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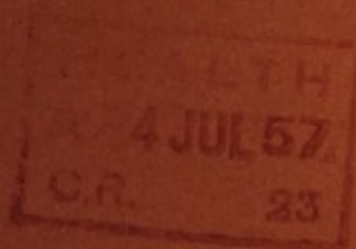
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Living

BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH

Wells

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956

BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the Borough for the year 1956.

The population for the year as estimated by the Registrar General was 5480 as compared with 5430 in the previous year, and the excess (6) of births over deaths gives the natural increase rate of the population as 1.1 per 1000 as compared with 2.6 per 1000 population in 1955.

The births numbered 63 of which 30 were male and 33 female, and this figure represents a rate per 1000 population of 14.8 corrected for area comparability. The birth rate in 1955 was 16.4 per 1000 population. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1956 was 15.7 per 1000 population.

The death rate of the Borough based on 57 deaths (25 male and 32 female) during 1956 was 11.2 per 1000 population, corrected for comparability. The death rate in 1955 was 10.1 per 1000 population. The average number of deaths during the last ten years including 1956 was 51.4. The death rate for England and Wales in 1956 was 11.7 per 1000 total population.

There were 44 deaths or 77 per cent of the total (57) at 65 years of age and over, and 32 or 56 per cent of these were over 75 years of age. There were two deaths under one year old. The infant death rate is thus 31.7 per 1000 live births in the Borough during 1956. The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales for the same period is 23.8 per 1000 live births. The average number of infant deaths under one year during the ten year period 1947-1956 was 2.3 and this number based on the mean number of 69.4 live births for the same period would give an infant death rate of 33.1 per 1000 live births for the Borough.

Among the deaths from special causes during 1956 there were 2 from coronary heart disease and 15 from other heart and circulatory diseases ; cerebral haemorrhage accounted for 16 deaths and cancer 11. There were no deaths from tuberculosis or other infective diseases. There were 5 deaths from pneumonia and one from influenza.

Notifiable diseases during 1956 in the Borough numbered 23 including 2 notifications for tuberculosis. There were 9 notifications of dysentery, 5 for erysipelas, 5 for measles and one for pulmonary tuberculosis.

Incidence rates per 1000 population for *notifiable* diseases during 1956 in the Borough were : measles 0.9, dysentery 1.6, and respiratory tuberculosis 0.2.

No notifications were received in respect of poliomyelitis during the year in the Borough.

Diphtheria immunization figures for 1956 give 68 primary inoculations under 15 years of age as having been completed during the year, 46 of which were under one year and 22 between one and fourteen years of age. The number of vaccinations under one year of age during 1956 was 63. The number of live births in the Borough was 63.

Other relevant data are to be found in the body of the report which is followed by the report of the Public Health Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	H. C. YEOMAN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Public Health Inspector	R. J. BLANDAMER, CERT : S.I.B.

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts Combined Districts, viz. Amesbury R.D., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office ; he holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare service for which it is mainly responsible.

The Public Health Inspector also holds the office of Borough Surveyor and together with his assistant carries out, within the Borough in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the statutory duties, which are placed upon the authority in general in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Public Health Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee of the Borough Council, but there is a separate committee for housing and one for waterworks and sewerage.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	1496
Population in mid-1956 as estimated by the Registrar	
General	5480
Number of inhabited houses	1613
Number of new houses erected in 1956 :—	
By Private Enterprise	17
By Local Authority	9
Rateable value	£42900
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£176

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	30	33	63
Legitimate	30	32	62
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Still Births	—	3	3
Legitimate	—	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	....	....	14.8
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	....	15.7

Number of Deaths from all causes	....	....	....	57
Death Rate	....	....	....	11.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	11.7
Deaths of Infants under one year :—				
Total	....	....	....	2
Legitimate	....	....	....	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births	....	....	....	31.7
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	23.8

NOTE :

- (1) The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1956 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.
- (2) The infant mortality rate noted above is based on only two infant deaths: the mean rate for the last ten years is about 33 per 1000 live births.

BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,
1956

	<i>Marlborough Borough</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate*	14.8	17.4	15.7
Death Rate*	11.2	9.7	11.7
Death Rate of Infants (under one year) (per 1000 live births)	31.7	18.5	23.8

*Per 1000 population.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH, 1947-56

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Population	4630	5224	5397	5360	5421	5281	5327	5390	5430	5480
Live Births	90	81	61	77	56	61	71	65	69	63
	19.4	15.5	11.3	14.4	10.3	11.6	13.3	12.1	12.7	11.1
Still Births	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	3
	0.0	24.0	0.0	12.8	0.0	0.0	40.5	0.0	28.2	45.4
Total Deaths	65	41	49	35	52	48	58	54	55	57
	14.0	7.8	9.1	6.5	9.6	9.1	10.9	10.0	10.1	10.4
Infant Deaths	6	4	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	2
	66.6	49.3	32.8	12.9	17.9	16.4	56.3	15.4	14.5	31.7
Tuberculosis Deaths	1	3	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0
	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Cancer Deaths	12	3	6	7	8	8	9	8	11	11
	2.6	0.6	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.5	2.0	2.0
Pneumonia Deaths	1	1	3	1	2	1	5	1	4	5
	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.9

N.B. The corresponding rate is given *underlined* together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 *total* births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Twenty three notifications were received during 1956. Dysentery, erysipelas and pneumonia accounted for nine, five, and two of these respectively. There were two notifications for tuberculosis : one for the respiratory form and one for tuberculous adenitis. The month of highest incidence was March with nine notifications from dysentery, five of which occurred in the 5-10 year age group.

The causes of death (2) of infants under one year of age were pneumonia and meningococcal respectively.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles.....	4	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Dysentery	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Erysipelas	I	2	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	I	5
Pneumonia	-	I	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pulmonary tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	I
Totals	5	3	9	I	I	I	I	-	-	-	2	2	23

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1956

Disease	Total	Age (years)											
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Measles.....	5	-	-	I	I	I	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	9	-	I	I	-	-	5	I	-	-	I	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	I	2	I
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Totals	21	-	I	2	I	I	7	I	-	I	4	2	I

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

Of the 63 children born in the Borough during 1956; 46 (73 per cent) were immunized before one year of age. The number immunized between 1 and 15 years was 22. The total number primarily immunized in the Borough during the year was 68.

There were in addition 41 re-inoculations below 15 years of age during 1956, and 63 primary inoculations for whooping cough, 43 of which were under one year old.

Primary immunizations against diphtheria carried out during the last ten years are as follows:—

<i>Age Group (Years)</i>	<i>Year</i>										Total
	1947	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	'56	
Under 5	53	54	36	36	65	50	58	50	29	64	495
5-15	63	13	8	22	25	18	7	15	12	4	187
Total	116	67	44	58	90	68	65	65	41	68	682

Vaccinations against smallpox for 1956 in the Borough give a total of 63 primary vaccinations in the first year of life. There were 63 births in 1956. The number vaccinated primarily over the age of one year during 1956 was 25; and there were 75 re-vaccinations.

A beginning was made towards the end of 1956 at Marlborough with poliomyelitis inoculations.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply continues to be satisfactory both as to quantity and quality. It is chlorinated. A typical analysis report is enclosed with the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SEWERAGE

The schemes of improvements have not yet been put in hand in view of the restrictions on financial expenditure.

FOOD SUPERVISION

In general the standard of hygiene in connection with the sale of food was satisfactory throughout the year. Periodic visits are made in respect of food premises including dairies and meat shops. Milk sampling is at present carried out on a monthly basis for the statutory tests and quarterly for biological investigation for bovine tuberculosis and *abortus* infection, both of which necessitate preventive action from time to time.

CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1956

		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic disease	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—
11	„ „ lung-bronchus	2	1	3
12	„ „ breast	—	1	1
13	„ „ uterus	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	2	6
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	—	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	12	16
18	Coronary disease, angina	1	1	2
19	Hypertension with heart disease	—	2	2
20	Other heart disease	3	4	7
21	Other circulatory disease	2	4	6
22	Influenza	—	1	1
23	Pneumonia	4	1	5
24	Bronchitis	—	—	—
25	Other disease of respiratory system	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
33	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34	All other accidents	—	—	—
35	Suicide	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total of all causes		25	32	57

BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eighth Annual Report on the work carried out by this department. The Report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular dated 11th December, 1956.

During the year the long awaited Food Hygiene Regulations came into force, and as a result much time was spent on inspections of all the food premises. This work, however, was interrupted by the departure of Mr. T. J. Loveless in July, when he took up an appointment with the Lynton U.D.C. Mr. R. J. Blandamer, from Clutton R.D.C., took up his post as Additional Inspector in September.

I would like to draw the Council's attention to the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act which came into force during the year, and which provided that in future the word Sanitary Inspector disappears and the new designation Public Health Inspector takes its place.

May I, in conclusion, express my thanks to Dr. Mackay for his assistance and guidance throughout the year, and also my own staff for their co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. YEOMAN.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Council Offices,
1, The Green,
Marlborough.
1st February, 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS

During the year 808 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors. Those listed as Surveyor's duties are in relation to Byelaw work. The visits are summarized as follows:—

Water Supplies	27
Drainage	84
Moveable Dwellings	8
Factories	20
Refuse Disposal	8
Rodent Control	51
Petroleum Installations	48
Housing	52
Verminous Premises	30
Infectious Diseases	9
Food Inspections	62
Dairies	24
Food Premises.....	106
Improvement Grants	21
Miscellaneous Visits	66
Surveyor's Duties	192
	808

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Sale of Ice Cream	24
Manufacture of Ice Cream	Nil
Manufacture and Sale of Sausages and Preserved Meats	5
Fish and Chips	1

FOOD PREMISES

Following is a list of Food Premises within the Borough.

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' Shops	6
Cafes and Restaurants	11
Grocers Shops	16
Greengrocers Shops	4
Fishmongers Shops	3
Licensed Premises	19
(9 of which hold catering licences)	

With the advent of the new Food Hygiene Regulations which came into force in 1956, a detailed inspection of all the food premises in the Borough was planned. These inspections were commenced in June

and to date 20 premises have been inspected resulting in a total number of 52 visits.

In most cases the inspections have again proved the willingness of the traders to carry out the necessary improvements and to date no Statutory notices have been necessary.

CONDEMNED FOOD

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned, their disposal taking place at the Council's Tip.

Meat and Offal	238	lb.
Tinned Meats	67	lb.
Tinned Fish	1½	lb.
Tinned Fruit	57	lb.
Tinned Vegetables	20	lb.
Total	383½	lb.

MEAT INSPECTION

The following schedule, in accordance with the Ministry's requirements, refers to animals slaughtered at the only Licensed Slaughterhouse in the district, 13 New Road.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed			106	19		
Number inspected			106	19		
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned			2			
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci			1.9			
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis						
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration						
Generalised and totally condemned						

MILK REGULATIONS

There are 3 Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949-1953 the following licences were issued :—

Dealers Licence to sell Pasteurized Milk.....	3
Dealers Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk	1

Only one Dealer in the district now retails Ungraded raw milk, and that only in a very limited quantity.

During the year 125 milk samples were taken, 82 Statutory and 43 Biological.

FACTORIES

The majority of inspections at Factories has been in connection with Certificates as to the Means of Escape in case of Fire. These inspections are carried out with the assistance of the Fire Prevention Officer of the Wiltshire Fire Brigade. A total of 20 visits were made.

