

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

Contributors

Osgoldcross (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1943

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xdrwzr3d>

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>

OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943. On account of the continuance of national hostilities it is another brief report.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District,	33,970 acres.	
Population, mid year, Registrar General's estimate		7,194
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1943		2,111
Rateable Value		£28,228
Sum represented by 1d. Rate		£112

The Registrar General's figures show a further reduction in the population, though only a small one. Again the variation is probably due to movements in connection with the present national circumstances.

There were 128 persons in the District under the Government Evacuation Schemes in January the number declining to 92 in December.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	72	67	139
Illegitimate	4	3	7
<u>Totals</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>146</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 20.29

Still Births

Legitimate	5	0	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births 33.11
 Rate per 1,000 population .69

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	50	49	99

Death Rate per 1,000 population = 13.76

Puerperal causes	0	0	0
Cancer	3	5	8
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	0	2

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births = 75
There were 11 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, one an Illegitimate Infant.

The Birth Rate again shows an increase, and appreciable one from 18.95 to 20.29. This is higher than the rate for the country, 16.5, which also is a slight increase.

The Death Rate for the District increased from 12.06 to 13.76. The Rate for the country also increased, from 11.6 to 12.1. It will be seen that the Rate for the District this time is higher than that for the country.

In this connection it is interesting to note that of the 99 persons whose deaths were registered 32 were 75 years or more old; 17 were between 80 and 90; 5 varied from 90 to 96. There were more deaths than usual due to accident or other violence.

The Infantile Death Rate at 77 is an increase on that of the preceding year which was 58. That for the whole country remained the same at 49.

There were 2 deaths from Diarrhoea of children under 2 years old.

The Infantile Death Rate (the actual number of deaths was 11) is on the high side; otherwise the Vital Statistics can be regarded as satisfactory.

Principal causes of Death

As usual, Heart Disease caused the highest number of deaths, 23. Pneumonia was the cause of 5 deaths and Bronchitis of 8. It is pleasing to note that there was a further decline of Cancer deaths, which totalled 8.

Infectious Diseases

	<u>No. of cases Notified</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	2	0
Whooping Cough	8	0
Diphtheria	4	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0
Measles	193	0
Pneumonia	13	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0
<u>Tuberculosis</u>		
Pulmonary	1	0
Other forms	0	0

The drive for the immunising against Diphtheria of children attending schools in the District was continued, and the following table is the record of work accomplished during the year

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Children immunised	69	134	203

The percentage of children attending the schools who are now immunised varies from 67 to 98 and averages 87.4 per school.

The number of children in the District under the age of 5 years is estimated to be 660 and about 47% are now immunised.

This position is very gratifying and it is possible that its good results are reflected in the low incidence of Diphtheria which occurred during the year.

I wish again to thank head teachers and their staffs and all others who helped me to bring about this result.

SCABIES.

I mentioned in my last report that Scabies had become prevalent and that it was desirable that some provision be made for treatment at a cleansing centre. Approaches were made to the County Council to make use of the A.R.P. Cleansing Centre at Knottingley for the purpose, but a suitable arrangement could not be negotiated. I am pleased, however, to say that suitable arrangements have been entered into with the Pontefract Joint Hospital Board (of which this Council is a constituent member) for treatment at the Hospital.

Notification of Scabies is not compulsory but good co-operation is exercised between the doctors practising in the District and myself.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

These and other matters are dealt with in the report of Mr. Ledwith,
Your Sanitary Inspector.

Again thanking you for consideration shown to me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. KEHELLY

Medical Officer of Health.

that the... of the... in the...
of the... of the...
of the... of the...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

...in the... of the... with...
...in the... of the... with...

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OSGOLDCROSS
ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1943

NUISANCES

Number of primary inspections	230
Number of cases in which nuisance found	197
Number of cases outstanding 1942	11
Cases to be dealt with	208
Abated 1943	197
Outstanding	11

No Statutory Notices were served.

The number relating to defective conditions at houses was 183.

HOUSING

Action under Housing Acts and Regulations.

Number of houses inspected and recorded	102
Number unfit	36
Number defective but not unfit	33

There were no unfit houses rendered fit, and no Demolition Orders made or complied with, but 4 houses at Darrington were destroyed as a result of an aeroplane crash.

There was only 1 house repaired under the Housing Acts, such repair work as has been carried out having been done under the Public Health Act in abatement of nuisances.

Action under Public Health Acts in addition to action as mentioned under "Nuisances".

