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Contributors

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st. December, 1947.

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year ending 31st. DECEMBER, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to submit my Annual Report which covers the period 1st. January to 31st. December, 1947.

This is a summary of the conditions affecting the health of the district.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector for his help during the year and in the preparation of this Report.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	1626
Residential Population (Registrar General's figure)	4280
Number of Inhabited Houses	1297
Rateable Value	£27,141
Sum represented by a penny rate	£105-17-0

Vital Statistics

Births.

Legitimate	- Male,	43,	Female,	38;)	Total 89.
Illegitimate	- Male,	3,	Female,	5;)	Birthrate 20.79.

Birthrate for England & Wales 20.5

Deaths.

Male, 35. Female, 31. Total 66. Deathrate 15.42.

Death-rate for England & Wales 12.0

Still Births.

Legitimate	- Male,	0;	Female,	1)	Total 1.
Illegitimate	- Male,	0;	Female,	0)	Still Birth-rate 0.23

Still Birth-rate for England & Wales 0.50

Infant Mortality.

Legitimate	- Male,	0;	Female,	0;)	Total 0
Illegitimate	- Male,	0;	Female,	0;)	Rate per 1000 live births 0.0

Infant Mortality rate for England & Wales 43

Infectious Diseases.

The following cases were notified:-

Measles	63
Whooping Cough	63

The principal causes of death were:-

Disease of Circulatory System ...	20
" " Pulmonary System	7
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	2
Malignant Disease	11

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications of Tuberculosis for the year 1947.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35								
45								
55	1				2			
65 and upwards								
	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

It will be noted that no case of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria occurred and that there was no infantile death.

The birth rate is the highest for many years and is above that of the county generally.

The epidemic of measles and whooping cough spoil an otherwise good health record.

Water Supply.

The whole of the district is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company, by a piped supply of excellent quality.

No shortage was experienced during the year.

4 bacteriological examinations were made during the year.

Chemical Analysis is as follows:-

Physical Examination

Appearance	Clear
Colour	None
Odour	None

Chemical Analysis (expressed in parts per 100,000)

Suspended Solids	Nil.
Dissolved Solids	37.72
Chloride (as Cl2	1.4
Free Ammonia	0.009
Albuminoid Ammonia...	0.0045
Nitrate (as N2)	0.43
Nitrate	very faint trace.
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80° F.)	0.0096 (N/80)
pH value	7.2
Temporary Hardness...	19.92
Permanent Hardness...	4.86

Conclusion.

The water is in a satisfactory chemical, physical and bacteriological condition and is suitable for drinking purposes.

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) Medical

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer holding a Diploma of Public Health.

(b) Sanitary.

The Sanitary Inspector holds a Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as a Sanitary Inspector and also as an Inspector of Meat and Foods.

He also holds the appointment of Surveyor to the Council.

(c) Clerical.

One male clerk.

Sewerage and Drainage.

3 new houses built by private enterprise and 31 new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Sewage Disposal.

The Council gave serious consideration to the question of sewage disposal, which was causing anxiety, and following consideration of a report by the Surveyor to the Council, it was decided to obtain the opinion of Consulting Engineers on the action to be taken to overcome the immediate difficulties at the disposal works and on the question of a long term policy for Sewage Disposal.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

This was carried out throughout the year with the old refuse cart and hired horse and manual labour, and a weekly collection of refuse was maintained with great difficulty.

Various types of refuse vehicles were examined and considered and it was finally decided to obtain a Chelsea Type Freighter Dust Cart of 11.3 cubic yard capacity with sliding metal covers and hydraulic tipping gear from Messrs Shelvoke & Drewry Ltd. of Letchworth. An order for this was placed, but owing to the twelve months delivery date it was not anticipated that the vehicle would be available before the middle of 1948.

Costs of removal and disposal continued to rise to 16/4d. per ton for collection and 2/1½d. per ton for disposal.

