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Contributors

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THE
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE
MARKET HARBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
1925.

BY
John S. Macbeth,

Medical Officer of Health.

Market Harborough.

A. E. Wilkinson, Printer, 64, High Street.



REPORT.



KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP,

LEICESTER,

22ND APRIL, 1926.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present this, my First Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Market Harborough Rural District Council. Your attention is drawn to the fact that in addition to the ordinary Report for the year 1925, a Survey of the last 5 years is included.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

The Market Harborough Rural District embraces an area of 30,234 acres, the population of this area being 7510 at the 1921 Census and 7640 as estimated for 1925. The Country consists almost entirely of wide undulating grass lands which are irrigated by small burns and water-pits. The average height above sea-level is about 350 feet. The majority of the villages in the area are entirely agricultural and very stationary in population, with the exception of the two largest villages, Kibworth and Fleckney, where the majority of the inhabitants are engaged as hosiery workers and the minority in agricultural pursuits. In Fleckney there are 4 factories employing over 1000 hands and in Kibworth 2 factories employ about 400 hands, while in Smeeton a small factory has recently been opened. There are no all-night shifts in these factories as formerly and the benefit of this is reflected in the general improvement of the health of the employees.

In 1921 the number of inhabited houses was 2500, the rateable value was £62,513, and the sum represented by a penny rate £250.

There is no special circumstance in the work or social conditions of the people affecting the public health.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered in the year 1925 was 125, of which 70 were males and 55 females; of this number 4 were illegitimate—3 male, 1 female.

The Registrar General estimates the population of the district for 1925 at 7640, and therefore the Birth Rate works out at 16.3, which shows a considerable advance on the figures for the preceding year.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths at all ages was 74, of which number 57 occurred in the district and 17 out of the district. The 74 deaths comprised 35 males and 39 females, and out of this number 19 were between the age period 70—80 years, and 18 over 80 years. The Death Rate for the year works out at 8.1, which contrasts very favourably with the figure of 15.1 for the preceding year. This favourable state of affairs must be accounted for by the absence of any devastating epidemic, such as the influenza epidemic of other years.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

			M.		F.		
Births	{	Legitimate	...	67	...	54	} Birth Rate 16.3
		Illegitimate	...	3	...	1	

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child birth,
From Sepsis 0. Other causes 0.

Infantile Mortality : 40 per 1000 births.

Number of deaths of Infants under 1 year was 7 per 1000 births.

Legitimate 2 males, 1 female.
Illegitimate 1 male, 1 female.

Deaths from Measles 0
 „ Whooping Cough 0
 „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 0

Your attention is drawn to the combined figures for Cancer and Tuberculosis.

Cancer was responsible for 11 of the the total deaths in the area—14.8 per cent. of the total deaths.

Tuberculosis accounted for 7 deaths—9.4 per cent. of the total deaths.

Thus it will be seen that these two scourges accounted for 18 out of the 74 deaths in the district, i.e.—24.2 per cent. of the total deaths for the year.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlatina	23	22	1
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Enteric (including Para Typhoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal	1	0	1
Other Diseases	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
20	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & upwards	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals. (1) *Tuberculosis.* There is one Sanatorium for the district at Mowsley, in addition to which cases are admitted to the County Sanatoria by arrangement with the County Tuberculosis Officer after he has seen the cases at the Dispensary or at home.

(2) *Maternity.* Any urgent cases can be admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary.

(3) *Children.* Cases are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary when necessary. Recently also a Children's Convalescent Home has been opened at Woodhouse Eaves, with 15 beds, eligible for children of 3-5 years of age and 6-10 years of age, those suffering from definite tuberculosis being excluded. Special Orthopædic Treatment is available for children under 5 years of age.

(4) *Fever.* Provision is made for all cases notified to be admitted to Blaby Hospital.

(5) *Smallpox.* Cases are admitted to various County Hospitals and paid for pro rata by the district.

