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Contributors

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Spalding
Rural District Council

R E P O R T
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Year 1941

"Free Press" Co., Ltd., Spalding.

SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Vice-Chairman : Councillor W. DRING.

Members :


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Dr. F. HUSBAND-CLUTTON, J.P.,
Mr. M. R. RIDDINGTON.

Medical Officer of Health :

C. W. DIXON, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.L.O., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector :

F. LUKER, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., Insp. Meat and other Foods.



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Spalding Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
7, The Crescent,
Spalding.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1941.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

The sanitary circumstances of the district are virtually the same as in 1940.

A number of cases of diphtheria have been notified towards the end of the year. This is rather disquieting as the percentage of children immunised is rising although not rapidly enough in the under five's. A further point is that doubtful cases are now being sent in to hospital and many are eventually found to be negative. This gives an incorrect figure for the number of actual cases but is far preferable from the Public Health aspect and from the point of view of the patient.

Practitioners are also being urged to use two doses of A.P.T. for immunizing instead of two doses of T.A.F., owing to its greater potency. The latter method has, up to date, been used in this district as it is the standard method employed by the County Council and it was thought desirable to avoid the confusion of two different techniques.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. W. DIXON.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the District is 87,758 acres.

The resident population is 17,670.

The average population figure given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates is 18,410.

The number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books is 5,188. They are distributed as follows :

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Cowbit | 147 |
| Moulton | 717 |
| Weston | 333 |
| Pinchbeck | 985 |
| Deeping St. Nicholas | 449 |
| Surfleet | 305 |
| Gosberton | 638 |
| Quadrang | 280 |
| Donington | 528 |
| Crowland | 806 |

The Rateable Value is £43,833, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £182 12s. 9d.

The District is entirely agricultural and there has been no change in the type of employment.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

| | M. | F. |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Live Births—(Legitimate) | 151 | 127 |
| (Illegitimate) | 3 | 6 |
| Total Live Births | 154 | 133 |

Illegitimate Birth Rate 3.2%.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population is 15.59.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Still Births—(Legitimate) | 7 | 6 |
| (Illegitimate) | 1 | 1 |
| Total Still Births | 8 | 7 |

The rate of still births per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 49.66.

Deaths—Total during 1941, 172 (Males 78, Females 94).

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population, 9.34.

The above figure has been corrected for transfers in and out of the district but has not been adjusted to make allowance for the age and sex composition of the population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Puerperal Sepsis | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Other Maternal causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

| | M. | F. |
|---|----|----|
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age : | | |
| Legitimate | 5 | 9 |
| Illegitimate | — | — |

Death rates of Infants under 1 year of age :

| | |
|---|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 46.98 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 47.06 |

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 29. (Males 15, Females 14).

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 population, 1.6.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), None.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 1 (Female).

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years), 1 (Male).

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The birth rate of 15.59 is lower than that for 1940, and the death rate of 9.34 for the current year is substantially lower than that for 1940 (i.e., 16.02).

The Infantile Mortality figure of 46.98 shows a considerable increase over the 1940 figure of 32.15 but is still lower than the average for the previous five years (i.e., 51.0).

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1941.

| Cause of Death. | | | | | M. | F. | Total. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|--------|
| All causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 78 | 94 | 172 |
| 1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers | ... | | | | — | — | — |
| 2. Cerebrospinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | | — | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| 5. Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| 6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | ... | | | | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 7. Other forms of Tuberculosis | ... | ... | | | — | 2 | 2 |
| 8. Syphilitic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | | — | — | — |
| 9. Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 10. Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| 11. Acute Polimyelitis and polio-encephalitis | ... | | | | — | — | — |
| 12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis | ... | ... | | | — | — | — |
| 13. Cancer of buccal cavity and æso-phagus (M) uterus (F) | | | | | — | — | — |
| 14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum | ... | | | | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 15. Cancer of breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 4 | 4 |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| 17. Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| 18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions | ... | ... | | | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| 19. Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 26 | 34 |
| 20. Other diseases of circulatory system | ... | | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 21. Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 22. Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 23. Other respiratory diseases | ... | ... | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | ... | ... | | | 1 | — | 1 |
| 25. Diarrhœa (under two years) | ... | ... | | | 1 | — | 1 |
| 26. Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| 27. Other digestive diseases | ... | ... | ... | | — | 2 | 2 |
| 28. Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 29. Puerperal and post-abort.: sepsis | ... | | | | — | — | — |
| 30. Other maternal causes | ... | ... | ... | | — | — | — |
| 31. Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 32. Congenital malformations, etc. | ... | ... | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 33. Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| 34. Road traffic accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 35. Other violent causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 36. All other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 14 | 30 |

