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MORPETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(DR. R. LESLIE DAGGER),

BOROUGH ENGINEER AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
(MR. FRANK K. PERKINS)

AND

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector (Mr. J. C. TWEEDY),

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

MORPETH:

J. & J. S. Mackay, Bridge Street, Morpeth.

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For the Year 1937.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF MORPETH

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

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MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,-

Within the Borough, Coronation Year has been marked by great activity in Housing Schemes. New areas have been scheduled for Slum Clearance, a Ministry of Health Inquiry was held, and building commenced upon the largest single housing estate yet undertaken by this Council.

This estate, now named Stobhill Gate, situated on high ground to the south-east of the town, will re-house all displaced tenants from our overcrowded and slum clearance areas, and so complete to the entire satisfaction of everyone concerned a problem which has occupied much time and discussion in this Council Chamber for very many years.

The year on the whole has not been marked by any severe epidemic, though influenza was fairly rife during the first two months. The general health, I consider, has been entirely satisfactory, especially with regard to infectious diseases, the number of which has steadily declined during the last four years.

As was anticipated, a great many deaths occurred in Public Institutions within our boundary, the largest of which is the St. George's Hospital, which draws patients from all parts of the county. No fewer than 90 deaths occurred during 1937 in these institutions out of a gross total of 171, and a majority of 84, being non-residents previous to their admission, are transferable to other districts.

Air Raid Precautions Classes were commenced later in the year and instructions given on personal protection against gas by the County Gas Instructor. I take this opportunity of advising everyone to make an effort to learn something about a subject which is not only thoroughly interesting, but will stand them in good stead should we ever be unfortunate enough to be visited by hostile aircraft.

Plans were passed during the year for the conversion of the unused office within the Cattle Market into a mortuary, which will thereby be conveniently situated, secluded and admirably serve the purpose for which at any time it may be required.

The Foundry, Agriculture and Mining are the industries which find employment for many of our inhabitants. Work in the Foundry is in full swing and likely to be for some years to come.

With these few introductory remarks, I herewith append my report in which the information given is limited to a record of alterations, improvements or developments which have taken place during the year under review.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Allen and in words a second a -								
Area (in acres)			2,213					
Registrar-General's estimate of								
Number of Inhabited Houses (e								
Books			2,279 £49,799					
Rateable Value Sum represented by a Penny R			0105					
Sum represented by a reinly iv	ale		\$195					
Total		F.	physical and the state of the s					
Live Births Legitimate 151		65	Birth-rate per 1,000					
Illegitimate 3	0	3	of the estimated resident population 17-2					
Stillbirths 9	5	4	Rate per 1,000					
Stirratus	,	7	total (live and still)					
			Births 55-2					
Deaths 113	68	45	Death-rate per 1,000					
			of the estimated					
			resident population 11-9					
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the								
Registrar-General's short list):—								
Deaths. Rate per 1,000 Births.								
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	Vil.	Total (live and still)					
No. 30 Other Puerperal Cau	ises	1	6-1.					
Total		1	6-1.					
Death-rate of Infant	s und	er One \	Year of Age :-					
All Infants per 1,000 live births								
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 i								
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)								
Deaths from Measles (all ages)								
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.								
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2	2 year	s of age).	Nil.					
Death-rate (England and Wales) 12-4.								
Birth-rate (England and	d Wa	les)	14-9.					

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) MEDICAL:—R. LESLIE DAGGER, M.D., M.R.C.S., and L.R.CP., part-time Medical Officer of Health.
- (b) OTHERS: F. K. PERKINS, M.I.M.C.E., M.R.S.I., Borough Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector. J. C. TWEEDY, Certificate R. SAN. I., M.S.I.A., Meat Certificate, Assist. Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector. W. Telford, Certificate, R. San., I., M.S.I.A. Mrs. M. Tait, Health Visitors and Nurse Certificates.
- (a) Laboratory Facilities:-
- (b) Ambulance Facilities:—
- (c) Nursing in the Home:—(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics:—
- (e) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary:-

No Change.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.-Water.

