

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Ramsey U.D.C.

Contributors

Ramsey (England). Urban District Council.

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RAMSEY

Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR
1937.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report:—

Public Health Officers in the Area :

Medical Officer of Health : T. C. LEWIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector : V. J. BATEMAN, Assoc Royal
Sanitary Institute.

Both Offices are part-time Appointments.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15,980 acres, of which 13,720 are Fen Land. |
| Estimated Population (mid 1937) | ... | | | | | 5,135 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1937 | | | | | } | 1,440 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | | £16,098 |
| Value of Penny Rate (Net) | ... | ... | ... | ... | | £58 : 15 : 0. |

As the majority of the inhabitants are employed in Agriculture, there is no industry prejudicial to public health in the area.

Since the advent of the neighbouring Aerodrome, there has been very little unemployment in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | Total | Males | Females |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Live Births : | { Legitimate ... | 99 | 45 | 44 |
| | { Illegitimate ... | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| | Birth Rate for Ramsey ... | ... | ... | 19.5 per 1000 |
| | „ for England & Wales | | | 14.9 per 1000 |

| | | Total | Males | Females |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-------|---------|
| Still Births : | { Legitimate ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | { Illegitimate ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Rate per 1,000 Total Births ... | ... | ... | 18.8 |
| | Rate per 1,000 Population Ramsey ... | | | 0.38 |
| | Rate per 1,000 Population England & Wales | | | 0.60 |

| | Total | Males | Females |
|---|-------|-------|---------------|
| Deaths : | 66 | 27 | 39 |
| Death Rate for Ramsey (adjusted) | | | 12.2 per 1000 |
| „ England and Wales | | | 12.4 per 1000 |
| Deaths from Diseases of } from Sepsis | | | 0 |
| Pregnancy and Childbirth } „ Other Causes | | | 0 |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Total Deaths | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births Ramsey | ... | | | | 66.0 |
| „ „ England and Wales | ... | | | | 58.0 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births | ... | ... | ... | } | 58.6 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births... | ... | ... | ... | } | 7.4 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | | 0 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |
| Deaths from Cancer | ... | ... | ... | | 10 |

Of the seven deaths under one year of age, two had congenital defects, two died of Broncho-Pneumonia, one of Meningitis, one of Diarrhoea and one at Hospital from Intestinal Hæmorrhage.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Nursing in the Home.—(a) Three District Nurses, who are qualified Midwives, are supplied by the Ramsey Nursing Association, which is a purely voluntary body. These Nurses also act as Health Visitors, and attend School Inspections. A qualified Nurse is also available for attending Septic Cases, which are not undertaken by the District Nurses whilst on Maternity work.

(b) Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are usually sent to the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital. Other Infectious Diseases are nursed at home.

Laboratory Facilities.—Tuberculous Investigations are carried out by the County Medical Officer and all Pathological Examinations by the Clinical Research Association. Water Analyses are performed by the Public Analyst at Cambridge.

Legislation in Force :

- Bye-Laws.**—1. Nuisances, 1918.
2. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1936.
3. Slaughter Houses, 1916.
4. Common Lodging Houses.

Hospitals.

The local Scarlet Fever and Small Pox Hospitals have been closed and accommodation is now obtained at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital under a joint scheme.

General Hospitals.

- 1.—The County Hospital, Huntingdon.
- 2.—The Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
- 3.—Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Arrangements are quite satisfactory for the District.

Ambulances.

- 1.—One Motor Ambulance at Huntingdon.
- 2.—One Motor Ambulance at Peterborough.
- 3.—One Infectious Disease Ambulance at Huntingdon.
- 4.—One Voluntary Ambulance at Whittlesey.

Clinics.

The Infant Welfare Clinic has been taken over by the County Medical Officer, who also holds a Monthly Clinic in the Town.

All cases of Venereal Disease are recommended to attend the Peterborough Clinic.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

WATER.

1. (a)—There is, as yet, no definite Water Supply. All Water used for drinking purposes is obtained from Storage Tanks, Pumps, Wells and Dykes. Analyses show that it is unfit for drinking unless it is first boiled.

