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Borough of Malmesbury

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1948

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

(a) **Medical Officer of Health—**

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) **Borough Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer—**

E. H. HOLROYD, Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Food Inspector, Cert.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Malmesbury.**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 dated 17th January, 1949.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1948.

Area (in acres)	.....	202
Population	.....	2570
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948 according to Rate Book)	.....	822
Rateable Value	.....	£12,486
Sum represented by penny rate	.....	£50

	M	F	Total	Rate per 1000	Rate per 1000 E&W
LIVE BIRTHS—					
Legitimate	16	24	40		
Illegitimate	2	1	3		
Total	18	25	43		
Birth Rate				16.7	17.9
STILL BIRTHS—					
	1	0	1	.38	.42
DEATHS—					
Death Rate	20	15	35	13.6	10.8
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0		
Other Maternal Causes	0	0	0		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR—

All Infants per 1000 live births	1	0	1	23.2
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	1	0	1	
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0	0	

DEATHS FROM—

Cancer (all ages)	3	3	6
Measles (all ages)	0	0	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23)	0	0	0
Heart Diseases and Blood Vessels (18, 19, 20)	11	8	19

The birth rate is higher than in 1947, when it was 10.84.

The death rate shows a very slight increase as compared with the year 1947, when it was 13.17.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring in the Borough during the year 1948.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	0
Measles	2	0
Poliomelitis	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0
Dysentery	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0

Deaths from all causes.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and parat. fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	0	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of resp. sys.	1	0	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	0	0	0
Ac. inf. enceph.	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. and oesoph. (M) uterus (F)	0	0	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
Cancer of breast	0	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	2	1	3
Diabetes	0	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	3	7
Heart diseases	6	5	11
Other dis. of circ. sys.	1	0	1
Bronchitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Other resp. diseases	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	0	2
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	0	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Other digve. dis.	1	0	1
Nephritis	1	2	3
Puer. and post abort. sepsis	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	0	0	0
Prem. birth	0	0	0
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	1	0	1
Suicide	0	0	0
Road traffic acc.	0	0	0
Other violent causes	0	0	0
All other causes	0	2	2
Total	20	15	35

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F
0								
1								
5								
15								
25		1			1			
35								
45								
55								
65								
and upwards								
		1			1			

Only one case of tuberculosis has been notified during the year, as compared with four cases notified during 1947. There was one death from tuberculosis during the year under review.

School Children.

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 133 children in the routine age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 41 (30.8%) were found to be of good nutrition, 84 (63.1%) of normal or fair nutrition, and 8 (6.01%) were found to be of poor nutrition.

School Closure during 1948.

— Nil. —

Milk in Schools Scheme.

Average attendance, October, 1948	695	
No. of one-third pints supplied on a day in October, 1948, on the basis of one-third pint per child	468	67.3%
Pastuerised milk supplied to	468	

School Meals Service.

Number of children receiving mid-day meals, October, 1948.

Full or part payment—428. Free—88.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following number of children completed a full course of immunisation during the year under review.

Ages 1 to 4—53.

Ages 5 to 14—10.

Total—63.

It is estimated that the following percentage of children have been immunised against Diphtheria.

Ages 1 to 4—(57.7%).

Ages 5 to 14—(97.3%).

Total—(81.8%).

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following information on water supplies and sewage disposal in the Borough.

Water Supplies.

The Borough obtains water supplies from two sources, namely, from a borehole 153 feet in depth at Park Road, and from three springs feeding a shallow well at Holloway. The water is pumped by centrifugal pumps to a water tower of 55,000 gallons capacity, whence it reaches the consumers by gravity. A bulk supply is given to the Malmesbury Rural District.

The average daily quantity of water pumped for use in the Borough was 89,000 gallons, representing a consumption of 34 gallons per head of population per day. In addition, the Rural District took an average of 22,000 gallons per day. The two sources have given a satisfactory supply, as regards both quantity and quality.

The only form of treatment the water receives is chlorination by the drip feed method, and this is regularly carried out at both sources of supply.

Bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water are regularly made. At the beginning of the year the top section of the Park Road borehole was relined with 6-in. steel tube to a depth of approximately 40 feet.

The Council's Consulting Engineers presented their scheme for the improvement of the water supply in the Borough. Briefly, the scheme provides for using the Park Road borehole as the main source of supply, the Holloway supply to be used only in an emergency. New pumps and motors are to be installed at Park Road, and a new 200,000 gallon water tower erected, fed by a 5-in. rising main. Portions of the mains in the town are to be relaid, and the estimated cost of the scheme is £24,300. The Council are now considering whether to proceed with the scheme in whole or in part, in view of the considerations involved by the possible formation of Water Boards in the County, as envisaged in the report of the Wiltshire Water Survey, published by the Ministry of Health during the year.

