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Contributors

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HEALTH
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on the
SANITARY CONDITIONS.

of the
STONEMARKET URBAN DISTRICT



GENTLEMEN,

I present the annual report for the year ended 31st December 1944.

STATISTICS.

Area	1668 acres.
Population	6704.
Inhabited houses.	2100.
Ratesable Value	£37,523.
Sum raised by 1d rate	£160

BIRTHS

	M	F	Total		
Legitimate	56	51	107	Rate per 1000 population.	15.9
Illegitimate.	11	9	20	(Rate for England	17.6)
			127		

STILLBIRTHS

Legitimate	4	2	6	Rate per 1000 population.	1.0
Illegitimate	1	-	1	(Rate for England	.5)
			7		

Infant mortality.
(under 1 year)

Legitimate	1	1	2	Rate per 1000 live births	23.6
illegitimate.		1	1	(Rate for England	46)
			3		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever	14	Peurperal pyrexia.	1
Whooping Cough	4	Cerebro spinal	
Pneumonia.	7	meningitis.	1
Erysipelas.	2	Measles.	2.

Total 31. These figures are exceptionally low. This is mainly owing to the absence of measles.

Infectious disease incidence, 4.6 per 1000 population.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New pulmonary cases notified, one male aged 19, two females aged 38 and 59. One non-pulmonary case aged 8 months. Two cases were restored to the register after having moved away. 19 cases remained on the register at the end of the year.

One death occurred, the 8 month old child notified, from meningitis.

Notification of all infectious diseases is satisfactory

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F		M	F
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	other circulatory d.	-	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis,	-	1	Bronchitis	4	6
Influenza.	-	1	Pneumonia	-	1
Encephalitis.	1	-	Other respiratory d	1	-
Cancer, mouth and throat	-	-	Digestive disease.	1	1
uterus	-	1	Nephritis.	-	1
breast	-	1	Congenital causes.	1	1
stomach	-	1	Suicide.	1	-
other sites	3	1	Road Traffic	1	-
Diabetes	1	-	Other violence	1	1
Apoplexy.	5.	5.	Other causes	3	4
Heart disease	10.	6.			



GENERAL STATEMENT.

Diphtheria inoculation. Estimated proportion done; under five, 85%, ages five to fifteen, 84%. These figures are still satisfactory, more so than in country districts generally. This is probably due to the school teachers and district nurses and to the infant welfare centre that functions in the town.

Water.

This is satisfactory in quantity and quality. It is tested every two months, in supply, bacteriologically. It is tested at the source and chemically at longer and irregular intervals. This latter should be regularised. No plumbo-solvency has ever occurred and no action for contamination has been necessary during the year. All houses have it piped in except a few properties at the extreme rural ends of the town, probably less than 1%.

Sewerage.

The new scheme has not yet been commenced.

Housing.

Still in abeyance. The programme, at present, expects 66 in each of the first two years. Living conditions are very unsatisfactory in many cases.

Milk

No tuberculous sample was found. The bulk of the supplies are pasteurised and examined by the C. W. S. and also examined at different intervals by the County authority.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1. GENERAL After re-reading my section of the Medical Officers Report for the year 1943 I felt tempted to repeat it word for word, for every statement made therein could usefully be incorporated in the report for the year 1944, now under review.

Repetition, however, being neither current or topical, must be avoided.

Statistics, of feature of the pre-war reports, are once again omitted, principally because they could not be made impressive. Reason? (a) My normal duties plus war-time functions occupied nearly all my official time and too much of my supposed leisure time, and (b) the continued shortage of labour and materials made detailed housing inspections a waste of time.

It was only possible, therefore, to deal with urgent and necessary sanitary duties such as Meat Inspection, Milk and Water Sampling and the usual, inevitable complaints always with us, whereby one occupier swears on oath that the misdeeds of her neighbour will surely cause some serious epidemic.

2. WATER No adverse report on the quality of the Town or Combs water was received from the Analyst. Chlorination was carried out throughout the year and a few consumers detected, or thought that they detected, a chlorinous taste.

Complaints of discoloured water were more frequent and in nearly every case this was caused by old, decaying, wrought iron service pipes.

3. SEWERAGE. For many years your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors have informed you (as if you did'nt know) that your Sewage Disposal system was obsolete, defective, and inefficient. Another dozen adjectives could well be used. This dose, under doctor's orders, must be swallowed annually until such time as your Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector can proudly report the completion of the proposed new scheme.

Much detailed work has been carried out during the year and it is hoped that the Inquiry stage will be reached ere long, a stage which might well have been reached in 1939 had it not been for the ambitions of a certain Continental semi-maniac.

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4. HOUSING. Stowmarket, in common with all towns, has made its contributions to the national housing shortage. Your Housing Committee however, are tackling the problem from a Public Health point of view rather than length of time on a list and this enables them to abate overcrowding as houses become vacant.

At the time of writing, preparations are well in hand for 66 houses on the St. Edmundsbury Estate and a similar number on the Combs Estate. The latter Estate will be used to site the promised 20 Temporary Ministry of Works bungalows.

There are signs that private enterprise building may soon commence; this will be a useful contribution to the needs of the salaried and higher wage earning classes..

5. FOODSTUFFS. The most important sanitary duty performed was Meat Inspection, and this was carried out diligently within the limits of available time. Expert advice was called for in only three cases and the considerable help given me by the Slaughterhouse Manager is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

A larger proportion of tinned goods were condemned than in pre-war years, due mainly to inefficient packing. The average grocer discarded such time without fuss at one time, but such is the value of 'points' these days that condemnation notes were eagerly sought for unsound tins. The note guaranteed 'points' replacement.

H. PEDLER,
ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

