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Rural District Council
of
MALTON

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1950

W. R. M. COUPER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

INCLUDING THE REPORT
of the

Sanitary Inspector
W. E. WIGGLESWORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.



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Rural District Council

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MALTON

Annual Report

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Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

MALTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee
of the Rural District Council of Malton.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Malton Rural District for the year 1950.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	48,078
Estimate Mid-Year Population	5,761
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,747
Rateable Value	£18,052
Product of Penny Rate	£71

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	44	37	81
Legitimate	43	36	79
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Stillbirths	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	14.1		
Illegitimate Rate (percentage of total births)	2.5		
Stillbirths (per 1,000 population)	Nil		

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under one year	1 Male
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 related births)	12.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under one month per 1,000 related births)	12.5

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Cause	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, Other	1	—

Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	.....	.....	.....	1	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	.....	.....	.....	4	4
Diabetes	.....	.....	.....	2	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	.....	.....	.....	5	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	.....	.....	.....	4	2
Other Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	10	15
Influenza	.....	.....	.....	—	1
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	—	2
Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	.....	.....	.....	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	.....	.....	.....	3	4
Accidents (not motor vehicle)	.....	.....	.....	2	1
Deaths from all causes	.....	.....	.....	74	
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated population)	.....	.....	.....	12.8	

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during the year.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Rates per 1,000 population

	Live Birth	Stillbirth	Death	Infant Mortality
	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	29.8
126 Great Towns and C.B.'s	17.6	0.45	12.3	33.8
148 Smaller Towns	16.6	0.38	11.6	29.4
London Admin. County	17.8	0.36	11.8	26.3
Malton R.D.	14.1	Nil	12.8	Nil

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year :—

Measles	.....	.....	.....	18
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	3
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	3

An outbreak of dysentery due to shigella sonnei occurred at Terrington

between the 4th and 10th December, affecting 14 children and 4 adults. The source of the outbreak among the children was traced to the school canteen.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1950.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (notified)	1	1	2
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis (notified)	—	—	—
Deaths	2	—	2

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit visited Malton and people from the Urban and Rural Districts of Malton were examined. The following is a summary of the results of the survey.

Number of persons examined by Miniature Radiography—

Males	311
Females	135
Total	446

Number of persons recalled for further examination

Persons referred for investigation—

Suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Other Chest Conditions	Nil
Referred to own doctor	3
Abnormality but no action required	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :

Medical Officer of Health	W. R. M. Couper, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	W. E. Wigglesworth, Cert. R.San.I., Cert. (Meat and Foods).

LOCAL SERVICES UNDER PART III OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

These services are administered in your area by the Ryedale Local Health Sub-Committee of the North Riding of Yorkshire County Council and you are represented by your Chairman.

The care of mothers and young children is provided for by Child Welfare and Ante-natal clinics at Swinton, Whitwell, Welburn, Sheriff Hutton, Hovingham and Slingsby. Health Visitor/Nurse/Midwives serving your district are resident in Swinton, Malton, Nunnington, Flaxton and York.

These nurses provide domiciliary midwifery, home nursing and health visiting services in the district.

The ambulance service is provided for by a County Ambulance Station situate in Malton.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Samples for bacteriological examination are sent to The Public Health Laboratory in Hull.

HOSPITALS.

General medical and surgical cases are admitted to Malton, York, Scarborough and Leeds hospitals. Maternity cases are admitted, when necessary, to hospitals at Westow and Scarborough.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply has been adequate in quantity and quality. Frequent sampling of the supply is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

No details are available as to the number of houses and population supplied direct from mains and from stand pipes and other sources, but it is hoped that this information will be available as soon as the housing survey, which is now in hand, has been completed.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council arrange for the collection of tins and bottles from houses in the districts at intervals of eight weeks. No collection of ashes or other household refuse is made. In some places this gives rise to considerable inconvenience to residents as sometimes the disposal of household refuse creates a nuisance. Particular difficulties arise in the Council's houses at Slingsby, Amotherby and Hovingham and there is considerable hardship where the only occupants of a house are old people. In order to overcome these difficulties a house-to-house collection of all household refuse should be arranged at intervals of not less than one month. Refuse Disposal is by controlled tipping.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are at present no sewage works in the district but work has commenced on a scheme for the Street villages. Apart from this area there is no danger to water supplies from the lack of proper schemes but the installation of proper sewerage in all villages is of course desirable.

FOOD.

All shops and food preparing premises were inspected during the year.

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred in Huttons Ambo on 25th and 26th December, 1950. Sixteen cases were found; from these eleven stool specimens were sent for laboratory investigation. Coagulase positive staphylococci were isolated from three specimens. The outbreak was mild in character but, because it did not come to light until it was almost over, the source could not be traced.

W. R. M. COUPER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malton Rural District Council
MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my first annual report to you, I am pleased to record that the year 1950 has seen the commencement of the sewage disposal scheme for the street villages of Appleton-le-Street, Amotherby, Barton-le-Street, Broughton and Swinton. This long awaited improvement to the sanitary services in addition to protecting the water supplies, should do much to stimulate development in the area and lead to the improvement of the sanitary accommodation of properties in these villages.

