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Contributors

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HEALTH
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BOROUGH OF FINCHLEY



ANNUAL REPORT FOR

THE YEAR 1945

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

RECORDS OF THE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR

THE YEAR 1883

IN

RECORDS OF THE

B O R O U G H O F F I N C H L E Y

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1945

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF FINCHLEY.

September, 1946.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945.

The vital statistics are excellent. The Death Rate is the lowest since 1939. The Infantile Mortality Rate is low and the Maternal Mortality and Still Birth Rates are both very satisfactory. Deaths from the common infectious diseases have never been so few.

The attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres, the antenatal and other clinics continued to increase.

Every effort has been made to ensure the wholesomeness of food and milk in the Borough and to improve whenever possible the living conditions of the people which have deteriorated so much throughout the war years.

I wish to express my thanks to all members of the Staff for their good work during 1945.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	3,477
Population (estimated) on 30.6.45 ...	61,370
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945)	19,079
Rateable Value (1st April, 1945) ...	£908,371
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£3,692

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	919	483	436
Illegitimate	68	30	38
Birth rate; 16.08 per 1,000 estimated resident population.			

Stillbirths:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	14	8	6
Rate; 13.98 per 1,000 (live and still) births.			

DEATHS:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	725	341	384
Rate; 11.81 per 1,000 estimated resident population.			

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:

From sepsis	-
Other maternal causes ...	1

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	36.37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	29.41

<u>Deaths from Cancer (all ages)</u>	...	...	...	119
<u>Deaths from Measles (all ages)</u>	...	...	...	1
<u>Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)</u>	...	...	...	-
<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)</u>	...	...	...	1

POPULATION

The Registrar-General estimated that the population on the 30th June, 1945 was 61,370, an increase of 1,640 over 1944 but 3,770 less than in 1938. Men and women in the Services are not included in the estimate.

THE BIRTH RATE

The number of registered live births in 1945 was 987, fifty less than in 1944. The birth rate was 16.08 per 1,000 of the estimated population and is almost exactly the same as the birth rate for England and Wales which was 16.1.

There were 68 illegitimate births, which is 13 more than in 1944.

The natural increase in the population, or excess of live births over deaths, was 262.

STILLBIRTHS

There were only 14 stillbirths in 1945 as compared with 33 in 1944.

The stillbirth rate was 13.98 per 1,000 total births, which is a very low figure.

THE DEATH RATE

In 1945 there were 725 deaths, no less than 105 fewer than in 1944.

The following table shows the number of deaths in age groups for the past two years.

					<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>
0	-	1 year	...	...	34	36
1	-	5 years	...	...	9	4
5	-	15 years	...	...	8	3
15	-	25 years	...	...	20	10
25	-	45 years	...	...	56	38
45	-	65 years	...	...	233	174
Over		65 years	...	...	<u>470</u>	<u>460</u>
					<u>830</u>	<u>725</u>

It will be seen that there is a saving in lives at all ages, except during the first year of life, and that it is most marked in earlier years.

There were 41 fewer deaths from cancer in 1945 than in 1944, 34 less from violence, 10 less from infectious diseases, 8 less from ulceration of the stomach or duodenum and 18 less from miscellaneous causes, whilst there were 18 more from disease of the heart and blood vessels.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

There were 36 deaths of infants (2 illegitimate) under one year of age, as compared with 34 in 1944 and 57 in 1943. The infantile mortality rate was 36.37 per 1,000 live births, which is very satisfactory. The rate for England and Wales was 46.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Only one mother died in 1945 from maternal causes, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1 per 1,000 births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the number of notifications of the principal infectious diseases received during the past four years:-

	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>
Diphtheria	19	9	3	4
Scarlet Fever	141	194	125	109
Smallpox	-	-	3	-
Enteric Fever	1	1	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	3	1	1
Pneumonia	42	60	49	38
Measles	593	364	83	618
Whooping Cough	116	78	201	57

Measles was prevalent but all the other diseases were below the average. There were 4 cases of diphtheria and none of them had been immunised. Scarlet Fever continued to decline and was once more mild in character.

The mortality from infectious disease was remarkably low, there being only one death which was due to measles.

IMMUNISATION

Eight hundred and sixty-seven children, mostly one year of age, were immunised during the year. In addition, 731 children were re-immunised. This is done at approximately 4 years after the original treatment in order to ensure the continuity of immunity.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of notifications of, and deaths from, pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis for the years 1938 to 1945 inclusive. There was a slight increase in notifications and in deaths.

