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ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT


For the Year 1958.



Report presented by

The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Health Inspector

Hertford Rural District.



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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1958.

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1958

P R E F A C E

To the Chairman and Councillors, Hertford Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Wright and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of Hertford Rural District for the year 1958.

Until the end of that year one Medical Officer of Health had served six districts in East Hertfordshire, but on the retirement of Dr. R. P. Garrow to his native Scotland, it was decided that it would be a better arrangement to have the part-time services of an Assistant County Medical Officer. It was with great pleasure that I accepted your invitation to fill this appointment.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

J. E. CRAWLEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. R. P. Garrow.

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., BCh., D.P.H.

HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Senior Health Inspector (and Surveyor) H.E.GILBY.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Health Inspector D. R. HOWE.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Department.

Council Offices,
Wallfields,
Pegs Lane,
HERTFORD, Herts.

Telephone:- Hertford 3007 (2 lines).

Clerical Duties in the Health Department were carried out
by Mrs. I. M. Ball, Mrs. R. E. Swallow and Miss J. Twigden.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Public Health Matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Committee
the Chairman of which for the Session 1958/59 was Councillor Mr. J. C. Thomson.

Sub-standard housing was dealt with by the Improvements Committee -
Chairman for June and July - Councillor C. J. Tucker and for the rest of
the year Councillor F. J. Harrington.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1958.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1957 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District:-

9,160 (9,030)

Natural Increase or decrease	+67
Migration in or out	+63
Total Increase or decrease	+130

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres 31,746

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books :

3,257 (2,939)

Number of Houses per acre	0.10
Number of Persons per acre	0.3
Number of Persons per house	2.08

Rateable Value of District £78,808

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £313

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1958.

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1957 are shown in brackets).

BIRTHS

<u>Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population</u>				16.81	(14.39)
Area Comparability Factor for Births ...				1.01	(1.01)
<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		
Total:	72	82	154		
Legitimate	67	79	146		
Illegitimate	5	3	8		
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	0	0	0		

DEATHS

<u>Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>				10.04	(10.63)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ...				1.04	(1.04)
<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		
All Ages - Total:	55	44	99		
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1yr.</u>	2	2	4		
<u>No. under 4 weeks of age</u>	1	2	3		

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births. 25.97 (30.7)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

BIRTH RATE 16.4 (16.1) DEATH RATE 11.7 (11.5)

Infantile Mortality Rate 22.5 (23.0)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1958 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total all ages.</u>	<u>Age group in years.</u>					
		<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1- 5-</u>	<u>5- 15-</u>	<u>15- 25-</u>	<u>25- 65</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Scarlet Fever	13	-	2	10	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	7	1	3	3	-	-	-
Measles	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	10	-	1	1	-	2	6
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

Incidence of Diseases during the different Months.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Month and Number of Cases.</u>	
Scarlet Fever	January (2)	May (2) July (7)
	August (2).	
Whooping Cough	March (1)	April (4) September(2).
Measles	August (2).	
Acute Pneumonia	January (6)	February (2) April (1) March(1)
Erysipelas	March (1).	

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes, during 1958 :-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Disease and Number of Cases.</u>
Aston	Scarlet Fever (10) Ac. Pneumonia (1).
Bayford	NIL.
Benington	NIL.
Bengeo Rural	Ac. Pneumonia (1) Whooping Cough (2).
	Ac. Pneumonia (2).
Brickendon	NIL.
Datchworth	Ac. Pneumonia (1).
Hertingfordbury	NIL.
Little Amwell	Whooping Cough (1) Scarlet Fever (1).
Little Berkhamsted ..	Ac. Pneumonia (1) Measles (1).
Sacombe	NIL.
Stapleford	Ac. Pneumonia (1) Scarlet Fever (1).
Tewin	Scarlet Fever (1) Measles (1)
	Whooping Cough (2).
Walkern	NIL.
Watton-at-Stone	Ac. Pneumonia (3) Whooping Cough (2)
	Erysipelas (1).

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - continued -

Prevention of Illness - Poliomyelitis Innoculations.

