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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF BENFLEET.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including THE REPORT of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(W.E. Colston, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

FOR 1939.



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.Medical Officer of Health *

Norman S. R. Lorraine, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
 R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.
 Also Medical Officer of Health for Canvey Island and Rayleigh
 Urban District Councils and Assistant County Medical Officer,
 Essex County Council.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health - Essex County Council.

J. H. Crosby, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Esther P. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
 Jemima B. Ratcliffe, M.B., Ch.B., J.P. /

Orthopaedic Surgeon (Part-time)

B. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmologist.

J. Horton Young, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S.

District Dental Surgeon.

D. W. Hurley, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

Specialist, Ears, Nose and Throat (Southend General Hospital - part-time)

C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S.

Health Visitor.

Miss P. M. Richardson, General Training, London Hospital; Central
 Midwives' Board Certificate, Clapham; Queen's Jubilee Nurse;
 Health Visitor's Certificate (old and new).

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health.

Miss D. Grudgings.

Senior Sanitary Inspector *.

W. E. Colston, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector *

P. W. Edwards, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 5.4.39)
 J. E. Gilbert, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (From 14.8.39)

Both the Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors are
 qualified in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside
 London) Order, 1935 and, in addition, hold other certificates.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors

R. D. Prichard.

- * One half of the salary attached to these offices is paid by the
 County Council from Exchequer Contribution Account.
 / Part-time. Also in general practice.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Public Health Department,
London Road,
HADLEIGH, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Benfleet.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Tenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1939.

A Circular was issued by the Ministry of Health dated 19th July, 1940, addressed to the Clerk of the Local Authority indicating that in view of the increasing pressure of work in the public health department of local authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper the Minister considers that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939, which this is intended to be.

I desire again to express my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and also to officers of other Departments for information and assistance readily given from time to time.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I should like to express my thanks to the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE.

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

October, 1940.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	6,370
Population:				
(a) For calculation of Birth Rates	..			16,980
(b) For calculation of Death Rates				
or the incidence of notifiable				
disease	..	..		16,920
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)				
according to Rate Books	..	..		5,652
Rateable Value	..	..		£105,117
Sum represented by a penny rate		..		£400

In the above and following statistics, several routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

England and Wales. Live Births 15.0 Deaths 12.1
Deaths under 1 year of age 50.0

Benfleet U. D. C.Live Births (a) B.R. (For calculating Birth Rates)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 14.1
Total	240	115	125	
Legitimate	230	110	120	
Illegitimate	10	5	5	

(b) I.M. etc. (For calculating Infant and Maternal Mortalities)

Total	242	117	125	
Legitimate	232	112	120	
Illegitimate	10	5	5	
<u>Stillbirths.</u> Total.	5	4	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births) 20.4
Legitimate	4	3	1	
Illegitimate	1	1	-	

<u>Deaths.</u>	208	97	111	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population 12.3 *
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Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes	1	4.0
Total	1	4.0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

Total number of infants	...	...	7
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	28.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	30.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	-

- * This figure to render it comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole, has to be multiplied by the Areal Comparability Factor 0.83, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 10.2 as compared with 12.1 for the country as a whole.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory Facilities (b) Ambulance Facilities (c) Nursing in the Home (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics and (e) Hospitals, there are no essential changes to note.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. 5,627 houses in the Area were connected with the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company at December, 1939.

Seven samples from private supplies involving three premises were submitted for chemical and partial bacteriological examination. Five of these were reported to be unsatisfactory.

Closet Accommodation. During the year, 21 premises were connected to the sewer and 2662 existing buildings have been connected to sewers since the inception of the Urban District (1929)

Public Cleansing. The Service was extended to 157 houses and towards the end of the year a separate collection of waste paper was instituted as a war time measure. Revenue from salvage totalled £135. 18s. 10d.

Visits and Inspections. 2595 visits were made during the year and the usual remedial work enforced.

Factories Act, 1937. A total of 34 inspections were made and two defects found were remedied.

Disinfection. 71 houses, involving 100 rooms, were disinfected.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936. 76 inspections were made and 35 licences were issued for the storage of petroleum and one for the storage of carbide of calcium.

In other branches of sanitary administration, the usual routine work was carried out without any essential changes.

SECTION D - HOUSING.

Fitness of Houses. House-to-house inspections under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 and action under the Housing Act, 1936 were suspended in September, 1939, owing to other calls on the time of the Designated Officers being made, and to the difficulty owners would experience where extensive repairs would make demands on labour and materials. Repairs to properties, have therefore since the outbreak of hostilities, been confined to works necessary to abate nuisances.

New Houses. The post-Munich international situation to the period of the outbreak of war resulted in a considerable diminution in the erection of houses in the District as 157 houses were erected by bodies or persons other than the local authority during 1939, compared with 332 in 1938. No houses were erected by the local authority.

The War and Local Population Statistics. The reduction in building activity noted in the preceding paragraph has of course reduced the normal yearly increase of population but this was compensated for by the movement of population both inward and outward which occurred at the beginning of the war. That the number of the former exceeded the number of the latter, is revealed in the national census of 29th September, 1939, which showed that there were 16,912 persons in the District on that date.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. At the end of the year 12 farms and other premises used as dairies were registered and 59 retail purveyors were also registered.

Twenty samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination of which number three were unsatisfactory.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. A total of 19 licences were issued under the above Orders.

Phosphatase Test. Two samples of pasteurised milk were subjected to the phosphatase test and were reported to have passed the test.

Meat and Other Foods. The usual inspections were made and unbound food surrendered. Three slaughterhouses were licensed at the end of the year.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928. Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The usual sampling was carried out by the Essex County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority for the area. 63 samples were taken and four were stated to be adulterated or below standard.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

In respect of the prevalence of infectious diseases, there are no matters of outstanding importance to report.

Tuberculosis. During the year, seven cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, two males and five females. Three cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were also notified, one male and two females.

It is regretted that during 1939 there were ten deaths from tuberculosis, four males and five females all respiratory and one female non-respiratory.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS ACT, 1937.

Heavy responsibilities have devolved upon this Department in respect of the Emergency Medical Services (Casualty Services.)

In this District, three First Aid Posts have been established, equipped and staffed, as hereunder:-

- : First Aid Post, London Road, Hadleigh. Medical Officer in charge, Dr. A. Braby.
- : First Aid Post, Kenneth Road, Thundersley. Medical Officer in charge, Dr. H. A. Nicholls.
- : First Aid Post, London Road, South Benfleet. At the outbreak of war, Dr. Eaton was Medical Officer in charge but for practice reasons he found he was unable to carry on and resigned on September 17th, 1939. The vacancy was ultimately filled.

A Nurse in Charge has also been allocated to each First Aid Post by the Civil Nursing Reserve.