HOUSING

COUNCIL HOUSING

The erection of new houses during 1956 was as disappointing as in the previous year. Only 9 houses were completed during the year, and a further 9 were under construction at the end of December. Since the War, the number of Council houses and flats completed each year are as follows :

1947	—	6	1952	—	40
1948	—	14	1953	—	40
1949	—	18	1954	—	36
1950	—	18	1955	—	10
1951	—	10	1956	—	9

THE COMMON

The families from the hutted camp on the Common have at last been removed. The remaining 2 families were re-housed during the year and it is hoped that our experiences with temporary accommodation such as this will never have to be repeated. The huts no doubt, fulfilled an urgent need in 1949-50, but their construction was never satisfactory, and their removal is a problem the Council will be glad to have solved.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

The Slum Clearance programme has proceeded very satisfactorily and in a number of cases the co-operation of Owners in giving Undertakings and their desire to render premises fit has been encouraging. You will recall that the 5 year programme submitted to the Ministry in August 1955 involved some 37 properties and at the 31st December the position with these was as follows :

Properties demolished	2
Properties empty, and Undertakings given not to re-let	8
Properties improved, and now taken off list	3
Demolition Order in Force	2
Closing Order in Force	1
	—
	16
Properties on which no action has yet been taken	21
	—
	37
	—

The statistics called for in Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 to 1932 are set out below :—

(1) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(2) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	4
(3) Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	7
(4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	4
(5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.....	3
(6) The number of demolition or closing orders	3
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930	3
(8) The number of houses demolished	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of refuse from all premises within the Borough has continued satisfactorily and the disposal at the Portfields tip has been equally satisfactory. Regular rodent control is practised at the Tip and as a result no complaints are received and the number of rats is very small.

The salvage of waste paper and other materials has continued, the waste paper collection for the year being the highest since collections were introduced. In recent years the amounts collected have been :

1952	64 tons	9 cwt.
1953	59 "	5 "
1954	61 "	17 "
1955	77 "	10 "
1956	105 "	15 "

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The present restrictions on capital expenditure have again pre-

vented the proposed improvements at the Sewage Works, and in the meantime, the effluent continues to be unsatisfactory.

There have been no extensions to the sewerage system during the year, and the whole system, including the Manton works are satisfactory.

PETROLEUM

The number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit remains at 28, and before the issue of the 1957 licences all premises were inspected.

All were generally satisfactory although some required attention to ventilating pipes, notices, etc.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control work continues satisfactorily under the general guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture's area representative. The same employee of the Council carries out the work under the direct control of the Public Health Inspector. The number of complaints, just over 40, shows a slight increase on last year, but no serious infestations were found, and all treatments were effective.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are no licensed sites within the Borough, and only 4 individual caravans are licensed. All these are satisfactorily maintained.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply for the entire area continues to be excellent in both quantity and quality. During the year 10 Bacteriological and 2 Chemical samples were taken, all results being entirely satisfactory.

The latest chemical analysis report from the Laboratory, dated the 16th October 1956 is as follows:—

Physical Characters—Clear colourless water with no deposit.

Chemical Analysis (given in parts per 100,000).

Reaction.....	Alkaline pH	7.3
Saline and free Ammonia		Nil
Organic or Albuminoid Ammonia		Nil
Oxygen absorbed		0.012
Chlorides		1.3
Nitrogen as nitrates.....		0.4
Total Hardness		23.4
(a) Temporary		18.2
(b) Permanent		5.2
Poisonous metals		Nil
Nitrites		Nil
Examination of sediment.....		Nil

Opinion—Chemical examination satisfactory.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Only one case of infestation (by bed-bugs and fleas) was reported during the year. This proved to be a serious infestation and even affected the neighbouring house. Insecticidal spraying and gaseous treatment was necessary before complete control was gained. The family concerned have now left the district.



*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,
Marlborough.*