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**Contributors**

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HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1959.



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

K.M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Senior Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.

H. SPINDLER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

D.W.J. BARKER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

- |                                       |         |                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water Supplies and Sewerage Committee | -       | Council's water and sewerage undertakings.                                                                                          |
| Housing Committee                     | - - - - | Improvement of housing amenities under Housing Acts. Provision of housing accommodation by the Council and also private enterprise. |
| Public Health Committee               | - - - - | Refuse collection, rodent control and all other public health functions.                                                            |

To the Chairman and Members of the Hartismere Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

The health of the Rural District has been satisfactory during the year as examination of the figures contained in this report will show and the standardised birth and death rates compare very favourably with the national figures. There has been no marked change in the causes of death, apart from an increase in the deaths from suicide and violent causes.

One case of Poliomyelitis occurred, it was of the non-paralytic type. There was a big increase in cases of Scarlet Fever (52 compared with 7 in the previous year) fortunately it was not a severe type of infection. Measles and Dysentery were again prevalent.

In conclusion I have to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for their support and encouragement during the year.

I have also to thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their hard work and enthusiasm.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K.M. HARDING,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1960.

# 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Area                    | 96,486 acres. |
| Population              | 16,960.       |
| No. of inhabited houses | 6,072.        |
| Rateable Value          | £104,971.     |
| Product of Penny Rate   | £431. Os. Od. |

# 2. VITAL STATISTICS.

| <u>Live Births.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate          | 116           | 119             | 235           |
| Illegitimate        | 9             | 1               | 10            |
|                     | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |
| Total               | 125           | 120             | 245           |
|                     | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |

## Birth Rate.

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Crude birth rate per 1,000 population | 14.45 |
| Comparability factor                  | 1.16  |
| Standardised birth rate               | 16.76 |
| Birth rate England and Wales          | 16.5  |

| <u>Still Births.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate           | 1             | 1               | 2             |
| Illegitimate         | -             | -               | -             |
|                      | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |
| Total                | 1             | 1               | 2             |
|                      | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |

## Still Birth Rate.

|                                                  |      |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|
| Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births | 8.10 |
| Still birth rate England and Wales               | 21.0 |

## Infant Mortality (Deaths of children under 1 year).

|              | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate   | 3             | 1               | 4             |
| Illegitimate | -             | -               | -             |
|              | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |
| Total        | 3             | 1               | 4             |
|              | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |

## Infant Mortality Rate.

|                                             |       |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births | 16.33 |
| Infant Mortality rate England and Wales     | 22.2  |

## Deaths of infants under 4 weeks.

|              | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate   | 1             | 1               | 2             |
| Illegitimate | -             | -               | -             |
|              | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |
| Total        | 1             | 1               | 2             |
|              | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | <u>      </u> |

| <u>Deaths.</u>                        | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| All causes                            | 94            | 76              | 170           |
| Crude death rate per 1,000 population |               | 10.02           |               |
| Comparability factor                  |               | 0.87            |               |
| Standardised death rate               |               | 8.72            |               |
| Death rate England and Wales          |               | 16.6            |               |

The Registrar General has continued to supply a comparability factor, 0.87, by which the Crude Death Rate must be adjusted for comparison with other areas of the country. As this factor is less than unity, the Standardised, or corrected Death Rate is less than the Crude Death Rate. This indicates that Hartismere has a greater "weighting" of elderly persons than the average for the rest of the country.

| <u>Causes of Death.</u>                 | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total</u><br><u>1959.</u> | <u>Total</u><br><u>1958.</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tuberculosis - respiratory              | 1             | -               | 1                            | -                            |
| Syphilitic disease                      | -             | 1               | 1                            | -                            |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases  | -             | -               | -                            | 1                            |
| Malignant neoplasm - stomach            | 2             | 3               | 5                            | 4                            |
| Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus     | 3             | 2               | 5                            | 3                            |
| Malignant neoplasm - breast             | -             | 4               | 4                            | 2                            |
| Malignant neoplasm - uterus             | -             | -               | -                            | 4                            |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 12            | 8               | 20                           | 15                           |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia                   | -             | -               | -                            | -                            |
| Diabetes                                | -             | 1               | 1                            | 3                            |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system      | 15            | 11              | 26                           | 26                           |
| Coronary disease, angina                | 16            | 14              | 30                           | 25                           |
| Hypertension with heart disease         | 1             | 1               | 2                            | 6                            |
| Other heart diseases                    | 10            | 10              | 20                           | 21                           |
| Other circulatory diseases              | 8             | 4               | 12                           | 11                           |
| Influenza                               | -             | -               | -                            | -                            |
| Pneumonia                               | 2             | 4               | 6                            | 9                            |
| Bronchitis                              | 2             | 1               | 3                            | 6                            |
| Other diseases of respiratory system    | 1             | -               | 1                            | 2                            |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum           | 2             | 1               | 3                            | 1                            |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea      | -             | -               | -                            | 1                            |
| Nephritis and nephrosis                 | -             | -               | -                            | 2                            |
| Hyperplasia of prostate                 | 2             | -               | 2                            | 2                            |
| Congenital malformations                | 1             | 1               | 2                            | 2                            |
| Other defined and ill defined diseases  | 3             | 8               | 11                           | 23                           |
| Motor vehicle accidents                 | 3             | 1               | 4                            | 1                            |
| Suicide                                 | 3             | -               | 3                            | 1                            |
| All other accidents                     | 6             | 1               | 7                            | 2                            |
| Homicide and operations of war          | 1             | -               | 1                            | -                            |
| Total                                   | 94            | 76              | 170                          | 173                          |

