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**Contributors**

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CITY OF WELLS.

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1954.

To: The Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Wells.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1954.

GENERAL

The Area of the City is 1301.150 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the midyear resident population of Wells in 1954 was 6,030 (6,002)

The number of inhabited houses in the City at the end of 1954 was 1,899 (1,844)

The rateable value at the end of 1954 was £49,645 (£49,039)

The sum represented by the penny rate at the end of 1954 was estimated at £199. 0s. 0d. (£195.10s.0d.)

BIRTH RATE.

The total live births in the City in 1954 was 63 (80) as follows:-

Legitimate	61 (75)	Males: 40 (42)	Females: 21 (33)
Illegitimate	2 (5)	Males: 1 (4)	Females: 1 (1)

Still Births: There were 2 still births during 1954 (both legitimate)

The birth rate per thousand of the population was 10.5 (13.3)

DEATH RATE.

There were 120 deaths in the City from all causes during 1954. 70 (67) Males and 50 (53) Females.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes.

There were 28 (16) deaths from Cancer and 18 (17) from Heart Diseases.

The deathrate per thousand of the population was 19.9 (20.0)

N.B. Figures in brackets are corresponding figures for 1953.

REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1924

In the Department of Health, Albany, N. Y.,

January 1, 1925.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

GENERAL

The year of 1924 was a most successful one for the State.

The population of the State at the end of the year was 4,800,000, an increase of 100,000 over the population of 1923.

The number of deaths during the year was 100,000, a decrease of 5,000 over the number of deaths during 1923.

The total value of the State's products during 1924 was \$1,000,000,000, an increase of 10% over the value of the State's products during 1923.

The total value of the State's exports during 1924 was \$500,000,000, an increase of 5% over the value of the State's exports during 1923.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths during 1924 was 100,000, a decrease of 5,000 over the number of deaths during 1923.

The number of deaths from all causes during 1924 was 100,000, a decrease of 5,000 over the number of deaths from all causes during 1923.

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DEATHS

The number of deaths from all causes during 1924 was 100,000, a decrease of 5,000 over the number of deaths from all causes during 1923.

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INFANT MORTALITY.

There were no deaths in this group in 1954.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Borough has been free from serious epidemic diseases during the year. Notifications were:-

Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	74
Scarlet Fever	Nil
Erysipelis	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Paratyphoid (B)	1

There were no deaths from diseases in this group.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the beginning of the year the number of cases on my register was 39 as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary	20	15
Non Pulmonary	1	3
	-----	-----
Total	21	18

During the year 7 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, 3 males and 4 females.

During the year 2 cases were removed from my register, 1 male and 1 female.

So that the end of the year the number of cases on my register was 44 as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary	22	18
Non Pulmonary	1	3
	-----	-----
Total	23	21

INVESTIGATION

There were no deaths in this group in 1954.

INVESTIGATION

The Bureau has been free from various epidemic diseases during the year. Notable diseases were:

1	Scarlet fever
1	Typhoid
1	Typhus
1	Typhus
1	Typhus
1	Typhus
1	Typhus
1	Typhus
1	Typhus
1	Typhus

There were no deaths from diseases in this group.

INVESTIGATION

At the beginning of the year the number of cases on register was 29 as follows:

15	14	Primary
1	1	Secondary
16	15	Total

During the year 7 cases of primary typhus were notified, 2 males and 5 females.

During the year 2 cases were reported from the register, 1 male and 1 female.

At the end of the year the number of cases on register was 22 as follows:

15	13	Primary
7	1	Secondary
22	14	Total

### WATER SUPPLY

During the year chlorination has been continued at the Spring head and Deep Well. A wholesome and sufficient supply has been available throughout the year.

An additional Borehole has been sunk on the Athletic Ground site with an anticipated yield of 5,000 gallons per hour. This additional supply should be adequate for all purposes and during normal dry periods.

During dry periods and whenever there is continuous use of the borehole a slightly unpleasant taste is noticeable due to the presence of tar acids. Regular samples of water are taken, but the quantity of tar acids in the water is now below detection by the laboratories, and this suggests that there is a steady annual decrease in this contamination.

Water main extensions have been carried out involving a total of 370 yds of new mains at the Fir Tor and Stoberry Park Housing sites.

Results of samples of water taken for analysis were as follows:-

<u>Raw Water.</u>				<u>After Treatment.</u>			
<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical.</u>		<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical.</u>	
Sat.	unsat.	Sat.	unsat.	Sat.	unsat.	Sat.	unsat.
Nil	Nil	2	Nil	8	1	Nil	Nil

### SWIMMING BATHS.

Samples of water from the Swimming Baths are taken during the season. The samples are taken from both the shallow or inlet end and from the deep or outlet end of the baths. Four samples were taken throughout the season and all were satisfactory.

