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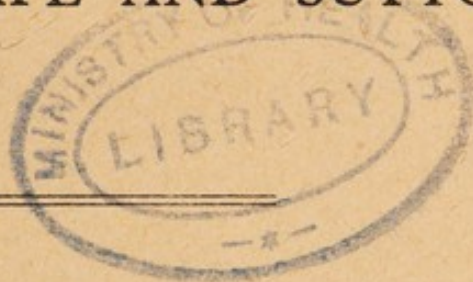
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HEALTH
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THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
MABLETHORPE AND SUTTON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1948



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THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
OF HEALTH AND SHELTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1911

**To the Chairman and Councillors
Mablethorpe and Sutton Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948 on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Urban District which is prepared according to the prescribed statutory requirements.

The statistics show nothing abnormal and the rates compare favourably with the national figures and are an all-round improvement on the corresponding local figures of the previous year. I would point out that the national and local death rates are not comparable without correction of the local figure by the "Comparability Factor" which has not recently been supplied by the Registrar General.

There was no increase in infectious diseases, apart from the outbreak of chicken pox, without which the total would have been negligible. Unfortunately there is the very unusual inclusion of a child case of mild diphtheria in our records, which was so regarded in hospital without bacteriological confirmation. The child had been immunised.

I consider we had every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which everything pertaining to sanitation in the district was supervised. If, as I believe, the vitality of the Sanitary department can best be measured by the degree of attention given to the humdrum day-to-day complaints, the public should have had little grounds for dissatisfaction. The usual services were well maintained and the progress in scheme operations was marked by the completion of the Central Promenade conveniences and the advance of the Trusthorpe scheme to more definite issues.

House building proceeded at a rate, which if continued, will shortly make the housing position in this district the envy of Authorities all over the country.

In a seaside resort of this kind where the key industry is confined to catering, the need for keen supervision over all matters pertaining to food, and the service of food, does not require to be stressed. Over the whole country, the British Tourist and Holidays Board is endeavouring to raise the standard of food hygiene by pamphlet information and education, and its efforts are commended for the Council's co-operation in the interests of the holiday public and for the prosperity of the local industry. During the holiday season there was an outbreak of food poisoning which brought home to all the extreme care that requires to be exercised in the preparation and storage of food. It may be mentioned that the manufacturer of the suspected offending food, being jealous of his deservedly high reputation in the trade, decided to discontinue the risk of further preparations. The incident was not without its tonic effect in the district, so far as it made the purpose of leaflets and the Sanitary Inspector's visits better understood.

The attention given to the supervision of particular foods and preparations is stated under their heads. If it is thought some of these fail to reach a higher level it can be said that the fault is not due to the lack of supervisory care.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the valued help accorded and the interest taken in the problems that arose during the year. I record my indebtedness also to the Sanitary Inspector for certain of the information on which this report is based and for his able assistance and co-operation on which I could rely at all times.

I remain, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

W. J. KERRIGAN.

July, 1948.

Medical Officer of Health.



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MABLETHORPE AND SUTTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS

For the Year 1948

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health—W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch.,
B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Milk Inspector—C. V. LONG, B.E.M.,
C.R.San. I.

Engineer and Surveyor—E. JORDAN, M.I.M. & Cy.E.
M.R.San. I., M.I.S.E.

SECTION A. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Urban District, including 717 acres of Foreshore	7,193 acres
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population	5,465
Density per acre	0.8
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,975
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	£26,100
Total Rateable Value	£39,725
Produce of penny rate:	
Financial year ending 1948	£150 19s. 10d.
Financial year ending 1949 (estimated)	£147 0s. 0d.

Vital Statistics.

(NOTE.—Bracketed figures show the corresponding rates for England and Wales.)

Births.	(a) LIVE	TOTAL.	MALE	FEMALE.
	Legitimate	90	49	41
	Illegitimate	9	5	4
		—	—	—
		99	54	45
		—	—	—
	(b) STILL			
	Legitimate	1	1	—
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
		—	—	—
		1	1	—
		—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	18.1 (17.9)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.18 (0.42)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of total births	10.0

Deaths.	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.
	73	35	38

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	13.4 (10.8)
Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	Total 3
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	30 (34)
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

All three children died within one week, due in two of the cases to congenital malformation.

AGES AT DEATH.

0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75-|-	Total
3	3	1	—	4	1	1	13	17	30	73

CANCER DEATHS.

Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75-|-	Total
—	—	—	—	1	2	2	5	4	14

Total Causes of Death in the Area, 1948.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
2. Cancer of Mouth and Oesophagus (male) and Uterus (female)	1	1
3. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
4. Cancer of Breast	—	3
5. Cancer of all other sites	3	4
6. Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	1	3
7. Heart Diseases	18	15
8. Other diseases of Circulatory System	—	1
9. Bronchitis	1	1
10. Pneumonia	1	1
11. Other Respiratory diseases	—	1
12. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—
13. Other Digestive diseases	—	1
14. Nephritis	1	2
15. Premature Birth	—	—
16. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury and Infantile diseases	1	1
17. Suicide	1	—
18. Road Traffic accidents	—	—
19. Other Violent causes	1	—
20. All other causes	4	2
	—	—
	35	38
	—	—

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These remained unchanged and continued to provide the same satisfaction as in previous years.

Ambulance Facilities.

The service continued as in other years until the operative date of the N.H.S. Act, when one of the County Ambulance Sub-stations was established at Mablethorpe and a Main station at Louth. The sub-station establishment consists of one general ambulance with staff of two whole time and twelve retained personnel, with the object of providing a complete day and night service in conjunction with the fire service.

The provisions are fully adequate.

Nursing in the Home.

This remained unaltered in character, apart from the fact that it came within the sphere of operation of the N.H.S. Act.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

An additional Welfare Centre at fortnightly intervals was provided at Sutton for the convenience of mothers in that area of the district. Staff shortage did not allow any increase of the services at the Mablethorpe Centre. All the services were provided by the County Council as the responsible Authority.

Hospitals

The changes in the administrative control of hospitals were effected with so little incident that the public then and since seemed unaware of the happening. The Council's official interest was concerned only with the cessation of financial responsibility for the treatment of infectious disease patients in hospital.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water.

The bacteriological examination of 23 samples, and a single chemical analysis of samples obtained direct from the two bores showed that the public supply was very satisfactory. The samples for bacteriological examination, at an average of two per month, were taken at various supply points in the district with occasional direct from bore checks. The reports of 19 of the samples showed the absence of Coliform organisms with negligible plate counts, while the remaining samples were all well within safety standards.

The estimation of houses on the public supply, according to the Sanitary Inspector's figures, is 98%. All houses are supplied direct from the mains except a block of 6 houses with stand pipe supply. The time has not yet arrived for the servicing of the boundary properties from the public supply to be considered as a practical proposition.

Two samples from private supplies were also examined. No wells required to be closed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

CLOSETS.

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	...	9
Number of houses with pail closets in district	...	123
Number of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	...	Nil
Number of pail closets repaired	... ..	3
Number of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	...	2
Number of houses with water closets in district	...	2096
Number of water closets repaired	... ..	19

DRAINS.

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	... ..	254
Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	... ..	73
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired, etc.	... ..	7
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	... ..	4
Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired	Nil
Drains reconstructed	7

SEWERS.

New lengths of sewer laid	Nil
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Trusthorpe Sewerage Scheme.

This project had at last reached the stage for the submission of tenders and the fixing of the starting date by the Ministry as May 1st, 1949. We shall now await the shout of 'Seconds out of the ring.'

Cesspools.

Regular emptying and cleansing were carried out. The Sanitary Inspector reported two new cesspool constructions in replacements, and the abolition of two others following completion of sewer connections. The purchase of a new cesspool pump provided a necessary reserve machine against breakdown emergency.

Public Conveniences.

The conveniences at the Mablethorpe Central promenade, referred to in my report of last year, were completed during the year. This amenity will go far to meet visitors' complaints about the previous lack of such provisions in the congregating areas of the sea front. No active attempt was made during the year to explore the possibilities of providing similar accommodation in the town area.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Fourteen room disinfections, as required, were carried out following cases of infectious disease, including tuberculosis.

Nine premises were disinfested on account of vermin, which included two cases of bed bugs.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The usual satisfactory weekly service was maintained and final disposal of refuse was by controlled tipping. The Highgate Lane tipping ground was regularly supervised by the Sanitary Inspector who made, on average, twice weekly visits for the purpose.

Nuisances.

Total Number of Nuisances during the year :—

(a) Abated as result of informal action by				
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	374
(b) Reported to Council :				
(1) Statutory notice issued	...	...	...	8
(2) Statutory notice not issued			...	19

SECTION D. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF HOUSES.

Total Number of new houses erected during the year ...	34
(1) By the Local Authority	27
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	7

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	136
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	241
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	18
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) 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	63

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	60
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts ...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	1
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil

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

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	Nil
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	Nil
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	10
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

5. Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

(a) Number inspected during year (Site inspections)	184
(b) Number of nuisances therefrom abated ...	19
(c) Number removed from district	754
(d) Estimated Number of people in T.V.S. ...	3016

During the year 27 Council houses were completed and occupied and 7 by private enterprise. In various stages of erection at the end of the year were 4 houses at Sutton and 40 at Mablethorpe.

