

[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, St Albans R.D.C.

Contributors

St. Albans (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1943

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qr7pjz37>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

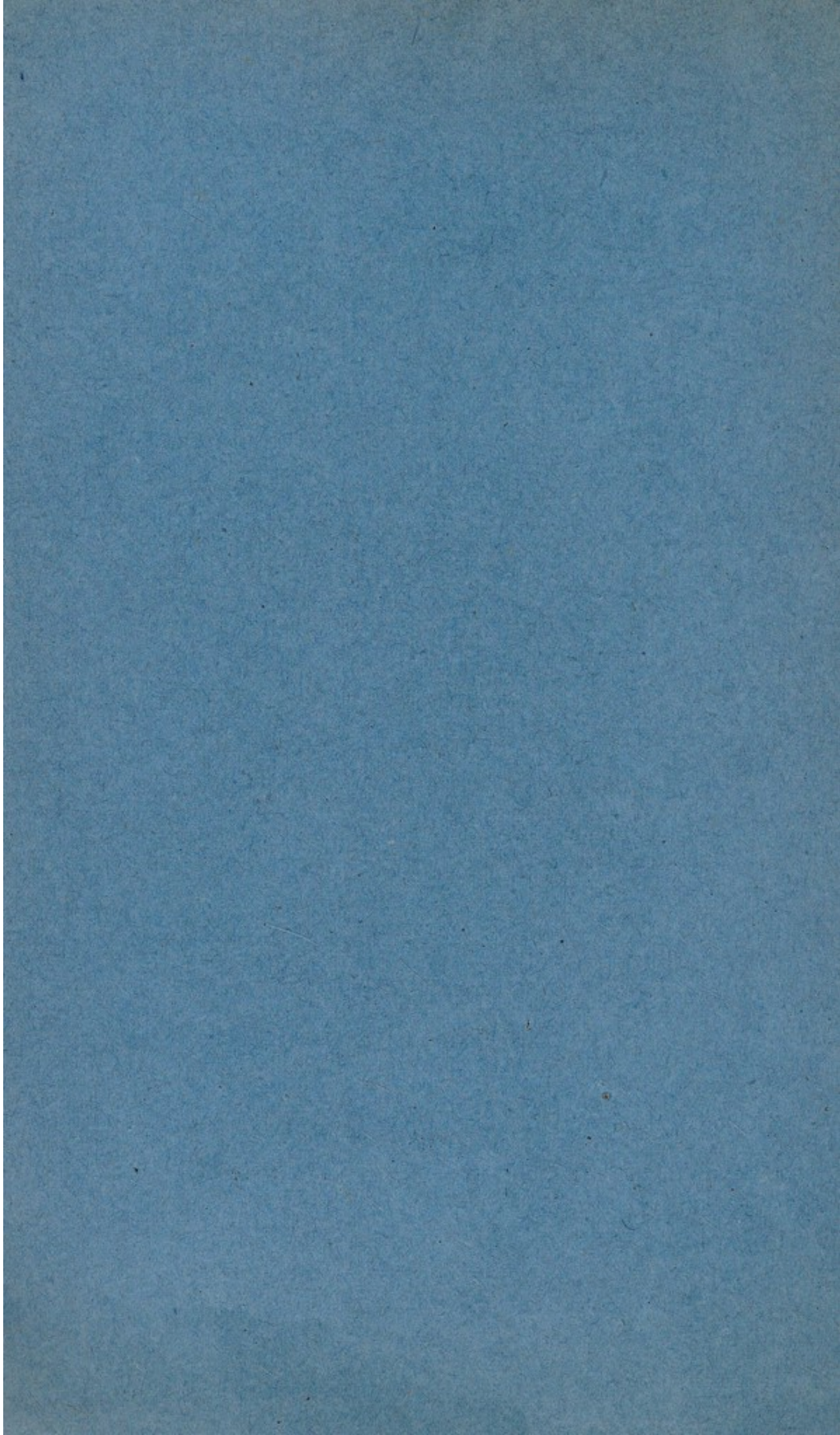


St. Albans
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

ST. ALBANS:
PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

—
1944.



St. Albans
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

ST. ALBANS :

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

—
1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Albans Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present to you our Annual
Report for the year 1943.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 3,157.

Population (estimated), 25,770.

Rateable Value, £169,484.

Sum represented by penny Rate, £660.

Birth rate per 1,000 population, 17.

Death rate per 1,000 population, 7.

Deaths under one year per 1,000 births, 27.