The Bath is served with a continuous pressure sand filter and a chlorination plant. The turnover of the water in the baths takes place every 4 hours.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The consultant Engineers of the Council have completed the scheme for the reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works, and are ready for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

A weekly combined refuse and salvage collection is carried out in the City.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on the sites adjacent to the Sewage Disposal Works.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year operations have been continued at the Spring head and Deep wells. A continuous and sufficient supply has been available throughout the year.

An additional borehole has been sunk on the Athletic Ground site with an anticipated yield of 5,000 gallons per hour. This additional supply should be adequate for all purposes and during normal dry periods.

During dry periods and whenever there is excessive use of the borehole a slightly unpleasant taste is noticeable due to the presence of iron oxide. Regular samples of water are taken, but the quantity of iron oxide in the water is now below detection by the laboratories, and this suggests that there is a steady annual decrease in this concentration.

Water main extensions have been carried out involving a total of 750 yds of new mains at the Fir and Broomfield Park Housing areas.

Results of samples of water taken for analysis were as follows:-

<u>Deep Well</u>		<u>Spring</u>	
<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chemical</u>
Col. count.	Calc. matter.	Col. count.	Calc. matter.
Nil	211	5	211

EMERGENCY WATER

Samples of water from the Broomfield Park and Fir housing areas were taken during the season. The samples are taken from the main or tap and not from the top of cistern or the boiler. Four samples were taken throughout the season and all were satisfactory.

The water is treated with a continuous pressure sand filter and a chlorination plant. The pH value of the water in the Broomfield Park area is over 8.0.

WATER ANALYSIS

The water is analysed for iron at the works and also for the presence of lead, copper, zinc, and manganese. The results of the analysis are reported to the Government and to the public.

WATER MAINS EXTENSION

A water main extension was carried out in the City.

Further extension of the water main is being considered to the Broomfield Park area.

HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED.

	Houses erected during the year.	Houses in course of erection.	Conversion to flats or dwellings.	Temporary.
Local Authority	33	Nil	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise	21	20	Nil	Nil
	54	20	Nil	Nil

Total Number of post war houses completed.

(a)	By Local Authority	257
(b)	Private Enterprise	55
	Total	312

TYPES OF NEW HOUSES.

Erected by	Type	No.	Av. rent excl. of rates	Subsidy per year.	Period of Subsidy.
<u>Local Authority.</u>					
	3 Bedroom.	26	18/-	L.A. £8.18 Govt. £26.14.	60 yrs.
	2 Bedroom.	7	15/9	ditto	ditto
<u>Private Enterprise.</u>					
Houses	3 Bedroom	11			
Bungalows	3 Bedroom	3			
"	2 Bedroom	7			

HOUSING PROGRAMME.

New houses proposed to be erected by Local Authority.

(a) 1955 12 Flats. (b) 1956 30

The Council has completed the Housing Scheme at Balch Road Housing Estate for 148 houses. An additional 12 flats have now been approved on this estate and will be commenced in 1955. A housing site at Wookey Hole Road sufficient for 30 houses has been approved by the Council and development will commence in 1955.



HOUSING PROGRAM

HOUSING LISTING

Houses erected during the year, source of erection. Houses in course of erection. Conversion of existing buildings. Temporary.

Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
32	21	53
21	20	41
28	20	48

Total number of good new houses completed.

(a) By local authority	(b) Private Enterprise	Total
32	21	53
21	20	41
28	20	48

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Erected by

Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
32	21	53
21	20	41
28	20	48

HOUSING PROGRAM

New houses proposed to be erected by local authority.

(a) 1957	(b) 1956	Total
32	21	53
21	20	41
28	20	48

<https://archive.org/details/b30245424>

HOUSING APPLICATIONS

The total number of applications for tenancy of a Council House at the end of the year was 223 compared with 246 for 1953.

GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

Number of applications received	6
Number of applications approved	3

The average approved cost per dwelling was £280.0s.0d and the average rental fixed was £97. 13s.4d.

OVERCROWDING.

The overcrowding situation in the City is not serious but there are isolated cases which receive attention as alternative accommodation becomes available.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

During the year a start was made on the Survey of the district as required by the Minister under the Housing Act 1954. The survey is to be completed by August 31st 1955.

(I)	1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	327
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	463
	2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation regulations 1925 and 1932.	84
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	201
	(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	53
	3. (a)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	33
	4. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (excl. of those referred to under preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	147
(II)	1. (a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit for human habitation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officer	96
	(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	3
	(c)	Number of houses demolished under existing Clearance Orders	Nil

HOUSING REGULATIONS

The total number of applications for permits of a Council House at the end of the year was 124 compared with 128 for 1937.

GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

Number of applications received 6  
Number of applications approved 3

The average approved cost per dwelling was £100.0s.0d and the average rental fixed was 27s. 1s. 6d.

