MALVERN URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944

BY

MAJOR M. J. QUIRKE, M.B., Ch:B., D.P.H., I.M.S. (retd.)

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a second brief Annual Report.

Having in the first place assumed the duties of my Office as a temporary war-time expedient and, for mutual convenience, the Appointment having been made subject to termination without notice by either party, it is a little suprising to find that after more than two and a half years I am still trying to "keep the flag flying".

My thanks are due to the Council and to the Public Health Committee for their unfailing courtesy and forbearance, to the Council's Staff for their loyal co-operation and to the Medical Practitioners of Malvern for their helpful attitude.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Whitwham, has been far too busy with many extra duties to admit of his being able to furnish the "Statement of Work" which should normally adorn this Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. QUIRKE.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

9th October, 1945.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area - Land and Inland water - 7,672 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population: 12,610.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books: 5,700.

Rateable value: £154,230 (1st April). Sum represented by a penny rate: £600 to nearest pound.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births: Legitimate: Total 314. Males 173. Females 141. Illegitimate: Total 26. Males 18. Females 8.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population: 11.23. The rate for England and Wales was 17.6.

Still-births: Total 7. Males 4 (legitimate). Females 3 (legitimate). Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 20.58.

Deaths: Total 281. Males 122. Females 159.

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 13.06. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

As no comparability factor is available it is impossible to correct these figures according to the age and sex distribution of this area as compared with that of England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis: 1. Rate per 1,000 total births 2.94.

Deaths from Cancer at all ages: 42.

Deaths of Infants under one year: Total 23. Males 15. Females 8.

Rates: All infants per 1,000 live births 67.6. The rate for England and Wales was 46.0. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 73.2. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births NIL.

Deaths in this group were mainly due to prematurity and Broncho-pneumonia.

xxxxxxx

Section B.

Staff: No important change occurred except that Mr. Franks, the Assistant Sanitary Inspector left towards the end of the year.

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER: Water supply, drainage and sewerage are under the control of the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer. It had not been the custom to submit copies of the results of water analyses to my Department but at my request these are now furnished regularly.

I am indebted to Mr. C. C. Judson, the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer for the information that follows:-

(i) a. The quality of the water supplied was satisfactory. b. As regards quantity, care had to be taken during the Summer and Autumn owing to the greatly increased demands for military and other Government purposes. The quantity supplied was equal to about 2.3 times the normal pre-war requirements.

(ii) Mr. Judson has furnished me with copies of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of the Town's water supply. On these I comment as follows:-

Generally speaking, as supplied after treatment, it is practically sterile and contains from none to 0.03 parts per million of available chlorine.

Untreated samples of water from the British Camp Reservoir taken in the Summer show very few bacteria, though the figure for Albuminoid Ammonia is liable to be rather high. After snow and heavy rain the number of organisms is liable to show an increase beyond desirable limits.

The results of two examinations are appended at the end of this Report.

(iii) As upland surface water is only supplied when mixed with water from deep borings, plumbo-solvency does not present any problem.

(iv) Proportion of population and of houses supplied (a) direct to houses (b) by stand pipes - the Water Engineer is unable to furnish me with this information and owing to shortage of Staff cannot carry out a survey at present.

2. SWIMMING POOL: A high standard of purification has been maintained.

3. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS: I am informed that six houses in the district were disinfested.

4. SCHOOLS: Malvern Link Council School was granted a Certificate of Low Attendance for the week ended 15th December, owing to Measles amongst the scholars.

xxxxxx

Section D. Housing.

Some bad cases of overcrowding have been brought to my notice.

Owing to lack of alternative accommodation and the interdict on new building it has been impossible for the Council to take prompt action although there is every desire to do everything possible in the way of relief.

Routine inspection is interrupted but I understand that full information is on record.

xxxxxxx

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Insofar as this is a function of the District Council the duties are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

xxxxxxx

Section F. Prevelance of and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Table 111 is appended.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION: A total of 170 children under five years and 107 from five to fifteen received the full course of treatment. Out of these only 25 under five years and 14 from five to fifteen are known to have received treatment from General Practitioners, the rest were immunized at monthly clinics which I held at the Council House.

The figure of 170 infants represents 56.2 per cent of the attributable births during the previous year (1943).

It is not possible to obtain full information regarding the numbers treated privately.

The oxsisting arrangement may be regarded as of a temporary nature and will need to be amplified if and when normal conditions become re-established.

TUBERCULOSIS. Table 1V appended shows the total number of new cases and of deaths.

At the end of the year 100 cases remained on the Register 56 being females. Pulmonary cases numbered 79 and of these 43 were females.

The incidence rate of all forms for the District was 1.1 per 1,000 inhabitants and the death rate was 0.65 per 1,000.

xxxxxxx

COPY.