The work of overhualing the second filter was completed early in the year (the first filter was overhauled towards the end of 1936), and the King's Reservoir was cleaned out later. There is no doubt that the time, trouble and money spent on the work has been amply repaid, as the state of the water during the year has raised no comments, whereas in previous years the quality was not all that could be desired.

Extensions of Water Mains were laid to (i) Cutter's Buildings across the railway from Coopie's Lane (2"), (ii) down Dogger Bank (4"), (iii) to Baysland, (iv) up the Station Bank (6"), (v) to Stobbill (3"), and (vi) to Spelvet Lane (4" and 3").

2.—Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the pump and engines were in good order, and the system at the sewage works functioned satisfactorily, but it has long been obvious that alterations and additions were imperative. The

existing works were constructed in 1903 for a dry weather flow of 150,000 gallons per day, while the present dry weather flow is about 330,000 gallons per day. It is proposed to provide a baffle box at the outlet of the receiving tank to still the pump discharge and to carry out improvements to sludging arrangements at the sedimentation tanks. This will enable the tanks to be sludged at regular intervals, and for this purpose a well and pump will be constructed. The sludge will be discharged on to adjoining land owned by the Corporation, which is of an open character and eminently suitable for its absorption. It is also proposed to erect humus tanks. The main sewer in Bennett's Walk was cleaned during the year. Sewers were laid to the new Building Estates at Stobhill and Spelvit Lane.

3. Closet Accommodation.

Contracts were let during the year for the conversion of all closets on the conservancy system into the water-carriage system, and when this has been complete the town will be rid of what I have always stressed was a serious menace to the health of its inhabitants.

Number of closets converted to water-carriage system during the year 16

Number of closets remaining at the end of the year

177 privies and pail closets.

Privy conversion now in hand.

4.—Public Cleansing.

The refuse tip at Stobhill was extended and used throughout the year.

HOUSING.

I am of the opinion that during 1937 greater activity than ever before has taken place in housing schemes, and at the conclusion of the year one felt that much if not all had been accomplished towards the satisfactory re-housing of tenants to be displaced eventually from slum and overcrowded areas.

In the early part of the year objections were lodged against certain slum clearance orders which necessitated a public inquiry conducted by an official of the Ministry of Health.

The Clearance Orders involved were Wigham's Yard (Clearance Order No. 5); Flint's Buildings (Clearance Order No. 7); Manchester Street (Clearance Order No. 9); Bowser's Court (Clearance Order No. 11); Miller's Lane (Clearance Order No. 12); Staithes Lane (Clearance Order No. 13); Hillgate (Clearance Order No. 15); and Lawson's Buildings (Clearance Order No. 16).

Further careful inspection of these areas which were the subject of the inquiry was made with a view to presenting to the official of the Ministry a detailed up-to-date account of sanitary defects.

A further inspection of property within the Borough was made in the early autumn, and the following additional areas were scheduled for slum clearance:—

Clearance Order No. 17: Old Queen's Head Yard.

Clearance Order No. 18: Grey's Yard.

Clearance Order No. 19: Victoria Buildings.

Clearance Order No. 20: Procter's Yard.

Clearance Order No. 21: Sweet Briar Place.

Clearance Order No. 22 : Fawcett's Yard. Clearance Order No. 23 : Bullers' Green.

Clearance Order No. 24: North Place.

Clearance Order No. 25: Wellway and Wesley Place.

Clearance Order No. 26: Back Riggs.

Clearance Order No. 27: Walker's Buildings.

Clearance Order No. 28: King Street and Lumsden's Lane.

Clearance Order No. 29: Wansbeck Street.

Clearance Order No. 30: Mill Square.

Clearance Order No. 31: Staithes' Lane.

