

[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, North Cotswold R.D.C.

Contributors

North Cotswold (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1943

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a3tge2sr>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the
RURAL DISTRICT OF NORTH GOTSWOLD
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

Stephen Knight, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
(since 1st September 1939, serving in R.A.M.C.)

Deputy Acting Medical Officer of Health.

J. E. Jameson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.C., D.R.C.O.G.

Surveyor & Chief Sanitary Inspector.

J. E. Busfield, Testamur, Institution of Municipal and County
Engineers: Certified Sanitary Inspector:
Certified Meats and Food Inspector: Sanitary
Science Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

A. Ede, Certified Sanitary Inspector.
Certified Meats and Food Inspector,
Sanitary Science Certificate.

Council Offices,
Moreton-in-Marsh,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	86,218
Registrar-General's estimate of -	
(a) Resident population - mid 1940)	
(b) Average population appropriate to)	
the calculation of death rates)	17,780
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943)	
according to Rate Books	4,961
Rateable Value. 31st December 1943.	89,828
Sum represented by a penny rate.	357. 7. 9.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The people in the district are mainly engaged in agriculture, market gardening, fruit growing, and associated occupations.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Legitimate	338	187	173
Illegitimate	22	11	11
Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population			20.2

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			16.3

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
	193	93	100
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated average population			10.9

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total</u> <u>(live and still births)</u>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1000 live births	21.8
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	14.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births	45.4

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

"	"	<u>MEASELS</u> (all ages)	30
"	"	<u>WHOOPING COUGH</u> (all ages)	Nil
"	"	<u>DIARRHOEA</u> (all ages)	Nil

GENERAL COMMENT.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor have there been any specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity requiring comment.

S E C T I O N B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Council have made arrangements for the examination of sputum, swabs and other pathological material at the Cheltenham General Hospital. As a war-time measure additional laboratory facilities are now available at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases. The ambulance service is provided by the Delancy Hospital, Cheltenham.

(b) Other cases. The Cheltenham Ambulance Service is under agreement with the Council to serve the whole area. In addition, A.R.P. Services maintain five whole time ambulances and four part-time ambulances in the area. The service is adequate.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The whole area is covered by the District Nursing Association.

4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Stow-on-the-Wold	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Blockley	Alternate Wednesdays
Moreton-in-Marsh	2nd Tuesdays
Bourton-on-the-Water	2nd & 4th Fridays
Campden	2nd & 4th Mondays.

5. HOSPITALS.

- (a) Voluntary. Moreton District Hospital (Maternity, Medical & Surgical)
Bourton-on-the-Water, Cottage Hospital (Medical & Surgical)
- (b) Infectious. The Delancy Isolation Hospital, Cheltenham.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

During the year no new sources of supply were inaugurated, but the Council during 1944 anticipates preparing its post-war scheme for the supply of water throughout the area.

Extensions to the Council's distribution system were carried out during the year at the following places:-

- (1) Lansdowne Entry, Bourton-on-the-Water.
- (2) Guiting Power, where the main was extended to Guiting Grange.

Sampling of supplies, both public and private, in all Parishes. The Council's supplies are all sampled at regular intervals and the greatest care is taken to eliminate all possible sources of contamination, and in addition a considerable proportion of the water supplied is chlorinated.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 89. Copies of two analyses, one each from the Council's two main sources of supply, i.e. Mill Cottage, Blockley, and Upper Swell, are set out below for general information:-

THE SAMPLE CONTAINS (parts per 100,000)	Blockley.	Upper Swell.
Total Dissolved Solids	28.3	28.8
Combined Chlorine	1.3	1.2
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0.196	0.200
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	absent	absent
Mineral Ammonia	absent	0.0052
Organic Ammonia	0.0024	0.0032
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter in three hours	absent	0.002
Temporary Hardness	17.5	19.0
Permanent Hardness	5.5	8.5
Total Hardness	23.0	27.5

Micro-organisms in one cubic centimetre
capable of growing on Agar at 22°C in
3 days

Micro-organisms in one cubic centimetre
capable of growing on Agar at 37°C in
48 hrs.

B. Coli. Absent in 100 cubic centimetres.

Microscopic Examination. Shows the presence of a very minute sediment.

