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BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1948



BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the year 1948; during which year there have been considerable changes due to the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act.

I would like to put on record my appreciation of the help given me by Dr. Wilson, when he handed over at the beginning of the year, and also to thank Mr. Bell, and the other members of the Staff for their co-operation in my first year with the Borough.

This Report incorporates that of the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. L. JOHNSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

*Rudge Farm House,
Froxfield, Marlborough.*

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No action had to be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, which came into force on 5th July, 1948. In the only case brought to my notice of an old person requiring removal to Hospital, the old lady in question went voluntarily.

HOUSING

Permanent Houses. By the end of the year, 20 traditional type houses had been occupied, and work on 10 Cornish Unit houses and the remaining 4 traditional was well under way.

Hutted Camp, The Common. The scheme for additional amenities and the general repair of all the huts was approved by the Ministry of Health early in 1948, and the work put in hand at once. 7 huts have been completed, and work on 6 others commenced. The work done includes weather-proofing, and the installation of baths, W.Cs., coppers, cooking ranges, sinks and foodstores. 38 families are housed in this camp.

WATER SUPPLY

There has been no alteration in the supply to the Borough. It is derived wholly from a deep well situated on Postern Hill, and is pumped to a storage reservoir at a higher level. From there it is fed by gravitation to the Borough, the supply to Savernake Hospital and the Common being assisted by a booster pump. On the closing of Postern Hill Camp, its water supply was discontinued.

The supply is chlorinated, and samples from various points on the mains were submitted for bacteriological examination. All were completely free from pollution. A tap is being fitted on the rising main so that an occasional sample of untreated water can also be examined.

The question of the drainage system of Postern Hill Camp being a potential danger to our Water supply was investigated, and a Report made to the Council. The closure of this camp has since solved the problem.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The drainage system of the Borough has not been altered. All storm water being discharged into the River Kennet, and foul water treated at the sewerage works, Elcot Lane. The works continue to function satisfactorily, and the effluents are consistently good. At one period there was some trouble with smell, but the cause was eventually traced and remedied.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The section of the River Kennet for which the Council is responsible was again cleaned out and weeded during the year, and no nuisance was reported.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of house refuse was maintained, as was a twice weekly collection from shops. All refuse was disposed of at the Portfields Tip, where considerable improvement has taken place during the year. Old railway sleepers were acquired to form a firm track for the refuse vehicle, so that a passable system of controlled tipping is now possible. Shortage of suitable materials to cover the exposed face of the Tip is still the main handicap.

Salvage sorting and disposal has continued satisfactorily.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The part-time Rodent Operator has continued to do good work, and infestations in the area are very few in number. A Sewer test produced a negative result.

SWIMMING BATH

Water is pumped from the River Kennet, and is frequently changed. It is chlorinated daily, the dosage required being controlled by Orthotolidine Tests for free chlorine, which are made several times a day, and charted. The chief difficulty in hand chlorination of an open-air bath is in maintaining a steady amount of free chlorine, which tends to be used up on organic matter other than the bacteria for which it is intended. This was the experience during the early part of the season when a sharp drop in free chlorine occurred in the afternoons. Remedies used included cleaning the river of all weeds near the intake, provision of footbaths, and the use of a more stable form of chlorine. A considerable improvement resulted, and samples submitted for bacteriological examination were good for this type of bath. Absence of bacteria, however, is no indication of cleanliness, and this can only be maintained by continuous flow automatic chlorinating systems. Until such can be installed I consider the public health is best safeguarded by regular changes of water. The possible argument that clean but cold water means smaller gates should not be allowed to interfere with the prime necessity of safety.

MILK SUPPLY

There are 5 producers in the town, 2 of whom hold special designation licences. Results of milk samples have proved generally satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Visits were made to the premises on which Ice Cream is manufactured in the Borough, and advice given on improved methods. Owing to supply difficulties the Ministry of Health postponed enforcing the requirement of recording thermometers until May 1949. The difficulty of getting ice-cream to the laboratory in the required frozen state prevented samples being submitted, but a sampling outfit has now been made by the Staff, and it is expected that this will solve the problem.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat inspections were regularly carried out at the New Road and Angel Yard slaughterhouses. The total meat condemned during the year was 12 tons 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs., including 42 entire carcasses. Other foods condemned totalled 10 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lbs.

The situation and structure of the 2 buildings are thoroughly unsatisfactory. Added to this they were never designed to handle such numbers of beasts, which still further complicates the difficulty of meat inspection in poor light. This Council may, under the Public Health Act 1936, make application to the Ministry of Health for permission to build its own slaughterhouse. I hope to make a report early in the New Year, so that the matter may be considered.

FACTORY ACT 1937

There are 16 factories to which Sections 1-4 and 6 apply, and 31 not included in the above, to which Section 7 applies. There are no outworkers under Sections 110 and 111. 47 inspections were made.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

In view of the change of staff mentioned earlier, it has been impossible to compile a tabulated list of inspections for this year. The number of inspections was maintained at approximately the same level as the preceding year, and I hope that, now that the Staff position is more settled, more time can be devoted to routine inspections, particularly of food premises.

DISEASE IN SLAUGHTER ANIMALS

				Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	...	...	598	1,100	1,112	55
All Diseases except T.B.							
Whole carcasses condemned	...			4	5	4	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...			156	13	26	48
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	...	...	...	24.5	1.6	2.7	99
T.B. only							
Whole carcasses condemned	...			26	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...			80	5	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	...	...	...	17	0.5	—	1.9

Total meat condemned 12 tons 9 cwts. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.

