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**Contributors**

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HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

HEALTH  
A-6 OCT 1945  
D.R.

Statistics.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.
Rateable value at 31st December.	167,597	166,540	163,702	158,215
Inhabited houses at 31st December.	5,200	5,250	5,250	5,200
The population figure supplied by the Registrar General was	20,150	20,790	20,750	20,560
No. of deaths from all causes.	218	189	174	190
No. of live births. Legitimate.	387	309	369	290
Illegitimate.	21	19	12	19
No. of still births. Legitimate.	5	7	10	7
Illegitimate.	2	1	1	1
No. of deaths of infants under one year. Legitimate.	9	15	7	9
Illegitimate.	3	1	1	2
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population.	20.25	15.78	18.36	15.03
Still birth rate per 1,000 Live and still births.	16.87	23.8	28.06	25.24
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the population.	10.82	9.1	9.34	9.24
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births.	29.41	48.8	20.99	36.60
Death rate of all Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	23.25	48.54	19.24	31.03
Death rate of all Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	142.86	52.63	83.33	105.36

2. Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.	15	27	57	12
Diphtheria.	0	1	1	4
Whooping Cough.	69	8	43	97
Measles.	51	251	74	489
Erysipelas.	2	6	3	4
Pneumonia.	11	18	19	24
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	5	1	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorium.	1	-	-	-

3. Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 276 children were immunised.

4. Scabies.

During the year the following cases were treated.

		Children.	Adults.	
			Male.	Female.
Hatfield Treatment Centre.	277.	173.	43.	61.
North Mymms Treatment Centre.	15.	8.	1.	6.

## 5. Water Supplies.

A shortage of water occurred during the year in the following districts:-

- i. Tylers Causeway.
- ii. Whitegate Cottages.
- iii. Stanborough.

i. Tylers Causeway. Complaint was received from this area during the summer that there had been a severe shortage of water for domestic purposes for several months. An inspection was made and nine properties appeared to be affected, but by arrangement with the Gascoyne Cecil Estates, water was taken from their private supply to five cottages, the owners of the other properties were approached and asked to deepen their shallow wells as there is beyond doubt water available in this area, as is proved by a good supply from a deep well provided for the adjacent licensed premises.

The question of the extension of the water main might be considered in connection with the Government's scheme for water supplies in rural areas.

The water main could be extended a distance of 3,100 yards from Newgate Street village at an estimated cost of £2,500.

ii. Whitegate Cottages. The very inadequate well provided for these cottages failed during the summer and produced only from three to six buckets of water daily, which on analysis showed that it was not fit for domestic use.

The cottages in this area belong to two different owners and it is understood that an endeavour is being made to provide a joint piped water supply.

Meanwhile the cottages are being supplied with water by the Council, who transport it in tanks several times a week.

iii. Stanborough. One breakdown occurred to the private water supply on the Stanborough Estate, but the complaint was put right in a matter of hours.

This private supply is under constant supervision and inspection and continues to provide water for domestic purposes to houses not connected to the public water main, which is available to all the houses taking the private supply.

6. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Parish of Northaw. A sewerage scheme was approved before the war and contracts were entered into for the construction of a trunk sewer and a temporary disposal works, pending the construction of the trunk sewer under the East Middlesex Sewerage scheme.

Part of the scheme was sanctioned despite the outbreak of war but even this modified scheme had to be abandoned.

It was, however, decided that the scheme be submitted to the Ministry of Health as one of urgency and priority of treatment as post-war work.

There is a great urgency for this scheme to deal with the unsatisfactory condition in the village of Northaw and the great number of cesspools serving properties on the Ridgeway.

Welham Green. A breakdown of the chlorination apparatus at the Welham Green Sewerage Disposal Works occurred during the year and this was considered by the Water Companies concerned to be serious if no chlorination of the effluent is carried out.

The apparatus has now been overhauled and set to discharge five parts of chlorine per 1,000 parts of effluent; this standard being fixed by the Metropolitan Water Board Engineer.

