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CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL..

R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER, 1944.





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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., of Lowden Lodge, Chippenham, has been Medical Officer of Health since 1st June, 1938.

Dr. Broomhead in addition holds the position of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire and Medical Officer of Health for Chippenham Borough and Calne Borough.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

R. D. GRAY, M.D., D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:-

E. W. STEVENS, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.S.E. who also holds the posts of Building and Sanitary Surveyor and Waterworks Manager.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS:-

G. E. WILLIAMS, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

H. J. TAYLOR, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the
year ending December, 1944.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers
and staff of the Council for their valuable assistance.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	86,034
Population (modified figure).....	27,650
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1944 according to Rate Books).....	6,886
Rateable value (31st March 1945).....	£199,874
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£782

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are agriculture,
stone quarrying at Box and Corsham, and glove making in Corsham.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	293	265	558
Illegitimate.	<u>16</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>39</u>
	<u>309</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>597</u>
Birth rate (per 1000 population).....			21.6
Birth rate for E. & W.....			17.6

Still Births-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	9	4	13
Illegitimate.	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>14</u>
Still Birth rate (per 1000 total births).....			22.7

Deaths-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	114	102	216
Death rate (per 1000 population).....			7.8
Death rate for E. & W.....			11.6

Deaths of infants under one year-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	13	4	17
Illegitimate.	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>18</u>

Death rate of infants under one year of age-

All infants per 1000 live births	30.2
(Infant mortality rate for E. & W.....)	46
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births...	30.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.....	25.7

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

Causes of Death.	Males..	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis - all forms.	6	4	10
Whooping Cough.	1	0	1
Syphilitic diseases.	0	0	0
Influenza.	1	2	3
Measles.	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	0	1
Cancer of buc.cav.& Oesoph(M).Uterus(F).	2	1	3
Cancer of stomach & duodenum.	1	1	2
Cancer of breast.	-	4	4
Cancer of all other sites.	13	8	21
Diabetes.	0	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	12	15	27
Heart Diseases.	21	18	39
Other disease of circ.sys.	6	6	12
Bronchitis.	5	3	8
Pneumonia.	9	4	13
Other respiratory diseases.	0	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	0	2	2
Diarrhoea, under two years.	1	0	1
Appendicitis.	0	1	1
Other digestive diseases.	5	4	9
Nephritis.	6	2	8
Puerperal sepsis.	0	0	0
Other maternal causes.	0	1	1
Prem.birth.	3	1	4
Con.mal.birth inj.infant dis.	6	2	8
Suicide.	1	2	3
Road traffic accidents.	3	3	6
Other violent causes.	1	0	1
All other causes.	10	17	27
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	114	102	216

NUMBER OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES.

Scarlet Fever.....	74
Diphtheria.....	0
Whooping Cough.....	88
Measles.....	88
Poliomyelitis.....	0
Enteric Fever.....	0
Pneumonia.....	15
Dysentery.....	2
Cerebro-spinal meningitis.....	2
Erysipelas.....	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2
OPhthalmia Neonatorum.....	2

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES & MORTALITY.

Age Period	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5			2	3		1	1	
15	5	2			1	1		
25	8	3	1		1	1		
35	3	3						
45	1	1			1			
55	2	1			2	1		
65								
Totals	19	10	4	3	5	4	1	

SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING 1944.

NONE.

WATER SUPPLIES.

1. Generally speaking, the main water supplies of the district have been satisfactory in quality. Some of the subsidiary supplies, however, have been subject to some surface pollution of harmless nature. Quantities were not in all cases sufficient to provide a constant supply throughout the year, and during a period of drought, lasting some three to four months, the supply to three parishes was shut off daily from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Sundry Council Houses dependent on wells were without a supply for a few weeks, and the hauling of water by the Council became necessary. In three parishes also, where the Council has no piped supply, water had to be provided by haulage for a short period.

2. The main supplies of the Council are examined bacteriologically every quarter, while in the case of the small local supplies half-yearly samples are collected. In all cases the water going into supply is sampled but in the case of the Council's main source of supply at Widdenham a sample is also collected of the raw water. A table is included in this report giving information as to the number of samples taken together with the results.

