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Contributors

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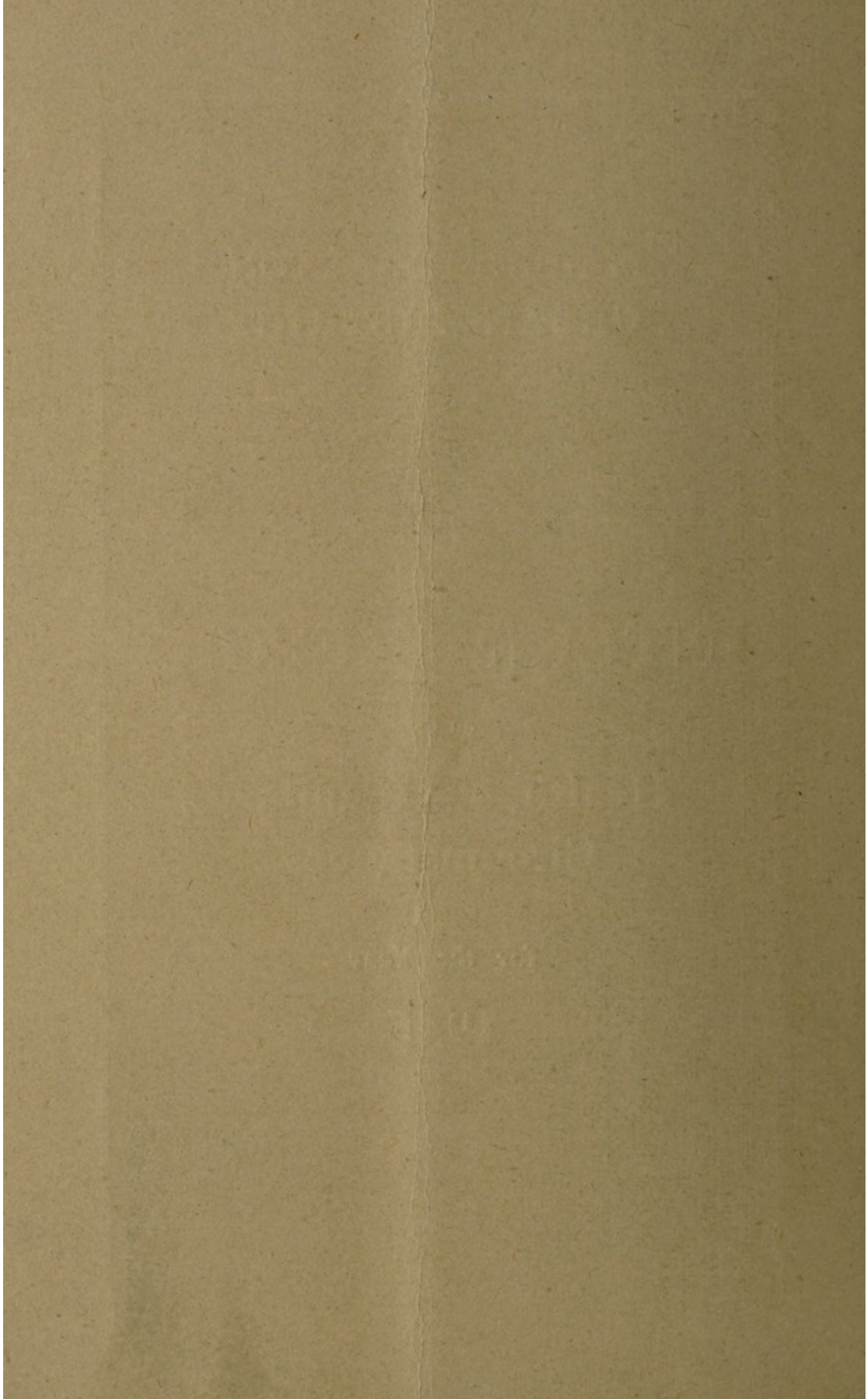
INTERIM REPORT

on the

**Health and Sanitary
Circumstances**

for the Year

1945



Market Drayton Urban District Council

Despite the cessation of hostilities the Ministry of Health has continued the war-time practice and this Report is, therefore, again presented in an abbreviated interim form.

There was a rise in frequency in the occurrence of Scarlet Fever, but there was no approach to epidemic conditions. The majority of the cases arose in the first quarter of the year. Provision for the isolation of such cases, where home-nursing is impossible, is provided by arrangement with the Atcham Joint Hospital Board and such patients are sent to Monkmoor Hospital. Diphtheria was completely absent among children, one case only being notified—that in a male adult. Whooping Cough was almost entirely absent but there was a number of cases of measles notified, again mainly in the early part of the year. No deaths occurred as a result of infectious diseases.

The Tuberculosis Register shows a rise in the total of cases of all types of this complaint. It should be possible within the next few years to obtain a stable estimation of the position locally, but it can be observed that in recent years there has been an upward trend in the total which, nevertheless, for a town of this size is still within reasonable dimensions and gives a death rate much lower than that of the Country generally.

Vital statistics show that the Birth-Rate has fallen slightly but is still above that of England and Wales, while the general Death Rate has fallen and approximates closely to that of the Country. Again there were no deaths reported from maternal causes.

