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**MARKET DRAYTON
URBAN DISTRICT**

* *

Interim Report

on the

**Health and Sanitary
Circumstances**

* *

for the Year

1948





Market Drayton Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948

Chairman :

Mr. P. PEARCE

Committee :

Mr. C. D. Allen

Mr. T. Jones

Mr. T. Bowen

Mr. W. J. Sambrook

Mr. P. H. Griffiths

Hon. Mrs. A. Southwell

OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

W. A. M. STEWART, M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

D. C. NICOL, M.I.S.A.

Staff in Public Health Department

Sanitary Inspector and one Lady Clerk

This Report follows the pattern of that of the preceding years. An omission is that of the statistics of diphtheria immunisation which service has now passed completely under the direction of the County Authority. An addition which might have been made and for which provision is given is that relating to food infections and the outbreaks from this. No cases have been reported locally or to the Ministry of Health in the weekly returns.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. A very limited number of cases of Measles form the complete analysis of infectious disease reported in the area in the year and it is difficult to believe that this represents all disease which might have been notified in that period. As a result of the work on diphtheria immunisation credit may be given for the complete absence of this disease.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. No cases of this complaint were notified following a year when it gave rise to much concern.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS. The Birth Rate follows closely that of England and Wales and this is associated with a very excellent Mortality Rate.

GENERAL DEATHS. This Rate is also below that of the Country.

TUBERCULOSIS. The total on the Register remains constant with that of 1947 and the total death rate in this group is much below that of England and Wales. One death only occurred and from the pulmonary type of disease.

MISCELLANEOUS. The attention of this Authority has, in common with others, been directed mainly to the erection of houses and considerable progress has been made towards satisfying all cases in need. In addition, your Sanitary Officer has given much thought to the maintenance of general services and such matters are dealt with at length in the relevant Sections of this Report.

In presenting this Report the Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking his colleagues for their courtesy and continuous co-operation in the working of the Department and in the compilation of this Report.

SECTION " A "

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	1,390
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population ...	5,670
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	1,482
Rateable Value	£30,162
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£128
Persons per acre (calculated on population)	4.0

The Registrar-General's Return of Mid-Summer Population shows a very slight rise but this is in keeping with that generally prevailing.

The Town continues to maintain its market character despite the ever-increasing calls of neighbouring centres. This aspect of independence should be striven to be maintained for, from an onlookers standpoint, this centre makes a pleasant residential area with much consideration given to the amenities of local residents. In discussion it has been noted the provision made for recreation

in the holiday periods and at the week-ends. Particularly does this apply in the summer when few can be without the means of amusement and diversion in the open. It was noted after an anxious period it was found possible to keep the Golf Club in being and this, together with Cricket, Tennis and Swimming, gives much more than many towns of similar size can offer.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Legitimate	41	49	90
Illegitimate	4	2	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	45	51	96
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population		16.9	
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)		17.9	

STILL BIRTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1	4	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births		49.5	

DEATHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Total Number of deaths	23	34	57
Death Rate per 1,000 of population		10.1	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)		10.8	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

All Infants per 1,000 live births		10.4	
All Infants per 1,000 live births (England and Wales)		34	
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live Legitimate Births		11.1	
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live Illegitimate Births		—	
Total number of Infant Deaths—			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	4
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
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—
Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	4
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	7
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	...	...	...	...	...	29
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—
Abdominal Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Violence	...	...	...	...	...	3

SECTION "B"

General Provision for Health Services in the Area

AMBULANCE SERVICE. There is no change in the local Ambulance Service which is operated by the Drayton Ambulance Sub-Committee.

Total number of Journeys	...	...	236
" " " Patients	...	...	264
" " " Miles	...	...	8,522

These figures do not include Sitting Car Cases or Journeys made by Ambulance from outside the Rural District. During the course of the year no complaints have been received, and the scheme seems to be operating very satisfactorily.

MORTUARY SERVICE. A Survey of the District has been carried out with a view to finding a suitable site for a Mortuary to serve the Urban and Rural Districts. As was recommended in

the Annual Report of last year, this is a very necessary service and the absence of suitable provision has been the subject of adverse comment in the Press. There should be no difficulty in supplying premises which would adequately meet the demands of the Health Department and Medical Practitioners.

