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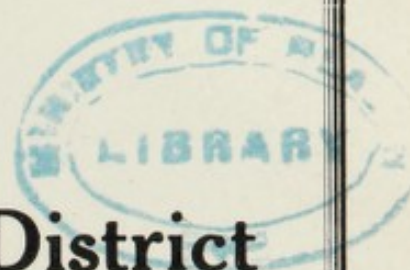
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Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1946.



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**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 1946 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 13/47 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 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £60,870.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £236 8s. 9d.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 6,061.

Estimated population: 19,350.

The whole district is agricultural in nature.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS:

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	282	141	141
Illegitimate	....	30	16	14
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	312	157	155
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population	16.1
Birth Rate per thousand population	
(England and Wales)	19.1

STILL BIRTHS:

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	7	5	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	7	5	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per thousand total (live and still births)	21.9
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	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS :	213	110	103
Death Rate per thousand estimated population			11.0
Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			11.5

Deaths from Puerperal causes:

(a) Puerperal sepsis	Nil	
(b) Other Puerperal causes	1	
Rate per thousand live and still births		3.1

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	11	6	5
Illegitimate	4	3	1
Totals	15	9	6

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per thousand live births	48.0
(b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	39.0
(c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	133.3

	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	27	39	34	47	43
Deaths from measles (all ages)	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	1	2	1	—	—
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	4	5	11	8	4
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3	—	3	1	2

Birth and Death Rates for the last eight years as compared with 1946.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Birth Rate	13.8	12.3	13.3	13.7	14.5	14.6	18.5	17.1	16.1
Death Rate	11.5	12.7	13.7	12.8	11.1	12.0	12.5	13.2	11.0

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

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	9	6	15
1 and under 2	—	—	—
2 " " 5	—	1	1
5 " " 15	—	—	—
15 " " 25	2	—	2
25 " " 35	2	1	3
35 " " 45	5	—	5
45 " " 55	5	6	11
55 " " 65	14	17	31
65 " " 75	33	29	62
75 and over	40	43	83
Totals	110	103	213

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 the other Rural Areas in the County of Cambridgeshire and for the Haverhill Urban and Clare Rural Districts in the County of West Suffolk.
- (b) Since the 1st June, 1946, Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., has held the combined appointment of Senior Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor. There are also two Additional Sanitary Inspectors. Mr. G. Blenkinsop re-commenced duty on the 1st February, 1946, after service in H.M. Forces since September, 1939. Mr. F. H. Mason was appointed and commenced duty on 1st September, 1946.

Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite and Mr. F. H. Mason are qualified Inspectors of meat and other foods.

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.

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 :—

The Regional Water Scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers has been the subject of protracted negotiations but, before the year ended, it was decided to proceed with the sinking of a trial well at Chippenham and also to extend the mains so as to supply Wicken, Snailwell, and Chippenham. Kennett will be supplied by a new main from Kentford in the Mildenhall Rural District. When these schemes are carried out the whole district with the exception of some outlying premises will be provided with piped supplies.

A tender was approved for extending the Council's main from Dullingham so as to supply farms and other premises in the Six Mile Bottom area.

The water supplied from the Council's five waterworks is constant and although the water in the Soham and Saxon Street wells reached a low level it was found possible to meet all requirements.

Samples of the water from each of the waterworks were taken monthly and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. Of the 123 samples taken 3 (2 from Stetchworth and 1 from Dullingham Waterworks) were reported by the Public Analyst to have relatively high bacterial counts the remainder being all certified as up to the standard required. Immediate action was taken in the case of the 3 samples referred to and the matter remedied by flushing out the mains and stepping up the rate of chlorination.

Automatically controlled chlorination plants are installed at the three largest waterworks (Swaffham Prior, Soham and Saxon Street) and tests for residual chlorine are carried out as a routine.

The following particulars relate to the various parishes supplied from the public water mains and indicates the number of houses and estimated population supplied by connections to the houses or by standpipes.