The results of bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water from the two sources of supply taken on the 22nd October, 1948, are as under :

PARK ROAD SOURCE.

Physical characters: excellent.

CHEMICAL.

		Parts per 100,000
Reaction	Alkaline p.h.	7.2
Saline and free ammonia	.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	.....	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 deg. c	.....	0.004
Chlorides	.....	1.4
Nitrogen as nitrates	.....	0.25
Total hardness	.....	26.5
(a) Temporary	.....	19.1
(b) Permanent	.....	7.4
Poisonous metals	.....	Nil
Nitrites	Very faint trace, insufficient to estimate	
Microscopical examination of the sediment	.....	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total colonies in 48 hours: Nil per 1 c.c. of water growing at 37 deg. c.

Number of coli-aerogenes: Nil per 100 c.c. of water growing at 37 deg. c.

Number of faecal types of B. coli: Nil per 100 c.c. of water growing at 44 deg. c.

OPINION.

Chemical analysis shows a negligible degree of pollution.

Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution whatsoever.

Date : 22nd October, 1948.

HOLLOWAY SOURCE.

Physical characters : excellent.

CHEMICAL.

		Parts per 100,000
Reaction	Alkaline p.h.	7.2
Saline and free ammonia	.....	0.001
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	.....	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 deg. c	.....	0.02
Chlorides	.....	1.6
Nitrogen as nitrates	.....	0.3
Total hardness	.....	28.2
(a) Temporary	.....	23.9
(b) Permanent	.....	4.3
Poisonous metals	.....	Nil
Nitrites	.....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the sediment	.....	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total colonies in 48 hours : 44 per 1 c.c. of water growing at 37 deg. c.

Number of coli-aerogenes : 160 per 100 c.c. of water growing at 37 deg. c.

Number of faecal types of B. coli : Nil per 100 c.c. of water growing at 44 deg. c.

OPINION.

Chemical analysis shows no evidence of pollution.

Bacteriological examination shows a very considerable degree of pollution with coliform organisms, none of which is of the faecal type.

Date : 22nd October, 1948.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the Borough is served by an obsolete system of sewers, which discharge, through small catchpits, into the river. There are no works for the treatment and disposal of sewage, and pollution of the River Avon occurs. The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared an outline scheme for the construction of sewage disposal works, the laying of sewers to pick up the existing catchpits, and the construction of the necessary pumping stations.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	M-c Line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted	M-c Line No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	11	19	—	—	1
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	15	18	—	—	2
3. Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	2	—	—	3
Total		27	39	—	—	

2. Cases in which **defects** were found.

Particulars	M-c Line No.	(1)	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which defects were found Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M-c Line No.
		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	13	11	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)								
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	3	2	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total		17	14	—	—	—	—	

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year ending 31st December, 1948.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Malmesbury.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1948.

I reported to you last year that some progress had been made in the work of the Public Health Department, and, whilst I feel that progress has, to a certain extent, been maintained, I am conscious of the many items that still require attention. It has not been possible, to give two instances, to make any house to house inspections this year, as mentioned elsewhere in this report, nor have the food shops received all the attention they might have had. As you are aware, I am running my office single-handed, and, with my other duties as your Borough Surveyor, I find it quite a problem to apportion my time to the many tasks involved, so that one department does not suffer at the expense of another. One can only try to cover as much ground as possible each day, in the hope that a time will come when the work will be up-to-date.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. HOLROYD,

Sanitary Inspector.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The contract with the Malmesbury Rural District Council for the collection of refuse within the Borough expired on the 31st March, and was not renewed. Temporary arrangements for collection were made with a private contractor, pending delivery of the Council's new refuse collection vehicle, which was brought into use from the 1st October. The result of three months working has shown a small reduction in costs.

The refuse is tipped at a site two miles out, and periodic treatment for rats and other pests is carried out.

Paper and cardboard are salvaged and an average of two tons per month is sent away.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK.

There is one milk producer and also four milk retailers in the Borough. The dairies of two of the retailers are situated outside the Borough. There are no pasteurisation plants and no producers of T.T. or Accredited milk in the Borough.

Six inspections were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and one notice for lime-washing was served.

BAKEHOUSES.

There is one bakehouse in the Borough, and three inspections were made during the year, resulting in one notice being served for lime-washing. A great deal of the bread distributed is baked outside the Area.

MEAT.

