THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF LOTHINGLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH

of the
RURAL DISTRICT OF LOTHINGLAND
for the
year
1951.

by: ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The arrangements under which I now act as your Medical Officer, appear to be working satisfactorily. The area formed by Lowestoft, Lothingland and Southwold forms a natural unit, and the co-ordination of medical services within the area from a central office is a most useful and convenient arrangement.

A perusal of the Vital Statistics for Lothingland, will reveal that they differ little from last year. Where comparatively small numbers are involved, too much notice must not be taken of "rates per 1000". The actual numbers give a better indication of the trend. This is particularly applicable to the Infantile Mortality Rate.

Once again measles and whooping cough are the only two of the infectious diseases which occurred with any great incidence during the year. The incidence of measles was, however, lower this year than during the previous one, whilst whooping cough showed a higher incidence.

Considerable publicity has been given recently to the fall in the proportion of the infant population immunised against diphtheria. The statistics relating to Diphtheria Immunisation in this district show unfortunately that the same trend is occuring here, only 47.4% of pre school children now being protected. One of the chief reasons for this decline is thought to be a false sense of security by mothers that now there is little diphtheria about, the disease has been banished. This is unfortunately not the case and steps must be taken to get a higher proportion of the child population immunised if we are not to get a return of the disease into the Community.

Many of the problems set the Health Department in a rural district such as this relate to housing and sanitation. As property deteriorates and the generally accepted standard of housing accommodation rises, there will always be some properties falling short of the desirable. The difficulties of carrying out rebuilding and public works at the present time necessitate a tolerance of conditions in some cases, which one would otherwise like to see remedied. Your Officers wish to record that they are well aware of these defects and will continue to do all they can to advise on practical remedies consistent with prevailing circumstances.

Once again it gives me pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Clerk of the Council, the Sanitary Inspector and the other officials of the Council for their co-operation throughout the year.

General Statistics.

Area...	44,653 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of population(mid 1951)	15,090
Number of Inhabited houses.	4,918.
Rateable Value...	£61,857.

Vital Statistics.

Births	Male	Female	Total
TOTAL Live Births	125.	94.	219.
(Illegitimate)	(4)	(1)	(5)

Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population = 14.4
(England and Wales = 15.5)

Stillbirths

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 26.6.

Maternal Mortality - Nil.

Infantile Mortality (Deaths of infants under one year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	6	4	10

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 45.6
(England and Wales = 29.6).

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
85	85	170.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population = 11.3
(England and Wales = 12.5)

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Cancer	18	11	29
Diabetes	-	1	1
Heart Diseases	33	37	70
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	16	22
Pneumonia & Bronchitis	13	8	21
Other causes	14	12	26
	85	85	170

Comparative Table for the Past Five Years.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Population	14,330.	14,390.	14,550.	14,400.	15,090.
Births	282.	263.	258.	210	219.
Birth Rate per 1,000	19.7	17.3.	18.0.	14.9.	14.4.
Deaths	184	167.	187	165.	170.
Death Rate per 1,000	12.8.	11.6.	12.8.	11.4.	11.3.
Infant Deaths	5.	7.	6.	7.	10.
Infantile Mortality Rate	17.7	26.6.	23.0.	33.3.	45.6.

Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the distribution of the various Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

Parish.	Erysipelas	Jaundice	Malaria	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough.
Belton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Blundeston	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Bradwell	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Burgh Castle	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carlton Colville	-	1	-	8	1	1	4	9
Corton	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Frostenden	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Henstead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hopton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hulver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kessingland	1	2	1	8	7	-	-	10
Mutford	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Oulton	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Reydon	-	-	-	10	3	-	1	36
Rushmere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Somerleyton	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wangford	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1
Wrentham.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	8
1951	1	4	1	41	13	1	8	83
1950	2	31	-	137	5	2	14	32

The responsibility for arranging for the hospital treatment of any infectious disease cases, which cannot be treated at home, rests with the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following information:-

Pre-school Population (0 - 4)	1325
School Population	2392
Number of pre-school children immunised	628 (47.4%)
Total number of children immunised	1769 (64.5%)
"Booster" treatment 1951	198

Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulm.	N. Pulm.	Pulm.	N. Pulm.	
Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	29	16	12	12	69
Number of cases added to register during year	4	4	5	1	14
Number removed from Register during year	3	-	2	2	7
Number of cases on Register at end of year.	30	20	15	11	76

Infant Welfare Centres

The following statistics have been supplied through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer.

