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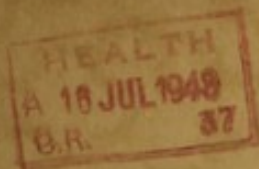
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BOGNOR REGIS URBAN DISTRICT.

# INTERIM REPORT

ON THE STATE

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF

BOGNOR REGIS

1942

BY

H. MICHAEL AYRES,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.





July, 1943

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 1942, following the receipt of the vital statistics from the Registrar-General's Office.

It will be appreciated that, for purposes of national security, considerable information must be excluded from this report, but, if any member of the Council would care to have further details, these can be supplied personally.

There are several outstanding points that I should like to bring to your notice as enumerated below:

1. Birth and Death Returns:

Births: During 1942, there were 402 births in the town, which is the highest number ever recorded. The numbers for the last few years are as follows:

1938 .....	260
1939 .....	259
1940 .....	252
1941 .....	269
1942 .....	402

which are all higher than any previous records.

These numbers may occasionally be misleading because of the increase of total population and the birth rates give a clearer view of the position. The birth rates for the same periods are as follows:

1938 .....	13.1	per thousand
1939 .....	12.5	- do -
1940 .....	10.8	- do -
1941 .....	12.7	- do -
1942 .....	19.2	- do -

the rate for 1942 is the highest since 1920 when it was 19.7.

The number of illegitimate births for the last ten years are as follows:-

1933 .....	16	(7.9% of total births)	1938 .....	14	(5.4% of total births)
1934 .....	14	(6.2% " " " )	1939 .....	18	(6.9% " " " )
1935 .....	17	(7.5% " " " )	1940 .....	14	(5.6% " " " )
1936 .....	13	(5.5% " " " )	1941 .....	21	(7.8% " " " )
1937 .....	13	(5.2% " " " )	1942 .....	34	(8.4% " " " )

which indicates that, with the large number of increased births, the percentage of illegitimates has not increased appreciably.

Deaths: The number of deaths for 1942 was 346, which is the highest on record, and the number of deaths for the last few years is as follows:-

1938 .....	272
1939 .....	280
1940 .....	313
1941 .....	345
1942 .....	346

It should be noted that during 1942, out of the total number of deaths, there were 231 deaths of persons from 65 years upwards.

At the end of the war period, full detailed statistics will be presented.

2. Infectious Diseases:

An exceptionally high standard of health has been maintained in the area, and whereas last year there were 714 notifications of infectious disease, during 1942, there were only 201. During this period, there were only 13 cases among the evacuees and the remaining 188 among the residents.

There were only 9 cases, with one death, of Diphtheria during the year. None of these cases, as far as is known, had been immunised.

There were no cases of cerebral-spinal fever or typhoid.

3. Diphtheria Immunisation:

On page 6 will be noted the records of diphtheria immunisation in the town, and it will be seen that a total of 4226 children have been immunised, and that it is estimated 93% of our children between 5 and 15 years of age have been protected and 65% of our children under 5 years of age. Every effort has been made to establish contact between medical practitioners, nurses and the parents to obtain consent for the protection of their children, and it is hoped that an increasing number of the younger children will be treated in the near future.

4. Sanitation:

Although Mr. Cullen and his Assistant, Mr. Coysh, have considerably added duties, housing inspections and milk sampling have received special attention.

5. Scabies, Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease:

Special notes are contained in the body of the report.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the assistance which has been accorded to me by the members of the Council, my colleagues, the general practitioners and the general public.

I am deeply indebted to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the unstinting support which has been accorded to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H.M. 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 (1942)	20,970
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ... ..	2,237
Number of inhabited houses (1942) ... ..	7,254
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)	2,525
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931)	3,239
Rateable value ... ..	£309,004
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£ 1,161

## 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 Year.

Births -	Ttl: Males		Fem:	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated popula- tion mid 1942 ..
Live Births -				.... 19.2 ....
Legitimate ... ..	368	201	167	
Illegitimate . ...	34	16	18	
	<u>402</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>185</u>	
Still Births -				Rate per 1000 total (live & still births)
Legitimate ... ..	9	5	4	
Illegitimate.. ...	1	-	1	
	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	births.... 24.3
Deaths -				Death rate per 1000 of the estim- ated population .... 16.5 ....
	346	147	199	
Total number of deaths occurring in Public Institutions .....				133 (percentage of total deaths 38).
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth				
From sepsis ... ..			1	
From other causes ... ..			0	
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age ...			19	
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births				47.3
There were 368 legitimate children born and 18 deaths, there- fore the death rate per 1000 is ... ..				48.9
There were 34 illegitimate children born and 1 death, there- fore the death rate per 1000 is ... ..				29.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..			51	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..			0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..			1	
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc, (under two years of age).			1	

## STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth Rate ... ..	15.8	(14.2)
Death Rate ... ..	11.6	(12.9)
Infant Mortality Rate. ... ..	49	( 59)

(The figures in brackets represent the rates for the year 1941)

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases were notified during 1942:-

	RESIDENTS														EVACUEES														TOTAL EVACUEES & RESI- DENTS.
	AGES														AGES														
	UNDER 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 25	25 35	35 45	45 65	65 plus	TOTAL	UNDER 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 25	25 35	35 45	45 65	65 plus	TOTAL	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	3	5	16	7	1	4	1	2	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	45	
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Pneumonia	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	3	1	2	1	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	
Puerperal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	3	6	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	
Measles																													
Ophthalmia																													
Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Whooping Cough	4	9	10	17	14	39	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	96	-	-	2	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	103	
	8	10	13	21	23	66	19	6	12	3	6	1	-	188	-	-	3	1	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	13	201	

It is gratifying to be able to note that the incidence of infectious disease amongst evacuees, compares very favourably with that of residents.



