

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

Contributors

Benfleet (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1942

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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

(J. E. Gilbert, M.R.San.I., H.S.I.A.)

for

1942.



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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 - Essex County Council.

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

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 *

J. E. Gilbert, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector *

J. H. Rooley, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 17.10.42.)

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. Pritchard (H.M. Forces)
E. Dean.

* One half of the salary attached to these offices
is paid by the County Council from Exchequer
Contribution Account.

/ Also in general practice for part of the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

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
Thirteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of
your Urban District for the year 1942.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2773
of the 10th March, 1943, this is intended to be an interim report
and, on grounds of national security, as instructed in this Circular
afore-mentioned, certain facts and figures must not be published.

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 LORRINE.

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

June, 1943.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	6,370
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942)					
according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	5,550 approx.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£104,358
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	...	£391

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 15.8 Deaths 11.6
Deaths under 1 year of age 4.9

Bonfleet U. D. C.Live Births.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Total	225	110	115
Legitimate	211	104	107
Illegitimate	14	6	8

Still Births.

Total	6	4	2
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Deaths.

	231	113	118
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When compared with the figures for the year 1941, the birth rate per 1,000 estimated population shows a very slight increase, and the death rate is lowered. The Comparability Factor for either year is not available owing to war conditions.

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

Total number of infants ...	10.
All infants per 1,000 live births	44.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	47.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	28
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	-
Deaths from Whooping cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

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. 5,714 houses in the Area were connected with the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company at December, 1942.

Four samples were taken from the Public Supply during the year and submitted for examination. All were highly satisfactory. Two samples from private supplies were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. One was satisfactory and one was unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was from a well supplying four houses. These were later connected to the Public Supply.

Drainage. During the year three premises were connected to the sewer, and extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of two existing buildings.

Public Cleansing. This service functioned satisfactorily during the year. Efforts to salvage all materials of value to the War Effort were intensified and the results compare satisfactorily with those of other districts of a similar character.

Visits and Inspections. 1880 visits were made during the year.

Factories Act, 1937. 19 inspections were made and four defects found and remedied.

Disinfection. 32 houses involving 44 rooms were disinfected, also 17 library books.

General. 70 complaints were made during the year. These were dealt with as follows:-

Preliminary Notices served re housing and general defects	...	...	19
Verbal Notices	...	...	14
Advice given re destruction of vermin	...	...	9
Complaints of weeds referred to County Council..			2
Instructions to Refuse Collectors to collect refuse			2
Sewers cleared	...	...	2
No action taken (not Statutory Nuisances)	...	...	22

5 visits were made to Civil Defence Posts. These were maintained in a clean condition.

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 inspection 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. No new houses were erected during the year.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. At December, 1942, 5 farms used for the production of milk and 26 retail purveyors of milk were registered.

16 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination of which number 6 were unsatisfactory. Those farms at which the unsatisfactory samples were taken were given advice on the production of clean milk and improvements were effected. The shortcomings were mainly due to lack of sterilization of utensils.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. A total of 15 licences were issued under the above Orders.

Meat and Other Foods. 363 visits were made to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Cross Farm, Hadleigh and 4,306 carcasses were inspected; of these 707 were cows, 371 of which were affected in some degrees by tuberculosis. All meat found to be unfit for human consumption was suitably disposed of by the Ministry.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 211 visits were made to various food premises during the year.

The usual sampling was carried out by the Essex County Council who are the Food and Drug Authority for the area.

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

There are no matters of outstanding importance to report in respect of the prevalence of infectious diseases. Particulars of all cases notified during the year will be found in the table on the following page.

Scabies. There was an increase in the incidence of scabies during the year, and arrangements are being made for the use of the cleansing section of the First Aid Post at Hadleigh for treatment, with the co-operation of the Emergency Medical Services Department, Essex County Council.

The treatment which will be given on a "family unit" basis involves a bath and the use of 25% emulsion of Benzyl Benzoate as recommended in the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health, 229/Med, revised June, 1942.

Venereal Diseases. Regulation 33B does not come within the purview of the local sanitary authority.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year, the scheme of immunisation against diphtheria proceeded satisfactorily, propaganda being intensified when occasion arose. During the year, 338 children under 5 years, and 462 children between 5-15 years, were immunised under the Local Authority's Scheme. At the end of December, the estimated percentage of immunised children in the district was as follows:-

Under 5 years:	68.5%
5-15 years:	75.6%

Tuberculosis. I am unaware of any undue incidence of this disease associated with any local cause or condition. The majority of the cases come from outside the District, chiefly from Greater London, having already been notified and are transfers under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

During 1942, 22 cases of tuberculosis were notified, 18 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. Of these pulmonary notifications, 10 were male and 8 female, and of the non-pulmonary, 2 were male and 2 were female.

It is regretted that during the year, there were 10 deaths from tuberculosis, 2 male and 6 female pulmonary and 2 female non-pulmonary.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1912.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases included in Weekly Returns													Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.	Distribution.			Sex.		
	ALL ages	At Ages														Hadleigh	South Benfleet	Thundersley		M.	F.
		0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over								
Scarlet fever ...	24 (2)	(1)	-	3	-	1	16 (1)	1	2	-	-	-	-	17 (2)	-	13	5 (1)	6 (1)	10	14 (2)	
Diphtheria ...	5 (1)	-	1	-	-	(1)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 (1)	1	(1)	4	-	-	5 (1)	
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	3 (2)	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-	1	-	3 (2)	1	(2)	1	-	(1)	2 (1)	
Acute Primary & Influenzal Pneumonia ...	14	1	1	-	1	4	1	-	1	1	3	1	2	-	7	-	7	9	5		
Erysipelas ...	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	4	3	2	
Eruptive Pyrexia ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	3	2	
Whooping cough ...	45	4	7	8	5	1	14	2	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	7	24	14	22	25	
Measles ...	8	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	4	3	3	5	
<u>Non-civilian</u>																					
Diphtheria ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was unconfirmed.