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WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# REPORT

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

**for the year 1942**

to which is

appended the

**Report of the Sanitary Inspector.**



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## STAFF.

### *Medical Officer of Health :*

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D. Liverp., Ch.B.; D.P.H. Liverp.

(Now serving with The Royal Air Force).

### *Temporary Medical Officer of Health :*

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

### *Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

H. E. GILBY, P.A.S.I., Cert. S.I.B., M. Inst. M. & Cy. E.

Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

### *Temporary Shorthand-Typist :*

MISS E. M. WATERSON.

### *Medical Officer of Health's Clerk :*

D. HUNN.



# WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Year ending 31st December, 1942.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1942.

### Vital Statistics.

There were 285 live births and 20 still births registered in 1942. The birth rate has thereby risen to 16.93 from last year's figure of 14.75 and was well above the national figure of 15.8.

The crude death rate was 13.01 which is lower than 1941 when it was 14.29. There were 219 deaths registered during the year and of these 65% were at ages over 65, 43% being over 75. The main causes of death were Heart Disease and Cancer, the figure for the latter showing a very slight increase.

There were only 9 infant deaths (under one year of age) and of these all but one were due to conditions of immaturity and congenital deformity. The infantile mortality rate was reduced to the low figure of 31.58, which compares very favourably with last year's figure of 55.56 and this year's national figure of 49. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

To sum up, there were more babies born and their survival rate was higher, fewer people died, and the majority of these deaths were at an advanced age.

### Infectious Disease.

There has been a much smaller incidence of infectious disease in 1942, only 25 cases being notified (excluding measles and whooping cough). The largest figure was again that for scarlet fever, of which there were 16 cases, compared with 39 in 1941. The cases were scattered throughout the district and nothing in the nature of an epidemic occurred.

Measles was much less prevalent than in 1941 but there were three times as many cases of whooping cough.

There were no deaths from notifiable infectious disease.

During the year the Council was requested to make provision for dealing with a possible outbreak of typhus and it was decided to co-operate with the County Council. A typhus squad has been formed which may be called out to any part of the County and which will work under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

### Tuberculosis.

There were 30 new cases of tuberculosis notified in 1942, 14 of these were of the pulmonary type and 7 deaths were reported. This is a considerable decrease on the previous year.

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 143, a decrease of 9 since 1941. Both types of the disease have decreased by approximately the same amount.



Too much confidence should not be placed on these figures representing as they do, the incidence among civilians only. When it is recalled that the majority of young adults of both sexes are called to the Forces at the most susceptible age for the onset of tuberculosis and are therefore not accounted for in these returns, it is as well not to be too optimistic as to the real position.

The slight increase in the non-pulmonary type of case under the age of 15 is not sufficient to incriminate the local milk supply but is nevertheless a definite warning that it is impossible to be too careful in the supervision of milk production. It is known that a large proportion of these cases is due to the drinking of tuberculous milk and farmers and dairymen have a great responsibility to the community to see that every precaution is taken to prevent the marketing of unsafe milk. With the present reduction of farm staff and the calling up of skilled workers some deterioration of standard was to be feared.

Pasteurisation, or the efficient heat treatment of milk, would render it safe for all purposes. Unfortunately, in rural areas, the practical difficulties of such a course are great, chiefly because of the large number of small producers involved. In the interests, therefore, of the health of the child population, parents and others in charge of young children, are recommended to boil all milk not designated "Tuberculin-Tested," before giving it to those under the age of 5. This procedure would entirely prevent the bovine type of tuberculosis in children, at a period of their lives when they are most susceptible to it and most likely to succumb.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.**

Following the intensive drive for immunisation in 1941, it was to be expected that fewer cases would be completed this year. No change in the arrangements was considered desirable and groups of school-children were treated at their schools by me as opportunity offered. Many others, particularly children under school age, were taken to their own doctors for treatment.

The Birthday letter scheme continued to be used and it would no doubt have proved more effective if there had not been a considerable shortage of District Nurses, who were the mainstay of its operation. Many parishes were without the services of a Nurse for varying periods except for maternity and other urgent work. The routine Infant Health visiting had to be curtailed and with it the delivery of the Birthday letter on each infant's first birthday.