	Carlton Colville.	Kessingland	Wrentham	Somerleyton & District.
No. of sessions	22	16	23	55
No. of children in attendance at end of year.	39	37	92	189
No. of children who first attended during year:-				
(a) Under one year	12	11	11	54
(b) 1 - 5 years	1	2	-	5
Total attendances:-				
(a) Under one year	83	126	260	381
(b) 1 - 5 years	247	153	297	868

Water Supply

Of the piped supplies for which this Authority is responsible, that at Kessingland is analysed once a quarter and reports have been consistently satisfactory.

The Bradwell supply is drawn from Yarmouth, and Lowestoft and Southwold water concerns also supply into the district. In these cases, testing is done by the supplying authorities good analytical reports having been obtained throughout the year.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified.

I am,

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE

Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a report upon the work of my department for the year 1951.

Housing.

72 Houses were inspected for defects and overcrowding and 36 informal notices requiring repairs were served, 33 being complied with. 3 Statutory notices were issued 2 of them were complied with.

The high costs of labour and materials prevented many owners from carrying out necessary repairs to their property.

6 Houses were erected by private enterprise.

Control of Building Licences - Regulation 56A.

Type of Licence.	Number.	Value.
Housing Repairs.	42.	£12,324.
Building of Houses by private enterprise.	12	£20,740.

Building Byelaws & Town Planning.

Plans were submitted and approved as follows:-

Permanent Houses ...	18
Temporary Dwellings ...	2
Garages	16
Agricultural Buildings...	18
Additions and Alterations to Houses	18
Additions to Holiday Camps	8
Miscellaneous... ...	12

Food & Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14.

There were 29 premises registered for the sale of Ice-cream, - 5 more than the previous year - and 3 premises registered for both its manufacture and sale - an addition of one.

Biological Examination of Milk, 1951.

(a) Number of samples examined	37
(b) Number found to contain tubercle bacilli ...	4
(c) Number found to contain brucella organisms ...	6

Q. Fever Investigation, 1951.

(a) Number of samples examined	24
(b) Number found to contain tubercle bacilli ...	0
(c) Number found to contain brucella organisms ...	0
(d) Number found to contain Q. fever	0.

Bakehouses, Food Shops and Dairies.

58 Inspections were made including visits to butchers' shops and one informal notice was served requiring improvement to a shop.

Meat Inspection.

This work takes up a great deal of time and is made difficult by

the irregular hours of slaughtering and the inadequate premises in which the killing is carried out.

Slaughtering was carried on at the Benacre Slaughterhouse throughout the year and 4,895 carcases (the total number of animals killed) were inspected, of which 23 were totally unfit for human consumption.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	1293	1135	1563	904
All Diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcases condemned	3	Nil	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	457*	Nil	58	28
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	35.0	-	4.5	3.2

*Note:- These figures may seem excessive, but in the vast majority of these cases, the liver or part of the liver only was condemned because of parasitic infestation (flukes).

Tuberculosis Only				
Whole carcases condemned	15	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	180	Nil	Nil	40
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15.0	-	-	4.6

The total amount of meat certified as unfit for human consumption was 21,736 lb of which 15,017 was tuberculous, that is to say 69.1%.

Factories & Workshops.

36 Inspections were made and 3 notices issued all of which were complied with.

Rodent Control.

The rodent officer was given a full-time appointment from 1st October and during the year he dealt with 329 premises which were infested with rats or mice. In all, 492 routine inspections were made.

The Council's sewerage works and sewers were inspected and treated when necessary.

Water Supply.

Samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Norwich and the bacteriological reports were as follows:-

Samples satisfactory - 7
Samples unsatisfactory - 12

8 Wells were cleaned out and repaired after informal notice.

The Council's undertaking for the Parish of Kessingland came through the year without the need for imposing restrictions upon supply although it was evident that the yield of the Henstead well was barely sufficient. It was decided to ask the Ministry for permission to draw upon the well at The Nordals and later a supplementary supply from this source has been brought into use.

Collection of House Refuse.

No changes were made in this service during the year. Complaints were few and it may be said that the work on the whole was quite satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

No additions were made to the Council's sewerage works. A scheme for sewering the Parish of Bradwell was started. The sewage will be discharged into the sewers of the Borough of Yarmouth.

The two cesspool emptiers were over-worked owing to the increase in the number of cesspools at Council Houses and private property. Sewers are urgently needed in several Parishes.

I am, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. O. ADCOCK

Sanitary Inspector.