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Contributors

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH
25 MAY 4
R. 54



ANNUAL REPORT

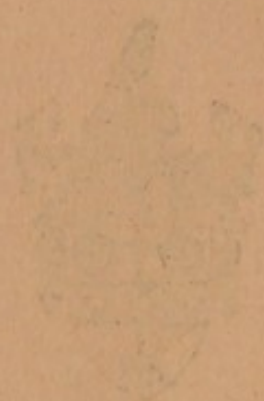
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1953.

Boston Urban District Council



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS:

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General Information

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Upon the direction of Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 I submit an annual report of the year 1953.

This year the local birth rate (15.9) has suddenly risen above that for England and Wales. Undoubtedly the establishment in a small town of a reception centre for homeless families has caused the live birth (and infant mortality) rates to be a less exact indices for the permanent local population.

The local death rate (13.0) is close to the figure for 1952 (13.1) and application of the comparability factor supplied gives a standardised deathrate of 10.5. The local infant mortality rate this year was markedly unfavourable but the actual numbers upon which it was based were small.

There was again a marked absence from the district during the whole year of serious infectious diseases.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this report from Mr. S.M.Jackson, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the section on sanitary matters. Also I would thank your Council and its chief officers for every consideration during the year.

I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

May, 1954.

VICTOR R. WALKER.

SECTION A. LOCAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's						
Estimate for mid-1953.	...					4,772
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1953						
(estimated)						1,465
Rateable Value (1st April, 1953)	...	...				£30,970
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...				£122. 18. 0.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for
the year 1953.

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.	Royston Urban District.	Comparable rates for England & Wales.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> (Legitimate	67	26	41		
(Illegitimate	9	3	6		
(All	<u>76</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>47</u>		

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.9 15.5

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	1	1	-
(Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 25.6 22.4

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>DEATHS</u>	62	34	28

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.0 11.4

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births 78.9 26.8
 Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 74.6
 Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births 111.1

Actual number of such deaths (a) under 4 weeks and (b) under 1 year

Legitimate	1	5
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	13
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases					0

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated local population for the mid-year 1953 shows an increase of 47 on that for 1952. Live births were 15 more than for 1952, probably due in part to the presence locally of a reception centre for homeless families. Local deaths numbered 62, a figure identical with that of 1952.

SECTION B Provision of Health Services for the area.

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses in the Eagle Tavern area, is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company, by a piped supply of excellent quality.

The water supply situation in the Eagle Tavern area was further investigated during the year, but it was not found possible to take any action in the provision of a piped supply. During a dry spell, water was carted to the cottages.

With the exception of the houses at Eagle Tavern, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

No shortage was experienced during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Eleven new houses built by private enterprise, and 26 new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

253 yards of 9" diameter sewer and 21 yards of 6" diameter sewer was laid on the Council Housing Site at Willowside Way.

289 yards of 9" diameter sewer was laid in Orchard Road on the Industrial Site.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

It is gratifying to record again the absence of complaints with respect to the collection of refuse which indicates the smooth working of this service and reflects creditably on the team of collectors.

The cost of refuse removal for the year amounted to £1,003 4s. 11d.

Maintenance of the refuse tip was continued and advantage was taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infestation was carried out during the year by the Rodent Operator of the Joint Scheme.

SALVAGE

In February, the stock of paper which had accumulated during the period when a market was available, was sold at a price which did not cover the cost of collection and handling. Approximately 39 tons of mixed waste and magazines and books realised £71 10s. 5d.

The collection of waste paper was continued until the end of July, when the saleable material in stock was disposed of and realised £7 15s. 0d. The remainder of the stock was destroyed, and the salvage scheme was discontinued as from 1st August.

Though the market showed signs of slight improvement at the end of the year, prices offered were not sufficient to cover the costs of collection.

The cost of collection, sorting and baling for the year was £299 13s. 9d., showing an excess of expenditure over income of £220 8s. 4d.

RODENT CONTROL

The operation of the Joint Pest Control Scheme with the Hitchin and Welwyn Rural District Councils showed that useful work was carried out, and in Royston the Rodent Operator's work covered the following:-

Total hours worked on treatments - 212

The time spent on the various types of premises were:-

Sewers 46 hours, Refuse Tips etc. 83 hours,
Private dwellings $56\frac{1}{4}$ hours, Business premises $6\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.
Block Inspections $3\frac{3}{4}$ hours., Inspection of Agricultural
land $16\frac{3}{4}$ hours.