Ambulance Facilities. The only Hospital actually in the area is Mowsley Sanatorium, situated just outside the village of Mowsley.

As regards Ambulance facilities, (a) Infectious cases are conveyed by an ambulance provided by the Hospital at the expense of the District Council. (b) Non-infectious or other urgent cases have to be conveyed at the patient's own expense, except in the Kibworths and Smeeton where recently a fund has been raised for the provision of an Ambulance to convey cases to Hospital, the patients paying a small sum according to their means.

Clinics & Treatment Centres. A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre was opened at Kibworth recently and is very well attended. This is superintended by a committee of local ladies under the County Council.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is available for cases at Friar Lane, Leicester, under the County Tuberculosis Officer.

A Treatment Centre is available for patients at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Nursing Arrangements. District Nurses are provided in many of the villages in the district and are under the control of the County Council, e.g.—in Fleckney, Gumley, and the Langtons. At the Kibworths the nurse is supported by purely voluntary contributions. These nurses are all qualified midwives, and their value to the district cannot be overestimated.

Midwives. There are six qualified midwives practising in the district.

Chemical Work. Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out in Leicester under the direction of the Assistant County M.O.H. For work done during the year see appendix.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. In the absence of any large river or catchment area, the district depends entirely upon public or private wells for its water supply. To this statement the village of Lubenham is an exception, inasmuch as the water supply is largely drawn from the Market Harborough main supply by stand pipes. In many cases individual properties have their own well. It must be noted that the wells are largely shallow wells built of dry porous brickwork without cement lining, and as such are open to serious surface contamination from cesspools or agricultural drainage—despite this ever-present risk there have been very few complaints of contamination in the last five years. Another risk in the well system is the shortage that may occur in a dry season, especially if the ground level has not been filled during the winter months.

The water is of good quality but contains 70 degrees of hardness, which makes it very destructive to boilers and cooking utensils.

Sewerage & Scavenging. In the villages of Kibworth there is a joint sewerage scheme, whereby 12 acres of grass land are used for irrigation after the sewage has passed through the settling tanks which are of the Cosham variety.

Fleckney village also has an efficiently working scheme where Cosham's patent tanks and Adam's automatic sprinkler are used.

In the other villages in the district cesspools and settling tanks are in general use ; the liability of contamination of water by leakage from these has already been noted.

Good progress is being made in removing the old-fashioned privies and substituting pail or water closets, but the principle of one cottage, one closet, still falls short of attainment.

In the last 5 years new settling tanks and filter bed have been provided on the Smeeton Sewer outfall.

A new outfall sewer, settling tanks and filter bed are in process of construction at Foxton.

Additional settling tanks and storm water tanks are in hand at Kibworth Beauchamp, and at Kibworth Harcourt there has been an 175 yards extension of the sewer in New Road.

At Lubenham 75 yards of old sewer were taken up and new glazed stoneware sewer substituted.

At East Langton a 20 yard extension of sewer to the New Council Houses was carried out.

At Foxton 12 street gullies were replaced by trapped gullies and 3 ventilating shafts fitted on the sewer.

Fleckney Sewage Works continue to function satisfactorily.

In the Kibworths and Fleckney scavenging is carried out regularly by carts and the refuse dumped. This arrangement has been in force for a considerable time.

A Scavenging Order has been obtained for Smeeton and a fortnightly collection is made.

Again it must be urged that Scavenging systems are necessary at Lubenham and Husbands Bosworth.

SCHOOLS.

The various schools in the district have been inspected during the year and their sanitary condition found to be satisfactory.

A considerable enlargement has been completed at Mowsley school.

Kibworth schools were closed for Measles from May 27th to June 22nd, 1925.

HOUSING.

The general housing conditions in the area are good but there still remains a big demand for houses, and consequently many that

are unfit for habitation remain occupied owing to the shortage. As will be seen from the figures given below, building is generally distributed in all the villages.

There is very little overcrowding throughout the area and in no cases of such had action to be taken in 1925.

