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Contributors

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Marlborough Borough.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1937.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 18th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in circular 1,650 issued by the Ministry of Health to you in October 1937. As modern Public Health matters are mostly under the control of the County Councils, this report must necessarily be confined mainly to statistics and sanitary administration, as only those matters with which you are concerned are dealt with.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931: 3,492

Population—Estimated Mid 1937—4,668

Area, 1,496 Acres

Rateable Value: £34,558

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £138 8 2

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1937, 1,206

Births, 1937.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Birth Rate, 1937.	England and Wales
Live	31	25	56 (2 Illegitimate)	Live 11.1	Live 14.9
Still	0	0	0 (0 „)	Still 0	Still 0.6

	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Birth Rate	9.6	11.4	7.89	14.2	8.4	11.2	12.3	12.5	7.7
England and Wales	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.4	15.3	15.8	16.3	16.3	16.7

Deaths: Males, 29. Females, 23. Total, 52.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Death Rate	10.6	12.75	9.75	7.57	12.0	9.7	13.1	12.5	10.1	10.8
England and Wales ..	12.4	12.1	11.7	11.8	12.3	12.0	12.3	11.4	13.4	11.7

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age: Males 0. Females 0. Total, 0

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	0	86.9	35.7	24	46.8	0	41.7	39.2	19.2	93.7
England and Wales	58	59	57	59	64	65	66	60	74	65
Deaths from Measles (all ages),	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
„ Diarrhoea (under two years)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No of Women dying in consequence of										
Child Birth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

The COMPARABILITY FACTOR .96.

STAFF.

Mr. E. C. Kitchen, M. I. M. Cy. E. and A.R. San. I. Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Mr. R. E. Hall, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E. Jt. Bd. Assistant.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.					Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	12	7	0
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	2	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	..	..	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
45	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and up	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..			1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0

No action was taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the Milk trade.

No action was taken by the Council under Sec. 62 P.H.A., 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Town has been during the year practically free from infectious diseases except pneumonia; only one case of Scarlet Fever was notified and that was at the College.

The case of Enteric Fever was in a patient who had very recently returned from abroad and had just landed off a ship; it was in no way connected with the Borough.

Two cases of suspected diphtheria were admitted to Hospital but both these proved not to be this disease.

Practically all the cases of pneumonia arose before May and seven of these were treated in the Isolation Hospital thus proving the usefulness of this institution.

Laboratory Facilities. Remain the same.

Marlborough Joint Isolation Hospital. For general information I give below the cases admitted to the above Hospital during the year.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	10	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	2	Laryngitis	...	1
Influenza and Pneumonia	...	...	14	Quinsy	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	2			—
Anthrax	...	...	1			33
Para typhoid	...	...	1			—

Legislation in force.

- (1) Local Acts—None.
- (2) Special Orders—None.
- (3) General Adoptive Acts :
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 :
Part 2.
Part 3. Sections 34-38 and 43-51.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 :
Part 3.
Public Health Act, 1925—Section 44.

(4) Byelaws.

1. New Streets and Buildings.
2. Nuisances.
3. Cleansing Footways, Earth Closets, Privies and Cesspools.
4. Common Lodging Houses.
5. Slaughter houses.
6. Offensive Trades.
7. Good Rule and Government and for the prevention of Nuisances.

WATER SUPPLY.

- (a) **General source.** From Town's well. From the upper chalk.
- (b) **Extension of mains.** There has been no extension of mains during the year 1937. The "added areas" now have a piped supply. Renewals of certain mains are proposed for 1938.
- (c) **Supply satisfactory as to quantity during the year.** No difficulty whatsoever has been experienced as to quantity of supply.

The water of this Town still remains a pure one as shown by the Analysis below ; subsequent bacteriological examinations showed the water to be sterile.

Chemical.				Parts per 100,000	
Re-action	P.H.	7.5		Alkaline	
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	Nil	
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia	...	...	...	Nil	
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (2 hours at 27° C.)				0.02	
Chlorides	...	...	...	1.8	
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.8	
Total Hardness	...	...	...	38.	
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	28.	
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	10.	
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	Nil	
Nitrites	...	...	...	Nil	
Microscopical examination of the Sediment				...	Nil

Bacteriological.

Total Colonies growing at 37° C. in 48 hours	...	...	...	8 per 1 c.c. of water.
Number of Coli-aerogenes organisms	...	...	...	Nil per 100 c.c. of water.

