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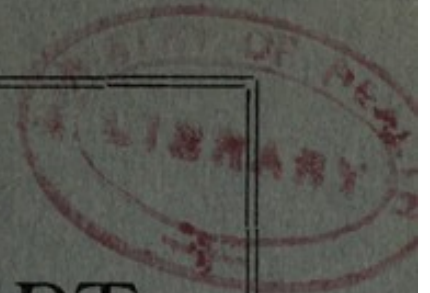
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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## Sanitary Condition

OF THE

## Hartismere

## Rural District

Year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1938,

BY

**HUBERT PEDLER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,**

**Medical Officer of Health.**

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**EYE,**

**A. G. ROPER, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.**





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# ANNUAL REPORT

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SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

## Hartismere Rural District

*For the Year ending December 31st, 1938.*

To The HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

### STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	96,486 acres.
Population	...	...	...	17,350
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,995
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£37,442
Sum raised by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	£179

BIRTHS		M	F	Total
Live	Legitimate	90	114	204
"	Illegitimate	6	12	18
Rate per 1000, =12·78 (Rate for England 15·1)				
Still	births	6	1	7
Rate per 1000 live and still=30·5				

DEATHS		M	F	Total
All	Causes	102	122	224
Rate per 1000, crude = 12·9, corrected = 10·0				
(Rate for England = 11·6)				
Infantile Mortality (deaths under 1 year)				
All Infants, 8=all legitimate				
Rate per 1000, live births=36				
(Rate for England = 53)				

	M	F
From Cancer—35	13	22

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea or Puerperal Sepsis.

The Birth Rate is noticeably lower, otherwise the figures call for no especial comment.

The area death rate comparability factor remains the same=78.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

There is one Medical Officer of Health who is also Assistant County M.O.H.



There is one Sanitary Inspector and one Sanitary Inspector's Assistant. This staff is still not permanently established. The developments in housing, water supply and drainage demand planning and constructional work which will differ widely from the inspectional work needed by future maintenance and alteration will take place as the nature of the work varies.

**NURSING SERVICES.** These are supplied, as before by the District Nursing Association under the administration of the County Council, but are salaried partly by the County and partly by the Local Branch from supporters donations and fees. The County Health Visitors also serve the district.

Those serving the district are now as follows :—

Aspall, Bedingfield, Kenton, Rishangles, Southolt.—V. E. M. BOLTON, Debenham.

Brome, Braiseworth, Mellis, Oakley, Palgrave, Stuston, Thrandeston, Thornham, Yaxley.—E. COOK, Pretoria Villas, Brome.

Botesdale, Burgate, Finningham, Gislingham, Redgrave, Rickingham, Wortham.—A. A. FARNISH, Botesdale.

Metfield, Mendham, Syleham, Weybread, Wingfield.—G. E. GRIMMER, Weybread.

Brundish, Tannington.—E. RICHARDSON, Dennington.

Mendlesham.—E. KNIGHTS, Mendlesham.

Laxfield.—M. SIMONDS, Mill View, Laxfield.

Occold, Redlingfield.—I. LOCKWOOD, Wellington Road, Eye.

Athelington, Denham, Fressingfield, Horham, Hoxne, Stradbroke, Wilby.—E. M. NICHOLAS, Fressingfield.

Wetheringsett, Thorndon, Thwaite, Stoke Ash.—N. LACY, Wetheringsett.

Bacton, Cotton, Westhorpe, Wickham Skeith, Wyverstone.—G. M. WOODWARD, Newton Ho, Bacton.

Bedfield, Monk Soham, Worlingworth.—E. G. WARDEN, Bridge Ho. Earl Soham.

#### **HOSPITAL SERVICES.**

1. *Infectious Diseases.* All Cases are sent to the Stowmarket Isolation Hospital.

2. *Smallpox.* The district participates in the General County Scheme for the detection and treatment of this serious disease.

3. *Tuberculosis.* Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Ipswich and Oulton Broad.



4. *Ambulance Services.* Ambulances for the removal of infectious and other cases are hired locally and can be obtained without difficulty. The County Ambulance is used for cases of Tuberculosis.

#### CLINICS.

1. *School Inspection and Clinics.* This work is carried out by the M.O.H. acting as Assistant School Medical Officer under the County Council.

