MARKET DRAYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM REPORT ON THE HEALTH & SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MARKET DRAYTON URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1944.

As in the earlier war years, this Report is presented in an abbreviated interim form as required by the Ministry of Health.

The Year 1944 was marked by the presence of infectious disease in some variety and in very small numbers in every case. Measles, immediately following an epidemic year, was almost completely absent and whooping cough followed a similar course. A few sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever, fewer than in the previous year, were encountered and Diphtheria accounted for but one case. No cases of Pneumonia were notified. No Deaths occurred from any of the infectious diseases listed.

It has been decided to discontinue the use of the town's Isolation Hospital, all cases being now sent to Shrewsbury and it is anticipated that this change will be of considerable benefit to the patient and economic in practice.

The Register for Tuberculosis shows a slight rise in total but for many years these totals have been small for the size of the town. It is to be noted that there was one death, only, from this cause, and that from non-respiratory disease in one of advanced years.

Vital Statistics show that while there has been some fall in the Birth Rate it is still well above that prevailing over the Country generally. On the other hand the Death Rate has risen considerably and is above that for England and Wales. For the second year there have been no deaths from maternal causes.

Much of the time of the Sanitary Department is spent in preparation for the day when the contemplated housing and improvements will be able to be put in hand. Such minor maintenance work as was allowed to be undertaken has been carried out but this has been limited. The Council are however well prepared at this juncture to meet the calls on the principal services when times will allow.

The Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking your Sanitary Inspector for his collaboration in the Year.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	-	1390.
Registrar General's estimate of Population (mid Year 1945)	-	4872.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to rate books	-	1470.
Rateable Value	-	£31,475.
Sum represented by one penny rate	-	£126.
Persons per acre (calculated on population)	-	3.5

Population. This return shows a slight decrease on that of 1943 which may be accounted for by the return of evacuees to their homes and to the less intensive service conditions prevailing in the area. With the improved housing facilities contemplated and the maintenance of general services the lot of the residents, particularly the housewives, should be improved. The town continues to offer pleasant recreational opportunities in considerable variety and these to the outsider would appear very attractive.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	44.	56.	100.
Illegitimate.	1.	5.	6.
Total	45.	61.	106.

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	-	21.8
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population (England & Wales)	-	17.6

Still Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1.	1.	2.
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1000 (live and still) Births	-	18.5

Deaths.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total Number of Deaths.	31.	45.	76.
Death Rate per 1000 of population			15.6
Death Rate per 1000 of population (England & Wales)			11.6

Infantile Mortality.

All Infants per 1000 live births	-	9.4
All Infants per 1000 live births (England & Wales)	-	46
Legitimate infants per 1000 live legitimate births	-	10
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live illegitimate births	-	nil.
Total Number of infant deaths -	Legitimate	1.
	Illegitimate	0.
	Total	1.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		11.
Measles (all ages)		0.
Whooping Cough (all ages)		0.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		0.

Maternal Mortality.

Under this heading there were no deaths

Chief causes of death :-

Tuberculosis (all forms)	1.
Influenza	3
Cancer	11.
Intra cranial vascular lesions	8.
Heart Diseases and Circulatory Disturbances	28.
Respiratory Diseases	9.
Abdominal Diseases	6.
Violence	4.

SECTION B.

General Provision for Health Services in District.

AMBULANCE. The District continues to be served through the Joint scheme in which two neighbouring Rural Authorities participate. This scheme functions smoothly and there have been no complaints. However, the County Authority have within recent months envisaged a service, similar to the above but on broader lines to serve the County, co-operating where necessary. Their aim is a Service giving maximum efficiency with the patient the first consideration.

