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Contributors

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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1960



Medical Officer of Health -
NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -
J.E. FANNON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1960
1st June, 1961.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1960.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district has remained satisfactory and that there has been no undue incidence of serious notifiable disease.

The vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

It is interesting to note, but the fact may have no statistical significance, that the death rate in the district has again been low.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obedient Servant,

Lois Strawn

Medical Officer of Health.

General Office,
STURMSTRASSE 10/11,
Dresden.

1st June, 1931.

To The Chairman and Members,
Saxony's Rural District Councils.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to acknowledge by Annual Report for the
year 1930.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in
accordance with the regulations of the Saxony District Councils
(Outside London) Regulations, 1925 and 1927.

The report shows that the health of the district
has remained satisfactory and that there has been no undue
incidence of serious infectious diseases.

The vital statistics compare favourably with those
for the Country as a whole.

It is interesting to note, but the fact may have no
statistical significance, that the death rate in the district
has again been low.

I am indebted to Mr. A. W. Wilson, your Public Health
Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing
this report, and to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient
services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation
and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Berlin,
and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for
your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obedient servant,

W. J. Wilson
Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1960

- A. Area - 41,481 acres.
 Rateable value: 1st April 1961 - £40,511
 Production of a penny rate: 1960/61 - £165 (estimate)
 1961/62 - £165 (estimate)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,810

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a) Sherborne R.D.	(b) England & Wales
Total	46	42	Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	45	42	resident pop:		
Illegitimate	1	Nil	= 15.6	17.2	17.1

STILLBIRTHS

Total (Legitimate)	1	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 11.1	11.1	19.7
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DEATHS

Total	31	25	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 9.3	9.4	11.5
Deaths in infants under 1 year	1	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births		
Under 1 Week (Legitimate)	1	1	= 22.7	22.7	21.7

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	Nil	Nil	1	2
" " Other Cancer	5	19	13	9
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	12	9	6	2
" " Other heart or vascular diseases	25	13	25	18
" " Influenza	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia	2	Nil	3	4
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	Nil	1	Nil	2
" " Suicide	1	Nil	Nil	1
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the Dorset County Council, which include the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, care and after care of the blind and handicapped and health education. The following responsibilities call for particular comment.

The Domestic Help Service The appointment of a part time paid local organiser for the North Dorset area has increased the efficiency of the service in your district. Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of home helps in view of the alternate demands on available persons in Sherborne, but the service in your district can now be considered to be reasonably satisfactory.

The Welfare of Aged People Through its well organised scheme (including the co-ordinated services of the health visiting, domestic help, home nursing services and the social welfare officer) the increasing responsibilities in respect to old people are being efficiently carried out. The lack of an adequate number of hospital beds for the chronic and aged sick puts a particular strain on the County Council's services at some times of the year. An efficient scheme is in operation to ensure that, as far as possible, the best use is made of the beds available and the available places in the County Councils homes for old people.

The valuable work which the Dorset Branch of the British Red Cross Society does towards the welfare of old people in the district requires acknowledgment. Acting as agent for the County Council, amongst its other activities, the B.R.C.S. has established foot clinics throughout the County.

In Sherborne three or four treatment sessions are held a month with an average attendance of nine persons for treatment. Forty-five patients were on the register at the end of the year.

Mention should also be made of the scheme under which the County Council makes financial assistance available to the local housing authority for welfare provision in connection with houses built for the particular needs of old people.

Problem Families In an attempt to prevent the break up of families both from humane considerations and the resultant financial cost, the County Council co-operate closely with the housing authority by rent guarantees and other action, as may appear appropriate.

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding years.

Poliomyelitis (six months to thirty nine years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

	1960	1959	1958
Two treatments	352	(609)	(615)
Three treatments	551	(876)	-

Diphtheria

Primary treatments	95	(115)	(75)
Booster treatments	114	(70)	(39)

Whooping Cough

Primary treatments	90	(96)	(98)
Booster treatments	17	(15)	(10)

Tetanus

Primary treatments	214	(99)	(37)
Booster treatments	29	(11)	(3)

Smallpox

Primary vaccinations	87	(73)	(75)
Re-vaccination	15	(5)	(9)

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis

	-	(19)	-
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D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Fearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - J.E. Fannon, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

The end of the year saw the completion of the works required to allow for the abandonment of the unsatisfactory Southern parishes supply from the Hillfield source. This has never been a supply, the purity of which could be guaranteed and its elimination is welcomed.

