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HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1968.





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

K. RICHARDSON, M.A.P.H.I.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health & Sewerage Committee.....Sewerage, Refuse Collection,  
Rodent Control and all other  
Public Health Functions.

Housing Committee.....Provision and Improvement  
of housing accommodation by  
the Council.



To the Chairman and Members of the Hartismere Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1968.

There has been a very slight increase in the estimated population together with a slight rise in the number of births. The standardised Birth Rate approximates very closely with the National level.

The Still Birth Rate is 4 per 1,000 live and still births compared with the National Rate of 14.00. The Infant Mortality Rate is slightly higher than the National Rate. The Standardised Death Rate (9.54) compares very favourably with the National figure of 11.9.

Of the notifiable infectious diseases, Measles was by far the most prevalent and 82 cases were notified during the year.

Turning now from the statistical details of this report I should like to draw attention to the importance of the safe care of medicines by members of the public.

Every year many tragedies occur as when small children eat brightly coloured pills in mistake for sweets, when unsuspecting people drink poisonous lotions that have been put into old lemonade bottles, or when medicines are incorrectly used.

Medicines should not be hoarded with the idea that they might come in handy on some future occasion. The cough mixture that did Uncle Joe so much good will probably be quite unsuitable, and perhaps dangerous for another member of the family who may suffer from a cough on some future occasion.

Another point is that many medicines lose their strength after a certain period of time and they are therefore useless and ineffective.

The safe disposal of old medicines in country areas can present problems. If water closets are available medicines can be flushed away down the W.C. pan. They should not be put in dustbins, nor buried in the ground. If difficulties are encountered over safe disposal members of the public can ring the Hartismere Public Health Department when arrangements will gladly be made for unwanted and out of date drugs to be collected and disposed of safely.

Finally I should like to express my thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for their good work during 1968.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K. M. Harding.

Medical Officer of Health.

# 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	96,486 acres
Population	16,260
No. of inhabited houses	6,109
Rateable Value	£341,595
Product of a Penny Rate	£1,320. 6s.10d.

# 2. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	126	103	229
Illegitimate	6	8	14
Total	<u>132</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>243</u>

## Birth Rate

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	14.9
Comparability factor	1.14
Standardised birth rate	16.99
Birth Rate England and Wales	16.90
Ratio of local adjusted birthrate to national rate	1.01.

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

## Still Birth Rate

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	4.0
Still Birth Rate England and Wales	14.00

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

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

## Infant Mortality Rate

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	21.0
Infant Mortality rate England and Wales	18.0

## Deaths of infants under 4 weeks

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>



Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	105	82	187
Crude death rate per 1,000 population		11.5	
Comparability factor		0.83	
Standardised death rate		9.54	
Death Rate England and Wales		11.9	
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate.		0.80	

<u>Causes of death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1968</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1967</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	1	-	1	5
" " - lung and bronchus	6	2	8	12
" " - breast	-	3	3	3
" " - Uterus	-	-	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	13	10	23	17
Leukaemia	1	1	2	-
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1	-
Anaemias	1	-	1	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	-	-	34
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1	1	-
Hypertensive disease	2	1	3	1
Coronary disease, Angina	-	-	-	28
Ischaemic heart disease	36	22	58	-
Other forms of heart disease	3	4	7	25
Cerebro vascular disease	13	10	23	-
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	5	10	7
Influenza	1	1	2	-
Pneumonia	9	10	19	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	-	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4	1
Peptic ulcer	2	1	3	1
Other diseases of digestive system	1	2	3	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	-	1	-
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2	4
Birth Injury, difficult labour	1	1	2	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	1	2	-
All other accidents	-	2	2	4
Chronic Rheumatic Heart disease	1	-	1	-
Other diseases genito-urinary system	-	1	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>163</b>

Vital Statistics - Summary for past 5 years

England &  
Wales. 1968.

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	
Population	16,100	16,120	16,100	16,160	16,260	
Live Births	254	202	198	238	243	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.67	12.53	12.30	14.7	14.9	
Standardised Birth Rate	17.86	14.28	14.02	16.76	16.99	16.90
Deaths of infants under 1 year	4	3	6	6	5	
Infant Mortality Rate	15.75	14.85	30.30	25.21	21.0	18.0
Deaths	170	203	192	182	187	
Crude Death Rate	10.49	12.59	11.93	11.3	11.5	
Standardised Death Rate	9.12	10.57	10.26	9.72	9.54	11.9



Monthly Notification of Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	6
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	22	6	6	3	7	6	10	19	2	-	-	1	82
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Salmonella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	25	6	6	3	7	6	14	20	3	5	3	1	99

Notifiable diseases - Age Distribution

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	6
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	1	14	27	34	4	-	2	-	-	82
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Salmonella	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	14	30	39	7	-	4	3	1	99



Notifiable Diseases - Summary for past 5 years.