The total number of inspections made during 1953
as a result of notification or otherwise was 232.

The scheme has worked smoothly, and I would like
to record my appreciation of the work of the Senior
Sanitary Inspector of the Hitchin Rural District
Council, who has been in control of the scheme and
acted as co-ordinating officer.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The details below show the number of inspections
made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	54
Under the Public Health Acts	148
Under the Factory Acts	27
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	4
Milk & Dairies Orders	8
Food shops & Stores	63
Bakehouse Inspections	6
Prevention of Nuisances	102
House Drainage	34
Supervision of Salvage	21
Supervision of Refuse Collection & Disposal	48
Rats and Mice Destruction	232
Caravans & Moveable Dwellings	34
Miscellaneous Inspections	98

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Houses in Clearance Area to be demolished	4
Statutory Notices served	8
Informal Notices served	94
Notices complied with	98
Houses demolished (Sec. 11)	2
Undertakings given by owners under Sec. 11	4
Houses rendered fit as result of formal action	4
Houses rendered fit as result of informal action	88
House roofs renewed or repaired	21
House windows repaired	16
House chimneys repaired	12
House floors renewed or repaired	18

House ceilings renewed or repaired	16
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	25
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	43
Internal wall plaster repaired	28
House drains relaid or repaired	92 yds.
Gullies fixed	6
Intercepting traps fixed	1
New sinks fixed	8
Sinks renewed or repaired	8
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	19
W.C. roofs repaired	6
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	7
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	59
New baths fixed	5
Inspection chambers built	5
Inspection chambers repaired	7
New vent shafts fixed	2
New F.A.I. fixed	2
Water service pipes repaired	34
Dampness remedied	19
Yards paved or repaired	5
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	16
Hot water systems renewed or repaired	4
Staircases repaired	8
Blocked drains cleared & cleansed	24
Accumulations of rubbish removed	16
Houses disinfected	3
Bakehouse floors cleansed	2
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	2
Dairies cleansed & limewashed	1
Sanitary conveniences at factories repaired	4
Sanitary conveniences at factories cleansed	4
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building Sites.	2

Building Byelaws & Town & Country Planning.

Plans & Applications submitted	62
" " " approved	61
" " " disapproved	1
Approved for new houses	15
" " other buildings	35
" " change of user	1
" " advertisement signs	2
" " use of land	8
New houses completed:	
By local authority under Housing Acts	26
By Private Enterprise	11
Other buildings completed	38
Drains laid to above	1179 yds.
Gullies laid to above	63

Connections to sewer	15
Vent shafts fixed	58
Inspection Chambers built	70
Water closets fixed	59
Intercepting traps fixed	15
Baths fixed	40
Sinks fixed	41
Lavatory Basins fixed	63
Dustbins provided	38
Septic Tank installations	1
Urinal provided	1

SECTION D.

Housing

During the year, 26 new traditional brick houses were completed and occupied. These were all 3 bedroom type houses.

Eleven new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

By the end of the year the families occupying the three flats in the requisitioned property at Layston Park had been rehoused. This left 3 family units of accommodation at Old Bank House, still in occupation.

Ex P.O.W. Camp, Therfield Heath.

Four families were rehoused from this site and the vacated huts were demolished. One family was left in occupation of a hut in good condition, which is now the only one remaining, and the Council disclaimed any further responsibility for this camp site.

Clearance Areas.

4 houses in one Clearance Area still remain to be demolished. In an endeavour to accomplish the clearance of this site, one of the inmates of the only house occupied was removed to hospital under a Magistrate's Order as being in need of care and attention, and it was anticipated that the clearance of the site would become possible in the near future.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

During the year, one elderly female, physically incapacitated and living in insanitary conditions, was removed to hospital upon an order of a court of summary jurisdiction upon the written certificate of the Medical Officer of Health.

Control of Civil Building.

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

During 1953, 13 licences to erect new dwelling houses were issued. 3 Supplementary Licences were issued to the value of £1,559.

Eleven houses under licence were completed and occupied during the year.

