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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

ST. ALBANS:

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

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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 1944.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), ~~3,157~~. 32,084

Population (estimated), 25,980.

Rateable Value, £170,341.

Sum represented by penny Rate, £680.

Vital Statistics.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births
England and Wales	17.6	11.6	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London	20.3	13.7	52
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Census 25,000 to 50,000)	20.9	12.4	44
London	15.0	15.7	61
St. Albans Rural	16.1	7.5	38

Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	3	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	...	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	...	...	...
Influenza	3	1	4
Measles ... ..	...	1	1
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cancer	15	19	34
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	9	14	23
Heart Disease	15	17	32
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	...	6
Bronchitis	3	7	10
Pneumonia	6	11	17
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	..	1	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	2	...	2
Appendicitis	1	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	4	...	4
Nephritis	3	...	3
Puerperal Sepsis, &c ... ..	...	2	2
Premature Birth	1	2	3
Congenital Malformation	7	3	10
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...
Accidents ... ..	...	...	...
Other Violent Causes... ..	1	3	4
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	...	1	1
All other Causes	12	15	27
All Causes... ..	93	102	195

Infant Mortality.

Of the 16 deaths of infants under one year 13 were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Defects.

Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	7	7
Scarlet Fever	42	28
Pneumonia	4	2
Erysipelas	22	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	3
Whooping Cough	49	..
Measles	52	..
Meningitis	2	1
Dysentery	256	256
Jaundice/Hepatitis	24	13
Pulmonary T.B.	42	..
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	17	..
Total	521	314

The outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in an Institution.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	3	3	3	...	...	...	1
10	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
15	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
20	3	4	1	1	1	...	...	...
25	6	5	...	2	...	2	...	...
35	7	1	1	1	2	...	...	...
45	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ..	23	19	8	9	4	2	...	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1944, 214 children were immunised against Diphtheria. 198 of these children were under school age and 16 between the ages of 5 and 15 years

Sanitary Administration.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Fifty rooms were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases. Six rooms were treated for the eradication of bed-bugs. Two large wards at a local hospital were disinfected following an outbreak of dysentery.

Nuisances.

One hundred and fifty-two complaints were satisfactorily dealt with by informal action. In one other case it was found necessary to serve an abatement notice.

Moveable Dwellings.

At the end of the year thirteen licences were in force authorising the use of certain 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, continues to have good effect in discouraging an influx of these habitations, but constant vigilance and action is necessary.

Milk.

There are 61 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	...	...	13
Sandridge	...	...	10
Wheathampstead	...	...	9

Throughout the year we co-operated in the work connected with the National Milk Testing and Advisory

Scheme by taking samples from producer-retailers. In all sixty-five samples were submitted to the Laboratory at Winches Farm, Hatfield Road, St. Albans.

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

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Licensing Authority.</i>
Tuberculin Tested Milk ... (Production of)	13 ...	County Council,
Accredited Milk ... (Production of)	18 ...	County Council.
Dealer's Licence in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	3 ...	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence re- specting sale of Accredited Milk ...	2 ...	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence re- specting sale of Pasteur- ised Milk ...	4 .	Sanitary Authority.

Water.

The low rainfall over a rather long period led to a water shortage in those parts of the district which rely on wells. At Folly Fields, Amwell and Nomansland in the Parish of Wheathampstead, at Old Bricket Wood in the Parish of St. Stephen's and at isolated premises in the Parishes of Redbourn and Kinsbourne Green very considerable inconvenience was experienced. It is hoped that the main will shortly be extended into Folly Fields, Wheathampstead. The question of the provision of a piped supply to Amwell, Nomansland and Old Bricket Wood will no doubt receive full consideration immediately after the war.

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 $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ by means of standpipes. This supply is constant in every case, the quality of the waters is satisfactory and there is no evidence that they are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Of the dwelling-houses served from waterworks, those in the Parish of Redbourn are supplied from the Council's own works. The remaining parishes are supplied by the following water undertakers:—the Harpenden Water Co., Ltd., the St. Albans Waterworks Co., the Barnet District Gas & Water Co., the Colne Valley Water Co., and the Borough of Hemel Hempstead. In addition there are one or two small private suppliers.

Meat Inspection.

During the year 11,763 animals were slaughtered by the Ministry of Food at the Government Slaughterhouse, Sandridge. Details are as follows:—

	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep,	Pigs.
Carcases inspected ...	4,093	1,677	5,649	344

Condemnations.

	Carcases	Quarters of Beef	Head	Livers	Lights	Plucks	Miscellaneous Pieces of Beef, Mutton and Pork.
Beasts...	66	11	331	600	647	...	
Calves...	2	...	2	1	...	9	776 lbs.
Sheep ...	8	...	...	39	...	5	
Pigs ...	5	...	10	3	...	15	

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.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.