A plentiful supply of good water will be definitely available to the whole area, except the outlying Fen districts, in April 1938.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(b)—Septic Tanks deal with all Sewerage before it empties into the River. All Refuse is disposed of by a Controlled Tipping System which is working very successfully.

With the advent of the Water Supply, a more complete Sewerage System will have to be considered.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

2. There is no pollution of Rivers and Streams in the Area.

GENERAL SANITARY REPORT.

3. (a)—Closet Accommodation.—9 new Water Closets were provided and 1 Pail Closet was converted W.C.'s.

(b)—Public Cleansing.—Dry House Refuse is collected in covered carts and disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Refuse from Earth Closets and Privies is collected at night by carts and is eventually used as manure.

Cesspools are emptied in the same way and the refuse spread on the land. No pumps are used.

SCHOOLS.

- 4.—There are seven Schools in the district, and Sanitary Conditions are satisfactory. Disinfection of Classrooms after Cases of Infectious Disease is carried out immediately by the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | (a) | Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Act) | ... | ... | 152 |
| | (b) | Number of Inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | 560 |
| 2. | (a) | Number of Houses included under (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 | ... | ... | 83 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | 170 |
| 3. | | Number of Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... | ... | ... | 33 |
| 4. | | Number of Houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | 3 |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 2. | Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
|----|---|-----|-----|-----|---|

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

| | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| A. | Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of Housing Act, 1930 | | | | |
| 1. | Number of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| 2. | Number of Houses rendered fit after service of formal notices | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| | (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owner | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| B. | Proceedings under Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| C. | Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 | |
| 1. | Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 19 |
| 2. | Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 26 |
| D. | Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 | 0 |
| 4. | Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding. | |
| (a) | 1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 20 |
| | 2. Number of Families dwelling therein ... | 20 |
| | 3. Number of Persons living therein | 132 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported | — |
| (c) | 1. Number of cases of overcrowding during the year | — |
| | 2. Number of Persons concerned in such cases | — |
| (d) | Any cases recorded after abatement ... | — |
| (e) | Any other particulars | — |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- 1. Milk Supply.**—There are 11 Cowkeepers in the Area and 25 inspections were made. Conditions remain satisfactory.
- 2. Meat and Other Food.**
 - (a) **Meat.**—There are 6 Slaughter Houses in the area. They were inspected 72 times, and found to be properly conducted.
 - (b) **Bakehouses.**—In the 8 regularly inspected, conditions were found to be satisfactory.
- 3. Adulteration**—No action was taken by the Local Authority
- 4. Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food.**—
No action was taken by the Local Authority.
- 5. Nutrition.**—No special work was done on this subject.

(c) Sanitary Inspector's Report.

| | | | | |
|--|------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Total Number of Inspections made | ... | ... | ... | 672 |
| Total Number of Notices served : | | Informal | 9 | 9 |
| | | Statutory | — | |
| Complaints received | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| | Number | | Nuisances | |
| Premises, Houses, etc. | Inspected | 560 | Abated | 37 |
| Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse | " | — | " | — |
| Animals improperly kept | " | 2 | " | 2 |
| Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit | " | 18 | " | 18 |
| Drain, drain-traps, etc., etc | " | 25 | " | 6 |
| House, or part thereof, over-crowded | " | 16 | " | 2 |
| Smoke Nuisances | " | — | " | — |
| Offensive Accumulations | " | — | " | — |
| | Registered | | Inspections | |
| Lodging Houses | " | — | " | — |
| Slaughter Houses, Number | } | 6 | " | 24 |
| Licensed or Registered | | | | |
| Offensive Trades Sec. 112) | | | | |
| Public Health Act, 1875 | } | — | " | — |
| Number Established | | | | |
| Canal Boat, Registered | " | — | " | — |
| Number with Infectious Diseases on Board | " | — | " | — |
| Housing Act, 1936 | } | No. of houses condemned | | 19 |
| | | " Closed... | | — |
| | | " Cleaned & limewashed | | — |
| Food-Seizures of unwholesome | } | Number of... | | — |
| | | Houses affected with | | 8 |
| | | House inspected | | 8 |
| | } | No. of inspections... | | 8 |
| Infectious Diseases | | Houses disinfected | | 8 |
| | | Schools | | 1 |
| | | Disinfectant used | | 502 |
| | | Lots clothing disinfected | | — |
| | | Lots clothing destroyed... | | — |
| | | New provided | | — |
| Privy Middens... | } | No. repaired | | — |
| | | No. converted to pails | | 1 |
| | | No. converted to W.C.'s... | | 0 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|----|
| Pail or Earth Closets ... | { | New provided ... | 10 |
| | | No. converted to W.C.'s | 0 |
| Water Closets ... | { | New provided ... | 9 |
| | | No. supplied with water | 9 |
| Ashpits ... | { | New provided ... | — |
| | | No. converted to Ashbins | 1 |
| Ashbins ... | | New provided ... | 10 |
| Water Supply ... | { | Samples taken for analysis | — |
| | | Samples condemned ... | — |
| | | Wells closed ... | — |
| | | Wells cleansed, repaired | — |
| | | Public Supply substituted for well or pond ... | — |
| | | Cisterns cleaned, repaired covered ... | — |
| | | Waste pipes disconnected from drain ... | — |
| Housing, etc., Act, 1909 | { | No. of Houses closed ... | — |
| | | No. made habitable ... | — |
| | | No. demolished ... | — |
| Building Bye-laws adopted ... | | | — |
| Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> | { | | |
| Summonses, &c. ... | | | — |
| Convictions. ... | | | — |