The estimated figures of cases treated at the end of the year, as reported to the Ministry of Health were:—

Pre-School Children	School Children
(Aged 1-5)	(Aged 5-15)
25%	80%

It will be noted that the pre-school figure is below that for 1941, which can be partly accounted for by the above mentioned dearth of Nurses. I do not feel however, that this figure accurately represents the position, as subsequent investigations have shown. Children moved into the area having been treated elsewhere unknown to me and doctors returns of cases immunised by them were by no means up to date. If a complete survey of the young children could have been made, I do not think the 1942 percentage would have been much below that of 1941.



In order that I should have better knowledge of the numbers treated and to ensure that every child between 1 and 5 years was invited to benefit under the scheme, I decided to obtain lists from the Council Food Office and to organise a complete canvass of the district to be undertaken in 1943.

By this means I hope to raise the number immunised to much nearer 100% of those eligible for treatment.

It is interesting to note that already the intensive national campaign is showing results in the reduction of the number of cases of diphtheria reported and in the lower mortality rate. Succeeding years should yield an ever increasing improvement.

### **Contagious Disease.**

There has been a further increase in the number of cases of scabies brought to my notice during the year. Some of this increase may be due to the Council's facilities for treatment having become better known to doctors and others in the district rather than to increased incidence of the disease.

The routine procedure when information is received is for the Sanitary Inspector to visit the affected house to make the necessary enquiries. Every member of the household is urged to be examined by the doctor and if infected to be treated at the same time. Full directions and an adequate amount of a suitable medicament are supplied at this visit. A second visit is paid about 10 days later and if a cure has not been effected, arrangements may be made for the cases to be removed to an institution for treatment.

Sulphur tablets were supplied for treatment until Benzyl Benzoate lotion became available and this latter is now used exclusively with very satisfactory results, most cases being cured with 2 applications.

The new County Scabies Hospital was not opened in 1942, so cases requiring in-patient treatment were sent to public assistance institutions. Latterly, the County Council made beds available in their Sick Bay at Crow Hall and many of our resistant cases were transferred there.

With this new lotion and adequate hospital facilities for the severe cases, it should be possible to control this very unpleasant form of contagious disease.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings under the Scabies Order 1941 during the year. In a few difficult cases a letter had to be sent pointing out the powers of the Medical Officer of Health in regard to the compulsory examination of contacts and compulsory treatment. In every case this had the desired effect of stimulating the reluctant patient to effect a cure without further delay.

### **Housing.**

The housing shortage becomes more acute each year, with the cessation of building and the gradual deterioration of property and the difficulty of effecting repairs. Much property which it was considered possible to repair, has now become only fit to condemn.

It will take many years with full building programmes before it can be said that the whole population of the district is satisfactorily housed.



The question of housing is always bound up with that of unsatisfactory tenants. There are the good houses and the bad houses, similarly the good and the bad tenants and by no means does the tenant always match his house. Therefore, the provision of adequate housing is not necessarily the end of slums. A slum comes from a defective way of living, and is almost entirely a human problem. There is one main cause of slum conditions, i.e. the mental incompetence of the housewife, either because she was born with a poor mentality or, as with the aged, is suffering from mental deterioration. The worst cases of insanitary living conditions which have to be investigated by the public health department come under these 2 headings. Little can be done to remedy the former, but the latter condition can sometimes be cleared up by persuading the aged person to enter a Public Institution.

This is a national problem and cannot be dealt with locally. Better provision is needed for the aged in the way of almshouses with some nursing supervision and free from the stigma of Poor Law, for to be old is no crime.

The prevention of the mentally defective girl from becoming a wife and mother is one for the mental deficiency authority, often, alas, not the same authority which has to deal with housing. Better methods of ascertainment and certification are necessary and greater provision of residential institutions, which would not be nearly so expensive to the community as is the present system of letting people with children's brains undertake adult responsibilities.

With these two classes excluded from being householders, and more adequate training of girls in housewifery, good houses would surely become that most valuable of national assets—namely—good homes.

#### **Office Accommodation and Clerical Assistance.**

At my request the three District Councils met representatives of the County Council to consider the provision of office accommodation and clerical assistance for the Medical Officer of Health. This meeting resulted in the present arrangement whereby my office is housed at the Walsingham Council offices and I am provided with the services of a part-time clerk.

This has been a very satisfactory solution of the problem and has led to a great improvement in administration.

