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MARKET HARBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary State of
the District for the year

1936,

BY

C. T. SCOTT, M.A., M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AND

B. G. ELLOTT, M.R., San. I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.



ANNUAL REPORT, 1936.

To the Market Harborough Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, together with that of your Sanitary Inspector.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 4,787 acres, and it is situated in the Welland Valley on the borders of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The chief industries carried on in the area include the manufacture of corsets, dried foods, rubber goods, accumulators, type, bolts and nuts, wood turnery and pumps, soles and heels for shoe trade, aircraft components, brushes, steel rules for carton work, and brass rules for printing. There are also timber mills in the district, and premises for the dressing of leather, silk weaving, sheet metal working and constructional engineering. A large cattle market in the town serves the surrounding rural districts. There are no trades especially dangerous to health.

STATISTICS.

Area	... ..	4,787 Acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate for 1936)	... ..	9,501
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1936) according to Rate Books	... ..	2,671
Rateable Value	... ..	£61,144
Sum represented by penny rate	... ..	£238

Vital Statistics.—There is a slight increase in the birth rate this year, from 12.0 to 13.2 per 1,000 population. The death rate is up from 10.6 to 13.5.

	M.H.U.D.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	13.2	15.4
Death Rate „ „ ...	13.5	12.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	36.3	59.0

	Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	120	61	59	} Rate per 1,000 population 13.2
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Still Births	Legitimate	5	2	3	} Rate per 1,000 births 41.6
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Deaths	138	55	83	Rate per 1,000 population 12.1	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :— 0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :— 36.3

Deaths from Cancer	29
„ „ Measles	0
„ „ Whooping Cough	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

Amongst the causes of death at all ages are :—

Cerebral Hæmorrhage	11
Heart Disease	31
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14

Cancer death rate 3.0 per 1,000 population.

Maternity Mortality :—

No case of maternal death from causes connected with child birth has occurred. During the past 6 years there has been one such death in over 700 births, a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 births. The rate for England and Wales is 3.1 per 1,000.

HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers :—

	Part or whole time	Salary	Qualifications
Medical Officer of Health	Part	Yes	M.D.
Sanitary Inspector.	Whole	Yes	M.R. San.I., Meat and Smoke Certificates.
Health Visitor	Whole	Yes	C.M.B. Queen's Certificate. Qualified Nurse.
Midwife	Part	Subsidy	C.M.B.

Laboratory Facilities :—

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are carried out in the County Council's Laboratory : the examinations made during the year include :—

Milk Examinations	48
Sputa for T.B.	41
Wasserman Tests	5
Sewage and Water Analysis	5
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	3
Films for Gonococci	1

Ambulance Facilities :—

There is a very efficient branch of the St. John Ambulance Division, who have two well-equipped wagons. Ambulances for infectious diseases are provided by the County Council Fever Hospitals.

Nursing and Clinics :—

There has been no home-nursing provided by the Council, and there are no clinics in the district.

Hospitals :—

There is one Voluntary Hospital in the district, which provides a District Nurse. There is also a large Infirmary in charge of the Public Assistance Committee.

Maternity and Child Welfare :—

There is one Midwife practising in the district who receives a subsidy from the Council. There are also two others who practice privately. During last year a Maternity Ward was opened in the District Hospital containing four beds; the Council decided to make an annual grant towards the maintenance of this Ward, in return for which necessitous cases are admitted at a reduced fee; maternity cases are also admitted to the wards of the Public Assistance Institution. The number of cases admitted to the Maternity Ward during this, the second, year of its institution amounts to just 50 per cent. of the total births in the Town. The Infant Welfare Centre is provided by the Local Authority, it is open one day every week under the charge of the Health Visitor, and the Medical Officer attends every fortnight. The Centre is well attended by mothers, infants, and expectant mothers. The Health Visitor visits all new-born infants and continues home visits until children are of school age.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The two new wells constructed in Husbands Bosworth Parish were brought into use in May. The water is raised by electrically driven pumps and delivered through two miles of new main to a connection with the existing 10-inch trunk main to Market Harborough.

