

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Friern Barnet].

Contributors

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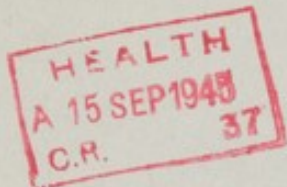
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FRIERN BARNET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 4 .

W. W. MILLEN. M.B.Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FRIERN BARNET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
N.11.

6th. September 1945.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the
Friern Barnet Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

This report is again delayed this year on account of war time conditions. We are still working extended hours with a skeleton temporary staff, and the technical and administrative work falls on one Sanitary Inspector, truly a whole time occupation.

The report covers the period January 1st. 1944, to December 31st. 1944 inclusive, and will follow the usual abbreviated form in accordance with Circular 10/44 issued in February 1944.

There is no evidence that the health of the district has deteriorated; in fact, some indications are rather the other way, especially is this so in the case of the children of school age. Regular employment of the parents, with school meals nicely served, have undoubtedly improved their nutritional standard, and the contrast between the children of the early 1930's and to-day is most marked. Our deathrate is back again to the low pre-war figures; the birthrate continues above the pre-war average, and the infant mortality rate is the lowest yet recorded. There were no deaths due to childbirth, nor were there any notifications of puerperal pyrexia. Housing conditions have deteriorated, and there is considerable overcrowding, which only the provision of more houses will alleviate, and housing is and will be for some years the No. 1. Public Health problem.

The district suffered two rather severe incidents from flying bombs, which strained the housing accommodation to the utmost; but the difficulties were overcome, and the displaced families were housed in such houses as were vacant, and had been requisitioned and retained for that purpose. In both these incidents, it was the small and fully occupied houses that received the worst damage.

From the end of July to the first week in September, the evacuation of mothers and children took place. Your sanitary inspector acted as registrar and liaison officer, and Drs. Stephen and Campbell gave me valuable assistance in the medical examinations. 783 mothers and children were officially evacuated, and all records were kept in the Public Health Dept. In addition the records of the re-housing office show that 1408 persons were evacuated to billets found by themselves, and un-connected with the official parties. The whole scheme worked smoothly, and was an outstanding example of team work, carried out with enthusiasm by willing workers from all departments, who gave up their leisure time to make the evacuation the undoubted success it proved to be.

The usual sanitary services, such as water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal, have been maintained, and some of the sprinkler oxidising filters were improved, as they had not been giving effluents up to their pre-war standard.

The W.V.S. continued their salvage work, and the collection of kitchen waste was speeded up and improved. The bins for this purpose have received periodical cleansing, and although

We receive complaints about them, I feel that such complaints are mainly due to thoughtless action on the part of the public, in not replacing the covers after depositing the salvage in the bins. The bins and bone boxes are not ornaments to the localities where they are situated, but I do not think they are detrimental to public health, and so long as their contents are required to ease the strain on transport, and the war effort generally, they should be retained. They are especially valuable in reducing the quantity of house refuse that has to be disposed of on the controlled tip. It is trade and kitchen waste that is largely responsible for the heat generated in a controlled refuse tip, and its elimination is all to the good.

We were again troubled with crickets on the tip in the summer months, but increased cover, the removal of herbage, and treatment by spraying, kept down their numbers, and by early autumn the tip was cleared of them.

The working arrangement with our neighbours at Finchley for the joint use of a rat-catcher, has proved satisfactory, all complaints having been dealt with satisfactorily. There is no doubt that the rat is responsible for a great deal of damage to our food stuffs, and when conditions are favourable, he should be attacked and destroyed. On spotting the places from whence complaints were received on a large scale map, it became evident that the rats were survivors from the colonies formerly inhabiting the sites of pig farms, (now covered with good class houses), and that those houses where chickens were kept, were the attractions. Keepers of chickens would greatly assist in keeping down the numbers of rats if they took the simple precaution of storing chicken feeding stuffs in securely fastened metal containers.

