

[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, St Ives (Hunts.) Borough.

Contributors

St. Ives (Cambridgeshire, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1945

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the BOROUGH OF
SAINT IVES (HUNTS) FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 1945.

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To:-

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF SAINT IVES (HUNTS).

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this
report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of
the Borough.

The essential features of the Report have
been maintained and only matters affecting Public
Health undertaken during the year have been
included therein.

I am,
Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen ,
Your obedient Servant,

W. R. GROVE.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

W.R. GROVE, MD., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector.

G.G. YEANDLE, Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	2,326 acres.
Rateable Value	£17,565.
Value of Penny Rate	£69
Number of Inhabited houses (approximately)				900
Population middle 1944	...	...	...	3,215

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 20.5
(legitimate)	60	28	32	
(illegitimate)	6	2	4	
	<u>66</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>36</u>	

Still-births				rate per 1000 population 0.31
(legitimate)	1	0	1	
(illegitimate)	0	0	0	

Deaths.	44	21	23	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population. 13.6
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Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings
29 and 30 of the Registrar General's
Short List)

		Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	...	0	
No. 30 other Puerperal causes	...	<u>0</u>	
	Total ...	0	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year
of age:

		30 per 1000	live births
		M.	F.
All infants per 1000 live births.	2	1	1
Legitimate infants per 1000 live births	2	2	2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 live births	0	0	0

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10.
" " measles	...	...	...	0
" " whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
" " diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

As a comparison the Birth-rate and Death-rate for England and Wales
during 1945 was:

Birth-rate	...	...	...	16.1
Death-rate	...	...	...	11.4
Deaths under one year per 1000 births was	...	...	...	46

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

1. (1) WATER. The water supply to the Borough which is purchased in bulk from the Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board has been satisfactory. 55 samples have been taken during the 12 months out of which 51 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory, the cause of the latter being traced to alterations and extensions to a pipe line which was treated and remedied. The main supply is treated at source by chlorination and de-chlorination.
The rainfall in the district was once again below the average but it was not found necessary to restrict the public supply in any way.
The total consumption for the year was 31,253,000 gallons which is a decrease of 671,000 gallons on the previous year.
- (2) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. No alterations and extensions to the system have been made during the year, careful consideration has been given to reports made by Consulting Engineers as to suggested schemes for the provision of a new system of drainage and construction of sewage works, both as a combined scheme with the neighbouring villages in the St. Ives Rural area, and in addition as a separate scheme dealing only with the Borough. Further surveys are being made at the present time and it is hoped that a definite plan will be agreed upon during the next twelve months, the matter now having become one of urgency owing to the fact that new housing schemes are now under way.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. The River Great Ouse which flows through the Borough, and is controlled by gates under the jurisdiction of the Council, has been practically free of flood, only maintenance work has been necessary, all of a minor character. The River Great Ouse Catchment Board remain the controlling authority.
3. (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. No conversion from pail to water closets have been carried out during the year, it is hoped that with the introduction of a new sewage system which should be carried out within the next few years that the majority of the remaining pail closets will be eliminated. The Council contract for the emptying of the night soil pails in the district and no complaints were received during the year of any importance.
- (2) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The general system of house refuse collection which is carried out by contract remains unaltered, the twice weekly collection appears to be satisfactory which accounts for the very few complaints received, all of which have been of a minor character.
The disposal of refuse presents difficulties which did not arise in pre-war days and this matter will have to be seriously considered in the future.
Steps are still being taken to salvage materials required by the Ministry the most important at the moment being waste paper and kitchen waste.
At the request of the Ministry of Supply another Book Drive was held and although following closely on the previous drive, satisfactory results were obtained.
4. SHOPS & OFFICES. No infringements were found and no complaints received during the year.
5. CAMPING SITES. No applications for the licensing or camping sites in the Borough area were made during the year and no licences have been granted previously.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. From general observations no nuisances have

been observed with regard to smoke from premises and no complaints have been received.

7. SWIMMING POOL. No alterations or structural work of any importance was carried out at the swimming baths during the season, the general layout remaining unchanged, The baths were pumped dry and cleansed before the commencement of the season as in previous years and the method of continually changing the water by the flow of the river water through the wide inlet and outlet, the baths remain the same. In spite of the unsatisfactory weather during the season the attendance was good.
8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No evidence of infestation during routine inspections was found during the year and no complaints were received.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) MILK SUPPLY. The number of cowsheds and dairies in the district is 7, all of which are maintained in a satisfactory manner. As in previous years practically the whole of the milk retailed in the Borough is produced in the Saint Ives Rural District Area.
- (b) MEAT. The occupation of the Borough Slaughter house remains in the hands of the Ministry of Food, the inspection and examination of the meat has been carried out by Officials appointed and under the jurisdiction of the County Council. No private slaughter houses in the area were in use during the year.
- (c) BAKEHOUSES. The three registered bakchouses in the area have been kept in a satisfactory manner, important improvements have been carried out in the cases of two.
- (d) FACTORIES. Routine inspections of factories have shown they have been maintained in a satisfactory manner, the Factory Inspector drew attention to minor defects in lavatory accommodation which have been rectified.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 162
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 174
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 22
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 27
 - (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 0
 - (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 30
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	75
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3.	Action under Statutory powers during the year:-		
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.		0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
	(a) by Owners		0
	(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners.		0
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-		
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		0
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:		
	(a) by Owners		0
	(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners		0
	(c). Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-		
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...		0
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		0
	(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:-		
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.		0
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room have been rendered fit		0
4.	Housing Act, 1939 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-		
	(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year		2
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein		3
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein		20
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		0
	(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		1
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases		7
	(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding		0
	(e) The difficulty of alleviating the overcrowding position remains the same and until further accommodation is available in the District no steps can be taken in the matter		

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were notifications of the following:-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1

Immunization against Diphtheria during 1945:-

Completion of course, children under 5	20
" " " over 5	1
and under 15	

The children under 5 were treated at the Clinic but in addition a certain number in both classes have been immunised privately.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age period			New Cases				Deaths				
			Pulmonary		Non-Pul		Pulmonary		Non-Pul		
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0
1
5
10
15
20
25
35	1	..	..	..	..
45	1	..	..
55
65 and upwards
Totals.			0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no change in the Laboratory facilities, Ambulances, Nursing in the Home and the Isolation Hospital all of which are working satisfactory.