The Council has, after some years of enforced inactivity, been able to put in hand the preparation for providing houses to meet the considerable waiting list of applicants for homes, and in the Year 1946 the first of these new houses should be completed and ready for occupation. From this start it is the intention to press forward until sufficient houses will be available to meet the demands.

Work in the Health Department is dealt with in the relevant sections of this Report, and in this connection attention may be directed to the plans and developments for the improvement of sewerage and its disposal—one of the Town's most urgent and difficult problems.

The Medical Officer takes this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector for his collaboration during the course of the Year.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	1,390
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (mid-Year 1946)	5,010
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	1,470
Rateable Value	£31,475
Sum Represented by One Penny Rate	£125
Persons per Acre (calculated on population)	3.6

POPULATION.—Here it may be noted that, after repeated falls in recent years, a rise has been estimated by the Registrar-General for the period ending mid-summer. This figure is estimated and it is difficult to assess the value on one return only, but with additional housing and ease of travel there would seem to be little reason to expect other than its maintenance.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	40	47	87
Illegitimate	5	6	11
	—	—	—
Total ...	45	53	98
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population		19.5	
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population			
(England and Wales)		16.1	

STILL BIRTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1000 (live and still births)		—	

DEATHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Number of Deaths	20	41	61
Death Rate per 1000 of population		12.2	
Death Rate per 1000 of population			
(England and Wales)		11.4	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	10.2
All infants per 1000 live births (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	46
Legitimate Infants per 1000 live legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	11.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live Illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of Infant deaths—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-
					—	
					Total ...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	8
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY. — Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Tuberculosis (all forms)	1
Cancer	8
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	9
Heart Diseases and Circulatory Disturbances	20
Respiratory Diseases	6
Nephritis	7
Violence	1

SECTION B

General Provision for Health Services in the District

AMBULANCE. — Again it may be reported that the Joint Scheme has functioned well and there have been few complaints. The County Authority continues to press forward their scheme to have the services over the administrative area knit together in one unit and it would seem that the local scheme would require to dovetail into this by some means or other ; the end result to be achieved being self-dependence and inter-dependence.

MORTUARY.—No change has been made in this and no further steps have been taken by the Local Authority to bring this service under their control.

SECTION C

SCAVENGING. — A weekly service is still the aim of the Sanitary Department, while such trade refuse removed by private individuals is subject to control at the tip. It may be said that in this service advance would be made were all householders to adopt a standard dustbin and cease the use of the variety of

receptacles at present considered by them as suitable for this purpose. Under the Council's authority, it has been found possible to give the majority of the Council houses this standard dustbin, but a few still remain to be supplied. It is hoped that, with such bins becoming more easily obtainable, all householders will take advantage and so greatly enhance the efficiency of this service and lessen the labour of the collectors.

SALVAGE.—This continues on restricted lines and is collected by Council labour. Beside house-to-house collections, a few containers are still in use in the streets—scattered throughout the Town. The aim is a weekly collection, but on notice special service is given. At the moment the return from salvage about balances the outlay.

VERMIN INFESTATION.—This District is visited at three-monthly intervals by the Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, who is satisfied that the Town enjoys considerable freedom from major infestations. The County Authority are in agreement with the Authority whereby on report from this locality they make contact with the owners of premises rat infested and deal with their problem. The initiation of this takes place through the Sanitary Inspector.

Your Officer has, from time to time, attended at Shrewsbury demonstrations and lectures on rat control and modern methods of procedure in dealing with this pest.

During the year there have been no reports of bug infestation in private houses. No bedding or soft articles have required to be treated. Provision has been made for such with the Public Assistance Section of the County Council, who have facilities at the local Institution. The plant available there is limited in capacity and leaves room for improvement and extension.

WATER.—This continues to be supplied through the Local Water Company. Excepting for the provision of supply to the new housing estate at Church Lane, little change has been made in this service. Periodic reports have been satisfactory and any complaint which might be made would be of a tendency to low pressure, the cause of which is difficult to establish. The whole subject of water supply, in its relationship to County Administration, has been the subject of expert investigation, and the part that the local supply will play in this County Scheme will be shown in the report of the Consultant, which is expected to be published early in 1946.

There has been no change in the number of standpipe users, which form of service, with the betterment of housing, it is hoped will eventually disappear.

Excepting for the Council Property, for which the water rate is paid to the Company in bulk, individual collections are made by that body from the remainder of the Town's houses.

The water is chlorinated.

SWIMMING BATHS.—These continue to give satisfaction. While there has been a decrease in the number of Service users, this has not entirely ceased and permission is granted on formal application being made. The water is subjected to periodic analyses and is, in addition, chlorinated.

SEWERAGE AND DISPOSAL.—This, for some years a major problem, is now a primary consideration, as with housing development the position of the, at present, fully loaded system at once becomes manifest. The Council are well aware of this and have engaged the services of a Consultant Engineer, who will report and recommend such changes as are necessary. This should result in considerable change and the result should be greatly appreciated. Not only will such investigation cover the area of the sewerage but will also include the disposal works, where, at the earliest opportunity, expansion and reconditioning will be put in hand.