Judged from the practical absence of overcrowding in the normal population and the relatively small list now due for rehousing, it must be said that the district is in an enviable position regarding the housing situation. With continuation of building at the progress of this year the time can reasonably be anticipated when the demand and supply rates will be satisfied.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Bakehouses.

Number in the district	...	...	...	6
Number of underground bakehouses			...	Nil.
Number of inspections	...	...	...	38
Contraventions of the Factory Acts			...	5
Defects remedied	...	...	...	5

Following a serious complaint during the year extensive alterations and improvements in one bakehouse were carried out, as directed, to raise its standard to satisfactory levels. Two others had smaller improvements completed.

Cafes, Kitchens and Catering Premises.

The supervision of these was maintained at the level of their importance in a seaside resort of this popularity. The Sanitary Inspector reported having made over 200 visits to cafes, kitchens of hotels and the principal boarding houses, and rooms connected with the making up of food. The majority of visits were made, immediately prior to, and during the season, and there is no doubt that such systematic visiting helped considerably to prevent slack methods when premises were working to over capacity standards.

Before the start of the Season a leaflet was compiled and distributed to the Members of the local Hotel and Boarding Keepers' Association dealing with ways and means within their power of preventing infections due to food and drink. In the brief outline, reference was made to danger foods, contamination agencies and the chief preventative measures to be taken, with emphasis on food storage and the hygiene of kitchen and worker. The readers were advised to obtain copies of the Central Council for Health Education booklet on 'Food and Drink Infections,' obtainable through the local Council Offices.

Retail Shops.

Meat, fish and other shops were subjected to their share of supervision in the course of inspections under the Shops, and Food and Drugs Act during the year. The Sanitary Inspector reported 160 visits to these and was satisfied with the general standards obtaining.

The undermentioned foods, having been considered unfit for human consumption, were otherwise suitably disposed of.

	lbs.
Mixed Sugar Confectionery	127
Cheese	31
Bacon	17
Tinned Fish	5½
Tinned Meat	5½
Tinned Malted Food ...	65
Tinned Tomatoes ...	4
Tinned Vegetables ...	19
Tinned Milk	47
Tinned Sausage Meat ...	2
Tinned Baked Beans ...	7
Tinned Fruit	4
Fish	56

Ice Cream.

On the Council's register for the year were 3 producer-retailers and 20 retailers. Outside sources of supply to the retailers were from three manufacturers. There were no vendors from mobile vans, as is usual in other districts, on account of the protection afforded by the Street Trading Order made under the Town Police Clause Act. The Sanitary Inspector reported the premises and production methods as satisfactory.

Below are given the results of sample examinations. These are given under separate heads as they are based on different tests, the results of which are not truly comparable. Previous to mid August, samples were classed satisfactory which showed the absence of Coliform organisms, but subsequently, the official national grading from 1 to 4, in that descending order of merit, was based on the reduction time for Methylene Blue.

Where manufactured.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
In District	34	10
Ex District	9	5
	—	—
Total	43	15
	—	—

General % satisfactory 74.

Grades	1	2	3	4
Samples	5	2	4	1

The local production placed only three out of nine samples in the No. 1 category — a reversal of the previous comparison standard, which in my opinion provided the more difficult test

The explanation was due to one local producer, who had previously an excellent record, letting the side down by a sequence of poorish results.

I should like to make the general observation that the grade system has provided clear-cut directions of what is expected from the producer and these should be reasonably easy to attain. It becomes, therefore, a matter whether the producer considers it worth while to conform or risk forfeiture of his licence.

Candy Floss.

Mention is made of this strange commodity, which features largely during the seasonal life of holiday resorts, only to show the extent to which supervision is required over all edible material. A stall manufacturer of the floss was found to be collecting and re-using the cast sticks on which the floss was wound. He was suitably dealt with and no recurrence was found.

Milk.

Cowsheds.

Number on Register	...	...	50
Number of Inspections	...	...	158
Contravention of Regulations	...	...	16
Contraventions remedied	...	...	16
Number of milch cows in district	...	...	380 approx.

Classification of Producers.

Accredited	..	...	...	9
Non-graded	...	...	...	41
Non-graded producers who send milk to heat treatment centres	...	...	...	36
Non-graded producer-retailers of raw milk	...	...	...	5

Samples taken during the year.

