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A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
To the  
RURAL DISTRICT OF NORTH COTSWOLD  
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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)	17,294
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books.	4,961
Rateable Value 31st December 1944.	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	318	163	155
Illegitimate	20	10	10
Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... 20.1			

### STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	11	5	6
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 31.5			

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
	215	106	109

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated average population ... 12.4

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total (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	35.5
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	37.7
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births	N11

### DEATHS FROM CANCER.

MEASLES (all ages)	33
WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	N11
DIARRHOEA (all ages)	1
	1

### 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.



# SECTION C.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. (a) Particulars of new sources of public supply.

During the year the Council began the preparation of its post-war scheme of water supply and the preparation of all the details will be completed during 1945. The proposed scheme will cover the whole of the district utilizing the many sources of supply at Blockley, Upper Swell & Lower Swell.

### (b) Particulars of extensions of existing mains.

During the year under review the Council extended its supply so as to provide augmentation for Willersey and Saintbury, where serious shortages occurred owing to the lack of rain.

### (c) Measures in force for the discovery of contamination.

The sampling of supplies both public and private in all Parishes, is carried out. 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 72. Copies of three analyses, one each from the Council's three main sources of supply, i.e., Mill Cottage, Blockley, Dovedale, Blockley, and Upper Swell, are set out below for general information:

THE SAMPLE CONTAINS (parts per 100,000)	Mill Cottage	Dovedale	Upper Swell
Total Dissolved Solids ...	30.3	28.5	30.4
Combined Chlorine ...	1.4	1.2	1.2
Nitrogen present as Nitrates ...	0.292	0.148	0.252
Nitrogen present as Nitrites ...	absent	absent	0.0002
Mineral Ammonia ...	0.0028	absent	0.0024
Organic Ammonia ...	absent	absent	0.0032
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter in three hours...	absent	0.016	0.014
Temporary Hardness ...	18.0	19.0	19.0
Permanent Hardness ...	5.5	1.5	5.0
Total Hardness ...	23.5	20.5	24.0

### Bacteriological Examination.

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

5 7 50

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

1 2 3

B.Coli. ...

Absent in 100 cubic centimetres. Present in 50 cubic centimetres. Absent in 100 cubic centimetres. Absent in 40 cubic centimetres (approx. 2 per 100ccs)

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

The Remarks on these 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 75.

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

The year 1944 was a particularly dry year and consequently several places with small supplies suffered shortage of water. Willersey and Saintbury were two of these, and, as will have been noted above, the Council augmented the supplies thereto from its reservoir at Springhill.

Paxford and Todenham also experienced shortage, at both these places water was carted. A temporary scheme for relieving the shortage at Paxford was prepared and sanctioned by the Ministry of Health, but before the work was started the supply improved. The necessary materials are now in stock and if the trouble recurs before the main scheme for providing an adequate supply for Paxford is started, it will be a simple matter to put the temporary scheme into operation.

In addition to the shortages outlined above, some supplies were found to be unsatisfactory in quality, but all are covered by the Council's scheme which is now in course of preparation. By this scheme the Council intends to eliminate all unsatisfactory sources of supply and provide an adequate and pure supply of water throughout the whole district from a small number of sources of proved quality.

The priority of the various places to be supplied under the scheme is as follows:-

1. Evenlode.  
Todenham.
2. Paxford  
Aston Magna  
Draycott  
Ebrington  
Hidcote
3. Upper Slaughter  
Lower Slaughter  
Lower Swell  
Upper Swell
4. Cutsdean  
Ford  
Temple Guiting  
Kineton  
Barton  
Guiting Power  
Naunton
5. Clapton-on-the-Hill  
Wyck Rissington  
Icomb  
Little Rissington  
Great Rissington  
Westcote.
6. Oddington  
Adlestrop  
Daylesford.

No classification: Aston Subedge, Maugersbury and Saintbury.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

- (a) Particulars of new schemes completed during the year -  
Re-laying of old sewer at Lower Slaughter.
- (b) New works commenced during the year -  
Piping of open culvert at Condicote.
- (c) Particulars of contemplated works - see below -
- (d) During the year the Council considered the question of the preparation of post-war schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, and after considering a report on the subject prepared by the Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector the following were scheduled as requiring new systems, the priority being as indicated :-

Category "A" (Priority No.1)

Willersey and Saintbury.  
Mickleton.  
Ebrington.  
Paxford.  
Draycott.  
Aston Magna.  
Todenham.  
Bourton-on-the-Hill.  
Evenlode.  
Bledington.  
Wyck, Great and Little Rissington.  
Oddington.  
Upper and Lower Slaughter.  
Bourton-on-the-Water.

Category "B" (Priority No.2)

Weston Subedge and  
Aston Subedge.  
Broadwell.  
Longborough.  
Icomb.  
Naunton and Guiting Power.  
Condicote.

Category "C" (Priority No.3.)

Hidcote Boyce.  
Blockley.  
Westcote.  
Stow-on-the-Wold and  
Maugersbury.  
Temple Guiting.  
Swell.  
Ford and Cutsdean.  
Adlestrop and Daylesford.

Category "D"

Moreton-in-Marsh.



