns in the Isle, can be.

7. MILK: There is not much I can say under this heading, as the Council have but little control over milk since 1949.

Much of the milk sold in the area is not heat-treated and can, therefore, be considered suspect. When the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries declare this area a "specified area", thereby making the sale of undesignated milk illegal, this potential danger will be removed to the relief of many.

Certain milk retailers are supplying heat-treated milk under good conditions, and they are to be congratulated.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

a. 268 notifications of infectious diseases were received. The total was made up as follows:-

Measles.....	224.
Whooping Cough.....	16.
Scarlet Fever.....	5.
Pneumonia.....	10.
Infective Hepatitis.....	3.
Infantile Paralysis.....	1.
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1.
Erysipelas.....	3.
Food Poisoning.....	5.
	<hr/>
	268.

Despite the high incidence of measles in the District during the year, I am glad to be able to report that the outbreak was of a relatively mild character.

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, by arrangement with the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

- c. Tuberculosis: 7 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.	18.	8.
Female.	7.	6.

Compared with 1949, the figures show an increase of 6 Cases, made up as follows:-

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
Male.	5.	1.
Female.	-	-

9. FOOD:

1. i. I cannot stress too strongly the primary importance of the maintenance of hygiene, both of premises and persons concerned with the handling and sale of food. I feel that most of those who own or who are in charge of food shops in the district are well aware of these facts. I wish that all and not only some assistants were equally conscious of their duty to the City in this respect. One dirty shop or shop assistant can result in much misery and suffering. The Sanitary Inspectors and I are always willing to give assistance or guidance. It must be remembered that success can only be obtained by the carefulness, enthusiasm and sense of responsibility amongst those who actually handle food and food stuffs.

All cases of food poisoning, when notified, are investigated by me, and reports are sent to the Ministry of Health. I am of the opinion, however, that a number of food-poisoning cases go undetected. When cases are notified, steps can be taken to ascertain the source of infection, and so other cases may be prevented.

ii. ICE CREAM.

Registrations of two shops for the sale of ice-cream in the City were made during the year.

Much of the ice-cream sold in the District is made by nation-known Manufacturers, who ensure, by the use of modern chemical and bacteriological examinations, that their products arrive locally in a pure condition. These safeguards can be brought to naught if negligent measures are subsequently used by retailers; and the cleanliness of assistants and utensils demands careful and constant supervision by those in charge.

iii. Slaughter-house and carcass inspections are carried out by the Meat-Inspector - Mr. J. Runciman, M.R.C.V.S.

2. MISCELLANEOUS:

i. Insect Pest Control:

Four cases of insect pest have been found during the year. Some members of the community do not realise that disease can be spread in this way.

ii. Caravans:

I have felt considerable concern about the increasing prevalence of caravans in the district during recent years. It is, of course, a duty of the Local Authority to control such dwellings, but it is extremely difficult for the Council's Officers to take necessary steps under present conditions. It appears to me that the provision of an Official, properly - equipped caravan site somewhere in the district would enable more adequate control to be exercised.

iii. Sanitary Inspectors:

I wish to place on record my grateful thanks to my colleague Mr. A. E. King for his willing co-operation, assistance and advice during the year.

The additional Sanitary Inspector Mr. H. Smith commenced his duties in August and I wish to welcome him. I am sure that the addition of his efforts and enthusiasm will extend the activities and the usefulness of the Public Health Department.

10. FACTORIES ACT: Such factories as are in the District are inspected periodically and any necessary action is taken.

I have the honour to be,
Miss Blackburne & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) K. S. MAURICE SMITH

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Urban District Council.

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