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**MARKET DRAYTON
URBAN DISTRICT**

INTERIM REPORT

on the

**Health and Sanitary
Circumstances**

for the Year

1946

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Market Drayton Urban District Council

Again the Ministry of Health has found it expedient to retain the form of Annual Report as submitted from the beginning of the war, and this being so, an interim survey of the health and sanitary circumstances of your area is given herein.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Over the twelve months few cases of notifiable disease have been received and such as were have been confined to Whooping Cough and Measles. The former disease accounted for all but one of the cases which came to notice. There has been a complete absence from Diphtheria and this may be due to the intensified immunisation campaign.

VITAL STATISTICS show that the Birth Rate has been above that for England and Wales, while the Death Rate for Infants under one year has been almost constant with that generally prevailing. The General Death Rate has been slightly lower than the average.

The total on the Tuberculosis Register shows a very slight rise and the Death Rate from this disease has been about half of that for England and Wales.

The Council has directed its attention to the furthering of the housing demands and in this department progress has been made with relief given to families living under the most difficult conditions. Associated with this, attention has been directed to the urgent necessity for the complete investigation of the Town's Sewering System.

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

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	1,390
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population ...	5,175
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books	1,493
Rateable Value	£31,475
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£125
Persons per acre (calculated on population)	3.7

POPULATION.—The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population shows a slight rise in keeping, generally, with that of the majority of adjacent county districts. This estimate of strictly civilian life by no means reflects the changed conditions in the Town, where, with the passing of the Services and their associates, a return to much quieter conditions has been experienced. Social activities still form a pleasing feature of the local life and, in this connection, the steps taken to provide means for the maintenance of connection in post-school life by the formation of club conveniences is worthy of notice. The Swimming Pool continues to attract and the recreational facilities given to children there are much in use.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	56	57	113
Illegitimate	4	4	8
Totals	60	61	121
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	23.4		
Ditto (England and Wales)	19.1		

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	2
Rate per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	16.3		

DEATHS	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Number of Deaths ...	35	21	56
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population	10.6		
Ditto (England and Wales)	11.5		

INFANTILE MORTALITY

All Infants, per 1000 live births	41.3
Ditto (England and Wales)	43
Legitimate Infants, per 1000 live legitimate births ...	26.5
Illegitimate Infants, per 1000 live illegitimate births	250.0
Total Number of Infant Deaths:—	

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	2	1
Illegitimate	2	—
Total	4	1

DEATHS from:—

Cancer (all ages)	6
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Tuberculosis (all forms)	1
Cancer	6
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	3
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	29
Respiratory Diseases	7
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	2
Violence	2
Abdominal Disease	2

SECTION B

General Provision for Health Services in the District

AMBULANCE.—Arising out of the demands of the new Health Act, a meeting has been held with the County Medical Officer to discuss the formation of the Major County Scheme and the relationship which the Local Authority Ambulance Service would have with this. Suggestions have been made for the establishment of a more complete night-and-day service, together with the means of securing ambulance relief. This latter should be obtained with the provision of an additional vehicle and the closer liaison with the service at Whitchurch. Out of these talks it would seem that the local service is likely to remain fundamentally unaltered in its relationship with local siting and the more immediate control.

MORTUARY SERVICE.—No change has been made in this but the Authority might consider that the time is shortly approaching when again it will be possible to take up this matter with the Ministry of Health.

SECTION C

VERMIN CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION. — The problem of rat destruction as a measure to secure preservation of food supplies has been a matter of general interest and concern over the whole country, and to help to further this it is hoped that here a complete survey to find the degree of rat infestation of homes will be able to be undertaken shortly.

No contractual association is maintained with the County Authority and no system of examination of sewers for the establishment of the numbers of rats there has taken place.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that, at the refuse tipping centre, rodent infection is not alarming.

No complaints have been received of bug infestations in homes and no cleansing of bedding or furniture against this has had to be carried out. In the case of terminal illnesses, caused in one by cancer and in the other tuberculosis, the bedding and more intimate clothing has been destroyed.

SCAVENGING SERVICE.—General Service: The Sanitary Inspector reports that the weekly service of collection has been well maintained and only in exceptional circumstances has there been any delay and that for not more than a day or two at any time. The means of collection remains unchanged and any labour difficulties have been able to be overcome satisfactorily.

