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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1945.

GENTLEMEN,

I present the annual report for the year ending 31st. December, 1945.

STATISTICS.

Area.	96,486 acres.
Population.	16,440
Inhabited houses.	4,950
Rateable Value.	£39,449.
Sum raised by 1d Rate.	£175. 13. 4d.

BIRTHS.

	M	F	Total	
Legitimate.	131	142	273	Rate per 1000 - 19.5
Illegitimate.	24	24	48	(rate for England -
			321	16.1)

Stillbirths.

Legitimate	1	7	8	Rate per 1000 - .6
Illegitimate	2		2	(rate for England -
			10	.46)

DEATHS.

95	90	185	Rate per 1000 - 11.2
			(rate for England -
			11.4)

Infant Mortality.
under 1 year.

Legitimate	5	5	10	Rate per 1000 live
Illegitimate.	1	1	2	births - 37.4
			12	(rate for England -
				46.)

Estimates of the age and sex distribution of the population are not available so the Birth and Death rates are "crude" and not strictly comparable with other districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F		M	F
Diphtheria	-	1	Heart disease	22	32
Tubercle, Respiratory	2	-	Other circulatory		
Syphilitic disease	-	1	diseases	2	-
Influenza	1	1	Bronchitis	3	4
Cancer -			Other respiratory		
Mouth and throat	2	-	disease	1	-
Uterus	-	1	Ulcer stomach	1	-
Stomach	3	4	Digestive diseases	2	5
Breast	-	2	Nephritis	2	5
Other sites	16	5	Premature birth	1	2
Diabetes	1	-	Congenital conditions	3	4
Apoplexy	15	10	Suicide	2	-
			Other violence	1	1
			All other causes	11	11

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles	160	Puerperal pyrexia	4.
Whooping Cough	46	Meningitis	1.
Pneumonia	21	A.P. Myelitis	2
Scarlet Fever	20	Malaria	1
Jaundice	9	Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	3		

Total 268. Infectious disease incidence, 16.3. Measles is again up, whooping cough down. Two other cases of diphtheria were notified but were subsequently not proven. The one case that was fatal was a visitor to the district and contracted it outside.

TUBERCULOSIS

New notifications. Ages and sex.

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>	
<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
18		5	7
21		6	
22		8	37
23	26		
44			
51			
63			

Five of these were removals into the district, two others were service cases discharged. The two deaths that occurred were both pulmonary males aged 24 and 25. 61 cases remained on the register at the end of the year.

Notification of all infectious diseases is satisfactory.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

156 children, under 5, were done and 27 between 5 and 14. This is only fairly satisfactory; further propaganda will be needed if the minimal effective percentage is to be reached, the initial interest is flagging.

Scabies.

Less prevalent this year but still above pre-war average. Cases from indifferent homes persist for months. Treatment supplied by the Council through me and through the district nurses has been very helpful in dealing with these.

Small Pox.

Seven contacts in returning ships came to the district. These were warned in writing in addition to the instructions received on landing, no suspected cases were reported.

Water.

Tested quarterly bacteriologically at varying supply points, no adverse reports have been received. 23% have a stand-pipe and 4% a laid-on supply. No extensions have been made but plans have been suggested for further supplies to Mendlesham, Stradbroke, Finningham, Laxfield, Bedfield, Wyverstone, Wingfield and Rickingham.

Sewerage.

No change has taken place and the existing systems are working satisfactorily. New schemes are projected for Mendlesham, Botesdale, Fressingfield, Hoxne and Rickinghall. Plans for these, as for the water extensions, are being prepared for submission to the County Council for approval.

Housing.

It is hoped that the first year's programme of 100 may be reached in 1946. 8 swedish timber houses have been assigned to the district and 50 prefabricated; the type of the latter is not yet known.

Milk.

No tuberculous samples have been detected. Accredited suppliers number 26, Tuberculin Tested 8, and are inspected by the County Sanitary Inspector. Pasteurised milk is obtainable in the parts of the district near the towns only. This is one of the most desirable extensions; recent figures go to prove more and more the increased incidence of bovine tuberculosis in the country districts as contrasted with the towns. Three new school milk suppliers were inspected in the country districts and found fairly satisfactory. These and others have to be accepted as they are usually the only applicants available nearby, but, in my opinion, children are the very class of consumer who should receive milk of the highest possible standard.

Rubbish Pumps and Rat Infestation.

These have given rise to many complaints. It is a very real trouble; apart from the damage to food-stuffs the danger to public health is obvious. Collections of unsterilised tins are becoming more and more a feature of the country side and, I think, some fairly large scale system of refuse collection will have to be faced eventually.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR
1945.

WATER SUPPLY.

