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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1948.



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
MALTON

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

Although the year ended has shown little or no alteration in the General Social Conditions of the District, it has been made memorable by the inauguration on the 5th of July of the National Health Service.

There is no doubt that this expensive service will eventually have a profound influence upon the lives of all of us, but it is yet too early to view it in its true perspective.

Certainly it is a far cry from the first Public Health Act of 1848 to this National Health Service 100 years later.

It may not be considered that the total cost of this service, £260 million, out of a total Exchequer expenditure of £3,000 million, amounts to much, but there can be no doubt that a 40% level of taxation on peoples' incomes has destroyed incentive and stopped the will to work, and in this burden of taxation the new National Health Service plays an important part.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	48,078
Population Estimated as at Mid-year	6,161
Number of inhabited houses	1,664
Rateable Value	£19,185
Product of the Penny Rate	£68 4 8

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.
Live Births	49	44
Legitimate	43	44
Illegitimate	6	—

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 15.1

Still Births numbered 2, 1, male and 1 female, both legitimate. The rate per 1,000 total population is 0.32.

Deaths from all causes numbered 67 of these 30 were males and 37 females. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 10.8.

Corresponding figures for England and Wales are Birth Rate 17.9, Death Rate 10.8, so that our number of Births is not up to the average.

In deaths of Infants under 1 year there were 4, 2 male and 2 female, all legitimate. The rate per 1,000 live births would be 43.0 as against 34 for the whole country.

On examination of the various causes of Death there would appear to be nothing of special note, 3 males and 3 females died from Cancer, 14 males and 14 females died from Heart Disease, which includes the older section of the population, and is to be expected. Two male infants died from congenital malformation or diseases of infants, and one female was premature.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis	—	1
Cancer	3	3
Diabetes	1	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	2	7
Heart Diseases	13	14
Other disorders of the Circulatory system	1	—
Pneumonia	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1
Nephritis	1	1
Premature Birth	—	1
Congenital debility, malformation, etc.	2	—
Suicide	1	—
Other violent causes	1	—
All other causes	2	5

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 7 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 3 being in one family, and all notified on the same day. Two cases were sent to the York Fever Hospital out of the total number, and the rest were nursed at home ; a method which has proved satisfactory in practice and which has not led to any extension of the disease.

One case of Diphtheria and one of Acute Lobar Pneumonia were also notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases occurred, one female aged 25 (knee joint) and one male also aged 25 (Pulmonary).

There was one death, that of a female.

MEASLES.

34 cases were notified and were spread fairly equally over the whole area and over the year under review. No death occurred.

WHOOPING COUGH.

22 cases occurred during the latter half of the year, and were reported chiefly from the Habton and Ryton districts. There were no deaths.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH—1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.B.'s Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Res. Pop. 25,000 —50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Admin. County.
	Rates per	1,000 Civilian Population.		
BIRTHS				
Live Births	19.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
DEATHS				
All Causes	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria.....	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rates per	1,000 Live Births.		
DEATHS				
All causes under 1 year of age	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
	Rates per	1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15—44.
140 Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.13	
142-146, 148-150 other maternal causes	0.73	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population. (b) by Per 1,000 related births.

(c) In London Puerperal Fever alone was 0.61.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :—

Medical Officer of Health,

DR. L. C. WALKER, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.T.C.P. (Part time).

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor, Meat Inspector, Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, Inspector under Petroleum Acts, Buildings Inspector, etc. :—

J. E. MORGAN, C.R. SAN, I., M.S.I.A.

Holds :—

1. Certificate of Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.
2. Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.
3. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

2. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The County Authorities control this, and in general it works satisfactorily.

The District is covered by nurses who also act as Midwives, and who reside at Swinton, Sheriff Hutton and Nunnington.

Infectious Diseases are generally nursed at home, as many of the cases can safely be isolated and no spread of disease has been found to follow this policy.

3. MIDWIVES.

See 2 above.

4. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory situate at the County Hall, Northallerton.

5. HOSPITALS.

The Malton and District Hospital, The York County and City Hospitals, and the Leeds General Infirmary supply the needs of the District. Orthopædic cases are treated as required at the Adela Shaw Orthopædic Hospital, Kirbymoorside.

6. UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

Unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children are provided for by the Ryedale Guardians Committee.

7. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These are provided as follows :—

- (a) for Infectious Diseases by the Isolation Hospital, York, and
- (b) for Non-infected cases and accidents by the Malton Ambulance under the auspices of the St. John's Ambulance Society who freely and willingly give their services.

