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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR

1946.

TO

THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY

J.J. MURRAY, M.B., D.P.H.

(District Medical Officer of Health).

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VITAL STATISTICS.

| <u>BIRTHS.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate. | 142 | 110 | 252. |
| Illegitimate. | 9 | 12 | 21 |
| | 151 | 122 | 273. |

| <u>STILL-BIRTHS.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate. | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Illegitimate. | - | 2 | 2 |
| | 2 | 6 | 8 |

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population - 19.0

Still-Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 28.4

| <u>DEATHS.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | 91 | 97 | 188. |
| Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population | - | - | 13.1 |

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Rates per 1,000 total
(live and still) births.

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Puerperal Sepsis. | Nil. |
| Other Puerperal causes. | Nil. |
| Total. | Nil. |

| | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Deaths of Infants under one year. | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Deaths of Legitimate infants. | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Deaths of illegitimate infants. | - | 1 | 1 |

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

| | |
|--|------|
| All Infants per 1,000 live births. | 33. |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. | 31. |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. | 47.6 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Deaths from Cancer. | { all ages). | 26. |
| Deaths from Measles. | { All ages). | Nil. |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough. | { all ages). | Nil. |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea. | { under 2 years of age). | Nil. |

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:-

| | <u>England & Wales.</u> 1946. | <u>District.</u> 1946. | <u>District.</u> 1945. |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Birth Rate. | 19.1 | 19.0 | 20. |
| Death Rate. | 11.5 | 13.1 | 12. |
| Infant Mortality Rate. | 43. | 33.1 | 39. |

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

The following tables gives the causes of death during 1946:-

| <u>CAUSE OF DEATH.</u> | <u>MALES.</u> | <u>FEMALES.</u> | <u>TOTAL.</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers. | - | - | - |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever. | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever. | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough. | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria. | 1 | - | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis. | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Syphilitic Diseases. | - | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza. | - | - | - |
| Measles. | - | - | - |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis. | - | - | - |
| Acute Infectious Encephalitis. | - | - | - |
| Cancer. Malignant Disease. | 12 | 14 | 26 |
| Diabetes. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions. | 13 | 15 | 28 |
| Other diseases of Circulatory System. | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Heart Disease. | 26 | 38 | 64 |
| Bronchitis. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Pneumonia. | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Other Respiratory diseases. | - | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum. | - | - | - |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years. | - | - | - |
| Appendicitis. | - | - | - |
| Other digestive diseases. | 2 | - | 2 |
| Nephritis. | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Puerperal Sepsis &c. | - | - | - |
| Other Maternal causes. | - | - | - |
| Premature Birth. | - | 1 | 1 |
| Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Inf. Dis. | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Suicide. | - | - | - |
| Road Traffic Accidents. | 5 | - | 5 |
| Other violent causes. | 1 | - | 1 |
| All other causes. | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Totals. | 91 | 97 | 188. |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

General pooling of Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases in the County of Worcester is continued, and works satisfactorily. Cases other than Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are removed to hospitals outside the area of the local Joint Hospital Board owing to lack of cubicle accommodation, and to shortage of nursing staff.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supplies.

A total of 1,819 houses is supplied with piped water, derived from springs on the Bredon Hills. A supply to the village of Wyre from the gravel beds of the river Avon serves 75 houses and about 350 persons. The Bredon supply is chlorinated. An arrangement with the Cheltenham Corporation provides an additional supply amounting to about 80,000 gallons daily. 300 persons in about 95 houses are served by standpipes. This represents about 3% of the district population. There is no plumbo-solvency question, and monthly samples have been good.

About 2,320 dwellings - about 60% of the population are solely dependent on well water, a great deal of which is chemically unfit for drinking purposes. It is hoped to supply the great majority of these latter, with piped water obtained from the Coventry Corporation Scheme which will draw water from the River Severn.

Sewage Disposal.

The Consultant's report suggests small schemes to service particular selected areas, as a comprehensive plan is not considered suitable for the whole district.

Housing.

14 Council Houses have been built during the year, and septic tanks with land drainage have been provided for sewage disposal.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Duties under the Food and Drugs Act, 1928/38 are carried out by the Inspector of Weights and Measures. Samples have been taken in addition by the Sanitary Inspector.

No private slaughter houses are in use, all meat being inspected at the Central point in Evesham.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Diseases (other than tuberculosis) during the year 1946.

| <u>Diseases.</u> | <u>Total Cases Notified.</u> | <u>Admitted to Hospital.</u> | <u>Total Deaths.</u> |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever. | 2 | - | - |
| Diphtheria. | 8 | 8 | 1 |
| Pneumonia. | 1 | - | - |
| Measles. | 4 | - | - |

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1946.

| <u>AGE GROUPS.</u> | <u>SCARLET FEVER.</u> | <u>DIPHTHERIA.</u> | <u>PNEUMONIA.</u> | <u>MEASLES.</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Under 1 year. | - | 3 | - | - |
| 1 - 2 years. | - | - | - | - |
| 3 - 4 years. | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 5 - 10 years. | - | 2 | - | 3 |
| 11 - 15 years. | - | - | - | - |
| 16 - 20 years. | - | - | - | 1 |
| 21 - 35 years. | - | 1 | - | - |
| 36 - 45 years. | - | 1 | - | - |
| 46 - 65 years. | - | - | - | - |
| 66 and over. | - | - | - | - |
| Totals. | 1 | 8 | 1 | 4. |

SCARLET FEVER.

Only two cases were notified compared with 13 in 1945.

WHOOPING COUGH.

No notifications were received.

DIPHTHERIA.

Eight cases were notified, and in two instances the diagnosis was revised leaving a total of 6 cases. One death occurred in a male who came to his home on discharge from the Forces, having been ill for some days. He was not immunised. None of the other cases had been protected. Four cases in children under three occurred in a local Public Assistance Hospital, all of whom made good recoveries, the disease being of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the numbers immunised during the year.

| <u>Numbers Immunised.</u> | <u>Numbers Immunised</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| <u>0 - 4 inclusive.</u> | <u>5 - 14 inclusive.</u> | |
| 172. | 14. | 186. |

241 children in school were given re-inforcing doses during the year. A large number are also primarily immunised by private practitioners. It is estimated that about 75% of the child population between 1 - 14 has been immunised.

SCHOOLS.

No schools were closed during the year for infectious disease occurrences.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table includes notifications and deaths arising from this disease in 1946.

| <u>Age Periods.</u> | <u>NEW CASES.</u> | | | | <u>DEATHS.</u> | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | <u>Pulmonary.</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> | | <u>Pulmonary.</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary.</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> |
| Under 1 year. | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| 1 - 4 years. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 14 years. | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 24 years. | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - 34 years. | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 35 - 44 years. | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 45 - 54 years. | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 55 - 64 years. | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS. | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Number of deaths from tuberculosis - 6.

Number of tuberculosis notifications - 20.

It may be said that the health of the district is satisfactory. The infant mortality rate is lower than the previous year, and the incidence of infectious disease was much reduced. The housing programme is being carried out as quickly as conditions permit, and the inter-related problems of water supply and sewage disposal will, it is hoped, be solved in the future, given reasonable conditions.

J. J. MURRAY,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

