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Contributors

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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GAINSBOROUGH.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1939.

Caskgate Street,
Gainsborough.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your district.

SECTION A.

The area of the district is 78,598 acres. The estimated population is: (a) 10,380; (b) 10,390. (a) for calculation of birth rates; (b) for calculation of death rates. Comparability factor, 0.82. The rateable value is £29,451. The estimated product of a penny rate for the year ending March 31st, 1940, was £142.

The number of inhabited houses is approximately 2,895. It is a purely rural and agricultural area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female	Still Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	155	73	82	Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	10	4	6	Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 15.88.

DEATHS.

Disease	Male	Female
Influenza		2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	2
Other Tuberculous disease		4
Cancer	8	4
Diabetes		2
Cerebral hæmorrhage	3	3
Heart disease	17	15
Aneurysm	1	
Other Circulatory disease	7	2
Pneumonia	2	5
Diarrhoea under 2 years		1
Other Liver disease		3
Other Digestive disease		2
Nephritis	1	1
Congenital Debility and Prematurity	3	1
Senility		2
Violence	9	
Other Defined disease	4	9
Ill-defined or n.k.	1	
Diarrhoea, 2 years and over		1
	59	59
Total ...	118	

The death rate = $11.35 \times 0.82 = 9.3070$.

Deaths from Puerperal causes Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births, 54.5454. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 51.61.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 100.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	nil

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (a) One part-time Medical Officer of Health.
(b) One Sanitary Inspector.
- (a) Laboratory facilities. There is an emergency Public Health laboratory service in Lincoln which deals with swabs and sputa.
(b) The ambulance facilities remain as before.
(c) There are district nurses in several of the villages.
(d) There are no treatment centres or clinics in the rural district.
(e) Hospitals. Patients from some areas in the district can be admitted to the John Coupland Hospital, Gainsborough. Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Urban Council's Isolation Hospital.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Remains as before, but work has been started on a piped scheme for supply of whole district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is a slight extension of the sewerage to Council houses.

Drains examined and repaired	7
Drains reconstructed	3

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No. of premises	2
Inspections	8
Contravention of byelaws	nil

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—

1 (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	210
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	240

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

No. of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority	41
3 Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	54

3(c).—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	12
(2) No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	6
4 No. of dwellinghouses (exclusive of above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	56

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) No. of houses overcrowded at end of the year	6
(2) No. of families dwelling therein	6
(3) No. of persons dwelling therein	30
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (1) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	7
(2) No. of persons concerned in such cases	42

12 Council houses were completed during the year.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. This is good.

No. of Milk Shops and Dairies on the register	231
No. of inspections	250
No. of Cowsheds	284
No. of inspections	340
Contravention of regulations found and remedied	30

(b) MEAT. There are 15 Slaughterhouses but only 7 in use.

Carcases inspected and condemned :—

(a) All diseases except tuberculosis :

Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	nil
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(b) For tuberculosis only :

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4
Whole carcasses	2

EVACUEES.

A considerable number were brought into the district and then they gradually filtered back again to their homes. Their coming did not in any material way affect the general health of your district.

SECTION F.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1939.

On the whole the past year was a fairly healthy one. The notifications were as set out.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	nil	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	8	1	nil
Diphtheria	14	12	nil
Enteric Fever	nil	nil	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	nil	nil
Pneumonia	1	nil	nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	nil	nil
Erysipelas	7	nil	nil
Measles	2	nil	nil

Age Group Analysis :—

Disease.	Under 1yr.	1yr.	2yrs.	3yrs.	4yrs.	5yrs.	10yrs.	15yrs.	20yrs.	35yrs.	45yrs.	65yrs.+
Scarlet Fever	1	1	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	3	3	4	1	1	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939 :—

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 "	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
5 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 "	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 "	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
45 "	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
55 "	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65+ "	3	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
Totals ...	5	4	...	2	3	2	...	1

4 cases of notified Tuberculosis were transferred into the area.

Again I record my thanks to your Sanitary Inspector for his help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

H. B. WILLOUGHBY SMITH,
M.O.H.