An improvement in the frequency of the collection of refuse has been effected but the presence of accumulation of ashes in the vicinity of houses is an ever-present reminder that much remains to be done in this direction.

The appointment of an Additional Qualified Assistant (towards the end of the year) to carry out the Survey of Houses is a welcome innovation and did much to relieve the burden of the additional duties imposed upon the department consequent upon the temporary taking over of the Council's Direct Labour Force.

The interest which you have shown in my work and the co-operation extended to my department by the officials has been greatly appreciated and I wish to extend my thanks to Members and Officials.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. E. WIGGLESWORTH,

*Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor.*

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Dwelling Houses :—

Consolidated Regulations	28
Water Supply	24
Overcrowding	9
Infectious Diseases	1
Improvement Grants (Section 20)	49
Miscellaneous	41

Sanitary Conveniences :—

Ashpits and Privies	51
Water Closets	1
Chemical Closets	85

Refuse Disposal :—

Tips	66
Refuse Collections	19

Drains and Sewers :—

Inspections	236
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	44
Water Tested	25
Public Urinals	—

Factories :—

With mechanical power	—
Without mechanical power	12
Outworkers	—

Food :—

Inspections	4
Condemnations	4

Food Storage (Preparation, etc.) :—

Butchers' Shops	6
Fish friers	3

Sampling :—

Water	42
Milk	3

Miscellaneous :—

New buildings	46
Moveable dwellings	3

Ponds and water courses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Rats and mice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Building licences	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Petroleum licences	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Schools	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Animals and poultry.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Nuisances	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Verminous houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Works in progress	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115
Food poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	133
Capital housing	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	69
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65
						<hr/>
					Total	..... 1,310
						<hr/>

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1944.

There are few major infestations and these have been adequately dealt with by the employment of a part-time Rodent Operative.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Seven inspections were made. No contraventions were found.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no trades under this heading.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughter houses in the district, none of which are used for public slaughtering.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1932.

One application for a slaughterman's licence was received and granted.

There are now 23 licensed slaughtermen under the above Act.

ERRADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One case of infestation has been reported and the necessary action taken.

SCHOOLS.

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

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

No public slaughtering is carried out excepting pigs for home use and no carcasses have been inspected. Six inspections have been made to butchers' shops.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Registration of premises under Section 14:

Ice Cream dealers	.....	.....	1
Ice Cream manufacturers	.....	.....	Nil
Meat preparation	.....	.....	Nil
Fish friers	.....	.....	Nil

WATER SUPPLIES.

38 samples of water were submitted for analysis from Public Supplies and showed the water to be in the main of a high quality. One sample of chlorinated water and one sample of untreated water from the Bore showed some contamination.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The quarterly collection of unburnable refuse has been accelerated and now takes place at eight-weekly periods. Disposal is by means of tipping and a new tip at Barton-le-Street has been brought into use. Adequate soil cover has been available and a more controlled form of tipping is being practised.

SEPTIC TANKS AND CESSPOOLS.

A considerable amount of time has been given up to the cleansing of septic tanks and cesspools and to the general maintenance of Housing Estate drainage systems many of which are overloaded. Schemes to relieve the conditions are in course of preparation including the provision of filtration plants for the larger Estates. A service of cesspool emptying by mechanical means has been in use during the year.

OPEN DITCHES.

These have been cleaned and maintained as regularly as possible by direct labour. Two have been piped in during the year, removing sources of nuisance to adjoining properties.

HOUSING.

1. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:

By Local Authority	.....	.....	.....	15
By Private Enterprise	.....	.....	.....	3

Number of houses under construction

by Local Authority 22

These 15 houses erected by the Local Authority were dispersed as follows:—

Parish	No.	Type
Terrington	2	Airey
Bulmer	6	Airey
Welburn	3	Traditional
Foston	4	Traditional

22 Traditional Houses are in course of erection, 14 at Amotherby and 8 at Sheriff Hutton.

2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

The Additional Inspector appointed at the close of the year for the carrying out of the Hobhouse survey is a welcome step towards the completion of the valuable work and I hope to be able to report substantial progress in this field in my next annual report.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 48

3. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR.

Number of defective dwelling-houses repaired or improved 26

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

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 (a) By owners 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	Nil
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
5.	HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.	
A.	1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
	2. Number of families dwelling therein	3
	3. Number of persons dwelling therein	9
B.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
C.	1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	2. Number of persons concerned	Nil
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
6.	HOUSING ACT, 1949.	

Ten applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year affecting fourteen properties. Of these two were approved by the Ministry of Health, two rejected, three withdrawn and three are still under consideration.

The steep rise in building costs is undoubtedly limiting the scope of this Act. There are, however, many properties in the area which are suitable for improvement and the policy of bringing the provisions of the Act to the notice of owners of such property will be consistently pursued.