At the tipping centre the system of control is still in use but is hampered by the limited amount of ashes coming there. (This is accounted for by the lower fuel consumption.) It has also been noted that there has been a sharp rise in the numbers of tin cans forwarded and, with the difficulty in disposing of these in a hygienic manner, the general scheme of work of the man responsible for this control has been restricted and delayed. The supplying of dustbins has been for long problematical and the receptacles in use and, improvised in many cases for the purpose, has been less easily managed. A limited number of standard bins have been able to be purchased and these have been allocated to the households of Council properties.

SALVAGE.—The Sanitary Inspector states that this collection is now almost entirely devoted to paper. Rounds have been made in various parts of the Town—on an average of three days in the week—and by this means about one ton of paper has been collected in that period. The whole, it is estimated, works at a loss of approximately £100 per year.

WATER SUPPLIES.—Main Services: The Town continues to be supplied by private company and beyond a noticeable lack of pressure in certain parts, no major complaints or difficulties in association with this have been experienced. A system of chlorination is practised.

Extensions : Beyond extensions to new housing estates, no other changes have been made and no alterations have taken place in the number of households dependent on standpipes.

Samples have been taken for analyses at frequent intervals and these invariably have shown satisfactory returns.

SWIMMING BATHS.—Here the principal work has been directed to maintenance with the object of securing more durable surrounds and better drainage. The flow to these is controlled and the water is chlorinated. This beneficial service, while not providing a means of profit to the Authority, is nevertheless much in use.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE.—Main Works : The Council has had in mind for long the need for a complete reconstruction of both the disposal and sewerage system, and with this in view have invited a Consultant Engineer to advise them on the requirements of the system to completely modernise it. It is expected that at the disposal works additional plant for sedimentation and filtration will be required.

For the present, work has been directed mainly to general upkeep and to rectify such omissions in this as the war years had caused to arise.

The effluent from these works has not been of a high standard and might well be subjected later to analysis. It may be that the full value of this will not be appreciated until such time as the alterations and improvements proposed have been made.

A considerable problem has been the disposal of sludge and it has been difficult to prevent accumulation of this.

No extension beyond the connecting of the housing estates to the sewer system has been undertaken.

No breakdowns have been experienced, but flooding has been present in the Frogmore Road area. The Walkmill Road and Limekiln Bank districts, always incipient sources for complaint, have been relatively quiet and the storm overflow in the former area would seem to have served its purpose.

The system of sewerage of the Town has occupied the mind of the Surveyor and he reports on the varying improvisations in use to maintain the continuity of this service. The degree of such and the lack of modern facilities here cannot be estimated until a complete report on the survey has been presented.

In the field of maintenance, minor stoppages have taken place but there has been no major breakdown.

In the Town Centre the lavatory accommodation is good and is provided for both sexes.

SECTION D

Housing

GENERAL. — In common with conditions prevailing over the country, the shortage of homes has been the factor which has had to be given priority over all local authority considerations.

To meet this, at Christ Church Estate, some 120 houses have been planned. Of these some are in course of construction and at the end of Year Four had been completed and occupied with the promise of considerable additions to this number at an early date in the incoming year.

These houses are pleasantly situated and are of the three-bedroomed type. In the houses finished the tenants are well satisfied with their changed conditions. A complaint has been raised of the difficulties arising from the common-flue system in use in the kitchen and living room, but these have been bettered by making changes in the type of flue.

When the full housing programme has been established it is expected that 300 homes in all will have been built. Plans for the remainder of this total have been restricted to siting and its selection and, in association with the County Authority, provision for these has been made in the Grove District, where also schools will be built.

Private Enterprise : This has been limited and at the end of the Year one house only was in course of construction.

Temporary Houses : The Authority has provided 10 of these and they have been completed and occupied. Their situation is on the Church Lane Site. The tenants are well satisfied with their new homes and there have been no complaints.

HUTMENT DWELLERS. — No difficulties have been experienced in this connection.

OVERCROWDING. — This is a considerable problem as much segregation exists, but it would appear to be confined to old properties and the Council Estates are only affected lightly. This position of overcrowding is due to the limitation of building in recent years, the housing of young families by their relations, and to the return of Service personnel. The only remedy lies in the provision of new homes. The Surveyor, in his reports on systematised house inspection, which are returned to the Committee at regular intervals, will do much to giving a clear insight into this position.

CARAVANS. — A number of these have settled temporarily in the District and have then moved on. Any attempt at permanent settlement has been resisted.

CONDEMNATION. — The Sanitary Inspector reports that there have been none officially condemned but that he could, were conditions to permit, bring about 100 into this category.

REPAIRS.—These have been very slow in completion and such as have been undertaken have been restricted to absolute essentials. Much remains to be done but lack of labour and material prevents any marked progress.

