

[Report 1948] / Medical Officer of Health, Huntingdon U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

Huntingdon (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1948

Persistent URL

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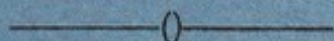


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HUNTINGDON
BOROUGH COUNCIL.



REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Huntingdon

For the Year 1948

BY

CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.



Friend & Northfield, Printers, Huntingdon.

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TO THE HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

: —————

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my report upon the health of the Borough of Huntingdon for the year 1948, compiled according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

The Borough of Huntingdon, with which is incorporated the village of Hartford, is situate on the north side of the River Ouse. It has an area of 2,151 acres, the soil being gravel and clay. The town is composed of a collection of streets, the main one, a mile in length, running in a northerly direction at right angles to the river.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was estimated at 1467.

The Rateable Value is £33,316.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £133 6s. 0d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population	...	...	...	...	...	5354
Live Births Registered	...	...	...	74	M. 38	F. 36
Legitimate	...	...	...		M. 34	F. 34
Illegitimate	...	...	...		M. 4	F. 2
Birth Rate	...	...	...		13.8	per 1000
England and Wales	...	...	...		17.9	per 1000
Stillbirths	...	...	...		M. 1	F. 1
Legitimate M. 1 }	...	...	...		0.37	per 1000
Illegitimate F. 1 }	...	...	...
England and Wales	...	...	...		0.42	per 1000
Deaths due to Childbirth	...	...	...			Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...		M. 0.	F. 1
Legitimate	...	...	...		M. 0.	F. 1
Illegitimate	...	...	...			Nil
Deaths Registered	...	...	...	59	M. 29	F. 30
				15	over 70 years	
				14	over 80 years	
				1	over 90 years	
Death Rate	...	...	...		11.0	per 1000
England and Wales	...	...	...		10.8	per 1000

There was a drop in the number of births (98 to 74) and also in the number of deaths (71 to 59), of these 30 were aged people.

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea, Diphtheria or Whooping Cough among children. The general health of the inhabitants for the year was very good. There was no epidemic of infectious diseases. All houses in which Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever appear are disinfected during the first twenty-four hours.

Public Assistance Medical Relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used by both In and Out-Patients.

The Public Assistance Institution at St. Neots takes care of cases that are not serious enough to be sent to the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn, Cambs.

The Public Assistance Institution at the North End of the town takes all cases of illness and infirmity from the district, with the exception of the Mental cases.

Cases of illness are visited by a District Nurse in their homes, and cases of infectious diseases are conveyed to the local Isolation Hospital in Primrose Lane.

Food and Drugs Act is administered by the Hunts. County Council.

Legislation in Force

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890
" " " "	...	1907
" " " "	...	1936
Infectious Diseases Notification Act	...	1889
" " Prevention Act	...	1890
Notification of Births Act	...	1907
Shops Act	... ..	1934

Hospitals

There is a County Hospital in the Borough which receives cases, and an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases. These are supported by the National Health Services. Cases of Small Pox in the Borough are now provided for by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

There is a sufficient ambulance service in the Borough for ordinary cases and for infectious cases.

Clinics

There are clinics in the Borough for Tuberculosis, Chest Diseases, Ear, Nose and Throat cases, Child Welfare, Ante-Natal matters, Gynaecology, Orthopaedic and Mental Diseases, under the County Council jurisdiction. The County Hospital also has clinics in Medicine, Surgery, Orthopaedics, Fractures, Nose, Throat and Ears, Skins, Dental cases and Gynaecology.

Public Mortuary

The Mortuary in Priory Road has been renovated throughout, and electric light and a gas copper have been installed.

Water Supply

There was a sufficient supply of water during the year. Rainfall for the year was 27.05 inches, as compared with 18.92 inches for 1947. This being much above the average.

Samples of water are sent regularly to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge.

The town water is treated by chlorination, and the analyses proved satisfactory throughout the year.

In the extreme northern part of the town, where there is no piped supply, 8 houses situated in Sapley have been supplied with water by mobile tanks.

A new pump to take the place of an existing one which is inadequate is now being installed.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council have continued to proceed with the preparation of a new Scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The provision of a disposal Scheme is needed urgently, and the Council's Consulting Engineers presented plans to the Ministry of Health in July, 1947.

The new proposals will allow for a joint Scheme to serve the Borough and the Borough of Godmanchester.

