

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, St Ives (Hunts.) R.D.C.

Contributors

St. Ives (Cambridgeshire, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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ANNUAL REPORT.

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District
of Saint Ives in the County of Huntingdonshire,
for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Saint Ives
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you
this Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions
of the area for the year 1938.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant.

W. R. GROVE, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. R. GROVE, M.D.

Surveyor & Water Inspector :

G. G. YEANDLE

Member of the Municipal and County Engineers and
Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Sanitary Inspector:

G. H. PHIPPS,

Certificate of Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board,
Meat and Other Foods Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	45,143 acres
Estimated Population (Mid. 1938)				...	9749
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£30,431
Sum represented by a Penny Rate				...	£132
Number of Inhabited Houses (approximately)					3061

The district, which is entirely Rural and borders the fens, completely surrounds the Market Town of Saint Ives.

Agriculture is the only important industry, and cottage property predominates throughout the area.

The construction of two Royal Air Force Stations, one completely and one partially situated within the district, has attracted a number of Agricultural Workers away from the land.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total	M	F		
Live Births	{	Legitimate	115	50	65	Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resi- dent population 12'3
	{	Illegitimate	5	2	3	
Still-births		8	4	4	Rate per 1000 total (live and still)births 12'6	
Deaths		116	59	57	Death-rate per 1000 of the es- timated resident population 11'9	

Death 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	0
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	0	0
Total	0	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	58·3
Legitimate infants per 1000 live births	58·3
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	... nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... 23
„ Measles (all ages)	... nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... nil

As a comparison the Birth-rate for England and Wales during 1938 was 15·1
 Death-rate 11·6
 Deaths under one year per 1000 births was 53

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no change in the Laboratory facilities, Ambulance, and Nursing in the home, and the Isolation Hospital shared with other Authorities, all of which are working satisfactorily.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1.—(1) WATER.—The new scheme in conjunction with the Ramsey Urban District Council, was inaugurated on the 1st April. The scheme is administered by a Joint Board of ten Members, the two Councils being equally represented on the Board; the distribution of the Water to the individual consumers is, however, controlled by the respective Councils.

The supply is taken from shallow wells situated at Earith, and after Chlorination, is pumped to a Water Tower at Bluntisham, the capacity of which is 140,000

gallons. The water is then distributed by gravitation, to the following ten Parishes:—Bluntisham - cum - Earith, Broughton, Colne, Holywell-cum-Needingworth, Oldhurst, Pidley-cum-Fenton, Somersham, Warboys, Wistow, and Woodhurst: Bury, which is included in the scheme, obtains the supply direct from the Reservoir which supplies Ramsey.

The supply has been satisfactory as regards quantity, and it is anticipated that the Wells will continue to yield the water required to meet all normal demands that may be made upon them in the future.

The quality of the water is controlled by means of an automatic Chlorination Plant, and samples are submitted periodically to the Public Analyst for Bacteriological Examination, 68 samples are submitted each year; that the method employed for the sterilisation of the supply is satisfactory, is borne out by the fact that the result of each examination has shown that a satisfactory standard of purity has been maintained.

As regards the remaining five Parishes in the District, Fenstanton, and a very small part of Hemingford Grey, are provided with a supply by the East Hunts. Water Company. A further scheme is in course of preparation which will supply the remainder of Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots, Hilton, and Houghton and Wyton. When this scheme is completed each Parish in the District will have a satisfactory supply of Water.

1.—(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—There has been no important extension of Sewerage in the district during the year.

The advent of a piped supply of water has, however, intensified the difficult problem of drainage and sewage disposal in the district, which difficulty will tend to increase as more consumers are connected to the supply. It is the hope of the Council that grants similar to those which were given for the provision of water supplies will be extended to schemes of sewage disposal in Rural Districts.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Great Ouse, which flows through the district, is controlled by the River Great Ouse Catchment Board, and no complaints have been received of pollution due to any circumstances arising in the district.

Minor watercourses which are under the control of the Council are cleansed periodically. The expense, which in some instances is considerable, is borne by those Parishes through which the streams flow. In so far as the watercourses carry Sewage it is hoped that some grant towards this year's expenditure, will be forthcoming from the Huntingdon County Council.

- 3.—(1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The closets in use are for the most part of the conservancy type, save in houses of a residential character, which are provided with closets on the water carriage system.

