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**Contributors**

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE HARTSMERE RURAL DISTRICT FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

Gentlemen,

We present the report for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

STATISTICS.

Area.	96,486 acres.
Population.	16,980.
Inhabited houses.	5,142.
Rateable value.	£39,715.
Product of ld rate.	£ 169.

BIRTHS.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Do. for England.</u>
Legitimate	139.	121.	260.	16.4	16.7
Illegitimate	8.	11.	19.		
			<u>279.</u>		

Still Births

Legitimate	3.	2.	5.	.29	.39
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DEATHS.

				<u>Death Rate.</u>	
	125.	109.	234.	11.1	11.7
				(corrected)	
Under 1 year					
Legitimate	6.	3.	9.		
Illegitimate	-	1.	1.		
			<u>10.</u>	35	32

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Syphilis	-	1	Stomach ulcer	2	-
Influenza	1	1	Diarrhoea, under 2.	1	1
Cancer	20	11	Other digestive disease	1	4
Diabetes	1	-	Nephritis	3	3
Apoplexy	10	22	Premature birth	2	1
Heart disease	51	46	Congenital conditions	3	2
Other circulatory dis.	-	1	Suicide	4	1
Bronchitis	3	3	Road traffic	2	1
Pneumonia	4	4	Other violence	2	1
Tuberculosis	2	1	All other causes	11	5
Other respiratory dis.	1	1			
				<u>124</u>	<u>110</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Measles	134	Erysipelas	2
Whooping Cough	91	Myelitis	3
Pneumonia	27	Food poisoning	1
Scarlet Fever	20	Puerperal Fever	1
Infective Jaundice	6		
			<u>285</u>

Infectious disease incidence, 16.7. Measles remains high but not so much as last year, whooping cough is more. The Myelitis cases all recovered without serious disability. The food poisoning, newly notifiable, was a mild case and the causative organism was not identified.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified - 16.

Ages and sex :-

Pulmonary	- Males	17, 21, 30, 45, 51, 48, 63.
		(1 of these was a transfer).
	- Females	20, 20, 30, 52, 66.
Non-Pulmonary	- Males	4.
	- Females	10, 16, 17.

3 deaths occurred, all Pulmonary, 2 males of 21 and 51, and one female of 24. Another male death is returned by the Registrar that I am unable to trace, and the female death is not given by him. This last case was a transfer inwards.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised -

Under age five	-	788	} 62% of all children immunised
5 - 14 years	-	341	

"Booster" doses given at school - 135.

The response in the infant section is still fairly good but there is a falling off in the booster numbers. This is unfortunate, the initial immunisation of infancy has declined just at the time a child goes to school and is at risk by reason of mixing with others. Propaganda on this point would be appreciated.

Notification of all infectious disease is satisfactory.

## MILK.

21 samples taken for Tuberculosis were negative.

3 samples were positive, four cows were identified as affected and were slaughtered. In all cases heat-treated milk was substituted for any raw milk being sold. One sample was brucella infected, the milk in this case was already being heat-treated.

I am unable to give the figures of accredited and Tuberculin-tested milks as this is no longer in the hands of the local authority.

Another change which I record with regret is that I no longer visit the cases of Tuberculosis. This has been taken over by the Hospitals Board and the part of the local M.O.H. is reduced to keeping a register of cases.

HUBERT PEDLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Owing to the continued dry season many shallow wells failed causing acute water shortage in areas not supplied by the public water mains. As the need arose, roadside tanks were installed and water was carted as frequently as necessary.

The parishes in which this service was carted are as follows :- Brome, Burgate, Finningham, Fressingfield, Gislegham, Hoxne, Mendham, Oakley, Redgrave, Rickinghall, Rishangles, Stradbroke, Wickham Skeith, Wortham and Yaxley.

In four of these parishes two different points are served by separate tanks, and in Wortham three tanks are installed.

## PUBLIC WATER MAINS.

During the year work was started by the Contractors on Stage III of the Council's Post-war Water Scheme, which involves approximately 52 miles of main. By the end of the year the mains were extended through Stuston village and Withersdale Street, and also from Syleham Pumping Station, via Syleham Village, to Hoxne.

Work was also started on a new borewell in Redgrave Fen, which it is hoped will eventually supply the whole district.

196 properties including new council houses were connected to the mains during the year. Details of the population served in the 29 parishes where mains are laid are as follows :-

Parish	Piped to houses.	S.P.	Parish	Piped to houses	S.P.
Athelington	10.	28.	Mendlesham	192.	451.
Bacton	153.	210.	Metfield	118.	77.
Bedfield	67.	140.	Palgrave	155.	252.
Botesdale	173.	45.	Rickinghall	26.	52.
Brundish	57.	112.	Southolt	10.	35.
Burgate	-	7.	Stradbroke	299.	423.
Cotton	76.	126.	Stuston	45.	-
Denham	72.	-	Syleham	45.	42.
Finningham	49.	49.	Westhorpe	38.	70.
Fressingfield	196.	331.	Weybread	129.	175.
Gislegham	157.	164.	Wilby	94.	192.
Horham	114.	98.	Wingfield	172.	198.
Hoxne	24.	-	Worlingworth	136.	252.
Laxfield	241.	266.	Wyverstone	37.	101.
Mendham	17.	-			

It will be noted that there still remain 23 Parishes, as per following list, which are not yet serviced, but these are included in work on Stage III, and also in Stage IV of the Council's Water Scheme, which is now in course of preparation.-

Aspall.	Occold.	Thornham Magna.
Bedingfield.	Redgrave.	Thornham Parva.
Braiseworth.	Redlingfield.	Thrandeston.
Brome.	Rishangles.	Thwaite.
Kenton.	Stoke Ash.	Wetheringsett.
Mellis.	Tannington.	Wickham Skeith.
Monk Soham.	Thorndon.	Wortham.
		Yaxley.



## WATER SAMPLES.

Routine samples were taken from the public water mains for bacteriological examination. Four on 1st. sampling were not up to the standard required for a chlorinated supply but on repeat samples were entirely satisfactory.

## SEWERAGE.

Sewage Disposal Works were completed with respect to Post-war Council Housing sites at Brundish, Wyverstone and Wilby.

50 Private drainage systems were installed and 16 houses connected to the public sewers, making a total of 66 earth closets converted to water closets during the year.

This number of private drainage systems, most of which were made possible by the availability of public water mains, is a large increase on the previous years figure of 16, and does indicate the increasing number of people in the rural districts who are taking advantage of modern sanitation, but it is worthy of note that practically all these installations are made at properties which are owner-occupied.

## FOOD.

Inspections were made from time to time throughout the year of premises where food is prepared, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. Limewashing etc. was carried out as required.

## HOUSING.

During the year action under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was taken in respect of 9 houses, and in all cases except one, where the Council accepted an undertaking from the the owner not to re-let, demolition orders were made.

The number of Permanent Houses (Council) completed			
	in 1949	...	...
The number of Aerodrome Hutments converted.		...	12.
The number of Private Dwellings	...	...	15.

H. AUSTIN REEVE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector &  
Surveyor.