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STROUD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILAnnual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1946

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting in accordance with Circular 13/47 my Annual Report for the year 1946. It is again an abridged one pending the return of more normal times.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There have been no serious outbreaks of infectious disease in the district.

SCARLET FEVER

Only 11 cases were notified as compared with 22 cases in 1945, 40 cases in 1944 and 131 cases in 1943, in which year the disease was extremely prevalent. One case proved not to be Scarlet Fever after further investigation.

DIPHTHERIA

10 cases were notified as compared with 17 last year; 5 proved not to be suffering from the disease after admission to hospital. Of the remaining 5, one was an adult and four were children under 15 years of age, of whom 2 had previously been immunised. No deaths were recorded from the disease. The Immunisation Scheme instituted by your Council early in 1940 and subsequently made general throughout the county free of charge has been continued with success. It is estimated that at the end of the year there were in the area 2,336 children under 15 years of age protected, giving a percentage of 70. There is reason to believe however, that this figure should be higher as it is not easy to make an accurate estimate. There is no doubt that the percentage of refusals is steadily diminishing, and Diphtheria as a killing disease of young children is gradually disappearing.

No cases of Enteric Fever, Anthrax, Typhus, Smallpox or Rat-bite Fever were brought to my notice.

TUBERCULOSIS

26 cases were notified last year, of whom 7 were service cases whose homes are situated in the district. Mass Radiography in the services was responsible for the detection of at least one service case, and it is to be hoped that a comprehensive scheme covering the civilian population of the Country will not be long delayed. The effective prevention of Tuberculosis depends upon many factors such as good housing, education of the public, early treatment for those affected and early diagnosis, and as regards non-pulmonary tuberculosis a safe, tubercle free milk supply, which can only be obtained by efficient pasteurisation or the eradication of Tuberculous infected cattle.

The death rates from the Disease (per million) are indicated below.

1939	...	345	1943	...	560
1940	...	822	1944	...	568
1941	...	577	1945	...	839
1942	...	428	1946	...	642

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

IN THE YEAR 1649

BY JOHN BURNET, BISHOP OF SALISBURY

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON, Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1680.

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THE SECOND VOLUME

STATISTICS

Birth Rate 18.1 per 1,000 as compared with 15.8 per 1,000 last year.

Death Rate 14.1 per 1,000 as compared with 14.4 per 1,000 last year.

Infantile Mortality 35.4 per 1,000 as compared with 44.8 per 1,000 last year.

Estimated Population 15,570.

The statistics may be considered satisfactory, the Birth Rate increasing and the Death Rate declining. The Infantile Mortality 35.4 per 1,000 compares very favourably with that for England and Wales viz:- 43 per 1,000.

The principle causes of Death were as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Heart Disease 71 | (4) Respiratory Diseases 11 |
| (2) Intra-cranial vascular lesions 38 | (5) Tuberculosis 10 |
| (3) Cancer 30 | (6) Road traffic and other violent causes 6 |

It is satisfactory to be able to record that deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age were Nil as compared with a death rate in England and Wales of 4.4 per 1,000 live births. No deaths were recorded from Diphtheria, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough, and Influenza accounted for only 2 deaths.

HOUSING

The Council have extensive plans for the erection of houses suitable for letting to the working classes and sites have been prepared at Ebley, Cashes Green and the Bisley Old Road. The need for more accommodation to provide for those living in overcrowded and insanitary conditions, and for the ordinary needs of residents and persons marrying and desiring to start married life in a house of their own, is urgent, but unfortunately progress has been slow and it would appear that it will be sometime yet before even a start can be made in dealing with the considerable number of unfit houses and cottages in the area, which should be demolished.

During the year 16 houses have been erected by private enterprise.

The position at the end of the year as regards Council houses was as follows:-

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) No. of houses of traditional design completed and occupied | NIL |
| (2) No. of prefabricated houses completed and occupied... | NIL |
| (3) No. of houses under (1) in course of erection | 60 |
| (4) No. of houses under (2) in course of erection | 40 |

The Sanitary Inspectors have spent a considerable time last year inspecting dwelling houses for housing defects and a total of 887 inspections were made. Every effort is made in spite of the great difficulties encountered to see that the nuisances and defects are speedily remedied. Special attention was paid during the year to premises where food is prepared, and the Rodent Control Scheme under the direction of the Ministry of Food has been very successful.

SEWERAGE

Unfortunately no start has yet been made during the year on the comprehensive sewerage scheme covering not only the Urban District but the Rural area around. The enquiries have been held and the need for the early commencement of the work is, in my opinion, urgent, having regard to the existing state of the Disposal Works and the potential danger to health arising

With a total of 10,000 in 1900 and 12,000 in 1910, the population of the island has increased by 20 per cent. The total area of the island is 1,000 square miles. The population of the island is 10,000 in 1900 and 12,000 in 1910. The total area of the island is 1,000 square miles. The population of the island is 10,000 in 1900 and 12,000 in 1910.

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from the continuance of such insanitary conditions.

WATER SUPPLY

Approximately over 90% of the population is supplied with main water from the supply of the Stroud District Water Board obtained at Chalford, Gigg Mill, Nailsworth and the Gathering grounds on the hills north of the town and Gainey's Well in the town. The water has been found satisfactory both in quality and quantity generally speaking. It is chlorinated before going into supply and although hard, is clear and palatable. Samples are taken regularly both of the raw water and also of that going into supply. B. coli is generally absent in 100 cos.

The following is one of the results received.

Total dissolved solids (per 100,000)	30.9	
Combined Chlorine		1.3
Nitrogen present as Nitrates		0.124
Nitrogen present and Nitrites		absent
Mineral Ammonia		0.0008
Organic Ammonia		0.0024
Oxygen required to oxidise the Organic Matter		0.005
	in 3 hrs.	
Temporary hardness		22.0
Permanent Hardness		4.0
Total Hardness		26.0

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Micro-organisms (Agar at 22°C in 3 days)	1
" " (Agar at 37°C in 48 hrs)	1

B. coli absent in 100 cubic centimetres.

When the houses are supplied by wells or springs, and the supply is found to be contaminated, immediate steps are taken to obtain the provision of the main supply where available. During 1946 five such samples were taken and found to be unfit and town water was laid on in each case.

SWIMMING POOL

The Council is fortunate in having provided before the war an ideal open-air swimming pool at Stratford Park amid ideal surroundings and was in constant use during the Summer months. The water is continually aerated, filtered and chlorinated and samples taken at regular intervals have shewn it to be very satisfactory bacteriologically.

In conclusion, I think I may say that, in spite of the many difficulties encountered following the war, the health of the District is satisfactory as far as one can judge from Statistics. There is, however, a tremendous task ahead if real health and happiness is to be attained.

Finally I would like to thank the Council and the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and support throughout the year, and the Sanitary Inspectors and the members of the other Departments for the assistance they have afforded me.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

NICHOLAS. D. DUNSCOMBE,

Medical Officer of Health.

