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Contributors

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LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1964



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1964

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. W. Pringle, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER

B. H. Burne, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

M. S. Leslie, M.R.S.H., Cert.R.S.A. (Scot.).

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. Wilson, Cert.R.S.A. (Scot.).

Council Offices,
6 Leighton Road,
Linslade.

To the Chairman and Members of
Linslade Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and vital statistics for the Urban District of Linslade for the year 1964.

The statistics do not present any unusual features, apart from the maternal mortality rate which is 8.62 per thousand births. However, this figure is much less alarming than it would seem at first sight when it is realised that it is due to one maternal death. This illustrates the point that when dealing with small populations minor variations in numbers can give a disproportionate change in rates.

Towards the end of the year arrangements for handing over services were being made. The joint appointment of Mr. Leslie as Chief Public Health Inspector to the two Councils greatly facilitated the smooth transfer of the Health Services.

I had hoped to serve Linslade for many more years to come but owing to the changes in the Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire borders this will be my last Annual Report. I would like to thank the Committee for their interest and support and Mr. Leslie and the staff of the Health Department for their willing help at all times.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

A.W.PRINGLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1964

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

GENERAL	1954	1964
Area in acres	1,693	1,693
Population	3,400	4,470
Number of inhabited dwellings	1,115	1,457
Rateable Value	£20,906	£187,743
Rate in the £	28/-	10/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£82	£745
 BIRTHS		
Legitimate (Male)	22	62
Legitimate (Female)	40	46
Illegitimate	1	Nil
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.8	25.1
" " " " " (Bucks)	15.6	20.1
" " " " " (England & Wales)	15.2	18.4
 DEATHS		
Males	19	21
Females	8	37
Death Rate per 1,000 population	6.5	13.0
" " " " " (Bucks)	9.5	8.7
" " " " " (England & Wales)	11.3	11.3
Still Births	Nil	4
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	8.62
" " " " (Bucks)	0.47	0.37
" " " " (England & Wales)	0.69	0.25

INFANTILE MORTALITY

1964

Deaths of Infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 births	8.9
" " " " " " " (Bucks)	16.7
" " " " " (England & Wales)	20.0

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

1964

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm-stomach	1	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung bronchus	2	0
Malignant neoplasm - breast	0	2
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	0	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2
Other Heart Disease	4	2
Other Circulatory Disease	0	3
Pneumonia	1	4
Bronchitis	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease ..	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
TOTAL:		
	21	37

(B) GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement continues to work satisfactorily.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

For general cases, accidents and infectious diseases, two motor ambulances and one car for sitting cases were maintained in the district.

NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse in her usual efficient manner.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A centre at the Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the second and fourth Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session. A total of 1,384 attendances were made.

HOSPITALS

The following hospitals received cases from the area:-

- Royal Bucks, Aylesbury
- Tindal, Aylesbury
- Isolation, Aylesbury
- Luton & Dunstable
- Spittlesea, Luton.

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY:

A regular check was kept on the quality of the water supply. Fortnightly samples taken by the Mid Beds. Water Board for bacteriological examination were all found to be satisfactory. Results of chemical analysis show opalescence due to the presence of an appreciable and therefore objectionable trace of iron. It is free from other metals apart from a minute trace of manganese. The water is on the acid side of neutrality and has a high content of free carbon dioxide; from the aspect of corrosive activity a reduction in this free carbon dioxide is therefore required. The water is hard in character though not excessively so and is of very satisfactory organic quality.

Subject to the removal of iron and an increase in the ph value these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes as judged from the aspect of chemical analysis.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

Good progress was made during the year with the construction of the new joint sewage disposal works. It was estimated that completion would take place early in 1965.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:

Periodic inspection of the canal, river and streams within the urban district revealed instances of pollution due to the overloading of the existing sewage works.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are, unfortunately no swimming facilities for the public with the urban district.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this Authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was not used during the year.

(D) H O U S I N G

Demolition Order procedure was begun during the year in respect of houses numbered 1 to 11 Soulbury Road and 94 Old Road. An interim report was also submitted indicating groups of property which could be considered for Slum Clearance.

Inspection of District:

The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation .. 3

The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. Nil

The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:-

(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works .. Nil

(b) the making of demolition or closing orders .. 7

The number of notices served requiring the execution of works .. Nil

The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices .. Nil

The number of demolition or closing orders made .. 2

The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 .. 3

The number of houses demolished .. Nil

PETROLEUM(CONSOLIDATION)ACT,1928

A survey of underground tanks was carried out and all tanks which had been underground for 20 years or more were tested. Pumps which were electrically operated were also tested and certified by a competent electrician as complying with the Home Office Code of requirements.

FACTORIES ACT,1937

Five inspections of factories were made regarding the provision of suitable sanitary accommodation, cleanliness etc.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT,1949

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Officer whose services are shared with Leighton U.D.C.

Sewer inspections were made, and treatment carried out where infestations were noted.

