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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., M.S.I.A.)

for

1944.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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
Fifteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of
your Urban District, for the year 1944.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 49/45,
of the 19th March, 1945, this is intended to be an interim report.

Throughout the year, the sympathetic consideration and
assistance of the Council have been a great help.

I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the
department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

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.

July, 1945.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	6,370
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	5,570 approx.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£108,295
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£410

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

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
<u>Live Births:</u>	282	156	126	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Legitimate	256	144	112	.. 17.3 ..
Illegitimate	26	12	14	
<u>Still Births:</u>	11	6	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Legitimate	10	6	4	.. 37.5 ..
Illegitimate	1	-	1	

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population *
<u>Deaths:</u>	227	123	104	.. 13.9 ..

* The Comparability Factor is not available for 1944, 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 infant deaths	...	...	15
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	53.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	54.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	38.5

TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>
1939	14.1	12.3	28.9
1940	12.2	15.2	43.2
1941	14.1	15.9	39.1
1942	14.3	14.7	44.4
1943	16.3	16.2	47.2
1944	17.3	13.9	53.2

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1944.

Age.	D E A T H S.			No. of deaths which apply to district.
	No. in district.	Outward Transfers.	Inward transfers.	
Under 1 year	1	-	14	15
1 and under 2	-	-	-	-
2 " " 5	-	-	-	-
5 " " 15	1	-	1	2
15 " " 25	1	-	1	2
25 " " 35	2	-	7	9
35 " " 45	-	-	5	5
45 " " 55	7	-	10	17
55 " " 65	17	2	12	27
65 " " 75	38	1	33	70
75 and upwards.	62	9	27	80
TOTAL:	129	12	110	227

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BENFLEET DURING 1944.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes	123	104	227
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping cough	-	2	2
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	10	2	12
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases	2	-	2
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute infective encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buc: cav: and oesoph:(M) uterus(F)	-	2	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	2	4
15. Cancer of breast	-	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	11	7	18
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	8	10	18
19. Heart disease	47	33	80
20. Other diseases of circulatory system ..	5	4	9
21. Bronchitis	6	6	12
22. Pneumonia	3	4	7
23. Other respiratory diseases	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	-	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1	-	1
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	2	4	6
28. Nephritis	-	-	-
29. Puer: and post-abort: sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature birth	2	2	4
32. Con. mal birth inj: dis:	2	4	6
33. Suicide	3	3	6
34. Road traffic accidents	1	1	2
35. Other violent causes	3	2	5
36. All other causes	13	11	24

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. Approximately 95% of the dwelling houses and of the population in this district are supplied with water from the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company, and in all but eight cases, the water is supplied direct to the houses; the eight properties mentioned being served by means of standpipes. The supply is constant, sufficient in quantity and of high quality. Three samples of this water were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examinations, and all were highly satisfactory. Bacteriological and chemical examinations were also made of the raw water by the Analyst employed by the Southend Waterworks Company and by the Counties Public Health Laboratories. The results have been consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes.

Of the 5% of the dwelling houses and population of this district not supplied with main water, the majority rely upon supplies from rain-water tanks, although a few dwellings are supplied by private wells.

33 complaints of shortage of water were received during the summer months and water was delivered where needed in suitable tanks at individual dwelling houses. Four samples from private wells were taken during the year, two were reported as satisfactory and two as unsatisfactory. One unsatisfactory sample showed evidence of lead contamination and all lead piping connected to the well was removed. The other dwelling with an impure water supply was connected to the water mains.

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

Public Cleansing. This service functioned satisfactorily throughout the year and efforts to salvage all materials of value to the war effort were continued. 103 dustbins were sold to property owners.

Factories Act, 1937. Twenty-one inspections were made and sixty-one outworkers were visited. No notices were served under the Act.

Infectious Disease. Seventy-five visits were made to premises after Notifications of Infectious Diseases. 14 houses were disinfected.

General. A total of 3,821 visits and inspections were made during the year. 127 inspections were made on receipt of complaints and 53 Notices under the Public Health Act and the Housing Act were served. 43 Notices were complied with during the year. 11 Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act were served. Advice on the eradication of rats and mice was given in 10 cases.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Fitness of Houses. House to house inspections under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 were suspended in September, 1939, owing to other calls being made on the time of Designated Officers.

A total of 452 housing visits were made, including surveys in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2871, with a view to increasing the housing accommodation in the district. 56 Certificates of Essentiality were issued to enable owners to proceed with essential building operations. Four unfinished houses were completed and occupied. Sixteen houses were requisitioned to accommodate bombed-out families and families inadequately housed.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

At December, 1944, six farms used for the production of milk and 16 retail purveyors of milk were registered. 23 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examinations of which number seven were unsatisfactory. Those farms at which the unsatisfactory samples were taken were given advice on the production of clean milk and improvements were effected. In one case the erection of a new cowshed and dairy to replace the existing structure unsuitable for the purpose, was commenced. Of the samples taken, 16 were of undesignated milk (6 unsatisfactory) and 7 were of designated milk (1 unsatisfactory). 61 visits were made to cowsheds and 12 to dairies and milk shops.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. Dealers licences were issued as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk.	4.
Pasteurised Milk.	9.

