

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Wisbech R.D.C.

Contributors

Wisbech (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ten6zpjh>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

HEALTH
A-58 FEB 58
C.R. 233

Wisbech Rural District Council

— o o o o —
1 9 5 6.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H.

M.Doreen C.Martin,
M.B.Ch.B.,D.C.H.

District Council Offices
Alexandra Road,
Wisbech.



Journal of the Board of Directors

of the City of New York

1891

January 1st to December 31st

1891

Volume 1

Printed by

the City of New York

1891

1891

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

The Chairman (Mr.R.Payne,J.P.), The Vice-Chairman (Mr.G.W.Newell) and the full Council.

---oOo---

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health -

M.DOREEN C.MARTIN, M.B.Ch.B. D.C.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -

T.A.C.MARCH, F.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor -

A.P.GRANT, M.A.P.H.I.

---oOo---



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30286645>

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present, for your consideration, the Annual Report on the Public Health and Welfare of the Rural District of Wisbech for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

Your previous Medical Officer of Health resigned early in 1956, and it was not until July, 1956 that I took over. Thus, during the period from January - July, 1956, the Senior Public Health Inspector was the responsible Officer. I am most grateful to him for his help and co-operation at all times, but more especially for the personal help he gave me when I first came into office.

Finally, may I say how much I appreciate the interest shown in problems of Public Health by the Chairman and Members of the Council. Their encouragement is a considerable inspiration to the Officials of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be Madam & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

H. James G. Martin

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	49,841 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population for 1956	12,430
Estimate mid-year population for 1955	12,360
Rateable value 1st April, 1956	77,034
Rateable value 1st April, 1955	£33,578
Product of a penny rate	£298
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	3,962

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS - 194.

	M	F	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Birth Rate</u> <u>(adjusted).</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	100	94			
Legitimate:	97	90	15.6	15.86	15.7
Illegitimate:	3	4			

Area comparability Factor (Births) 1.00
(Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1956 population)

STILL BIRTHS - 6

	M	F	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Still Birth</u> <u>Rate.</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	4	2			
Legitimate:	4	2	30.	25.8	23.0
Illegitimate:	-	-			

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

DEATHS (all causes):

	M	F	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Death Rate</u> <u>(adjusted).</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>					
99	53	46	8.6	9.18	11.7

Area comparability Factor (Deaths) 1.08.
(Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1956 population).

DEATHS - Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion - Nil.

DEATHS - Infants under 1 year of age -

	M	F	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Infant Mortality</u> <u>Rate.</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	3				
Legitimate:	-	2	15.46	18.61	23.8
Illegitimate:	1	-			

VITAL STATISTICS (cont'd).

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR -

Prematurity: 2
Broncho-pneumonia: 1

DEATHS of infants under 4 weeks of age -

<u>TOTAL:</u> 2		M	F
	Legitimate:	-	1
	Illegitimate:	1	-

DEATHS from Cancer - all ages - 20.

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Isle of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

Clerk: A.R.Marsh, Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board - 117, Chesterton Road,
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer: Dr.J.B.Ewen.

(a) GENERAL:

- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
- (II) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
- (III) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
- (IV) Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.
- (V) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.

(b) MATERNITY:

Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

(c) INFECTIOUS:

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.

(d) SANATORIA:

Accommodation is provided through the East Anglian
Regional Hospital Board.

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (cont'd).

(e) MENTAL:

Accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board by arrangement with local General Practitioners, usually Fulbourne.

(f) VENEREAL DISEASE:

- (1) Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.
- (11) Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (111) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

(g) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICE:

Medical equipment is provided on loan by the St. Johns Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.

MIDWIFERY, GENERAL SICK NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING:

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council, either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

In the Parishes given all those undertaking midwifery and general nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and Pethedine, and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for their use.

ELM, UPWELL AND OUTWELL -

Miss G.A.Webster, Halfpenny Lane, ELM. (Wisbech 1806).	S.C.M. H.V.Cert. Q.N.	Relief Midwife, General Nursing, Public Health Nursing, School Nurse.
Miss J.Parrott, 10, Crown Avenue, CHRISTCHURCH. (Christchurch 280).	S.C.M. H.V.Cert. Q.N.	Relief Midwife, General Nursing, Public Health Nursing, School Nurse.
Mrs.J.B.D.Benson, 8, Bungalow, Gosmoor Lane, ELM. (Fridaybridge 246).	S.C.M.	Midwifery only.