44 Council Houses have been completed since January 1921, making a total of 54. These have been distributed as under:

Kibworth Beauchamp 20, Kibworth Harcourt 4, Saddington 6, Lubenham 14, Foxton 6, East Langton 4.

49 New Houses have been built or are in course of erection. 29 of these have received the block grant subsidy of £75 under the 1923 Act. Unfortunately none of the houses built have been available for renting as they have been built either for private ownership or by builders for sale, or houses provided specifically for employees of individuals or firms.

In addition to the above 3 houses for which closing orders had been issued, have been reconditioned and relet.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. The milk used in the district is produced within it and is of good quality as proved by periodical tests at the laboratory. In the last year 18 milk examinations were carried out. There is a progressing tendency to improvement of the dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, but conditions still leave a lot to be desired in some of the smaller dairies. (For any action taken see Sanitary Officer's Report).

Meat. Owing to the number of small private slaughter-houses scattered throughout the area, the inspection of meat cannot be carried out as thoroughly as could be desired, but as many as possible are inspected, and closer supervision is now exercised under the new Meat Regulations which came into force in April, 1926.

The number of slaughter-houses in the district is 18. The conditions in some of these private slaughter-houses leave a lot to be desired, but here again supervision is difficult owing to their scattered distribution.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Throughout the period 1920-25, with the exception of influenza, no extraordinary epidemic has occurred: in 1924 8 cases of Enteric Fever occurred at Husbands Bosworth, the suspected source of infection being milk.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied by the Council for the use of practitioners.

One case of Encephalitis Lethargica was reported for the last year and resulted in death.

Where necessary, Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined at the County Laboratory, and the use that has been made of these facilities can be seen from the appended table.

As regards Isolation, there is no Isolation Hospital in your district. Under existing arrangements cases when notified may be removed to Blaby Hospital; as soon as the case is removed thorough disinfection is carried out in the house; the same applies to houses where isolation has been carried out at home.

No use has been made in the district of the Schick or Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively.

Vaccinations. Vaccination is still rigorously opposed in the area. In the past year the number of vaccinations have been—

Primary 4. Re-vaccination 3.

Tuberculosis cases are notified to me and then sent to the County Medical Officer of Health. The houses concerned are visited by qualified health visitors and given instruction in the necessary principles of care and observance of hygienic rules. So far as County Hospital accommodation will allow, admission of necessary cases from your district is allowed, and cases not requiring institutional treatment are treated at home or at the Dispensary in Leicester.

Appendix II. Laboratory Work.

The following is a list of examinations made for your own district viz : Market Harborough Rural.

Milk examinations	...	...	18
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	10
Sewage and Water analyses	...	...	7
Urine for T. B.	...	...	5
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	2
Urine (General and Bacteriological)	...	...	2
			44

In addition to the above, the following specimens were received from Mowsley Sanatorium, which is in your district :

Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	112
Sewage and Water analyses	...	...	41
Urine for T.B.	...	...	9
Urine (General and Bacteriological)	...	...	7
Differential Blood Counts	...	...	4
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	2
Hairs for Ringworm	...	...	1
			176
		TOTAL	...
			220

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S MACBETH.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1925.

—o—

To the Chairman and Members of the Market Harborough Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

Particulars as to inspections, notices served &c., are given in the attached statement.

SEWERAGE.

Fleckney sewerage works continue to work satisfactorily. We are dealing there with an excess quantity in winter, owing to percolation of brook and subsoil water into the sewers. Efforts made at times to prevent this, have been only partially successful.

At Kibworth sewerage works, the construction of two new settling tanks, and two storm water tanks was commenced in October. Owing to the severe weather work had to be discontinued for some time, and the work is still in hand.

The new works at Foxton, consisting of 400 yards of outfall sewer, and the construction of settling tanks, percolating filter, and humus tanks was commenced in October and is still in hand.

