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Contributors

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St. Albans
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1945.

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 1945.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 32,084.

Population (estimated), 23,810.

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	16.1	11.4	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London	19.1	13.5	54
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Census 25,000 to 50,000)	19.2	12.3	43
London	15.7	13.8	53
St. Albans Rural	15.4	8.1	38

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	1	...	1
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cancer	24	13	37
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	7	9	16
Heart Disease	24	16	40
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	6	8
Bronchitis	8	6	14
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	...	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	4	...	4
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases ..	3	3	6
Nephritis	1	4	5
Puerperal Sepsis, &c. ... ..	...	1	1
Premature Birth ... ..	...	1	1
Congenital Malformation	2	5	7
Suicide	1	2	3
Accidents	2	1	3
Other Violent Causes... ..	3	3	6
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	1	1
Diabetes... ..	...	1	1
All other Causes	17	15	32
All Causes ..	112	93	205

Infant Mortality.

Of the 14 deaths of infants under one year 8 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	25	14
Pneumonia	12	...
Erysipelas	8	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...
Sonne Dysentery	66	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...
Whooping Cough	24	...
Measles	136	...
Poliomyelitis... ..	2	2
Pulmonary T.B.	23	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	11	...
Total	307	17

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	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
5	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15	2	2	1	...	1	1	...	...
20	5	4	...	...	3	1	...	...
25	3	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
35	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
45	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	16	7	5	6	9	3	...	...

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1945, 300 children were immunised against Diphtheria. 53 of these children were between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and 247 under school age.

Sanitary Administration.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Thirty-two rooms were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases. Seven houses were treated for the eradication of bed-bugs. Three houses were fumigated upon being vacated by evacuated families and one upon being vacated by a tenant who kept an excessive number of domestic animals.

Nuisances.

Two hundred and fifty-eight complaints of alleged nuisances were lodged and, of these, two hundred and eight were satisfactorily dealt with by informal action, leaving fifty outstanding at the end of the year. In two other cases it was found necessary to serve abatement notices.

Moveable Dwellings.

At the end of the year fourteen licences issued under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were in operation.

There are indications that, because of the acute housing shortage and the demobilisation of Service personnel, numbers of people, and particularly recently-married couples, are purchasing trailer-caravans for occupation until such time as houses become available. The position will require to be carefully watched in order to prevent the development of conditions which might

become prejudicial to health or to the amenities of the district and also to ensure that anything in the nature of permanent camps are not established.

Housing.

The report on Rural Housing prepared by a Subcommittee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse stated that "an essential step preliminary to any long-term programme should be a thorough and comprehensive survey of housing conditions in every rural district in England and Wales. By this means only can the full extent of the problem be known and adequate programmes drawn up for repairs, reconditioning and new building" and recommended that "the survey should be directed to the classification of every working-class house in the district according to the standard of accommodation and amenities provided and its state of repair." The Committee further recommended that in each County there should be set up a Joint Committee charged, *inter alia*, with the duty of formulating more uniform standards for demolition, reconditioning and repairs.

In Circular 64/44 dated 24th May, 1944, the Minister of Health indicated his acceptance, in general, of the recommendations in the Hobhouse Report and, in due course, a Joint Advisory Committee was set up in the County of Hertfordshire. This Committee decided that all Rural houses in the County of £20 rateable value and under should come within the scope of the survey, It also drew up a 'standard of fitness' against which all the houses to be surveyed should be measured and classified.