The refuse tip at Coombes Hole was kept in as clean a condition as available labour allowed, but it was impossible to carry out all the requirements of the Ministry of Health in accordance with the Circular on Controlled Tipping. The greatest difficulty is experienced in finding suitable material for covering, which is not available in anything near sufficient quantity.

The accumulation of tins left at the end of the war still remains to be dealt with, and it is to be hoped that the work of dealing with this source of harbourage for rats can be carried out in the near future.

Rat infestation on the tip and also on the Sewage Farm was again kept down by regular baiting and poisoning carried out by the staff of the Herts. Agricultural Executive Committee under contract with the Urban Council.

SALVAGE.

An increase was made in salvaged materials collected during the year, the total amounting to 28 tons 16 cwts. and realising £186 - 19 - 2.

The salvage was continued to be sorted, baled, bundled and stored at the Depot in Queens Road, where the accommodation is unsuitable and insufficient, but under the present difficult conditions for new building works, it was not considered possible to provide any other accommodation.

HOUSING.

The Council's Post War Housing Programme for the erection of 20 houses on the Day's Close Site and 85 houses on the Orchard Road Site made progress during the year. Eighteen permanent brick houses were completed on the Day's Close Site and 13 houses on the Orchard Road Site. Of these 31 houses completed and occupied, 24 are of three bedroom type and 7 of four bedroom type.

Also during the year there were 3 new dwellings erected by private enterprise and conversions and adaptations of existing buildings also provided 5 family units of accommodation.

HOUSING ACT 1936.

Due to the great amount of time necessarily expended on new housing works and in other directions, it has been impossible to carry out much work in the re-conditioning and repair of old property, and no formal action under the Housing Act was taken during the year.

6 houses in Clearance Areas and 1 house on which a Demolition Order is operative are still awaiting demolition.

Informal action was taken where essential repairs to roofs, walls, floors, windows, ceilings, eaves gutters and downpipes etc. were necessary, with satisfactory results.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

The Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor has been designated as the officer responsible for the issue of Building Licences on behalf of the Minister of Works under Defence Regulation 56A.

During 1947, 14 applications for licences to erect new dwelling houses were received. Three of these applications were subsequently withdrawn.

Owing to the ban on the issue of licences for new houses which came into operation in August, only 2 licences were issued for new houses to be erected by private enterprise. At the end of the year 11 applications were awaiting consideration for the issue of licences.

Three houses under licence were completed and occupied by the end of the year.

Three licences were issued for the conversion of existing buildings into dwelling accommodation at an estimated cost of £3170.

204 other applications to carry out building works were received during the year, of which 12 were refused as being for work not considered essential at the present time.

11 licences were issued for work of structural alterations or additions at properties at an estimated cost of £1634. These works included the provision of additional livingroom and bedrooms, W.C's. bathrooms, garages etc.

201 licences were issued for essential works and repairs to properties of a total estimated cost of £9535.

Of these licences 128 were in respect of dwelling houses and 84 in respect of other buildings.

The works licensed included the repair or renewal of roofs, eaves gutters and downpipes, drains, external walls, internal wall plaster, ceilings, chimney stacks, floors, cooking and heating apparatus, water closets, sinks, baths and lavatory basins, the repair and painting of external wood and ironwork, internal redecorations, installation of electric services and other essential works to bring property up to a reasonable standard of repair.

The sorting of applications, the inspection of properties to verify the essentiality of the works proposed, the inspection of works in progress and the considerable amount of office work entailed in the issue of licences, added greatly to the work of the Inspector and his clerk and proved a severe strain throughout the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

There are four milk producers in the district, one of whom is licensed by the County Council for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Three of the producers are also retail purveyors of milk in the district and two other retail purveyors obtain their milk from outside the district.

Inspections of the farms and dairies were made and samples of milk taken in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936/46 gave results which complied with the standard.

Meat.

No slaughtering of animals is carried out in the district.

Meat in the butchers shops has been inspected and the following certified as unfit for human consumption.