#### Cancer.

There were 34 deaths from Cancer in 1959 compared with 28 in 1958.

Vital Statistics - Summary for past 5 years.

England &  
Wales 1959

|                                       | 1955   | 1956   | 1957   | 1958   | 1959   |      |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Population                            | 17,040 | 16,950 | 16,940 | 16,950 | 16,960 |      |
| Live Births                           | 242    | 249    | 258    | 247    | 245    |      |
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population | 14.2   | 14.7   | 15.2   | 14.57  | 14.45  |      |
| Standardised Birth Rate               | 16.61  | 17.2   | 17.6   | 16.90  | 16.76  | 16.5 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year        | 6      | 7      | 1      | 7      | 4      |      |
| Infant Mortality Rate                 | 24.8   | 28.1   | 3.88   | 28.34  | 16.33  | 22.2 |
| Deaths                                | 187    | 208    | 160    | 173    | 170    |      |
| Crude Death Rate                      | 10.97  | 12.27  | 9.45   | 10.21  | 10.02  |      |
| Standardised Death Rate               | 8.78   | 10.67  | 8.22   | 8.88   | 8.72   | 11.6 |

Summary of Principal Causes of Death for past 5 years.

|                                                                                | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Diseases of Cardiac and Circulatory System<br>(Including Cerebral Haemorrhage) | 92   | 123  | 95   | 89   | 90   |
| Cancer                                                                         | 34   | 25   | 25   | 28   | 34   |
| Diseases of Respiratory System (excluding<br>Tuberculosis)                     | 16   | 17   | 6    | 17   | 10   |
| Tuberculosis - all forms                                                       | 1    | -    | 1    | -    | 1    |
| Suicide and Violent Causes                                                     | 6    | 13   | 11   | 4    | 15   |

Monthly Notification of Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

|                                | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May. | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total. |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever                  | 4    | 31   | 16   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | -    | -    | 1    | 52     |
| Whooping Cough                 | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 4    | 4    | -    | 2     | -    | -    | -    | 10     |
| Non-Paralytic<br>Poliomyelitis | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1     | -    | -    | -    | 1      |
| Measles                        | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 11   | 64   | 23   | -     | -    | -    | -    | 99     |
| Dysentery                      | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 16   | 3    | -    | -     | -    | -    | 3    | 22     |
| Pneumonia                      | 1    | 2    | 4    | 5    | -    | 1    | 1    | 1    | -     | -    | 1    | -    | 16     |
| Encephalitis                   | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | -    | -    | -    | 1      |
| Erysipelas                     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    | -    | 1    | -     | 2    | -    | -    | 4      |
| Food Poisoning                 | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 5    | -    | -     | -    | -    | -    | 5      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia              | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | -    | -    | -    | 1      |
| Total                          | 6    | 33   | 22   | 5    | -    | 33   | 77   | 25   | 3     | 2    | 1    | 4    | 211    |

Notifiable Diseases - Age Distribution.

|                             | 0- | 1- | 3- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 25- | 45- | 65- | Total. |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Scarlet Fever               | 2  | 2  | 9  | 13 | 8   | 8   | 6   | 2   | 2   | 52     |
| Whooping Cough              | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 10     |
| Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | 1      |
| Measles                     | 4  | 11 | 16 | 53 | 11  | -   | 3   | 1   | -   | 99     |
| Dysentery                   | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 2   | 4   | 4   | 5   | 3   | 22     |
| Pneumonia                   | -  | -  | -  | 4  | -   | -   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 16     |
| Encephalitis                | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | 1      |
| Erysipelas                  | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 4      |
| Food Poisoning              | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | 2   | 1   | 2   | -   | 5      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia           | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | 1      |
| Total                       | 8  | 16 | 29 | 75 | 21  | 15  | 20  | 15  | 12  | 211    |

Notifiable Diseases - Summary for Past 5 years.