The Remarks on both Samples are as follows:-

The analyses shows that this water in its present condition is satisfactory for a public supply.

(d) Number of new connections with the Public Supply.

The number of new connections made with the Council's mains during the year was 45.

(e) Particulars of supply where unsatisfactory in quality or in quantity.

There are several parishes in the district where the supply is unsatisfactory either in quantity or quality. As pointed out above, however, the Council is anticipating the preparation of its post-war schemes during 1944, and is giving consideration to all places where the existing supplies are unsatisfactory. This being so, it should be possible to give full details in the next Annual Report.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(a) Particulars of new schemes completed during the year - Nil.

(b) New works commenced during the year - Nil.

(c) Particulars of contemplated works:-

- (1) Re-laying of portion of old sewer at Lower Slaughter.
- (2) Piping of open culvert at Condicote.

(d) Particulars of parishes where there is need of sewerage system:-

The Council will have under consideration during 1944 the preparation of its post-war plans for sewerage, when it is probable that a programme will be drawn up indicating those parishes which are to be sewered on modern lines immediately the opportunity occurs. No doubt, when this has been done, the preparation of detailed schemes for the places selected will be proceeded with immediately.

In the meantime, places which are in urgent need of proper sewerage and sewage disposal systems and will therefore receive careful consideration, are Mickleton, Willersey, Bourton-on-the-Hill and Bledington.

(3) RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Periodic inspection of streams, ditches, etc. Where instances of pollution are found the source of the pollution is traced and the necessary action taken to prevent a continuation thereof.

(4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Number of earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed - 15.

(b) Number of replacements of earth closets, etc., by W.C's - 19.

(5) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All parishes in the district are covered by the system of refuse collection and disposal, and regular collections of refuse and salvage are made at intervals of a week in the largest parishes, fortnightly in others and monthly in the remainder.

During the year the Council ceased to undertake the emptying of latrine buckets for the troops stationed in the district, but

careful observation has been kept to ensure that those responsible for this work do not deposit the material either so as to be a nuisance or to cause pollution of any water supply.

Set out below are the figures shewing the quantities and value of materials salvaged during the year under review:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>£. s. d.</u>
Paper and Cardboard	105.	18.	0.	846.10. 0.
Rubber	27.	2.	3.	57.16. 8.
Bones	4.	18.	0.	23. 3. 1.
Rags	11.	0.	2.	178.19. 3.
Non-ferrous Metal	1.	1.	2.	20.16. 3.
Scrap Iron	70.	11.	0.	111.19. 9.
Tibs	169.	3.	3.	253.14.10.
	389.	15.	2.	1492.19.10.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

(a)	Inspections made	1747
(b)	Nuisances discovered and reported	136
	" " " " " Swine only	Nil
(c)	Complaints received	156
(d)	Informal or preliminary notices sent	125
(e)	Statutory notices sent	38
(f)	Nuisances abated	133
(g)	Summonses issued	Nil
(h)	Convictions obtained	Nil

(7) PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO STATUTORY NOTICES.

(a) Shops and Offices.

Number inspected	53
Number of inspections made	76

Particulars of actions taken during the year.

- (1) Under Shop Act 1934. No action taken.
 (2) Under Public Health Act 1936. " " "

(b) Factories with Power.

Number inspected	44
Number of inspections made	72

(c) Factories without Power.

Number inspected	18
Number of inspections made	30

(d) Bakehouses.

Number inspected	15
Number of inspections made	36

(e) Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades in the district..

(f) Outworkers residences.

Number inspected	1
Number of inspections made	1

Outworker's residence/^{is} used for the manufacture of gloves and conditions were found to be quite satisfactory.

(g) Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number inspected	84
Number of inspections made	107

Action taken.

Byelaws for tents, vans and sheds and fruit pickers lodgings are in operation, and very few instances were found during the year where conditions were such as to call for action under these bye-laws.

There are always cases where one or two tents are erected on roadside wastes and where men sleep "rough" in barns and sheds, but these instances are comparatively few and very rarely is the length of stay such that action is required under the appropriate provisions of the Public Health Acts and the bye-laws made thereunder.

The Council had under consideration the accommodation of the gypsies, who frequent Stow Fair in the spring and autumn of each year, but no real solution to this problem has yet been evolved. The gypsies with their vans and paraphernalia very rarely stay in the same spot for more than three days, when attending these fairs, and the provision of the bye-laws as to tents, vans and sheds do not, therefore, come into effect.

