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HEALTH
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GLOUCESTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF
The Acting Medical Officer
of Health

C. D. OUTRED,
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., (Eng.)

For the Year 1944

W. R. WHEELER,
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Gloucester Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

BERKELEY CHAMBERS,
BERKELEY STREET,
GLOUCESTER.

16th July, 1945.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Gloucester Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1944. As in the previous years, the Report by the Sanitary Inspectors is included in this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. D. OUTRED,
Medical Officer of Health.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	71,490
Population	...	...	...	...	32,210
(as estimated by the Registrar General).					
No. of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	8,134
(according to the Rate Book).					
Rateable Value (1-4-44)	...	...	...	...	£191,829
Yield of One Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£799

Vital Statistics.

Births (Live).				Still Births.			
	M.	F.	Total		M.	F.	Total
Total ...	339	304	643	Total	9	6	15
Legitimate ...	318	287	605	Legitimate ...	8	6	14
Illegitimate	21	17	38	Illegitimate	1	—	1

Birth rate per 1,000 population ... 19.9.

5.9% of total births were illegitimate as against 4.6% the previous year.

Infantile Death Rate.

(Deaths under one year of age)

	M.	F.	Total
Total ...	18	14	32
Legitimate ...	17	12	29
Illegitimate ...	1	2	3

Infantile Death rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 49.7.

Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality rates for the last five years

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.2	16.5	19.5	18.8	19.9
Death Rate	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.8
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	45.8	55.2	34.9	36.3	49.7

For comparison the figures are given for England and Wales, etc.

	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs and Greater Towns	148 Smaller Towns	County of Gloucestershire	Gloucester Rural District
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.6	20.3	20.9	20.0	19.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.6	13.7	12.4	12.2	11.8
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	46	52	44	46	49.7
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	4.8	7.3	4.4	7.3	6.2

Infectious Diseases Notified.

(Excluding Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total	under 1		under 5		under 15		under 25		25 up.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	91	—	—	4	8	28	36	2	5	2	6
Diphtheria	28	—	—	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	12
Whooping Cough	38	—	3	8	15	5	7	—	—	—	—
Measles	54	1	2	9	10	19	17	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	31	2	2	1	—	—	2	3	3	9	9
Erysipelas	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	1

107 Infectious cases were removed to Hospital, 26 non-civilian.

Tuberculosis Notified.

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Grand Total
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
35	28	63	3	8	11	74

Age Period Notified.

Under 5		5—15		15—25		25—45		45 onwards		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	—	2	9	4	11	25	10	8	4	74

Number of Notifications on the Register, 31st. Dec., 1944

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Grand Total
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
124	57	181	80	52	132	313

During the year 25 persons suffering with Tuberculosis were admitted for Sanatorium treatment. 14 names of affected persons were removed from the register as having recovered, 11 transferred to other districts. 25 deaths were registered from Tuberculosis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 31st December, 1944.

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15 years</i>
No. known to be immunised against Diphtheria	1234	2750
Percentage of the population of those ages known to be completely immunised	42·4	63·5
The previous year 1943, No. known to be immunised	52·4	58·7

Notification of Diphtheria in children under 15 years of age 18. Number known to be immunised at least 3 months before onset of Disease 11. Number of deaths 1. This child was not immunised.

DEATHS.

382 (217 Males, 165 Females) were registered as Residents of the District.

Giving a death rate of 11·8 per 1,000 population.

315 deaths were transferred out in their own areas, being non-residents, and 110 transferred in, being residents who died outside the Gloucester Rural District area.

The certified causes of death were given as follows :—

<i>Disease :</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Disease :</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	1	Bronchitis	11	5
Whooping Cough	1	—	Pneumonia	12	4
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	16	4	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	3
Other Forms of T.B.	3	2	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	2
Syphilis Disease	—	2	Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	2
Influenza	1	2	Other Digestive Diseases	7	2
Ac. inf. enceph.	1	—	Nephritis	9	3
Cancer :			Premature Birth	6	6
Bucc. and Oesoph			Con. Mal. Birth Infant Dis.	8	4
Uterus	3	4	Suicide	—	5
Stomach and Duodenum	8	4	Road Traffic	7	3
Breast	—	3	Other Violent Deaths	4	3
Other forms	16	14	All Other Causes	19	19
Diabetes	1	—			
Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions	23	17		217	165
Heart Disease	47	45			
Other diseases of the Circulatory System	11	6	Total	382	

39% of total deaths due to Heart Diseases and Diseases of the Circulatory System.

Deaths from Cancer 1·5 per 1,000 Population.

Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) ·7 per 1,000 Population.

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases 1·0 per 1,000 Population.

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age 6·2 per 1,000

Live Births.

Typhoid Fever

In the latter half of the year a small outbreak of Typhoid Fever occurred in the southern part of the City of Gloucester, and that part of the Gloucester Rural District adjacent to the City, namely the Districts of Quedgeley, Hempstead and Haresfield, which adjoins Quedgeley. The following cases were reported from the Rural District.

On the 18th July, a woman, aged 29, from Quedgeley District, was admitted to Hospital on suspicion as suffering from Typhoid, which was confirmed later. On August 1st, a boy aged 2, was notified from Haresfield and later, August 9th, his brother, aged 11, from the same house was also notified. Both these boys had been living in the City, in that area where cases of Typhoid had been reported, and had only removed to Haresfield a few days before being taken ill. On the 6th August, a boy, aged 16, was removed from a farmhouse in Hempstead, suffering with the same complaint. On the same day a girl, aged 5, was notified from Hempstead, and also a woman, aged 40, was reported with the disease in another part of Hempstead. No further cases occurred in the Rural District until 26th August, when a boy, aged 5, and a man, 35 years of age, were notified from different parts of Hempstead area. All the cases were immediately removed to Hospital for isolation and treatment.

Careful investigation as to the cause of the outbreak pointed to contamination of the Milk supply from one of the dairy farms. This farm had no main water supply and the water required for washing the milk utensils and the animals before milking, being obtained from a shallow well which was discovered to be connected by underground pipes with a running stream some little distance away. Examination of the water from the well and the stream showed gross pollution. On tracing the stream upwards for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, it was found to receive the effluent from a sewage disposal system, which received the sewage from a large R.A.F. camp. A sample of this effluent was returned as unsatisfactory after a bacteriological examination. All but one of the affected persons were found to have consumed milk from the suspected supply. Steps were immediately taken to stop this milk supply for human consumption, until such time it was considered free from all risk of contamination. Instructions were issued that a proper and wholesome supply of water should be made available to the Farm. The Camp authorities were at once communicated with and the effluent was carefully watched. Within a very short time a satisfactory effluent was obtained. No further cases were reported after the 26th August, and the Farm is now connected with a main water supply to the premises.

Gloucester Rural District.

Nuisances.

All nuisances reported, mostly of a minor character, were dealt with and abated.

Housing.

During the year 1944, houses of which complaints of defects were received were dealt with only. These defects were chiefly roofs, drains, etc.

Owing to the shortage of labour and materials it was only possible to get the most urgent of these defects attended to.

Towards the end of the year arrangements were made to commence a general survey of all the houses in the Rural District occupied by the Working Classes.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Numerous visits have been paid to the Dairies and Cowsheds in the Rural District. Twenty-three have been reconstructed and some twenty more have had major repairs done to them. The reconstructions were, in the main, executed to enable the Cowkeepers to obtain the status of Accredited or T.T. producers.

A few complaints as to the "keeping" qualities of milk were received and investigated. Samples were taken and advice given to the producers when it was found that they were in fault.

Milk in Schools.

Samples of the milk supplied to the schools are periodically taken by the County Councils Milk sampling officers and the results notified to this Council.

Appropriate action is taken in all cases where an adverse report is received.

Food and Drugs Act.

The premises of Meat Distributors have been visited regularly.

We note that the manner in which the meat is being handled and conveyed to the distributors from the abattoirs leaves very much to be desired, and it appears to us that greater care could well be exercised in the killing and dressing of the meat.

The amount of Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption was 6,439 pounds.

Disinfestation.

Eleven houses and flats, infested with "Bed Bugs" were treated by spraying with an Insecticide.

Disinfection.

One hundred and eight houses were disinfected after Infectious disease. The method of disinfection used was Formalin Spray and Formaldehyde Gas.

Water Supplies.

During the year a shortage of water was severely felt in the following parishes:—Newnham, Chaceley, Minsterworth, Maisemore, Sandhurst, Twigworth, Norton, Down Hatherley and Upton St. Leonards.

At Newnham and Chaceley arrangements were made for the delivery of water for portable purposes.

At Twigworth the main has been extended through the parish and it is hoped to extend it to the parish of Sandhurst in the near future.

Norton and Down Hatherley are in the Cheltenham area of supply.

UPTON ST. LEONARDS. It is hoped to extend the Corporation of Gloucester's mains shortly.

At Hempstead and Maisemore schemes have been approved for the extension of the Corporation's mains to supply these parishes.