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Contributors

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the year ending December 31st, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report for the year 1943 with corresponding statistics on various subjects for the preceeding years 1942, 1941, 1940 and 1939.

Complying with Circular No. 2604, 24/3/42 from the Ministry of Health particulars of population and other matter shown in this Report will not be given to the Press for publicity.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	4,576
Residential Population (Registrar General's Figure)	6,497
Number of inhabited Houses	1,776
Rateable Value	£39,193. 0. 0
Sum represented by a penny rate	£154.19.11

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Legitimate - Male, 52 Female, 48)
Illegitimate - Male, - Female, 3) Total 103.

1943 Birth Rate	15.85
1942	11.06
1941	11.77
1940	11.99
1939	12.49

Deaths

Male, 40 Female, 42) Total 82

1943 Death Rate	12.62
1942	9.86
1941	11.36
1940	10.12
1939	9.92

Deaths of Infants under One Year

Legitimate - Male, 3 Female, 1)
Illegitimate - Male, 0 Female, 0) Total 4

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)

1943	38. 8
1942	54. 5
1941	23. 2
1940	51. 9
1939	27. 3

Still Births

Legitimate - Male, 1 Female, 0)
Illegitimate - Male, 0 Female, 0) Total 1

1943 Still Birth Rate	0.15
1942 Corresponding Year	0.29
1941	0.27
1940	0.31
1939	0.34

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

	1943	1942	1941	1930	1939
Diabetes			1		
Cerebro Spinal Fever		1			6
Tuberculosis		2	1	2	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	1	1	
Cancer	16	8	10	8	7
Vascular	3	5	12	9	
Heart	22	21	27	21	21
Circulatory	6	2	3	1	4
Bronchitis	7	3	4	1	1
Pneumonia	3	2	2	3	4
Respiratory	2	1	1	2	1
Digestive	4	3	2	3	2
Stomach	1		1		
Premature and Infant Deaths		4	2	4	1
Suicide	1	3			1
Road traffic, violent causes and all other causes	11	10	14	8	6
Nephritis			1	1	
Appendicitis	1			1	
Influenza	1				1
Diarrhoea	1				
Infant Dis.	2				
Senility					2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified:-

	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Whooping Cough	16		12	1	
Scarlet Fever	3	5	7	4	3
Opthalmia Neonatorum		1			
Para Typhoid		1			
Tuberculosis		1			
Pneumonia	1	1			3
Chicken Pox		5	50		
Puerperal Pyrexia				1	1
Sonne Dysentery		4			
Measles	25	6	144	4	
Diphtheria			5	2	13
Total	45	24	219	12	20

The Scarlet Fever cases were treated at the North Herts. Isolation Hospital.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Doctors, Nurses and School Teachers have all co-operated to make a success of the scheme and the children have been immunised chiefly at their respective schools and a few at the Doctors' Surgeries.

87.58% of an estimated population of 435 children under 5, and, 82.33% of an estimated population of 1070 children between 5 and 15 were immunised.

TYPHUS

A specially trained squad has been organised to combat this disease in case of emergency.

SCABIES

3 cases of Scabies were reported,, which were sent to Chalkdell House, Hitchin, for treatment.

SCHOOL INSPECTION

During the year children were examined at the various Schools by the School Medical Officer. On the whole they were found in good physique, health, and in most cases their clothing was good.

COMMUNAL FEEDING

A large percentage of the School children have their mid-day meals regularly at a British Restaurant.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

- (a) Medical. The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer holding a Diploma in Public Health. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Councils of Baldock and Letchworth.
- (b) Sanitary. The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, HOSPITAL FACILITIES, ETC.

Samples of water, milk, etc., are sent to the Public Health Emergency Hospital, Hertford, for bacteriological examination, and certain cases of infectious diseases to the North Herts. Isolation Hospital.

INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRE

Good work has been accomplished at this Centre and on the whole most of the children who attended were free from head lice, etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, WATER SUPPLIES

The Town is supplied by 2 water works Pumping plants both electrically operated with one steam stand-by from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to all the houses with the exception of approximately 70 houses which are situated on the outskirts.