2. *Tuberculosis.* There are no dispensaries within the area. All notified cases are examined at their homes by the M.O.H. acting as Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer. Further expert advice is available for them by the Chief Tuberculosis Officer of the County.

3. *Veneral Diseases.* Clinics are available at Ipswich and Norwich for their treatment under the confidential circumstances prevalent throughout the country.

4. *Orthopaedic & Artificial Light* These are now available at the East Suffolk Hospital at Ipswich.

5. *Infant Welfare Centres.* There are as yet none of these. This is to be regretted. It is in similar case to the lack of nurses and midwives and is intimately dependent on the scattered nature of the villages and lack of transport. The centre at Eye Borough and that at Stowmarket serve a limited area on the outskirts of the District.

#### LABORATORY SERVICES.

Pathological and Bacteriological work is carried out under the County Council at the County Laboratory at Ipswich.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ages													Admitted		Deaths
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total	Hospital	
Scarlet Fever			1	2	1	8	3	2	2				19	13	
Pneumonia		1		2		1	1	2		2	1	1	11	0	
Enteric		1			1				1				3	3	1
Anterior Polio Myelitis						1							1	1	
Diphtheria									1				1	1	
Erysipelas							1		2	2	1	1	7	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia									4				4	3	
	2	1	4	2	10	5	4	10	4	2	2		46	21	1



Infectious Diseases at a total of 46 is the lowest recorded for five years. The cases of Enteric were all Typhoid, all in one family and probably introduced from outside the district. No water or milk supply was infected.

Anterior Polio Myelitis is infantile paralysis of which there were considerable outbreaks in Essex, the case recovered without incident.

No cases occurred of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The notifiable I.D. incidence for the year was 2.6 per 1000. Of non-notifiable diseases the most prevalent was Chicken Pox throughout the year and in several districts. No other outbreak reached noteworthy proportions.

After April, 1938, Stowmarket Isolation Hospital took over all cases of infectious disease except Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum which still remain a County Service and are treated at the Ipswich Isolation Hospital.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1			1					
5			1	3				
15	1							
25	1		1		1			
35	2	1		1	3			
45								
55								
65	1	1						
Totals	5	2	3	4	4			

Three cases appear as notification and deaths within the year.

Two cases are already in St. Audry's Hospital.

The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 34 (1937-42). This figure is showing a definite tendency to decrease of late years. Notifications both of Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases is satisfactory.

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F		M	F
Typhoid ...	1	0	Pneumonia ...	2	1
Influenza ...	1	2	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0
Tuberculosis, (respiratory)	4	0	Peptic Ulcer ...	2	0
General Paralysis ...	1	0	Appendicitis ...	0	1
Cancer ...	13	22	Other Digestive Diseases	2	3
Diabetes ...	0	2	Nephritis ...	2	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	13	17	Congenital Debility ...	1	6
Heart Disease ...	29	30	Senility ...	9	11
Aneurysm ...	1	0	Suicide ...	1	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	1	Other Violence ...	3	0
Bronchitis ...	4	6	Other Defined Diseases	7	13



These figures are in about the usual proportions, the total number of deaths being less this year—224 instead of 269. There is a welcome absence of deaths from epidemic disease coincident with the reduced number of infectious diseases.

CANCER. The figures show the usual slight increase and I should like again to call attention to The British Empire Cancer Campaign who arrange, through local doctors, for the spread of accurate and helpful information by means of lectures.

## SANITARY PROGRESS.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The first stages of the piped supplies are in progress.

The bores at Mendlesham, Burgate and Mellis are provided with pumps and are in service. That at Mendlesham has too high an iron content: this may improve with use but if it does not treatment will be necessary before this is made part of any extension of the piped system.

Further details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### SEWERAGE.

The Stradbroke Scheme is now in progress.

The initial difficulties of the Laxfield scheme are being overcome and it is hoped that this will be started in 1939. The Ministry's approval is awaited.

The Fressingfield scheme is still under consideration.

### SCAVENGING.

I regret to say that the scheme put forward last year has been postponed. I consider the accumulations of time in all villages definitely injurious to health. Unsupervised refuse dumps in villages tend to receive rotting food-stuffs and even night soil pails and become offensive and dangerous nuisances.