HOME HELP. This Service has been inaugurated in the Wellington Urban District under the W.V.S. in association with the County Authority. This has been found a great convenience in that district and from reports from your area, it would appear that Market Drayton would benefit in much the same degree from a like service.

SECTION "C"

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION.

Number of Parishes in District ...	One Urban District.
Number of Parishes where refuse is collected	Whole District
Frequency	Weekly
Methods of collection (direct labour or contract)	Direct Labour
Mechanised or horse transport ...	Mechanised Transport
Methods of disposal (tipping or incineration)	Tipping
Dustbins	Yes
Is controlled tipping in operation ? ...	Yes

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. A weekly collection of refuse is maintained in the district, disposal by means of controlled tipping. It is amazing in these times of scarcity of fuel to see the amount of combustible material that finds its way into the refuse bins which are, after all, expected to hold only such material as is unable to be destroyed otherwise.

SALVAGE

System	Weekly collection
Vehicles	One tractor and trailer
Storage	Council Yard
Personnel	One man (full time)
Profit or Loss	Profit £102

COMMENTS. Regular collections are made in the Urban District but it would appear that the collection of salvage is near the end, as it is now becoming extremely difficult to get rid of baled paper.

DISINFESTATION AND CONTROL OF VERMIN

RAT CONTROL. Routine inspections are carried out.

PRIVATE PROPERTIES. Seven infestations reported during the year.

COUNCIL UNDERTAKINGS. Disinfestation carried out by the Local Authority.

INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS—VERMIN CONTROL.

Persons	...	NIL
Clothing and Bedding	...	NIL
Homes	...	NIL

COMMENTS. This service which has in the past been carried out by the County Authority, will become the duty of the Urban District from the 1st April, 1950, and preparations have been made to carry out this work ; one of the staff is at present being trained in the methods of Rodent Control. A number of complaints have been made during the year and quite a proportion come from premises adjacent to back yard poultry establishments. The necessary action has been taken in each case.

WATER

1. Number and source of water schemes of which the District Council is the Water Undertaker	...
Number of houses served by (1) (in parishes separately)	Nil
Population served by (1)	Nil
2. Number and source of water schemes owned by private persons	1
Number of houses served by (2)	1,530
Population served by (2)	5,670
3. Number of houses served by private wells	4
Population served by (3)	16
4. Number of Houses supplied by standpipe (in parishes separately)	88
5. Has any water supply in the district been unsatisfactory in quality and/or quantity. If so, give particulars	No
5a. Chlorination	A system of chlorination is practised

6. Sampling :
- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Main |
| Number of bacteriological examinations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Number of chemical examinations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Before or after chlorination | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | After |
| Satisfactory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Unsatisfactory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
7. Extensions or repairs to existing Water Works ... None
8. Extensions or repairs to existing Water Mains ... None
- 8a. New connections to homes, etc. :

Two Private Houses and Council's Housing Estate

9. Difficulties met with during year in relation to works or mains, such as lack of supply, pressure, machinery, breakdowns, etc.
10. New Water Works or Water Main Schemes inaugurated or work commenced

11. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. The Town continues to be supplied by a private company, and are fortunate in having an ample supply of water. The amount consumed during the year was 78 million gallons, this means the consumption per head per day works out to about 36 gallons. Samples of water are taken from time to time for bacteriological examination.

SWIMMING BATH. This continues to serve a useful need and is an important part of the Town's recreational facilities. A scheme is under way at the moment to improve the quality of the water by continuous filtration and this should be installed for the next bathing season. When this has been completed a high degree of hygiene will have been reached and should raise the quality of the bathing conditions above the average standard.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH DURING YEAR

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance (excluding structural matters) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 113 |
| 2. New closets or drains provided or old mended | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| 3. Offensive accumulations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 4. Animals in such a state as to be a nuisance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 5. Smoke nuisance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 6. Nuisances arising from water courses, ditches, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 7. Offensive cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 8. Common Lodging Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

9. Public Lavatories. Accommodation is provided in the Town, two conveniences for males and one for females. These establishments are under constant supervision and all are in excellent condition.