The supply from the combined sources (now comprising ten wells altogether) has been ample throughout the year, and several wells have not been drawn upon at all.

Two samples of the public supply have been analysed during the year, and the reports show the standard of purity to be well maintained.

Apart from a 4-inch main in Roman Way, a new street made by the Council through the site of a slum and 500 yards in length, there have been no large extensions to service mains. Small lengths have been put in to meet building development where extending on existing estates.

Sixty-four houses in the district derive their supply from twenty-nine private wells, and the remainder are connected to the public piped supply. Thirty samples of water from these wells were examined for the presence of pollution, and one well was found to require attention.

A copy of the result of the Analysis and Report of the Leicestershire County Council, dated 17th November, 1936, regarding the last sample from the town main is appended :—

Appearance in 2-Foot Tube—Clear.

Odour—Nil.

Reaction—Very Faintly Alkaline.

Hardness—Total, 40°. (Permanent, 16°.)

	Parts per 100,000	or	Grains per Gallon.
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil	or	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.002	or	0.0014
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	1.0	or	0.7
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium)	1.65	or	1.15
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	0.04	or	0.03
Oxygen absorbed in 4 Hours	—		—

There was no B.Coli in 10 c.c.'s.

Remarks.—The chemical and bacteriological analysis of this sample shows no evidence of any pollution, and in my opinion may be classed as a good water.

Drainage and Sewerage.—New Sewers of 500 yards length constructed as part of the new Roman Way works for foul and surface drainage are the only extensions made in the year.

At the sewage disposal works a new building was completed in February and provides enlarged engine and pump room, and office with a certain amount of laboratory equipment for the Manager. A regular system of tests is now in operation on all effluents, and has proved of value in regulating the periods of use and rest given to the various sections of land. The sludge pumping machinery has been improved by the provision of a new centrifugal pump driven by a 12½ h.p. oil engine, the old small engine and pump being retained as a stand by.

Rivers and Streams.—No complaint was received or instance discovered of pollution of rivers and streams during the past year.

Closet Accommodation.—There is a net increase of 69 water closets which have been connected to the sewerage system, and brings the total to approximately 3,668 in the district. There are also three privies and some twenty pail and chemical closets situated chiefly at outlying properties beyond the reach of the main sewers.

Public Cleansing.—Privies and pail closets are cleansed by the occupiers of the premises, and ashpits are cleansed at regular intervals by the Council's staff. With the exception of three ashpits, the whole of the houses in the area are provided with portable ashbins, and during the year, owners of property were called upon to replace 107 worn-out or defective ashbins in compliance with the Byelaws, also two ashpits have been abolished. House refuse is collected weekly by means of an S.D. Freighter motor vehicle of 7 cubic yards capacity, and is delivered to the Council's Destructor where the following approximate quantity has been disposed of during the past twelve months:—House refuse 1,918 tons, trade refuse 577 tons. The regular removal of trade refuse is carried out by the Council from 25 premises at a charge in accordance with the scale in operation. No charge is made for disposal in cases where traders deliver refuse to the destructor. A dis-used clay pit is utilised for the deposit of incombustible refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections :

Dwelling-houses (for all purposes)	2,141
Tents, Vans, etc. (used for human habitation)	9
Slaughter-houses	867
Food Shops, Stores, Stalls, Bakehouses, etc.	426
Dairies and Cowsheds	93
Offensive Trades	10
Animal Keeping	25
Workshops, etc.	65
Petrol and Carbide Stores	42
Other Premises and Secondary Visits	1,163

Sundry Items :

Complaints Investigated	143
Drain Tests	17
Informal Notices Served	332
Statutory Notices Served	Nil.