MIDWIFERY. GENERAL SICK NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING (cont'd)

WISBECH ST.MARY AND PARSON DROVE -

Mrs.A.L.Guiver, "Pitsdale", LEVERINGTON. (Wisbech St.Mary 244).	S.R.N. S.C.M.	Midwifery only.
--	------------------	-----------------

Miss M.E.Joynt, Nurses House, Church Road, WISBECH ST.MARY. (Wisbech St.Mary 249).	S.C.M. H.V.Cert. Q.N.	<u>Wisbech St.Mary</u> - General Nursing only; <u>Parson Drove</u> - Public Health Nursing.
--	-----------------------------	--

LEVERINGTON, NEWTON AND TYDD ST.GILES -

Miss E.M.Burdett, High Road, GOREFIELD, Nr.Wisbech.	S.C.M. Q.N.	Midwifery, General Nursing.
--	----------------	--------------------------------

Miss E.T.Taylor, Leigh Bank, Leverington Road, WISBECH.	S.R.N. S.C.M.	Health Visitor, Public Health Nursing in the Parishes not covered. School Nurse for all these Parishes.
--	------------------	---

Miss G.White, 10, Crown Avenue, CHRISTCHURCH. (Christchurch 280).	S.R.N. Part 1 Mid Cert. H.V.Cert.	Tuberculosis Health Visitor.
--	--	---------------------------------

AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE:

A County Council Service - there are three ambulances garaged at Messrs.Dennis Transport, Sutton Road, Leverington.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES:

Infant Welfare Centres -

(a)	Guyhirn (Village Hall)	3rd Thursday.
(b)	Parson Drove (Church Hall)	1st Wednesday.
(c)	Leverington (Church Hall)	2nd Tuesday.
(d)	Fridaybridge (Church Hall)	4th Wednesday.
(e)	Christchurch (Parish Room)	1st and 3rd Tues.
(f)	Newton (Women's Institute)	1st Thursday.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES (cont'd).

School Minor Ailment Clinics -

- (a) County Clinics, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (b) Beaupré School, Outwell.

School Dental Clinic -

- (a) Lynn Road, Wisbech.

Home Help Service -

Organised and operated by County Council.

Disinfection and Disinfestation -

Premises - by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.
Bedding, clothing etc., which cannot be dealt with by this Department are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Services -

- (a) Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road,
CAMBRIDGE.
(Director - Dr.Fry).
- (b) Public Analyst,
S.Greenburgh, P.H.D;B.Sc.,F.R.I.C.
25, St.Barnabas Road,
CAMBRIDGE.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Notifications -

Dysentery	2
Typhoid Fever	0
Paratyphoid Fever	1
Meningoccal Infection	0
Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	4
Diphtheria	0
Erysipelas	2
Smallpox	0
Measles	64
Pneumonia	0
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic	1
Non-Paralytic	0
Food Poisoning	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Tuberculosis (all forms)	3
Malaria	0
Infective Jaundice	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0

---oOo---

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	1	5
Leukeamia, aleukeamia	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system .	6	5	11
Coronary disease, angina	10	3	13
Hypertension with heart disease	1	0	1
Other heart disease	6	12	18
Other circulatory disease	3	4	7
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	4	4
Bronchitis	2	4	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	5	12
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes	54	45	99

NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1956.

Age period (years):	New Cases:				Deaths:			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
26 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
36 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
56 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-

HOUSING.

Number of houses completed during 1956:-

Council Houses	-	26	Private	-	32
Bungalows	-	<u>6</u>			
		<u>32</u>			

Number of houses under construction at the end of 1956:-

Council Houses	-	18	Private	-	11
Bungalows	-	<u>3</u>			
		<u>21</u>			

I am indebted to the Senior Public Health Officer for the following Reports:-

UNFIT HOUSES:

The policy adopted by the Council of dealing with unfit houses individually as they become vacant or the tenants are transferred to Council houses has been carried out during the year, resulting in the making of demolition orders upon 15 houses, a Closing Order upon 1 house, an undertaking was given by the owner not to use 1 house for human habitation, and 3 houses have been demolished in anticipation of demolition orders being made.

There are approximately 400 unfit houses in the district.

HOUSING REPAIRS:

Very few complaints are received from private tenants with respect to disrepair, but when this does occur, the houses are inspected and very little difficulty has been experienced in getting the repairs carried out.