YEAR	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1938	47	27	4	10	13	9	3	1
1939	34	30	6	8	16	7	2	-
1940	28	21	4	4	16	10	2	2
1941	34	38	5	7	18	15	2	1
1942	40	39	4	3	14	19	1	1
1943	41	39	7	5	14	11	3	5
1944	48	30	8	8	14	9	3	2
1945	49	41	8	1	17	9	5	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK

The bacteriological work for the district is carried out at the Joint Isolation Hospital and, during 1945, the following specimens dealt with:-

			<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diphtheria	...	...	2	201	203
Tuberculosis	...	...	7	42	49
Other conditions	...	...	18	24	<u>42</u>
					<u>294</u>

SCABIES AND VERMIN

There was a steady improvement in both conditions throughout the year and, generally, infected persons willingly attended the centres for treatment.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

There were 20,858 attendances at the three Infant Welfare Centres in 1945, nearly 1,000 more than in 1944. After the end of the War in Europe, families started to return from evacuation, and the cessation of aerial attacks allowed the Clinics to be conducted in safety. The Voluntary Workers continued to carry out their valuable work at the Centres, as they have done so faithfully throughout the whole war period, and have earned the gratitude of all who attend these Clinics.

The Ante-natal Clinic was attended by 772 expectant mothers, as compared with 601 in 1944. This increase presaged a rise in the number of births in 1946 and at the same time rendered the task of placing mothers in hospital for their confinements more difficult than ever. Owing to the lack of beds in the London Area the Government Evacuation Scheme for expectant mothers continued to operate after the termination of hostilities.

Out of 926 cases in which the place of confinement was known, 699 births took place in Hospitals or Nursing Homes and 277 at home.

The Council's Midwives attended 168 births.

ANTE-NATAL EXERCISES.

Classes for expectant mothers were started on the 24th October, 1945; they are conducted by Miss Barbara Rooke, CS.S.PT.

The aim of the ante-natal exercises is to teach mothers muscular relaxation, with a view to getting shorter and easier labour, and to encourage good posture,

thereby helping to lessen fatigue.

The exercises are very much appreciated, and though the classes are small the members are enthusiastic. It is early as yet to assess the results so far as the labours are concerned, but mothers who have been seen after their confinements are convinced that the exercises have helped them.

POST-NATAL CLINIC

The post-natal clinic is held twice a month and the attendances are gradually increasing. During the year, 131 patients attended, which is an increase of 42 over 1944.

Most of the women who attend for post-natal examination attended the ante-natal clinic and had been delivered by the Municipal Midwives. Those who attended the ante-natal clinic but were delivered in hospital usually went back to hospital for examination. Those who required further investigation or treatment were referred to hospital.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC

One hundred and fifty-four children and 23 mothers received courses of ultra-violet radiation and made 1,648 attendances.

PREMATURE INFANTS

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

The provisions made for dealing with these children are the same as described in the report for 1944, and they proved to be adequate and satisfactory during the year under review.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Expectant and nursing mothers, who are in need of dental treatment, are referred by the doctor at the Centres to the Council's dentist. Complete dental treatment is available to all who require and desire it. Although operative treatment is given at a nominal cost to the patient (one shilling per treatment visit) the scheme for supplying dentures is self-supporting. The Voluntary Association renders great assistance in that it undertakes the collection of fees for dentures on a scale which provides for a reduction in the cost of dentures to necessitous mothers.

	<u>Mothers.</u>	<u>Children.</u>
Number inspected	204	347
Number requiring treatment..	203	163
Number treated..	187	148
Number of attendances. ...	849	334
Fillings	490	306
Extractions	430	139
Scalings	138	-
Gas administrations... ..	66	57
Other operations	79	70
Dentures supplied	66	-
Dentures repaired	6	-

HOME HELPS

Assistance in 111 homes was provided in 1945 and at the end of the year 4 full-time and 1 part-time helps were employed.

DOMESTIC HELPS

A scheme for the supplying of domestic help in homes where, owing to illness or infirmity, the housewife is unable to carry out her household duties, was started in May 1945. The necessity for such a scheme was amply proved by the many genuine demands for help which were received.

In the 7 months during which the scheme operated, help for varying periods was given in 170 homes.

The staff employed at the end of the year consisted of 1 part-time supervisor, 16 whole-time and 5 part-time helps.

The scheme is financed by the Ministry of Health.

DAY NURSERIES

The three War-time Nurseries and the Council's Nursery at the Health Centre were used to their full extent throughout the year. The attendances were frequently affected by the common infectious diseases, for which each nursery was placed in quarantine from time to time, but there was no evidence that the nursery children suffered more from these diseases than other children of the same age and circumstances.

