

**[Report 1946] / Medical Officer of Health, Osgoldcross R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Osgoldcross (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1946

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/mytj333w>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1946.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	33,970 acres
Population, mid-year, Registrar General's estimate	7,467
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1946	2,129
Rateable Value	£28,841
Product of ld. rate	£110

These figures show an increase of 441 in population and appear to indicate a return to more normal conditions and the return to the District of workers who have been away on National Service.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	83	61	144
Illegitimate	5	4	9
	88	65	153
	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 20.49

Still Births

Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births - 19.23

Rate per 1,000 population .4

Deaths.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All Causes.	45	36	81

Death Rate per 1,000 population 10.85

Puerperal Causes	0	0	0
Cancer	6	7	13
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diarrhoea			
(under 2 years)	1	0	1

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births 52

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 34.79

Illegitimate " " illegitimate " " 333.3

There were 8 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 3 of the infants being illegitimate.

The number of live births, the population number and the birth rate were all slightly higher than last year. The birth rate, 20.49, compares favourably with that for the whole country which is 19.1.

The death rate 10.85 is lower than last years figure of 12.52. It compares very favourably with that for the whole country which is 11.5.

Thirty deaths were at the <sup>age</sup> of 75 years or over, this being 37 per cent of the total number. Fourteen persons had reached the ages between 80 and 89 and one reached the age of 96.

The infantile death rate is 52. This is up on last years figure by 4, whereas that for the whole country is down by 3 to 46.

There was one death only from diarrhoea of children under 2 years old. Another satisfactory feature is that there were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other maternal causes.

Judged by the country as a whole these vital statistics can be regarded as satisfactory.

#### Principle Causes of Death.

Again Heart Disease accounted for the highest number of deaths, 23, nearly double the number of the previous year.

The next highest number was 13 for Cancer; the preceding years number was 22.

Bronchitis again accounted for 8, and 4 deaths were attributed to Pneumonia.

<u>Infectious Diseases.</u>	<u>No. of cases notified</u>	<u>No. of deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	4	0
Whooping Cough	32	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Measles	5	0
Pneumonia	12	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0
<u>Tuberculosis</u>		
Pulmonary	3	0
Other forms	1	0

The policy of immunisation against Diphtheria of children attending school was actively pursued. With the help of the school staffs sessions were organised at the schools for the purpose and I have attended at each school in the District to carry out the immunisation.

Immunisation, especially in respect of children under school age is



also carried out by private practitioners in their normal practices.

The number of children immunised during the year were:-

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-15 years.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
89	49	138

Children attending school who are now immunised vary from 86% to 100%, the average being 92% per school.

The consistently low incidence of Diphtheria appears to indicate good results of the immunisation policy.

#### SCABIES.

The arrangement for scabies cases to be treated at the Pontefract Joint Isolation Hospital continues but fortunately there was little call upon this service during the year. Further information on this subject will be found in the report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ledwith.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.


These are also dealt with along with other matters in Mr. Ledwith's report and there appears nothing which I can usefully add thereto.

I again thank you for your consideration shown to me during the year,

and am Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

J. KENNELLY,

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29938831>

OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1946.

NUISANCES.

Number of primary inspections		330
Number of cases in which nuisances found	313	
Number of cases outstanding 1945	<u>12</u>	
Cases to be dealt with		325
Abated 1946		<u>313</u>
Outstanding		12

Two statutory notices were served one of which was complied with, the necessary work in the other case being done by the Council in default of the owner.

The number relating to defective conditions at houses was 291.

HOUSING.

There has been little improvement in the general housing position. The shortage of materials and skilled labour generally in the building trade and Government restrictions on account thereof have militated against the progress in the construction of new houses or the raising of the standard of existing houses. Repair and, to a lesser extent, improvement work of urgent priority has been carried out at a number of houses but very few can be recorded as having been raised to the adopted standard.

I described in my last annual report some of the amenities lacking in many houses and it would appear that we cannot begin to deal with these until many additional houses are available and water and sewerage services have been provided on a more extensive scale.

There are a number of houses which have been provisionally classified as category 3, seriously defective, which it is feared will pass into category 5, unfit, when action comes to be taken but will have to carry on for the time being.

Action under Housing Acts and Regulations.

In continuance of the general survey 592 houses were inspected of which 28 were regarded as not working class. This brought the total inspected and recorded up to 1024, which have been provisionally classified as:-

Unfit	195
Seriously defective	296
Minor defects	121
Satisfactory	<u>412</u>
	1024

As to overcrowding, there are approximately 32 definite cases and 24 probable cases. There has therefore been an improvement in this respect since the original survey in 1936 when the number of cases was 94. The improvement is due largely to rehousing by the Council.



The average number of persons per house is 3.45, varying in the parishes from 2.85 at Darrington to 4.15 at Fairburn.

The average number per house in 1936 was 3.65 as far as I can now ascertain.