To prevent recurrence of the trouble and lack of supervision by the manufacturers, arrangements have been made for a weekly inspection of the apparatus by an Engineer from the Barnet Water Company.

Gobians Wood Overflow. This small works deals with storm overflow from the Brookmans Park area, but during the year on inspection by an Inspector of the Conservancy Board it was found that crude sewage was being discharged into the adjacent stream which is directly connected with the swallow holes at Water End.

After a meeting with representatives from the Metropolitan Water Company, Barnet Water Company, Lea Conservancy Board and Thames Conservancy Board, it was agreed that the cill of the storm overflow chamber should be raised and set to deal with the sewage when it reached six times the dry weather flow. This has been done and no further trouble has been experienced.

The chlorous dosing plant has been overhauled and is now in good working order.

7. Water End Pumping Station.

Several blockages have occurred during the year in the sewer serving the B.C.C. American Hospital in North Mimms Park and flooding of the water under the Girls' School yard has resulted.

The primary cause of the blockage was found to be a defective pipe and this was remedied by the Ministry of Works. Further stoppages, however, occurred, and these were traced to extraneous matter from the Hospital choking the screens at the pumping station.

The Council took a serious view of this and an interview was arranged with the Officer Commanding at the Hospital and he promised by publicity in the wards to do all in his power to prevent such things as bandages, rags, etc. finding their way into the sewer, and as a further precaution the Ministry of Works was asked to provide a small screen chamber at the head of the Hospital sewer.

Labour. The lack of labour to run the sewage disposal works is proving a great handicap to the smooth and efficient working of the several plants and representations have been made on many occasions to the Ministry of Health for labour to be directed for this work, but so far without result.

8. Refuse Collection.

During the year the Council lost the services of two men employed on dust collection, reducing the number of men available for this work to four only. In consequence it was decided to split the district into two areas and an endeavour was made to give a monthly collection. Even this minimum service was not maintained and the period between collection in some cases was seven to eight weeks.

In spite of repeated applications to the Ministry of Labour no suitable men have been directed and if the staff is not enlarged improvement in the collection cannot be expected.

Valuable work is being done by a volunteer dust collection squad who operate every three weeks and deal with about 150 houses.

9. Agricultural Cottages.

Under the Ministry's scheme for the provision of agricultural cottages six have been erected and occupied during the year; four being built in Park Road Northaw and two in Parsonage Road Welham Green.

10. Moveable Dwellings.

After careful consideration, an application was made to the Ministry of Health for Section 269 Public Health Act 1936 to be put in operation. Under this Section a Local Authority may control moveable dwellings by means of Licences, both in respect of sites and the erections themselves.

The application was granted on April 1st 1944 and came into operation on May 1st 1944, and Section 95 of the Hertfordshire County Council Act was repealed.

11. Rural Housing Survey.

Under Circular 64/1944 a survey of all the working class houses in the district is to be undertaken and the houses classified in various categories of condition and repair and that based on the results of the survey, there should be a programme prepared of the work to be done over a period. The number of houses to be included in the survey is 3,600.

This survey would be required primarily for the pre-1914 houses which are estimated to be as under:

Hatfield.	830.
North Mimms.	370.
Essendon.	110.
Northaw.	80.
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Total.	1,390.
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An endeavour is to be made to complete the survey within twelve months.

It has been agreed to engage extra clerical service to assist the officers making the inspections.

12. Housing.

Following the extensive war damage to houses in the District during the latter part of the year, a heavy programme of repair and reconstruction of houses confronted the district. The accommodation of the homeless and inadequately housed persons remains a major problem, the number of houses available for requisitioning being very limited. The conversion of houses to accommodate two or more families has been successfully resorted to in some instances.

13. Evacuation Scheme.

The three Hostels, Alexandra House - Boys, Honister - Girls, and West Hall - Boys, administered by the Council continued in operation throughout the year.

Council Offices,  
Hatfield,  
Herts.  
22/9/45.

C.D. Cardinall,  
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