MORTUARY. Consideration has been given to this and discussions have taken place with the Rural Authority but so far nothing has been able to be done owing to the difficulty in obtaining sanction to the capital expenditure.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

SCAVENGING. A weekly collection of waste has been maintained and such other refuse as has been removed to the tip by private individuals has been controlled on the spot. A workman is permanently employed at the site. In the main, the refuse comprises household waste and trade refuse, the latter being removed on a contractual basis. The whole site is well controlled and it would seem that there is sufficient accommodation to last for the next two years or so. In these times, it is difficult to maintain a high standard in dust bin receptacles, but this should improve as production of these again increases. So far as the Council Property is concerned, dust bins are provided by the Authority as standard.

SALVAGE. This is now restricted to the collection of paper, bones and rags. A regular round is made by the Council, the Women's Voluntary Service having ceased to take part in this scheme. On the Year a profit has been shown on the returns. In addition, a Book Drive was carried through with successful results. Of the books collected some were sent to the Forces and to libraries but a large percentage passed on as salvage.

VERMIN INFESTATION. While the Authority has an arrangement with the County Council Health Department for dealing with major infestations of rats no aid was required from that body during the Year. Minor cases of this trouble were notified, mainly by tradesmen, and the local workmen were able to deal with these satisfactorily. At the refuse tip, general clearances were made on three occasions but it was found that there were limited results from these. Generally it may be said that the District enjoys considerable freedom from rats. One home required disinfestation for bugs and this, together with clothing

and furniture, was dealt with by the Sanitary Department. Otherwise there is no record of furniture or clothing having required treatment of this nature. In connection with soft articles, it might be an advantage if some arrangement could be made with the local Poor Law Institution for the treatment of such (clothing and bedding) with the facilities available at the Institution.

WATER SUPPLY. This supply, under private ownership, is the main service to the town. The water which is chlorinated is examined in the raw state at regular intervals. During the year it was found that an extension from the town to one of the Service Depots was giving unsatisfactory results on examination and investigations were made to find the source of this contamination. Attention was paid to the springs and gathering ground and from samples taken from one of these main springs unsatisfactory results were received. The Company were informed and their Engineer was called in. The whole field of service was explored and at the same time a stepping up of the chlorine content of the water was instituted as a safeguard. Recent samples from this source have again given satisfactory results.

No large number of new connections have been made in the Year and while it is hoped that a few properties, as yet not served, may be connected to the main supply shortly the number of houses still dependent on stand-pipes and other local supplies remains unchanged.

SWIMMING BATHS. These continue to serve as one of the focal points of the recreation centres of the town. The residents make much use of them and they are, in addition, available to the Service personnel but with the latter there has recently been some diminution in their usage. The whole is run for the benefit of the people and is not used as a profit making undertaking. The water is chlorinated.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE. Generally the sewers of the town have worked satisfactorily. A few new connections have been made to private houses but these have been limited. In times of storm some difficulty has been experienced; this particularly in the Walkmill Road and Frogmore Road. In the former trouble associated with back-pounding has been overcome by the laying of a new storm overflow to the river from the site of the heaviest flooding. In the case of Frogmore Road, an

enlargement of the sewer will go a considerable way to prevent recurrence of flooding. Nevertheless it may be said that the sewers are working largely to their capacity and there remains little reserve. At the Works, the same conditions apply. The disposal has functioned satisfactorily considering the difficult years. As soon as conditions will permit however, certain repairs will require to be carried out, particularly on the sprinkler filters and to the storm-water tanks. It has to be remembered that, with additional housing, a greater volume of sewage will require to be treated and this may necessitate additions and extensions to the scheme. The Works are serviced by two of the Council's men one of whom lives on the spot.

SECTION D. HOUSING

Much of the time of the Committee has been spent in arranging for post-war requirements and the Architect has planned and is prepared to begin the erection of 120 new houses on the Church Lane Estate. This, with the addition of another 80 homes and the possibility of the use of Dalelands estate for civilian dwelling should do much to meet the housing demands of the District. The houses to be built are of a modern type giving the housewife the benefit of the most recent innovations. In the planning of these homes, the advice of co-opted lady members to this Committee has been very helpful. The whole, when completed, should be a considerable acquisition to the town.

