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Contributors

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Kidderminster
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1937.

Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR E. T. LANGFORD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR F. R. WELCH, C.C.

COUNCILLOR T. J. BEESTON.

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„ H. DOOLITTLE.

„ J. EVANS.

„ A. E. HALFORD.

„ P. J. HINGLEY, J.P.

„ A. E. HOBSON.

„ F. C. OAKLEY.

„ J. PAGE, M.B.E., J.P.

„ A. PARDOE.

„ W. A. POUND.

„ F. SMITH.

„ W. WALDRON.



CLERK.

W. PARKIN.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR.

A. S. NORTHOVER,

M. INST., M. & CY. E.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

D. LLEWELLYN,

A.R. SAN. INST., M.S.I.A.

(*Certified Sanitary and Meat Inspector*).

Kidderminster Rural District Council.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1937, which follows the lines indicated by the Minister of Health in Circular 1650.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	36,769
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1937	...	...	...	...	...	7,740
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937	...	...	...	...	...	2,640
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£44,125
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£186

The Social conditions remain as before.

Vital Statistics.

		Males.	Females.	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	52	53	105
	Illegitimate	1	1	2
Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		...	...	13.8
Birth-rate for 1936		...	...	14.4
,, ,, 1935		...	...	12.7
The Birth-rate for England and Wales, 1937		...	...	14.9
		Males.	Females.	Total
Still-births	...	2	4	6
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		...	...	53.09
		Males.	Females.	Total
Deaths	...	61	50	111
Crude Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		...	...	14.3
Adjusted Death-rate per 1,000		,,	,,	11.86

The adjusted Death-rate is obtained by multiplication of the Crude Death-rate by a comparability factor 0.83 supplied by the Registrar-General.

Death-rate for England and Wales, 1937 12.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0
Total	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	46.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	47.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

There were five deaths of infants under one year of age compared to eight for the previous year.

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 58 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

The total deaths registered were 111 as against 99 in 1936 and 111 in 1935.

Thirty-four deaths were attributed to heart disease, more than one quarter of the total deaths. Apart from a death due to a congenital heart, there was only one death from heart disease under the age of 20, one between the age group of 35-45 years, one death under 55 years, and one under the age of 60. It would seem likely from the fact that 29 of these deaths occurred in people over 60 years of age that degenerative changes in the heart due to advancing years was the main factor. I believe, that if Acute Rheumatism had been the main cause, there would have been more deaths in early adolescence and in middle life.

The average age of death in the cancer cases was 64 years.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff. No change during 1937.

Laboratory Facilities.

Examination of clinical material (Sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the Worcestershire County Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Cases the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Committee provide an ambulance, which is kept at the

Isolation Hospital, to deal with these cases. The service provided is satisfactory.

For Non-Infectious cases an Ambulance Service is provided by the Kidderminster Corporation.

Nursing.

For both Maternity and general work, nurses in the employ of the District Nursing Associations render admirable service.

Infant Welfare Work.

There is a Voluntary Infant Welfare Centre held twice a month at Rock.

Tuberculosis.

This work is undertaken by the Worcestershire County Council.

Hospitals.

Kidderminster General Hospital. This Hospital is situated in the Borough of Kidderminster, but is also used by the inhabitants of the Kidderminster Rural District.

Infectious disease. Patients are admitted to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital. This hospital is provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Hospital Committee, and serves a wide area. During the year 28 patients were admitted from the Kidderminster Rural District, eight with Scarlet Fever and twenty with Diphtheria. They all recovered.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council's borehole at Cookley supplies the Parish of Wolverley, and also the old Parish of Churchill and the Parish of Broom which were formerly supplied by the Stourbridge and District Water Board, and in addition supplies the Parish of Chaddesley Corbett and part of the Parish of Stone.

City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct supplies the Parish of Rock, Shatterford and Upper Arley, Trimpley and Habberley (Kidderminster Foreign).

Samples of water have been taken by the Sanitary Inspector and sent for examination to the County Analyst. The Council have decided to send a sample of water each month from the Cookley borehole for analysis. Arrangements have been made to have a bacteriological examination made periodically.

The following is the result of an analysis of a sample from the Cookley borehole at Cookley Pumping Station, taken on the 19th November, 1937.

Chemical Examination.		(Results expressed in parts per 100,000)		
Solids in Suspension	(Dried at 100° C)	...	...	Trace
Solids in Solution	(Dried at 100° C)	...	...	23
Solids in Solution	After Ignition	...	...	18
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt		...	...	3.6
Hardness	Permanent	...	...	8
"	Temporary	...	...	7
"	Total	...	...	15
Free and Saline Ammonia		...	...	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia		...	...	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen	(Nitrates)	...	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen	(Nitrites)	...	...	None
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C		...	...	0.03
Toxic Metals		...	...	None detected.

Remarks.

From the above chemical analysis the sample is fit for drinking.
A Bacteriological examination was not made during the year.
The supply is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The question of a sewerage scheme for the villages of Cookley and Wolverley is still under consideration.

Rivers and Streams.

