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**RAMSEY**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

UPON THE  
SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT  
DURING THE YEAR 1952.





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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, 1952.

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STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR (PART TIME)

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

Resigned 17th May, 1952.

J. R. TANNER, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Commenced 5th May, 1952.



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	... ..	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1952)	...	5,655
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1952	}	1,735
Rateable Value	... ..	£21,611
Value of Penny Rate	... ..	£90 : 0 : 11

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The health of the district remains good and examination of the vital statistics reveal no disturbing features. The estimated mid-year population shows a slight fall on the previous year, but this year's figure is more accurate, based as it is on the 1951 Census returns.

The birth rate remains high, whilst the death rate shows a substantial fall. The Infantile Mortality rate is "satisfactory," however, I have again published a Table giving actual numbers of infant deaths and rates for the past 5 years, which emphasises more clearly than anything else that when dealing with such small numbers rates are statistically meaningless.

For yet another year there was no case of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria. In the case of the former disease we have at present little or no means of control at our disposal, and we can hardly expect our good fortune to continue indefinitely. However, in the case of Diphtheria we have a simple, harmless and effective preventive measure—immunisation of all children—and I make no apology for appealing to all parents to ensure that their children are immunised as early as possible, and at any rate before the age of 12 months. A "booster" dose, too, is necessary before or on starting school.

Social conditions show little change and show little likelihood of so doing in the foreseeable future. The district is almost entirely devoted to agriculture, and much of the land is unsuitable for housing development without costly preliminary works.

The number of houses completed during the year is again slightly fewer than had been hoped for, and the task of providing homes is one to which the Council will have to continue to give a great deal of attention during the coming years.

A high proportion of houses in the district are old, many of these are incapable of repair at reasonable expense, and of the remainder the difficulty of getting necessary repairs effected considerably increases their rate of deterioration to the stage when they become incapable of repair.

The sewerage system in the town is very unsatisfactory and virtually non-existent in the outlying parts of the district. This is already one of the factors which is hindering development apart from the increasing number of complaints for which only a comprehensive sewerage system provides the remedy.

The water supply to the district is, apart from its rather hard character, satisfactory as regards quality, but the shortage at the source of supply has given rise to certain necessary restrictions in consumption, and this is a matter to which the attention of the Joint Water Board has been directed, and for which plans to improve the position are now being considered.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Members of the Council and their officers for their kindness to me in helping to make my task a pleasant one.



## VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population ... .. 19.1

### Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births ... .. 27.0

### Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population ... .. 9.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total }  
(live and still) births ... .. } Nil

### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... .. 27.8

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 29.1

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Actual No. of Deaths	5	3	1	2	7	3
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	33.8	25.0	9.6	21.5	62.5	27.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... .. 11

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... .. Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths 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. ...	19.1	0.53	9.5	9.2	27.8
England & Wales ...	15.3	0.35	11.3	11.3	27.6



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

<b>Causes of Death.</b>	<b>M.</b>	<b>F.</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>54</b>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough ... ..	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	-	-	-
8. Measles ... ..	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	1	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	1	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... ..	-	-	-
16. Diabetes ... ..	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	1	3	4
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	4	2	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	-	1	1
20. Other heart disease ... ..	5	10	15
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	-	-	-
22. Influenza ... ..	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia ... ..	1	3	4
24. Bronchitis ... ..	2	1	3
25. Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	-	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	-	1
34. All other accidents ... ..	-	-	-
35. Suicide ... ..	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of War ...	-	-	-

# 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 Health Clinic on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic  
(Minor Ailment)

Health Clinic 3rd Thursday  
of the month, 10—12 noon



Ante-Natal	The Health Clinic Every Tuesday — 2—4 p.m.
Dental Clinic	The Health Clinic 2nd Wednesday of the month 2—4 p.m.
Eyes	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton By Appointment
Tuberculosis	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough Every Monday — 2—4 p.m. 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
Women Only	Fridays — 10.30—12 noon. Wednesdays — 5.30—7 p.m
Men Only	Mondays — 5.30—7 p.m. Thursdays — 5.30—7 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.

## TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1952, my first report since taking up office on 5th May, 1952.

### **Housing :**

#### **Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :**

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	24
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	28
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	11

#### **Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :**

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	7
--	---

#### **Action under Statutory Powers :**

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered so fit after service of formal notice ... ..	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil

### **New Housing :**

During the year the Council completed 20 permanent houses and eight were erected by private enterprise. This figure will have to be increased considerably before any real effort can be made to deal with the large number of unfit houses in the district and the cases of overcrowding. A detailed housing survey will have to be made.



**Nuisances :**

Abated as a result of informal action ... .. 25

Abated as a result of statutory action ... .. Nil

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	11	15
Overcrowding	1	1
Smoke pollution	—	—
Accumulation of Refuse	5	7
Foul ditches, etc.	1	1
Drains	9	14
Animals	1	2
Dampness	2	2
Disinfestation	3	3

Slaughter Houses No. licensed 6

No. of inspections 6

**Inspections and Visits (from 5th May, 1952) :**

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	31
Public Lavatories	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	45
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fish Premises	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sausage Premises	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	27
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	215
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	45
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	8
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	73
Housing Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	85
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	19
King George Playing Field	...	...	...	...	...	17
Highways	...	...	...	...	...	36
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	6
Militia Camp	...	...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	15

**Closets :**

No. of houses at the end of the year with w.c.'s	...	...	780
" " " Pail Closets	...	...	929
" " " Privy Vaults	...	...	25
No. of w.c.'s constructed during the year for new houses			28
No. of w.c.'s newly constructed for old property	...	...	5
No. of Privies converted to Pail Closets	...	...	1

**Milk Supply :**

No. of Retailers' premises inspected	...	...	...	1
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Three Milk Distributors are registered and three Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk were granted during the year.

**Water Supply :**

Samples from the water supply are taken at weekly intervals and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough. Only one sample was unsatisfactory and a repeat one taken soon afterwards proved to be satisfactory. The majority of the district is covered by the main supply, and standpipes provided for isolated properties. Two main extensions are being considered, but these have been held in abeyance until such time as the supply position has improved.

No. of Samples taken from the main piped supply	...	...	...	26
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**Drainage and Sewerage :**

The sewerage scheme in the town is very unsatisfactory, and there is no doubt that an up-to-date system is an absolute necessity, warranted as it is by the complaints that arise, both from defective drainage and the lack of it. In addition, the twice weekly collection of night soil in the town, a system full of complaints and difficulties, emphasises the need for a water carriage system.

**Factories Act, 1937.**

Total No. of Factories (including Bakehouses)	...	...	...	21
No. of inspections	...	...	...	8
No. in which nuisances abated	...	...	...	3

**Meat and Food Inspection :**

Routine inspections in connection with this work are carried out and occasional emergency slaughter takes place at the local slaughter-houses. Regular slaughter of food animals for the district is carried out at St. Ives.



### **Refuse Collection :**

The refuse collection scheme for the town, with labour on a contract basis, and collections at weekly intervals, continue to run smoothly. All bins are collected from the rear of the premises and the refuse is satisfactorily disposed of at the controlled tip at Stocking Fen. Practically the whole of the finished surface of the tip is now under cultivation.

Collections in the outside areas are carried out by contract on a fortnightly basis and all refuse brought to the one tip at Stocking Fen.

### **Moveable Dwellings :**

During the year 10 licences were granted to erect, station and use moveable dwellings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. All dwellings are inspected from time to time to ensure that the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council for their support, the Medical Officer of Health for his assistance and interest, and the Staff and workmen for their co-operation.

J. R. TANNER,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

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## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

During the year there was a sharp outbreak of Measles which spread to all parts of the district. Cases were however for the most part mild, and there were no deaths.





## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
<b>TOTAL :—</b>	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

**F. D. F. STEEDE,**

*Medical Officer of Health*