The Council contracts for the removal of Night Soil from Bluntisham-cum-Earith, Somersham and Warboys; these parishes are of a semi-urban character.

The number of premises in each Parish from which Night Soil is removed each week is as follows:—

Bluntisham-cum-Earith	274
Somersham	317
Warboys	392

A new sanitary cart has been acquired by the Council for the collection of Night Soil from Bury, but so far the Council have been unable to obtain a contractor to carry out the collection.

During 1938 twenty pail closets were replaced by closets on the water carriage system and it is anticipated that this number will steadily increase. Of the Council's 414 Houses erected, or in course of erection, 16 at Warboys, and 16 at Wistow, are on the water carriage system.

3.—(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The Council contracts for the monthly collection of Unburnable Rubbish from Bluntisham-cum-Earith, Colne, Hemingford Abbots, Somersham and Warboys, and for a quarterly collection from Fentanton, Hemingford Grey, Hilton and Woodhurst.

A small scheme for the collection of Unburnable Rubbish from Pidley-cum-Fenton has been arranged to commence in January, 1939, and the Council have made every endeavour to obtain tenders for a monthly collection of House Refuse at Bury, so far without success.

Having regard to the relatively high cost of collection in smaller Parishes there appears to be a growing need for centralisation of these services, the cost of which would then be covered by a general rate.

3.—(3) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of Inspections for All Purposes	1394
--	------

(a) HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	382
Re-inspections	425
Number of Informal Notices Served	60
Number of Informal Notices Complied with	52
Number of Statutory Notices Served	1
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with	6

(b) INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Factories Inspected	13
Number of Written Notices Served	1
Number of Occupiers Prosecuted	Nil

The Sanitary Accommodation of one Factory was found to be unsatisfactory and a new Pail Closet was provided after the service of an informal notice.

(c) INSPECTIONS UNDER REGULATIONS, ETC.

Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	80
Butchers' Premises	...	...	185
Meat, from outside the district	...	...	12
General Public Health visits	...	...	63
Slaughterhouses	...	...	187
Offensive Trades	...	...	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	10
Dumps and Tips	...	...	58
After Infectious Disease	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	46

(d) INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH
MEAT REGULATIONS :

Number of Notifications of Casual Slaughter received	...	...	...	14
Number of Animals Slaughtered		Pigs		41
		Cattle		1

3— (4) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The shops and offices in the area have been inspected and found generally in a satisfactory condition. Sanitary Defects of a minor character have been remedied without the issue of Statutory Notices.

3—(5) CAMPING SITES.

The number of sites in the area used for Camping Purposes during the year is not known and no licences were issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act. It is anticipated that suitable sites will be licensed in the following summer.

3. (6)—SMOKE ABATEMENT.

All premises in the area have been conducted during the year without Smoke Nuisance.

3. (7)—SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Public or privately owned Swimming Baths open to the Public in the area.

3. (8)—ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No houses in the area have been found to be infested with bed bugs during the year. Should any houses be found to be infested, disinfection will be carried out by the Council's Officers. The Housing Manager has not reported any case of infestation in the Council Houses.

4. SCHOOLS.

With one exception, all the Schools in that part of the area which has been provided with a piped supply of water, are now connected to the Main. It is anticipated that the remaining School will shortly make an application to be connected to the supply.

So far one Elementary School has taken advantage of the Water supply and converted the pail Closets to Water Closets.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	43	32	0
Pneumonia	11	—	3
Erysipelas	1	—	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pul		Pulmonary		Non-Pul	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			2	3	1	3	0	0	0	1

HOUSING

- 1 *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*
- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 382
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 425
- (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 ... 124
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 172
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 13
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (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 dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 52
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*
- (a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
- (a) By owners ... 6
- (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 dwelling-houses in 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 sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	9
(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 having been rendered fit	...	0

4. *Housing Act, 1939.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	7
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	7
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	49
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	4
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	6
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases		51
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	0

(e)—The above figures show that the amount of Overcrowding in the area is very small, but the Council endeavour to re-house overcrowded families into vacant Council Houses, where the permitted number of such houses is sufficiently high to relieve the overcrowding.

The Council's Slum Clearance Scheme relating to 213 houses and 609 persons was practically completed this year and a total of 600 persons have been rehoused. The remaining 9 persons will be rehoused early next year, as new houses in course of erection, are completed. The Council are fully aware that a further scheme is required to deal with the remaining unfit houses, and this work will command much attention in 1939.