During the year the Hertfordshire County Council carried out a series of inoculations against poliomyelitis at centres convenient to children in the District.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc: during 1958:-

The year commenced with 51 names upon the Tuberculosis Register :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
<u>Males</u>	21	4
<u>Females</u>	20	6

One New Case was notified for the first time,

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	1	0

There were six Inward Transfers, from other areas,

<u>Males</u>	4	1
<u>Females</u>	1	0

No patients died,

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	0	0

Two patients left the District (Outward Transfers).

<u>Males</u>	1	0
<u>Females</u>	1	0

Two patients were pronounced CURED,

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	2	0

The year therefore ended with 54 cases on the Register :-

<u>Males</u>	24	5
<u>Females</u>	19	6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1958.

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	ALL CAUSES	55	44
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8.	Measles... ..	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	0
11.	" " lung, bronchus	3	0
12.	" " breast	0	2
13.	" " uterus	0	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	12	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
20.	Other heart disease	6	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	0
22.	Influenza	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	3	3
24.	Bronchitis	1	0
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis... ..	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
34.	All other accidents	1	1
35.	Suicide	2	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births... ..	0	0
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age... ..	1	2
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age... ..	2	2

Age group	Male	Female	Total
All causes	1,444	1,354	2,798
Infectious diseases	100	100	200
Tuberculosis	50	50	100
Pneumonia	30	30	60
Other	20	20	40
Neoplasms	1,100	1,000	2,100
Lung	400	300	700
Stomach	100	100	200
Colon and rectum	100	100	200
Other	500	500	1,000
Heart disease	150	150	300
Coronary	100	100	200
Other	50	50	100
Cerebrovascular diseases	100	100	200
Other	100	100	200
Injuries	100	100	200
Accidents	50	50	100
Suicide	50	50	100
Homicide	10	10	20
Other	100	100	200
Unspecified	100	100	200

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HERTFORD RURAL

Laboratory Service.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford, Herts.

County Council Health Services.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946 are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses : 4. Welfare Centres : 7.
Mobile Clinics : 2.

Vaccinations, Diptheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of the parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this Service should be address to the Local Organiser at 27, Bull Plain, Hertford. (Telephone : Hertford 3232).

A charge may be made for this service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A medical Loan Depot has been established at The Durrant Hall, Mill Bridge, Hertford.

A charge may be made for both the above Services.

Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Hertford (Telephone : Hertford 3013). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery in the Hertford Rural District.

Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W. T. MEDHURST, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone : Ware 541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been well established in Hertford.

Hospital Services.

The Hertford Rural District is served chiefly by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford and by the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and the Luton & Hitchin Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Practitioner Medical Services.

One General Practitioner resides and practises in the District, but the area is also served by Practitioners from adjoining localities.

Dental Service.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns.

Other Services.

There is a Club for Old People at Hertford Heath; there are also several Old People's Clubs in adjoining areas. Womens Institutes are active in 12 centres of the District.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA -

REPORT OF THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR.

For the Year 1958.

Introduction.

The year under review marked the end of the Councils Parish Housing Surveys and attention was diverted towards the enforcement of repairs in respect of houses below the standard laid down in the Housing Act. Elsewhere, as in other years, the Councils activities have been directed towards maintaining a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene.

Water Supplies.

The Northern part of the District comprising the parishes of Aston, Benington, Walkern, Watton-at-Stone, Stapleford, Sacombe, Tewin, Datchworth, Bramfield and Bengoe Rural is supplied by the Aston Pumping Station, the water being obtained from two boreholes 310 ft. deep in chalk.

Two 310 ft. deep boreholes at Little Berkhamsted supply the southern portion of the District which includes the parishes of Bayford, Brickendon, Hertingfordbury and Little Berkhamstead.

A portion of Waterford village (in Stapleford Parish) is supplied by the Borough of Hertford, and the Parish of Little Amwell is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

In the Southern Area the Southern Parishes scheme for a mains extension, new tower construction at Epping Green and increased pumping capacity was completed during the year and a mains water supply is now available to a further 24 properties previously dependant upon wells and other unsatisfactory sources.

The number of private estate supplies still in operation was further reduced and one estate system was abolished and the eight houses involved supplied with water direct from the Council's main. With one exception the remaining estate supplies are of satisfactory bacteriological quality and leave little cause for anxiety on Public Health grounds.

The particulars of dwellings supplied from Public Water Mains are on the next page.