30 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. For a short period the water was slightly contaminated and every effort was tried to trace the cause. Preventative methods were adopted and eventually the water cleared itself.

WELLS - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

There are 26 wells or boreholes on the outskirts of the town. 11 samples were taken from 4 wells for bacteriological examination. The water from 2 wells was correct, and the other 2 wells were unsatisfactory.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Town is provided with a foul sewer 24" diameter leading to bacterial treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works and a 36" surface water sewer discharging into a water-course, both of which give satisfactory results.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, AND SALVAGE

House refuse collection and the disposal of same and the cleansing of the Town is supervised and carried out in a very efficient manner by the Surveyor.

The refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping.

During the year, 95 tons were salvaged which realised £454.

MORTUARY

A mortuary was erected in 1936 and is fitted for holding Post-mortem examinations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Total number of inspections for all purposes, 732, divided as follows:-

For defects under the Housing Acts	137
For defects under the Factories Act	12
For the prevention of Infectious Diseases	37
As to Sanitary conditions of Schools and Public Halls	10
Inspection under the Milk and Dairies Order	96
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, Vans, etc.	73
For the prevention of nuisances	130
Inspection of Drainage, etc.	48
Inspection of Private Wells and sampling	28
Inspections re: Rats and Mice Destruction	40
Inspections re: Condemned Food	75
Inspections re: Theatres and Entertainments Act	4
Inspections re: Shops Act 1934	24
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Inspection re: Storage of Petroleum	6
Inspections re: Employment Agencies	2
A.R.P. re: Food Decontamination	10

HOUSING

House to house inspection was carried out at a number of houses.

No private houses were erected during the year. On account of war conditions, shortage of labour, materials etc. this work has been somewhat restricted.

Although there has been an influx of Evacuees and work people overcrowding has been kept down to a minimum.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing dwelling houses, viz:

Re: Drainage	7
Sanitary improvements, including drainage	12
Other work for the abatement of nuisances (by informal action)	57

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply (Special Designations Order) 1936. 8 samples of accredited milk, 3 of tuberculosis tested milk, and 1 of pasteurised milk, were taken for bacteriological examination. From 12 samples taken, 9 passed the full test and 3 failed.

There are 18 Registered Producers or Producer-retailers of which 1 is licensed for the production of tuberculin tested milk, 1 for pasteurised and 4 for accredited milk.

National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. 33 samples of milk were taken from producer-retailers, which gave the following results:- Good 20, Moderate 9, Poor 4.

Meat and other Foods. There are 6 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, which owing to war conditions are not in regular use, which are kept up to a fair standard. Occasional slaughtering licensed by the Food Control Committee are carried out.

Reserved Food supplies are examined from time to time also

Foods suspected to be unfit for human consumption in shops, stores, etc., have to be certified by your Inspector before replacements can be made.

Bakehouses, Manufacturers of Preserved Food and Tradesmens' Vans etc. are inspected with a view to keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS

Table of new cases and Mortality for the year

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0 - 1									
1 - 5				1					
5 - 15									
15 - 25		1							
25 - 35			1						
35 - 45									
45 - 55	1								
55 - 65	1								
and over									
Totals	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Total No. of cases on the Register									
26	7	3	11	5					

In conclusion I would express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and other Senior Officials who have assisted me in compiling this Report.

Your obedient Servant

Bartram Suggitt
Medical Officer of Health.

These results are to be used for human consumption in the
 future, and have to be certified by your Inspector as to
 compliance with the law.
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ANALYSIS OF FOOD

Table of new cases and deaths for the year

Period	Number of new cases	Number of deaths	Total
1st Quarter	10	2	12
2nd Quarter	15	3	18
3rd Quarter	20	4	24
4th Quarter	25	5	30
Total	70	14	84

The Commissioner of Health is very grateful to the
 Inspector and other officials who have assisted in the
 carrying out of the work.

Very respectfully,
 Commissioner of Health