OPINION. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination shows this to be a pure water ; it is suitable for drinking purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

- (a) **Existing schemes.** The original Borough is sewered except for a few outlying houses.
- (b) **New schemes.** During 1938 the following added areas will be sewered :— "Barnfield," "Preshute end of George Land including the Church Fields Estate" and "Manton." The Savernake Hospital sewage will be diverted to a new "high level" sewer thus obviating present pumping of this sewage. Additions are proposed to the disposal work.
- (c) **General state.** Existing sewers and works are generally satisfactory. A new relief sewer will be constructed during 1938 to prevent flooding of the "Kennet Place" sewer in times of storm. Proper sludge drying beds are being constructed at the disposal works.

Rivers. Any action taken to prevent pollution.

No complaints regarding river pollution were received in 1937. When the Manton Main Drainage is completed, the existing septic tank discharge into the stream will be dismantled.

Closet Accommodation.

- (a) Conversions from pail to E.C. Nil.
- (b) " " " E.C. to W.C. Nil

Public Cleansing. Refuse is now collected from cafes, hotels and refreshment houses twice weekly instead of once weekly as previously. This arrangement is greatly appreciated by the hoteliers and cafe proprietors.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances	63	24	5	—	5	—	16
Slaughterhouses	217	4	—	—	—	—	4
Knacker's Yards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared	31	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cowsheds	36	5	—	—	—	—	4
Dairies and Milkstores .. .							
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bakehouses	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	127	7	—	—	—	—	7
Totals	494	42	5	0	5	0	34

N.B.—Butchers' Shops include meat stalls in the weekly market.

Tents, Vans, Sheds.

One.

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1937)	2
„ Retail Purveyors registered (1937)	7
„ Certificates issued (Producers) during 1937	0
„ Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1937	0
Approximate number of Cows	60

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses... .. .	4
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses	1
Notices received of Regular Slaughter	2
Notices received of Casual Slaughter	72
No. of Condemnations	41

Shops. Lack of cleanliness in W.C's. found in three shops. Defects remedied in all three cases after verbal notice only.

Swimming Baths. The Marlborough Open Air Swimming Bath was taken over at the end of the season by the Town Council from a private Committee.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (a) Council Houses. No action found necessary.
- (b) Other Houses. „ „ „ „

Milk. The Cowsheds and Dairies were regularly inspected during the year.

Since the appointment of Mr. Hall it has been possible for much more and thorough inspection of the Borough to be carried out and the inspection of Slaughter Houses and Meat Stalls has been thoroughly done.

HOUSING.

The work of Inspection and reporting on the housing conditions of the Town are still proceeding, and the Property owned by the Council has, during the year, been the subject of survey and report, which report has been considered carefully by the Council.

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1936.

*Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1937, under the above Acts,
in the Marlborough Borough.*

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	128
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	209
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	18
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
(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	35

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	29
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number 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 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	10
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	11
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	49 Adults, 14 Children.
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	18 Adults, 2 Children,
(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.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes ...	29	23
1 Typhoid fever, etc. ...		
2 Measles ...		
3 Scarlet fever ...		
4 Whooping cough ...		
5 Diphtheria ...		
6 Influenza ...	1	
7 Encephalitis lethargica...		1
8 Cerebro-spinal fever ...		
9 Respiratory tuberculosis		1
10 Other tuberculous ...	1	
11 Syphilis ...		
12 General paralysis of the insane, etc. ...		
13 Cancer ...	2	3
14 Diabetes ...	1	2
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage ...	5	3
16 Heart disease ...	11	6
17 Aneurysm ...		

Causes of death.	M.	F.
18 Other circulatory ...		1
19 Bronchitis ...	1	
20 Pneumonia ...	1	
21 Other respiratory ...	1	
22 Peptic Ulcer ...		
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...		
24 Appendicitis ...		
25 Cirrhosis of liver ...		
26 Other diseases of liver,		
27 Other digestive ...		1
28 Nephritis ...	1	
29 Puerperal sepsis...		
30 Other puerperal ...		
31 Congenital causes, etc.		
32 Senility ...		1
33 Suicide ...	1	
34 Other violence ...		1
35 Other defined causes ...	3	3

Causes of death.	M.	F.
36 Ill-defined causes ...		
Special Causes (included in No. 35)		
Small-pox ...		
Poliomyelitis ...		
Polioencephalitis ...		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total ...		
Legitimate ...		
Illegitimate ...		
Live Births		
Total ...	31	25
Legitimate ...	30	24
Illegitimate ...	1	1
Stillbirths		
Total ...		
Legitimate ...		
Illegitimate ...		
Population		4,668