In Foxton village twelve trapped gullies have been substituted for open catchpits, and three ventilating shafts erected.

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging has been carried on as usual in the parishes of Kibworth Beauchamp, Fleckney, Smeeton, and Kibworth Harcourt.

It is to be regretted that house-holders do not burn much more of their combustible refuse. A very large proportion of the refuse collected could be easily burnt on kitchen grates, thereby utilising the fuel value of the refuse, and very considerably reducing the cost to the rates of collection and disposal. It is surprising, too, the amount of perfectly good fuel, in the shape of small coal and cinders which finds its way into the refuse bins.

MEAT & SLAUGHTER-HOUSES REGULATIONS.

These Regulations which came into force on April 1st, have entailed considerable work, but I am glad to say that have been complied with very satisfactorily to date.

It is, of course, impossible in a district such as this to inspect all carcasses, but as many as possible are inspected, and a point is made of inspecting all casualty animals.

It has been necessary during the year to condemn one carcase of beef, and one of mutton.

DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.

The conditions in the Cowsheds are better, generally, than they were a few years ago, but the conditions under which milk is produced is still very far from satisfactory.

The majority of the premises registered could be classed as satisfactory, as regards construction, floors, &c., but the trouble lies in the lack of scrupulous cleanliness, without which it is impossible to produce clean milk. There seems to be a decided prejudice against washing the floors of cowsheds, although this is carried out in large numbers of large dairies without any harmful results to the animals.

Of 18 samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, 8 were reported good, that is equal to Grade A, 1 poor, and 9 bad. Evidence that there is considerable room for improvement.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans have been approved during the year for 12 new houses, 11 of which qualified for the Subsidy of £75. Plans were also submitted for additions and alterations in three instances.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED. C. SALMON.

Kibworth,

February 25th, 1926.

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

YEAR 1925.

MARKET HARBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Total number of complaints received during the year	...	15
" " inspections made for all purposes	...	841
" " notices served 196 Informal 195 Statutory 1		
" " summonses issued	...	Nil
Smoke nuisances : No. of observations	...	Nil
Nuisances abated ..	...	Nil
Overcrowding : No. of houses inspected	...	2
Nuisances abated ...	...	Nil
Offensive accumulations : No. inspected	...	38
Nuisances abated	...	35

Closet Accommodation.

Total No. in District at the end of the year :

(1) Privies	...	180
(2) Pail closets	...	210
(3) W. C's.	...	800
Privies (middens) No. of new provided	...	Nil
No. repaired	...	2
No. converted to (a) pails Nil (b) W. C's	...	2
Pails or earth closets—No. of new provided	...	Nil
No. converted to W. C's.	...	2
Water closets—No. of new provided	...	4

Drainage and Sewerage.

Drains, drain traps, etc.—No. inspected	...	500
Nuisances abated	...	33
Cesspools—No. repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	1
No. abolished and drains connected to sewer	...	Nil

Scavenging.

How is refuse disposed of? Public Scavenging in Kibworth
Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt, Fleckney and Smeeton,
Refuse deposit at tips

Is refuse destructor available ... No

Ashpits—No. of new provided	...	...	...	Nil
No. converted to ashbins	...	...	...	11
Ashbins—No. of new provided	...	...	...	20

Water Supply.

No. of samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	6
No. condemned	...	...	...	4
Wells—No. closed	...	...	...	Nil
No. cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	..	3
No. of instances where public supply was instituted for the well	...	...	...	Nil

Infectious Diseases.

Houses—No. inspected	...	...	...	22
No. of inspections	...	...	...	29
No. disinfected (a) Houses	...	...	...	24
(b) Schoolrooms	...	...	...	1
What are the arrangements for disinfection of :				
(a) bedding—Taken to Blaby Hospital				
(b) premises—Formalin Gas				
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	Nil
Canal boats	...	...	Not a registration authority	
Offensive trades	...	...	...	Nil

Food Supply.