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the District during the year. The quantity of tins and other household refuse collected regularly by the salvage lorry continues to give ample evidence of the need for a properly organised refuse collection throughout the District particularly in the semi-urbanised parishes.

EVACUATION.

The number of evacuees in the District has decreased during the year. In March, the total number of evacuees was 809 and at the 31st December the total number was 614.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Milk and Dairies.

The position in connection with this branch of Public Health work is substantially the same as it was in 1940. The work of inspection and supervision cannot be carried out properly owing to the inadequate staff.

The Sanitary Inspector has put in a considerable amount of work in an effort to bring the register of cowkeepers and dairymen up to date and at the first opportunity regular routine inspections will be commenced.

Arrangements are already being made for milk samples to be taken, by the Sanitary Inspector, from producers in the district in an effort to eradicate tuberculosis from milk. This process will necessarily be very slow and a more satisfactory way would be for the raw milk to be efficiently pasteurised in addition to the work of finding and segregating the tuberculous animals.

Meat Inspection.

During the year all animals slaughtered for food at the Central Slaughterhouse have been given routine inspections and all animals showing any evidence of disease have been subjected to a detailed examination.

During the year 3,004 Cattle, 7,656 Sheep, 1,528 Pigs, and 61 Calves were slaughtered and inspected. Owing to the centralisation of slaughtering under the Ministry of Food, the slaughterhouse in this district has become a "clearing house" for all casualty animals in the Spalding Rural and East Elloe Rural Districts and, owing to the present need to save as much food as possible for human consumption, quite a number of carcasses, which would normally have

gone to Knackers' premises, have been submitted for food with a resultant increase in the quantity of condemnations. The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human food during the year is approximately 24 tons 14 cwts., and this has been disposed of for other purposes under the Ministry of Food Waste Utilisation Scheme. Among the meat and offals condemned were :

| | |
|--|--|
| 241 Beasts' livers | Distomatosis (Liver Flukes). |
| 38 Beasts' livers | Cavernous Angioma. |
| 141 Beasts' heads and tongues .. | Tuberculosis. |
| 129 Beasts' livers | Septic Abscesses. |
| 71 Beasts' livers | Tuberculosis. |
| 185 Sets of Beasts' lungs | Tuberculosis. |
| 32 Beasts' heads and tongues .. | Actinomycosis. |
| 60 Beasts' udders | Mastitis. |
| 794lbs. of Beef | Bruised and oedematous. |
| 7 Forequarters of Beef | Tuberculosis. |
| 25 Carcases of Beef and Offals . | Generalised Tuberculosis. |
| 14 Carcases of Beef and Offals . | Casualty animals affected with Acute Septicæmic conditions, severe injuries, etc., including four beasts killed by lightning and one with Tetanus. |
| 30 Small Pig Carcases and Offals | Acute Fever. |
| 7 Pigs and Offals | Acute Swine Erysipelas. |
| 310lbs. of Pork | Condemned for broken legs, bruising, etc. |
| 2 Pigs and Offals | Generalised Tuberculosis. |
| 4 Pigs and Offals | Rickets with Malnutrition. |
| 8 Pigs and Offals | Miscellaneous conditions and diseases, including two sows with Pyæmia and one with Uræmia. |
| 1 Calf Carcase and Offals ... | Badly bled and dropsical. |
| 3 Sheep Carcases and Offals ... | Acute Fever, decomposition and dropsy. |

Small quantities of fish, bacon and other foods condemned for decomposition, etc.