1 licence was issued for works of improvements to a house comprising an additional bedroom and a bathroom and W.C. and kitchen.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk

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

There are 2 retail purveyors of milk in the district.

Periodic inspections of farms and dairies were made during the year.

Meat

No slaughtering of animals is carried on in the district.

The carcasses of twelve pigs and 1 sheep were examined following emergency slaughter and passed as fit for human consumption.

The carcasses of 4 sheep were also examined and passed for manufacturing purposes only.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected and the following certified as unfit for human consumption:-

Beef	401 lbs.	Mutton & Lamb	63½ lbs.	Pork	104 lbs.
Ham	19½ lbs.	Suet	7 lbs.	Kippers	28 lbs.
Sheeps Plucks	87 lbs.	Pigs Heads	30 lbs.	Sheeps Heads	21 lbs.
Sheep Hearts	50 lbs.	Lambs Liver	32 lbs.	Pork Fat	40 lbs.
		Pork Sausage	24 lbs.		

Other Foods.

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

Cheese	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cooked Lobsters	18 lbs.
Sugar	33 lbs.
Cream Crackers	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Tinned & Packaged Food.

Pineapple	1 tin
Peaches	4 tins
Cherries	6 "
Grapes	4 "
Marmalade	2 "
Plums	66 "
Bananas	1 "
Tomatoes	2 "
Prunes	2 "
Gooseberries	1 "
Apricots	1 "
Pears	1 "
Grapefruit	1 "
Peas	11 "
Beans	1 "
Jellied Veal	2 "
Irish Stew	2 "
Luncheon Meat	4 "
Stewed Mutton	1 "
Corned Beef	4 "
Stewed Steak	1 "
Spinach	1 "
Crab	1 "
Salmon	2 "
Pilchards	1 "
Pickles	4 bottles
Salad Cream	1 bottle
Soups	3 tins
Condensed Milk	14 tins
Evaporated Milk	7 tins

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool.

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs.1,2,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	9	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	29	16	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excl. outworkers).	2	2	-	-
Total	40	27	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of prosecutions.
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent	Nil	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	Nil	-	-	-	-
Total	10	10	-	-	-

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

Total notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles - 130, Whooping Cough - 4, Meningococcal infection - 1, and Puerperal pyrexia - 1.

The very high incidence of measles, almost confined to the first quarter of the year, seems explicable by your somewhat isolated geographical situation. While most towns have a measles epidemic very regularly every second year local records show Royston only has an attack, correspondingly more extensive, every third or fourth year. Other more serious infectious disease is seen to have been almost completely absent during the year.

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TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Deaths during the Year, 1953.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
& over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by Registrar General after final transfers					-	-	-	-

The absence of any single new notification of tuberculosis for the district during the year constitutes a record but as previous total numbers are small (5 in 1952, all female) no firm deduction should be drawn.

No death from any form of tuberculosis was recorded for the year 1953.

VICTOR R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1954.

New Cases and Deaths during the Year 1952

Period	Age	New Cases		Deaths	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1-12	0-4	1	1	0	0
13-17	5-9	1	1	0	0
18-24	10-14	1	1	0	0
25-34	15-19	1	1	0	0
35-44	20-24	1	1	0	0
45-54	25-29	1	1	0	0
55-64	30-34	1	1	0	0
65-74	35-39	1	1	0	0
75-84	40-44	1	1	0	0
85-94	45-49	1	1	0	0
95-104	50-54	1	1	0	0
105-114	55-59	1	1	0	0
115-124	60-64	1	1	0	0
125-134	65-69	1	1	0	0
135-144	70-74	1	1	0	0
145-154	75-79	1	1	0	0
155-164	80-84	1	1	0	0
165-174	85-89	1	1	0	0
175-184	90-94	1	1	0	0
185-194	95-99	1	1	0	0
195-204	100-104	1	1	0	0
TOTAL		16	16	0	0

Deaths allocated by Registrar General after local inquiries

The absence of any deaths new notification of tuberculous cases for the period during the year 1952 is noted but as previous years' figures are small (2 in 1951, 1 in 1950) no further detail would be drawn.

No data from the form of tuberculous was recorded for the year 1952.

WILLIAM E. WATSON

Medical Officer of Health

Nov. 1952