Since the cessation of hostilities the question of water supply has come more and more to the fore; the public now feel that something can be done to afford water to those areas which are now inadequately supplied. As stated in my last year's report, I prepared a report on water needs within the district, this was forwarded to the County Council for co-ordination with other County Districts. The County reply has been received, and the outline for mains approved. The matter is now in abeyance awaiting an inter-county meeting between Norfolk and Suffolk.

The temporary pipelines to supply the Wilby Green and Cole Street areas have been laid, and answer an urgent need. Water is still being carted to Pixey Green area, Stradbroke; and carting was commenced to the Walsham Road area at Gislegham. This became necessary through the failure of the Public well.

During the year a further 24 farm premises and houses and 35 private houses were connected to the mains supply.

The quality of the water has been maintained; regular flushings of the mains have been carried out, and Chlorination continuous.

In November I submitted a list of small extensions to existing mains which I put forward on the grounds of urgency, as water is badly needed in these areas and a supply could be afforded without waiting for the approval of new schemes, or provision of new headworks. These extensions the Council agreed to expedite and it is my intention to submit in the new year a complete list of all areas which can be given a supply from existing headworks and mains. These should, if agreed, be proceeded with as expeditiously as possible as the question of Housing in many parishes hinges upon the provision of a water supply.

SEWERAGE.

I have little to add to my report of last year with respect to this. The question of sewerage the four parishes then outlined and accepted by the Council, viz. Fressingfield, Hornc, Rickingham-Botesdale and Mendlesham, will I understand be further considered in the near future.

The Housing proposals for these parishes cannot be completed until sewers be laid, unless the uneconomical procedure be considered of a temporary purification works for the Council houses only. The sewerage for these parishes should therefore be pressed forward.

The Schemes already in operation at Stradbroke and Laxfield are functioning well but little advantage by the way of installation of W.C's is being taken by the general public; partly due possibly to the inability to obtain materials and the shortage of labour, coupled with the Government policy of limitation of work on existing buildings. Perhaps the coming year will see an improvement in this respect.

SCAVENGING.

The question of scavenging is once again coming to the front. The public having during the last war period been able to dispose of tins, bottles etc. through the medium of Salvage collection now ask that the Council will continue, and dispose of the house refuse generally, especially in the built up parishes of the district, where there is little or no convenience for private disposal.

MILK PRODUCTION.

During the year many improvements have been made with respect to accommodation for dairying; new cowhouses have been built and others reconditioned and modernised. Methods too are improving and the co-operation of the County Authority and Milk Marketing Board are very helpful in this respect.

A scheme has been brought forward by the Government to transfer the responsibility for supervision of Milk Production on the farm to the Ministry of Agriculture, but no date has yet been fixed. Under this scheme the Council will be left with responsibility for supervision of the Distribution side of the Industry.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND KNACKERS YARDS.

No centralized slaughtering is carried out within the district; all meat being slaughtered outside, and allocated within the district. No complaint has been received with respect to conduct of Knackers Yards and no notices issued.

HOUSING.

Progress has been made for the provision of houses, fifty temporary prefabricated bungalows have been allotted to the district and sites have been selected for their erection in the parishes of Metfield, Weybread, Laxfield, Fressingfield, Stradbroke, Botesdale, Finningham and Cotton. Further to these, eight Swedish Timber Permanent houses have been allocated and sites selected for these at Wyverstone and Bedfield. At the former, main water supply is available, at the latter no main is laid within a mile, but the extension of the main is being put forward under the previous named heading of extensions of existing mains and it is hoped that an early approval can be given.

The sites for the permanent housing programme is proceeding, but some difficulty is being experienced in selecting sites from which houses can be efficiently drained. It will be appreciated that the method of the past to discharge the drainage of one sink to a nearby ditch in an unpurified condition cannot be carried out with the increased drainage due to installation of laid-on water supply with bath and Water Closet. This sewerage will have to be properly purified and suitable sites to enable this to be done are essential.

The Housing Survey for categorization of occupied houses has been commenced and is being carried out by Mr. Spindler who has recently been released from the Forces. With the accumulated and projected work a further additional Sanitary Inspector is required, and I understand that the question is to be considered by the Council at an early date. Repairs to existing cottage property are slow in being carried out, largely due, I think, to the building employees being occupied in maintenance repairs to larger properties and on farm building repairs, the latter necessary to maintain food production. I feel also that some delay may be due to the doubts in the owners' minds as to expenditure of money on cottages which may in a few years be condemned as unfit. When the housing survey is complete and the properties categorized, the information as to condition of cottages will be to hand. Until new houses are available and in sufficient numbers, the use of the unsatisfactory dwellings must be continued. Endeavour is being made in the first instance to get properties made wind and watertight.

Your Obedient Servant,

H. AUSTIN REEVE,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