PARISH	SUPPLY DIRECT TO HOUSES		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPES	
	No. of houses	Estimated Population	No. of Houses	Estimated Population
Ashley	22	66	117	351
Bottisham	133	430	50	165
Brinkley	26	104	12	48
Burrough Green	30	90	35	105
Burwell	422	1350	151	483
Cheveley	325	780	76	182
Dullingham	45	162	79	284
Fordham	330	1221	102	377
Isleham	226	791	171	598
Kirtling	28	101	47	169
Lode	59	177	113	339
Soham	1294	4658	45	162
Stetchworth	33	115	97	339
Swaffham Bulbeck	101	323	60	192
Swaffham Prior	125	375	107	321
Westley	7	25	11	39
Woodditton	178	587	70	231
TOTALS	3384	11355	1343	4085

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—

In view of the conditions at Soham, which are really bad, and have been the subject of comment in my Annual Reports for 25 years and also in those of my predecessor, the District Council has now decided to ask the Ministry of Health for permission to proceed with that part of the regional sewerage scheme dealing with this parish. Soham is the largest village in the County of Cambridgeshire, having a population of approximately 5,000 persons and is also one of the most insanitary. The situation should have been dealt with long before the war but every scheme put forward has, hitherto, always been postponed, for one reason or another.

PUBLIC CLEANSING :—

The Council provides a refuse collection service which is operated from a central depot at Burwell.

Mr. A. J. Petrie holds the part-time appointment of Salvage Officer under the general direction of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and controls the six men employed on the scheme.

The Council has one Scammell refuse collection vehicle which, up to the present, has proved adequate for collections to be made once in every three weeks in all the larger parishes, the other parishes being provided with a similar service at intervals of six weeks.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a selected pit at Burwell, and, as precautions have been taken to prevent infestation by vermin, no nuisance has been caused.

Salvageable materials, such as paper, bones, rags and bottles, are sorted out at the depot and the income from the sale of these materials during the year amounted to £803 10s. 7d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

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

Slaughter-houses and butchers' shops	92
Bakehouses	48
Fried Fish shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Acts, 1938	109
Shops	69
Knacker's Yard	8
Factories (excluding bakehouses)	36
Cowsheds and Dairies	352
Refuse Tips	23
Infectious Disease	13
Rooms disinfected	14
Disinfestations (rooms)	36
Public Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	169
Dwelling-houses	1382
Re-inspections of dwelling-houses	156
Schools	5
Nuisances	194
Building Bye-Laws—New Drains tested	30
—other Inspections	114
Miscellaneous	269

Samples taken:

Water—158

Milk—166

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Sixty-nine inspections of shops were made for the purposes of Section 10 of the Act. The premises were found to be satisfactory and no action was necessary.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One dwelling-house was found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, and three rooms and a quantity of furniture in store 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 are no public swimming baths in the district.

SCHOOLS.

The County Education Authority have schemes in hand for the modernisation of certain selected schools in the district, including the provision of modern sanitary arrangements and dining facilities. Work was completed at The Modern School at Burwell during the year.

HOUSING.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Owing to staffing difficulties, which necessitated inter-departmental arrangements for the temporary transfer of staff in order to expedite housing and other high priority work, it was found impossible to complete the Housing Survey during the year.

1,090 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:—

CATEGORIES.

1	2	3	4	5	Total
217	366	457	—	50	1090

The total figures since the commencement of the survey being as follows:—

449	844	864	—	144	2301
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HOUSING—GENERAL.

