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Wymondham Urban District

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
for the Year 1945

Of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Sanitary Inspector



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The Annual Report

for the Year 1945

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Wymondham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

Though the middle of the year saw the cessation of hostilities in Europe and Far East the full routine work of the sanitary services was hampered by shortage of staff and materials. Nevertheless a great deal of progress was made towards overtaking arrears of housing and arranging and planning for improved water supplies and the construction of new and extension of existing sewerage schemes. For details see the Sanitary Inspector's report following this.

1. General.

The Urban District has an area of 10,950 acres, with a rateable value of £19,675 and a penny rate realises £79. Brush making is the chief industry. Apart from this the District is mainly Agricultural.

The **population** (resident) at the middle of the year is estimated at 5,122—69 less than in 1944, probably accounted for by the departure of evacuees, of whom 46 are still here.

2. General Provision of Health Services.

Following up the observations in the last report regarding the lack of nursing provision for the sick and especially for the chronic aged sick, while I have no figures to prove it, my impression is that the position is substantially worse. Measures should be taken without delay to solve this difficult situation. When Hospitals, even Isolation Hospitals, are compelled to close wards for lack of nursing facilities however urgent the cases requiring admission, it is surely time to take drastic action. During the war the

Government assumed powers to direct personnel to work of national importance—such as mines and agriculture—and while I hesitate to recommend anything that savours of compulsion or outright conscription, I feel some steps should be taken in the direction of offering very generous emoluments to suitable persons, both male and female, with some nursing training or experience to offer their services for the emergency. As well as hospital nursing staffs, there is a great shortage of District Nurses, Health Visitors and Home Helps. I have already stated that for the lack of these the aged and chronic invalids are being forced to end their days in Public Assistance Institutions which may be, but in some cases definitely are not suitable. If the State takes over the Voluntary Hospitals there would appear to be a great opportunity here for those charitably minded people who have in the past supported these hospitals to now support and endow houses for the aged and incurables and similar organisations.

3. Vital Statistics.

	M	F	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS	45	58	103
Legitimate	43	51	94
Illegitimate	2	7	9
STILL BIRTHS	1	—	1
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	Nil

The **Live Birth Rate** works out at the high figure of 20·1 per thousand of the resident population. In England and Wales the rate was 16·1.

Deaths from all causes numbered 68, a rate of 16·7 per thousand of the population, and that in England and Wales, 11·4. Details are as under:

	M	F	TOTAL
Influenza	—	1	1
Cancer of Mouth, Oesophagus or Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1
Cancer of other sites	5	7	12
Intra-Cranial Fascular Lesions	1	5	6
Heart Disease	8	14	22
Other Diseases of Circulation	2	2	4
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	—	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	1	1
Nephritis	1	3	4
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	Nil

Other Maternal Causes ...	-	2	2
Congenital Malnutrition, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	1	2	3
Suicide	1	-	1
All other causes	3	2	5
			—
		Total	68
			—

No deaths occurred from Measles, Scarlèt Fever, Whooping Cough or Diphtheria.

Infantile Mortality, i.e., deaths under one year, number 3, one male and two female, all legitimate; a rate per thousand of live births of 29. That in England and Wales being 46.

Maternal Mortality. Two deaths occurred in childbirth, both from causes other than Sepsis.

4. Tuberculosis.

On the Register 31st December, 1944 ... 34 cases.
On the Register 31st December, 1945 ... 34 cases.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY.
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	
13	4	17	6	11	17	34

5. Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), totalled 94, as detailed in the accompanying table:

	M	F	TOTAL
Catarrhal Jaundice	-	1	1
Jaundice	1	1	2
Erysipelas	-	7	7
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	1
Pneumonia	16	5	21
Scarlet Fever	10	9	19
Measles	20	19	39
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	4	4
	—	—	—
	48	46	94
	—	—	—

6. Maternity and Child Welfare Services

(Under the County Committee). I have to record a further falling off in the attendances at the monthly Clinics, no doubt to the reasons stated in my last report, that

mothers are supplied through the Food Office with National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and fruit juices. Also a number of evacuees have left. The figures are as under:

1st Attendances		Total Attendances		Average Attendance
Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	
20	3	125	123	20.66

7. Housing Conditions.

With the return of more and more men from the Services the shortage of houses becomes more acute, but as previously commented on, arrears of building are being gradually overtaken. For further details see Sanitary Inspector's report.

8. Water Supply.

See the Sanitary Inspector's report.