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Scarlet Fever	7	25	6	-	6
Whooping Cough	8	14	5	14	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	152	32	161	177	82
Pneumonia	4	4	6	5	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas	1	4	2	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	2	1	-	-	1
Salmonella Typhi-Murium	-	-	-	-	-



4. VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS (figures kindly supplied by the  
County Medical Officer)

(a) Vaccinations against Smallpox

Primary.....	170
Re-vaccination.....	17

(b) Immunisations

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis/Polio	6	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	227	141
Diphtheria/Pertussis	-	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus	2	149
Diphtheria	-	-
Pertussis	-	-
Tetanus	33	63
Salk Poliomyelitis	-	-
Sabin Poliomyelitis	227	237
Measles	146	-

5. 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 1.1.68	12	6	14	7	39
Primary Notifications	1	-	2	1	4
Transfers in	-	-	-	1	1
	13	6	16	9	44
<u>Cases taken off</u>					
<u>Register in 1968</u>					
Deaths	-	-	1	-	1
Recovered	1	1	-	-	2
Removed from District	-	-	1	-	1
Re-diagnosed non T.B.	-	-	-	-	-
Total removed	1	1	2	-	4
No. of cases remaining on Register at 31.12.68.	12	5	14	9	40

Tuberculosis - Statistical Summary for Past 5 years.

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Number added to Register by Primary Notifications -					
(a) Pulmonary	5	2	-	-	3
(b) Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	1
Total number added to Register	5	2	1	2	4

6. WATER SUPPLY

Water Examination

Well Water - 27 samples were taken during the year, 7 of which were found to be unsatisfactory.

Mains Supply - Routine samples were taken in different parishes. All reports showed the findings to be excellent.

Well Water Cyanosis

During the year the County Medical Officer notified cases of women due to be confined:-

(a) No. of notifications received.....85

(b) No. not receiving mains water..... 8

These were investigated and as a result 8 samples were taken and submitted for a report on Nitrate Content and one was found to be unsatisfactory.

7. MILK DEALERS LICENCES

There are now eight licences issued by the County Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, enabling persons to sell pre-packed milk from an approved source in this district.

8. MILK SAMPLING

Statutory - 19 samples taken.

Chemical Analysis - 11 samples taken.

Biologicals - 33 samples taken.

Antibiotics - 58 samples taken.

In all cases the results were satisfactory.

9. FOOD INSPECTION

121 cattle were killed in the one licensed slaughter house during the year and 100% inspection of carcasses was carried out. No carcasses were condemned which again shows the first class quality of meat handled.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

10 lbs. Bovine liver - Abscess.

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47.

No action was taken under this Act.

11. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

No. of factories - 53

No. of inspections made - 58

No. of defects found - 3

No. of defects remedied - 3

12. CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

Action was taken under this new Act to remove from the district abandoned vehicles.

<u>No. of vehicles abandoned.</u>		<u>No. of vehicles towed away by Council.</u>		<u>No. of vehicles removed by Owner.</u>		<u>No. of vehicles reclaimed by Owner.</u>	
<u>Wreck</u>	<u>Runner</u>	<u>Wreck</u>	<u>Runner</u>	<u>Wreck</u>	<u>Runner</u>	<u>Wreck</u>	<u>Runner</u>
5	-	3	-	2	-	-	-



13. RODENT CONTROL

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. No. of properties in the district	5239	1356
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	361	59
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	236	59
(ii) Mice	25	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	447	160
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	426	160
(ii) Mice	21	-

Appendix to Report of  
Medical Officer of  
Health for 1968.

POULTRY PROCESSING 1968

	<u>EVISCERATED</u>				<u>UNEVISCERATED</u>				<u>TOTALS</u>				
	<u>Processed</u>		<u>Rejected</u>		<u>Processed</u>		<u>Rejected</u>		<u>Processed</u>		<u>Rejected</u>		
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Est. Weight Tons</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Est. Weight Tons</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Est. Weight Tons</u>	
Capons	18,647	201	1.078	0.583		1,791	10	0.558	0.029	20,438	211	1.032	0.612
Chickens	788,421	1,592	0.202	2.842		469,245	2031	0.433	3.626	1,257,666	3,623	0.288	6.468
Hens	-	-	-	-		412,924	2561	0.620	5.716	412,924	2,561	0.620	5.716
Turkeys	48,100	70	0.145	0.312		3,980	18	0.452	0.096	52,080	88	0.169	0.408
Ducks*	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	300,023	1,957	0.652	0.652
Geese*	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	15,057	96	0.638	0.638
										2,058,188	8,536	3.399	14.494

\* Separate figures for Eviscerated and Uneviscerated not available.