Chemical analyses are not usually made, unless conditions arise which especially call for such action.

3. The local supplies, emanating chiefly from the oolitic formations, are not liable to plumbo-solvent action. The average total hardness is in the region of 35 parts per 100,000 while the temporary hardness varies around 25 parts per 100,000.
4. Apart from the closure of the Lovvill supply, as noted in last year's report, no further circumstances have arisen which necessitated action in respect of any form of contamination during the year under review.
5. The proportion of dwelling houses in the rural district which are supplied from public water mains and the corresponding figures for the population are detailed in the following table:-

	Dwelling houses.		Population represented.	
	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.
Supplied from public water mains:-				
(a) direct to the houses:	3697	53.3	17,332	62.7
(b) by means of stand-pipes.	309	4.5	1,348	4.8
Not supplied from public water mains, †	2923	42.2	8,970	32.5
	<u>6929</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>27,650</u>	<u>100.0</u>

† Included in this category are a small proportion of dwelling houses which are served by piped water supplies provided on a private basis.

GAUGINGS OF SPRINGS AT WIDDENHAM.

It was not possible to gauge the above at all times of the year, but since May, when a permanent 90° V-notch gauging chamber was constructed, gaugings can be recorded daily.

The average daily gaugings during each respective month were as follows:-

1944.	gallons.
May.	117,900
June.	204,141
July.	92,039
August.	79,554
September.	81,249
October.	147,603
November.	342,163
December.	516,600 (maximum).

WATER CONSUMPTIONS.

Average daily consumption:-	1944 gallons per day.
Box (excluding supply from Washwell and Ditteridge).	79,981
Colerne village.	13,048
Yewstock Reservoir. (Borough supply to Regional scheme).	209,905
Kington Langley Reservoir.	19,367
Monks Lane 6" supply from M.A.P. main.	121,878
Corsham.	34,106
Neston.	65,635
Hullavington R.A.F.	61,613
Colerne R.A.F.	85,471
Rudloe R.A.F.	18,733
Nettleton borehole.	74,085 for 315 days.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS & RESULTS.

Location.	Source of Supply.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Box - High Level Tank.	Hungerford Wood Springs after chlorination.	2	2	-
BREMFIELD - (East Tytherton).	Springs at Gotshill.	4	-	-
COLERNE VILLAGE.	Hungerford Wood Springs after chlorination.	5	-	-
CORSHAM - (Low Level Tank).	Hungerford Wood Springs after chlorination.	3	1	-
CORSHAM - (Goods Hill).	Borehole.	1	-	-
DITTRIDGE - (Box)	Well.	1	-	-
FOXHAM - (Storkham Marsh) Springs at Gotshill.		4	-	-
HIMMARTON -	Springs at Gatcombe.	1	-	-
NETTLETON	Borehole.	2	-	-
FEWSEAM.	Springs at Old Derry Hill.	-	1	-
SLAUGHTERFORD.	Springs.	-	1	-
WASHWELL (Box.)	Springs at Washwell.	1	1	-
WIDDEHAM.	Hungerford Wood Springs before chlorination.	1	2	2
COUNCIL HOUSE SITES.	Well at Charlcutt.	-	1	-
NUMBER OF PRIVATE SAMPLES TAKEN AND SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS.		6	16	3
		<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>5</u>

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF NETTLETON BOREHOLE TO DETERMINE SALINITY 16

All samples for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

NEW WATER SERVICES.

Connections to the Council's Mains.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Number of Connections.</u>
Biddestone.	4
Box.	4
Bremhill.	5
Christian Malford.	10
Castle Combe.	7
Colerne.	4
Corsham.	7
Grittleton.	5
Kington St. Michael.	1
Nettleton.	6
Pewsham.	1
Sutton Benger.	5
Yatton Keynell.	2
Langley Burrell Without.	2
Chippenham Without.	2
Kington Langley.	2
	<u>66</u>

RAINFALL FIGURES.

The rainfall figures for several years now have been provided by Colonel M. Earle, Hilmarton Manor, to whom I am greatly indebted for this year's figures.