OVERCROWDING

The overcrowding situation in the City is not serious but there are isolated cases which receive attention as administrative accommodation becomes available.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

During the year a start was made on the survey of the district as required by the Minister under the Housing Act 1936. The survey is to be completed by August 31st 1937.

- (1) 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Water Public Health or Housing Acts) 327
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 42
- 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (listed under sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and reported under the Housing (General) Regulations 1935 and 1937 34
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 201
- (a) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary 33
- 3. (a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state of deterioration and repairs to be made or to be made for their protection 33
- 4. (a) Number of dwelling houses (all of those referred to under sub-head 3(a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 107
- 1. (a) Number of defective dwelling houses reported for human habitation in consequence of informal action by the local authority and their officers 36
- (b) Number of houses described voluntarily or in consequence of informal action 3
- (c) Number of houses described under existing clearance orders 811

HOUSING INSPECTIONS contd.

(III) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Acts 1936.	Nil
Proceedings under the Public Health Acts	Nil
Proceedings under section 12 Housing Act 1936	Nil

MILK SUPPLIES.

(a) Total number of Registered Dairy Farms	7
(b) Total number of Retailers	5
(c) Number of Producer/Retailers includ.in (b)	1
(d) Number of licensed pasteurisation plants	1
(e) Number of heat-treatment plants not includ.in (a)	Nil
(f) Number of Supplementary Licences issued to dealers or distributors	"

MILK SAMPLING.

Designation	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	16	15	1
Accredited	-	-	-
Pasteurised	20	20	-
Sterilised	-	-	-
Undesignated	-	-	-
Totals	36	35	1

Biological Sampling.

Three samples were taken for biological sampling showed negative results.

(iii) Agiles under Statutory powers during the year.

Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1956. NII  
 Proceedings under the Public Health Act NII  
 Proceedings under section 12 Housing Act 1956 NII

MILK SUPPLIES

(a) Total number of Registered Dairy Farms NII  
 (b) Total number of Milksters NII  
 (c) Number of Producer/Distributors included in (b) NII  
 (d) Number of licensed pasteurisation plants NII  
 (e) Number of heat-treatment plants not included in (d) NII  
 (f) Number of supplementary licenses issued to dealers or distributors NII

MILK ANALYSIS

Designation	Samples Taken	Satisfactory Unanalytical	Satisfactory Analytical
Tuberculin Tested	16	15	1
Accredited	-	-	-
Pasteurised	50	50	-
Sterilised	-	-	-
Heat-treated	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1</b>

Biological Analysis

Three samples were taken for biological analysis showing negative results.

ICE CREAM.

Number of Premises Registered:-

(a)	For Manufacture only	Nil
(b)	For Retail only	29
(c)	For Manufacture and Retail	4

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 60, the results were as follows:-

	<u>Hot Mix.</u>	<u>Cold Mix.</u>
Grade I.	44	5
Grade II.	7	-
Grade III.	-	-
Grade IV.	4	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	55	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>

MEAT SUPERVISION.

During the year 2 applications were received for the licensing of existing private slaughterhouses. One of these was refused on the grounds that the slaughterhouse was in too close proximity to dwellinghouses and could not be suitable for the purpose. On appeal by the applicant this decision was reversed in his favour by the Magistrates.

The slaughterhouse will come into operation during 1955 subject to the premises being put into good repair.

(a)	Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses in District	Nil
(b)	Number of Registered Slaughterhouses in District	Nil

KNACKERS YARD.

Number registered in District	Nil
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RIVER POLLUTION.

Number of cases dealt with during the year	Nil
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Alan W. Woolley M.B. Ch.B.  
Medical Officer of Health.

H.C. Birch. M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
Sanitary Inspector.

ICE CREAM

Number of Licenses Issued

1911 29 4	(a) For Manufacturers only
	(b) For Retail only
	(c) For Manufacturers and Retail

ICE CREAM SALES

The total number of samples taken during the year was 60, the results were as follows:-

<u>Cold Mix</u>	<u>Hot Mix</u>	
2	2	Grade I.
-	1	Grade II.
-	-	Grade III.
-	-	Grade IV.
-----	-----	
2	3	
-----	-----	

MEAT SUPERVISION

During the year 3 applications were received for the licensing of existing private slaughterhouses. One of these was refused on the grounds that the slaughterhouse was in too close proximity to dwellings and could not be suitable for the purpose. On appeal by the applicant this decision was reversed in his favour by the Registrar.

The slaughterhouse will come into operation during 1922 subject to the premises being put into good repair.

1911 11	(a) Number of licensed Slaughterhouses in District
	(b) Number of registered Slaughterhouses in District

WALKER YARD

Number registered in District

1911

WATER SUPPLY

Number of cases dealt with during the year

1911

W. J. Walker, B.S., Esq.,  
 District Officer of Health.

W. J. Walker, B.S., Esq.,  
 District Officer of Health.