SHOP ACTS, 1912-1934

Number of premises inspected 184
 Action taken with respect to any defects found : In five cases notice was given regarding defective sanitary conveniences and cleanliness of premises.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT. There are two picture houses in the district both of which are inspected from time to time. Some consideration should be given to bringing the sanitary arrangements in the Town Hall Cinema up to present day standards.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. There are three schools in the Town. Pupils attending school :

Market Drayton Grammar School	...	...	...	300
Market Drayton Senior School	...	...	...	338
Market Drayton Junior School	...	...	...	350
				988

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Number of Sewage Works owned by District Council (parishes) 1
 Number of houses dealt with by public sewers 1,362
2. Number of private sewage disposal works Nil
 Number of houses dealt with by these Nil
3. Number of houses with privies or pail closets ... 168
4. Extensions or Repairs to existing sewage works or sewers :
 Plans for extension have been prepared
5. New Schemes for works or sewers inaugurated during the year Nil
6. Difficulties, if any, encountered in operating works or sewers Nil
7. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. When a sanitary fitting is used and the sewage discharged into the drain, that is the end of it so far as the householder is concerned, but to the Surveyor it is only the beginning of one of the most important duties he has to undertake, namely the sanitary

treatment and disposal of sewage. The outcry against the making of our rivers and streams open sewers is at last being heard, so let us hope that the day is not far distant when the treated effluent from the sewage works is comparable with a healthy river water.

SECTION "D"

Housing

NEW COUNCIL HOUSES — PERMANENT

Total number of houses in schemes sanctioned by the Ministry of Health :		
(a) Traditional	... ..	122
(b) Prefabricated	... ..	Nil
Total number of houses for which sites are prepared in 1948		
Total number of houses completed	... ..	76
Number of houses completed in 1948	... ..	40
Number of houses in progress	... ..	38
New schemes inaugurated	... ..	Nil

TEMPORARY HOUSES

Total number of houses in schemes sanctioned by the Ministry of Health		... .. 10
Total number of houses for which sites are prepared		
Sites prepared in 1948	... ..	Nil
Total number of houses completed	... ..	10
Number of houses completed in 1948	... ..	Nil

NEW PRIVATE HOUSES

Number of plans for new houses submitted	... ..	2
Number of plans for new houses passed and licensed	... ..	2
Number of new houses completed	... ..	2
Number of new houses in progress	... ..

EXISTING HOUSES

Clearance Areas and Industrial Unfit Houses	83
---	--------	----

RECONDITIONING. Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

OVERCROWDING. Some 200 houses are required to replace those which should be demolished and to relieve overcrowding.

HOUSING REPAIRS

Number of houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	30
Number of inspections made for the purpose	30
Number of defective dwellings houses rendered fit by informal action	3

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :	
Number of houses requiring repair	2
Number of houses rendered fit after formal action	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
Number of houses requiring repair	1
Number of houses in which defects remedied after formal action	1

COUNCIL HOUSES

Repairs and General Management :

Repairs to Council property is carried out by direct labour. During the year 1948, repairs have been carried out to 278 houses	
Army hutments occupied by squatters and under supervision by District Council	Nil

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. From time to time some nuisance and a great deal of complaint from the public regarding Caravans coming into the Urban District and settling on unsuitable sites. One wonders if the time has not arrived when a site should be developed for the accommodation of these travelling folk, with suitable water supply and sanitary accommodation. This would prevent a great deal of nuisance that one sees after the departure of these people.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. During the year 40 houses were completed bringing the total up to 76, this leaves 38 houses to complete the present contract. Market Drayton is well above the average in housing progress but there still remains a lot to be done especially in the bringing up to present day standards, some of the existing houses.

SECTION " E "

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The District continues to be served from the central abattoir at Whitchurch, and such meat is subject to re-examination, locally as is required.

HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEAT

From time to time complaints have been received regarding the handling of the Town's meat supply. Consultations have been had with the Contractors and the distribution of this commodity shows a marked improvement.

FOOD PREMISES

Number of premises where food is sold, prepared or stored	136
Number of inspections of above	184
Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. and D. Act, 1938)	3
Number of premises registered under Section 14 (F. and D. Act, 1938) :	
(a) Manufacture of meat products	6
(b) Ice-Cream manufacturers	2
Number of inspections of above	24
Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. and D. Act, 1938)	

ICE-CREAM. The number of persons manufacturing ice-cream is still two and the number of retailers is eight. Samples have been taken from time to time. I think that it is fairly obvious that a great deal more supervision has to be given to our food supply than has been done in the past, and one wonders if it can be done efficiently with the present staff, as routine inspections in this case are most essential.