It is hoped to have all preliminary details completed early in 1949, in order that an Inquiry may be held.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse

Collections of House Refuse are made once per week from dwelling houses, and at least twice per week from trade premises

The refuse is destroyed by means of an Incinerator situated well away from the town, and partly by controlled tipping to fill up land on the Hartford Road Fields, which are to be used for recreational purposes in the future.

A new Refuse Collecting Vehicle has been ordered by the Borough Council.

Bathing Place

The Bathing Place was closed during the year owing to an unsatisfactory report upon the condition of the river water.

Inspection

During the year I have made several inspections of the District, accompanied by your Sanitary Inspector.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, vide page 9.

Housing

During the year the scheme for 50 houses and 4 bungalows was completed.

Lay-out plans for further houses on land in American Lane have been approved, and work is in hand for house plans and approach road construction, also site works.

The Borough Council now possess 272 houses.

Inspections under Housing Acts have been in abeyance, but have been made and urgent matters dealt with under Public Health Act, 1936.

1. *Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health)	...	62
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...		80
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, 1925) and Sec. 5 of the 1936 Act	... ..	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	11

Lodging Houses

There is one registered Lodging House in the Borough.

Shops Act, 1934.

During the year inspections have been made of shops occupied in the Borough, and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

Factories

The undermentioned factories are operating in the Borough
Chivers & Sons, Canning; Amphion, Ltd., Wireless; Acoustical Manufacturing Co., Loud Speaker Equipment; Oriental Confectionary Co.; P. & H. Engineering Co.; Silent Channel Co., Rubber; Huntingdon Brewery Co.

The sanitary condition and water supply to the schools is the same as that of the Borough. The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease.

Tuberculosis

Cases of Tuberculosis are periodically examined at the County Clinic, or visited by the Health Visitor, and X-rayed at Papworth Sanatorium. The County Council allow patients the statutory allowances, besides priority milk and eggs. There was 1 death from Tuberculosis during the year. There were nine new cases, seven pulmonary, two non-pulmonary; and two cases transferred into the Borough.

Venereal Disease

As this is not a notifiable disease, no record of cases is kept but it is known that the incidence of disease is slight. Cases are treated at Peterborough and Cambridge.

Pneumonia

There were three cases of this disease, one being fatal.

Influenza

This disease was quiescent during the year.

Cancer

There were eleven deaths from Cancer during the year.

Varicella

There were eleven cases notified this year.

Scarlet Fever

There were two cases notified, but no deaths.

Measles

There were only six cases notified.

Scabies

This skin disease is practically non-existent in the Borough.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Infective Jaundice are notifiable as a war-time measure. Your Authority inoculates children against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough free of charge.

The following cases were notified under the Act :—

Tuberculosis Pulmonary	...	7
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis		2
Pneumonia	... ..	3
Erysipelas	... ..	4
Scarlet Fever	... ..	2
Whooping Cough	... ..	12
Measles	... ..	6
Chicken Pox	... ..	11

One hundred and thirty children were immunised against Diphtheria during the year, 107 under 5 years and 23 between 5 and 15 years. There are no records of the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough in the Borough, but parents have not taken much advantage of this offer by the Council.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases

Tuberculosis	1
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Bye-Laws and Regulations

The Council have Bye-Laws relating to new streets and buildings, and regulations relating to house drainage and water supply.

CHARLES E. HICKS,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Huntingdon Borough Council.*

HUNTINGDON.

June 1949.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Huntingdon, 1948

				Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	29	30
Tuberculosis of resp. orgs.			...	1	—
Cancer	...	...	...	6	5
Intracranial Vascular lesions			...	3	6
Heart Disease	...	...	...	10	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	—
Other respiratory diseases			...	—	1
Other digestive diseases			...	1	—
Nephritis	...	...	...	—	1
Premature birth		...	...	—	1
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	3	—
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	2	—
Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	2	6