The incidence of the common infectious diseases has been satisfactory. The number of notifications of Scarlet Fever is less than half those in 1943, and in Measles, less than one third of those in 1943. On the other hand, Whooping Cough was up. There was also an increase in the notifications of Diphtheria, 12 against 10. Pulmonary Tuberculosis was less by 7 notifications, and other Tuberculosis is less by one notification. There was no Typhoid Fever notified throughout the year. Respiratory diseases were about average, there being 14 deaths from Bronchitis and 17 from Pneumonia, as against 33 in 1943. The incidence of scabies fell considerably during the year, and the clinic established at 10, Hemington Avenue, proved its suitability and worth. I again thank the members of the Red Cross organisation for their good work in this connection. Dr. Stephen of the Middlesex Schools medical service, has continued her good work at the diphtheria immunisation clinic. The percentage of immunised children to the child population is not so high here as in some other districts, of Middlesex. This may be accounted for by the fact that we do not count those as effectually immunised until they show a satisfactory Schick test, and we have no means of knowing the number of children immunised by the general practitioners in their private practices. Private practitioners have applied for supplies of A.P.T. and Schick testing materials, and from the quantity issued, one must assume that it is used, and protects a considerable number of children, whose parents do not take advantage of the infant welfare and school medical services.

The ambulance service has been maintained satisfactorily and full use made of the facilities given by the W.V.S. Voluntary Car Pool, for the use of those people not ill enough to require an ambulance, but unable to travel to and from hospital by the public transport services.

I attach the usual tables of statistics and express

my thanks to my fellow officers and members of the Council,
who have given me assistance throughout the year under
review.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.W. Millen.

Medical Officer of Health.

NO. OF DWELLING HOUSES INSPECTED (separate primary inspections only).

(1). On Complaint.....	279.
(2). On notification of infectious disease.....	55.
(3). Re Tuberculosis.....	2.
Visits to foodshops.....	58.
" " dairies and milkshops.....	6.
" re Shops Act.....	-
" to Factories and Workshops.....	2.
" re Petroleum Act.....	3.
" for Disinfection.....	51.
" re Housing Act.....	-
" re Disinfestation and to Verminous premises...	14.
" re Rat Infestation.....	407.
Appointments and Special visits.....	296.
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress.....	364.
Attendance at Court (Petty Sessions & County Court).	2.
Visits re attendance at Scabies Clinic.....	20.
Visits on technical matters for Re-housing Office....	139.
Visits re casualties due to enemy action.....	49.
Visits re Government Evacuation.....	109.
	<u>1856.</u>
Total visits and inspections for 1943.....	1625.
" " " " " 1942.....	1431.
" " " " " 1941.....	1684.
" " " " " 1940.....	2726.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- 1.(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.... 206.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 301.
2. Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.... 117.

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 111.

3. Action under Statutory Powers:-

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 1.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices..... 1.
 - (a) By owners..... 1.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners..... 0.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...6.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-
 - (a) By owners..... 6
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.. 0.

The following is a summary of the sanitary improvements and defects remedied during the year:-

Water.

store cisterns provided, repaired, cleansed or covers provided.....	2.
Fittings and services repaired.....	12.

Drainage.

Drains cleared or repaired.....	17
Inspection chambers cleansed, repaired etc.	1
Soil and vent pipes repaired.....	2
New sink waste/ pipes provided.....	2
Sink wastes repaired.....	1

W.C.

W.C. pans and traps fixed.....	8
W.C. pans and traps repaired.....	1
W.C. seats, doors windows, floors renewed or repaired.....	2
Walls cleansed and distempored.....	1
Ceilings cleansed and distempored.....	1
Flushing cisterns provided.....	5
Flushing cisterns repaired or regulated....	9

Floors.

Floors repaired.....	3
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Roofs.

Stripped and renewed.....	2
Repaired.....	31
Gutters & downspouts renewed or repaired...	14

Cleansing.

Walls repaired, cleansed or distempored....	11
Ceilings repaired or renewed.....	13
New ceilings.....	--

Windows.

Sashes and frames repaired or renewed.....	5
Cills repaired or renewed.....	1
Sashcords provided (number of houses).....	1

Brickwork.

Damp-proof courses provided.....	1
Brickwork repaired.....	2
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired.....	-
Dampness in walls remedied.....	2
Walls re-pointed or rendered.....	-

Refuse.

Dustbins provided.....	85
Accumulation of refuse removed.....	3

General.