(h) Canal Boats. - Nil.

(i) Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number inspected	263
Number of inspections made	365

Action taken.

In spite of the greater difficulty in effecting building work and repairs, the improvement and modernisation of dairy premises has taken place in many instances. It cannot be too strongly stressed, however, that well constructed premises, whilst being helpful, are not the mainstay of clean milk production. Attention to cleanliness of premises, utensils, cows and milkers are the all-important factors, whilst adequate cooling is also an important item. An adequate supply of pure water is, as can easily be seen, therefore, a necessity, and this is being realised by milk producers.

The number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination during the year was 189 and by far the greater number were found to be satisfactory. Personal contact with producers, where there were unsatisfactory reports, with a full discussion on their methods of production, has been continued with success in many instances.

(j) Milk Shops. - Nil.

(8) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints and no action necessary.

(9) BUG ERADICATION.

Council Houses. Other Houses.

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| (a) Number of houses found to be infected | Nil. | Nil. |
| (b) Number of houses disinfected | Nil. | Nil. |
| (c) Methods employed for freeing infected houses. | | |

As no cases have come to the notice of the Health Department, no disinfection has been necessary, but the system to be employed should any cases arise, would be the use of blowlamps round walls and floors, stripping of skirtings, architraves, etc., and the destruction of bedding and clothing, where necessary.

(d) All houses subject to clearance or demolition orders are inspected but no instances of infestation have been found.

(10) SCHOOLS.

There are no observations to make under this heading.

(11) CAMPING SITES.

- | | | |
|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of sites used for camping during the year | - | 5 |
| (2) Number of sites in which licences have been issued under Section 269 of Public Health Act, 1936. | | Nil. |
| (3) Estimated number of campers resident in the district at one time during the summer season. | | 25 |
| (4) <u>Remarks.</u> All camping sites are used for very short periods, insufficient for registration. | | |

(12) SWIMMING POOL AND NATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SWIMMING.

(a) Particulars of any swimming baths or pools open to the public and action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| (1) Publicly owned | - | Nil. |
| (2) Privately owned | - | one at Broad Campden. |

(b) Particulars of any natural facilities for swimming in lakes, rivers, etc. in the area and the condition of the water for bathing.

- (1) The River Windrush is used at a point below Bourton-on-the-Water, the water being quite suitable for this purpose.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

- (1) Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.
 - (a) 1. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 506
 2. Number of inspections made for this purpose. 657
 - (b) 1. Number of houses included under the above which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1937. 68
 2. Number of inspections made for this purpose. 94
 - (c) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Nil.
 - (d) Number of houses exclusive of those referred to under (c) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 46
- (2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action. 40
- (3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 - (a) Proceedings under Public Health Act.
 1. Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 35
 2. Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners. 30
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.
 - (b) Proceedings under Housing Act 1936.
(Part II Repairs, Demolition, Closure)
 1. Repairs (9, 10 and 16)
 - (a) Number of houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. 3
 - (b) Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices.
 - By owners. 2
 - By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.
 2. Demolition (sections 11 and 13)
 - (a) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders made. Nil.
 - (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders. Nil.
 3. Closure of portions of buildings (Section 12)
 - (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Order was made. Nil
 - (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

Part 111. (Clearance, Re-Development and Improvement Areas)

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Clearance Area declarations made by Council. | Nil. |
| 2. Clearance Orders submitted and awaiting confirmation by Minister. | Nil. |
| 3. Clearance Orders submitted and rejected by Minister. | Nil. |
| 4. Clearance Orders submitted and confirmed by Minister. | Nil. |
| 5. Re-development Area Declarations made by Council. | Nil. |
| 6. Re-development Plans submitted and awaiting confirmation by Minister. | Nil. |
| 7. Re-development Plans submitted and rejected by Minister. | Nil. |
| 8. Re-development Plans submitted and confirmed by Minister. | Nil. |
| 9. Improvement Area Declaration made by Council. | Nil. |

Part IV. - Overcrowding.