Meat Inspection. 369 visits were made to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Cross Farm, Hadleigh, and the carcasses and organs of 5,362 food animals were inspected; of these 1,129 were cows, 510 of which were affected in some degree by tuberculosis. All meat found to be unfit for human consumption was suitably disposed of by the Ministry of Food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 219 visits were made to various food premises during the year and the following foods were surrendered by food traders as being unfit for human consumption:-

425 cans milk: 69 cans meat: 4 cans fruit: 109 cans fish:
 7 cans Vegetables: 9 cans soup: 18 cans Jam: 300 eggs:
 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. cheese: 102 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. bacon: $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea: 80lbs. butter:
 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. margarine: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. sugar: 2 tins dried milk:
 33 cans marmalade: 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. biscuits: 28 cans beans:
 12lbs. Semolina: 12lbs. cake flour: 2lbs. lard: 10lbs. split
 peas: 6 cans peas: 1 jar pickles: 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Oranges: 2 jars
 fish paste: 33lbs. beef: 1 pair ox lungs.

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

The facts and figures shown under Sections C, D and E, have been provided by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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

The general health condition of the District for 1944 is eminently satisfactory. Particulars of all cases of notifiable infectious disease occurring during the year will be found in the table on page 7.

Compared with the year 1943, 1944 shows that there has been a reduction in the incidence of Scarlet Fever. I am pleased to be able to report that not a single case of diphtheria was notified in the District during 1944. This is notable as since the inception of the Urban District, this has never previously occurred. There was a slight undue prevalence of Whooping Cough throughout the District which was general throughout the country.

Tuberculosis.

I am unaware of any undue incidence of this disease associated with any local cause or condition.

During 1944, 19 cases of tuberculosis were notified:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	9	5	14
Non-Pulmonary	3	2	5

It is regretted that during the year, there were twelve deaths from tuberculosis:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	10	2	12
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-

Scabies.

The clinic established at the First Aid Post was available at any time by appointment for the out-patient treatment of patients, in conjunction with the nursing staff of the Casualty Services, Civil Defence, attached to the Post, by arrangement with the Scheme-making Authority.

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

The following table shows the number of notifications received and the number of patients treated during the year:-

	<u>Adults.</u>	<u>5-15 yrs.</u>	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Notifications	33	24	7	64
Treatments	51	44	11	106 *

* Of this number, 16 male persons were treated by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Venereal Diseases.

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

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Scheme in this district is progressing satisfactorily but the migratory nature of the population adds to the local difficulties.

The fact that there were no deaths from, or notifications of, diphtheria during the year tended to cause parents of children to be more complacent in respect of accepting the offer of free immunisation, although the figures in respect of the 5-15 age group for this district are very satisfactory.

At the end of December, 1944, the percentage of child population considered to be immunised was as hereunder:-

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-15 years.</u>
60%	89.1%

WAR YEARS - GENERAL REMARKS.

In this District, the health during the war years reveals an encouraging and cheerful picture, although the department had to work under heavy difficulties from time to time. There has been no evidence of any epidemic of a serious nature, infectious diseases in general have been well controlled, although the incidence of Infective Jaundice should be noted.

The highest birth rate was reached in 1944, when the rate for the district was 17.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, and the lowest death rate in 1939, when it was 12.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The infant mortality rate in 1939 was as low as 28.9 per 1,000 registered live births, compared with 50.0 for England and Wales, which was a very favourable comparison, and it will be recalled that the infant mortality rate of a district is one of the most reliable guides to the health of the community.

It is worthy of mention that the vitamin supplements, the national milk scheme and meals in schools have helped materially to improve the health of the children, and the children of to-day are the citizens of tomorrow.

In my view, the soundly based health services in this district have stood up extremely well to the strains and stresses.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

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 ..	19 (2)	-	-	(1)	(1)	2	9	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9 (2)	-	6	5	8 (2)	12 (2)	7		
Diphtheria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	16	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	-	10	-	6	9	7	-	
Erysipelas ..	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	4	-	2	1	5	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Measles ..	20	-	3	3	2	-	10	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Whooping Cough ..	14,5	10	19	15	8	18	67	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	39	10	8	9	11	
Dysentery ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Acute Infective Hepatitis	17	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	5	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	9	8	9	
<u>Military Notifications.</u>																								
Scarlet fever ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Acute Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	

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