By means of Central Slaughtering, it has again been possible to carry out a 100% inspection which would not have been possible with the present staff if the slaughtering had been spread over the numerous private slaughterhouses in the District. The large quantities of diseased meat condemned gives ample proof of the need for regular and efficient meat inspection.

Food-Preparing Premises.

It has not been possible to make inspections of all these premises such as bakeries, food shops, etc., but inspections have been made of fish and chip shops and several premises where the sanitary inspector had reason to believe conditions were unsatisfactory.

With one or two exceptions the majority of the premises are lacking in the necessary provisions for securing thorough cleanliness, i.e., proper washing facilities and sanitary accommodation for the work people and adequate drainage. No real improvement can be effected in most of these premises until sewage disposal arrangements are provided.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year the number of cases of infectious disease has been generally small.

The scheme for diphtheria immunisation has been extended during the year so that all children between the ages of 1 and 15 years can be immunised free of cost by their own Doctor in addition to the scheme arranged by the County Council.

Between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1941, approximately 161 children under 5, and approximately 250 between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised against Diphtheria.

At the 31st September, 1941, the estimated percentage of child population immunised against Diphtheria was :

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Under 5 years of age | 12.5% |
| Between 5—15 years of age | 56.00% |

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease.

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, 314 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

The numbers of the various diseases are shown in the following table :

| Disease. | Cases Notified. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Small Pox | — |
| Enteric Fever | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 22 |
| Diphtheria | 11 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 9 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 |
| Cerebrospinal Fever | — |
| Measles | 227 |
| Whooping Cough | 42 |
| Erysipelas | 1 |
| Total | 314 |

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases under Age Groups.

| | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria. | Puerperal Pyrexia. | Pneumonia. | Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | Cerebro Spinal Fever. | Measles. | Whooping Cough. | Erysipelas. |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|
| Under 1 year ... | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 9 | |
| 1 to 2 ... | | | | | | | 8 | 6 | |
| 2 to 3 ... | | | | 1 | | | 19 | 8 | |
| 3 to 4 ... | 2 | 2 | | | | | 34 | 5 | |
| 4 to 5 ... | 1 | 2 | | | | | 35 | 2 | |
| 5 to 10 ... | 8 | 4 | | | | | 97 | 11 | |
| 10 to 15 ... | 4 | 2 | | | | | 19 | 1 | |
| 15 to 20 ... | 2 | | | 1 | | | 6 | | |
| 20 to 35 ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 6 | | |
| 35 to 45 ... | 3 | | | 2 | | | | | |
| 45 to 65 ... | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 65 and over ... | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Totals ... | 22 | 11 | 1 | 9 | 1 | - | 227 | 42 | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

Analysis of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis.

| Age Periods. | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| | Respira- tory. | | Non-Respira- tory. | | Respira- tory. | | Non-Respira- tory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1 to 5 ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 5 to 10 ... | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| 10 to 15 ... | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| 15 to 20 ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 20 to 25 ... | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. |
| 25 to 35 ... | 1 | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| 35 to 45 ... | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| 45 to 55 ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | .. | .. |
| 55 to 65 ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Over 65 ... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Totals ... | 2 | 5 | — | 4 | 2 | 3 | — | 1 |

| | | | | M. | F. | Total. |
|------------------------------|----------|---|-------------------|----|----|--------|
| Cases of Tuberculosis on the | 31.12.41 | } | Pulmonary | 23 | 16 | 39 |
| Register | | | Non-Pulmonary ... | 39 | 6 | 45 |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|---|---|----------|
| Cases of Tuberculosis removed from register as cured during 1941 | } | Pulmonary | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | Non-Pulmonary | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | <u>2</u> |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Cases removed from register diagnosis not confirmed during 1941 | } | Pulmonary | — | — | — |
| | | Non-Pulmonary | — | — | — |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-----|---|---|---|
| Cases removed from the district ... | } | Pulmonary ... | ... | — | — | — |
| | | Non-Pulmonary ... | ... | — | — | — |
| | | | | | | — |

Gentlemen,—

Owing to the resignation of Dr. C. W. Dixon from the position of Medical Officer of Health to the Spalding Rural District Council this report has been compiled from available statistics with the assistance of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. Luker.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

I. M. CULLUM,

Medical Officer of Health.



