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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1944

To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Newmarket Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my  
Annual Report for the year 1944 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions,  
and Vital Statistics of the Newmarket Rural District.

The Report is prepared in accordance with  
the instructions contained in Circular 49/45 issued by the  
Ministry of Health.

It is satisfactory to record that the general  
health of the population has continued to be good.

Arthur Morgan,  
Medical Officer of Health.

# GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land 80,856 acres.  
Water 245 "

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £55,949.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £223. 5. 0.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 6,059.

Estimated population: 19,330.

The whole district is agricultural in nature.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

### Live Births:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate.	332	168	164
Illegitimate	26	17	9
Totals	<u>358</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>173</u>

Birth Rate per thousand estimated population 18.5

Birth Rate per thousand population  
(England and Wales) 17.6

### Still Births:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	2	5
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Totals	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

Rate per thousand total (live and still births) 21.8

### Deaths:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	242	103	139
Death Rate per thousand estimated population			12.5
Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			11.6

### Deaths from Puerperal causes:

(a) Puerperal sepsis	Nil
(b) Other Puerperal causes	2

Rate per thousand live and still births 5.4

### Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	14	7	7
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Totals	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

### Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per thousand live births	41.9
(b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	42.1
(c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	38.4



Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	34
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	...	...	11
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	3

Birth and Death Rates for the last six years:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Birth Rate	13.8	12.3	13.3	13.7	14.5	14.6
Death Rate	11.5	12.7	13.7	12.8	11.1	12.0

Note:- The death rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.

There is no particular alteration to record in any of these services.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:-

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
- (b) Two whole time Sanitary Inspectors. The assistant Inspector is serving in H.M. Forces and has not been replaced. The Senior Inspector (Mr. W.H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., and special certificate in meat and other foods) is, therefore, working alone.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:-

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, make all bacteriological examinations that are required in cases of infectious diseases, etc.

Samples of milk are usually sent to the Agricultural Department, University of Cambridge.

HOSPITALS:-

There are no General Hospitals situated within the area. Cases of the infectious diseases are treated at the Council's Isolation Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY:-

Only four parishes and some outlying premises are without a piped water supply.

The supply is constant and has been well maintained.

Samples of the water supplied by the Council's five waterworks were taken each month and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. The results obtained were uniformly satisfactory.

Automatically controlled chlorination plants are installed at the three largest waterworks, viz:- Swaffham Prior, Soham and Saxon Street.

Number of houses having a piped supply under pressure into or on to the house ... ..	3350
Number of houses supplied from standpipes ... ..	1671
(curtilage within 200 ft.)	<hr/> 5021

The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme for the co-ordination and augmentation of water supplies throughout the district with particular reference to Parishes and outlying premises which are at present without a piped supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:-

The conditions remain the same.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:-

A scavenging scheme which covers the whole area is administered by the District Council and supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

A collection of refuse is made once in every three weeks over the greater part of the district, and the remainder is covered by a collection at intervals of six weeks.

The refuse collection is, at present, combined with a scheme to salvage certain necessary materials, and machinery for the baling of tins has been installed. The refuse is disposed of in selected pits by controlled tipping.



SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the number of inspections made during the year:-

Slaughter-houses and butchers' shops.	22
Bakehouses	47
Fried Fish shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Acts, 1938	9
Knacker's Yard	9
Factoris (excluding bakehouses)	5
Cowsheds and Dairies	428
Refuse Tips	30
Infectious Disease	75
Rooms disinfected	56
Disinfestations (rooms)	14
Sludge Disposal Works	72
Dwelling-houses	674
Reinspections of dwelling-houses	122
Nuisances	61
Shops	92
Miscellaneous	157

Samples taken:

Water	140
Milk	213

SHOPS ACT, 1934, etc.

Ninety-two inspections of shops were made for the purposes of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, and of Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (in the case of food shops).

The following defects were noted:-

Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation	3
Absence of proper washing facilities	1
Room used for the storage of foodstuffs requiring cleansing and lime washing	5
Room used for the storage of foodstuffs being unsuitable	6
Interior of shop requiring cleansing and redecorating	3

The occupiers of the various food shops were provided with a list of the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and other than the defects noted above, the conditions under which food was stored or exposed for sale were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Nine dwelling-houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, and six of these (in a row) were disinfested by the use of Hydrogen Cyanide, the other three houses being dealt with by a liquid insecticide.

CAMPING SITES, etc.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

SCHOOLS.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

HOUSING.

A serious effort was made to secure the carrying out of essential repairs to other than war damaged dwelling-houses, in accordance with the "General Scheme for Repair of Houses".

The success attained was strictly limited owing to the local shortage of labour, and absorption of this in emergency repair works.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	674
Number of re-inspections made	...	...	...	...	122
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	58
Number of Formal Notices served (Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936)	...	...	...	...	17
Number of Certificates of Essentiality issued in connection with above Notices	...	...	...	...	2
Number of dwelling-houses repaired as a result of action taken:					
Informal action	...	...	...	...	49
Formal action	...	...	...	...	6

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

Dwelling-house roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Eaves guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling-house walls repaired (external)	...	...	...	...	18
Dwelling-house walls repaired (internal)	...	...	...	...	5
Dwelling-house ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Dwelling-house doors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Dwelling-house floors repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling-house windows repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Cooking ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Cooking ranges renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Additional sanitary conveniences provided	...	...	...	...	3
Existing sanitary conveniences repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Closet conversions	...	...	...	...	5
Water closet cistern repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Stair treads and risers repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Defective drains relaid or repaired and reconstructed	...	...	...	...	2
Washing coppers provided	...	...	...	...	2
Washing coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	3
New wash-house buildings constructed	..	...	...	...	3



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers or Purveyors of milk on the registers (as at 31st December, 1944):

Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	77
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	25
Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	48
Retailers who are not cowkeepers	...	...	...	6
				<hr/>
				156
				<hr/>

### Inspection.

Regular inspection is made of all registered premises, and 428 inspections were made for the purpose during the year.

