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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Hartismere

Rural District

Year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1939

BY

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

Medical Officer of Health.

EYE,

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN

ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PROGRESS OF

SCIENCE

AND

ARTS

FOR THE YEAR 1900

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Hartismere Rural District

For the Year ending December 31st, 1939.

To The HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

In accordance with Ministry of Health circular 2067 of 19/7/40 all unchanged detail is omitted from the report in the interest of economy. Statistics are presented as usual to preserve continuity. Matters not referred to may be assumed to remain the same as last year.

Area	...	...	...	96,486 acres.
Population	...	...	...	17,210
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,955
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£37,928
Sum raised by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	£176

Two estimates of population are given by the Registrar this year, one as above and another, 17,590, for death rates. This is to compensate for the variation in population owing to the war.

STATISTICS.

BIRTHS		M	F	Total	Rate per 1000 population
Live Legitimate		108	115	223	14.35
Live Illegitimate		17	7	24	
(Rate for England=15.0)					Rate per 1000 live and
Still Births	...	4	10		53.4 still births
DEATHS		M	F	Total	Rate per 1000
All causes		133	119	252	14.32 crude
(Rate for England=12.1)					11.16 corrected
Infant mortality (deaths under one year)					
Legitimate		4	7	11	
Illegitimate		3	3	6	
Rate per 1000 live births				68	
(Rate for England=50)					
Deaths from Cancer		16	16	32	
Measles		0	0	0	
Whooping Cough			1	1	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)				0	
Puerperal causes				0	

The area comparability factor is '78.

The Birth rate is slightly increased, the infantile mortality has increased, otherwise the figures are about the same.

The Public Health administration of the District remains unchanged as do the Nursing Services, the Hospitals and Clinics.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ages	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total	Admitted Hospital
Scarlet Fever		1	1	3	4	14	11	4	5	1	1		45	26
Diphtheria						2							2	1
Whooping Cough	1		1	1	1	2							6	1
Pneumonia		2	1			2	2	1	3		4	7	22	1
Erysipelas				1					1	1	2	3	8	2
Puerperal Pyrexia								1	2				3	
Totals	1	3	3	5	5	20	13	6	11	2	7	10	86	31

Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable by the Ministry Regulation of October 23rd.

Among the non-notifiable diseases, Chicken Pox and Mumps were more prevalent than usual in the latter part of the year and German Measles began to show in the earlier. No unusual number of complications were reported.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F		
1		1	1					
5	2			1				
15	1	2	1		1			
25	1			1				
35	3	1				1		
45					2			
55								
65		1		1	1	1		
Totals	7	5	2	3	4	2		

The number of cases remaining on the list at the end of the year was 33, one less than last year.

Notification of this and Infectious Diseases remain satisfactory.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F		M	F
Whooping Cough ...	0	1	Peptic Ulcer ...	3	2
Influenza ...	2	7	Appendicitis ...	1	0
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	4	2	Other Liver Disease ...	1	0
Cancer ...	16	16	Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	3
Diabetes ...	4	3	Nephritis ...	6	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	3	15	Congenital Debility ...	7	6
Heart Disease ...	39	24	Senility ...	4	14
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	8	4	Suicide ...	3	1
Bronchitis ...	4	2	Other Violence ...	7	4
Pneumonia ...	5	2	Other Defined Diseases ...	14	7
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1	Diarrhoea (over age 2) ...	0	1

GENERAL STATEMENT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The two systems commenced last year have been sanctioned for completion by the Ministry in spite of war conditions. Work is in progress.

SEWERAGE.

The Stradbroke and Laxfield schemes are well advanced.

CHANGES DUE TO THE WAR.

The Public Institution is in process of conversion into a 1st grade Hospital for casualties.

Four Mortuaries have been provided. These are barns and other buildings provided with cement floors and drainage where necessary and furnished with stretchers and trestles.

Numbers of troops and evacuated persons are accommodated in the district.

Sanitation and Water Supplies to the troops has been effected in consultation with the Army Medical Staff without undue difficulty.

Some trouble has arisen among the evacuated children in connection with the conditions resulting from dirt and vermin. Steps are being taken to establish Sick Bays and / or Hostels to relieve the billettees of these cases and will become effective in next year.

Meanwhile no epidemic has occurred and no noteworthy increase in infectious disease has taken place.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Services have been established through a Joint Committee of Hartismere and Eye Boro' working under the scheme making authority, the County Council. These are centred in Eye, and are :--

- Hartismere Hospital, 160 beds.
- 3 mobile first aid parties of 4 persons each.
- 4 Ambulances with driver and attendant each.
- 2 Cars for sitting wounded.

In addition there are First Aid Points in 50 Villages. 17 of these with populations of 400 and upwards have been provided with a box of dressings. These are staffed with voluntary workers and vary from half a dozen in the smaller to over two dozen (Stradbroke and Mendlesham.) Many villages have also provided considerable supplies of dressings and stretchers. All these workers have had some experience and most have passed the Red Cross or St. John's examination. The response in the villages has been most gratifying and encouraging.

Eye is a sub-report centre to Stowmarket in the scheme of County Control.

HUBERT PEDLER,
M. O. H.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for Year 1939.

Water Supplies. No section of the Water Supply Scheme has yet been completed ready for Service; the portion nearest completion is Palgrave, this should have been handed over in December, but unavoidable delay has caused a postponement.

Main laying has been completed throughout the Eastern Area, leaving only Stand Pipes to be erected. The duplicate borings at Syleham and Rickinghall Pumping Stations have been completed, and a start made on the Head Works. Main laying in the Western Area has been commenced and is progressing satisfactorily.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that when the Scheme is completed it will be necessary for the Council to consider adding short spur-like extensions to the main, to reach small groups of houses, which are situated on roads leading off from the mains, and yet are not sufficiently near for a rateable supply to be furnished.

Sewerage. The Stradbroke Sewerage System has been handed over by the Engineer and is now functioning satisfactorily. This has greatly improved conditions in the Street Area of Stradbroke Parish.

The necessary connections for picking up the drainage from properties have been carried out, and some W.C.'s have been installed awaiting the Water Supply.

It is hoped that a greater response in this direction will be forthcoming, as soon as the water is available.

Laxfield Sewerage Scheme has been commenced, but Fressingfield Scheme although prepared has been postponed.

Scavenging. There is still no scavenging scheme in operation, and the Council does not operate any system of salvage. War conditions will probably accelerate the latter.

Milk Production. Is still on the upgrade as regards quality, and more producers have applied for and been granted licences for production of Accredited Milk.

Slaughterhouses. The private slaughterhouse has now gone out of use, since the Government Order, centralizing slaughtering has been in force. Any question therefore of repairs and improvements necessary for licencing under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 has been postponed.

Knacker Yards. Are still operating satisfactorily, and serve a useful purpose in the district.

Housing. A further survey of houses in the district has been undertaken with a view to possibility of repairs being carried out at a reasonable cost. A list of 420 properties was presented to the Council for their consideration under this category. The war has stopped the action which would automatically by now been in operation for either repair or condemnation of these properties.

Evacuation Scheme has made the overcrowding section of the Housing Act inoperative, it being found necessary in many cases to house Evacuees below Standard. Temporary Sanitary Accommodation was purchased and erected as necessary at the Rail-head at Mellis, for use of de-trained Evacuees. These conveniences have proved satisfactory and no nuisance has arisen.

Infectious Diseases. The number of cases were approximately the same as the previous year.

Yours obediently,

H. AUSTIN REEVE,

Sanitary Inspector.