Quantity

Adequate supplies have been maintained throughout the year, the Thornford borehole being the principal source of supply from the Council; sources supplemented from the Leigh supply.

A number of small private supplies remain in use in the district, the quality of which are doubtful as they arise from surface springs.

Water is taken from the Sherborne Urban District to supply parts of Castleton Parish.

All the Councils supplies are chlorinated and regular samples of the public and private supplies are taken for bacteriological examination and (where applicable) free chlorine estimation.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Bradford Abbas and Alveston Contracts were let for completion of the sewerage schemes in these parishes and work was begun, at Bradford Abbas on the 19th July and at Alveston on the 2nd August. The schemes were well advanced at the end of the year and negotiations with property owners regarding closet conversions and house improvements were proceeding. In this way it can be ensured that full advantage is taken of the sewer with as little delay as possible.

Thornford The contractor for this sewerage scheme agreed to start work in January, 1961.

Trent As noted last year the rate of connections to the sewer in this parish is very slow, only four more properties having been connected during the year.

Yetminster Consideration was again given to the possibility of providing a main sewerage scheme in this, the parish with the largest population in the district. The Council's Consultant Engineers were instructed to bring up to date the scheme proposed in 1947 and it is hoped that during the coming year a decision will be taken to proceed.

Osborne and Poyntington Estimates were produced for the provision of sewerage in these parishes, to take advantage of disposal facilities available at the Urban District's newly enlarged outfall works. These estimates indicated a probable cost of £535 per house in Poyntington and £475 in Osborne and it was decided not to proceed.

This decision was particularly disappointing in respect of Osborne where twelve Council houses have only rudimentary disposal facilities which were put in as a temporary measure when the houses were built in 1946 and 1947.

If main sewerage cannot be provided for the village it is felt that some more satisfactory scheme for the Council houses at least should be given urgent consideration.

Ditches

The continuing nuisances from foul ditches and roadside culverts in Chetnole, Leigh, Purse Caundle, Yetminster and Nether Compton were kept in abeyance so far as possible by flushing and cleansing.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse Collection The monthly collection has been maintained.

Disposal During the year the Council purchased a hydraulic shovel fitted to a half-track tractor. With this it is hoped that a more controlled form of tipping may be practised, with a greater measure of consolidation and coverage.

Salvage The value of salvage sold during the year was £128 compared with £112 during the previous year.

Cesspool Emptying The contract for this work at the Council's housing sites has been continued and is operating satisfactorily.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Polluted ditches in the more populous villages continue to be a major nuisance and will continue to be so until sewerage schemes can be proceeded with.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures are omitted)

	<u>No. of premises on register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	5
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	27	12
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	29	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	No. of cases in which defects were:-	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Conveniences		
Unsuitable or defective	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>

There was one case referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

No. of Outworkers = Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one open air bath at a private establishment where members of the public have occasional access by invitation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Sixteen moveable dwellings were licensed during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936 and three caravan sites under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The revised procedure under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 came into operation during the year and the Council established standards for temporary and permanent sites.

Difficulty in persuading owners to accept the conditions for permanent sites (hard standings in particular) was caused by the fact that the Planning Authority appeared reluctant to give long-term permission. Owners are naturally unwilling to undertake expensive works to establish a permanent site without some guarantee that their planning permission will continue.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Twenty four visits and inspections were made at schools in respect of sanitation, meals facilities and water supplies.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention and living under insanitary conditions.

The existence of aged persons, living under unsatisfactory conditions who really require care and attention and who require institutional care, are known. Some of these people will not voluntarily accept such care and attention, preferring to live in their own home even though by all accepted standards of hygiene, their conditions are most unsatisfactory and danger to their welfare may be quite real.