(F) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES ETC.	<u>1964</u>
Dairies	4
Registered premises, Sec.16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955	19
Licensed premises	10
Confectionery, Grocery and Greengrocery	18
Butchers	3
Cafes and Canteens	3
Bakeries	1
	<hr/>
	58
	<hr/>

Total number of visits made during the year:- 134:

MILK AND DAIRIES:

The dairies within the urban district were maintained in a satisfactory manner.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The Ship Road slaughterhouse was relicensed and used throughout the year.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Carcases and Offal Inspected
and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	203	22	7	535	112
Number inspected	203	22	7	535	112
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	41	8	Nil	165	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	21.9%	34.4%	Nil	30.9%	27.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(G) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TUBERCULOSIS:

Because of the relatively high rate of respiratory Tuberculosis in immigrants from Pakistan and Italy it was suggested that these people should have their chests X-rayed at the port of entry into this Country. However, the Minister has stated that this is not a practical solution and instead has put into operation a scheme for follow-up of certain immigrant groups by Local Authorities with a view to persuading them to register as soon as possible with a general practitioner, who is asked to arrange for chest X-ray if he considers this appropriate.

Returns of the number of immigrants followed up and those found to have tuberculosis are being made periodically to the Minister of Health. The success of the scheme must depend on the amount of co-operation obtained from immigrants, and the perseverance of those who do follow-up visits, but an obvious difficulty is the tendency for the address given on arrival in this country to be only a temporary one.

One new case of tuberculosis was notified during the year and there were no deaths due to this disease.

BRUCELLOSIS:

Advances in Public Health have to be achieved in partnership with the general public or particular groups within the community. The farmers must be given credit for their part in the elimination of bovine tuberculosis by the establishment of tuberculin tested herds. Their further co-operation is urgently needed in the elimination of brucellosis or contagious abortion from their herds because this disease can be transmitted to humans who drink untreated milk from infected animals. Research over a wide area suggests that about 30% of herds are infected, although only one or two cows in the herd may be infected. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of humans infected annually with this serious disease, but returns from the Public Health laboratory service show that there were 101 cases in 1961 and 96 in 1962 known to them. It is fair to assume that there were many more cases who did not come to their notice.

BRUCELLOSIS - Continued -

There are two separate lines of attack against Brucellosis. Firstly, full advantage must be taken of the free scheme for the vaccination of all female calves with S 19 vaccine. In a recent letter to milk producers the Regional Manager of the Milk Marketing Board has urged them to make full use of the scheme and it is to be hoped that they will co-operate fully. The second is by the pasteurisation or other heat treatment of milk which effectively removes the danger to humans, and were it not for the fact that the vast majority of people (94% of milk in England and Wales is pasteurised) have the good sense to buy pasteurised milk there would doubtless be many more cases. It would seem worthwhile mentioning that milk does not lose any of its nutritional qualities in pasteurisation.

These two lines of attack have not so far succeeded in reducing infection in herds or humans to any marked extent, and it may be that legislation similar to that introduced to bring about the elimination of bovine tuberculosis will be required. Amongst other measures included should be the declaration of areas to be freed from Brucellosis, notification of human cases within these areas, and compensation to farmers for the slaughter of infected animals at present sometimes sold in markets. It is tempting to over-simplify this problem, but whatever the difficulties they are well worth consideration.

Local outbreaks of Brucellosis in humans drinking unpasteurised milk are reported from time to time in the Midlands, but no local cases have been brought to my notice. Such local herds as have been reported to be infected have been sending all milk for pasteurisation.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

It will be noted from the tables on infectious diseases that for the second year running measles has been prevalent. Although it is now a fairly mild disease it can cause considerable debility in infants and complications may occur.

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OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASE S- Continued -

Measles vaccines have been produced, but so far they have caused reactions which make them unacceptable for routine immunisation. A new vaccine is undergoing trials at present, but it will take some time before it's usefulness can be assessed.

There were no outbreaks of dysentery or food poisoning in the district and once again I am glad to report that there were no cases of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria.

CERVICAL CRYPTOLOGY:

The possibility of screening women aged 25 to 60 years to detect early cancer of the neck or cervix of the womb was made public during the year, and aroused considerable interest. There were 2,465 deaths in England and Wales due to cancer in this site in 1963, which early detection and treatment could have avoided.

The planning of a pilot scheme for screening some of the women in these age groups was well advanced in this area with a view to finding out the best method of organising a full screening service, and also to measure what response may be expected. In the meantime general practitioners can arrange individual examinations when they consider there are medical indications for these.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS:

Measles	95
Scarlet Fever ..	2
Whooping Cough..	3
Pneumonia	Nil
Tuberculosis ...	1

A.W.PRINGLE,
Medical Officer of Health.
M.S.LESLIE,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provision as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	3	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding Outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	26	3	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	All other defects
Defects found	Nil	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil	Nil
Referred to H.M. Inspector	Nil	Nil
Referred by H.M. Inspector	Nil	Nil
Prosecutions instituted	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork - (Sections 110 and 111)

There were no Outworkers in the district.

