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Contributors

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Marlborough Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 6th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am following out the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular No. 648, dated December 10th, 1925.

The Report will be a "Survey Report" and consequently somewhat fuller than in previous years.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

3, King's Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1926.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population—Census 1921 : 4,175.

Area, 43,795 Acres.

Estimated 1925—4,250.

Rateable Value : £35,333.

Sum represented by Penny rate : £87 11s. 9d.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921): 984. Amount of Poor Law Relief : £324 15s. 11d.

„ „ Families or Separate Occupiers (1921) : 989.

The Marlborough Rural District geologically is of chalk formations. The northern and Western Parishes are lower chalk, some 230ft. thick, while the Centre, Southern and Western Parishes are middle and upper chalk of a maximum thickness of 500ft.

The Valleys, the Forest and West Woods are on clay with flints, with of course, the usual valley gravels and alluvium in the proximity of ancient or recent water-courses.

The District would be described as moderately hilly, having ground level variations from 390 to 947.0.d.

It is essentially an agricultural district and the inhabitants are connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.		Male.	Female.				
Legitimate	...	34	44	} Males, 34.	Females, 48.	Total, 82.	Average last 5 Years.
Illegitimate	...	—	4				
		1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	
Birth Rate	...	19.2	19.4	18.9	20.5	20.3	19.6
England and Wales		18.3	18.8	19.7	20.6	22.4	19.9
Deaths.		Male, 31.	Female, 25.	Total, 56.			
		1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	Average last 5 Years.
Death Rate	...	13.1	10.2	10.9	10.7	8.3	10.6
England and Wales		12.2	12.2	11.6	12.9	12.1	12.2

The birth rate has remained very constant during the last five years and very close to that of the Country as a whole.

The death rate also has been constant; it is true this year is slightly higher, but the average for five years is less than the Country as a whole.

Number of Deaths of Infants under one year: Male, 2. Female, 3. Total, 5.
Of these none were Illegitimate.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	Average last 5 Years.
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Births)...	60.9	24.09	50	41.9	47.05	44.8
England and Wales ...	75	75	69	77	83	75.8

It will be noticed that the infantile mortality has varied during the five years under consideration; this is not due to any particular cause, but to the fact that with a small number of births two or three deaths make a large difference in mortality rate. If the average of the five years be taken, it will be seen to be well below that for England and Wales.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil, giving one death (1921) in five years.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages), one Male, aged 2 months, giving one death in five years.

„ Diarrhoea (under two years), Nil, giving no deaths in five years.

Number of Women dying in consequence of Child Birth, Nil, giving one death (1923) in five years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.			Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	7	7	0
Diphtheria	...	...	5	4	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	2	*None to Isolation Hospital.	1
Erysipelas	...	...	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	0	0	0

*One was sent to Swindon Isolation Hospital in error.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.—There have been 53 cases of scarlet fever in the last five years 42 of which were in 1922 when this disease was very prevalent over the whole of my districts.

There also have been 27 cases of diphtheria in the same period, 16 of which were in 1923.

Winterbourne Monckton has had more than its fair share of these diseases, 25 of the scarlet fevers and 20 of the diphtheries occurring in this village. Sixteen of the 20 diphtheries were in 1923 in a short sharp epidemic, 15 of them arising in five days. This epidemic was dealt with in my 1923 report.

It will be noticed that both in the case of scarlet fever and diphtheria, the majority of cases have arisen in two epidemics and apart from these the district has not been very seriously affected.

The average number of cases per annum during the last five years of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria respectively has been 10.6 and 5.4.

Puerperal Fever.—No case was notified in five years, the one woman dying in consequence of child birth not being this disease.

Pneumonia.—Two cases were notified and one died, the average notifications for the five years being 2.6, and the death this year is the only one.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No case of this disease has been notified during the last five years.

Enteric Fever.—No case has been notified during the last five years.

Bacteriological Examinations.—Till the Autumn of this year all examinations were paid for by the Council and were conducted by the Clinical Research Association or the Pathologist at Salisbury Infirmary, but now diphtheria swabs are paid for by the County Council and for this district are done entirely at Salisbury Infirmary. These examinations of course constitute the large majority but others such as Widal for typhoid and Virulence tests for diphtheria are still paid for by the District Council.