9. Drainage, Sewerage and Scavenging.

See the Sanitary Inspector's report.

10. **The Swimming Baths** continue to serve a useful purpose and are kept in a sanitary condition.

11. The Milk and Dairies Orders.

See the Sanitary Inspector's report.

12. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Throughout the year the protecting of many children has been effected. We have now immunised since 1940 519 children now under 9 and 230 from 10 to 14. A total of 749. And in addition 415 now aged between 15 and 18 years—making a total of 1,164 treated since 1940.

We are now able to assess the value of this service since its inauguration in 1940, and we are also able to see where our efforts to afford full protection fail. This brings us to the questions:

- (1) Are the reagents we are using the best?
- (2) Are they being given in adequate doses?
- (3) How long does immunity last and arising out of this how can we find out?

A lot of work is being done dealing with these points. As regards the last, experience is showing that more general recourse might be made of Schick Testing. The cost of this service should be defrayed by the Local Authorities and made available to all requesting it. Experience to date also tends to show that the injections, given say at or about the first birthday, should be followed by one on entry to School. When the National Medical Services are in operation the appointment of one qualified practitioner in the district to be responsible for the carrying out of the whole of this important service might be advisable in the same manner as the present Vaccination Act.

Here are some enlightening figures on the effects of immunisation on the incidence and mortality of diphtheria.

Average yearly number of cases in England and Wales :

In decade	1911-20	—51,757.
" "	1921-30	—54,889.
" "	1931-40	—55,388.

Actual number of cases in 1944 was 29,446. And as regards mortality, we find that prior to 1941 the deaths in England and Wales were never below 2,000, but in 1942 they dropped to 1,827, and in 1943 to 1,371, and in 1944 to 934, 1945 to 720.

I have had no reports of malnutrition during the War years and the general health of the community has been excellent throughout.

In conclusion, I have to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Council and officials for continued and invaluable help afforded to me at all times during the year.

ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I submit hereunder my Report upon my work as Sanitary Inspector during the year 1945.

1. HOUSING.

Informal notices or letters were sent by me to the owners of the following houses, requesting repair work :—

Three houses at Polls Yard, Wymondham. Owner : Mrs. Beck.

Two houses at Damgate St. Owner : Mr. Basil Barnard.
Three Cottages known as Manor Farm Cottages, Downham.
No. 3, Hubbards Yard, Damgate St.

Two Cottages at The Lizard, occupied by Tillett and Deacon.

Repairs were carried out to six of these, the remainder being in abeyance.

Cottage in the occupation of Wm. Cann, Top Common, Spooner Row.

This house was found to be in a very dilapidated and tumble down condition, so as to be unfit and unsafe for human habitation. A Demolition Order was made upon it pre-war, but the tenant refused to accept alternative accommodation offered by the Council at that time. He was written to during the year under review, pointing out to him that he continued to occupy this house at his own risk.

Statutory Notices were served by me under Section 93, of the P.H. Act, 1936, requiring repairs to No. 3, Ivy Gates, Norwich Rd., and to the house at Middleton St. in the occupation of Mr. Douglas. Both Notices were complied with.

16 Permanent Houses and 15 Temporary Houses were under construction, some in advanced condition, at the end of the year.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply from the Council's mains was satisfactory throughout the year. The Public Analyst reporting upon a sample submitted stated that "This is a pure and wholesome supply, of excellent organic and bacteriological quality, with very low mineral content. The water is quite suitable for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply."

It is treated for softening and is chlorinated. I give here-
under a summary of water pumped, etc., for the year.

Summary of Water Officer's weekly reports for the year
ended 31st December, 1945.

Month	Water Pumped and Softened	Lime used	Alumina used
January	3,155,200 gallons	8,246 lbs.	272 lbs.
February	3,274,250 "	9,940 "	264 "
March	4,100,250 "	12,180 "	280 "
April	3,511,765 "	10,234 "	103 "
May	3,595,000 "	10,836 "	217 "
June	5,075,000 "	15,694 "	372 "
July	4,220,000 "	12,726 "	310 "
August	3,825,000 "	11,718 "	238 "
September	4,750,000 "	14,448 "	315 "
October	3,680,000 "	11,480 "	304 "
November	3,635,000 "	10,864 "	296 "
December	4,730,000 "	14,112 "	268 "
	<hr/> 47,551,465 galls.	<hr/> 142,478 lbs.	<hr/> 3,239 lbs.
		(63t. 12c. 14lbs.)	(1t. 8c. 1031lbs.)
1944	53,421,935 "	(60t. 6c. 110lbs.)	(1t. 3c. 1051lbs.)
(decrease)	5,870,470 (incr. 3t. 5c. 16lbs.)	(incr. 4c. 110lbs.)	