Type	Samples taken by	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Accredited	County Council and U.D.C.	10	24
Ungraded raw	U.D.C.	10	19
Pasteurized	U.D.C.	13	1
Heat treated	U.D.C.	12	10
	Total	45	54

The above sample results call for no particular jubilation. The fact that only 30% of the Accredited samples were found satisfactory caused the County Council representative with our Sanitary Inspector to make thorough individual inspections of all that type of producer which evoked a satisfactory response at a later date.

The ungraded supply was not so poor as the above figures suggest, because these were judged on absolute accredited standards. When the borderline results—satisfactory Methylene Blue response but Coliform organisms present in two or three tubes—were included as in other years 60% of the samples were found to be satisfactory.

The pasteurized and heat-treated milk results refer only to the success of the heat treatment, and the response was good in the designated type but below expected standard in the bulk supply.

The position at the end of the year showed promise of a definite general improvement towards the aim of the retail of accredited and heat-treated supplies only. Certain unsatisfactory non-graded producers were in process of ceasing to retail, and improvement was expected in the heat treatment of bulk supplies. The lapse in the accredited side had already received its check.

Below is shown, through the courtesy of the Food Executive Officer, the average percentage of the types of milk taken by consumers during the normal period of the year.

Ungraded	Registered Customers	% of total
Pasteurised	1487	25
Sterilized	134	2
Heat treated	1118	19
Accredited	2634	45
Ungraded	526	9

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Total Number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
One	35 to 50	Nil	Probably Staphylococcal Enterotoxin	Potted Meat

The outbreak, which occurred during a very hot weather spell in the mid-holiday season, affected occupants of some boarding houses who had eaten part of a 10-lb. batch of potted meat obtained on a particular date from the same source. The cases affecting one boarding house were reported to me late at night but by morning the symptoms had abated and no specimens of vomit or stools were available. The incubation period and symptoms suggested staphylococcal toxin cuasation. Specimens of the suspected meat and skin and nasal swabs from those engaged in its manufacture were sent for laboratory examination, but in the absence of the complete chain of specimen evidence the full bacteriological investigation was not considered a justifiable necessity. There was no visual evidence of a contaminating source on examination of the persons concerned in the manufacturing process. One satisfactory point emerged that the manufacturer decided not to risk making up supplies of this type of food stuff during the summer period in future.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during
1948.

Disease	Number of cases	Hospitalised	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Chicken Pox	43	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—
Totals	49	2	—

The case of Diphtheria notified, and diagnosis accepted in hospital, was a child $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of age who had been immunised at the age of one year. There was no bacteriological confirmation of the disease. The result of swab report was 'scanty growth of Sp. Vincent and Streptococci.'

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunised during the year.

(a) 0 to 4 years ...	...	...	65
(b) 5 to 14 years	...	...	19
(c) Reinforcing injections ...	...	...	57

The result of school survey based on information supplied by the headmasters of the two local schools showed that 85% of the children were immunised.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				1				
5								
15		2	1					
25		2		1				
35								
45								
55	1				1			
65						1		
Totals	1	4	1	2	1	1	—	—

APPENDIX

Report of Analysis of Waters.

Received 28th April, 1948, from Mablethorpe and Sutton U.D.C. Mark—Town Water direct from Maltby Bore; Town Water direct from Sutton Bore.

These samples contain per 100,000 parts :—

	Maltby Bore	Sutton Bore
Total Solids dried at 180 °C ...	37.00	65.00
Suspended Matter	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine	2.49	12.78
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate ...	absent	absent
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite ...	0.0004	0.0004
Free Ammonia	0.0749	0.0508
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004	0.0004
Temporary Hardness	10.00	5.50
Permanent Hardness	0.00	0.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. @ 80 °F. from N/80 KMnO ₄ ...	0.00	0.020
pH value	8.30	8.70
Appearance	Clear & Bright	Clear & Bright
Odour	none	none
Taste and Colour	normal	normal
Heavy Metals	absent	absent
Free Chlorine	absent	absent
Sodium Carbonate equivalent to	23.85	37.10

Both waters have undergone small changes in chemical quality by comparison with the analyses made in September, 1947. The values for saline ammonia are considerably higher than before but these high ammonia values, usually taken as an indication of marked organic pollution, appear to be typical of waters from deep boreholes in the Spilsby Sandstone in close proximity to the sea. These two waters can therefore be considered as of suitable chemical quality for human consumption, domestic use and dairy purposes provided that the bacteriological examinations are adjudged to be satisfactory.

(Signed) W. W. TAYLOR, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.