The tests known as "Schick" and "Dick" in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively have not been undertaken in the district as no conditions have arisen where I have thought them necessary or practical.

No Vaccinations have been done by me as no Small Pox has been in the neighbourhood.

Disinfection.—The houses of all cases of notifiable infectious disease are disinfected with Formalin lamps and/or spray, and after deaths from tuberculosis, but there is no public station for disinfecting or cleansing persons or articles. I encourage bedding and clothes to be exposed to the air and the house generally cleaned, it often proves a good opportunity to get the house thoroughly cleaned.

The following Schools were closed during the year :—

Winterbourne Bassett...	13th February to 20th February, 1925	Influenza.
Avebury ...	26th February to 13th March, 1925 ...	„
Preshute ...	18th March to 24th April, 1925 ...	Whooping Cough.
West Overton ..	26th March to 8th April, 1925 ...	Influenza.
Winterbourne Bassett...	10th November to 27th November, 1925	Measles.

TUBERCULOSIS.

		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	...	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	0

All the deaths had been previously notified.

No action has been taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

No action has been taken by the Council under Section 62, P.H.A., 1925.

HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Hospitals.—The Joint Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for the infectious diseases, scarlet fever and diphtheria. Till January 1924 this hospital, provided under Public Health Act, 1875, served the Borough and Rural District, but on this date the Ramsbury Rural District having built an addition to the existing hospital was admitted as part of the joint hospital district.

Dr. W. Maurice, of Marlborough, has undertaken to attend all infectious cases sent into the Isolation Hospital from this district for a fee of one guinea per case.

For other than infectious cases the Savernake Hospital at Marlborough provides excellent accommodation for the wants of this District.

A Motor Ambulance for Infectious Cases is provided by the Marlborough Isolation Hospital.

For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.—At Marlborough there is a Motor Ambulance supplied by the British Red Cross Society, and this is available for anyone who sends for it. It is kept at the New Road Garage (Telephone 30) and the charge is 1/- per mile. I am sorry this is not made use of as much as it might be; it is much better for the patient to be conveyed to Hospital in a comfortable Ambulance than in an ordinary Motor Car; if it is not requisitioned more in the future than it has been in the past, I fear the expense will be too much to retain it.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—None is undertaken by the Council; all that is done is provided either by the County Council or by Voluntary Nursing Associations.

Public Health Offices.—Mr. J. Brooke, who is a member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, is Sanitary Inspector and also Road Surveyor for the district; his office is The Green, Marlborough.

Water Supply.—Most of the water supply depends on wells in the chalk, varying in depth from a few feet to 380 and is as a rule good. In the case of some of the larger farms, this water is pumped into reservoirs and from thence by gravity to the buildings and in some cases to the cottages in the villages. Some of the houses in the Parishes of Preshute and Mildenhall obtain their water from the Marlborough Borough supply.

The Swindon Town has borings in this district (Ogbourne St. George) from which it takes water to supply this town.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There are no sewerage works in the district except a small septic tank at Manton.

Closet Accommodation.—There are approximately 280 privies, 491 earth closets and 213 water closets in the district. There is a gradual increase in the number of conversions from privies to earth closets. Seventeen new earth closets have been installed in the district during the past year.

No Public Scavenging is done in the District.

Chemical Work.—Satisfactory arrangements exist with Messrs. Waterfall and O'Brien, of Bristol, for the analysis of any water samples sent to them by me or the Sanitary Inspector.

Legislation in Force.—

	Name.	Date operative.	Particulars.
1.	Building Byelaws	... 1904 ...	Structure, air space, drainage, closing of old buildings unfit for human habitation.
2.	Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops, Regulations.	... 1902 ...	Lighting, ventilation cleanliness, drainage, and Water Supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Mr. Brocke reports:—

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after Verbal Instructions.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	28	23	15	—	15	7	5
Factory and Workshop	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	17	3	3	—	3	—	—
Slaughter-houses ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knacker's Yard ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	50	26	18	0	18	7	5

There are in the District—1 factory, 1 slaughter-house, 17 bakehouses. There are no knacker's yards in the District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—No licenses have been granted for the sale of Milk under the Special Designations classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923.