The repair and maintenance of Council houses is the responsibility of the Public Health Department, with a staff of two handymen, who carried out 1,186 jobs at 523 houses in addition to the maintenance of 12 sewage disposal plants on Council house estates. Also, one man is employed trimming grass verges, open spaces and dykes, and attending to rodent control mostly on Council property, such as refuse tips.

HOUSING (cont'd).

Work necessitating scaffolding, mostly roof and chimney repairs was placed with private Contractors.

IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS:

Applications for grants for improvements of private dwellings is dealt with jointly by the Public Health Department and the Architect's Department, as follows:-

The initial inspection receipt and checking of application is carried out by the Chief Public Health Inspector, it is then passed to the Architect's Department for checking quantities and prices, inspection of the work in progress is carried out by the Public Health Department during the course of normal inspection under the Building Byelaws.

Applications for grants were received in connection with 41 houses during the year and approved for a 50% grant, the total grant being £8,692.

Work at 7 properties had been completed by the end of the year.

BUILDING BYELAWS:

The control of all building operations under the Building Byelaws is administered by the Public Health Department, and simultaneously with the examination of plans by the Byelaw Committee, any which are subject to approval under the Town and Country Planning Act receive attention and observations, and are passed on to the Planning Authority.

During the year, 134 plans were submitted for Byelaw approval, and 123 plans for planning observations.

SEWERAGE:

There are no public sewers in the district, but 12 Council House Estates have sewage disposal plants, the maintenance of which is carried out under the Public Health Department.

Every endeavour is made to ensure that the effluent discharged into the dikes is such that no nuisance is caused, the biggest problem is the elimination of the fine suspended particles caused by the use of detergents, this forms a black sludge in the dike and causes rank growth of weeds and reeds so retarding the flow of water in the dikes. This sediment is removed from the dikes each time desludging of the plant takes place about every 2 to 3 months.

HOUSING (cont'd).

DRAINAGE:

Practically every house in the district has its own drainage system comprising lines of drains discharging into a septic tank or cesspool with sub-soil irrigation. There is no danger of contamination of underground water supplies as none is ever used for domestic purposes, having a high salt content.

During the year, plans were submitted for approval and most of the work carried out in connection with 35 drainage improvement schemes to private dwellings, many of them including conversion from soil closets to the water carriage system.

CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING:

The emptying of cesspools, privies, and the desludging of sewage disposal plants on Council Housing Estates, is carried out by one cesspool emptier, which was fully occupied during the year.

Disposal is mainly on agricultural land and compost heaps provided by farmers.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

A fortnightly kerbside refuse collection covers practically the whole of the district, being available to approximately 3,200 houses.

The sale of salvage segregated during collections realised - £271.

F O O D:

Being a purely agricultural area, food premises in the main are restricted to the usual village general store; there are three small cafés, situate on a trunk road through the area, patronised chiefly by transport drivers, no cause for complaint has been found. Most of the food premises have been visited, and all have been advised of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

FOOD (cont'd).

The number of food premises in the district is as follows:-

General Stores	29
Grocery and Provisions Premises	4
Butchers Shops	4
Cafés	3
Fish Shops	3
Fruit and Greengrocery	2
Fruit Pulping Factories	2
Bakery and Confectionery Premises	4
Licensed Houses	50

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES:

Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream .. 35

MILK SUPPLY:

There are five registered dairies which, in reality, are only distributing centres for bottled milk.

The number of licences issued permitting the use of special designations in relation to milk sold were as follows:-

	<u>Dealers</u> <u>Licences -</u>	<u>Supplementary</u> <u>Licences -</u>
Pasteurised	5	4
Sterilised	5	4
Tuberculin Tested	4	4

MEAT INSPECTION:

There being only three slaughterhouses in use in the district, the inspection of all carcasses intended for human consumption presents very little difficulty, and the following table gives details of all the slaughtering and diseased meat found.

All condemned meat has been voluntarily surrendered, green stained and usually disposed of by a fellmonger.

MEAT INSPECTION:

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

<u>1956</u> <u>1.1.56 to</u> <u>31.12.56.</u>	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed:	124	32	-	106	648	-
Number inspected:	124	32	-	106	648	-
<u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	1	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	38	9	-	41	224	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci:	30.6	31.2	-	38.6	34.8	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	5	3	-	-	21	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis:	4.3	9.4	-	-	3.2	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.
Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspect ions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occ. Prs'ctd (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	48	39	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	35	63	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total:	-	83	102	-	-	-

2. No defects were discovered during the year.