Dwelling-houses :

Dampness Remedied	12
Rooms Repaired, Papered, etc.	89
Doors, Windows, Floors, etc., Repaired	41
Roofs Repaired	3
Rainwater Fittings Repaired	13
Walls Repaired Externally	17
Yard and Passage Paving Repaired	12
Drains Repaired, Relaid or Unstopped	39
Sanitary or Water Fittings Repaired or Renewed	37
Airspace and/or ventilation Improved	18
Other Defects Remedied	53

Workshops :

Sanitary Accommodation Provided	... ..	3
Ventilation Improved	... ..	1
Cleansing Carried Out	... ..	2
Drains and other Defects Remedied	... ..	3
Matters referred by H.M. Inspector	... ..	1

Petrol and Carbide Stores :

New Store Erected	... ..	1
Contraventions dealt with	... ..	11
Amount Licensed (a) Petroleum Spirit	47,350 gallons.	
(b) Carbide of Calcium	3,112 lbs.	

Miscellaneous Nuisances Abated :

Offensive Accumulations Removed	... ..	32
Dangerous Structures made safe	... ..	13
Animal Keeping	... ..	1
Drains and Sanitary Fittings Repaired	... ..	4
Verminous Rooms Treated	... ..	111
Infected Rooms Fumigated	... ..	98
Articles of Bedding and Wearing Apparel Steam-disinfected	... ..	487
Articles of Bedding and Wearing Apparel Destroyed	... ..	70
Other Defects Remedied	... ..	21

Common Lodging-houses :

There are none in the District.

Tents, Vans, etc., used for Human Habitation :

Contraventions dealt with	2
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Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 :

This Act is administered by the Leicestershire County Council, and in response to an appeal from the latter for co-operation during National Rat Week, 100 circular letters calling attention to the need for concerted effort in destroying rats and rendering buildings ratproof, were sent to occupiers of premises in the Urban Area. Red Squill baits were laid where necessary on land, etc., owned or occupied by the Council, and advice was given or informal action taken in respect of 40 infestations of rats or mice during the year.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :

Rag Flock, guaranteed as conforming with the Government Standard of cleanliness is sold in ready-made articles by four tradesmen, three of whom also undertake upholstering. No action was found necessary during the year.

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to control by the Local Authority :

Trade.	No. in District.
Fish Frier	6
Rag and Bone Dealer	3

Three written consents to establishing the trade of fish frier have been renewed, one in respect of premises and two regarding mobile shops or saloons. The other three, together with the three rag and bone dealers' premises, were in use prior to the adoption of Byelaws. One building ceased to be used for carrying on the trade of fish frier.

Houses Let in Lodgings :

Byelaws have not been adopted.

Underground Sleeping Rooms :

There are none in the District.

Shops :

Two contraventions of the Shops Act, 1934, received attention and advice regarding the requirements of the Act was given in several instances.

Smoke Abatement :

Ten complaints as to nuisances arising from the emission of smoke or gritty particles were received, and twenty-three inspections of boiler plants or furnaces, etc., were made. Four instances of the excessive emission of smoke were dealt with under the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, and the results shewed considerable improvement.

Swimming Baths and Pools :

The one Public Swimming Bath in the district is owned by the Council. The pond is 75 feet by 25 feet, with a depth of 4 feet to 7 feet, and a capacity of 65,000 gallons. The water is circulated through a Paterson Filtration and Chlorination plant, giving a complete turn over every four hours, and

regular tests of the water are made. The Baths were erected in 1896, and have been altered from time to time to keep abreast with modern requirements.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

	Council Houses.	Other Houses.
Number of houses found to be infested	0	9
Number of houses disinfected	0	9

In two instances action was taken as a result of complaints being received, and in seven cases bug infestation was discovered during routine inspection. In seven cases arrangements were made for vacating the houses prior to their treatment.

