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Marlborough Borough

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1947

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit—on behalf of Dr. A. H. Wilson, who retired on 31st December, 1947—the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district, for the year 1947.

This report is brief, and is in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance given by the Sanitary Inspector in compiling this report.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. L. JOHNSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Rudge Farm House,
Froxfield, Marlborough.

VITAL STATISTICS

I.	Population—Census 1931	...	...	3,492
	„ —Estimated Mid 1947	...	...	4,630
	Area	...	...	1,496 acres
	Rateable Value	...	...	£38,537
	Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	£154
	Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by			
	Rate Books at the end of 1947	...	...	1,332
II.	Births 1947	Male	Female	Total
	Live	46	44	90 (15 illegitimate)
	Still	0	0	0
	Birth Rate 1947		Borough	England & Wales
	Live		19.4	20.5
	Still		0	0.5
III.	Deaths 1947	Male	Female	Total
		34	31	65
	Death Rate 1947	Borough		England & Wales
		14.0		12.0
IV.	Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age			
		Male	Female	Total
		4	2	6 (4 illegitimate)
	Infant Mortality Rate	Borough		England & Wales
	(per 1,000 live births)	66.7		41.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total death</i>
Scarlet Fever	58	35	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	1	0
Erysipelas	3	3	0
Measles	60	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	0

Scarlet Fever. 58 cases were notified, and 43 of these occurred among boys of Marlborough College. This was a short and sharp outbreak, confined to the two middle weeks of March; some of the cases were admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Marlborough, Salisbury and Swindon: the remainder were treated in the College Sanatorium.

Diphtheria. There were no cases of this disease reported during the year.

Pneumonia. One case was notified, and was admitted to Savernake Hospital.

Erysipelas. All three cases were admitted to hospital.

Measles. 60 cases were notified, mostly occurring between February and April. 28 of these were notified from the College.

Whooping Cough. Only one case was notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Two cases were notified in November, occurring in the same house. Both recovered.

Tuberculosis. Four new cases were notified, the details being as follows:—

One Male, Pulmonary, age 37

One Male, Pulmonary, age 32

One Female, Pulmonary, age 22

One Female, Non-Pulmonary, age 15.

The one death given by the Registrar-General was of a Male, age 51, notified as suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis in 1945.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. During 1947 52 children under 5, and 63 between 5 and 15 were immunised against Diphtheria, and 253 children received reinforcement doses. This brings the total number of children under 15 in the Borough who are immunised against Diphtheria to 744, out of an estimated child population of 1076.

HOUSING

During the year 49 housing inspections were made. In 49 cases defects were found, 20 being remedied after verbal notice, and 24 after informal notice.

Permanent Houses. Progress on the 24 permanent houses in the London Road Estate continued to be slow, owing to difficulties arising from shortages, both of labour and materials. The first house was, however, completed and occupied in August, and the scheme as a whole is now nearing completion.

The Common Hutted Camp. 38 Families are still housed in the above camp, and considerable work has been carried out during the year to keep the huts in a reasonably weatherproof condition. A general scheme for the provision of additional amenities has been prepared, and is now in the hands of the Ministry of Health.

WATER SUPPLY

There has been no alteration in the supply to the Town.

All houses in the Borough are now connected to the mains, apart from 8 houses at Manton, supplied from 3 stand pipes.

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 serve several units encamped in the neighbourhood.

A supply is provided also to the Military Hospital Camp on The Common, now occupied by Squatters.

This water is efficiently chlorinated, and samples taken during the year all proved to be of good quality, and free from any evidence whatever of harmful pollution, no coli aerogenes of any sort being present.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Sewerage Works continue to function satisfactorily since reconstruction, and consistently produce a good effluent.

The manufacture of Straw Sludge Compost has been continued during the year and is becoming increasingly popular amongst Allotment Holders and others.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The section of the River Kennett for which the Council is responsible was thoroughly cleaned out and weeded during the year, and no nuisance was caused.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse was collected once weekly by motor vehicle, and disposed of by controlled tipping.

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

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The destruction of rats and mice within the Borough has been carried out by the Operator appointed in conjunction with the Rural District Councils of Pewsey and Marlborough & Ramsbury.

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 Orthotolodine Test.

MILK SUPPLY

Two of the five producers held Special Designation licences during 1947, and samples were taken by the County Council Inspectors.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The total meat condemned during the year was 10 tons, 18 cwts., 2 qrs., 7 lbs. The total number of condemnations was 250, 49 of which were in respect of entire carcasses.

There was also a total of 17 cwts., 3 qrs., 14 lbs. of other foodstuffs, mainly tinned foods, which was condemned during the year.

FACTORY ACT, 1937

There are 16 factories to which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 apply, and 31 not included in the above, to which Section 7 applies.

INSPECTIONS	No. of Inspections	No. of Defects	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Remedied by 3	Remedied by 4	Remedied after verbal notice
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	65	39	30	—	23	—	11
Slaughterhouses	10	2	—	—	—	—	2
Knackers' Yards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	17	6	3	—	3	—	3
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	22	7	6	—	5	—	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bakehouses ...	4	2	2	—	2	—	—
Butchers' Shops	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factory Inspect- tions ...	10	3	1	—	1	—	2
TOTALS	132	60	42	—	34	—	20

The number of Inspections carried out was nearly three times as great as in 1946.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.	CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
All Causes	34	31	Diabetes		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	4	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever			Heart disease	3	12
Scarlet Fever			Other disease circ. syst.	1	1
Whooping Cough			Bronchitis	2	1
Diphtheria			Pneumonia		1
Tuberc. of Resp. System	1		Other resp. dis.	1	
Other Forms of Tuberc.			Ulcer of stomach & duodenum		
Syphilitic Diseases			Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	
Influenza	1		Appendicitis	1	
Measles			Other digest. diseases	1	
Ac. Poliomyelitis & Enceph.			Nephritis	1	
Ac. Inf. Enceph.			Puerp. and Postabort. sepsis		
Cancer of b. cav. ; and			Other maternal causes		
oesoph (M.)	2		Prem. Birth	1	2
uterus (F.)		1	Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	1	
Cancer of stomach and			Suicide		
duodenum	1		Road Traffic Accidents	1	
Cancer of breast		2	Other violent causes	3	
Cancer of all other sites	4	2	All other causes	4	4