(3) RIVERS AND STREAMS.

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

Frequent inspections of streams, ditches, &c. are made, and where instances of pollution are found the source of the pollution is traced and the necessary action taken to prevent a continuation thereof.

Some trouble was caused during the year by the effluent from one W.D. Camp and steps were being taken at the end of the year to rectify this.

(4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Number of earth closets, pail closets or improvised privies constructed - 10.

(b) Number of replacements of earth closets, etc., by W.C.'s - 22.

(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.

Careful observation has continued to be kept to ensure that the contractors undertaking the emptying of latrine buckets 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>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper and Cardboard	102.	14.	3.	642.	14.	7.
Rubber	1.	11.	2.	3.	18.	9.
Bones	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rags	7.	15.	1.	85.	1.	11.
Non-ferrous Metal	-	3.	2.	3.	5.	0.
Scrap Iron	10.	17.	1.	24.	9.	0.
Tins	30.	1.	0.	45.	16.	0.
	153.	3.	1.	805.	5.	3.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

(a)	Inspections made	2,318
(b)	Nuisances discovered and reported	146
	" " " Swine only	Nil
(c)	Complaints received	165
(d)	Informal or preliminary notices sent	104
(e)	Statutory notices sent	6
(f)	Nuisances abated	126
(g)	Summonses issued	Nil
(h)	Convictions obtained	Nil



(7) PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO STATUTORY NOTICES.

(a) Shops and Offices.

Number inspected ..... 67  
Number of inspections made ..... 67

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 ..... 40  
Number of inspections made ..... 67

(c) Factories without Power.

Number inspected ..... 22  
Number of inspections made ..... 36

(d) Bakehouses.

Number inspected ..... 15  
Number of inspections made ..... 32

(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 ..... 91  
Number of inspections made ..... 121

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.

(h) Canal Boats. - Nil.

(i) Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number inspected ..... 238  
Number of inspections made ..... 322

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 111 and by far the greater number were found to be satisfactory. Personal contact with producers, where there were unsatisfactory report, 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.

	<u>Council Houses.</u>	<u>Other Houses.</u>
(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) Remarks. 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)                                     | 456  |
| 2.     | Number of inspections made for this purpose.   | 598  |
| (b) 1. | Number of houses included under the above which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1937.       | 57   |
| 2.     | Number of inspections made for this purpose.   | 85   |
| (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. | 42   |

### (2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action.	43
--	----

### (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 | 8    |
| 2. | Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:-                           |      |
|    | (a) By owners.  | 8    |
|    | (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.  | 4    |
|    | (b) Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices..  |      |
|    | By owners.   | 3    |
|    | By Local Authority in default of owners.   | Nil. |
| 2. | <u>Demolition (sections 11 and 13).</u>  |      |
|    | (a) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders made.   | Nil. |
|    | (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.   | Nil. |
| 3. | <u>Closure of portions of buildings (Section 12).</u>  |      |
|    | (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 1944 as for 1943. 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.

During the year the Council's Post-War Housing Committee was very active in the preparation of the Post-War Programme, and many sites were selected and submitted to the various Ministries for their approval. The Programme adopted includes 82 houses during the first year apart from temporary houses which the Government may allocate.

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.

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.	10
(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.	Nil.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk Shops.

Number inspected.

238

Number of Inspections.

322

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 found necessary to condemn any butchers' meat during 1944.

(c) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

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

(d) Meat and Food Condemned during 1944.

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.

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Food destroyed as unfit for human consumption in shops:-

Preserves	83 lbs.
Fish        14 cwt	38 lbs.
Fish (tinned)	34 tins.
Meat (Fresh)	102½ lbs.
Meat (tinned)	29 tins.
Milk	136 tins.
Soup	18 tins.
Vegetables	51 tins.
Sausages	206 lbs.
Butter	12 oz.
Cheese	18 lbs. 14 oz.
Fruit	14 tins.
Oats	72 lbs.
Cake	17 lbs.
Fruit Pies	105
Meat Pies	27
Oranges	140 lbs.
Sweets	6 lbs.

Food, being Government rations issued to R.A.F. examined in conjunction with R.A.F. Medical Officer, found unfit for human consumption after damage by fire and extinguisher liquid at

Rissington Aerodrome:-

Meat	405 lbs.
Flour	2,730 lbs.
Tea	127 lbs.
Sugar	149 lbs.
Cheese	318 lbs.
Margarine	77 lbs.
Marmalade	21 lbs.
Tinned Sausages	810 lbs.
Jam	7 lbs.
Salt	112 lbs.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)  
During the year 1944.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospitals.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	28	8	Nil.
Diphtheria	4	4	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	Nil.	Nil.
<u>Other diseases generally notifiable.</u>			
Pneumonia	23	10	4
Erysipelas	9	-	Nil.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	1	1
Measles	17	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough.	7	1	1
Relapsing Fever	1	-	-

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1944.

New cases.					Deaths.			
Age Periods.	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	2	2	1	1	-	-
25	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	5	2	2	1	2	1	1



Total  
100.00

Amount  
to be paid

100.00

100.00

1

100.00

100.00

100.00

1

100.00

1

100.00

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