HOUSE SELECTION OF TENANTS.—This is done by a points system and would appear to give a fair basis of selection.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of Tuberculin-Tested Producers	...	...	Nil
Number of Accredited Producers	...	...	3
Number of Pasteurisation Licences	...	...	Nil
Total Number on Register (Cowkeepers and Dairies)			6

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the local cowhouses and dairies are all reasonably modern and that a rise has taken place in the farmers taking advantage of the system of accredited production. A limited number of essential repairs are outstanding and it has been difficult to enforce these. The quality of the product has been generally good, and weather conditions have largely accounted for the failure in keeping of milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Slaughtering: The District continues to be served from the Central Abbatoir at Whitchurch and meat sent from there is subject to re-inspection as required. It has been suggested that the Authority might, with times more propitious, explore the possibility of establishing an abbatoir locally with their rural neighbours; this to be Council owned.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.—

Soups

Scotch Broth, 1 tin

Vegetables, 1 tin

Meats

Tinned Meat, 16½ lbs.

Home Killed, 96 lbs.

Tinned Fish

Salmon, 7 tins

Pilchards, 10 tins

Herrings, 3 tins

Fish Cakes, 14 dozen

Tinned Vegetables

Carrots, 5 tins

Beetroot, 2 tins

Beans, 33 tins

Peas, 28 tins

Fruit

Prunes, 3¾ lbs.

Raisins, 4¼ lbs.

Prepared Meals

Prepared Meals, 2 tins

Milk

Evaporated, 75 tins

Dried, 3 lbs. and 196—199 lbs.

Jams

Marmalade, 5 lbs.

Eggs

Dried, 3 lbs.

FACTORIES. — Nos. of Registered Premises in the Urban District are as follows :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	8
Foundries	...	...	...	...	...	1
Steam Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Electric Light Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gas Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Creamery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	41

It has only been found necessary to issue notice to cleanse premises and in one instance to provide lavatory accommodation. These were promptly attended to.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and allied Diseases

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases, together with the number of deaths from such :—

Disease	Cases Notified		Deaths	
	1946	1945		
Scarlet Fever	...	13	...	—
Whooping Cough	33	2	...	—
Measles	1	67	...	—
Pneumonia	...	2	...	—
Diphtheria	...	1	...	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

Years	Whooping Cough			Measles	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
0	3	3	...	—	—
1	3	3	...	—	—
3	6	7	...	1	—
5	1	7	...	—	—
Totals	13	20	...	1	—

SCABIES.—There has been a marked falling-off of notification of this infection and it would now appear to present little problem for control.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. — The Annual Return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the period ending Dec. 31st, 1946, was as follows :—

	Age under 5 years but over 1 year		5 years and over but under 15 years		Total
	
Children Immunised	...	225	...	711	936
Child Population	...	454	...	720	1174
Percentage Immunised	...	49%	...	98.7%	—

The County Authority continues to exercise control over the clinical side of this work while the system of card indexing and the returns of statistics are completed locally. After the period of maturing of this scheme it has been found possible to close many loopholes of escape for attention from this very vital service, and a high percentage of infant and child population is now treated.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st, 1946, and the comparative figures for 1945 and 1944, are as follows:—

Year	MALES			FEMALES			Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary		
1946	13	15	...	9	7	...	44
1945	13	15	...	7	7	...	42
1944	11	13	...	6	7	...	37

New Cases : Pulmonary, 6 ; Non-Pulmonary, 0 ; Total, 6.

DEATH RATES

	Drayton U.D.C.	England and Wales
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population ... ..	.19	.248
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population	—	.080
Total Death Rate (all forms) ... ..	.19	.328

There was one death from Pulmonary and none from the Non-Pulmonary form of this disease.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1946

Age Group	NEW CASES			DEATHS	
	Male	Female		Non-Respiratory Male	Female
0—5	—	—	...	—	—
5—15	—	—	...	—	—
15—25	—	—	...	—	—
25—35	1	2	...	—	1
35—45	2	1	...	—	—
45—55	—	—	...	—	—
55—65	—	—	...	—	—
Over 65	—	—	...	—	—
Total	3	3	...	—	1

There was one Pulmonary and no Non-Pulmonary Deaths.

CANCER

The number of deaths from Cancer in 1946 was 6. Of these, 5 were males and 1 was female.

Death Rate per 1,000,000 living, 1,159. Ditto England and Wales, 1,768.

W. A. M. STEWART,

Medical Officer of Health.

19th August, 1947.



