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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1945

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 1945 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 28/46 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.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	14	7	7
Illegitimate	2	2	-
Totals	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

- (a) All infants per thousand live births 49.5
 (b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births 49.1
 (c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births 52.6

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	39
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	2
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	...	...	...	5
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	-

Birth and Death Rates for the last seven years as compared with 1945.

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>
Birth Rate	13.8	12.3	13.3	13.7	14.5	14.6	18.5	17.1
Death Rate	11.5	12.7	13.7	12.8	11.1	12.0	12.5	13.2

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

Table Classifying Deaths under
Age Groups.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 1 year	9	7	16
1 and under 2	-	-	-
2 " " 5	1	3	4
5 " " 15	1	1	2
15 " " 25	1	3	4
25 " " 35	2	2	4
35 " " 45	5	3	8
45 " " 55	7	2	9
55 " " 65	19	14	33
65 " " 75	42	29	71
75 and over	54	44	98
Totals	<u>141</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>249</u>

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 was still serving in H.M. Forces and the Senior Inspector (Mr. W.H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., and special certificate in meat and other foods) was 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	3414
Number of houses supplied from standpipes	1636
(curtilage within 200 ft.)	<u>5050</u>

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 is disposed of by controlled tipping in a selected pit, and control measures in force for dealing with various vermin (i.e. Crickets, rats, etc.) were successful.

The refuse collection is, at present, combined with a scheme to salvage certain necessary materials and the income from the sale of Salvaged Materials during the year amounted to£953. 10. 2d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

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

Slaughter-houses and butchers' shops.	19
Bakehouses	51
Fried Fish shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Acts, 1938.	4
Knacker's Yard.	5
Factories (excluding bakehouses)	6
Cowsheds and Dairies	237
Refuse Tips	33
Infectious Disease	26
Rooms disinfected	19
Disinfestations (rooms)	18
Sewage Disposal Works	61
Dwelling-houses	1276
Re-inspections of dwelling-houses	60
Nuisances	58
Building Bye-Laws - New Drains tested	8
Miscellaneous	110

Samples taken:

Water	137
Milk	194

SHOPS ACT. 1934.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Six dwelling-houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, and thirteen rooms were disinfested by the use of D.D.T. powder or 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.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The Council appointed a Temporary Officer in March, to assist the Sanitary Inspector to carry out the survey of housing conditions in the District as recommended in the Report on "Rural Housing" issued by the Central Housing Advisory Committee.

1209 dwelling houses were inspected and the necessary details recorded.

The following is a summary of the number of dwelling houses found to be in the various categories:-

<u>CATEGORIES</u>					
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
234	481	397	22	75	1209

HOUSING-GENERAL.

Number of dwelling houses inspected	...	...	...	...	1276
Number of re-inspections made	...	...	...	...	60
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	26
Number of Formal Notices served (Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936) ..	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Building Licences issued for Repair, Maintenance or Improvement of Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	101
Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of action taken:-					
Informal action	...	...	...	...	20
Formal action	...	...	...	...	4

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIATED DURING THE YEAR.

New Dwelling house roofs constructed	...	...	...	...	2
Dwelling-house roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Eaves guttering and rain water piping repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Dwelling-house walls repaired (external)	...	...	...	...	9
Dwelling-house walls repaired (internal)	...	...	...	...	4
Walls rendered internally to remedy dampness	...	...	...	...	4
Dwelling-house ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New ceilings constructed	...	...	...	...	3
Dwelling-house doors repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Dwelling-house floors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
New floors constructed	...	...	...	...	2
New windows fixed.	...	...	...	...	2
Dwelling-house windows repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Existing sanitary conveniences repaired	...	...	...	...	7
New closet buildings constructed	...	...	...	...	4
Closet conversions	...	...	...	...	11
Washing Coppers provided	...	...	...	...	2
Washing coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	1
New Wash-house buildings constructed	...	...	...	...	4
Scullery buildings rebuilt	...	...	...	...	2
New Scullery roof constructed	...	...	...	...	1
Scullery walls repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Outbuildings repaired	...	...	...	...	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers or Purveyors of milk on the registers (as at 31st December, 1945): . . .

Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	79
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	25
Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	48
Retailers who are not cowkeepers	...	...	...	6
				<u>158</u>

Inspection

Regular inspection is made of all registered premises, and 237 inspections were made for the purpose during the year.

Efforts have been made to encourage clean milk production by 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.

Milk Sampling.

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

194 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.

19 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.

99 tins various foodstuffs	(blown or otherwise unfit).
1 Sheep's Pluck.	) Decomposition.
30 lbs. Imported Cod Fillets.)	
1 Beast's Kidney.	(Tuberculosis)
2 lbs. Sheep's Liver.	(Cirrhosis)

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED

Regular inspection is made of these premises and a high standard of cleanliness has again 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 51 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	...	...	.1.	...	52
Factories without mechanical power...	...	...	...	...	19
					<u>71</u>

Inspections, etc.

57 inspections have been made, and 3 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.

The total number of notifications of infectious disease classified under age groups is given in the following tabular statement:-

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.	20				1		2	7	5	4	1			17	
Erysipelas	2												2	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1									1				1	
Diphtheria	1						1							1	1
Whooping Cough	82	8	6	11	16	11	29	1						-	2
Pneumonia	6						1				3	1	1	-	-
Measles	134		6	11	15	9	83	6	1	3				-	1
Sonne Dysentery	1										1			1	-
TOTALS	247	8	12	22	32	20	116	14	6	8	5	1	3	20	4

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

	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	46	23	52	18	22	39	58	20
Diphtheria.	2	2	2	5	2	-	-	1
Measles.	-	-	106	627	2	249	23	134
Whooping Cough.	-	10	127	29	47	9	2	82
Pneumonia.	7	4	3	12	19	15	2	6

It will be seen that there has been a decrease in the number of cases of scarlet fever and an increase in the number of notifications of measles and whooping cough, the two latter diseases accounting for 216 notifications out of the total of 247. There was, however, one fatal case of diphtheria in an unimmunised child. So far as diphtheria immunisation is concerned the arrangements indicated in my report for the year 1942 are still in operation and have continued to function satisfactorily. During the year 244 children were immunised, and it is estimated that approximately 86% of children under 5 years of age, and 84% of children between the ages of 5 and 14 have been fully protected. The child population, mid 1945, in these age groups is calculated to be 1,410 and 2,840 respectively.

As regards the non-notifiable infectious diseases there is nothing of particular importance to comment upon. Deaths from influenza were 5 as against 11 for 1944, 8 in 1943, and 4 in 1942.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...				1				
1 ...		2				1		1
5 ...	1	1						
15 ...		2		1			1	1
25 ...		3						
35 ...	1				2			
45 ...	1							
55 ...	2							
65 and over								
TOTALS	5	8	-	2	2	1	1	2

There was one case that had not been notified before death.

No action has been called for 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.