

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Spalding R.D.C.

Contributors

Spalding (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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Spalding Rural District Council

REPORT

of the

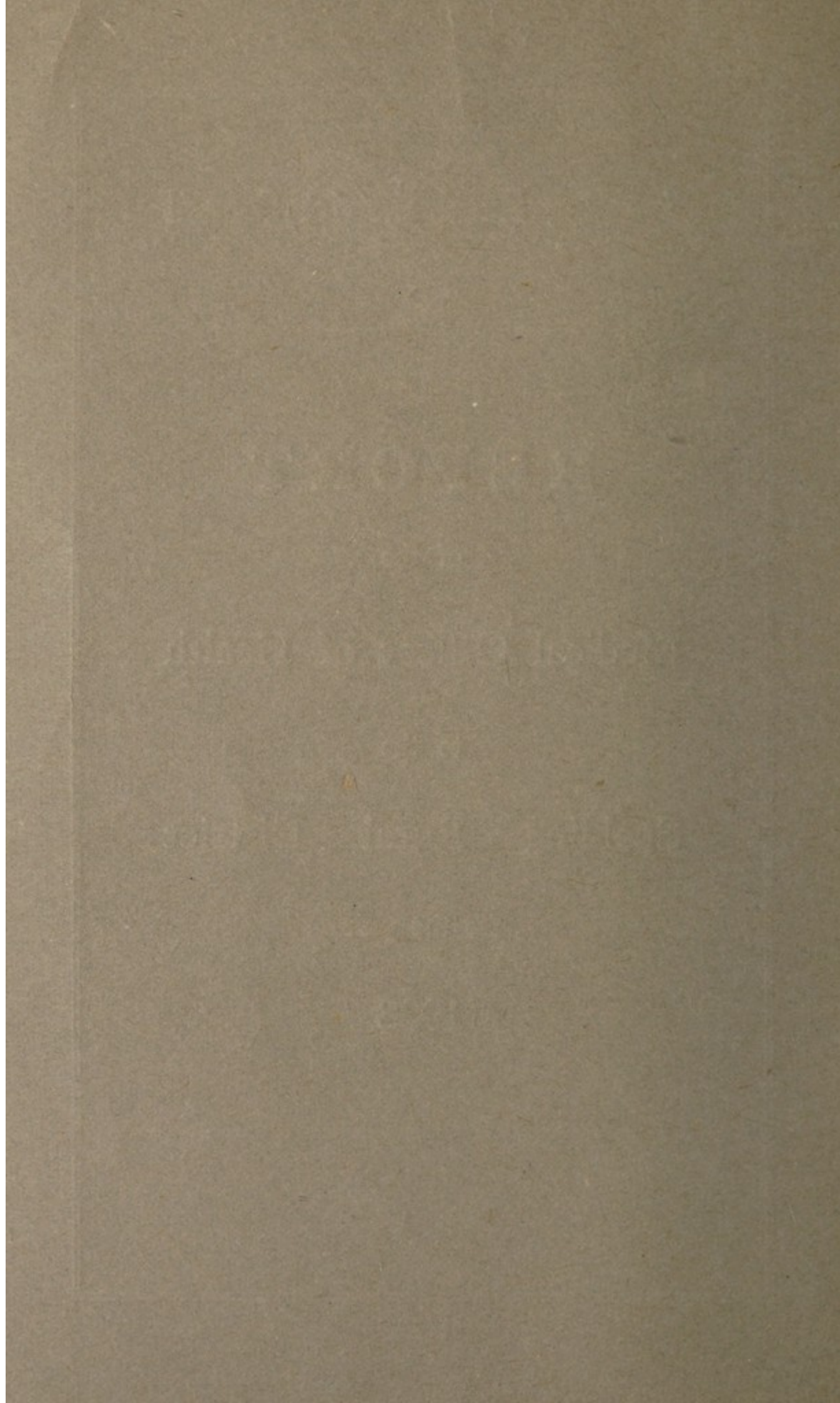
Medical Officer of Health

to the

Spalding Rural District

for the year

1938



Public Health Officers
of the
Spalding Rural District Council

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

S. H. PERRY, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P., London

Sanitary Inspector & Rent Collector, Spalding :

A. V. SEYMOUR

Sanitary Inspector (part time), Crowland :

D. MADDOCK

Meat Inspector (part time), Crowland :

G. BLOOD

Water Engineer (part time) :

A. GEORGE, R.P.

Architect and Building Surveyor (part time) :

F. BERNARD SAUNDERS, L.M.I.A.A.



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Spalding Rural District

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,—

The Area of the District is 87,673 acres.