#### **Conclusion.**

In conclusion, I may say that the end of yet another year of war has not brought any serious deterioration in the health of the district, which has been singularly free from epidemic disease.

Again I should like to acknowledge the excellent support that I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the willing co-operation of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.



## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	88,818
Registrar - General's estimate of resident population mid-1938	...	...	...	...	16,830
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to rate-books	...	...	...	...	6,400
Rateable Value (end of 1942)	...	...	...	...	£61,602
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£268

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR,  
*which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.*

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.			Wals.	E. & W.
Legitimate	269	151	118	} Birth-rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	...	16.93	15.8
Illegitimate	16	8	8				
Total	285	159	126				
Still Births							
Legitimate	20	7	13	} Rate per 1,000 total births ...	...	55.57	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—				
Total	20	7	13				
				Rate per 1,000 pop.		1.18	0.54
Deaths Total	219	114	105	Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		13.01	11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes:—Nil.

**Infant Deaths:—**

Age.		Males.	Females.	Total.
1st day	...	1	1	2
1—7 days	...	2	0	2
1—4 weeks	...	1	1	2
1—3 months	...	1	1	2
3/12—1 year	...	—	1	1
Totals	...	5	4	9

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

	Totals.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	9	5	4

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	31.58	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			29.74	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			62.50	—

(E. & W. = England and Wales).



The causes of death are given in following table supplied by the Registrar-General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes... ..						114	105
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	4	2
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	22	22
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	7	11
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	19	25
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	7	6
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	8	5
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3	2
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	5	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of the Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	3
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	4
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	5	2
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	—	—
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	7	—
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	18	18
36	Causes Ill-defined and Unknown	...	...	...	...		



# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables; the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	16	4	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	4	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	1	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	25	7	—

Disease.	Under One Year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Total Cases
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	8	4	2	—	—	—	—	16
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	1	1	10	5	2	4	—	2	—	25



## MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH REGULATIONS.

The following notifications have been received:—

Measles	...	...	38	Deaths.
Whooping Cough	...	...	44	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1942, are given in the following tables.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1
5—	2	—	5	2	—	—	—	—
15—	5	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
25—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	8	6	6	8	4	1	1	1

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory ... ..	45	28	73
Non-Respiratory ... ..	33	37	70
TOTALS ... ..	78	65	143



# FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES TABLES.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES			
with mechanical power ...	6	3	—
without mechanical power ...	3	—	—
WORKPLACES ... ..	9	4	—
Total ... ..	18	7	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	9	9	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
Acommo- { unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
dation { not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse ... ..	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ... ..	6	6	—	—
Total ... ..	15	15	—	—



## WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of work carried out during the year 1942. For the purpose of economy this is presented in abbreviated form.

The following table shows the number of inspections made for all purposes during the year:—

NATURE OF INSPECTION.	No. OF VISITS
Housing Inspections ... ..	12
Housing Re-visits ... ..	29
Inspections in connection with the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	2
Public Health Inspections ... ..	145
Public Health Revisits ... ..	276
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	434
Inspections of Slaughterhouses and Foodshops ... ..	73
Inspections of Sewers, Sewer Ditches, Sewage Works, etc. ...	212
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Arrangements ...	110
Investigations respecting Infectious and Contagious Disease ...	147
Rooms disinfected ... ..	31
Inspections of Public Conveniences ... ..	14
Inspections of Factories and Workshops ... ..	18
Inspections of Petroleum Stores ... ..	13
Miscellaneous visits to owners etc. ... ..	295

#### Emergency Work.

Inspections in connection with the Civilian Deaths Scheme ...	21
Inspections in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme	75
Inspections in connection with the Salvage Scheme ... ..	361
Visits in connection with Gas Contaminated Foodstuffs ... ..	24
Visits in connection with N.F.S. Water Supplies ... ..	26

**TOTAL** 2,318

#### Housing and Public Health.

The following items have been dealt with, and are the result of informal action:—

Additional means of lighting and ventilation provided to rooms	1
Windows repaired or made to open ... ..	1
Floors repaired or relaid ... ..	1
Plaster to walls or ceilings repaired ... ..	14
Dampness remedied ... ..	1
Walls repaired ... ..	2
Stairs repaired ... ..	1
Overcrowding abated ... ..	2
Dangerous properties demolished ... ..	2
Firegrates and coppers repaired ... ..	3
House roofs repaired ... ..	10
Chimney stacks repaired ... ..	3
Outbuildings repaired ... ..	1
Sanitary conveniences repaired or reconstructed ... ..	3
E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s ... ..	20
Lavatory basins provided and fixed ... ..	10
Baths provided and fixed ... ..	4



Pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sanitary pails provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rainwater guttering and fallpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wells cleaned or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains unstopped, trapped or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
New ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous items dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	6

### **Housing Acts—Regulation 68a of the Emergency Powers (Defence) General Regulations.**

Application was received for the rehabilitation of 5 cottages by agricultural workers in accordance with the above mentioned regulation. In two instances the premises were rendered reasonably fit for habitation, the other conditions were satisfied, and temporary licences were issued for this purpose.

### **Housing (Rural Workers) Act.**

No application for assistance was received during the year.

### **Cowsheds and Dairies.**

During the year 434 visits (including revisits) were made to cowsheds and dairies. As a result the attention of producers was drawn to 133 infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, respecting the cleanliness and structural condition of the premises and the registration of producers.

The register of premises in use as cowsheds and dairies was brought up to date. The number of registrations at the end of the year was as follows:—

Wholesale Producers	...	129
Retail Purveyors	...	98
Dairymen	...	5

5 Retailers of milk residing elsewhere are registered to retail milk within the District.

### **Graded Milk.**

The number of producers holding licences to produce "Accredited" milk was 42 whilst 2 producers held licences to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

97 Samples of milk were taken from "Accredited" producers premises and 16 of these failed to pass the prescribed test. The average number of samples taken per producer was 2.31.

41 Bulk samples of milk for biological examination for Tuberculosis were also taken. One of these proved to be positive and was reported to the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by whom the necessary further action for the elimination of the diseased cow was taken.

During the period under review there has been considerable national agitation for the pasteurisation of all milk intended for human consumption, but this formula does not appear to enter into the realm of practical politics except for large centres of population.



The Producer-wholesaler of milk can well and easily be dealt with through a centralised pasteurisation scheme, but such a scheme to be entirely satisfactory would of necessity eliminate the Producer-retailer the present mainstay of Rural milk supplies.

Whatever may be the outcome of the plans for pasteurisation it is to be hoped that all possible steps will be taken to encourage the production of clean milk and for the elimination of tuberculous stock from the farms.

### **Slaughterhouses and Foodshops.**

73 Inspections of slaughterhouses and foodshops have been made during the year, when the following carcasses were examined:—

Oxen 37. Calves 2. Sheep 83. Pigs 39.

Numerous requests have been received from the vendors of tinned foodstuffs for decisions as to the fitness for human consumption of various types of tinned foods. Normally much of this material is discarded without any notification of its existence having been received by this department, but the present time necessity to receive "points" replacements for damaged and unfit materials reveals that peace-time condemnations of tinned materials can have represented but a small proportion of the total actually unfit for human consumption.

Total weight of foodstuffs disposed of so as not to be used for the food of man:—

17 cwts. 19 lbs.

### **Prosecutions.**

The Council instituted proceedings against one firm for the re-processing of flour previously agreed to be unfit for human consumption. The case was dismissed but the Magistrates stated that they were satisfied that this was a proper case to bring before them.

Assistance was given to the Ministry of Food in prosecutions against a national organisation for food wastage. A conviction was recorded against the principal defendants.

### **Treatment of Foodstuffs Contaminated by Poison Gas.**

Further equipment was received during the year. The original volunteers have been seriously depleted owing to several of the first-line personnel having been called to the forces.

### **Sewerage and Drainage, etc.**

#### **SHALLOW SEWERS.**

Shallow sewers at Hempton, West Raynham, Blakeney, and Little Walsingham have been cleansed and repaired during the year. Further extensive trouble is to be anticipated in all cases owing to the ancient and worn-out structure of the majority of the sewers concerned.

#### **SEWER DITCHES.**

Essential cleansing was continued but the position is deteriorating owing to the lack of adequate labour.



### SEWERAGE WORKS.

**Fakenham**—The Pumping Plant has received the usual careful attention during the year and routine repairs and renewals were made. The engines and pumps have worked a total of 2919½ hours during this time; this gives an average of almost 8 hours pumping per day.

Jockey pulleys have been fitted during the year and have resulted in a small improvement in pumping output.