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

Houses examined for vermin	5
Houses inspected in connection with water supply, sanitary accommodation, etc.	66
Houses at which work required or undertaken	57
Houses at which work completed	47
No statutory notices were served.	

The number of new houses completed during the year was 17. The Council erected 8 (Swedish Timber) at Kellington and 9 were erected by private enterprise. Of the latter 6 were erected at Eggborough by an industrial firm, and a very interesting feature is the provision of a continuous hot water supply in each of the six houses from one boiler in an outhouse.

The Council had in progress at the end of the year 54 houses; 12 at Darrington, 12 at Monk Fryston and 20 at Whitley. A site for upward of 100 houses at Brotherton was being sought and provision for other parishes is to follow.

One of the houses completed by private enterprise was the adaption of an agricultural building which has made an excellent house, which to my mind is unusual in adapted buildings.

Fifteen houses were in progress by private enterprise and but for the government restrictions and building trade position there would doubtless have been more.

The number of houses in the District at the end of the year was 2129.

#### WATER.

The Council have given much time and consideration to the matter of extending the water supply to those parishes which have no mains supply and to outlying parts of parishes where existing mains do not reach. The possibility of doing much of this depends upon the grant which will be obtainable under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944. The Council's Consulting Engineers have been working upon schemes, and much correspondence has taken place between the Council, the County Council, their Engineers, the Ministry of Health and others. Frustration appears to be the outcome up to the present

time but it is hoped that definite progress will soon be made.

In the meantime there has been little alteration in the general situation .

The bulk of the supply continues to come from the Pontefract Corporation Water Works, and is distributed through the Rural District Council's mains to the Parishes of Beal, Brotherton, Burton Salmon, Cridling Stubbs, East Hardwick, Eggborough, Fairburn, Hensall, Hiliam, Kellington, Monk Fryston, Whitley and Womersley. Lack of adequate pressure at times at Fairburn continues and special care has to be taken in manipulating mains valves and the reservoir to ensure a continuous supply to all parts. Some needed improvement to the feed of the reservoir has been carried out.

The houses in Doncaster Road East Hardwick are supplied directly by the Hemsworth Rural District Council and the Pontefract Corporation supply various odd houses directly from their own mains.

The supply in all the foregoing cases have been satisfactory, in quality and, with slight qualification in respect of Fairburn, in quantity also.

Most of the houses in Darrington parish are supplied by the Council's own works which are situated in the parish. The water is gathered from springs to a collecting chamber from which it is pumped to a reservoir and thence gravitates through the mains. The pumps are driven by petrol engine necessitating full time attendance of a man and arrangements are in hand to change over to electric motive power automatically controlled. Part of the supply was found unsatisfactory in quality and was diverted from the collecting chamber while some structural improvements were effected. After a series of satisfactory samples had been obtained the water was again brought into use and is being specially watched. Otherwise the water has been satisfactory in quality and there has been no shortage.

There are a few houses with tap water not from public mains, but private power pumping arrangements for from one to fourteen houses. In these cases satisfactory quantity and quality have been maintained.

About fifteen per cent of the houses are served with private wells with hand pumps and there is considerable variation in quantity and quality. Some houses at Heck are still dependant upon the portable tank on account of the shortage from wells. In Balne and Birkin the situation remains unsatisfactory.



Six samples were submitted for analysis. Four from public supplies were satisfactory and two from private wells were unsatisfactory.

Twenty eight samples were bacteriologically examined. Twenty were satisfactory, two doubtful and five unsatisfactory. Four of the latter were from the Darrington Water Works, the water being diverted from the supply.

Extensions of mains were made to serve the Council houses erected at Kellington and the Council houses in course of erection at Whitley.

#### SEWERAGE.

With regard to sewerage and sewage disposal also the Council have given much time, consideration and effort to secure satisfactory arrangements for the whole District. As in the case of water supplies the Council's Engineers have been working out schemes and much negotiation has taken place but tangible results are still awaited. Here also the financial assistance obtainable under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944 largely will decide how far these much needed services can be developed.

The disposal works at Brotherton does not now produce a continuously satisfactory effluent. The matter of a new disposal works to take in also the adjoining parishes of Fairburn and Byram-cum-Sutton is being pressed forward and it is hoped that the scheme will soon be sanctioned.

At Brotherton a sewer under the railway line near the railway tunnel entrance was found to be defective and is to be repaired at a favourable time of the year.

Sewers have been provided at the Council's new housing schemes at Kellington and Whitley, and temporary tanks have been constructed pending the proposed development of sewerage and sewage disposal.

#### SCAVENGING.

The Council's scavenging service, which covered about half the District, continued normally throughout the year and no complaints were received.

The Council resolved that the service should be extended throughout the whole District in October and ordered a 3-ton motor vehicle for the purpose.

The vehicle, however was not delivered until the end of the year and the extension of the service had to be postponed to the new year.

The six privies at the Darrington School were converted to water closets and an additional one provided for the staff. Privies at three houses were converted to water closets and one was provided at another house. The Council made contributions towards the cost of conversions at the School and two houses. Water closets were provided at all the new houses.