The disinfection of houses is carried out by or under the supervision of the Council's staff. The premises are first sprayed with an approved insecticide to ascertain the degree of infestation. The following work is then carried out, the extent of the work depending upon the needs of each particular case:—Walls are stripped, skirting boards, etc., eased and certain floor boards removed. The house is then sealed and fumigated with "Cimex" or "Lawes" Blocks. The fumigation is repeated at suitable intervals, usually two or three times, until it is ascertained that all eggs have hatched or been destroyed and all live bugs killed.

Bedding and clothing are steam disinfested, bedsteads, etc., dismantled and all furniture thoroughly sprayed with an approved insecticide, and refuse and unwanted articles are removed to the refuse destructor.

The cleansing of persons and their clothing is carried out by arrangement with the Committee of the Public Assistance Institution.

Schools :

There are five Public Elementary, one County Secondary and four Private Schools in the town. The town water supply and sewerage system are connected in each case, and the various buildings are in good sanitary condition.

HOUSING.

Forty-eight houses have been erected during the year. The total number of houses constructed since the Great War now amounts to 873, representing 32 per cent. of the present housing accommodation of the district. During the latter period 156 houses have been closed, demolished or converted to business or other premises.

The following up-to-date particulars relate to applicants on the "waiting list" for the tenancy of Council houses :—

Number of new applications during 1936	...	...	...	...	64
„ Applicants living in rooms	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ working in the District but living outside	...	...	...	...	23
„ „ overcrowded	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ wishing to marry	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ who desire a more suitable house for health and other reasons	...	...	...	...	128

Further progress was made in regard to the 116 dwelling-houses previously scheduled as unfit for habitation as set out in the 1934 report. Work effected during 1936 and the position at the close of the year are indicated in the following Statement :—

	During 1936.	Position on 31st Dec. 1936.
Demolished (without Service or Demolition Order)	4	28
Demolition Order served :		
Demolished	18	27
Vacated	2	3
Occupied	—	1
Undertaking accepted to close :		
Closed	8	40
Occupied	—	0
Undertaking accepted to render fit :		
Rendered fit	7	17
Work not completed	—	0
		116

Two other unfit houses have been closed as a result of informal action.

Four houses constructed in one block, in respect of which Demolition Orders were served by the Council, have not yet been demolished, owing to the fact that one house is still occupied by an elderly man, and, up to the present, efforts to obtain other accommodation for this tenant have failed.

1.—Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	602
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	1,079
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	194
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	245
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	30

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	31
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	Nil.
(c) Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	18
(d) Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930	Nil.

4.—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding :

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	6
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	6
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	53
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	17
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	136
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding :						

The survey and enumeration of houses was completed in March, and a Report, which shewed the existence of 19 cases of overcrowding, having received the consideration of the Council, was duly forwarded to the Ministry of Health. In July the Council submitted to the latter their proposals for abatement, which consisted of an arrangement for the exchange of tenancies and the consequent removal of overcrowded families to suitable existing houses either belonging to the Council or to private owners, in lieu of incurring the expense entailed in the erection of new houses. The proposals received the Ministry's approval and the arrangement commenced to operate as suitable houses became vacant, with the result that at the close of the year only 6 cases of overcrowding remained.

The following particulars are taken from the Report upon the Survey of houses which came within the purview of the Act :

	Privately owned.	Council owned.	Total for District.	England & Wales.
Number of houses surveyed	1,838	316	2,154	
Population of „ „	5,437	1,205	6,642	
Average population per house	2.96	3.81	3.08	3.20
Number of houses overcrowded	9	10	19	
„ „ as % of houses surveyed	.17%	3.16%	.88%	3.8%
Average permitted number	8.27	6.91	8.02	

The survey revealed the fact that there were only 85 houses in the district with a permitted number of 4 units and less (a unit being a person of ten years of age or over, or two children between one and ten years), and there were also only 109 houses let at an inclusive weekly rent not exceeding 5/-. On the other hand, 752 houses of a higher permitted number than 4 ($4\frac{1}{2}$ to 12) were occupied by 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 units. Although only 19 houses were found to be overcrowded, there were nevertheless 23 houses occupied to their full capacity, 24 houses containing families of $\frac{1}{2}$ a unit less than the permitted number and 60 houses with families of 1 unit less than the number allowed.