After the cessation of hostilities it soon became difficult to obtain girls for training as nursery nurses and there is no doubt that this is largely due to the low rate of remuneration which they receive.

JOINT AMBULANCE SERVICE

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health the Civil Ambulance Service was taken over from the Civil Defence on the 1st January, 1945, and two ambulances were manned day and night.

At the invitation of Hornsey Town Council a conference was held to discuss the amalgamation of the ambulance services of the Boroughs of Finchley, Hornsey and Wood Green and the Urban District of Friern Barnet and it was agreed that an amalgamation should take place, that the ambulances should

be pooled and that the service should operate from Finchley.

The Joint Service started on the 1st July and up to the end of the year 3,477 cases were removed.

MORTUARY

Forty-six bodies were received in the Mortuary and nine of these were from Friern Barnet.

FOOD

Food inspection still continues to be an important duty carried out by your inspectors, 709 visits having been made during the year to various premises in connection therewith. In spite of the amount condemned, every precaution is taken to avoid waste by the careful inspection of foodstuffs, food preparing premises and stores and the co-operation of traders and the Ministry of Food.

Whenever possible condemned foods are salvaged, processed and used for various purposes including animal feeding.

Although the amount of food condemned appears to be large, there is in the District a Government Meat Distributing Centre serving Barnet, Finchley and Hendon, Government buffer stores and several large wholesalers.

The quality of the meat and offals inspected at the meat centre was generally good as is seen by the small amount condemned (357 lbs) and shown in the list below, which includes that condemned at a private slaughterhouse used for occasional slaughtering by permission of the Ministry of Food.

No food was damaged by enemy action.

Four private slaughterhouses are licensed.

Legal proceedings were taken against a fishmonger for the sale of unsound fish and the defendant was fined £2 and ordered to pay £10-10-0 costs.

LIST OF UNSOUND FOOD

TUBERCULOSIS

Swine

2 heads.)		
2 plucks.	)	47 lbs.	(Total weight 35½ lbs.
2 mesenteries.)	)		plus 1 head.)
1 spleen.)		

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Bovines

50 lbs. Ox Kidneys.
223½ lbs. Beef (82½ lbs. decomposition, 141 lbs. sour)
25 lbs. Ox Tails. (sour)

Swine

1 Pig's Pluck (Pneumonia and Cirrhosis) 6½ lbs.

Sheep

3 lbs. Lambs' Sweetbreads (Sour)
1 set Sheep's Lungs (Abscess) 2 lbs.

Total 357 lbs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

4736 lbs. tinned meat.
45 tins meat roll.
22 tins meat and vegetable dinner.
1 doz. brawns.
12 meat pies.
112 lbs. sausages.
14½ lbs. ham.
152 lbs. rabbits.

246 tins vegetables.
407 tins fish.
6 tins fruit.
1299 tins milk.
30 tins soup.
2 tins Golden Syrup.
102 tins jam or marmalade.
2 lbs. honey.

180 stones fish.
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ bushels winkles.
 2 bushels whelks.
 58 lbs. fish cakes.
 5 hens.
 $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. rice.
 $197\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. dates.
 $94\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. sugar.
 112 lbs. split peas.
 26 lbs. semolina.
 12 lbs cake flour.
 18 lbs. soya flour.
 2258 lbs. oatmeal.
 4 lbs. ground rice.
 20 lbs. spaghetti.
 16 lbs. margarine.
 600 lbs. soya grits.
 106 lbs. peas.
 40 lbs. onion substitute.
 $71\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. sweets.
 25 packets breakfast cereal.
 43 packets soup powder.
 16 packets dried egg.
 50 jars meat and fish paste.
 23 jars pickles.
 2 bottles mixed fruit.

1 lb. mincemeat.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. bacon.
 55 lbs. macaroni.
 $6\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. cheese.
 904 eggs.
 $152\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. dried fruit.
 226 lbs. tea.
 72 lbs. lentils.
 $11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. pea flour.
 492 lbs. pudding mixture.
 3 lbs. flour.
 1 lb. 14 ozs. curry powder.
 6 lbs. pearl barley.
 54 lbs. biscuits.
 19 lbs. porridge oats.
 1 lb. butter.
 24 lbs. sutox.
 36 lbs. carrots.
 112 lbs. milk chocolate.
 112 lbs. oranges.
 13 packets dried herbs.
 100 packets lemon flavouring.
 6 packets egg substitute.
 4 jars meat extract.
 8 bottles sauce.
 8 tins lemon ice foam.

