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RAMSEY

Urban District Council.




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



UPON THE
SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1949





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TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

H. PATTINSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR (PART TIME)

V. J. BATEMAN, A.R.San.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1949)	...					5,720
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1949					}	1,660
Rateable Value	...	...	...			£21,099
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...			£87 : 18 : 3

The social conditions of the District remain substantially the same as in previous years. Within the national limitations, housing progress has been steady, but quite inadequate even to satisfy the needs of the many newly-married couples living with their parents, apart from the greater number living in delapidated property incapable of repair.

The year was also notable for a severe water shortage. Admittedly the rainfall over the preceding months had been abnormally low, but in view of the increased future needs of housing and agriculture and the desirability of the provision of swimming pools in the neighbourhood, the present supply to the Urban District will become inadequate to meet the needs during even an average summer.

It will be seen that in regard to these 2 basic necessities there is great scope for extension and it can only be hoped that economic factors will allow an early improvement to take place.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population	18.2
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Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births	37.0
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Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population	11.9
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total	}	9.3
(live and still) births		

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	9.6
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Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 10.2

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	II
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Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... NilDeaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... Nil

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Std'izd Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Ramsey U. D. ...	18.2	0.70	11.9	11.7	9.6
England & Wales ...	16.7	0.39	11.7	11.7	32.0

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

						M.	F.	Total
Causes of Death.						40	28	68
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...				-	-	-
2.	Cerebro spinal fever	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Whooping cough	...	...			-	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...		-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...				1	-	1
7.	Other form of tuberculosis	...	...			-	-	-
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...		-	-	-
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
11.	Ac. Polio. myel and polio enceph	...				-	-	-
12.	Ac. inf. encephalitis	...	...	...		-	-	-
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. & oesph & uterus...					2	-	2
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...				2	2	4
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites...	...	...	...		3	1	4
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
18.	Intra; cran vasc. lesions	...	...			6	3	9
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	6	16
20.	Other diseases of the circul. system	...				2	4	6
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...			-	1	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...				-	-	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...		-	-	-
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...			-	-	-
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
29.	Puerperal and post abort. sepsis	...				-	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...		-	1	1
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
32.	Con. mal; birth inj; infant dis	...				1	1	2
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...		2	-	2
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...		1	1	2
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	5	3	8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances are provided by the Huntingdon County Council from their depot at Huntingdon. For non-emergency cases there is still an available ambulance stationed at Ramsey.

(c) Nursing in the Home :

Nursing in the home is carried out by three qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres :

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Wesleyan School-room on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic
(Minor Ailment)

Ramsey Town C. P. School
3rd Thursday of the month
10—12 noon

Dental Clinic	The Wesleyan Schoolroom 2nd and last Wednesday of the month. 2—4 p.m.
Eyes	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, by Appointment
Tuberculosis	High Street, Old Fletton By Appointment.
Orthopædic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough Every Monday, 2.15 p.m. By Appointment.
Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.
Venereal Diseases	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough Mixed Session—Wed., 4 - 6 p.m.
Women Only	Fridays — 10—12 noon. New cases and special treatment only, Mondays — 10—12 noon.
Men Only	Friday — 4—6 p.m. New cases and special treatment only, Mondays — 4—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals :

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Disease at Huntingdon
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital services in the district.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity cases at the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The routine visits of inspection in connection with this work have been carried out as in past years,

HOUSING.

During the year the Council completed 32 permanent houses. Four houses were completed by private enterprise. The standard of the new Council houses has been kept at a high level, but the number still required is considerable if all persons living in unfit houses are to be re-housed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Comprehensive water-carriage sewage disposal works are as far off as ever, but the sewage disposal position for those houses without water-carriage has been improved by the employment of a contractor using a modern motor vehicle. The long term position is, however, bound to deteriorate each year as new building progresses and the present septic tanks become more overloaded.

WATER.

Samples from the water supply are taken regularly and forwarded to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological analysis. Apart from temporary difficulties with the mains to new houses samples have been satisfactory in all respects.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending
31st December, 1949.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	...	...	20
Abated as a result of Statutory action	...	...	Nil

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	27	42
Overcrowding	4	4
Foul ditches etc.	2	3
Drains	12	14
Animals	Nil	Nil
Dampness	5	5
Disinfestation	4	4

Closets :

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	690
" " " " " Pail Closets	946
" " " " " Privy Vaults	31
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	...
No. of Pail Closets newly constructed for old property	6

Cesspools :

No. of new cesspools provided	...	...	3
No. of cesspools emptied by L.S.A.	...	...	36
No. of cesspools emptied privately	...	...	Nil

Housing :

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :			
1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	12
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	16
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	4
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	Nil
Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices			
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	3

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	1

Milk Supply :

No. of Registered Cowkeepers	...	...	4
No. of Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	...	...	12
No. of Retailers' Premises inspected	...	...	4

Disinfection :

Cases of Infectious Disease reported	...	...	6
No. of Inspections	...	...	9
Rooms disinfected	...	...	6
No. of Schools disinfected	...	...	Nil

Meat Inspection :

No. of slaughter houses on Register	...	...	6
No. of inspections	...	...	6
No. of visits for the inspection of meat	...	...	8

Water Supply :

Samples taken for analysis	...	...	36
Samples unsatisfactory	...	...	5
Wells closed	...	...	Nil
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	Nil
New Wells sunk	...	...	Nil
Ashbins: New provided	...	...	36
Offensive Trades: No. Registered	...	...	Nil

Shops and Offices :

No. of Shops inspected	...	...	4
No. requiring additional heating	...	...	Nil
No. requiring additional ventilation	...	...	Nil
No. requiring additional sanitary conveniences	...	...	Nil

Factory and Workshop Act, 1937.

Factories	...	Total number on register including bakehouses	29
		No. in which nuisances abated	1
Bakehouses	...	No. on register	6
		Nuisances abated	Nil
Home work	...	No. of outworkers	Nil
Legal proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	...	Nil

V. J. BATEMAN, *Sanitary Inspector*

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1949.

[illegible]

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A very satisfactory year. There were no cases of Poliomyelitis, although one child from an adjoining district who attended Ramsey Grammar School suffered from a fatal attack which necessitated the temporary closure of the School.

The absence of Whooping Cough was a welcome feature.



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population :-

Under 5 Years.

Between 5—15 Years

Number Immunised	Estimated Population	Number Immunised	Estimated Population
244	543	654	889

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the Compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. PATTINSON,

Medical Officer of Health