Very similar observations can be made for 1943 as for 1942. In a district such as this and under existing wartime conditions it is a fluctuating problem which tends to increase with the increasing shortage of houses. It is impossible to give exact numbers of overcrowding cases which are in existence, but as will be seen from the remarks set out below, the matter is one which the Council hope to deal with at the earliest opportunity.

Post-War Housing.

The Council has set up a Special Committee to deal with the problem of post-war housing, and during 1944 this Committee will tackle the various problems to be dealt with when circumstances permit, particularly with regard to the erection of new houses to relieve overcrowding, replace existing condemned houses and meet the needs of those returning from the war.

In the years prior to the war, the Council carried out a very extensive programme of re-housing, but at the outbreak of the war there were still many houses under consideration for demolition. With the tendency to increase the minimum standards of suitable housing and the lack of sufficient maintenance to many houses during the war the problem will be very formidable when the present ban on the condemnation of unfit houses is raised. The Council will, therefore, have all the many matters which the problem involves under careful consideration when drawing up its programme for the future, including the reconditioning of houses which, whilst not totally unfit, require extensive repairs and improvements. It is to be hoped that greater use will be made of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, under which the Council hopes to obtain delegated powers.

PARTICULARS RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL POPULATION.

Action under Housing Act 1936.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of houses provided for members of agricultural population to relieve overcrowding, and subject to Ministry and County Council Grants under Section 108 and 115 (3) | Nil. |
| (2) Number of houses provided for members of the agricultural population, exclusive of those for the relief of overcrowding, and subject to grant from the County Council under Section 115.(2). | Nil. |

The Council undertook the erection of ten of the three thousand houses, which the Government promoted for agricultural workers. Many difficulties have presented themselves in the erection of these cottages which remained incomplete at the end of the year. The internal design of the cottages being erected in this district is

however, very satisfactory, and such a standard of space and amenity should be maintained in all post-war houses.

ALL NEW HOUSES.

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | Total of new houses erected during the year. | Nil. |
| (2) | New houses erected during the year with State assistance under Housing Acts. | Nil. |
| | (a) By local Authority. | |
| | (b) By other bodies or persons. | Nil. |
| (3) | New houses erected during the year without subsidy. | |
| | (a) Council. | Nil. |
| | (b) Others. | Nil. |
| (4) | New houses during the year proposed to be erected under Housing Acts but not yet built. | 10 |

S E C T I O N E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk Shops.

Number inspected.	263
Number of inspections.	365

Observations have been made earlier in this report concerning milk production. There are no milk shops in the district and most retailers of milk in the area are producer retailers, who produce and retail in their own villages.

(b) Meat and other foods.

Meat for the district is obtained from two centralised slaughterhouses, one at Cheltenham and one at Evesham.

Periodical inspections of the meat on arrival in the shops are carried out, and it was not found necessary to condemn any butchers' meat during 1943.

(c) Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933.

At the end of the year there were 16 licenced slaughtermen.

(d) Meat and Food Condemned during 1943.

The following is a list shewing the kind and quantity of food which was inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption during the year. Under the arrangements with the Ministry of Food its salvage department was notified of all material condemned when in the requisite quantities.

Meat	67 tins	and	28 lbs.
Milk	67 "		
Preserves	10 "		
Fish	76 "	and	13 cwts. 42 lbs.
Vegetables	57 "	and	5 tons 19 cwts. (Cucumbers)
Soup	5 "		
Fruit	47 "	and	395 lbs. (Oranges)
Sugar	30 lbs.		
Cheese	36½ "		
Cake	685 "		
Butter	14 "		
Sausages	6 "		
Eggs	43½ doz.		

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
During the year 1943.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospitals.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	36	18	Nil.
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil.
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	4	3	Nil.
<u>Other diseases generally notifiable</u>			
Pneumonia	22	1	10
Erysipelas	4	-	Nil.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Measels	90	4	Nil.
Whooping Cough.	4	-	Nil.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1943.

<u>New cases.</u>					<u>Deaths.</u>				
<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non Respiratory</u>			<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non Respiratory</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0	-	1	-	-		-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	1		-	-	-	-
15	1	-	1	1		-	1	-	-
25	-	2	-	1		-	-	-	-
35	3	3	-	-		1	1	-	-
45	-	-	1	-		-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-		-	-	1	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-		1	-	-	-
Totals	4	6	3	3		2	2	1	-