		Retail.	Wholesale.
1—Number of Inspections ..	...	16	24
2— „ Defects found ...	...	3	5
3— „ Informal Notices served ...	...	3	5
4— „ Statutory Notices served ...	...	0	0
5— „ remedied under 3 ...	...	3	5
6— „ remedied under 4 ...	...	0	0
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered	...	...	19
„ „ Wholesale Producers	...	...	43
Approximate number of Cows—Retail	...	...	153
Wholesale	...	...	1825

No special action has been taken under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, yet, except inspection, because practically all the wholesale producers send their milk to London where samples are regularly taken by the London County Council and dealt with by the County Council. I intend shortly to take samples of Milk from Retail Distributors to be examined for Tuberculosis.

Meat.—Meat Inspection has been carried out as far as possible and any diseased meat has been condemned.

Since April I was notified of the slaughter of 143 beasts and where I had any doubts I made inspections. I inspected 39 beasts before and after slaughter. One bullock was destroyed as being unfit for human consumption and one pig over which I had some doubts, I refused and called in a Veterinary Surgeon whom, after deliberation considered that although the carcass was not of the best, it might be consumed on the premises.

Number of Slaughter-Houses in the District.

	1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered ...	—	—	1
Licensed ...	—	—	—
Total	1	1	1

HOUSING.

The Houses built during the past five years are as follows :—

Parish.	With Assistance.				Without Assistance.	Total
	By Local Authority.		By Private Enterprise.		By Private Persons.	
	No.	Under Housing Act.	No.	Under Housing Act.	No.	
Preshute	...	—	1	1923	6	7
Mildenhall	...	—	4	1923	3	7
N. Savernake	...	—	—	—	1	1
Ogbourne St. George	—	—	1	1923	—	1
Avebury	...	—	—	—	1	1
Total	...		6		11	17

The Council got out plans for 22 houses under the 1919 Act but the scheme was abandoned and no houses built.

In December, 1924, I reported on the Housing of this district, which is quoted in full in my 1924 Annual Report ; this was received and discussed and the Council have now commenced to build two houses at Manton, four at Mildenhall and four at Ogbourne St. George. These are being built under the 1924 Act and a further six at Avebury and four at Lockeridge are contemplated.

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1925.

Statement of Work carried out during the Year ended 31st December, 1925, under the above Acts, in the Marlborough Rural District.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	...	...	8
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—			
(i) By the Local Authority (uncompleted)	...	...	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	2
1. Unfit dwelling houses.			
Inspection(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	70
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	2
(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	...	...	6
2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.			
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	34
3. Action under Statutory Powers.			
A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	1

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close

1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied

—

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders

2

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made

2

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit

—

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made

1

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

—

CAUSES OF DEATH (Civilians only).

	M.	F.		M.	F.
All Causes	31	25	22 Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)		
1 Enteric fever			23 Appendicitis and typhlitis		
2 Small-pox			24 Cirrhosis of liver	1	
3 Measles			25 Acute and chronic nephritis		
4 Scarlet fever			26 Puerperal sepsis		
5 Whooping cough	1		27 Other accidents and diseases pregnancy and parturition		
6 Diphtheria	1		28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	1	2
7 Influenza	2	1	29 Suicide		
8 Encephalitis lethargica			30 Other deaths from violence	1	1
9 Meningococcal meningitis			31 Other defined diseases	5	6
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system		1	32 Causes ill-defined or unknown		
11 Other tuberculous diseases	1		Special Causes (included above)		
12 Cancer, malignant disease	3	4	Poliomyelitis		
13 Rheumatic fever			Polioccephalitis		
14 Diabetes			Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—		
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	2		Total	2	3
16 Heart disease	9	5	Illegitimate		
17 Arterio-sclerosis	2	3	Total Births	34	48
18 Bronchitis		2	Legitimate	34	44
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	1		Illegitimate		4
20 Other respiratory diseases			POPULATION		4250
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1				