The Parish of Hingham consumed 3,971,100 gallons from
1st January, 1945 to 31st December, 1945.

Wymondham alone consumed 43,580,365 gallons.

Average daily consumption in Wymondham 119,398 gallons.

Consumption through Meter (including Hingham)

1945 ... 16,406,900 gallons

1944 ... 14,115,471 "

Increase 2,291,429 "

Military authorities consumed, 584,723 gallons (9 metres).

No. of new connections to Domestic Premises

during the year... .. 40

No. of new connections to trade premises ... 6

Total No. of connections for Domestic use ... 960

Total No. of connections to Trade and other
Premises 56

WELL SUPPLIES.

Samples of water were submitted by me to the Public
Analyst for examination, from the undernamed wells, and he
reported as follows :—

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
8 Houses, Ebenezer Terrace.	Fit for drinking purposes.	—
Cottage occupied by Heron, Potters Lane, Wattlefield.	Fit for drinking purposes.	—
House occupied by F. Standley, Market Place, Wymondham.	Fit for drinking purposes.	—
Glebe Farm, Wattlefield.	Totally unfit for drinking purposes.	The occupier of this Farm undertook to use this water for washing down the floors only; there is no habitation in connection with it
Home Farm, Wattlefield.	Grossly polluted.	Drain leaking into well. Drain renewed.
Chestnut Farm, Sutton.	Heavily polluted.	New drain laid to obviate fouling of subsoil near well.
Well serving 5 Cottages and Farm at Silfield St.	Unsatisfactory	Council propose to take steps to exclude surface water

3. SEWERAGE AND DISPOSAL.

In general the sewers functioned efficiently, but stoppages occurred from time to time on the flat portions at Silfield and in the "White Hart" yard, and at the Bait Hill Lift. With the aid of your Consulting Engineer, some investigations was made at the Purification Works, with the object of taking steps to improve purification. A Lea Recorder to show the rate of flow, etc., was installed, and repairs were made to the cracked sedimentation tanks. 269 cubic yards of sludge were sold.

During the year the following new connections were made to the sewers :—

Shoe Repair Shop	} Town	3 W.C.s provided and connected to sewer.
Draper's Shop		
One House		
Mineral Water Works, Browick Rd.	Green	1 W.C. connected.
The Manse, Bridewell St.		Do.
House at Church St. owned by Dodman.		Do.
2 Houses, Middleton St. (Douglas).		2 W.C.s connected.
6 Wash Basins at Briton Brush Works.		New drain connected.

4. MILK PRODUCTION & CONTROL.

The following samples were taken by me for examination :—

<i>Classification of Sample</i>	<i>Result of Test</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
19 Accredited	9 failed	Test for cleanliness.
	10 passed	Test for cleanliness.
2 Tuberculosis Tested Herds	2 passed	Test for cleanliness.
11 Non-designated	6 failed	Test for cleanliness.
	5 passed	Test for cleanliness.

Biological Examination :—
27 Samples

25 Negative to Tuberculosis.
1 bottle broken in transit.
1 Positive to tuberculosis.

With respect to the sample positive to tuberculosis, one cow was found to be suffering from tuberculosis of the udder, and was slaughtered.

Structural improvements were requested to be carried out to Church Farm, Wattlefield, and Park Farm, Silfield. They have not yet carried out these improvements.

No. of new producers entered on Register ... 2.

5. FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were examined by me and were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

4 6lb. Tins of Corned Beef.	3 Tins of Salmon.
7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. Tins of Corned Beef.	2 Tins of Mackerel.
2 Tins of Sardines.	14 Tins of Carrots.
15 Tins of Pilchards.	1 Tin of Beetroot.
9 Tins of Luncheon Meat.	2 Tins of Soup.
2 Tins of Herrings.	2 Pkts. Glenman Pudding.
70 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Dates.	

6. RAT DESTRUCTION.

One of the Council's workmen was employed upon the work of Rat and Mice Destruction throughout the year, and infestation was kept down to a low level. The War Agricultural Executive Committee collaborated with our own efforts whenever I approached them, by making arrangements with respect to farm property.

I served 4 Notices upon occupiers during the year, who had failed to co-operate.

E. J. HEAD,
Sanitary Inspector.

