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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1939.

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H. T. Harding, The Abbey Press, Malmesbury.



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MUNDENS,  
MALMESBURY,

1st October, 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
MALMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(1) Area ... .. 58129 acres.

(2) Population

(a) At Census for 1931 ... .. 8434

(3) Rateable Value ... .. £41817

Sum produced by a penny rate, £172.

(4) The occupation of your District is agricultural.

(5) Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	136	68	} Birth Rate 17.1.
	Illegitimate	4	3	
	Total	M.	F.	
Still Births	Legitimate	6	3	
	Illegitimate	1	0	
	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	112	49	63	

Crude Death Rate 12.3.

Adjusted Death Rate 9.8.

### Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Infantile Mortality Rate 28

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of  
childbirth,<sup>30</sup>

Of the 112 deaths recorded during 1939, 15 were due  
to cancer.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### Hospitals.

##### (1) Isolation.

Infectious cases are sent to the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital, which is situated in the Chippenham Rural District. During the past year four cases were treated there.

##### (2) Small-Pox.

In the event of a case of small-pox arising in the District, isolation hospital accommodation is provided by the Wiltshire County Council at their small-pox hospital.

##### (3) Malmesbury and District Hospital (voluntary).

This Hospital is situated in the District, in the Parish of St. Paul Without. There are 24 beds available for medical and surgical cases.

##### (4) Maternity.

Malmesbury Maternity Home. This contains six beds, three of which are subsidised by the Wiltshire County Council.

##### (5) Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious cases a motor ambulance is maintained at the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital, and serves to remove cases from the District.

For accident and non-infectious cases, a motor ambulance is maintained by the Malmesbury Fire Brigade for use in the Malmesbury Urban and Rural Districts.

(6) Laboratory Facilities.

Examinations of pathological specimens are carried out at the Salisbury Infirmary by an arrangement made by the County Council. During the past year ten such examinations were made.

A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is kept by the Medical Officer of Health for use by the practitioners of the District.

(7) Professional Nursing in the Home.

The greater part of your District is covered by the various Nursing Associations existing therein.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(1) Water.

*Crudwell.* During the year a Public Local Inquiry has been held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health with regard to the Council's proposal to develop the borehole at present supplying the Council Houses and to furnish a supply to the village. The Minister's sanction was obtained but it was decided that the scheme be postponed for the duration of the war.

*Brinkworth and Minety.* The laying of mains in these parishes was completed during the year and the provision of service connections was commenced. Water is not yet available from the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett system.

*Dauntsey.* A Public Local Inquiry has been held into the Council's proposal to provide a water supply to the parish of Dauntsey. The scheme was approved and the laying of mains commenced.

*Hullavington, Lea, Great Somerford and Little Somerford.* Schemes for the supply of water to these parishes were prepared during the year but were postponed for the duration of the war.

*Sherston.* A Public Local Inquiry was held into the Council's proposal to sink a new borehole and instal new pumping plant at the Sherston Waterworks. The Minister's sanction was not obtained.

During the year 598 visits and inspections have been made in connection with water supplies.

(2) Scavenging.

Household refuse is now collected in the following parishes:—Sherston, every second week; Hullavington, Luckington and St. Paul Without, once a month; and Brinkworth, Crudwell, Dauntsey, Hankerton, Lea and Cleverton, Minety and Oaksey, every three months.

Refuse dumps are provided and maintained by the Council in the parishes of Charlton and Great Somerford.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports the following inspections, notices served and action taken during 1939.

Total number of inspections in connection with nuisances, 171.

Defective drains, sewers, etc.

Number detected	...	...	22
Number of notices served	...	...	22
Number complied with	...	...	19

Nuisances arising in Insanitary Premises.

Number detected	...	...	1
Number of notices served	...	...	1
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	1

### Deposits of refuse.

Number detected	...	...	6
Number of notices served	...	...	6
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	6

### Insanitary ditches, pools, etc.

Number detected	...	...	5
Number of notices served	...	...	5
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	3

### Miscellaneous nuisances.

Number of cases detected	...	...	3
Number of notices served	...	...	3
Number of notices complied with	...	...	3

### Infectious diseases, etc.

Number of premises visited	...	...	5
Number of disinfections	...	...	5

### Formal action under Sec. 91, Public Health Act, 1875.

Number of notices served	...	...	0
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	0

#### (4) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the District.

#### (3) Eradication of bed bugs.

No action has been taken as no bed bugs are known to exist in the District.

## HOUSING.

### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1939.

During the year 22 houses have been erected by your Council, eight at Crudwell, four at Sopworth and ten at Great Somerford. Two at Great Somerford are four-bedroomed, four at Crudwell and four at Great Somerford are single-bedroomed bungalows. The remainder are three-bedroomed.

All these houses are of the non-parlour type with a large living room, scullery, bathroom, water closet and larder.

During the year 1939 ten houses were erected by private enterprise, three in the parish of St. Paul Without, three in Sherston, two in Brinkworth and one each in Great Somerford and Crudwell.

Works of major repair were carried out in the case of 22 cottages, 12 with grant from the County Council under the Housing Rural Workers Acts.

I. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) [a] Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	55
[b] Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	290
(2) [a] Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	53
[b] Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	53
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	9
(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 ... ..	9
 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 ... ..	8

Number of dwelling houses demolished in consequence of Council action	...	...	...	5
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	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :--				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :--				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0
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	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	8
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	...	...	...	19
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	7

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

(a) [1]	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	0
	[2] Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	0
	[3] Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	0
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	0
(c) [1]	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	6
	[2] Number of persons concerned in such cases			36
(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	...	...	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 374 premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order (1926).

There are 40 producers of Accredited Milk and 3 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the District.

Meat. Slaughter-houses.

There are seven slaughter-houses licensed in your District.

111 inspections were made and 2864 lbs of meat condemned, 377 lbs. being affected by Tuberculosis and 2487 lbs. by other diseases and conditions.

Bakehouses.

Five bakehouses are registered in your District.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1939 the following cases of Infectious Disease were notified :

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Small-pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	4	4	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	6	2	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was notified during the year.

Acute Anterior Polio-myolitis.

Two cases arose in the Parish of Crudwell. Both were at once removed to the Isolation Hospital. One case subsequently died.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of cases notified and deaths from this disease during 1939 are given in the following table.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15						I		
20								
25					I			
30	2		I	I	I	I		
45		I				I		
55		I						
65 and upwards								
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

In my opinion there are no cases of tuberculosis in the District which are non-notified.

#### Venereal Disease.

Cases of venereal disease can receive free treatment under the County Council scheme at either the Bath or Swindon Clinics.

#### Government Evacuation Scheme.

On September 2nd, 713 children with 56 teachers and 18 helpers, were received at Malmesbury Station, and billeted in various parishes in the Rural District. Nine blind persons were billeted on the 3rd September.

#### Air Raid Precautions.

Ten First Aid Points are being maintained in villages in your District. A First Aid Post is established near the Malmesbury and District Hospital.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD M. MOORE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.