Beef	230 lbs.
Lamb (2 carcases)	56 lbs.
Beast livers (2)	29 lbs.

The causes of condemnation were Bone Taint, Emaciation and Cirrhosis of Liver.

Other Foods.

Meat and other food shops were visited and the following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were destroyed.

Bacon	9½ lbs.
Margarine	18 lbs.
Butter	41¼ lbs.
Cheese	4 lbs.
Dates	70 lbs.
Rolled Oats	3 lbs.
Kippers	100 lbs.
Herring Milts(Roes)	48 lbs.
Figs	7 lbs.
Apricots	3½ lbs.
Butter Beans	288 lbs.
Prunes	14 lbs.

Tinned Foods.

Corned Beef (6 lb.tins)	8.
do do (1 lb. tins)	11.
Stewed Steak	21.
Pork Sausage Meat	2.
M. O. R.	2.
M. & V. Ration	2.
Steak & Kidney Pudding	4.
Meat & Vegetables	51.
Veal Roll	2.
Potted Meat	1.
Bacon	1.
Beef Roll	2.
Irish Stew	3.
Mincemeat Loaf	2.
Salmon	8.
Silt	1.
Sardines	4.
Hake	3.
Crawfish	1.
Cod Roes	1.
Prawns	2.
Herring Sprsad	67.
Pilchards	9.
Fish Pastes	2.

Tinned Foods (cont).

Evaporated Milk	71.
Condensed Milk	8.
Beans	33.
Peas	11.
Spaghetti	2.
Jam	10.
Syrup	1.
Plums	1.
Peaches	7.
Damsons	1.
Pears	1.
Fruit Pudding	2.
Marmalade	2.
Pate De Fois	2.
Soups	15.
Beetroot	1.
Tomatoes	5.
Carrots	7.
Potatoes	1.
Vinegar	2.
Pickles	6181.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's and Surveyor's Report.

New Streets and Buildings.

Total Number of Plans approved	38.
Plans approved for New Houses	10.
Plans approved for Other Buildings	28.
New Houses completed:-	
By Local Authority under Housing Acts	31.
By Private Enterprise	3.
Conversions and Adaptations - family units	5.
Other Buildings completed	19.
Drains laid to above	yards 949.
Gullies laid to above	109.
Connections to sewer	23.
Vent shafts fixed	35.
Inspection Chambers built	49.
Water Closets fixed	64.
Cesspools	0.

Intercepting Traps fixed	16.
Baths fixed	40.
Lavatory basins fixed	42.
Sinks fixed	71.
Dust Bins provided	39.

Housing Acts & Public Health Acts.

Houses in Clearance Areas to be demolished	6.
Houses under Demolition Orders to be demolished	2.
Houses demolished	0.
Statutory Notices served	0.
Informal Notices served	42.
Notices complied with	39.
Legal Proceedings taken	0.
House roofs renewed or repaired	41.
House windows repaired	39.
Houses provided with improved light	2.
Houses provided with improved ventilation	2.
House chimneys repaired	15.
" floors renewed or repaired	18.
" ceilings renewed or repaired	21.
" walls (external) repaired or plastered	16.
" eaves gutters renewed or repaired	24.
Internal wall plaster repaired	19.
House drains relaid or repaired	10.
New drains laid yards	55.
Gullies fixed	5,
Intercepting Traps fixed	1.
New sinks fixed	10.
Sinks renewed and repaired	6.
Sink waste pipes renewed and repaired	24.
W. C. Roofs repaired	4.
New W. C.'s fixed	6.
W. C's rebuilt	6.
W. C. pans renewed or repaired	12.
W. C. hopper pan replaced by pedestal pan	4.
W. C. cisterns renewed or repaired	51.
New baths fixed	8.
Inspection Chambers built	4.
Inspection Chambers repaired	4.
New Vent Shafts fixed	1.
New F. A. I. fixed	1.
Water service pipes repaired	21.