No. of seizures :				
(a) Meat	2	No of summonses issued	(a) Meat ...	Nil
(b) Other	Nil		(b) Other ...	Nil
No. of carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned for :				
(a) Tuberculosis ...				1
(b) Other diseases ...				1

State arrangements for disposal of condemned meat :

An arrangement with M. H. U. D. C. to use their incinerator if no other satisfactory means available

Private slaughter houses, In 1920. In Jan. 1925. In Dec. 1925.

No. registered	17	17	16	
No. licensed	—	—	2	
General conditions of slaughter houses	...	...	...	Good
No. of inspections of premises	...	...	...	154

Has public abattoir been established	...	...	No
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	...	...	117
State arrangements for inspection at time of slaughter :			
Inspection made as often as possible. All casualties inspected			
Meat marking—Has approval been given	...	...	No
Meat stalls—No. of inspections	...	...	Nil
Meat shops, stores etc.—No. of inspections	...	...	35
No of contraventions found	...	...	2
Meat transport and handling—No. of contraventions found	...	...	Nil
Total No. of inspections of places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale	...	...	7
No. of contraventions found	...	...	Nil
Are existing powers adequate	...	...	Yes

*Milk supply (Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order 1885-1889
etc. (Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922).*

Have regulations been adopted ?	...	...	Yes
Has Veterinary inspector been appointed ?	...	...	Yes

Retail purveyors.

(a) Register—No. on	...	...	3
(b) Premises—Total No. of inspections made	...	...	11
No. of contraventions found	...	...	Nil
No. found to require—			
(a) Cleansing	...	...	Nil
(b) Structural or sanitary improvements	..	...	Nil

Wholesale traders and producers.

(a) Register—No. on	...	...	77
(b) Premises—No of inspections made	...	...	...
(1) Total	...	...	274
(2) During milking time	...	...	87
No. of contraventions found	..	...	36
No. found to require—			
(1) Cleansing	...	...	36
(2) Structural or sanitary improvements	...	...	Nil
No. of samples of milk taken for Bacteriological examinations	...	...	18
Total No. of Milch cows in the district	...	...	966
Legal proceedings—No. of summonses issued	...	...	Nil

The Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923.

Licenses—(a) No. issued (Give No. under respective Designations)	...	...	...	Nil
(c) No. refused and reasons for refusal	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Veterinary—

(r) Total No. made All herds inspected three times

(2) No. Milch cows found to be suffering with General

(a) Tuberculosis	..	...	...	5
(b) Tuberculosis of Udder	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Other diseases	...	...	...	Nil

State method of disposal of cows affected with the above diseases—(a) Destruction under Tub Order

State types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk (if any) ... Nil

Factory and Workshops Act 1901.

Workshops—No. of register (to include bakehouses)	...	...	...	22
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses—No. of register	...	...	...	9
Sanitary condition	...	...	...	Good
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	2
Homework—No. of outworkers	...	...	...	117
Legal proceedings—No. of summonses issued	...	...	...	Nil

*Adoptive Acts.**Bye-laws and Regulations.*

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations (1905)

Bye-laws for New Buildings (1923)

Public Health Act (Amendment) Act 1890, Part III (1923)

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919.

If appointed to act as officer	...	...	...	No
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Diseases of Animals Acts 1894-1909.

If appointed to act as officer	...	...	...	No
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

HOUSING.

Year ending 31st December, 1925.

No. of new houses erected during year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under b)	17
(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts ...	13
(1) By the Local Authority ...	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons ...	13

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—*Inspection.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	243
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ...	2
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	78

(II) *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :*

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	71
--	----

(III) *Action under Statutory Powers :*

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925 :

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1
---	---

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | | | | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 & 15 of Housing Act 1925 :

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made | ... | ... | Nil |
| (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... | ... | Nil |
| (4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | ... | ... | Nil |
| (5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | ... | ... | Nil |

FRED. C. SALMON,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

February 25th, 1926.