FOOD POISON NOTIFICATIONS. No cases of this nature have been brought to notice during the year.

MILK

Number of Cow sellers and milk sellers on register	7
Number of premises: cowsheds	7
dairies	2
milkshops	Nil
Number of above cow keepers and milk seller who hold licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders 1936 in respect of :	
	Tuberculin Tested Accredited Pasteurised
(a) establishments of producers and bottlers	— — —

(b) establishments of producers only	3	—	—
(c) establishments of bottlers only	2	—	—
(d) shops and other premises not being the establishment at which the milk is produced or bottled	1	—	—
(e) supplementary licences to sell milk from shops or other establishment outside the area of the licensing authority	2	—	—
Number of inspections			20
Action taken with regard to defects found			Nil

COMMENTS. The quantity of milk consumed has increased considerably in later years. It may be that the want of other food has caused this demand. This increased consumption emphasizes the need for constant supervision.

SECTION "F"

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. Part 1

PART I

<i>Inspections</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Written Notices</i>	<i>No. of Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 Sections are to be enforced by Local Authorities	55	40	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	8	12	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	63	52	—	—

Cases in which defects were found :-

PARTICULARS	<i>No. of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of cleanliness	6	6
Overcrowding		
Unreasonable temperature		
Inadequate ventilation		
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—
Sanitary conveniences	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :-		
(a) Insufficient	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—
TOTAL	12	12

PART 8 of the ACT. Outwork sections 110 and 111.

COMMENTS. There are some 63 factories in the district which are inspected from time to time.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)					57
All diseases except TUBERCULOSIS : Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned					3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis					3%
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned					2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis					2%

1. Number of Slaughter Houses in the district 8
2. Number of persons licensed to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards 1
3. Action taken with regard to inspections of slaughter houses, shops, stalls, and vehicles, and places where food is prepared. During the year 184 inspections have been carried out to premises where food is prepared and stored.
4. REMARKS. Meat inspection is carried out from time to time. Self suppliers pigs are also inspected in most cases.

Some 57 having been slaughtered during the year.

OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

TINNED FOODS CONDEMNED

	<i>No. of tins</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
		<i>Kind of Food</i>	<i>No. of tins</i>
Meat, 3lbs.	4	Soup, 17lbs.	17
Fish, 2lbs. 7ozs.	5	Jam & Marmalade, 31lbs.	31
Fruit, 20lbs. 8ozs.	19	Biscuits, 28lbs.	4
Vegetables, 21lbs. 9ozs.	19	Tomato Juice, 26lbs.	26
Milk, 40lbs.	45		

FRESH AND DRIED FOODS CONDEMNED

Fish, Herrings 49 lbs.

MISCELLANEOUS

<i>Kind</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Butter	220lbs.
Trimmings from Cow Carcase	20 lbs.
Cheese	6 lbs.
Pancake Mixture	4 lbs.
Mixed Pickle	17 lbs.
Piccaili	17lbs. 8ozs.

SECTION 9

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND ALLIED DISEASES

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

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Cases Notified</i>		<i>Deaths</i>
	1947	1948	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	123	16	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

<i>Years</i>	<i>Measles</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0	—	—
1	1	3
3	6	2
5	1	1
10	—	—
15	—	—
25	1	1
Age unknown	—	—
Total	9	7

SCABIES. During the year such cases as were brought to notice were able to be dealt with through the School Clinic Service.

TUBERCULOSIS. The number of notified cases, on the Register at December 31st, 1948, and the comparative numbers for 1946 and 1947 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>	
1946 ...	13	15	9	7	44
1947 ...	17	15	9	7	48
1848 ...	19	14	8	7	48

NEW CASES

Pulmonary, 4 Non-Pulmonary, Nil Total, 4

DEATH RATES

		<i>England and Wales</i>
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population ... ..	.176	.430
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	—	.070
Total Death Rate (all forms) ... ..	.176	.500

There was 1 death from Pulmonary and none from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY TABLE, 1948

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—

CANCER. The number of deaths from Cancer in 1948 was 1 male and 3 females. Total, 4.

	<i>England and Wales</i>
Death Rate per 1,000,000 living	706
	1,816

Signed

W. A. M. STEWART

21st June, 1949.