The resident population is 17,650.

The number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books is 4,995; they are distributed as follows:

Cowbit	...	...	...	...	...	149
Moulton	...	...	...	...	...	696
Weston	...	...	...	...	...	309
Pinchbeck	...	...	...	...	...	944
Deeping St. Nicholas	...	...	...	...	...	437
Surfleet	...	...	...	...	...	296
Gosberton	...	...	...	...	...	606
Quadring	...	...	...	...	...	271
Donington	...	...	...	...	...	488
Crowland	...	...	...	...	...	799
Total						4995

The rateable value is £42,221, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £175 18s. 5d.

The district is entirely agricultural, and the amount of unemployment varies with the weather and the seasons.

A large amount of female labour is employed on the land; but in spite of this their houses are far better kept than ever I have known them.

The number of live births during the year was 289, the same as in the preceding year.

		M.		F.	
Live births—Legitimate	...	...	131	...	144
Illegitimate	...	...	6	...	8
Total		...	137	...	152

Still births—Legitimate	...	...	7	...	5
Illegitimate	...	...	Nil	...	Nil
			<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...		7	...	5
			<hr/>		<hr/>

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population was 16.37 (that for England and Wales was 15.1). The rate of still births per 1,000 (still and live births) was 39.

The number of Deaths from all causes was 195 (males 98, females 97).

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was 11.04 (that for England and Wales being 11.6).

Deaths from Puerperal causes: 1 Puerperal Pyrexia. (Other puerperal diseases). The death rate per thousand still and live births was 3.3.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 14.

						M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	...	...	4	10
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	nil

Death rate of all infants under 1 year of age per thousand total live births 48.4 (England and Wales 53).

Legitimate	...	...	...	48	per thousand
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3.4	„ „

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	43.
do. do. Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
do. do. Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
do. do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	nil

The deaths from Cancer were 43—21 male and 22 female.

This is a very large increase and is difficult to explain. There were 29 in 1937; and for the ten years preceding 1937 the average was 21.5.

The Cancer death rate per 1,000 population was 2.4.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the Council have extended their water mains in various parts of the District for a total of approximately 4,750 yards.

214 houses (including farmhouses and the Council's new houses) and 882 acres of land have, during the year, been connected to the Council's Water Mains.

During the year samples of water from the four Bores have been taken for Chemical and Bacteriological examination, and all the supplies were found to be of good quality and suitable for drinking purposes. The Analysts suggested that the Council should get into touch with the Candy Filter Company with a view to the installation of CO² Removal Plants at the Pinchbeck and Donington supplies. This question is now under consideration by the Council.

A Booster Pumping Station has been erected and a new pump installed at Deeping St. Nicholas, and the Council have decided to instal a Booster Pump in connection with the Crowland Water Supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Tenders have now been accepted for the carrying out of the works in connection with the provision of sewerage scheme for Crowland.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector—Mr. A. V. Seymour.

Inspected 226 Dwelling Houses. On the whole these are in good condition.

Seven sinks and dry wells have been put in under his directions.

Numerous visits have been made to the Dairies and Cowsheds; they are well kept and whitewashed every six weeks.

The 16 Slaughterhouses are visited regularly and all are in good condition. The meat is also inspected frequently also vans on their rounds. One Beast and four Pigs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Camping Sites.

No sites in the area were used for camping purposes during 1938, and no licences have been issued by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the Rural District which are open to the public.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	316
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	465
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	80
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	150
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	38
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	64

2.—Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local authority or their officers	15
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers During the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
(a)	By owners	71
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
(a)	By owners	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	23

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil
No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year.	

