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HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and the  
Public Health Inspector

=====

YEAR 1958

=====



HARTFORD BOUGH CONVENT

Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and the  
Public Health Inspector

YEAR 1900



## ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1958.

BY

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

=====

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

Although there has been a fractional decrease in the Birth Rate, over last year's figure, the rate still stands above the average for England and Wales as a whole.

Both the crude and the corrected Death Rates for the year under review show a considerable fall as compared with 1957, there being 24 fewer deaths than in the previous year.

Measles accounted for most of the notifiable Infectious Disease which occurred during the year and most of the cases were notified in January as a continuation of the outbreak of this disease which began towards the end of 1957. Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis were again characterised by their absence and vaccination against this latter disease continued within the Borough with increasing momentum throughout the year - the eligible age group having been extended to include persons up to the age of 26 years.

A satisfactory water supply was maintained during the year and no shortages were encountered. Weekly samples continued to be taken for bacteriological examination and these indicated a high standard of purity was maintained throughout the year. Chemical analyses were also taken at periodic intervals and satisfactory results were also obtained. These results indicated a hard water containing little organic matter.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Cow Lane, Godmanchester, was completed during the year and treatment of sewage was commenced.

No new Council Houses were constructed during the year but a start was made on developing a site at Coldham's South for sixteen one bedroomed Old People's Bungalows.

During the year the waiting list was reviewed and the list now gives a truer record of the housing needs of the Borough.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown me, and also the Officers for their help and co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL.



# STAFF

## Medical Officer of Health:

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

## Public Health Inspector:

E. J. MORGANS, BSc., M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	..	..	..	..	2,151 acres
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1958	..	..	..	..	1,747
Rateable value of the district	..	..	..	..	£81,427
Value of a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£ 320
Estimated Population (Mid 1957)	..	..	..	..	5,670
Estimated Population (Mid 1958)	..	..	..	..	5,960

## Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	M	F	Total	
Legitimate	50	50	100	Birth rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	3	6	9	estimated population 18.3
Total	53	56	109	(Ditto for England and Wales) 16.4

STILL BIRTHS	M	F	Total	
Legitimate	1	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total
Illegitimate	1	-	1	(live & still) births 35.4
	2	2	4	(Ditto for England and Wales) 21.6

DEATHS (all ages)	48	48	96	Crude Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 16.1
				(Ditto for England and Wales) 11.7
				Corrected Death rate 7.5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	1	2

## DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	18.3
(Ditto for England and Wales)	..	..	..	22.5

## CAUSES OF DEATHS

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause.	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease.	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough.	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-
8.	Measles.	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	*
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	7	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-
16.	Diabetes.	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	6
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	5	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	2	-



<u>List No.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
20.	Other heart disease.	5	5
21.	Other circulatory disease.	2	5
22.	Influenza.	-	-
23.	Pneumonia.	1	1
24.	Bronchitis.	1	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	9	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	2	-
34.	All other accidents.	3	1
35.	Suicide.	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
Total all causes		48	48

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

##### (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service,  
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel: Cambridge 55526

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),  
Tennison Road, Cambridge. Tel: Cambridge 2097

##### (b) Ambulance Services.

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Services, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel: Huntingdon 348)

##### (c) Home Nursing.

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Huntingdon (Tel: Huntingdon 717) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

##### (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon County Council:-

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held</u>
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	Every Monday 9.30 - 10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0 - 5 yrs)	Every Tuesday 2 to 4 p.m.	ditto
Dental	Pre-school and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing mothers	Every Tuesday and Thursday - 9 a.m. - 12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 noon.	10a, Princes Street, Huntingdon
Speech Therapy	Schoolchildren	Every Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon 1.30 - 5 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-



<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held</u>
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays 3 - 7 p.m. Wednesdays 4 - 6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays 5.30 - 7 p.m. Wednesdays 5.30 - 7 p.m.	Out-Patients Dept., Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females	Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon Thursdays 5.30 - 7 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. - 12 noon (Surgeons by appointment)	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:-

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held</u>
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month 10 a.m. - 12 noon 2 - 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(c) Hospital Services.