Mortality Table.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis .. | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Influenza | ... | 4 | 4 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... |
| Encephalitis lethargica | ... | ... | ... |
| Cancer | 13 | 13 | 26 |
| Intracranial Vascular lesions ... | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Heart Disease | 19 | 21 | 40 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Pneumonia | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Nephritis | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Puerperal Sepsis, &c. | ... | ... | ... |
| Premature Birth | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Congenital Malformation | ... | 6 | 6 |
| Suicide | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Accidents | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other Violent Causes... .. | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cerebrospinal Fever | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... |
| Diabetes... .. | 1 | ... | 1 |
| All other Causes | 11 | 14 | 25 |
| All Causes... .. | 92 | 88 | 180 |

Infant Mortality.

Of the 12 deaths of infants under one year 10 were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Defects.

Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year.

| DISEASES. | Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Diphtheria | 1 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | 37 | 28 |
| Pneumonia | 5 | ... |
| Erysipelas | 7 | ... |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 3 | 3 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 27 | ... |
| Measles | 445 | ... |
| Pulmonary T.B. | 34 | ... |
| Non-Pulmonary T.B. | 9 | ... |
| Total | 568 | 32 |

Measles.

During the early part of the year there was an epidemic of Measles.

Tuberculosis.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20 | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| 25 | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... |
| 35 | 5 | 7 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| 45 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 55 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals ... | 15 | 19 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | ... | 1 |

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1943, 298 children were immunised against Diphtheria. 120 of these children were under school age and 178 between the ages of 5 and 15 years

Sanitary Administration.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Forty-seven rooms were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases. Three premises were treated for the eradication of bed-bugs.

Nuisances.

Fifty-four complaints were satisfactorily dealt with by informal action. In one other case it was found necessary to take Court proceedings.

Moveable Dwellings.

During the year licences were granted for varying periods authorising the use of eight sites in the district for moveable dwellings. There is little doubt that the use of the powers available under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has had good effect in discouraging an influx of habitations. Our experience over the brief period since the 1st August, 1942, when the Section became operative in the district, tends to confirm the opinion expressed in the Official Circular of the Rural District Councils' Associations of January, 1943, that "cumulatively, these powers go some way towards providing remedies for the unpalatable state of affairs, but they are only completely effective where a Council is prepared to use all their powers constantly and persistently and not to be discouraged by occasional setbacks. Other Councils have cleared up most of the unwholesome spots in their district, but their experience is that constant vigilance and action is essential to prevent a recurrence."

Water.

Seventy-three per cent. of the dwelling-houses in the area are supplied from waterworks. Of these, 97½% are

supplied from the works directly to the houses and the remaining 2½% by means of standpipes. The supply is constant in every case, the quality of the waters is satisfactory and there is no evidence that that they are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

In two localities which rely on wells, viz.: Tyttenhanger Green and Old Bricket Wood, the supply is insufficient and the low rainfall in recent months has led to considerable inconvenience.

Milk.

There are 60 registered Cowsheds in the District, located as follows:—

| <i>Parish.</i> | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Harpenden Rural | ... | ... | 4 |
| Redbourn | ... | ... | 13 |
| St. Michael's Rural | ... | ... | 5 |
| St. Peter's Rural | ... | ... | 7 |
| St. Stephen's Rural | ... | ... | 12 |
| Sandridge | ... | ... | 10 |
| Wheathampstead | ... | ... | 9 |

The National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme was introduced early in the year, and we have co-opted in the work by taking samples from producer-retailers and from farms which deliver direct to the smaller dairies. In all, 50 samples were submitted to the laboratory at Winches Farm, Hatfield Road, St. Albans.

The following licences are in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:—

| <i>Designation.</i> | <i>No.</i> | <i>Licensing Authority.</i> |
|---|------------|-----------------------------|
| Tuberculin Tested Milk (Production of) | ... 13 ... | County Council, |
| Accredited Milk (Production of) | ... 19 ... | County Council. |

| <i>Designation.</i> | <i>No.</i> | <i>Licensing Authority.</i> |
|--|------------|-----------------------------|
| Dealer's Licence in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk ... | 3 ... | Sanitary Authority. |
| Supplementary Licence re- specting sale of Pasteur- ised Milk | 4 ... | Sanitary Authority. |
| Supplementary Licence re- specting sale of Accredited Milk | 1 ... | Sanitary Authority. |

Meat Inspection.

During the year 12,772 animals were slaughtered at at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Sandridge.

Details are as follows :—

| | Beasts. | Calves. | Sheep, | Pigs. |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| Carcases inspected ... | 3,442 | 1,976 | 7,041 | 333 |

Condemnations.

| | Carcases | Quarters of Beef | Head and Tongues | Livers | Lights | Plucks | Miscel- laneous Pieces of Beef Mut- ton and Pork. |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| Beasts... | 43 | 16 | 275 | 518 | 515 | ... | |
| Calves... | 3 | ... | 9 | ... | ... | 11 | 1311 lbs. |
| Sheep ... | 14 | ... | ... | 47 | ... | 9 | |
| Pigs ... | 4 | ... | 8 | 3 | ... | 8 | |

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