22 Council Houses were completed during the year, and 6 were in course of erection at the end of 1938. The total number of Council Houses in the area is 408.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a)—MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Registered Cowkeepers	103
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies	104
„ „ Registered Retailers	42
„ „ Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	106
„ „ Contraventions found	29
„ „ Contraventions remedied	20
„ „ Premises found to require cleansing	14
„ „ Premises found to require Structural Alteration	12

It was found necessary to remove one Retailer from the Register owing to the unsatisfactory condition of his premises, but on the completion of a new Cowshed and Dairy, he was subsequently reinstated.

A Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" was granted to one Retailer during the year for the sale of milk treated in an establishment outside the district. An application for a License in respect of an establishment in which the process of Pasteurisation was intended to be carried on, was refused; the applicant being advised on the necessary alterations which were required, both in regard to his premises and apparatus, in order to comply with the provisions of the Order.

(b)—MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	9
„ „ Licensed Slaughterhouses	1
„ „ Visits to Slaughterhouses	187
„ „ Nuisances found and abated in Slaughterhouses	3
„ „ Visits to Butchers' Shops	185
Total Weight of Meat seized	Nil
„ „ „ „ Voluntarily Surrendered and Destroyed	1130 lbs.

It was not found necessary to seize any meat offered for sale in the District on account of its diseased or unsound condition. A fair proportion of the meat sold in the District was slaughtered outside the area, and delivered to the consumers in Vans, which are inspected as the occasion arises.

All the animals slaughtered in the area were of good quality with the exception of those slaughtered on account of accidental injury.

Although every effort has been made to inspect as much meat as possible, it was realised that pressure of other work and increasing legislation, which continues to add an additional burden to the staff of the Public Health Department, did not allow all the carcasses in the area to be inspected.

The following table summarizes the work done in this connection :—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected ...	83	1	—	203	627
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	—	—	8	33
Percentage of the Number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	7.2%	—	—	3.8%	5.4%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	1	—	—	37
Percentage of the Number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	3.6%	100%	—	—	6.0%

(c)—ADULTERATION, ETC. :—

The County Council administer these Acts.

(d)—CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF
FOOD :—

It was not found necessary to submit any samples of Food for examination to Dr. S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., of Cambridge, to whom samples are submitted for Analysis.

(e)—NUTRITION :—

No special work has been undertaken.

(f)—SHELL FISH (MOLLUSCAN) :—

No beds exist, neither is there any sale of Shell Fish in the area.

ST. IVES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1938.

	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upward
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALL CAUSES.	116	7	0	1	2	6	8	26	66
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro spinal Fever	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...
Other tuberculous diseases	...	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...
Syphilis	...	1	..	...	1	...	...	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane (tabes dorsalis)	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	23	...	..	...	...	...	...	8	15
Diabetes	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	4	...	..	...	...	...	...	2	2
Heart Disease	27	...	...	...	...	..	1	6	20
Aneurysm	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other circulatory diseases	13	...	..	...	..	...	..	3	10
Bronchitis	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peptic Ulcer	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhœa etc (under 2 years)	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	..
Appendicitis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of liver, &c.	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases	1	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	..
Acute and chronic nephritis	2	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Malformation, etc.	5	5	..	...	...	...	...	..	...
Senility	8	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	8
Suicide	1	...	..	...	..	...	...	1	...
Other violence	16	...	..	...	1	5	6	2	2
Other Defined Diseases	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Special Causes (including above)									
Smallpox	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
Poliomyelitis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
	116	7	0	1	2	6	8	26	66

ST. IVES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Vital Statistics for the District during 1938 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to the middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		Number.	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of age		At all ages	
			Number.	Rate					Number.	Rate per 1000 net Births	Number.	Rate
		10			11	12	13					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1932	9312	148	148	15·8	101	10·8	19	29	7	45	111	11·9
1933	9402	136	136	14·5	100	10·6	15	30	5	37	115	12·1
1934	9320	130	130	13·9	108	11·5	6	24	12	91·8	126	13·5
1935	9272	146	146	15·7	108	11·6	9	38	9	62	137	14·7
1936	9196	121	121	13·1	101	10·9	4	39	6	49·5	136	14·8
1937	9614	137	137	14·2	107	11·1	4	49	10	73	152	15·8
1938	9749	120	120	12·3	89	9·1	2	29	7	58·3	116	11·9