Fever - Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases are admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon, or, to Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1958 - 38

Pulmonary - 33 Non-Pulmonary - 5

Age Periods	New cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp:		Respiratory		Non-Resp:	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25	2				1	3	1	
35								
45	1							
55								
65 & upwards								
TOTALS	3				1	3	1	

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.



## PUBLIC MORTUARY

A Mortuary is provided in Priory Road for the use of the district.

## CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

				<u>Total cases notified.</u>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	-
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	-
Measles	..	..	..	50
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	..	17
Puerperal Pyrexia..	..	..	..	8
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	-
Erysipelas	..	..	..	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	-
Infective Hepatitis	..	..	..	-
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	-
Dysentery	..	..	..	-
Meningitis	..	..	..	3
				80

## WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Town has continued to be satisfactory, sufficient and of good quality. Bulk supplies are given to Godmanchester B.C. and to four parishes of the Huntingdon R.D.C. as well as to Brampton Park Air Ministry Establishments.

Very few properties in the Borough are without a mains water supply.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Huntingdon Borough Scheme is completed and the Disposal Works at Cow Lane, Godmanchester, came into operation during the Summer.

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Collections of house refuse are made once per week and trade refuse is collected by arrangement at agreed periods, on payment. Dustbins are collected from the side or back doors of the houses wherever possible. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Buckden.

## HOUSING

No Council houses were built during the year.

At the end of the year the Council owned 480 houses, representing 27.5% of the total estimated number of houses in the Borough.

17 houses were erected by private owners during the year.

The Council issued 8 Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. ..	46
(b)	Total number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	53
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. ..	2
(b)	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	.. ..	23
(3)(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Informal Notices were served under Public Health Act, 1936.	.. ..	10



(b)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit under the above heading .. .. .	9
(4)(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served under Public Health Act, 1936 .. .. .	-
(b)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit under the above heading .. .. .	-

#### LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered Lodging Houses in the Borough.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Capt. W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S., is appointed to carry out all duties under the above Acts. Regular inspections are made of all food shops and premises.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1934

During the year a number of inspections were made of shop premises in the Borough, and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

#### FACTORIES

The undermentioned factories are operating in the Borough:-

Chivers & Sons.  
Amplion Limited.  
Acoustical Manufacturing Co.  
Oriental Confectionery Co.  
P. & H. Engineering Co.  
Silent Channel Co. Ltd.

#### SCHOOLS

The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease. They are adequately provided with water and sanitary services.

#### BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Council have By-Laws relating to new streets and buildings, and water supply.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

Complaints received.	Total number of .. .. .	75
Premises, Houses etc. (under Sec: 92 P.H. Act., 1936)	No. inspected .. .. .	32
	Nuisances abated .. .. .	32
Animals improperly kept	No. inspected .. .. .	-
	Nuisances abated .. .. .	-
Drain, urinal, cesspool.	No. inspected .. .. .	18
	Nuisances abated .. .. .	18
Smoke nuisances.	No. of observations .. .. .	-
	Nuisances abated .. .. .	-
Offensive accumulations.	No. of inspections .. .. .	3
	Nuisances abated .. .. .	3
Other Sanitary conditions.	No. inspected .. .. .	-
	Nuisances abated .. .. .	-
Slaughterhouses and Shops.	No. licensed or registered .. .. .	2
	No of inspections .. .. .	8
Water Closets.	New provided .. .. .	41
	(Samples taken for Analysis .. .. .	155
	(Samples condemned .. .. .	-
	(Wells closed .. .. .	-

# Water Supply.

(Wells cleansed, repaired etc.	-
(Public supply substituted for	
well or pond .. .. .	2
(Cisterns cleansed, repaired,	
covered .. .. .	-

## Factories Act, 1937

Factories.	Total number on register,	
	including Bakehouses ..	55
	No. in which nuisance abated	-
Bakehouses.	No. on register.	1
Outworkers.	No. of workers .. ..	2
	No. of houses .. ..	-
	No. of infected houses ..	-
Legal proceedings i.e.	Summonses etc. .. ..	-
	Convictions .. ..	-

J. CALDWELL.

Medical Officer of Health,  
Huntingdon Borough Council.

August, 1959.