New ranges and grates provided.....	-
Ranges and grates repaired.....	-
Other defects (unclassified).....	1
Verminous rooms cleansed.....	1
	<hr/>
	240

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936;

Pasteurised.....	10
Accredited.....	-
Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)	6
Pasteuriser's.....	1

Meat and other foods.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

30 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Tinned Pork & Luncheon Meat.
336	lbs. Boneless Beef.
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Bacon Trimmings.
3	Tins Stewed Steak.
32	Tins Pilchards.
8	Tins Salmon.
6	Tins Sardines.
7	Tins Herrings.
3	Tins Mackerel.
10	Tins Soup.
8	Tins Beans.
40	Tins Evaporated Milk.
7	Tins Condensed Milk.
5	Tins Plums.
1	Jar Bramble Jelly.
5	lbs. Tinned Jam.
12	lbs. Cheese cuttings.
27	cwts Potatoes.
5	Stone Cod Fillets.
11	lbs. Dried Raisins.
4	lbs. Dried Figs.
19	lbs. Dried Peas.
45	lbs. Flour.
111	lbs. Soya Flour.
23	Packets Yorkshire Pudding Mixture.
13	Packets Sponge Pudding Mixture.
15	Packets Cake Flour.
10	Packets Dried Eggs.
50	Shell Eggs.

TABLE 1.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDING
31st. DECEMBER 1944.

Disease.	Number of cases notified.								Cases in each Ward.			Friern Hosp.	No. removed to Hosp
	All.	Un.1.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & 0.	North.	South	Central		
Scarlet Fever.	47	-	7	31	5	3	1	-	20	11	16	-	25
Diphtheria.	12	-	3	3	3	3	-	-	2	5	5	-	12
Pneumonia.	34	2	1	7	1	10	7	6	9	9	7	9	4
Measles.	76	4	28	44	-	-	-	-	50	8	18	-	-
Whooping Cough.	134	17	68	47	-	2	-	-	29	49	56	-	3
Erysipelas.	10	-	-	-	4	3	1	2	3	6	1	-	2
Sonne-dysentery.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	27	-	1	1	8	13	3	1	9	6	12	-	-
Other Tuberculosis.	4	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
TOTALS.	345	24	109	133	21	37	12	9	124	95	117	9	47

TABLE 2.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944, FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	No Regd.	At-----Ages								Wards.				Out Tran.	In Tran.	M.	F.	Nett deaths
		0-1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65&O	N.	S.	C.	A.					
Accident	5	-	-	1	-	-	2	5	7	5	5	2	3	3	10	11	4	12
Appendicitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	1
Arterio-sclerosis	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	21	10	1	6	6	6	10	14	9	17
Bronchitis	14	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	8	3	4	4	6	6	3	10	7	11
Bright's disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cancer	64	-	-	-	-	-	11	39	29	13	13	7	46	46	15	42	37	33
Cerebral-haemorrhage	23	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	29	10	8	17	8	8	20	21	22	35
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Congenital debility	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	3	-	-	8	3	8	11
Diabetes	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	5	5	-	1	4	-
Epilepsy	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	3	2	-
General paralysis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	-
Heart Disease	98	-	-	-	-	1	9	33	75	22	18	30	48	49	20	58	60	69
Ill-defined diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Mania	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Meningitis	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	4	4	1	4	1	1
Nephritis	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	11	2	2	1	11	11	3	15	1	5
Other defined diseases	29	1	-	-	-	4	4	14	17	5	3	7	25	24	11	24	16	16
Other Tubercular diseases	4	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	2	1	3	3	2	5	1	3
Pneumonia	36	1	-	1	-	-	6	20	20	4	7	4	33	31	12	25	23	17
Senility	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	2	2	7	6	2	6	7	7
Suicide	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	3
Tuberculosis of Resp system	27	-	-	-	-	6	14	12	4	3	5	5	23	23	9	28	8	13
War operations.	21	-	1	-	1	4	9	11	6	9	6	3	14	14	11	18	14	18
TOTALS	383	13	1	4	1	17	72	170	246	91	84	96	253	250	141	294	230	274

TABLE 3.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1944, AND THE MORTALITY FROM THE SAME DISEASE
OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

AGES.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10- 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15- 20	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	4	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
25- 35	2	-	4	3	3	-	-	-
35- 45	1	1	2	-	2	-	2	-
45- 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55- 65	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
TOTALS.	12	1	10	3	9	-	3	-

TABLE 4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE 1944.

	Under 1 week.	1 - 2 weeks.	2 - 3 weeks.	3 - 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
All causes :-										
Certified.	8	2	1	-	11	1	1	-	-	13
Un- certified.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital defects.	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Haemorrhagic disease	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other defined diseases.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1