The annual report on the results of storm-water flow in the Walkmill Road area, after the installation of additional means for escape of such water, has been more re-assuring, but there have still been difficulties experienced from the same cause in other parts of the Town—these in times of exceptionally heavy rainfall.

The attention of the Authority has been directed to the resulting difficulties experienced by owners who have installed private disposal systems where the general service has not been available. The means of disposal has been by septic tanks and these have not given satisfaction, as too little allowance has been made for storm overflow. At times of heavy rainfall the tanks have become flooded and with the backpounding conditions in the surrounds have been very pleasant. It is difficult for the Authority to remedy such defects, which are the responsibility of the owners, but it will be seen that such difficulties must not be allowed to develop in any future building.

SECTION D

Housing

No service attracts greater attention from the Public than this, and the Local Authority has endeavoured by every means to meet the claimant demand of those in great need of homes. To expedite the erection of houses, application has been made to the Ministry of Health for permission to build some fifty temporary dwellings, but of these only ten were allowed. These will be of the Tarrant type and should be completed in 1946.

On more permanent lines, the Council has in mind to provide 300 new dwellings and of these already some 120 have been planned and arranged for by the Architect. This first batch will be built on the Church Lane site and already 34 of these are

expected to be completed in the current year of writing — this despite the difficulties of making advances through lack of material and shortage of labour. The houses on completion should be very desirable, embodying modern conveniences and full services and meriting careful usage.

So far as maintenance of existing property, Council houses repairs have progressed with much greater speed than those of private owners.

While some properties come within the category of the condemnable, no action in this direction has been taken while the problem of supply has been so acute. There is, at present, a waiting list of over 400 applicants for homes.

Caravan dwellers have not caused concern as in previous years. There are still a few scattered in the area but these have not given rise to complaints. In the same way, no complaints have arisen in relationship to hut dwellers, the only one reported being so associated with a permanent dwelling that it removes any problem such as might arise in an isolated erection.

There are now no lodging houses in the district.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK AND DAIRIES.—No change has taken place in the Register during the Year. Of the designated quality there are producers of both the accredited and pasteurised, while ordinary producers number 8 in all. The shippens and cowsheds of these are of modern design and have up-to-date facilities.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The District continues to be supplied with meat from the Centre at Whitchurch.

Very little other food has been reported to the Sanitary Inspector for examination and opinion as to quality. Such as has been condemned is set out in the following table:—

	TINS
Vegetables	3
Fish	9
Milk (Evaporated)	11
	LBS.
Butter	21½
Bacon	2
Sausage Filling	112
Luncheon Meat	66

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—No material change in these has taken place in the twelve months. During that period the Sanitary Inspector has been directed by the Factory Officer to enforce such laws as have been disregarded by the factory owners —these mainly in relationship to lime-washing of walls and the provision of adequate toilet conveniences.

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		Deaths
	1945	1944	
Scarlet Fever	13	5	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	2	6	—
Measles	67	5	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

YEARS	Scarlet Fever			Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Measles	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	1	—
1	—	1	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	7	6
3	3	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	6	12
5	1	4	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	14	19
10	—	4	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	1	1
15	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
25 and over	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—

. The two cases of Pneumonia occurred in elderly persons, one of either sex.

SCABIES.—Generally the District has been free from this complaint. A few doubtful cases have been brought to notice, but such have not always been confirmed on medical inspection. No need has arisen to make use of the Newport or the local Institution for special treatment.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. — The Annual Return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the period ending December 31st, 1945, was as follows :—

	Age under 5 years	Over 5 years
Number immunised	34	3
Population of age group	469	792
Approx. percentage immunised	89	93.31

Under a new direction, returns to the Ministry of Health discontinue the practice of estimating percentage protected and concentrate on the numbers treated in specified groups of years. The calculation given above is, therefore, intended to serve as a guide to the proportion who have taken advantage of this scheme. As

has been said, a new form of return is being made and besides a modified bi-annual certificate, a more detailed statement is now being required annually in the month of May. The clinical administration is undertaken by the County Council, who periodically report on the work done to the local Health Department, which figures, together with the returns from local medical practitioners, form the basis for the card-index system which should now be able to be maintained with some accuracy.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st, 1945, and the comparative figures for 1944 and 1943, are as follows:—

	<i>Males</i>			<i>Females</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
1945 ...	13	15	...	7	7	...	42
1944 ...	11	13	...	6	7	...	37
1943 ...	10	12	...	4	7	...	33

NEW CASES.—Pulmonary, 4 ; Non-Pulmonary, 3. Total, 7.

DEATH RATES

	Market Drayton	England & Wales
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population ...	.19	.47
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population	12.	.12
Total Death Rate (all forms) ...	.19	.569

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1945

Age Group YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5-15	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	2	1	—	1	—	—

CANCER.—The number of deaths from Cancer in 1945 was 8 (1 male and 7 females).

Death Rate per 1,000,000 living ...	1,596
Ditto, England and Wales ...	1,699

W. A. M. STEWART,

15th July, 1946.

Medical Officer of Health.