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|----|
| Workshops ... | { | Total number on register (including bakehouses) | 92 |
| | | No. in which nuisances abated ... | — |
| Bakehouses ... | { | No. on Register ... | 8 |
| | | No. in which nuisance abated ... | — |
| Home Work ... | { | No. of outworkers ... | — |
| | | No. of houses ... | — |
| | | No. of infected houses ... | — |
| Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> | { | | |
| Summonses, etc., ... | | | — |
| Convictions ... | | | — |

(d) **Smoke Abatement**,—No action necessary.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases in the Area was again low.

There were 7 cases of Scarlet Fever : equivalent to 1.36 per 1,000 of the population, that of England and Wales being 2.33 per 1,000

There were 4 cases of Diptheria, giving a case rate of 0.78 per 1,000 as against 1.49 per 1,000 in England and Wales.

There were no cases of Small Pox, Typhoid Fever or Erysipelas notified.

Fourteen Cases of Pneumonia were notified of which three proved fatal.

A fairly widespread epidemic of Whooping Cough occurred during the winter—there was one death.

One Case of Puerperal Fever occurred during the year. It was not fatal.

There were four positive results from Throat Swabs.

Cancer.—The Death Rate from Cancer was higher than that of last year. One in seven of the total deaths were caused by this disease.

Blindness.—Chronic cases are looked after by the Hunts Society for the Blind. Other cases of Eye Disease are attended to at Peterborough by arrangement with the County Medical Officer.

Tuberculosis.—All cases are referred to the County Medical Officer.

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis).

| Disease. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Small Pox | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever... .. | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 14 | 0 | 3 |
| Erysipelas | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Tuberculosis.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---|------------------|---|-----------|---|------------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 65* | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

Ramsey Urban District.
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year, 1937.

| 1 | At all Ages. 2 | Under 1 Year 3 | 1 and under 2 4 | 2 and under 5 5 | 5 and under 15 6 | 15 and under 25 7 | 25 and under 45 8 | 45 and under 65 9 | 65 and upwards 10 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ALL CAUSES. | 66 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 30 |
| Enteric Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Smallpox | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| General Paralysis of the Insane | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Influenza | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Enccephalitis lethargica ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal Meningitis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cancer, malignant disease ... | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 7 |
| Rheumatic Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diabetes | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Heart Disease | 20 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 6 | 12 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Bronchitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia (all forms)... .. | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diarrhœa etc. (under 2 years) | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Appendicitis | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Other Digestive Diseases ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Senility | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth... | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Suicide | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Other Deaths from violence ... | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Other Defined Diseases ... | 6 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Special Causes including above | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Poliomyelitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Polioencephalitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 66 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 30 |

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

T. C. LEWIS, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health

Ramsey :
PALMER & SON,
The Eagle Printing Works.