Building operations were commenced at Stobhill Gate upon a scheme of 184 houses, and by the end of the year all foundations were completed; six houses were occupied, ninety-eight houses were in the course of erection, eighty-six houses were roofed in, seventy-four houses slated, six four-bedroom Louses and six bungalows were nearly completed.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

1	INSPECTION OF DWELLING - HOUSES DURING THE YEA	p.
(1)	(a) Total Number of Dwelling-houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	243
	(b) Number of Inspections made for this purpose	243
(2)	(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the	
	Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	36
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	36
(3)	Number of Dwelling - houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	72
(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	108
2	REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE of FORMAL NOTIC	ES.
	Number of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	99
3	ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS	
	DURING THE YEA	
	(a) PROCEEDINGS under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	43
(2)	Number of Dwelling - houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	30
	(a) By owners	30
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
	(b) PROCEEDINGS under PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:	
(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.

(2)	Nun	nber of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
	(a)	By Owners
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners
		PROCEEDINGS under Sectoin 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
(1)	Nun	nber of Dwelling - houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
(2)	Nun	of Demolition Orders
	(d)	PROCEEDINGS under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
(1)	Nun	in respect of which Closing Orders were
(2)	Nur	nber of Separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were
		determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit
4	_HO	USING ACT, 1936, PART IV.—OVERCROWDING:
4		
4	_ HO	(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4		(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4		(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4		(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4	(a)	(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4	(a) (b) (c)	(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4	(a) (b)	(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4	(a) (b) (c)	(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year
4	(a) (b) (c) (d)	(i) Number of Dwelling - houses overcrowded at the end of the year

SECTION E .-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

-1-4>4>4>1-1-1>4>

(a) Milk Supply: As in former years.

(b) Meat and Other Foods: Inspections of Slaughter-houses, Shops, &c., have been carried out by the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and below I append in tabular form the number of carcases inspected and condemned.

CARCASES INSPECTED and CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed [if known]	1026	156	25	2724	932
Number inspected	1026	156	25	2724	932
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	23		11	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis				mile - in	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases con- demned	Nil	2			Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		2			
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis		1.58%			

SECTION F. — PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There has been no serious visitation by infectious disease during 1937. The Isolation Hospital has been occupied by nine cases of scarlet fever and one of diphtheria since May. A total only of twelve cases of scarlet fever were notified; I satisfied myself that the three cases not removed to hospital were isolated in their own homes.

I regret to report that little or no advantage has been taken of the Council's scheme this year to provide free artificial immunisation against diphtheria, and I would remind general practitioners that it is up to them now to bring this scheme to the notice of their patients, who will naturally forget its existence unless it is brought forcibly home to them in the form of a diphtheria epidemic, an occurrence which immunisation would surely prevent.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	
SCARLET FEVER:— 3 to 4 years 4 to 5 years 5 to 10 years 10 to 15 years	1 3 3 5	1 3 2 3	Nil. Nil. Nil. Nil.	
ERYSIPELAS:— 20 to 35 years 35 to 45 years 45 to 65 years	1 1 1	Nil. Nil. Nil.	Nil. Nil. Nil.	
DIPHTHERIA:— Under 1 year 5 to 10 years	1 1	Nil.	Nil. Nil.	
PNEUMONIA:— 1 to 2 years 20 to 35 years 35 to 45 years 45 to 65 years	1 2 1 2	Nil. Nil. Nil. 2	Nil. Nil. 1	
	23	12	3	

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Age Periods.	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	М.	F.	М.	F.	M.	F.
Between 1 and 5 yrs	1							
,, 5 ., 15 ,,		2						
., 15 ., 25 ,,	2	1				1		
,, 25 ,, 35 ,,	1	1	1					
,, 35 , 45 ,,		1	1		1	1		
,, 55 , 65 ,,	1	2		iots s	1			
TOTALS	5	7	2		2	2	A FI	