COUNTY LABORATORY,

H. E. Monk, B.Sc., F.I.C.,
County Analyst and Bacteriologist,
TEL 3400.

COUNTY BUILDINGS,
WORCESTER.

REPORT

Upon a sample of..Untreated.....water contained in..W. Qt. Bottles.....

Marked..Untreated water from British Camp.....

Received from..Mr. C. C. Judson, Surveyor...of..The Council House, Malvern.....

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample..chemically and.... bacteriologically.....with the following results:-

Physical Characters.	Clear	
Odour	None	
Deposit	very slight brown	p.H. 7.9

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C)	Slight trace
Solids in solution (Dried at 100°C)	21
" " " After ignition	17
Chlorides as calculated as common salt	2.2
Hardness Permenant	8
" Temporary	6
" Total	14
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.003
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.009
Nitric Nitrogen	None
Nitrous Nitrogen..	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.07
Toxic Metals	None detected.

Note to convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar	
(a) in two days at 37°C.	4 per 1 m.l.
(b) in three days at 22°C	90 per 1 m.l.
Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive coli) count ..	3 per 100 m.l. *
Streptococci	Absent

* Non Faecal type.

OPINION:-

The sample is fit for drinking.

(signed) H. E. MONK.
County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

COPY.

H. E. Monk, B.Sc., F.I.C.,
County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

Tel. 3400.

COUNTY LABORATORY,
COUNTY BUILDINGS,
WORCESTER.

REPORT

Upon a sample of..Tap.....Water contained in..W. Qt. A. 8.oz.. bottles.....

Marked..The Council House, Malvern.....

Received from Mr. C. S. Judson, Surveyor...of.The Council House, Malvern.....

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically bacteriologically.....with the following results:-

Physical Characters.	Clear.	
Odour	None.	
Deposit	None.	pH 7.4.

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C)	None
Solids in solution (Dried at 100°C)	27
" " " After ignition	25
Chlorides as calculated as common salt	3
Hardness Permenant...	7
" Temporary...	15
" Total..	22
Free and Saline Ammonia.	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0006
Nitric Nitrogen...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen..	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C..	None
Toxic Metals	None detected

Free Chlorine on receipt ... 0.003

Note to convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar	
(a) in two days at 37°C	Nil per one m.l.
(b) in three days at 22°C..	1 per one m.l.
Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive coli) count	Nil per 100 m.l.
Streptococci..	Absent

OPINION:-

The sample is fit for drinking.

(signed) H. E. MONK.
County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Mid-yearly population.....	11,690	20,700	20,980	21,610	21,510
Births attributable to the district.....	210	242	271	302	340
Rate per 1,000 of the population.....	11.2	11.6	12.9	13.8	15.8
Deaths registered in the district.....	248	305	246	235	241
Transferable deaths:					
(1) Non-residents registered in the district.....	30	33	22	15	25
(11) Residents not registered in the district.....	75	61	68	71	65
Deaths attributable to the District:					
(1) Under 1 year of age.....	12	14	11	10	23
Rate per 1,000 births.....	57.1	57.8	44.1	33.1	67.6
(11) At all ages.....	293	303	292	291	281
Rate per 1,000 of the population	21.0	14.6	13.9	13.4	13.0

xxxxxxx

TABLE 11.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Classification	Disease	No. of deaths
6	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system...	8
7	Other forms of tuberculosis..	6
9	Influenza..	4
13-16	Cancer	42
17	Diabetes...	1
18	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	42
19	Heart Disease	77
20	Other circulatory diseases...	16
21	Bronchitis.	10
22	Pneumonia..	6
23	Other respiratory diseases...	3
24	Stomach or duodenal ulcer	6
25	Diarrhoea under two years	1
26	Appendicitis	3
27	Other digestive diseases	7
28	Nephritis..	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis.	1
31	Premature birth..	12
32	Birth injuries, malfirmations, infantile diseases.	6
33	Suicide	2
34	Road traffic accidents.	1
35	Other violent causes...	7
36	All other causes..	17

xxxxxx

TABLE 111.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1944.

Disease	At all ages	0 - 5	6 - 15	16 - 25 & over.	16 - 45	45 & over.
Scarlet Fever	95	23	50	22		
Diphtheria	8	1	1	6		
Whooping Cough	75	37	29	9		
Measles	99	26	55	8		
Pneumonia	49	10	6		15	18
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	10	2	3		4	1
Erysipelas	15	0	0		2	13
TOTALS	341	99	144	45	21	32

xxxxxx

TABLE 1V.

AGE PERIODS	TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F	DEATHS Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F
0-1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1-5	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	1
5-15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	1	2	-	2	-	1	-	1
25-35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
45-55	4	1	1	2	3	-	-	-
55-65	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	5	2	7	X 5	3	1	3 X

X The Registrar-General attributes a total of 14 deaths to the District and the rate has been worked out on this figure.

xxxxxxx