Houses examined for vermin	3
Disinfested	3
Houses inspected in connection with water supply, sanitary accommodation etc.	86
Houses at which work required or undertaken	60
Houses at which work completed	45

No Statutory Notices were served.

Four houses for Rural Workers were commenced but were not completed by the end of the year. No other houses were commenced or completed.

The number of houses in the District at the end of the year was 2,111

WATER

A few additional houses have been connected to the mains but there have been no extensions of the mains.

At Fairburn there has been some inconvenience on occasions on account of low pressure, the water at times having been off.

At these times there has been much sediment in the water drawn, due to disturbance in the mains. This appears to be largely a matter of the control of the mains and reservoir and is receiving attention with a view to the elimination of the inconvenience. Apart from the disturbed sediment the quality has been found satisfactory.

Elsewhere piped supplies have continued satisfactory in quantity and quality. The bulk of these supplies are derived from the Pontefract Corporation Waterworks, and samples taken at intervals throughout the year from various parts of the District were found on bacteriological examination to be satisfactory, including one taken while the water was in a cloudy condition owing to disturbance in the mains.

Most of Darrington is supplied from a private estate water works from which samples have been periodically submitted for bacteriological examination and found satisfactory.

Some 81% of the houses are now supplied from mains, including those mentioned in respect of Darrington. In a few cases taps are outside and in some cases serve two or more houses. A small number of other houses also have taps, supplied via mechanical pumps and overhead tanks, singly or in small groups.

A chemical analysis of a sample from one of these tanks showed it to contain a dangerous amount of zinc (Which is poisonous) apparently having been dissolved from the galvanised surface, a most unusual occurrence.

At Heck, which is dependent upon private wells, a water shortage developed, and investigation showed that several wells had dried and others were yielding inadequate supplies. The position was so serious that the Council arranged for an augmentation of the supplies by means of a portable tank, replenished weekly from the mains at Hensall. Efforts are being made for a mains supply to be provided in the village.

At the close of the year an investigation of the supplies at Balne was made, when shortage was found, chiefly at farms, of which there are a good number in the parish.

Representation from Birkin was also made as to shortage of water, and efforts are being made to establish mains supplies in both these parishes.

Twenty two samples of water from wells (mostly at Heck and Balne) were submitted for chemical analysis, 7 of which were unsatisfactory. Of 4 submitted for bacteriological examination (all from Heck) only 1 was satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

Although most of the villages have sewers in the sense that a conduit or channel receiving drainage from two or more houses is a sewer, few can be said to be properly sewered. Even fewer have satisfactory sewage disposal arrangements.

The common method, apart from the few recognised disposal plants, of discharging sewage into a dyke, even though in some cases it may first pass through a tank cannot be said to meet requirements, or be regarded as satisfactory.

Housing development will be hampered by the lack of adequate sewerage facilities and on this score as well as the need for this service for existing houses in many cases, further proper sewers and sewage disposal arrangements should be provided.

SCAVENGING

There was no expansion of the public scavenging service during the year. The Karrier Benton refuse vehicle continued in use throughout the year and again proved satisfactory. Experience shows that the one vehicle and team of men are barely equal to the work required, and interruption of work by sickness, holidays or other causes quickly disorganises routine and tends to set up arrears of work. It is hoped to manage this way however until times are more propitious when the whole position will need to be reviewed.

Conversions to W.C.s are more or less at a standstill pending a return to more normal conditions. Only 3 were made during the year and 2 other W.C.s. were added to existing sanitary accommodation. There were some conversions of privies to pail closets and some additional accommodation by means of the latter provided and the sanitary accommodation in the District now is approximately 758 water closets and 1,348 other type closets. There are about 630 dust bins.

SALVAGE

As time goes on work becomes more interlocked with scavenging, but public scavenging not being in operation throughout the District Salvage is treated as far as possible as a separate service.

There was not as much waste paper available as in the previous year but the County Book Drive in which the schools did such splendid work did much to make our total collection approach the amount collected the previous year. There was an increase in the total weight of material sold but the cash value was less by over £52. Haulage and labour costs increased, with the net result of a trading loss of over £34.

Against the trading loss, however, can be set a considerable service by way of refuse removal.