At the end of the year there were in the District some 794 water closets, 1336 other types of closet, 657 dust bins and 707 middens.

#### SALVAGE.

The amount of material recovered from waste and sold is now very small. Special collections from the village depots had become uneconomic as saleable material was very sparse. Most of what was salvaged therefore was brought in by the refuse lorry.

The material sold was:-	T.	C.	Q.
Paper and Cardboard	3	5	0
Textiles (Rags & Old bagging)		19	2
Bones		1	2
Tins (flattened)	1	13	2
Other iron	2	17	0
Glass Bottles and jars.	4	4	0

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases must be the lowest recorded in the District, and the same remark applies to each kind of disease except Tuberculosis and Pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever cases number four, two of which were at Brotherton, one at Hillam and the other at Whitley.

There were again no cases of Diphtheria. The immunisation scheme would appear to be procuring good results.

There was a further drop in measles from 164 to 5. The cases were widespread.

Whooping Cough also fell from 55 to 32. Half of these occurred at Cridling Stubbs and 11 at Hillam and Monkfryston.

Four fresh cases of Tuberculosis were notified the same number as in the previous year. Two of the cases were in a family which had recently moved in from another district. The lungs were affected in each case.

Disinfection was carried out at four houses on account of Scarlet Fever these being the only cases calling for this service during the year.



SCABIES.

Trouble from Scabies has apparently died down considerably as only two cases were encountered during the year; a mother and daughter who were treated at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

As no alterations have been made in respect of the war time arrangements for centralised slaughter, no licenced or registered slaughterhouses were in use in the District. Butchers premises generally were satisfactory and no unsound meat was seen.

A beast slaughtered in emergency on a farm was found to be Tubercular and unfit for food and was disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

At a grocer's shop 30 lbs. of butter was found unfit and similarly disposed of.

At a buffer food depot  $9\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. raisins and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. flour were pronounced unfit and were suitably disposed of.

The ice cream made in the District has been done so under satisfactory conditions and no trouble in this respect is indicated. The few premises registered for the sale of ice cream were satisfactory. The sale of ice cream unwrapped from open vehicles receives much criticism nationally but there are arguments for as well as against this practice and it does not appear likely to be prohibited. The manner in which the sale is conducted appears to be the criterion and this is a point which the organised members of the trade are anxious shall be watched.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There were a few additional registrations as Milk Producers bringing the total to 90. Fifty are registered as Wholesale Traders, 27 as retailers, the remainder only selling small quantities locally or making butter and in some cases not having sold anything during the year.

The approximate number of cows concerned was 620 and the number of cowsheds 111.

There were also 3 Retailers who were not producers.

Of two producers of Accredited Milk one did not renew his Licence, leaving only the one in force. One Supplementary Licence for the sale of Pasteurised Milk was renewed.

One Dairy is building up a small herd of Tuberculin Tested cows and making structural improvements with a view to obtaining a Licence to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Three samples of the Accredited Milk were tested (Methylene Blue Test) the test being satisfactory in two cases.

Some 140 visits were paid to dairy premises. General conditions continued fairly satisfactory and on the whole showed some improvement on those obtaining during the later stages of the war. Occasions on which it was necessary to call attention to cows, milking stools or other matters not being clean were rather less than for several years and these matters were rectified on request.

Although structural improvement work still lags on account of the building trade position some progress was made. New cowsheds were adapted, or existing cowsheds, remodelled enlarged or otherwise substantially improved at 5 dairies; milk rooms for cooling adapted at 3 dairies; and coolers installed at 2 dairies.

Lack of suitable water supplies holds up cooling developments in a number of cases and it is feared that this difficulty will not be resolved until piped water supplies are made available.

Application for the registration of a farmstead as a dairy for the production of milk to be sold wholesale was made in the Autumn and although the premises were not considered satisfactory the terms of the milk and dairies legislation require that the premises be registered. The occupier is being pressed to carry out structural improvements and the matter is being watched.

#### FACTORIES.

There are 24 factories registered in the District. Mechanical power is used in 22 of them and the local authority therefore has no jurisdiction concerning the cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation or drainage of floors in these cases.

With regard to Sanitary conveniences, in one case separate accommodation for the sexes was not provided and in three cases the convenience was in an unsatisfactory condition. The separate accommodation has been provided and in two cases conditions have been rendered satisfactory, the third case being in hand at the end of the year.



In the three factories not using mechanical power general conditions were satisfactory. Two were very small domestic concerns and the normal domestic sanitary convenience met the needs. And in the other case the requisite provision was made.

My Clerical assistant Mr. N. Marson returned from Military service on August 26th, and after several years of intermittent help (a long period without help) his continuous and efficient services were much appreciated.

I had looked forward to having his services for two or three years and to making good progress with work. Mr. Marson, however, secured another appointment and left at the end of the year.

GORDON LEDWITH,

Sanitary Inspector.