Efforts have been made to encourage clean milk production by intensive propaganda and by advisory visits.

Numerous informal notices were served in connection chiefly with lack of cleanliness and limewashing and these were all subsequently complied with. 3 Statutory Notices under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 were also served.

### Milk Sampling.

The samples are sent to the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge, for examination.

213 samples were taken mainly from Producer-Retailers, to assist in the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. These samples were examined by the Resazurin test.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The position remains the same as that outlined in the reports for the years 1939 - 41, and the Newmarket Urban District's Inspectors have again been assisted with the inspection work at the Government Abattoir when necessary.

22 inspections of slaughter-houses and butchers' shops were made during the year.

The figures for unsound meat condemned will be included in the report of the Urban District's Inspectors, so to avoid any overlapping no separate detailed figures for this district are given.

Regular inspection is made of premises where foodstuffs are stored or exposed for sale, and the following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned during the year.

271 lbs. Oranges (unfit - decomposition).	
46 ozs. Custard Powder	} Contaminated by mice.
5 lbs. Mixed Rice and Oats.	
140 lbs. National Flour.	
57 lbs. Sultanas.	} Impregnated with glass splinters, etc. arising from explosive blast.
39 lbs. Rice.	
2½ lbs. Rolled Oats.	
6 lbs. Self Raising Flour.	
4½ lbs. Butter.	
10 lbs. Lard.	
½ lb. Currants.	
4 lb. 10 ozs. Bacon.	
1 Packet Barley.	
1 Tin Beans.	
24 lbs. Sugar. (Contaminated by mice).	
2½ lbs. Sheep Liver. (Decomposition).	
126 lbs. Imported Beef (Decomposition).	
171 lbs. Meat. (Impregnated with Sulphur dioxide due to breakdown of refrigerator).	
186 tins various foodstuffs. (Blown or otherwise unfit).	

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED

Regular inspection is made of these premises and a high standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

There has been no alteration in the number of premises and the registration particulars are the same as those given in the report for the years 1939 - 41.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 24 bakehouses in the district, and 47 inspections were made during the year.

A high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Every effort is made to see that the requirements of this Act are carried out, and 31 licences were granted during the year.

FACTORIES.

The following is a summarised report on the administration of The Factories Act, 1937 in the district:

Number of Factories on the register

Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	46
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	27
				<hr/> 73

INSPECTIONS, etc.

52 inspections have been made, and 5 written notices served in connection with various defects (chiefly sanitary conveniences) which were remedied without reference to H.M. Inspector of Factories or Legal proceedings.



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Apart from the fact that there has been a considerable decrease in the number of notifications of measles and a slight increase in the incidence of scarlet fever, there is nothing of importance to record.

The number of notifications and the age groups are set out in the following table:-

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Analyses under Age Groups. At Ages - Years.												Cases Adm. Hosp.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet fever.	58		1	5	1	2	27	11	5	5	1			55	Nil
Erysipelas.	2										2			-	Nil
Measles	23	1	1	1		1	6	6	2	5				4	Nil
Whooping cough.	2				1	1								-	1
Pneumonia	20	2		1	1	2	3	1		1	3	4	2	5	9
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	1	1												-	Nil
Cerebro spinal fever	1					1								1	Nil
Totals	107	4	2	7	3	7	36	18	7	11	6	4	2	65	10

Notifications of some of the principal infectious diseases during the last six years as compared with the present year:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Scarlet fever.	46	23	52	18	22	39	58
Diphtheria.	2	2	2	5	2	-	-
Measles.	-	-	106	627	2	249	23
Whooping cough.	-	10	127	29	47	9	2
Pneumonia.	7	4	3	12	19	15	20

It will be noted that no cases of diphtheria have been reported during the last two years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

The arrangements are the same as set out in my Report for the year 1942, and they have continued to function satisfactorily. At the end of 1944 it was estimated that approximately 84% of children under 5 years of age, and 83% of those between the ages of 5 and 15 had been fully protected. Diphtheria prophylactic and diphtheria antitoxin are always supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

So far as the non-notifiable infectious diseases are concerned, there is little to comment upon. It seems, however, that influenza has been rather more prevalent and 11 deaths were attributed to this disease as against 8 in 1943 and 4 in 1942.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...			1	1				
15 ...	1				1			1
25 ...	1	2						
35 ...			1		1		1	
45 ...	1							
55 ...	1				1			
65 and over								
Totals	4	2	2	1	3	-	1	1

There were two deaths that had not been notified.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Arthur Morgan,  
M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.



# ANNEX

Table showing the results of the survey of the

No.	1901			1902			1903			Total
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
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