The total rainfall was 28.82 inches and there were 142 rain days.

**Melton Constable**—These works continued to work fairly satisfactorily during the year. No major improvement may be expected in the quality of the effluent until the oil now present has been excluded.

### Public Cleansing.

Scavenging is regularly carried out in the following parishes:—  
Fakenham, Little Walsingham, Great Walsingham, Blakeney, Stiffkey, Great Ryburgh, Hempton and Briston.

The scheme in Fakenham is run by direct labour, all the remainder are in the hands of Contractors. Three contracts have been terminated during the year, and in each case these have been renewed at increased cost.

### Water Supplies.

A total of 58 samples of water were taken during the year from 11 different sources of supply. These were made up as follow:—

Routine samples from public water supplies	...	49
Initial samples from private wells	... ..	6
Repeat samples from private wells	... ..	3
Sources of water supply found to be unsatisfactory	...	5
Number of premises where an alternative supply was provided	... ..	22

### Fakenham and Hempton Public Water Supply.

A sample of water from this source was submitted to the Public Analyst on the 23rd June, 1942. His report is as follows:—

#### Chemical Results (Grains per gallon)

Free and Saline ammonia	... ..	Trace.
Albuminoid ammonia	... ..	.0007
Chlorine in Chlorides	... ..	2.2
Nitrogen as Nitrates	... ..	.17
Nitrates	... ..	nil

#### Bacteriological Results.

Bacteria per c.c. on agar at 37°C.	...	1
Bacillus Coli	... ..	Absent in 35 c.c.
Physical characteristics	... ..	Clear.

“This is a pure and wholesome water, of great organic and bacteriological purity, and quite fit for drinking purposes.”

The weekly check samples have also maintained a consistently high standard,



### Salvage.

In Fakenham and Hempton the regular waste collection is now undertaken by the Scavengers but elsewhere the voluntary collection has been fully maintained. Regular monthly collection of salvage from Parish depots has worked reasonably well during the year.

The following table shows the materials dealt with during the year:—

Material	Received			Disposed of		
	tons.	cwts.	lbs.	tons.	cwts.	lbs.
Wastepaper (all grades)	119	12	2	152	18	44
Bones	6	11	92	6	7	56
Rags	2	13	34	4	6	0
Bottles and Jars	7	4	0	11	0	0
Miscellaneous Metals	2	6	102	6	15	0
Exhausted H.T. Batteries	2	10	102	10	0	0
Rubber	2	19	19		nil	
Sacks		5	93		nil	

Note: Where the stock disposed of is more than that shown as being received, this difference is accounted for by stocks previously held or by materials received at, but not actually weighed in to, the main salvage depot.

The income during the year totalled £1,188 14s. 11d. which was again sufficient to render the scheme self supporting whilst further substantial payments have been made to local charities.

A survey of all railings, gates, chains, etc., throughout the district was made during the year and it is understood that these will be removed later for the purpose of providing the raw materials necessary for the manufacture of munitions.

### Civilian Deaths Scheme.

One incident during the year resulted in a single death and the interment was privately arranged. Apart from this no call was made upon the service.

### Government Evacuation Scheme.

Further requisitioned properties have been released during the year and there was a slackening of work in connection with the supervision of evacuees from a public health viewpoint.

### Conclusion.

1942 has seen the continuance of the trend noted in the report for the previous year. Materials and labour for the maintenance of property have been increasingly difficult to obtain, this is to be particularly noted in the case of the parish of Fakenham where at the close of the year over 40 premises were awaiting amendments to drainage and the conversion of E.C.'s to W.C.'s

Labour difficulties for the maintenance of scavenging, etc., have been rather less than in 1941 but it has not always been possible to deal with the work with the dispatch one could have wished. Surface air raid shelters in two parishes are now cleansed weekly by direct labour; this has resulted in a great improvement in the hygienic conditions of these shelters.



Local interest in the post-war possibilities of development in many parishes has been aroused during the year and whilst it is hoped that every step will be taken to provide such amenities as main water supply and sewage disposal it will not be economically possible to carry out such works unless substantial assistance by way of grants is forthcoming from the Central Authority.

I must again express my thanks to the Public Health Committee for their continued confidence, and to the Clerk of the Council, Medical Officer of Health and other members of the staff whose interest and co-operation is so much appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. E. GILBY,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.







