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BOGNOR REGIS URBAN DISTRICT

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INTERIM  
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939

BY

H. MICHAEL AYRES

M.B.C.S. (Eng.), L.B.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. (Camb.), D.P.H. (Camb.).





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

BOGNOR REGIS.

December, 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr: Chairman and Gentlemen,

Following instructions from the Ministry of Health, a short Interim Report has been prepared for the year 1939, but has been somewhat delayed because the Registrar-General's statistics were not received until the end of 1940.

There is nothing outstanding on which a special report should be made, but it will be appreciated that the work of the Department has increased very considerably, and special precautions are being taken because of the influx of evacuees.

Measles and whooping cough have been made notifiable, as it is of considerable importance to study the effect of a moving population on the spread and control of infectious disease.

Apart from normal duties, the A.R.P. organisation of the Casualty Services, emergency mortuary, emergency hospitals, decontamination of food and clothing, has again increased the work of the Department.

There has been complete co-operation between the Department and the Military Authorities regarding the co-ordination of casualty services which have been discussed in detail.

Arrangements have been made to extend the bed accommodation at the Isolation Hospital for military and evacuee cases.

All matters of importance have been brought before the Public Health and Emergency Committees, and I am deeply indebted to the members for the unstinted support which has been accorded to me.

I am, Mr: Chairman and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

H. MICHAEL AYRES

Medical Officer of Health.





## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. General Statistics.

Area in acres	2,695
Population (Census, 1921)	11,490
Population (Census, 1931)	13,510
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (1939)	
for calculation of birth rate	20,780
" " " death "	22,650
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	2,237
Number of inhabited houses (1939)	7,246
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)	2,525
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931)	3,239
Rateable value	£311,852
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,220

2. Social Conditions and Occupations

The district is a residential one and essentially a seaside health resort. There are no large factories, and there are no occupations which have a definite prejudicial effect on health.

3. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the YearBirths -

	Ttl.	Males.	Fem.	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population mid 1939.....
<u>Live Births -</u>				12.5.
Legitimate	241	117	124	
Illegitimate	18	7	11	
	259	124	135	
<u>Still Births -</u>				Rate per 1000 total (live and still births) births....44.3
Legitimate	11	7	4	
Illegitimate	1	1	0	
	12	8	4	

Deaths -

	280	134	146	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated average population 12.4
Total number of deaths occurring in Public Institutions.....	52			
(Percentage of total deaths 18.5)				
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth				
From Sepsis...	0			
From other causes...	0			
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	6			
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live birth	22.1			
There were 241 legitimate children born and 5 deaths, therefore the death rate per 1000 is	20.7			
There were 18 illegitimate children born and 1 death, therefore the death rate per 1000 is	55.6			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	43			
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0			
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0			
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years of age)	1			

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate	15.0 (15.1)
Death Rate	12.1 (11.6)
Infant Mortality Rate	50 (53)

(The figures in brackets represent the rates for the year 1938)

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified during 1939:-

Scarlet Fever ... ..	30
Diphtheria ... ..	15
Erysipelas ... ..	4
Pneumonia ... ..	13
Enteric Fever ... ..	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever... ..	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. ... ..	2
Total ... ..	<u>68</u>

It will be noted that there was no epidemic of any kind. Although evacuees had commenced to enter the town, it was too early to state the effect of a moving population on the general health of the area. This will be more fully considered in a later report which will also include information regarding the incidence of whooping cough and measles.

TUBERCULOSIS

Forty-four new cases (compared with 33 in 1938) were added to the register during 1939:-

Pulmonary Males	23	Non-pulmonary Males	6
Females	13	" Females	2
	<u>36</u>		<u>8</u>

There were ten deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 8 from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 0.44 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.636 for England and Wales.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at December 31st 1939, was 213.



BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

As in previous years, swabs for examination for the presence of K.L.B. or haemolytic streptococci, and specimens for typhoid bacilli have been submitted to Dr: C.J. Harwood Little for examination during 1939, both by the Health Department and by general practitioners.

The number of examinations of swabs and specimens submitted was as follows:-

<u>Specimens</u>	<u>No: Submitted for Examination.</u>
(1) Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	567
Virulence Tests for Diphtheria	2
(2) Swabs for Scarlet Fever	88
(3) Specimens for Typhoid and paratyphoid Fever	21
(4) Other specimens	6
	<hr/> 684 <hr/>



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICESIN THE AREAINFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

The details given in last year's report are unchanged except for the extension of the accommodation from 28 beds to 40 beds. This extension was made in order to accommodate evacuee and service patients.