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1948

Total No. Inspections made during 1948				112
,, ,, Notices Served (Informal)				32
Complaints received	Total number of	...	58
Premises, Houses, etc. (under Sec. 91)				No. inspected	...	62
				Nuisances abated	...	38
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse	...		No. inspected	...	4	
			Nuisances abated	...	—	
Animals improperly kept	...	...	No. inspected	...	1
			Nuisances abated	...	1	
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit	...		No. inspected	...	—	
			Nuisances abated	...	—	
Drain, draintaps, etc., etc.				No. inspected	...	12
				Nuisances abated	...	12
House, or part thereof, overcrowded				No. inspected	...	—
				Nuisances abated	...	—
Smoke nuisances	...	...	No. of observations	...	4
			Nuisances abated	...	—	
Offensive accumulations	...	...	No. of inspections	...	—
			Nuisances abated	...	—	
Other Sanitary conditions	...	...	No. inspected	...	—
			Nuisances abated	...	—	
Lodging Houses	...	...	No. registered	...	1
			No. of inspections	...	2	
Slaughter houses and Shops	...	...	No. licensed or registered	...	5
			No. of inspections	...	5	
Offensive trades (Section 112 Public Health Act, 1875)	...	...	No. established...	...	—
			No. of inspections	...	—	
Public Health Act, 1936	...	..	No. of of houses condemned	...	—
			No. closed	...	—	
			No. cleaned and limewashed	...	1	
Food—surrender of unwholesome	...		No. of	...	24	
			Houses affected with Tuberculosis	...	2	
			Houses inspected	...	2	
			No. of inspections	...	2	
			Houses disinfected	...	4	
Infectious Diseases	...	...	Schools disinfected	...	—
			Disinfectant used	...	—	
			McDougall's Prince Regent	...	—	
			Lots of clothing disinfected	...	—	
			,, ,, destroyed	...	—	
Pail or Earth Closets	..	...	New provided	...	—
			No. converted to W.C.'s	...	—	

Water Closets	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	...	35
					No. supplied with water	...	...	...	35
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	Samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	96
					Samples condemned	...	...	...	—
					Wells closed	...	...	...	—
					Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	—
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	Public supply substituted for	...	...	...	5
					well or pond	...	...	...	5
					Cisterns cleansed, repaired,	...	...	...	—
					covered	...	...	...	—
					Waste pipes disconnected from	...	...	...	—
					drain	...	...	...	—
Building Bye-Laws adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total legal proceedings, i.e. Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Workshops	...	...	...	...	Total number on register				
					including bakehouses	...	...	...	96
					No. in which nuisance abated	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	No. on register...	...	...	...	3
					No. in which nuisance abated	...	...	...	1
					No. of outworkers	...	...	...	—
					No. of houses	...	...	...	—
					No. of infected houses	...	...	...	—
Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

(a) MILK SUPPLY—This was controlled by the Milk Marketing Board. Dairies and Cowsheds are regularly inspected, and any defects corrected where required by the owners under the 1926 Order. There are 11 Cowkeepers registered in the Borough, four of whom retail their milk as well as produce it.

(b) MEAT.—There are six slaughter houses in the district, but have not been in use since all cattle have been slaughtered at St. Ives under a control scheme.

(c) **ADULTERATION OF FOOD.**—Food Inspection and Sampling is carried out by County Weights and Measures Inspector. A quantity of tinned food was surrendered voluntary.

(d) **CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.**—This is dealt with by the County Weights and Food Inspector.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
No. of Inspections during Milking time	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Have regulations been adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Yes

Cowsheds with Well Water Supply—

No. of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of from which water analysed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk

(Butter and Cheese Makers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

E. J. SAUNDERS,

Sanitary Inspector.

CHARLES E. HICKS,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON. Infantile Mortality during the Year 1948.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	1				1					1
	Uncertified	...									
Premature Birth		1				1					1
...									
...									
...									
...									
...									
...									
		1				1					1

Nett Births in the year :—

Legitimate	68
Illegitimate	6
Still Births	2

Nett Deaths in the year of:—

Total	74	Legitimate Infants	...	1	Total	1
		Illegitimate Infants	...	0		

HUNTINGDON URBAN *Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics, 1948.*

The following table gives the figures for 31st December, 1948.

Number of Children at 31st December, 1948, who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1934.

Age at 31-12-48 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1939- 1943	10-14 1934- 1938	Total under 15
Huntingdon Urban	3	71	72	55	48	229	299	777

Tuberculosis.*New Cases and Mortality during 1948.*

Age Periods	New Cases 11				Deaths 1.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...		1		1				
15 ...								
20 ...	2	1	1					
25 ...	1							
35 ...	2	1						
45 ...								
55 ...	1				1			
65 and upwards								
Total	6	3	1	1	1	...	...	...

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken.

Ten Years Fatal Cases of :

Year.	Cancer	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease
1939	8	5
1940	14	4
1941	15	5
1942	8	4
1943	8	1
1944	13	3
1945	9	0
1946	13	3
1947	16	1
1948	11	1
	115	27