MILK

Fewer complaints with regard to milk have been received during the year and, in spite of the transport difficulties that still prevailed, the milk generally has been in better condition than during the previous war years.

Dairies and milkshops have been inspected and a number of samples taken for bacteriological examination.

In one of the large dairies a new mechanical churn washer has been installed and is giving good results.

DESIGNATED MILKS

Licences were granted by the Council in respect of designated milk for the year ended the 31st December, 1945, as follows:-

Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	8
Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Pasteurised	10
Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Pasteurised	2

Licence in respect of establishment at which
Tuberculin Tested milk is bottled. 1
Licences in respect of establishments in which
the process of pasteurising milk is carried on 2

WATER

Three samples of water were submitted for analysis and all proved satisfactory.

HOUSING

I regret to have to report a further deterioration in the housing situation. The number of families requiring re-housing owing to statutory overcrowding or inadequate housing considerably increased.

Several factors are responsible for this position, the chief being houses destroyed or damaged by enemy action; no new houses being erected; the return of members of H.M. Forces and evacuated persons and the shortage of building labour and materials.

The lack of maintenance to existing property has resulted in the standard of fitness being greatly reduced and, if allowed to continue, it will, in the near future add still further to the list of insanitary and unfit houses, thus creating a still greater housing shortage.

This is a matter of grave concern to the Department.

It is inevitable that sub-letting must occur under the foregoing circumstances and a number of large houses have been let to families, who live under most unsatisfactory conditions, often in so-called furnished rooms with the minimum of furniture, comfort and amenities, but to the benefit of the landlord. A number of such cases have been, or are being, dealt with. 108 visits have been paid to premises

registered as houses let in lodgings.

During the year 1,615 houses were visited by the sanitary inspectors and defects numbering 2,094 were recorded and dealt with. The following is a list of the work carried out, which necessitated a further 2,693 visits.

LIST OF WORKS

Drainage

Premises re-drained	11
Drains altered or repaired	19
Drains unstopped	115
Yls. stoneware drain laid	88
Inspection Chambers provided	8
Inspection Chambers altered or repaired	5
New inspection chamber covers	15
Intercepting traps fixed	3
Fresh air inlets fixed	2
Fresh air inlets repaired	2
New gullies provided	9
Gully curbs provided and repaired	3
Soil pipes and vents fixed	1
Soil pipes and vents repaired	1
Water tests applied	29
Smoke tests applied	23

W.C's. etc.

W.C. Accommodation provided	1
W.C. apartments provided	3
Ventilated lobbies provided	1
W.C. pans fixed	42
W.Cs. unstopped, cleansed or repaired	16
W.C. apartments cleansed	1
W.C. cisterns fixed	13
W.C. cisterns repaired	23
Lavatory basins provided	2
Sinks provided	11
Wastepipes repaired or unstopped	20
Wastepipes provided	3
Urinals cleansed or repaired	5

Miscellaneous

New roofs	4
Roofs repaired	71
Gutters renewed	5
Gutters repaired	22

Rain water pipes provided	4
Rain water pipes repaired or unstopped	9
Rain water pipes disconnected	1
Dampness remedied	16
Brickwork repaired or repointed	9
Yards paved	1
Yards repaired	5
Floors relaid	7
Floors repaired	25
Walls and ceilings cleansed	80
Plasterwork repaired	98
Ventilated food stores provided	1
Windows provided	1
Windows repaired	33
Sash cords renewed	60
Window silb repaired	6
Doors provided	2
Doors repaired	6
Staircases repaired	3
Handrails provided	1
Storage cisterns provided	7
Storage cistern repaired, cleansed & covered	5
Water service pipes repaired	34
Dustbins provided	48
Offal bins provided	2
Accumulations of manure removed	3
Accumulations of refuse removed	11
Workrooms cleansed	5
Stables cleansed	1
Piggeries cleansed	1
Bakehouses cleansed	4
Coppers provided	2
Ranges provided	1
Ranges repaired	3
Stoves renewed	6
Stoves repaired	11
Chimney pots renewed	1
Miscellaneous	54

GENERALLY

The number of complaints of nuisances received during the year showed an increase; 533 having been investigated and dealt with.

Other urgent matters including investigation of infectious diseases, drainage work and the inspection of factories have been dealt with and in connection therewith 7,854 visits have been made by the sanitary inspectors.

Factory premises still require special attention owing to premises of all types being used and, in many circumstances, for purposes for which they are entirely unsuitable. Complaints of noise and smells have been dealt with and additional and

separate W.C. and washing accommodation provided. A complaint of grit emission from one of the larger factory chimneys was dealt with and the work carried out to remedy the nuisance appears to have had satisfactory results.

