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Contributors

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ROTHBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1956



Richard Short, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Ed.,
L.R.F.P.S(G), D.P.H.,
Area Executive Medical Officer,
Area Health Office,
Wagonway Road,
ALDWICK.

J.M. Oliver, M.S.I.A.,
Surveyor/Sanitary Inspector,
Council Offices,
ROTHBURY.



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1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Rothbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1956.

The estimated population has remained stationary at 5,560, although births exceeded deaths by 17.

The birth rate is almost equal to the National Rate of 15.7 per 1,000 live births. It is pleasing to report that there were no still-births and the infant mortality rate was only 11.3 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 25.7 for the country as a whole.

The death rate remained slightly above the National Rate and has not altered much over the last forty years.

Cancer caused 5 deaths or 7% of all deaths, and one cancer death was due to lung cancer. Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system totalled 41 and this represented 57% of the deaths.

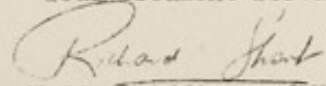
There was a small outbreak of measles, 17 cases compared with 63 in the previous year. One case of tuberculosis was notified and two deaths were due to respiratory tuberculosis.

A start was made with the poliomyelitis vaccinations, and children between the ages of 2 - 9 years who were born in March and November were vaccinated. A total of 18 children were vaccinated by me in the Rothbury Jubilee Hall, and transport had to be provided for those children who lived in isolated places.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Housing and Sanitation Committee for the interest they have shown and also to record my appreciation of the help I have received from the Clerk and Mr. J. Oliver, Surveyor/Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,


Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 167,186 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 1988.

The rateable value is £58,670 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £247.

The estimated mid-year population is 5,560 and this figure is taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	42	44	86
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Totals	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>86</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population 15.82

Still Births

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of total live and stillbirths NIL

Death rate of Infants under one year

All infants (per 1,000 live births)	11.36
Legitimate Infants (per 1,000 leg. live births)	11.62
Illegitimate Infants	NIL

Deaths from Measles	NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough	NIL
Deaths from Diarrhoea	NIL

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	40	31	71

Death rate per 1,000 of the population	12.76
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	NIL
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes	NIL
Deaths from Cancer	5

Table 1.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-
" " Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	1	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	4	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	9	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	3	3
Other Heart Disease	6	3	9
Other Circulatory Disease	3	2	5
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other disease of the Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	-	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>40</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>71</u>

Table 2.

INFANT MORTALITYDuring the year ended 31st December 1956

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>
Prematurity	5 hours	Coquetdale Cottage Hospital, Rothbury.

Table 3.INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	15
Measles	17
Pneumonia	9
Diphtheria	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Dysentery	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	1
Food Poisoning	-

Table 4.TUBERCULOSISRespiratory

1 Female aged 21 years

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1956

WATER SUPPLY

The Council supply the following villages with water, Rothbury, Thropton, Longframlington, Elsdon, Harbottle, Alwinton, Whittingham, and the houses at Thrunton Brickworks. The supplies were maintained throughout the year. Very big floods were experienced in September and the water main was broken where it crossed the Alwin. A temporary polythene pipe was slung under the bridge until a permanent repair was possible.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

There has been no change during the year. Longframlington and Whittingham villages continue polluting the water courses.

HOUSING

The Council now own 242 houses, of which 190 have been built since 1945 including 10 this year. A further 12 are contemplated for Longframlington.

Four houses were built during the year by private persons.

No houses were included in Clearance Areas. Two unfit houses were closed. 37 unfit houses were made fit as a result of informal action by the Council.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 40 applications were received of which 39 were approved, and the average grant per house £193. 168 houses have been improved since the inception of the scheme.

FOOD

There are three privately owned slaughterhouses in our district. It is impossible to carry out a complete inspection of all animals slaughtered.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation during the year. The number of food premises in the area is 55 divided as follows:-

Hotels and Public Houses	19
Butchers	4
Fish and Chip Shops	2
Fish Shops	1
Cafés	5
Grocers	12
Bakeries	2
General Dealers and Fruiterers	8
Dairies	2

In addition we have 7 schools, 3 hospitals and 1 hostel.

Leaflets were distributed to the above, and subsequent visiting to iron out difficulties.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Council remove refuse from the following Parishes, Rothbury, Thropton, Hesleyhurst, Longframlington, Whittingham and part of Cartington (this by private arrangement). In addition the Council engage a private contractor for the Parish of Harbottle. This leaves only the outlying farms etc. that are not covered by a scavenging service. No salvage is collected.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGES BY PESTS ACT 1949					
	Type of Property Non-Agricultural				Agri- cultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3.	
I Number of properties in district	9	1781	118	1908	241
II Number of properties as a result of:-					
(a) Notifications	-	9	4	13	-
(b) Survey under the Act.	9	23	-	32	1
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.)	-	-	19	19	-
III Total inspections carried out including re-inspections.	17	36	105	158	-
IV Number of properties inspected (in Sec.2) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	4	10	4	18	-
(b) Mice	-	-	-	-	-
V Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by L.A.	4	10	4	18	-
VI Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	9	15	5	29	-

The "twice yearly" treatment of sewers was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. No new areas of infestation were found.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & 1948Part 1 of the Act1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	16	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	-	-
T O T A L	22	20	-	-

2. CASES in which defects were found - None.