1944.	
January	.93
February	.54
March	.27
April	1.16
May	.55
June	1.61
July	1.94
August	2.43
September	1.61
October.	3.61
November	4.20
December	1.39
	<u>20.24</u>

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Conditions, in respect of the above, remained much the same as those referred to in the previous report, with one exception.

It was mentioned in the 1943 report that consideration was being given to the reconstruction of the sludge drying beds, at the Corsham Sewage Disposal Works, to facilitate drying of the sludge, and so allow the Dortmund tanks to be "de-sludged" more frequently. Six beds were reconstructed during the year and the result has been very satisfactory.

The Colerne Sewage Disposal Works, the property of the Air Ministry, are maintained and managed by the Council. They receive sewage from the local R.A.F. Station and also a quantity of sewage from Colerne village. These works have, as in the previous year, been a difficult problem. The construction of the irrigation channels to relieve the quantity of sewage to be treated by the works added a further burden to the labour problem, and it has been impossible to maintain the channels adequately.

During the year under review several combined sewage and surface water ditches were cleaned, usually in co-operation with the Highway Department of the Wilts County Council.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

During 1944 a considerable improvement was effected in the streams receiving effluents from the Corsham and M.A.P. Sewage Works, and the Town Council's Pattendown Sewage Works. Unfortunately no remedy is yet available for the general condition of the River Avon.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This essential service of Public Health administration is undertaken by one Contractor.

The household refuse is collected in a properly designed scavenging vehicle and periods of collection vary according to the urban or rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly intervals.

The refuse is collected from all the parishes in the district, twenty-four in number.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like are used for the deposition of refuse. Tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of any new tips, when they can be found, affords an opportunity for a method of controlled tipping to be introduced.

RAT AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACTS.

The sundry refuse tips in this district have been baited with a proprietary rat poison by the Council's employees.

In addition the Council engage the services of a professional Rodent Operator and the tips receive his attention twice annually. His services are very valuable as it ensures that the tips are kept reasonably free from vermin.

On October 10th, 1944, Mr. Edgar Kail was appointed as full-time Rodent Operator to the Council to make a complete survey of all domestic buildings in the Rural District and to make arrangements to treat all infested premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints have been received concerning offensive trades. All fish frying premises in the district have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1923.

There are no premises in this district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING 1944.

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper.	170.	15.	-	961.	0.	5.
Ferrous Metals.	1.	14.	-	4.	4.	0.
Non-ferrous metals.	-	-	3		11.	3.
Rubber.	6.	3.	2.	10.	15.	0.
Bones.	4.	18.	2.	22.	10.	9.
Rags.	1.	9.	3.	24.	9.	6.
	<u>185.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>£1023.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>11.</u>

SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING 1944 BY VOLUNTARY BODIES AND SERVICE DEPARTMENTS.

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.
Waste Paper.	113.	17.	0.
Ferrous metals.	10.	16.	3.
Rubber.	1.	18.	3.
Bones.	2.	18.	3.
Rags.	5.	3.	0.
	<u>134.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>1.</u>

KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTED BY FARMERS.

Parishes of Chippenham Without, Corsham & Box..... 78 tons.

HOUSING.

No systematic inspection of houses has been carried out since the outbreak of the War, but serious consideration is being given to this matter so that house-to-house inspections can be made at the earliest opportunity.

Complaints are received from time to time of defects and insanitary conditions, and all such cases are investigated. Every effort is made to deal informally with those that call for action.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council has built 240 houses situated in the following parishes:-

Biddestone.	2	
Box.	30	
Bremhill.	7	
Calne Without.	22	
Cherhill.	18	
Christian Malford.	14	
Compton Bassett.	4	
Corsham.	68	
Heddington.	6	
Hilmarton.	13	
Kington Langley.	12	
Kington St. Michael.	6	
Lacock.	23	
Nettleton.	2	
Sutton Benger.	11	
Yatton Keynell.	2	
		Total <u>240.</u>

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT 1923.

