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BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.



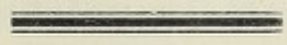
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(P. C. MCKINLAY, M.D.)

FOR THE YEAR, 1940.



Beverley :

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1941.



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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Beverley.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my second Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.

This report must continue to be an interim one in the interests of national economy, and only outstanding details in the health of the Borough can be mentioned.

The past year has seen a very large increase in the work of all departments of the Health Services due partly to evacuees billeted in the Borough and surrounding district and to the presence of the wives and families of service personnel stationed in the vicinity. It is a pleasure to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their continued interest, to the various officials of the Corporation for their help and advice, and to the members of my staff for their loyalty and assistance.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. C. McKINLAY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1941.

Officers of the Public Health Department of the Council.

Nurse Gibson was appointed as additional School Nurse and Health Visitor in May, 1940. There have been no other changes in the staff of the Health Department.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

17 swabs of the nose and throat, 40 specimens of sputum, 6 specimens of cerebro-spinal fluid and 10 other specimens were sent to the Government Research Laboratory at Pocklington for examination.

TREATMENT.

There is no change in the facilities provided at the Clinics, in the homes, and, occasionally in hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There has been a large increase in the amount of work done at the Child Welfare Centre every Wednesday afternoon. 301 children attended for the first time compared with 172 during the previous year and the total number attending was 476 compared with 321. In addition to the Clinic on Wednesday afternoon, children under five are seen at the school children's clinics on Tuesday and Friday mornings if necessary. The Health Visitors paid 301 first visits compared with 236 in 1939, and a total of 3,319 visits to children up to the age of five, an increase of over 100%. The amount of dried milk supplied at cost price to mothers attending the centre was 1,294 lbs.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

These are still held on alternate Friday afternoons and the work here has almost doubled. 174 new cases attended compared with 97 in 1939, and the total attendances were 474 compared with 258 in the previous year.

Expectant mothers evacuated to Beverley and district are looked after by our Ante-Natal Clinic until shortly before the expected date of confinement, when they are transferred to Maternity Homes in the country under the care of the East Riding County Council.

The Dental Surgeon conducted three sessions for 19 women.

We are still striving by persistent propaganda to impress on expectant mothers the necessity for dental treatment early in pregnancy where this is necessary.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department has again been very much disturbed during the year 1940 by the claims being made upon the time of the two permanent Sanitary Inspectors of the town by essential Civil Defence work and also by the fact that

the Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector, who had been appointed in 1939, and who had been able to devote most of his time to Sanitary work, was called up for Military Service in January, 1940. In spite of the difficulties, however, every effort has been made to maintain the essential work of the Department and much useful work has been done in routine matters appertaining to Public Health.

1. WATER.

25 samples of water were submitted for analysis during the year. These samples showed the water supplied to the public to be satisfactory after filtration and chlorination except on one occasion when a sample was found to be not up to the required standard of purity. Appropriate action was taken and subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory in all respects. The water is still carefully watched to ensure the presence of the correct amount of free chlorine and the necessary adjustments are made immediately the amount of free chlorine falls below, or rises above, the standard laid down in Government Regulations.

2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The position with regard to Sanitary Accommodation in the town at the end of the year was:—

Type of Convenience.	Number.	Percentage.
Water Closets	3651	... 83·41
Privies	215	... 4·93
Pail Closets	511	... 11·66

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year 4,117 loads of refuse have been collected from private dwelling houses and business premises in the town, corresponding to a weight of 4,137 tons. The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £2,281. All the refuse in the town, other than that salvaged, was disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

The salvage of paper and metal was put into operation in April, 1940, and the salvage of bones and glass in August and October respectively. To December,

1940, 135 tons of material had been salvaged and sold for a total revenue of £398. Total costs, including heavy initial outlay, amounted to £312.

4. INSPECTION OF THE AREA UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

136 nuisances from various causes have been abated during the year. 201 visits for housing defects have been made to 170 houses, and 84 Informal Notices have been served. 75 houses have been made fit by informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The housing programme is still in abeyance due to the War, no Demolition Orders, Clearance Orders, or Closing Orders being made during the year. Houses which would otherwise have been demolished are now having to be maintained in a reasonable condition by having essential work carried out.

Overcrowding has not seriously increased in the town during 1940, the full effects of the inflow of evacuees not being felt until after that date.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Government Scheme for the control of the slaughter of animals was put into operation in January, 1940, and after that date all slaughtering has been done at the Government Slaughter House situated in Wood Lane. This has been visited regularly by the Meat Inspector for the purpose of meat inspection.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were three cases of diphtheria during the year and it is satisfactory to note that none of these cases occurred in households where the Council's offer of immunisation had been accepted.

175 children below the age of five were immunised at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and 141 children between five and eight years of age were immunised at school. We are confident that we are reaching a position when diphtheria epidemics in the Borough will be a thing of the past.

There were 10 cases of cerebro-spinal fever, nine of which recovered. This can be largely attributed to the early use of a new drug, and when it is reflected that prior to the discovery of this the mortality was at least 50% we have reason for a profound satisfaction and thankfulness.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Cerebro-spinal			
Fever	10	9	1
Diphtheria	3	3	Nil
Pneumonia	19	10	10
Ophthalmia	1	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	5	4	Nil
Anthrax	1	1	Nil
Measles	42	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	14	Nil	Nil

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1940.

Diphtheria	3
Erysipelas	3
Scarlet Fever	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Pneumonia	19
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1*

*Treated at home with no resulting impairment of vision.

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 11 male and 6 female new cases with 7 male and 5 female deaths during 1940.

There were 2 male and no female non-pulmonary cases with 2 male and 1 female death during the same period.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births:—			
Legitimate	247	119	128
Illegitimate	11	4	7
Stillbirths:—			
Legitimate	12	4	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths	226	120	106
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			17·9
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			44·4
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			15·6
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births			46·5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			44·5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			90·9
Deaths from measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil
Death Rate, England and Wales			14·3
Birth Rate, England and Wales			14·6
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales ...			55·0