

[Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Alton U.D.C.

Contributors

Alton (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1942

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ALTON.

Council Offices,
Alton, Hants.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1942.

The health of the town has been good and no epidemics have occurred, but mild cases of enteritis and epidemic jaundice continue at irregular intervals.

The chlorinated water supply continues to give good samples on analysis but after periods of drought the water level in the well becomes so low that restriction of consumption becomes necessary.

The Sewerage Works though overloaded consistently produce a fair effluent except after heavy rainfall.

The Council's Housing Estates now form a considerable problem in management and with the prospect of extensive additions after the war the appointment of a Manager or some similar solution will become urgent.

The number of deaths was 95 - Males 47. Females 48. Of these Arterio-Sclerosis 13, Myocardial Degeneration 43 and Cancer 11 taken together constitute 70% of the total. The deaths of infants, 6 in number, include 3 from prematurity. There seems little doubt that the provision of extra means of caring for these babies might effect a further saving in the deaths of children under one year. Other causes of death include Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4, Pneumonia 3 and Tetanus 1. The Coroner inquired into 3 cases returning a verdict of Natural Causes in one and Suicide by drowning and gunshot wounds respectively in the other two.

The number of births was 114, equal number of boys and girls. (One boy illegitimate).

Infectious Diseases. Measles has been much less prevalent, only 68 cases (of which 24 occurred at The Treloar Hospital) compared with 328 the previous year and whooping cough fell from 110 to 15. These decreases probably are only an expression of the fact that the epidemics of last year left comparatively few children unprotected by previous attacks.

Scarlet Fever with 26 cases continues at about the average number and the other diseases were as follows :- Pneumonia 8. Anterior Poliomyelitis 2. Erysipelas 2. Ophthalmia Neonatorum 2. Puerperal Pyrexia 3. Tuberculosis Pulmonary 6, Non-Pulmonary 7.

Diphtheria Immunisation. A total of 253 children was immunised. Of these 189 were aged 1 - 5. The number of children at school remains about 1,150 and about 360 more are in the 1 - 5 class which yearly receive about 90 children from those under one year. Thus there is an immunisable total of about 1,480; since 1934 some 1326 immunisations have been done, this includes a proportion of children who received a further dose on reaching school age, so that there are probably about 300 children not yet immunised in spite of repeated propaganda and visits by the Health Nurse and myself.

(OVER)

Scabies. There is a real improvement in the number of cases since the treatment of all members of the household, infected and otherwise, has been pressed. Exact figures cannot be given as records show only the numbers treated and these include all contacts.

I am, Sirs,
Your obedient Servant,

R.J. WILLSON. M.B., B.C. (Cantab)
D.P.H., R.C.P.S., B.A.

Medical Officer of Health.
Urban District Council of Alton.

8th June, 1943.