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>New Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Alterations & additions to existing houses.</u>	<u>Garages.</u>	<u>Miscell- aneous.</u>
Biddestone.	-	-	-	-
Box.	-	-	-	-
Bremhill.	-	1	-	1
Calne Without.	-	-	-	-
Castle Combe.	-	-	-	-
Cherhill.	-	-	-	-
Chippenham Without.	-	-	-	-
Christian Malford.	-	-	1	3
Colerne.	-	-	-	-
Compton Bassett.	-	1	-	-
Corsham.	-	-	1	1
Grittleton.	-	-	-	-
Heddington.	-	-	-	-
Hilmarton.	2	1	-	-
Kington Langley.	-	-	-	3
Kington St, Michael.	-	-	-	-
Lacock.	2	-	1	1
Langley Burrell Without,	-	-	-	1
Nettleton.	-	1	-	-
North Wraxall.	-	-	-	-
Pewsham.	-	-	-	-
Stanton St. Quintin.	-	-	-	-
Sutton Benger.	-	2	-	-
Yatton Keynell.	-	-	-	2
	4	6	3	12

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1944.

Milk Supply.

Number of Farms on Register..... 509

Summary of Work carried out.

Total number of farms inspected during the year..... 209

Farms requiring structural alterations, etc.... 33

Farms requiring improvements in methods, etc... 55

Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed..... 14

Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition.. 107

Total number of inspections..... 246

Four Statutory Notices were issued.

A prosecution was instituted in one case for flagrant disregard of some of the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1936. Conviction was obtained and a substantial fine was imposed.

OTHER FOODS.

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Food.	Number of Tins.	Weight in lbs.	Condition.
Beans.	9	9	Decomposition.
Herrings.	1	1	Decomposition.
Biscuits.	27	405	
Sugar.		74	Contaminated with disinfectant.
Cheese.		244	Moulds.
Meat.		14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Decomposition.
Bacon.		34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Decomposition.
Fish.		42	Decomposition.
Potatoes.		2 tons 13 cwts.	Diseased.
Tea.		4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Unpalatable.
Grapefruit.	1	2	Decomposition.
Pork Luncheon Meat.	15	6	Decomposition.
Pilchards.	2	2	Decomposition.
Cheese.		6	Decomposition.
Bacon.		2	Decomposition.
Sugar.		59	Decomposition.
Lard.		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rancid.
Butter.		1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rancid.
Cheese.		271	Moulds.
Shredded Suet.		282 $\frac{1}{4}$	Moulds.
Biscuits.		59 $\frac{1}{4}$	Moulds.
Pea Flour.		6 cwts.	Moulds.
Pork Luncheon Meat.	3	3	Decomposition.
Nestles Milk.	1	8 ozs.	Decomposition.
Baked Beans.	4	4	Decomposition.
Salmon.	1	8 ozs.	Decomposition.
Prunes.		8	Decomposition.
Rhubarb Pies.	164	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each.	Decomposition.
Fruit Pies.	2000	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each.	Moulds.

No Slaughterhouses have been operating in the district since the outbreak of the War and slaughtering is now centralised in the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Chippenham, Your Inspectors occasionally do the inspection at the Abattoir to relieve the Inspector for the Borough of Chippenham.

SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR
1944.

Visits to houses in connection with systematic housing inspections and Public Health Acts.....	82
Houses repaired.....	5
Council House inspections.....	228
New building inspections.....	222
Houses connected with water mains of Council.....	66
Water samples secured for analysis.....	61
Waterworks main extension, etc. inspections.....	325
Privy vaults converted to pail closets.....	2
Privy vaults converted to Water closets.....	-
New pail closets.....	2
Earth closets to water closets.....	11
New water closets.....	17
Inspection of new drainage systems provided to old premises.....	84
Inspection of sewage works, sewer extensions and drainage systems.....	103
Inspection of refuse tips.....	32
Inspection of farms and dairies.....	246
Slaughterhouse inspections.....	13
Overcrowding complaints dealt with.....	2
Factory and Workshops inspections.....	4
Preliminary notices served.....	120
Statutory Notices served.....	4
Houses disinfected after infectious disease.....	83
Nuisance inspections.....	177
Inspections under Petroleum Act, 1926.....	8
Inspection of Food premises.....	40
Tents, vans and sheds.....	14
War Damage and Morrison Shelter inspections.....	127
Rodent inspections.....	70
Water surveys and drainage surveys.....	153

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. D. GRAY.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