I know of no serious pollution to rivers and streams in the Rural District.

Public Cleansing.

The scavenging is carried out by contract and is dealt with by tipping. All Tips in the district are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the district. There are however two privately owned Swimming Pools open to the public. Conditions are satisfactory in both.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One old house was found to be infected with bed bugs, and was treated by spraying with an efficient insecticide.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools are satisfactory. There are twelve schools in the Rural District, and the number of scholars on the School Registers in December was 987.

There were six School closures on account of infectious disease, four in the early part of the year for Influenza, and two on account of Measles. One of the closures was for four days only; Measles was commencing to break out just at the end of a term. In addition two certificates were given to cover decrease of attendance below 60 per cent.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The Council's proposals for erecting houses for people living under overcrowded conditions and in houses which have been made the subject of Demolition Orders are as follows :—

PARISH.

Chaddesley Corbett (2 sites)	...	...	20 houses.
Rock (2 sites)	...	...	14 „
Wolverley (2 sites)	...	...	22 „
Total			<hr/> 56 <hr/>

These houses will be of the 3 and 4 bedroom type, and a good proportion will be allotted to the agricultural population. During the period covered by this report the erection of eighteen of these houses has commenced.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of dwelling-houses which have been made fit by owners							7
Number of houses which have been put out of use for human habitation (including parts of buildings closed) and are not to be demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

a. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	30
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...
c. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...
d. (1) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...
e. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...

During the year there were three cottages reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931.

SECTION E.

Milk Supply.

Farms and Dairies are inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector. For the year under review, the County Council issued licences under the milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, to twelve producers in the district for Accredited Milk, five of these being combined Production and Bottling Licences, and seven Production Licences.

Meat and other Foods.

Regular visits are paid to all Licensed and Registered Slaughter-houses. There are four Licensed and four Registered premises in the Rural District. Vehicles carrying foodstuffs of all kinds have been examined while trading in the district.

Bakehouses.

There are eight bakehouse premises in use. They are visited at least once a quarter by the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

There were twenty-one cases of Scarlet Fever, seventeen households being affected. There were six cases at Cookley, one at Ribbesford, ten at Rock, two at Shatterford, and two at Wolverley. In 1936 there were only eight cases, in 1935 twenty-eight. The disease was again of a mild character.

Diphtheria.

Thirty-one cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1937, as compared with two the previous year, and five in 1935. There were no deaths amongst these patients. Twenty-nine households were affected. There were twenty-five cases at Cookley, four at Chaddesley Corbett, and two at Rock. In September there were thirteen cases at Cookley, in October three, November two and December two.

The cases of Diphtheria which occurred at Cookley were mainly confined to children of school age. Seven of the first ten cases notified in September were amongst children in one class. In July and August there had been a considerable number of Cookley children with Whooping cough. I took nasal and throat swabs, particular attention was paid to those children who were known to have been in close contact with the notified cases. Certain children were excluded from school as a result of this swabbing. Periodic visits were paid to the school, and a close watch kept over the children. The Headmaster kept the Sanitary Inspector informed of all children absent from school, and the Sanitary Inspector visited the homes of these children to make the necessary enquiries, and advised the parents to seek medical advice from their private doctor. All Diphtheria contacts had swabs taken prior to their return to school, mostly taken by their private doctor. Suspected carriers were excluded from school until I had taken three consecutive negative nose and throat swabs.

General.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided free to Medical Practitioners by the Rural District Council.

Immunization against Diphtheria.

Immunization against Diphtheria is provided free by the Rural District Council. Three injections of T.A.M. are given at fortnightly intervals. Each school in the district will be circularized in turn. Actually Diphtheria Immunization work commenced in December, a start being made at Cookley School, where the response was excellent. The clerical work is done by the Sanitary Inspector, and the County Council provide a Nurse to help me.

The notifiable infectious diseases are set out in the following table.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	21	8	None
Diphtheria	31	20	None
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	None
Puerperal Fever	1	1	None
Pneumonia	4	0	2
Ophthalmia } Neonatorum }	1	0	None

Notifiable Diseases, (Other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1937.

Age in years.												Total No. of Cases
Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	
Scarlet Fever ...				1	2	8	6	1	3			21
Diphtheria ...				1	3	12	12	2	1			31
Puerperal Fever ...									1			1
Puerperal Pyrexia									2			2
Pneumonia ...									1	1	2	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1											1
Totals ...	1			2	5	20	18	3	8	1	2	60

Number of Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria
notified each month.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet ...	—	2	1	1	—	3	—	3	2	3	4	2	21
Diphtheria ...	—	1	—	2	2	1	3	1	13	4	2	2	31

Prevention of Blindness.

The Rural District Council has not applied for power under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, nor have they taken any action under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis.

Six cases were notified during the year, one of these being a transfer from another district.

Age periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respirat'y		Respiratory		Non-Respirat'y	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
15	1	2						
25		2						1
35					1			
45	1				1			
55								
65								
and upwards					1			
Totals	2	4			3			1

There were no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths. No action was taken under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