8. CLINICS—TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held each month at Swinton.

Orthopædic Clinics are held at regular intervals by the County Orthopædic Surgeon, and at Malton Hospital by the visiting Surgeon.

Cases of Tuberculosis can be sent to the Dispensary at Scarborough. Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases are held at York County Hospital and the Scarborough Hospital.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT.

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

DWELLING HOUSES :—

Consolidated Regulations	285
Water Supply	38
Overcrowding	12
Infectious Diseases	8
Miscellaneous	151

SANITARY CONVENIENCES :—

Ashpits and Privies	38
Water Closets	42
Chemical Closets	0

REFUSE DISPOSAL :—

Tips	56
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DRAINS AND SEWERS :—

Inspections	242
Cesspools and septic tanks	59
Water tested	21
Public urinals	2

FACTORIES :—

With mechanical power	2
Without mechanical power	0
Outworkers	0

FOOD :—

Inspections	17
Condemnations	1

FOOD STORAGE (PREPARATION ETC.) :—

Butcher's shops	5
Fish friers	2

MISCELLANEOUS :—

New buildings	44
Moveable dwellings	7
Ponds and water courses	31
Rats and mice	4
Building licenses	103
Petroleum licenses	7
Schools	7
Animals and poultry	44

Total.....	1231
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RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919, AND INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

There are few major infestations, and the Council have not thought fit to employ a full time Rodent Operator.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

The shops in the district are mainly of the one-man business type. Thirteen visits have been made.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed sites for campers in the District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no trades under this heading.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughterhouses in the district, although none are used for public slaughtering. All meat supplied to the area is inspected at the Central Slaughter house situated at Malton.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Eight applications for slaughterman's licenses were received and granted. There are now twenty-three licensed slaughtermen under the above Act.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS, ETC.

No cases were reported or discovered.

SCHOOLS.

No great improvements have been made in the sanitation of schools. The use of pail closets being still prevalent.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers Registered	262
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered	12
Number of Retail Purveyors resident outside the District	1
Number of Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	195
Number of Cowsheds and Dairies, etc., constructed to comply with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	18

DESIGNATED MILKS.

The following licenses have been granted by the County Council for the production of Designated Milks :—

Accredited	3
Tuberculin Tested	6

One Supplementary Licence to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk was granted.

During the year the attention of cowkeepers was drawn to the following defects or contraventions of Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Failure to register, defective floors and drainage, water supply, dirty walls and flooring, and lack of lighting and ventilation.

MEAT FOODS INSPECTION.

With the exception of the slaughter of pigs for home consumption no public slaughtering is carried out within the district. As these killings are not notified to this department, no records are kept. Small quantities of food, mainly tinned, were inspected and condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 14.

Ice Cream Dealers	Nil
Ice Cream Manufacturers	Nil
Meat Preparation	Nil
Fish Friers	Nil

WATER SUPPLIES.

Fourteen water samples were taken from the regional supply, and the analyst's reports showed the water to be of a consistently high quality.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Unburnable refuse has been collected quarterly from the majority of parishes and disposal is by means of tipping. One tip at Slingsby is at present being used.

The open sewers, of which there are fifteen, have been cleansed as regularly as possible by direct labour. A service of cesspool emptying by mechanical means has been in use during the year.

It is anticipated that the sewerage scheme for the parishes of Broughton, Swinton, Amotherby, Appleton-le-Street and Barton-le-Street, will be commenced in 1949.

HOUSING.

1. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

1. By Local Authority	44
2. By other bodies	2
3. Number of houses under construction by Local Authority	20

These 44 new houses erected by the Local Authority during the year were dispersed as follows :—

Parish.	Number.	Type.
Whitwell-on-the-Hill	4	Traditional Brick.
Hovingham	10	„
Slingsby	14	„
Terrington	6	„
Broughton	10	Airey type.
Total	44	

12 Traditional brick houses at Sheriff Hutton and 8 Airey houses are in course of erection.

2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

Again the Council have not seen their way clear to appoint an assistant for the carrying out of the Rural Housing Survey, consequently progress in this direction has been slow.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	189
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3. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR.

Number of defective dwelling-houses repaired or improved	156
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4. 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
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2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owner	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in lieu of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
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 tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
5. HOUSING ACT, 1936—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	6
C.	1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
	2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	24
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
E.	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. C. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