Sixty-seven verminous premises, including 52 infestations of bugs and 5 of fleas, have been disinfested. With the introduction of new insecticides; D.D.T. and Gammexane it is hoped that the nuisance from vermin and various insect pests will show a decrease in the future as the residual effects of these chemicals should go a long way to bring about an initial cure and prevent re-infestation.

A summary of the work carried out by the disinfectors is given below.

DISINFECTION SUMMARY

Visits.	Rooms dis- infected after infectious disease.	Verminous rooms.	Articles disinfected.	Articles destroyed.
	Sprayed. Fumigated.	Sprayed. Fum- igated.		
1033	204	15	95	91
			4818	153

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

	Rats.	Mice.	Wasps.	Hedgehogs.	Fox.
Complaints	235	81	11	2	1
Visits	2396	185	15	2	8
Prebait	1022	-	-	-	-

	Rats.	Mice.	Wasps.	Hedgehogs.	Fox.
<u>Poisonings</u>					
Zinc Phosphide	250	81	-	-	-
Arsenic	27	-	-	-	-
Red Squills	24	-	-	-	-
Barium Carbonate	3	-	-	-	-
Gassings	72	-	15	-	4

There was a reduction in the number of complaints regarding rats but a large increase in complaints regarding mice and of all complaints the proportion where poultry or rabbits were kept increased from 33 per cent to 44 per cent.

No. of Premises proofed

Air Gratings fitted	40
Defective brickwork remedied	4
Concreting under shop windows	2
Concreting of Floors	2
Pipe casing sealed with expanding metal	1

Sanitary Defects Found and Remedied

Accumulation of Rubbish	5
Defective Drainage	4
Defective Fresh Air Inlets	4
Blocked Drains	9
No stoppers to Intercepting Traps	11
Defective Manholes	1
Open junction on Public Sewers and/or untrapped fittings	9

Smoke Tests

Two smoke tests applied to rat runs revealed defects in sewers or drains.

Yearly Contracts

Seven yearly contracts have been entered into, monthly visits being paid to each. They consist of:-

	<u>Date of Termination</u>
1 Foodshop (mice)	20.12.45
2 Food Preparing Premises	27. 4.46
1 Pig Club	25. 1.46
1 Refuse Destructor & Sewage Works	31. 3.46
2 Private Houses	9. 5.46

Disinfestation of Sewers

A scheme for the disinfestation of sewers was submitted to the Ministry of Food (Infestation Control), together with an application for additional manpower.

In August, ten Italian collaborators were allocated for 12 weeks to assist in this work, and it is worthy of note that owing to the manner in which these men co-operated with Council employees we were able to dispense with their services a week ahead of schedule.

The scheme consisted of dividing the district into 10 areas with well defined boundaries; two Italians and one Council employee operating in each area.

Manholes were prebaited on four successive days, poison bait being laid on the fifth day, followed by an inspection for recording poison takes.

A second treatment was carried out within one month of the initial treatment and on similar lines, except that the bait base and poison were changed from Rusk and Zinc Phosphide to Bread and Barium Carbonate.

<u>No. of Manholes baited.</u>		<u>Estimated No. of Rats killed.</u>		<u>Average kill per manhole.</u>
Northern half.	Southern half.	Northern half.	Southern half.	

1st Treatment

1200	1567	1882	1020	1.04
------	------	------	------	------

2nd Treatment

682	573	246	480	0.578
4022		3628		

Major Infestations

An occupier made application for assistance to disinfest his premises. This proved to be a major infestation. The whole of the land and buildings were inspected, and owing to the large area within the curtilage of the premises it was decided to mark all baiting points by the use of flags. This method proved to be invaluable, especially when used in connection with sewer recording form No. 2.

Some 74 dead rats were found which taken at the conservative estimate of 10 per cent represents 740 rats destroyed.

The two treatments were carried out in a similar manner to that adopted for the sewers.

Mice.

The number of requests by householders for assistance to disinfest houses of mice has increased 100 per cent, and the numbers of requests is likely to increase still further.

Generally

This concludes a very satisfactory year's progress and, while it is too early to say whether the number of complaints of Rats will continue to decrease, I feel that some, if not all, of the worst areas within the district have now been given efficient treatment.

A.A. TURNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

General

This contains a very interesting report of progress and
results as far as possible to get through the number of complaints
of those with conditions to be treated. I feel that some, if not
all, of the work done within the district have been
given efficient treatment.

A. E. TURNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

W. A. TURNER, M.D.
J. H. TURNER, M.D.