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during 1939:-

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	40
Diphtheria	...	...	23
Chicken Pox	...	...	4
Scabies	...	...	4
Whooping Cough..	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Enteric Fever...	...	...	3
Mumps	...	...	2
Polio- Encephalitis...	...	...	1
Infantile Paralysis...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	1
Observation	...	...	50
			<hr/> 134 <hr/>

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL(1) TUBERCULOSIS

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds), whilst surgical cases are admitted to the Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants (for children).

(2) MATERNITY

The County Council arrange for cases to be admitted to:-

- (a) Brighton Hospital for Women
- (b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham
- (c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home

In order to provide accommodation for evacuated expectant mothers the following emergency maternity homes were established.

- (a) Zachery Merton Home, Rustington.
- (b) Dale Park, Slindon.
- (c) Levington Park, Nr: Midhurst.

(3) CHILDREN

The County Council's arrangement for the reservation of 2 cots for the reception of children under the age of 12 months is unchanged. No cases from this area were received during the year.

(4) SMALL-POX

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Small-Pox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(5) GENERAL

St. Richard's Hospital Chichester, has an accommodation of 144 beds which are available for general cases.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY  
OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS  
RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT

- (1) Bognor Regis War Memorial Hospital (27 beds)
- (2) Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester (334 beds)



AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) For infectious cases, the Local Authority possesses a modern motor ambulance.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases, the Local Authority has a modern motor ambulance staffed by a whole time driver-mechanic and volunteers from the local St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Detachments. During the year the mileage covered on non-infectious and accident cases, was 6,768, and the cases conveyed were as follows:-

Accident Cases... 50

Medical Cases... 321

Attendance at  
Fires ... 6

377

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRESA. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE

Arrangements are unchanged from the previous year.

Special ante-natal clinics have been conducted at weekly intervals for evacuated expectant mothers.

B. SCHOOL CLINICS

School Clinics have been held as during the previous year, and the service has been extended to evacuee school-children.

C. NUTRITION CLINICS

These have been conducted as during the previous year.

Evacuee school children are inspected, and, if necessary, provided with extra milk or malt and oil.

D. TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS

These have been held at the Chapel Street Clinic, Chichester, as previously.

E. VENEREAL DISEASES

The County Council's arrangements for clinics to be held at Worthing and Portsmouth are unchanged.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

The arrangements set out in my 1938 Report remain unaltered.



### BOGNOR REGIS AND DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CARE FUND.

The Children's Care Fund was inaugurated in 1932 to assist necessitous cases among the children living in Bognor Regis and is entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

Its assistance in such cases has been continued in 1939, and, in certain circumstances, has been extended to evacuees.

There is, at the present time, more distress in the town than there has been during the last ten years. The reason for this is the higher cost of living and other circumstances.

Under the Boot Club Scheme, any children may obtain boots or have them repaired, and there is no need for any of the local children to be without footwear.

WATER

Details of the water undertaking have not been included in this Report, but the Water Engineer has submitted a separate report to the Council giving details of the precautions which have been taken to cover all emergencies.

HOUSING

The important work on housing has continued, and 1188 visits have been made, notwithstanding the large amount of extra work the Sanitary Inspectors have been called upon to carry out. The details of this work are omitted from this Report but are always available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and ice-cream sampling has been carried out as in previous years, and visits have been paid to bakehouses, stores and places where food is prepared, e.g., kitchens of restaurants. Details of the foregoing inspections are available.

Inspection of carcasses slaughtered locally was carried out until September when local slaughtering ceased. Meat inspection at butchers' shops continued, however, to be carried out.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & SHOPS ACT 1934

Visits have been paid in accordance with the scope of these Acts.

RATS AND MICE

Many visits have been paid to premises infested with rats and mice and advice given. Poison has been laid and/or runs fumigated.

MISCELLANEOUS NUISANCES

All complaints have been investigated, and where necessary, action has been taken.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme, providing for main drainage facilities and the abolition of cesspits in the added areas was nearing its completion at the end of the year. Good progress was made with cesspit abolition, 220 cesspits being abolished.

It is a matter for regret that the making up and sewerin~~g~~ of private streets which had been prepared for, had to be postponed.

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