	No. of Houses connected to Mains.		No of Houses supplied by Wells, Private Systems etc.	Total
	Piped Supply.	Stand-Pipe.		
Aston	171	3	20	194
Bayford	128	0	3	131
Benington	210	4	1	215
Bengeo Rural	107	0	4	111
Bramfield	76	1	2	79
Brickendon	94	0	40	134
Datchworth	323	20	1	344
Hertingfordbury	215	0	5	220
Little Amwell	289	22	0	311
Little Berkhamsted	164	2	0	166
Sacombe	59	0	0	59
Stapleford	136	19	2	157
Tewin	301	8	3	312
Walkern	245	6	15	266
Watton-at-Stone	261	9	1	271
	2,779	94	97	2,970
<u>1957 Total</u>	2,740	103	108	2,951

Purity of Water Supply.

Samples of the Councils main water analysed chemically have indicated that although the water is hard it is pure and wholesome and regular samples taken for bacteriological examination have shown that the quality of the water from this aspect is very good indeed. Repeat samples were taken at once where analyses of public supplies did not reach the highest standards, and all proved entirely satisfactory. The quality of these samples is summarised in the table below :-

	Public Supply.	Estate Mains.
Class I :		
"Highly Satisfactory"	85	-
Class II :		
"Satisfactory"	-	3
Class III :		
"Suspicious"	-	-
Class IV :		
"Unsatisfactory"	8	4
Total :	93	7

The analysts report on the chemical analysis of the water is shown below :-

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION - ASTON BOREHOLE.

<u>Appearance</u> - Bright with a few particles.	<u>Turbidity</u> - less than 3.
<u>Colour</u> - nil.	<u>Odour</u> - nil.
<u>pH</u> - 7.1	<u>Free Carbon Dioxide</u> - 38.
<u>Electric Conductivity</u> - 525.	<u>Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C</u> - 360.
<u>Chlorine present as Chloride</u> - 15.	<u>Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate</u> - 260.
<u>Hardness: Total</u> - 305.	<u>Carbonate</u> - 260.
<u>Nitrate Nitrogen</u> - 5.4.	<u>Non-carbonate</u> - 45.
<u>Ammoniacal Nitrogen</u> - 0.000.	<u>Nitrite Nitrogen</u> - absent.
<u>Albuminoid Nitrogen</u> - 0.000.	<u>Oxygen Absorbed</u> - 0.00.
<u>Metals</u> - Copper: 0.22	<u>Residual Chlorine</u> - absent.
Iron, Zinc, and Lead: absent.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of copper, this copper doubtless deriving from pipework of this metal. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution and it is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

20th November, 1958.

Gordon Miles (sgd).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION - WATERHALL BOREHOLE.

<u>Appearance</u> - Clear and bright.	<u>Turbidity</u> - nil.
<u>Colour</u> - nil.	<u>Odour</u> - chlorinous.
<u>pH</u> - 6.9.	<u>Free Carbon Dioxide</u> - 58.
<u>Electric Conductivity</u> - 575.	<u>Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C</u> - 400.
<u>Chlorine present as Chloride</u> - 25.	<u>Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate</u> - 250.
<u>Hardness: Total</u> - 310.	<u>Non-carbonate</u> - 60.
<u>Carbonate</u> - 250.	<u>Nitrite Nitrogen</u> - absent.
<u>Nitrate Nitrogen</u> - 5.2.	<u>Oxygen Absorbed</u> - 0.00.
<u>Ammoniacal Nitrogen</u> - 0.000.	<u>Residual Chlorine</u> - 0.4.
<u>Albuminoid Nitrogen</u> - 0.000.	
<u>Metals</u> - Zinc: 0.8	absent.
Iron, Copper and Lead:	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, practically neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of zinc which is doubtless derived from galvanized iron. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution and it is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

The results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes but the amount of residual chlorine is greater than that considered desirable in normal circumstances.

20th November, 1958.

Gordon Miles (sgd).

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

With the advent of main drainage in many parishes it is now possible to dispose of tanker contents (with one or two minor exceptions) into the main sewers and thus the practice of land disposal, previously giving rise to complaints, has now to all intents and purposes ceased.