The survey in the St. Albans Rural District commenced on the 1st April, 1945, and the following statement indicates the progress made up to the 31st December, 1945:—

Parish	No. of Houses in Parish		No. Inspected	No. to be Inspected	Categories			
	£20 R.V. or under	Over £20 R.V.			1/2	3	4	5
Wheathampstead ...	716	188	716	..	407	218	...	91
Sandridge ...	356	177	356	...	241	73	...	42
Colney Heath ...	638	168	638	...	442	123	...	73
London Colney ...	786	133	526	260	434	65	...	27
Redbourn ...	703	180	...	703	...	...	...	...
St. Stephen's ...	1129	331	...	1129	...	...	...	...
St. Michael's ...	139	50	65	74	56	7	...	2
Harpenden Rural ...	59	52	59	...	31	21	...	7
Totals ...	4526	1279	2360	2166	1611	507	..	242

In order to obtain a picture of the immediate housing needs of the district particulars were gathered during the survey of cases of overcrowding and also of all cases where families or married persons are now living as sub-tenants or part occupiers and who require houses of their own. The following figures give this information in respect of those parishes in which the survey had been completed at the end of the year :—

Parish	No. of Cases of Overcrowding	No. of Cases where Sub-tenants require Houses	No. of Condemned Houses occupied under Licence
Wheathampstead...	11	68	7
Sandridge .. ...	...	30	5
Colney Heath ...	6	80	2
Harpenden Rural...	2	5	...

Water.

82.88 per cent of the dwelling-houses in the area are supplied from waterworks. Of these 95.91% are supplied from the works directly to the houses and the remaining 4.09% by means of standpipes. The 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. The following table shows the number of houses served by each undertaking which supplies in the District ;—

SUPPLIER	Number of Dwellings Supplied		Total
	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES	BY MEANS OF STAND-PIPES	
St. Albans Rural District Council ...	610	14	624
St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	2315	72	2387
The Barnet District Gas & Water Company ...	307	49	356
Harpenden Water Company ...	593	35	628
The Colne Valley Water Company ...	213	17	230
Borough of Hemel Hempstead ...	24	...	24
Napsbury Hospital Estate ...	51	...	51
Hill End Hospital Estate ...	111	10	121
Middlesex Colony Estate ...	62	...	62
Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Property (Plant operated by Crown Commissioners)	57	...	57
Miss Walker's Estate, Redbourn ...	98	...	98
Christmas Estate, Bricket Wood ...	111	...	111
Childwickbury Estate, St. Albans ...	62	...	62
	4614	197	4811

For a considerable period concern has been felt regarding the inadequacy of the supplies to certain localities which depend principally on wells. Accordingly, and as a preliminary step towards the submission of schemes for the provision of adequate supplies, a report was prepared in November, 1945, showing the unsatisfactory position at Tyttenhanger Green and Sleafshyde in the Parish of St. Peter Rural, at Amwell and Bower Heath and at Nomansland in the Parish of Wheathampstead, and at Old Bricket Wood in the Parish of St. Stephen's.

Milk.

There are 57 registered Cowsheds in the District located as follows:—

<i>Parish.</i>			
Harpenden Rural	...	...	3
Redbourn	...	...	12
St. Michael's Rural	...	...	4
St. Peter's Rural	...	...	6
St. Stephen's Rural	...	...	12
Sandridge	...	...	11
Wheathampstead	...	...	9
			—
	Total	...	57
			—

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 one hundred and four 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)	15 ...	County Council,
Accredited Milk ... (Production of)	15 ...	County Council.
Supplementary Licence re- specting the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	5 ...	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence re- specting the sale of Pas- teurised Milk ...	4 ...	Sanitary Authority.

Meat Inspection.

During the year 11,053 animals were slaughtered by the Ministry of Food at the Government Slaughterhouse, Sandridge. Details are as follows :—

	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep,	Pigs.
Carcases inspected ...	4,130	1,325	5,200	398

Condemnations.

	Carcases	Quarters of Beef	Head	Livers	Lights	Plucks	Miscel- laneous Pieces of Beef, Mut- ton and Pork.
Beasts...	52	31	407	600	675	...	
Calves...	5	...	...	2	...	7	1943 lbs.
Sheep ...	4	...	...	77	...	12	
Pigs ...	4	...	18	2	...	3	

Your obedient servants,

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

Council Offices,
43 Upper Lattimore Road,
St. Albans, Herts.

3rd April, 1946.