1,362 Houses were measured during the year, which, together with 734 completed in 1935, brings the total to 2,096. Certificates giving particulars of the permitted numbers of 1,316 rented houses were supplied to owners and agents in November for insertion in rent books on 1st January, 1937, the day appointed by the Ministry of Health for the commencement of operation of the Housing Act, 1936.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :

Trade.	No. on Register.
Cowkeepers	10
Retail Purveyors of Milk	11
Farms and other Premises	22

(Number of milch cows in district—283).

Superior DTC 93

Seven producers outside the area send milk to retailers for consumption within the district.

Four local producers are licensed by the Leicestershire County Council in respect of five farms for the production of "Accredited" milk, and the following licences have been granted by the Market Harborough U.D.C. under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :—

"Pasteurised" Milk	1
"Tuberculin Tested" Milk (Dealers) ...	2

The sampling of milk from "Accredited" producers is undertaken by the County Council. Eleven samples of milk (other than "Accredited") as retailed have been collected and submitted to the Leicestershire County Council for bacteriological examination, and the following comparative particulars of the reports shew that the high standard of the previous year has been maintained :

Year	No. of Samples.	Good.	Fair.	Moderate.	Bad.	% Good.
1935 ...	12	12	—	—	—	100.00
1936 ...	11	11	—	—	—	100.00

The approximate percentages of the total quantity of the different grades of milk consumed in the district are as follows :—
Graded Milk ("Tuberculin Tested," "Accredited," and "Pasteurised") 77%, other than Graded Milk 23%. These figures do not include milk consumed in the schools under the County Council Scheme.

Defects remedied at Cowsheds and Dairies :—

Limewashing, Cleansing and other Contraventions 7

Meat and other Foods :

There are six slaughter-houses in the district ; three are owned by the Council and are tenanted by six butchers, and three are privately owned by two butchers. 867 visits to slaughter-houses were made during the year, and on 481 of these occasions slaughtering was in progress. A high standard has been maintained in the type of animal slaughtered for food purposes. Details as to numbers of carcasses inspected, etc., during the year are appended :—

	Beef.	Veal.	Mutton & Lamb.	Pork, etc.
Approximate number of animals slaughtered	571	67	2,443	973
Number of carcasses inspected ...	496	58	2,125	906
Number of condemnations :				
For Tuberculosis :				
Entire carcasses	—	1	—	1
Parts of carcasses or organs ...	6	—	—	27
For diseases other than Tuberculosis :				
Entire carcasses	—	3	5	2
Parts of carcasses or organs ...	2	—	—	1

Twenty licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, are in operation, and on two occasions contraventions of the Act were dealt with.

Shops, Stores, Stalls and other places used for the preparation or sale of food have received frequent attention, and the following articles of food have been condemned :—

Fish 159 lbs. Tripe $8\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Canned Fruit 6 lbs.

Defects remedied at Food Premises :—

Cleansing carried out	4
Drains, etc., Repaired or Unstopped	3
Food Exposed to Contamination	1
Other defects remedied	2

Adulteration :

The Food and Drugs Acts, etc., are administered by the Leicestershire County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food :

Samples of milk have been submitted to the laboratory of the Leicestershire County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	13	8	0
Pneumonia	8	—	1
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
„ Pyrexia	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0

Age Groups of Scarlet Fever :—

3—4 ...	1
5—10 ...	2
10—15 ...	3
15—20 ...	3
20—35 ...	4

The Scarlet Fever cases were of the same very mild type that has been prevalent of late.

Tuberculosis :—

Twenty-one new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 15 deaths from Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	5	8	—	1	3	5	—	—
35—45	3	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
45—55	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	11	2	1	6	8	1	0

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