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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1941



Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 22nd Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 2604 dated March 24th, 1942.

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. 1941—5,635.

Area, 1,496 Acres

Rateable Value : £36,945

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £151 10 2

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1941 : 1,305.

Births, 1941.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live	43	35	78 (3 Illegitimate)
Still	0	0	0 (0 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1941.	England and Wales
Live	13.8
Still	.0
	England and Wales
	Live
	Still
	14.2
	0.51

Birth Rate	Average last 10 years	11.7
England and Wales	" "	10 " 13.5
Deaths : Males, 34.	Females 29.	Total, 63.

Death Rate	(1941)	11.2	Average last 10 years	11.1
England and Wales	"	12.9	" "	10 " 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 4
Females 3. Total, 7. (2 illegitimate).

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	89.0	(1941)
England and Wales	59.0	"
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	33.8	"
England and Wales	57.9	"

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	10	10	0
Diphtheria ...	2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Pneumonia ...	10	1	0
Erysipelas ...	4	0	0
Measles ...	290	0	0
Whooping Cough	67	0	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	3	0
Paratyphoid-B.	1	1	0

Scarlet Fever. Ten cases were notified and all were during the first half of the year.

Diphtheria. Only two cases of this disease occurred during the year and both these were in May.

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case was notified and this was treated in Savernake Hospital and recovered.

Pneumonia. Ten cases were notified and one of these was admitted to Savernake Hospital.

Measles and Whooping Cough. The measles epidemic continued from the previous year up to the end of June after which no further cases were notified, but at the beginning of July an epidemic of whooping cough commenced and this continued to the end of the year. Two of the whooping cough cases died.

Erysipelas. Four cases were notified and call for no comment.

Cerebro-spinal Fever. Three cases were notified and these were in the first quarter of the year since when no further case has arisen. There were no deaths.

Paratyphoid-B. One case of this disease was notified, it was treated in Hospital and recovered, no further case arose but I was unable to trace any source of infection.

Tuberculosis. The following 6 cases were notified:—

Age 25-35, Male Pulmonary 2, Female P. 1 ; age 35-45, Male Pulmonary 1, Female P. 1 ; age 25-35, Female Non-Pulmonary 1.

The two female pulmonary cases were transfers from other districts, and one of the male pulmonary cases (who was really a casual) died two days after he was notified and discovered, he had probably been notified elsewhere before.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria. At the end of 1940 the Ministry of Health started a campaign for the mass immunisation of children between the ages of one year and 15 against diphtheria and the Corporation joined in the effort. During the year 75 children under 5 years of age and 519 between 5 and 15 were immunised in the Borough.

The above figures worked out as far as could be ascertained that 20% of the children under five were done and 76% of those between 5 and 15.

This only gives an approximate figure as it does not take into account all those who were done privately or those who had been done before coming to the Town.

The above figures have been brought up to 111 under 5 and 529 over five to date (Aug. 1942) and the work is continuing.

Water Supply.

There has been no alteration in the supply of the town.

There are no pipe supplies other than the Public Mains and a private supply to the College.

A supply is provided to a Military Camp at Salisbury Hill. This supply is taken from the Reservoir through a meter, and pumped by the military to various units in the Forest.

During the year, in order to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health, steps were taken to chlorinate the supply. It was decided to adopt the "Chloramine" process, and a suitable plant was installed and is working satisfactorily.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Considerable ponding of the secondary filters at the Sewage Disposal Works occurred towards the end of the year due to overloading of the Works through the increase of population. This resulted in a deterioration of the final effluent. The matter was taken up with your consulting engineers who recommended the adoption of a system of chlorination designed to prevent septicity and improve the quality of sewage before treatment. Work in connection with this scheme is now in progress.

Rivers and Streams.

The section of the River Kennet for which the Council is responsible was thoroughly cleaned out and weeded twice during the year, and no nuisance was caused. Two written notices were served on owners requiring them to clean that part of the river for which they were responsible, and one was not complied with. The matter was then taken up by the Thames Conservancy, who held that it was the duty of the military authorities to remove barbed-wire from the river bed before the owners could reasonably be asked to clean the river, and this wire has now been removed.

Attention was also called by the Thames Conservancy to pollution of the river from a combined drain at Cope's Yard, London Road. The matter was taken up with the owners and pollution has now ceased.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse was collected once weekly by motor vehicle.

Paper, metal, bones and other salvageable materials were collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Government Scheme.

Swimming Bath.

Water is pumped from the river into the bath and is frequently changed, in addition the water is chlorinated by means of the addition of "Chloros" and the amount of free chlorine tested daily by means of the Orthotolidine test.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply of the town remains satisfactory.

Three of the five producers have "Accredited" licences, and samples were taken regularly to see that the required standard was maintained. There were no failures. Alterations are being made to the premises of a fourth producer, who intends to apply to the County Council for an "Accredited" licence.

Military Billets.

Troops have continued to occupy billets in the town. 59 visits were made to these premises, and 7 defects noticed. Two Informal notices were served, both of which were complied with. Other defects were remedied after verbal notice only. The military authorities continue to show courtesy and co-operation as in the past, thus reducing the amount of work of inspection, etc.

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 ...	201	34	25	2	17	1	5
Slaughter- houses ...	15	9	3	—	2	—	4
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is pre- pared ...	34	5	5	—	2	—	2
Cowsheds ...	37	6	5	—	5	—	1
Dairies and Milkstores							
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	13	3	3	—	3	—	—
Butcher's Shops ...	43	6	4	—	4	—	2
Totals	343	63	45	2	33	1	14

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1941) ...	6
„ Retail Purveyors registered (1941) ...	12
„ Certificates issued (Producers) during 1941 ...	0
„ Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1941 ...	0
Approximate number of Cows ...	115

Meat and Other Foods.

The Ministry of Food scheme continued in operation throughout the year. The total number of condemnations was 515, 61 of which were in respect of entire carcasses.

The total amount of meat condemned was 14 tons, 12 cwts., 2 qrs., as compared with 12 tons, 8 cwts., 1 qr., last year.

A certain amount of trouble was experienced in preventing nuisances from dilatory removal of offal, etc., but with the co-operation of the local slaughterhouse officials a considerable improvement was noticeable towards the end of the year.

Notices received of regular slaughter	1
„ „ „ casual „	8
Number of condemnations	515

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes ...	34	29	Appendicitis ..		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases ..		
Cerebrospinal Fever ..			Nephritis ..	1	1
Scarlet Fever ..			Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough ..	2		Other maternal causes ..		
Diphtheria ..			Premature birth ..		2
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..	1		Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	1	1
Other form of Tuberc.			Suicide ..		
Syphilitic Diseases ..			Road Traffic Act ..	2	
Influenza ..			Other violent causes ..	2	
Measles ..			All other causes ..	6	3
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph. ..	1		Total ..	4	3
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate ..	3	2
oesoph (M.)			Illegitimate ..	1	1
uterus (F)	1	1	Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			For Birth-rate		
duodenum ..	1		Total ..	43	35
Cancer of breast ..			Legitimate ..	40	35
Cancer of all other sites ..		5	Illegitimate ..	3	
Diabetes ..	1		For Inf. Mort.-rate		
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	3	3	Total ..	48	42
Heart disease ..	7	7	Legitimate ..	45	42
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..	2	1	Illegitimate ..	3	
Bronchitis ..	1	3	Stillbirths		
Pneumonia ..	1	1	Total ..		
Other Resp. diseases ..			Legitimate ..		
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	1	Illegitimate ..		
Diarrhoea under two years			Population ..	5,635	

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