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Contributors

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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST.AUSTELL

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to be able once again to present a very satisfactory Report on the health of the District, the absence of serious diseases has been very marked especially with regard to scarlet fever and diphtheria. It is possible that the immunity from the latter is largely due to the inoculations of preceding years and is regrettable that still more advantage is not taken of this means of protection.

You will note that in spite of war conditions the birth rate has increased and the death rate diminished. The infant mortality rate also shows great improvement, an encouraging sign.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

E.G.ANDREW.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	82,389.
Population (Census 1931)	20,464.
Population (estimated mid-1943)	18,860.
Rateable Value	£65,529.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£270.
No. of Inhabited houses 1943.	5,921.

The principal industries are clay-mining and agriculture. The decline in the population still continues, as is quite natural under present conditions, there is a decrease of about 1100 from last year's figures.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births.</u>				} Birth rate per thousand of the population	15.1
M.	F.	Total	England & Wales		
Legitimate	122	145	267	London	15.8
Illegitimate	6	12	18	1942 R.D.C. St.A.	14.3
	128	157	285		
<u>Still Births</u>				} Rate per thousand of total births (live and still)	43.6
M.	F.	Total	Rate per thousand of pop.		
Legitimate	7	5	12	England & Wales	.54
Illegitimate	1	0	1	London	.45
	8	5	13		
<u>Deaths</u>				} Death rate per thousand of population	11.8
M.	F.	Total	1942		
	124	100	224.	England & Wales	12.1
				London	15.0

Deaths from puerperal sepsis Nil
Deaths from puerperal Causes Nil

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (under one year)

	M.	F.	Total	} Rate per 1000 Live Births	38.5
Legitimate	6	5	11		
Illegitimate	0	0	0	Rate for England & Wales	49.0
			11	Rate for London	58.0

Deaths from Measles Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2) 3

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

I am glad to be able to report that the increase in the infantile Mortality Rate of last year has been checked and the figures for this year 38.5 per 1000 Live Births compares most favourably not only with that for England & Wales but with our own rate for 1942. It shows a decrease of 20.7 per 1000 Live Births. More than half (7) were due to premature birth and congenital causes.

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

1943		1942	
Heart Disease	71	Heart Disease	75
Cancer	30	Cancer	40
Cerebral Causes	21	Cerebral Causes	30
Influenza	11	Diabetes	5
Nephritis	10	Nephritis	8
Pneumonia	9	Pneumonia	8
Bronchitis	9	Bronchitis	13

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH. (cont)

1943		1942	
Tuberculosis (all forms)	5	Tuberculosis (all forms)	9
Road Traffic	1	Road Traffic	2
Suicide	Nil	Suicide	2
Other Deaths from accident	1	Other Deaths from accident	5

The order in which the various causes of death occur in the above lists varies very little from year to year. Cancer again takes second place showing a rate 13.3% of total deaths. It may be noted that there is a marked decrease in all forms of violent deaths only one suicide and one Road Traffic death being reported. The latter is a good record in view of the large number of Road deaths in other parts of the country.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Scarlet Fever.

Only 2 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during the year, continuing the marked decrease of last year. This is an extraordinary low figure and a welcome change from the peak year of 1940.

Diphtheria.

It is also pleasing to find that only two cases of Diphtheria have been notified. Unfortunately one of these was fatal, a child of 13 years. Neither of these cases had been immunized, surely a warning to parents, of the desirability of this protection for their children. Last year 500 children under 15 years of age were inoculated, of these 228 were under 5 years of age. It has been estimated that since inoculation was introduced in the district about 44.1% of the under fives have been immunized and 41.1% of the five - fifteen class. This is really not good enough, in spite of the extra efforts made in 1943 to impress the public with the great importance of this protective treatment. Nothing short of a threatened epidemic or some serious cases in their immediate neighbourhood seems to influence them.

Measles.

There has been a considerable epidemic of this disease, 79 cases were notified occurring principally in the St. Stephens & St. Pennis areas.

Whooping Cough.

There has been a reduction in the cases notified since last year 32 instead of 50. These chiefly occurred in the St. Stephens area. No deaths were reported.

Mumps.

This disease was somewhat prevalent in the Nanpean, St. Ewe and Carhayes areas, there being 40 cases among children of school age.

Pneumonia.

Twelve cases were notified and nine deaths occurred.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

No case was reported.

Enteric.

No case was notified in the area.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases were notified, none proved fatal. In connection with this subject, an increasing number of patients are taking advantage of the Maternity Hospitals available under County Council supervision.

Tuberculosis.

Fifteen cases in all were reported, 13 pulmonary (4 male and 9 female) and 2 Non-pulmonary (1 male and 1 female). This is slightly above the average but fewer deaths occurred, namely five (2 pulmonary and 3 Non-pulmonary), of these 4 had been previously notified, i.e. 80%. Early diagnosis is much helped by the use of X-Ray photographs. This is so important as often this is the only means of detecting the first stages of the disease.

Scabies

Although less prevalent scabies is by no means stamped out. The following number of patients were treated at the Castle-an-Dinas Hostel until it was closed in October:-

Unaccompanied Evacuees St. Austell R.D.C.	42
Unaccompanied Evacuees St. Austell U.D.C.	17
Local Patients from Urban and Rural areas	37
Total	96

Since the closure of the Hostel, patients have been sent to the Grove, Charlestown and to Newquay. Personally I feel it is a pity that we have no longer a centre under our own control as it is sometimes difficult to obtain admission for patients belonging to the neighbourhood, other than evacuees.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

At the commencement of 1943 there were 947 Evacuees in the Rural District, at the end of the year 331 had left the district that is 34%.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Now slaughtering has been centralized it is possible to inspect carcasses when slaughtered. During the year the number of carcasses condemned was 22 Bullocks, 18 Sheep, 3 Calves while the number of parts of carcasses condemned totalled 89 including Livers.

Tin Food.

A considerable amount of Tin Goods have been condemned, 186 tins in all.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Numerous visits were made to Cowsheds throughout the district for re-registration and in all cases the places were well kept.

Tents, Vans, Sheds.

There are several encampments of Tent and Van dwellers in the area and visits were made in the Luxulyan, St. Columb and St. Enoder areas.

Sanitary Work.

Houses Built	0.
Sewers Cleared	9.
Dirty Houses cleansed	5.
Slaughterhouse visits	285.
Tents and Vans	15.

Sanitary Work. (cont)

Manure and Cowsheds inspected	46
New Drains laid	12
Closets repaired etc.	6
Cesspools cleansed	12
Samples of Water (all satisfactory)	4
(St. Mawgan 2. St. Stephens 1. St. Newan 1)	

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The St. Austell ambulance service still deserves our sincere appreciation and thanks for their excellent work and co-operation during 1943. The figures given below include both Rural and Urban patients.

<u>Patients carried</u>		<u>Total mileage</u>
Infectious	4	7,687 miles
Road Accidents	17	
Other Accidents	23	
Hospital & Sickness	268	

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

In spite of transport and other war-time difficulties the Infant Welfare Centre, the Orthopaedic, Eye, Throat, Ear and Maternity Clinics still continue to serve both the Urban and Rural Districts of St. Austell.

18
17
16
15

1877

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