|                         | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever           | 11   | 5    | 4    | 7    | 52   |
| Whooping Cough          | 27   | 49   | 44   | -    | 10   |
| Diphtheria              | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Measles                 | 89   | 80   | 187  | 217  | 99   |
| Pneumonia               | 17   | 3    | 4    | 6    | 16   |
| Meningococcal infection | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Poliomylitis            | 2    | -    | 2    | -    | 1    |
| Encephalitis            | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    |
| Dysentery               | -    | -    | -    | -    | 22   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia       | 2    | 5    | -    | 1    | 1    |
| Smallpox                | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Paratyphoid             | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Typhoid                 | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Food Poisoning          | -    | -    | 1    | -    | 5    |
| Erysipelas              | -    | -    | -    | 1    | 4    |
| Malaria                 | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Infective Hepatitis     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Salmonella Typhimurium  | -    | -    | -    | 2    | -    |

4. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Number of vaccinations during the year - 210.

5. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer).

Number of children receiving primary immunisations 102

Number of children receiving Booster injections 79

6. TUBERCULOSIS.

|                                                 | <u>Males.</u> |                  | <u>Females</u> |                 | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                                 | <u>Pulm.</u>  | <u>Non-Pulm.</u> | <u>Pulm.</u>   | <u>Non-Pulm</u> |               |
| Cases on register at 1.1.59.                    | 42            | 13               | 27             | 11              | 93            |
| Primary Notifications                           | -             | 1                | -              | -               | 1             |
| Transfers in                                    | -             | -                | 3              | -               | 3             |
| Total                                           | 42            | 14               | 30             | 11              | 97            |
| <u>Cases taken off register in 1959.</u>        |               |                  |                |                 |               |
| Deaths                                          | 1             | -                | -              | -               | 1             |
| Recovered                                       | 4             | 1                | 5              | 1               | 11            |
| Removed from District                           | 2             | 1                | 2              | -               | 5             |
| Re-diagnosed Non T.B.                           | -             | -                | -              | -               | -             |
| Total removed                                   | 7             | 2                | 7              | 1               | 17            |
| No. of cases remaining on register at 31.12.59. | 35            | 12               | 23             | 10              | 80            |

Tuberculosis - Statistical Summary for Past 5 Years.

1955                      1956                      1957                      1958                      1959

|                                                                                             |    |   |    |    |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|----|----|---|
| Number added to Register by<br>Primary Notification -<br>(a) Pulmonary<br>(b) Non-Pulmonary | 8  | 5 | 2  | 7  | - |
|                                                                                             | 1  | 1 | 2  | 1  | 1 |
| Total number added to Register                                                              | 14 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 4 |

7. WATER SUPPLY.

Connections.

164 connections to properties were made during the year. Of these 59 were metered supplies.

There are now 893 metered supplies in the district (i.e. up to 31st December, 1959).

Water Examination.

|              |   |   |                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Well water   | - | - | 2 samples were taken - 1 was found to be satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory.                                                                                 |
| Mains supply | - | - | 12 routine samples were taken in different parishes and a further 12 taken at source (Redgrave Headworks). All reports showed the findings to be excellent. |

Well Water Cyanosis.

During the year 13 samples were taken - 10 of these were found to be safe and 3 unsafe (the reports on 2 of these were termed as doubtful). The families concerned in the unsafe cases were warned and advised to obtain an alternative supply.

8. SEWERAGE.

Hoxne.

The village scheme was in course of construction (completed March 1960). 51 statutory connections were made to properties previously connected to the old sewer.

Botesdale and Rickingham.

The village scheme was commenced in November, 1959.

Palgrave.

Stage 2 of this village scheme was commenced in November, 1959.

Laxfield.

A new length of 6-inch foul sewer has been laid behind property on the South side of The Street. The old 9-inch drain has been diverted but retained as a surface water sewer.

9. HOUSING.

New housing.

8 Old People's bungalows were completed.

8 houses were in course of erection.

10. MILK DEALERS LICENCES.

|                        |   |                          |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Pasteurised Milk       | - | 18 licences were issued. |
| Tuberculin Tested Milk | - | 16 licences were issued. |
| Sterilised Milk        | - | 2 licences were issued.  |

11. MILK SAMPLING.

No. of samples taken by East Suffolk County Council - 97.  
No. containing Tuberculosis organisms - nil.  
No. containing Brucella organisms - nil.

12. FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year the 3 licensed slaughterhouses continued operations on a small scale. 126 cattle and 7 pigs were killed and 100% inspection of carcasses was carried out. No carcasses were condemned during the year, which indicates the first class quality of meat handled.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

54 lbs. luncheon meat.  
84 lbs. beef.  
10 lbs. lambs liver.

13. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47.

No action was taken under this Act.

14. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

|                                                |     |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of factories with mechanical power -    | 50. |
| Number of factories without mechanical power - | 1.  |
| Other premises - building sites etc. -         | 21. |
| Number of inspections made -                   | 48. |
| Number of defects found -                      | 3.  |
| Number of defects remedied -                   | 3.  |