No houses have been condemned in the twelve months but the Sanitary Inspector reports that some 70 will fall into this category with a further 40 requiring extensive reconditioning. No condemned property has been licenced for habitation as a war measure. Where possible minor repairs have been carried out and in some four cases, more extensive work has been undertaken. Cases of overcrowding reported have been relieved. Caravan dwellers have figured less acutely during the period under review. The Moor Ground has been vacated of all but two moveable homes and these have been allowed to remain for reasons of compassion. Other caravans, sited in parts of the town and five in number, are used intermittently and are under the close supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The two lodging houses have ceased to be licenced and one has been converted to serve as the home for two families, two houses having been arranged.

SECTION E.

Inspection and supervision of Food.

MILK & DAIRIES.

Number of Tuberculin Tested Producers	-	0.
Number of Accredited Producers	-	3.
Number of Pasteuring Licences (supplementary)		1.

There are 7 dairies and 8 cowkeepers in the District.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The District continues to be served from the central abbatoir at Whitchurch. The meat is examined locally as required. Other foods are inspected, principally on report to the Department and among the foods condemned and confiscated were :-

Tins:-	Vegetables	-	27.
	Fish	-	28.
	Milk Evap.	-	133.
	Jams & Marmalade	-	27.
	Soups	-	1.
Packets:-	- Cereals	-	1.
lbs:-	Luncheon Meat	-	30½ lbs.

Premises used for the preparation of foods, principally cooked meats, are subject to periodic inspection for general hygiene and cleanliness in manufacture.

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and allied diseases.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the Year, together with the number of deaths:-

Disease.	Cases notified. 1944.	1943.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	5.	7.	-
Diphtheria.	1.	3.	-
Whooping Cough.	6.	9.	-
Measles.	5.	80.	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2.	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3.	4.	-

Incidence of Disease in the Various Age Groups.

Years.	Scarlet Fever. Male.	Scarlet Fever. Female.	Diphtheria. Male.	Diphtheria. Female.	Whooping Cough. Male.	Whooping Cough. Female.	Measles. Male.	Measles. Female.
0.	-	-	-	-	3.	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	-	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-
5.	-	3.	-	-	-	2.	1.	1.
10.	-	-	1.	-	-	-	3.	-
15.	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-

No cases of acute pneumonia were notified in the Year.

Scabies. Again there were few cases of this complaint brought to notice and such as were, were able to be treated at your Welfare Centre or in their homes. Generally, over the greater area there has been a considerable decline in this contageon.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The Bi-Annual Return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the period ending December 31st 1944, was as follows :-

	Age under 5 years.	5 years & over but under 15 years.	Total.
Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation between July 1st & 31st December 1944.	34.	6.	40.
Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's Area at 31st December 1944.	525.	878.	1403.
Percentage of child population considered to be immunised at 31st December, 1944.	76.37	92.18	

This scheme continues under dual administration. The few cases treated privately are reported to the County Authority by the Doctor concerned.

Tuberculosis. The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st 1944 and the comparative numbers for 1943 and 1942 are as follows :-

	Males. Pulmonary.	Males. Non-Pulmonary.	Females. Pulmonary.	Females. Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1944.	11.	13.	6.	7.	37.
1943.	10.	12.	4.	7.	33.
1942.	11.	12.	5.	7.	35.

New Cases.

Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
4.	2.	6.

Death Rates.

	Market Drayton.	England & Wales (1943)
Death Rate from Pulmonary tuberculosis per 1000 population.	(no deaths)	.50
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population.	.20	.11
Total Death Rate (all forms)	.20	.61

New Cases and Mortality 1944.

Age Group Years.	New Cases. Pulmonary. M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	F.	Deaths. Pulmonary. M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	F.
25-35	2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	-	1.	1.	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	1.	-	1.	-	-	-	1.
Totals	2.	.	1.	1.	-	-	-	1.

Cancer. The number of deaths from Cancer in 1944 was 11 (3 males and 8 females)

Death Rate per 1000000 living was 2257.

England & Wales (1943) 1723.

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Medical Officer of Health.

8/8/45.