The Council continue to pursue their policy of providing main drainage wherever possible and during the year work on the Bengoe Rural scheme was completed. A disturbing feature however is the number of houses with a sewer available, the owners of which still rely on the previous disposal arrangements by septic tank or cesspool. Negotiations were well advanced during the year to enable the construction of a new sewerage scheme for the Parish of Tewin to proceed and in addition plans were prepared to re-sewer the Parish of Watton-at-Stone and to abolish the very unsatisfactory outfall in this Parish by means of a connection to the Stevenage Trunk sewer. A scheme was also prepared to enable the sewage from Waterford village to discharge into this trunk sewer and thus render the old pumping station obsolete. It is hoped that a large proportion of this planned work will proceed during 1959.

Cesspool Emptying.

The demand for this service has remained virtually static in spite of the provision of main drainage in certain parishes in recent years, and is a direct reflection on the rate of new house construction and modernisation of older properties in those areas where main drainage is not yet provided; the difficulty of disposing of the resultant cesspool liquor is always present, and although the presence of two trunk sewers which cross the District from north to south and from west to east respectively allows a satisfactory method of disposal the journey involved from some of the outlying parishes to the tipping point is long and is reflected in the number of man-hours required to deal with one load of sewage.

Development of Undertaking and Services.

The following tables indicate the growth of the District and the increase in the demand for the Councils services.

SERVICE	31st MARCH, 1952		YEAR ENDING 1958	
	No.	Datum	No.	% Datum
No. of Houses	2562	100	2990	116.5
<u>WATER</u>				
Houses supplied	2152	100	2594	120.5
Staff engaged	0.875	100	1.9	214.8
<u>MAIN SEWERAGE</u>				
No. of houses connected	980	-	1578	161
Staff engaged	4.18	-	4.38	104.8
<u>CESSPOOL EMPTYING</u>				
Houses drained to cesspools	1155	100	1050	90.88
Loads of sewage removed	824	100	672	81.37
Staff engaged	2.4	100	2.34	97.50
<u>REFUSE COLLECTION</u>				
Houses served	2552	100	2984	116.9
Staff engaged	3.27	100	4.36	133.4

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY HEALTH INSPECTOR

During the Year 1958.

Factories Act.	12
Food and Drugs Act:	
Food Premises.. ...	94
Housing Acts:	
Inspections and interviews. ...	325
Improvement Grants... ..	605
Public Health Acts:	
Caravans	16
Complaints	19
Infectious Diseases	14
Nuisances	35
Refuse Collection	15
Sewerage	478
Verminous Premises	3
Water Supplies	349
Petrol Storage	19
Rodent Control	26
Miscellaneous Visits	41
Total	<u>2051</u>

HOUSING ACTS.

Substandard Properties.

During the year good progress was made towards eliminating all unsatisfactory dwellings as shown in the following table.

Demolition Orders made	11	(Total since 1955 139)
Reconditioning proposals accepted	6	
Reconditioning completed	6	
Houses demolished	32	
Total visits made in connection with surveys, demolition orders and housing repairs was:-	325	

Improvement Grants.

Grants totalling £12,788 were made by the Council to property owners wishing to improve and modernise old property. The number of grants made was 38 which involved 48 properties. In a number of cases it was intended to convert two or more old cottages into one larger house.

Housing Progress.

The following table shows the progress which has been made with new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925).

	<u>During 1958.</u>	<u>Since 1945</u>
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		
New dwellings erected	25	282
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	2
Repairs to war-damaged houses	-	31
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	1	32
BY LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY		
New dwellings erected	37	529
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	-
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	-
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, Forestry Commission, etc.)	1	6
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31st DECEMBER, 1958.		
Council Houses	787	
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	
Sundries	1	

Public Health Act, 1936.

The public reaction to a Public Health nuisance is such that although a number of Public Health nuisances were investigated during the year they were abated without resource to statutory action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

As in previous years sewers were treated in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation to ensure destruction of rats but no major infestations were reported.

The public reaction to a Public Health nuisance is such that although a number of Public Health nuisances were investigated during the year they were abated without recourse to statutory action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1925.

In its previous years reports the Council has endeavoured to bring the Ministry's recommendation to ensure destruction of rats and mice and to ensure that the public is kept informed of the results of its work.