A total of sixty new houses were erected and completed during 1938, by private enterprise in the following parishes:—

Cowbit 1, Moulton 7, Weston 2, Pinchbeck 16, Deeping St. Nicholas 4, Surfleet 4, Gosberton 3, Quadring 4, Donington 7, Crowland 12.

The 72 houses mentioned in the Report for 1937 were erected and completed during the year. Of these houses 21 were allocated to persons who were rehoused as a result of Demolition procedure.

Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, applications for Grants to Private Enterprise for the erection of dwellings for Agricultural Workers were approved in respect of nine houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases have been notified during the year:—

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	8	2	—
Diphtheria	22	20	3
Pueperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	6	2	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—

There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria, but the preceding years showed a very low number of cases.

In 1937 there was only one case, in 1936 none, and in 1935 only eight.

The average number for the last ten years was 9.7. (This average is, however, unreliable, since Crowland was not included.)

The local distribution was:

Pinchbeck	12
Surfleet	2
Quadring	2
Gosberton	2
Moulton	2
Weston	2

There were no cases in the districts farthest from Spalding.

The prompt use of anti-diphtheritic serum has been marked throughout the district. Most of the doubtful cases have received this treatment even before bacteriological confirmation could be made. Undoubtedly, this has saved many lives.

The use of this serum for close contacts, *e.g.*, children sleeping in the same room, has, undoubtedly, been of great value, as immunisation acts too slowly to be of any use in these cases.

(The use of anti-tetanic serum in certain cases is a similar method.)

The Isolation Hospital at Boston is of the greatest value to the district, and I should like to mention the courtesy of the Staff and Matron, and the rapidity with which cases are removed by **their** Ambulance.

Immunisation is carried out by the County Medical Officer and his Assistants. The results of this will be seen in future years.

Dr. Booth, County Medical Officer, informs me that 39 pupils were immunised at Moulton Grammar School and 135 at Moulton Village School during 1938, and also 19 by private practitioners under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, and 57 at Centres.

(During 1933 169 children were immunised in Donington, and it will be noticed that there were no cases there during 1938.)

The notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, whether due to the gono-coccus or other infection, and the careful and immediate treatment of these cases must prevent much blindness; although cases are not common in this district.

Other diseases and accidents to the eye are mostly treated at the Johnson Hospital, or at King's Lynn by Mr. S. T. Parker, F.R.C.S., Ophthalmic Surgeon to these Hospitals.

The distribution of the other cases was:—

Scarlet Fever:

Pinchbeck	5
Quadrang	2
Weston	1

Puerperal Fever:

Pinchbeck	1
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Pneumonia:

Pinchbeck	5
Quadrang	1

Erysipelas:

Pinchbeck	2
Gosberton	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum:

Pinchbeck	2
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Acute Poliomyelitis:

Moulton	1
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Age Groups of Total Notified Cases.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis
Under 1 yr.						2	
1 to 2							
2 to 3							
3 to 4							
4 to 5		1					
5 to 10	4	6		1			1
10 to 15	1	4					
15 to 20	1	4					
20 to 35		3		1			
35 to 45	2	3	1	1			
45 to 65		1		2	3		
65 and over				1			
TOTALS	8	22	1	6	3	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during the year, 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respira- tory.		Non-Respira- tory.		Respira- tory.		Non-Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 to 5 ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
10 „ 15 ...	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 „ 20 ...	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
20 „ 25 ...	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
25 „ 35 ...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35 „ 45 ...	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
45 „ 55 ...	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
55 „ 65 ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upwards (71) ...	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
TOTAL ...	3	6			3	3	1	

Cases on the Register, December 31st, 1938.

Pulmonary ...	18 M.	...	19 F.	...	Total 37
Non-Pulmonary	38 M.	...	4 F.	...	Total 42
					79

Removed from the Register during 1938.

Pulmonary ...	7 M.	...	4 F.	...	Total 11
Non-Pulmonary	—	...	3 F.	...	Total 3
					14

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. H. PERRY, M.O.H.