Number of dwelling houses inspected	1382
Number of re-inspections made	156
Number of Informal Notices served	35
Number of Formal Notices served (Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936)	3
Number of Building Licences issued for Repair, Maintenance or Improvement of Dwelling Houses	279
Number of New Permanent Houses completed during the year:	
By the Local Authority	16
By Private Enterprise	9
(N.B.—No temporary houses have been erected by the local authority).	
Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of action taken:	
Informal action	33
Formal action	2

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Dwelling house roofs repaired	24
Eaves guttering and rain water piping repaired or renewed ..	10
Chimney stacks repaired	4
Dwelling house walls repaired (external)	5
Dwelling house walls repaired (internal)	8
Walls rendered internally to remedy dampness	2
Dwelling house ceilings repaired	8
New ceilings constructed	1
Dwelling house doors repaired	4
Dwelling house floors repaired	9
New floors constructed	1
New windows fixed	1
Dwelling house windows repaired	30
Existing sanitary conveniences repaired	4
New closet buildings constructed	2
Closet conversions	8
Washing coppers provided	1
Washing coppers repaired	2
New Wash-house buildings constructed	2
Scullery buildings rebuilt	1
New Scullery roof constructed	2
Outbuildings repaired	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers or Purveyors of Milk on the registers (as at 31st December, 1946 :—

Wholesale Purveyors	67
Retail Purveyors	32
Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	31
Retailers who are not cowkeepers	4
	<hr/>
	134

INSPECTION.

Regular inspection is made of all registered premises and 352 inspections were made for the purpose during the year.

Efforts have again 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 were sent to the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge, for examination.

166 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.

92 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 as 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.

- 1 Case of Prunes (approx. 24 lbs.)—(Moulds).
- 9 lbs. Cheese—(Decomposition).
- 7 lbs. Bacon—(Decomposition).
- 4 stone Dried Cod Fillets—(Decomposition).
- 7 lbs. Corn Beef—(Decomposition).
- 10 Tins Biscuits (Army Type)—(Moulds).
- 148 Tins various Foodstuffs—(Blown or otherwise unfit).

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED.

47 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, 36 for the manufacture or sale of Preserved Foods and 11 for the manufacture or sale of Ice Cream.

Regular inspection is made of these premises and 189 inspections were made during the year. A high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 24 bakehouses in the district, and 48 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 35 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	52
Factories without mechanical power	19
	—
	71
	—

INSPECTIONS, ETC.

84 inspections were made, and 1 written notice served which was remedied without reference to H.M. Inspector of Factories or Legal proceedings.

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

Ninety-four notifications of infectious disease were received during the year including 7 of infective hepatitis. Regulations making infective hepatitis notifiable came into operation in December, 1943. Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable in 1939. The total number of notifications of the principal infectious diseases during the last eight years (Civilian cases only) is indicated in the following table for purposes of comparison and I think the figures, if looked at, speak for themselves:—

Year:	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Scarlet fever ..	46	23	52	18	22	39	58	20	12
Diphtheria	2	2	2	5	2	—	—	1	—
Measles	—	—	106	627	2	249	23	134	36
Whooping cough ..	—	10	127	29	47	9	2	82	32
Pneumonia	7	4	3	12	19	15	2	6	1

So far as diphtheria immunisation is concerned the arrangements outlined in my report for the year 1942 have continued to function satisfactorily. During the year 310 children were immunised, and it is estimated that about 86% of children under 5 years of age and 84% of those in the higher age groups have been fully protected. The child population in these age groups, mid 1946, is estimated to be 1,370 and 2,760 respectively. The last outbreak of diphtheria of any magnitude was in 1931 when the parish of Soham was chiefly affected.

There is nothing of particular interest to record as regards the non-notifiable infectious diseases. Deaths from influenza were 4 as against 5 for 1945, 11 for 1944, 8 and 4 in 1943 and 1942 respectively.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under age groups.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.											Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Scarlet Fever ...	12					2	3	1	3	2	1		10	
Erysipelas ...	2											2		
Poliomyelitis ...	1									1			1	
Measles ...	36		2	3	5	4	20	2						
Whooping Cough ...	32	3	2	6	7	3	8	3						1
Pneumonia ...	1									1				
Dysentery (Sonne) ...	3									1	1	1	1	
Infective Hepatitis ...	7						1	3		2	1			
Totals ...	94	3	4	9	12	9	32	9	3	7	3	3	12	1

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

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

Two cases 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.