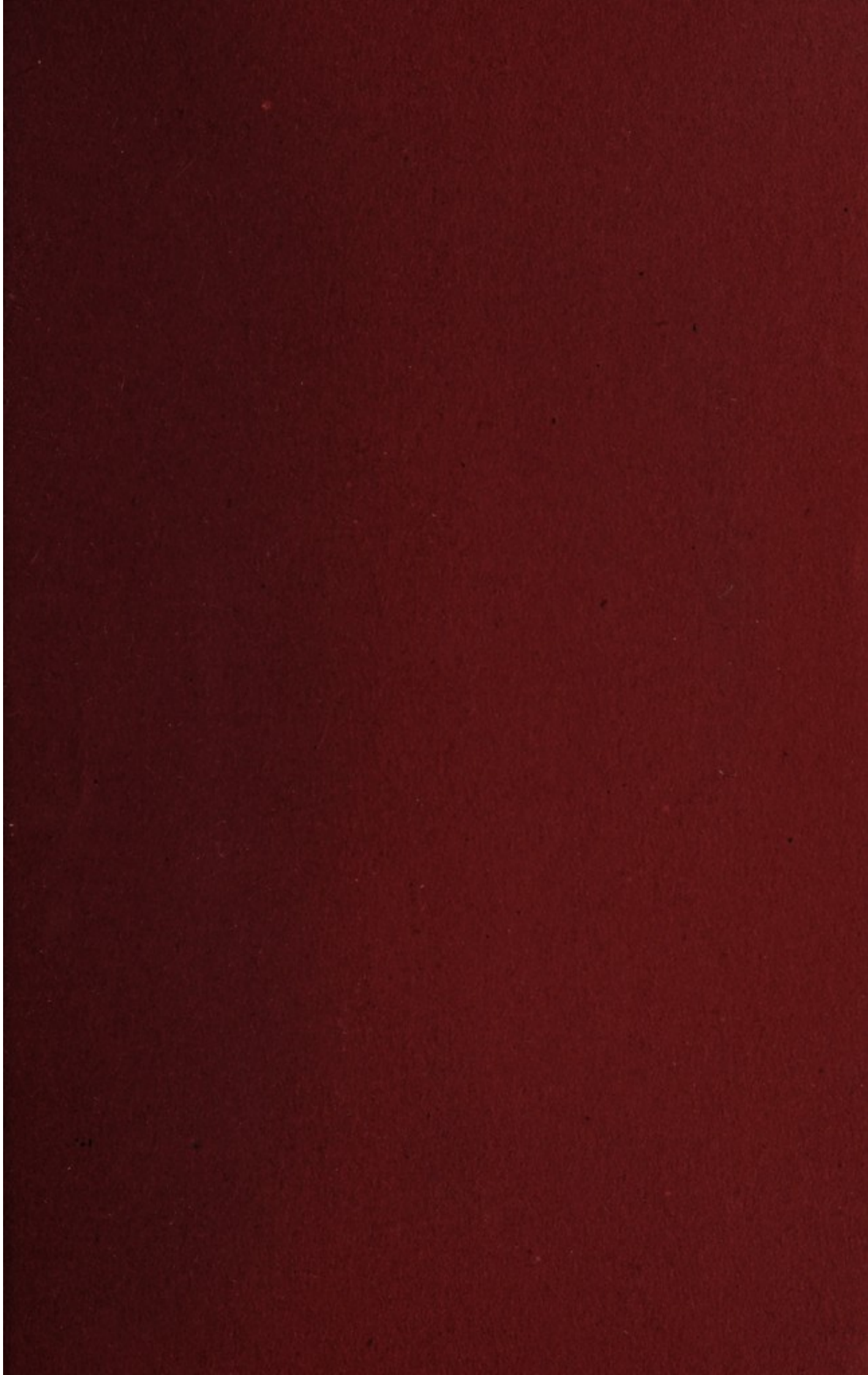
MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

			JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	1	11
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Typhoid	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Malaria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Measles	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	116	17	—	—	—	—	—	135
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	7

CAUSES OF DEATH

AS RETURNED BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL

			M.	F.	Total
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	—	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	3	—	3
7	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	—	—	—
9	Influenza	...	—	1	1
10	Measles	...	—	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis	...	—	—	—
12	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	—	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	...	—	—	—
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	—	—	—
15	Cancer of Breast	...	—	—	—
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	1	2	3
17	Diabetes	...	—	—	—
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	1	4	5
19	Heart Diseases	...	6	9	15
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	1	2	3
21	Bronchitis	...	1	—	1
22	Pneumonia	...	1	—	1
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	—	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	—	—	—
25	Diarrhoea—under 2 years	...	—	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	—	2	2
28	Nephritis	...	—	1	1
29	Puerperal and Post Abortional Sepsis	...	—	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	—	—	—
31	Premature Births	...	2	—	2
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	...	1	—	1
33	Suicide	...	—	1	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	—	—	—
35	Other Violent Causes	...	—	1	1
36	All Other Causes	...	18	23	41
All Causes			35	46	81
			18	23	41





P. JAY & SON
BEDWIN STREET
SALISBURY