An additional point is developing; firms no longer accept even returned glass containers, these find their way, broken, into gardens and waste places. When it is remembered that a highly cultivated soil is the ideal breeding ground for lock-jaw, the danger of cuts from broken glass in the ground is obvious.

### MILK.

36 accredited farms are now on the list, an increase of 4 on last year. No tuberculosis milk was found in the usual routine testing, though it must be remembered that the tests bear a very



small relation to the supplies. The remaining dairies and cow-keepers of the district have now been completely listed by the Sanitary Inspector and it is thought that few unauthorized sellers remain. There are nearly 400 of these and it will be realized that any routine inspection of so large a number must necessarily be too intermittent with the present staff. I think, though, that the quality and cleanliness is definitely improved of late years owing to the publicity and inspections given to this branch of the work.

### HOUSING.

The whole of the 252 houses in the original programme have now been completed. This is an outstanding and most satisfactory achievement. A fair number of demolitions are not yet effected and this should be pressed in the coming year if these ruins are not to become rat-ridden eyesores. A further 5-year programme of 300-400 houses is under consideration. If this number seems large it must be remembered that many of these are border-line cases and that more efforts at repair will probably be made by owners. I do not anticipate that so large a proportion will be demolished.

### GENERAL.

During the year some School water supplies were adversely reported on by the County Authority. Where these were our public property conditions were remedied, but in one case at least the sampling was open to criticism and a further sample taken by ourselves proved satisfactory.

A Tuberculosis after care Committee was formed during the year for Stradbroke District. This voluntary work is of great service in providing extra amenities outside the scope of the public services and its extension to this district is very gratifying.

It remains only for me to thank the Council for their continued support and courtesy.

Your obedient Servant,

HUBERT PEDLER.



## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The position has been clarified by the new Factories Act which came into operation on the 1st July. The term "workshop" has now been deleted, both now coming within the scope of "factory", with the subdivision of "factory with mechanical power" and "factory without mechanical power." The District Council is now responsible for sanitary accommodation, and provision for escape in case of fire, for all factories.

No statutory action has been necessary during the year, and requests for limewashing and cleansing and separate accommodation for sexes have been complied with.

Adequate washing facilities for all factories is a new provision and comes into force on the 1st July, 1939.

There are at present 112 factories on the Register.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring disinfection were less this year than last. Only 19 cases being notified, 14 of which were removed to hospital. In addition disinfection was carried out after fatal cases of tuberculosis and cancer.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Work in connection with the Councils scheme for Water Supply is in hand. It was decided that duplicate boreholes should be sunk at Syleham and Rickingham. The bore at Finningham, not having proved successful, has been abandoned and supply will now be furnished from the source at Rickingham. A start has been made in the laying of mains for the supply of water to the Eastern Area parishes, the source of supply being at Syleham. Trunk mains are nearing completion through the parishes of Syleham, Wingfield and Stradbroke. The requisite positions for standpipes for affording the supply to the houses have been fixed. At the rate of progress shown the mains of the Eastern Area should be completed by the Autumn of 1939.

In the Western Area the mains have been completed in the Parish of Palgrave, and the necessary standpipe positions agreed as required. The pumping station and reservoir have not yet been commenced, but I understand will be put in hand in the Spring of 1939.



Extensive as these schemes are, there will still be left in the District hamlets and parishes where water is urgently needed. It is hoped that when the main scheme is finished, extensions can be made, or other supply given these areas. Extension of the main should I consider, where possible, be carried out in preference to the sinking of further individual borewells. Although the average consumer appreciates having the plentiful supply of water afforded by a borewell, they complain at having to carry water long distances, and also considerable complaint is raised against the hardness and iron content of the water.

Four public ponds and 4 filters were cleansed during the year, the banks and hedges being trimmed and the filtering media renewed.

Certificates under the Public Health Act of 1936 were issued in respect of 17 new properties.

### SEWERAGE.

Work in connection with Sewerage for Stradbroke is in hand and should be completed during the coming year.

### SCAVENGING.

The report upon Refuse Collection was presented to the Council early in the year. The question was deferred on the grounds of cost, but the need still remains.

### CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

Sanitary accomodation was provided at 17 new properties erected by private enterprise, 12 of which were pail closets, the remaining 5 being water closets discharging to cesspools. 167 new pail closets were provided for the new cottages erected under the Councils Housing Scheme.

### MILK PRODUCTION.

The standard of Milk production throughout the District is still on the up grade, largely due to the influence of the young farmer who in many cases has been trained in modern methods of milk production, and also the working of the scheme for the production of Designated milks.

Four new cowsheds were erected and 18 reconstructed to modern standards.

The method of many of the cowkeepers with small herds is still far from satisfactory, but the time available for inspection does not permit of the close enforcement of the Milk and Dairies Order.



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS.

No statutory action has been necessary with respect to these. Where condemnation of carcasses has been necessary voluntary surrender has always been forthcoming, the owner in every case disposing of the carcase. Limewashing and cleansing has been carried out as required.

One new slaughterhouse was approved, and one registration was cancelled, the licence being transferred to the new.

## HOUSING.

The Council's Housing Programme of 252 houses was completed by the end of the year, 167 houses being erected and occupied during 1938.

There was not included in this figure any houses for the abatement of overcrowding, but where the occupier of a house which was due for demolition under Slum Clearance did not require the new house, preference was then given to an overcrowded family, provided the size of the new house offered suitable accommodation for the overcrowded family.

There are still in the District many houses which are overcrowded. The provision of suitable accommodation for these families has been left for the purpose of incorporating the necessary houses in a future housing programme of the Council, which would also include replacements for unfit properties and houses necessary to meet the agricultural need of the District.

The question of overcrowding is one which is most difficult to keep up to date. The survey of properties made last year afforded most valuable information as to the size and accommodation of houses in the District, but the information then obtained, as to the number of occupants is not of much value to-day as size of families have changed and also occupation of the properties. I would emphasize that there are still many cottages to-day which would be overcrowded if accommodation were based upon bedrooms only. The average cottage living room cannot be claimed to be suitable bedroom accommodation as this is the only room where drying of wet clothes, etc., can be carried out.

Many cottages have been reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, and cottages quite incapable of being made fit at reasonable cost have through the medium of the grant been able to be made fit, to be let to the agricultural worker at a rental within his means.



## GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS

## ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS.

Total number of visits and revisits of inspection	...	2784
Number of complaints	...	30
Letters and Preliminary notices issued	...	655
Statutory notices served	...	9
Drains and Sewers examined and repaired or cleaned	...	33
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	3
Ditches cleansed	...	5
Conversion to pail closets	...	6
New urinals replacing old	...	3
Nuisance from animals	...	1
Inspection re water supplies	...	112
Water samples	...	11
Public Pumps repaired	...	31
New Public Pumps	...	0
Public Wells cleansed	...	0
Public Ponds cleansed	...	5
Filters cleansed	...	6
Slaughterhouse and knackers yard inspection	...	318
Dairies, cowsheds and milk shops	...	300
Milk Samples	...	0
Informal notices to cleanse cowsheds and dairies	...	130
Cowsheds reconstructed or renewed	...	22
Bakehouse inspections	...	53
Requests for limewashing	...	0
Infectious Disease—Visits and inquiries	...	40
Rooms disinfected	...	21
Cases removed to hospital	...	14
Inspections of new Buildings	...	264
Inspections of Council Houses	...	1280
Factory and Workshop Inspections	...	66
Inspections under Shops Act, 1934	...	17
Visits under Housing Act, 1936, Part 4 (overcrowding)	...	145
Sewerage and Housing Site Inspections	...	156
Prosecutions	...	0

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

## 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	203
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	319
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Con- solidated Regulations, 1925	...	144
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	246

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	123
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	21
<b>2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices—</b>		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	56
<b>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—</b>		
<b>(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930—</b>		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—		
(a) By Owners	... ..	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	nil
<b>(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—</b>		
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal notices—		
(a) By Owners	... ..	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	nil
<b>(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—</b>		
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	... ..	—
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	93
<b>(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—</b>		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made—	... ..	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—	... ..	nil

Your obedient Servant,

H. AUSTIN REEVE,

*Sanitary Inspector & Housing Surveyor.*