References to salvage are for the year ended 31st March, 1944 and the materials sold were:-

	tons.	Cts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper and cardboard	16	10	0	0
Textiles (Rags, old sacking, carpets, etc.)	2	9	3	0
Bones		13	2	0
Tins (nearly all flattened)	25	5	0	0
Other iron	11	15	1	0
Other metals		12	1	26
Rubber	1	13	2	9
Cullet (Broken bottle glass)	12	17	0	0
Glass bottles and jars		28	gross 2 doz.	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The 21 Scarlet Fever cases notified were 4 more than in the preceding year. The number has not varied much in recent years and is a fairly low incidence. The cases were spread throughout most of the year and were widespread throughout the District, the largest monthly number, 6, being in August. Of the 4 cases of Diphtheria notified one was subsequently found not to be Diphtheria. Two of the cases were in one family. This incidence is gratifyingly low. That there should be only one new case of Tuberculosis (a pulmonary case) is a specially welcome feature. Measles, which was not notifiable at the outbreak of this war, provides the greatest incidence of notifiable disease in the District as at present constituted, the number of cases notified being 193. The whole of the District was involved and the incidence occurred from January to May. Happily, there were no fatal cases. Of the 8 cases of Whooping Cough notified 4 occurred in one parish in July. Disinfection was carried out at 28 houses and one School. No school was closed on account of infectious disease.

SCABIES

Odd cases of scabies have been encountered in the District for some years, but since the outbreak of the present war have greatly increased, and some improved facilities on home treatment had become something of a necessity. The arrangements made at the Joint Isolation Hospital have proved welcome and beneficial and are certainly a worth while service, especially to those unfortunate enough to be afflicted and unable to effectively deal with it themselves.

The total number of cases notified was 61
 Children 42: treated at hospital 38
 Women 13: " " " 9
 Men 6: " " " 1

Children are treated at the expense of the County Council, as the Education Authority. The Rural District Council pay the charges for the treatment of adults.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

There has been no resumption of slaughtering in the District. The butchers businesses have been carried on satisfactorily and there has been no occasion to condemn any meat.

The only unfit food found (which was surrendered and destroyed) was found at grocers premises and consisted of 14lbs. of bacon, 3 tins of cooked meat (18 lbs.) 2 tins sausage meat, 3 tins of fruit, 4 tins of milk, 1 tin of jam and 246 eggs. There is only one bakehouse in the District; a small family business employing no outside help, the conduct of which is satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES

There have been a few changes in the Registers but the number of Registrations remains substantially the same.

There were 88 Producers registered, 42 wholesaling the milk, 20 carrying on retail business and the remainder just supplying neighbours or making butter. There were approximately 115 cowheads and 603 cows.

Two of the Producers have Accredited Licences, the milk being sold wholesale. One supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk in the District was again issued.

On the 210 visits paid to the premises it was found that general conditions continued very fair, in some cases being up to pre-war standard.

Such matters as delay in limewashing (or equivalent) of cowsheds and milk rooms, neglect of cleansing of milking stools, leaving milk uncovered in cowsheds, etc., are recurring lapses on the part of cowkeepers, etc., though quickly rectified on attention being drawn thereto. Structural work has again been difficult to get executed on account of the present circumstances of the building trade, but the following are some items which were carried out.

New cowshed with milk rooms and cooling equipment to take the place of unsatisfactory accommodation.

New cowshed, additional. (Two farms)

Reconstruction of cowshed floor, new window and general repairs.

Reconstruction of cowshed floors and of pavement outside cowshed, and improvement of drainage.

Additional window to improve lighting of cowshed.

Other work has had to stand over on account of building difficulties. The matter of milk cooling has not been altogether satisfactory. Producers who were ^{not} hitherto sending milk away, and some (with small numbers of cows) who had not been selling milk at all have been induced to send milk away wholesale. In some of these cases there has been no facility for cooling. Efforts have been made to get this position rectified, with some success. All but one of the larger dairies were cooling in accordance with requirements and pressure was brought to bear in this case but there was not enough water available to cool the amount of milk being produced and the herd was reduced to a number the milk from which could with some difficulty be cooled. The smaller dairies are also being brought into line with requirements. If powers had been given to Local Authorities which are proposed to be acquired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries many of these unsatisfactory conditions could have been obviated at the outset.

The mortuary at Brotherton has been called into use on various occasions for its normal function but fortunately has not had occasion for use in connection with civilian deaths due to war operations. Nor has the Emergency Mortuary at Whitley been used. In the incident at Darrington where an R.A.F. aeroplane crashed on to some houses, six of the crew and four civilians lost their lives and the bodies were taken to the Emergency Mortuary in Pontefract, good service being rendered by the Pontefract personnel.

Lack of assistance (my colleague being on active service with the Army) renders it necessary for me to spend much time on routine and other office work, and the more technical and field work suffers thereby. The undertaking of post-war development or other work will necessitate some assistance.

GORDON LEDWITH

Sanitary Inspector.