There is no slaughtering of meat for sale within the Borough, the meat being brought from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Chippenham to a distributing depot, where it is allocated to the five butchers in the town. Continual observation is kept on the methods of transport of the meat, both at this end and at Chippenham. During the year the Ministry of Food gave permission for the resumed killing of pigs at the Bacon Factory for private owners. Whilst the Local Authority have no powers to seize diseased meat that is not intended for sale, the majority of the pigs killed were examined and the owners notified in the cases where disease was found. Some 220 pigs were killed during the year.

The following table gives the quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

Disease	Weight	Kind of Meat
Decomposition	129 lbs.	Calves' kidneys
Bruising and injuries	39 lbs.	Beef
Bone taint	266 lbs.	Beef
Abscesses	11 lbs.	Bovine lungs
Distoma hepaticum	22 lbs.	Bovine liver
Cirrhosis	15 lbs.	Bovine liver
Blown tins	6 lbs.	Corned beef
Total weight	488 lbs.	

Other foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption are as under :

Foodstuff	Weight
Tinned milk	2 lbs.
„ fish	15 lbs.
„ meat	2 lbs.
„ fruit	4 lbs.
Sausages	4 lbs.
Flour	280 lbs.
Margarine	5 lbs.
Wet and dried fish	784 lbs.
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Total weight	1096 lbs.

SHOPS.

It has not been possible, owing to pressure of other work, to make inspections of all the foodshops under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but the standard of cleanliness in those that were inspected was found to be reasonably good.

Regular inspections of the two fried fish shops were maintained, and no causes for serious complaints were found. There is one mobile fish and chip van which operates in the Malmesbury Rural District, but which is garaged in the Borough. Before cooking, the fish and potatoes are prepared in a shop in the Borough. There are no powers to register fish and chip vans under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

The five butchers' shops are all registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture and sale of sausages, and all the premises are in a satisfactory condition.

ICE CREAM.

There are four shops selling ice cream, two of which are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act for manufacture, storage and sale, and the other two for the storage and sale only. Of the latter two, one deals in a pre-wrapped product supplied by a well-known firm, and the other receives daily supplies from Chippenham. Regular inspections were made of all these premises, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is being maintained.

Housing.

During the year 46 families were re-housed as a result of the completion of the Council's first post-war housing scheme of 20 traditional houses, and the erection of 26 aluminium bungalows for key industrial workers. A further 12 traditional houses are now in the course of erection, some of which should be ready for occupation early next year. The Council's allocation of new houses for 1949 is 13, a disappointing total when compared with the number waiting to be re-housed. At the end of the year the waiting list of applicants was reviewed and brought up to date, and there are still 92 applicants who require housing accommodation.

Pressure of other work, and the restrictions still in force with regard to building repairs, prevented any house-to-house inspections being made, and the housing statistics recorded in the following tables are mainly the result of action taken under the Public Health Act.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1948.

1. Unfit dwelling-houses—Inspection.

(1) (a)—Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	30
(b)—Number of inspections made for the purpose	71
(2) (a)—Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	NIL
(b)—Number of inspections made for the purpose	NIL
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	NIL
(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	30

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	24
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in consequence of action by the Local Authority	NIL

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs NIL
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners NIL
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL
- B. Proceedings under the Public Health Act
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied NIL
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners NIL
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 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 1
- D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made NIL
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit NIL

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

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 17
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 21
 - (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 84
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 9
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 9
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding NIL

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

No cases of persons or premises requiring disinfestation during the year were reported.

No notifiable infectious diseases occurred requiring premises to be disinfected, but blankets and other bedding were sent for disinfection from the National Children's Home following an outbreak of ringworm.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Visits and Inspections made during 1948 :

Investigation of complaints	.....	38
Markets	.....	31
Bakehouses	.....	3
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	.....	6
Fish shops	.....	28
Food shops	.....	23
Shops under Shops Act	.....	17
Factories	.....	37
Applicants for Council houses	.....	72
Slaughterhouse (Bacon Factory)	.....	23
Rat infestations	.....	11
Re-visits	.....	31
Miscellaneous	.....	19
		<hr/>
		339
		<hr/>

Statement of Nuisances recorded and abated during 1948.

Nature of Complaint	No. during year	No. abated	No. out-standing
Choked drains	12	12	—
Defective drains	3	3	—
Defective and dirty water closets	3	2	1
Defective flushing cisterns	3	2	1
Defective roofs	7	5	2
Defective eaves, gutters & rainwater pipes	2	2	—
Defective ceilings	10	8	2
Defective walls	4	2	2
Defective floors	10	5	5
Defective firegrates	2	2	—
Defective windows	7	6	1
Defective doors	5	3	2
Defective stairs	1	1	—
Defective sinks	1	1	—
Defective yard paving	1	1	—
Damp walls	2	2	—
Dirty rooms	4	4	—
Miscellaneous	10	9	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	87	70	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>