It is considered that the old persons wishes and desires must be given first consideration in such cases and, unless there appears to be a very real danger to other people as a result, these cases are not reported to you for statutory action to be taken with a view to their compulsory removal to an institution.

HOUSING

(Sanitation) SHIRUR

Total No. of Houses in the district _____ 1,971

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year _____ 51
No. of inspections made _____ 66

No. of informal notices served _____ -
No. of informal notices complied with _____ -
No. of statutory notices served _____ 2
No. of statutory notices complied with _____ 5

No. of houses reported under Section 16
of the Housing Act, 1957 _____ 2

Action taken by the Local Authority in
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made _____ 1
Undertakings accepted for -

Closure _____ Nil
Reconditioning _____ 1
Other Action (Demolition) _____ 1

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during
the year _____ Nil

Slum Clearance

Very limited action was taken during the year with regard to slum clearance. An appreciable number of houses in the district are recognised as being unfit for habitation but in the absence of new houses being made available for re-housing, limited action only is practicable in enforcing closure or demolition of unfit property.

It is hoped that the provision of the Housing Bill now before Parliament, when enacted, will provide the necessary stimulus for further housing development for slum clearance and general needs.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

HOUSING (Continued)

Houses Known to be Let In Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Forty applications (compared with twenty three in 1959) were received during the year for discretionary grants under the above-mentioned Act, ten applications were received in respect to standard grants.

Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing

Twenty one new houses were built in the District by private enterprise, but, once again, none by the Council.

During the year, however, the Council did resolve to build a number of bungalows specially designed for old people in some of its parishes and these, it is hoped, will be completed during 1961.

Considerable thought and consideration was given to the type of housing provision most appropriate for old people in the District. It was decided that grouped flatlets were neither practical nor appropriate by reason of the nature of the district. Nor, did the Council feel that it could avail itself of the grant for welfare facilities made available by the County Council as it considered that the modified warden service demanded, was inappropriate for such a District as yours.

Ninety eight applicants were on the Council house waiting list at the end of the year, of which seventy four were resident in the district, compared with eighty five and sixty two respectively, at the end of 1959.

Twelve families were re-housed by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council _____ 2

No. of 'dairies' in the District subject to registration _____ 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration _____ 6

Samples

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
T.T. (Pasteurised) _____	54	20	74
Tuberculin Tested _____	82	-	82
Pasteurised _____	150	7	157

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Regulation 20

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses _____	18
Canteens - School and workplace _____	3
Confectioners _____	5
Meat and Fish _____	1
Grocers _____	-
Mixed Stores _____	18
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions _____	3
Food Factories _____	1
Stalls (Mobile shops) _____	2
Other (Slaughterhouses) _____	2

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice cream _____	24
Sausages & Prepared Meats _____	1
Fish and Chips _____	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies (Continued)

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

No. of before mentioned premises inspected during the year 22
No. of inspections carried out 22

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food etc.

These byelaws are operative within the district.

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses There are two private licensed slaughterhouses in the district. One is used in connection with local retail shops, the other is very occasionally used for the slaughtering of pigs.

At the end of the year good progress was being made at the principle private slaughterhouse to make it comply with structural regulations under the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 by the appointed date in 1961.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	122	-	-	258	1
Number Inspected	122	-	-	258	1
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	17	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.73%	-	-	6.58%	-

Tuberculosis only: (Continued)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by incineration except in the case of large quantities of meat or meat carcasses when it is sent to a knackers yard.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,227
Total No. of informal notices served	17
Total No. of informal notices complied with	9
Total No. of statutory notices served	2
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	5
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

The Radioactive Substances Act came into operation during the year.

No information has been received during the year, under the Act, indicating premises where radioactive material is in use or in respect to authorised arrangements made for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests no deterioration in the present position.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
<u>Other than Tuberculosis -</u>	
Measles	28
Pneumonia	4
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	14
Erysipelas	2

<u>Tuberculosis -</u>	<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Number Inspected	122	
	1	-

Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. FEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.