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Cont'd)TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty seven new cases (compared with 50 in 1941) were added to the register during 1942:-

Pulmonary Males	19	Non-pulmonary Males	5
" Females	7	" Females	6
	<u>26</u>		<u>11</u>

There were twenty two deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 16 from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 6 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 1.049 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.657 for England and Wales.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at December 31st 1942, was 215 as compared with 217 at December 31st 1941.

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. F. Standish for examination during 1942, 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.	136
Virulence Tests for Diphtheria	2
(2) Swabs for Scarlet Fever	10
(3) Specimens for Typhoid and paratyphoid Fever.	3
(4) Other specimens	22
	<u>173</u>



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN BOGNOR REGIS.

Bognor Regis. was early in the field in connection with diphtheria immunisation, the original scheme being started in 1927.

The following are details of children who have been immunised against diphtheria:-

YEAR	AGES														TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 & over	
1927	-	1	1	-	7	4	7	11	10	9	9	8	6	1	74
1936 -7	22	31	32	53	75	95	85	115	107	94	60	40	31	8	848
1938	1	3	2	4	13	20	8	5	7	6	8	14	5	4	100
1940	-	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	16
1941	33	150	125	119	170	189	207	196	191	179	176	130	146	149	2160
1942	158	119	95	85	140	81	71	42	38	33	43	51	47	25	1028
Total ...														4226	

It is estimated that up to December 1942, 65% of children under 5, and 93% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 in Bognor Regis, had been immunised.

As far as can be ascertained, not a single clinical case of diphtheria has occurred amongst these children.

SCABIES.

The Scabies Order was introduced in October, 1941.

There is no compulsory notification but the Order gives power to inspect premises, and secure the treatment of persons suffering from scabies.

School children are seen at the Clinic and, if necessary, referred for treatment to St. Richard's Hospital Chichester.

During 1942, 124 cases have been seen at the School Clinic and referred, but as there are also adult cases referred from time to time this does not represent all the scabies cases in Bognor Regis which have been treated at St. Richard's Hospital.

Considerable publicity has been given to this subject, and films have been shewn.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICESIN THE AREA.INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during 1942:-

Scarlet Fever ... ..	66
Diphtheria ... ..	11
Chicken-pox ... ..	3
Whooping Cough .. ...	4
Erysipelas ... ..	3
Infective catarrhal jaundice	1
Mumps ... ..	13
Pneumonia .. ...	3
Measles ... ..	2
Observation ... ..	19

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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 St. Richard's 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 arranged for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to:-

- (a) Brighton Hospital for Women.
- (b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham
- (c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home.
- (d) Improvised Maternity Homes at Haselmere, Hindhead and Woking.

(3) CHILDREN.

The County Council arranges whenever necessary for the admission of children under the age of 12 months to Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, or St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

(4) SMALLPOX.

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 11,642 and the cases conveyed were as follows:-

Accident Cases	...	...	62
Medical Cases	...	...	638
			<u>700</u>

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.

A. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

Arrangements are unchanged from the previous year.

Special ante-natal Clinics have been conducted at weekly intervals for resident and evacuated expectant mothers.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Aldwick and Felpham fortnightly.

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, malt and oil, and vitamin preparations.

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. Considerable publicity has been given to this subject, and lectures are being given to all the youth organisations.

(NOTE: Other clinics have been arranged as follows in 1943:-

Brighton Royal Sussex County Hospital. Clinics for men and women patients.

Horsham. Drs: G. de Lacey and G.S. Morgan. Clinics for men and women.).



PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Bognor Regis District Nursing Association employs five nurses, three of whom carry out general district nursing.

The West Sussex County Council makes a grant to the County Nursing Association for nursing services in connection with child welfare and home visiting of cases of tuberculosis.

Two other nurses under the direct supervision of the County Nursing Association, attend the Minor Ailments and Nutrition Clinics and carry out duties in connection with the School Medical Service.

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 1942, and, in certain circumstances, has been extended to evacuees.

There is, at the present time, a considerable number of necessitous cases in the town, the reason for this being 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.

Arrangements have also been made to supply clothing, and gifts of second-hand articles are urgently required.

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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.

Despite difficulties of labour and material, efforts to maintain this important work have continued, and 824 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.

POST WAR HOUSING.

This has been considered by the Housing Committee.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD.

Milk sampling has been carried out as in previous years, and visits have been paid to cowsheds, dairies, bakehouses, stores and places where food is prepared and sold. Details of the foregoing inspections are available.

Inspection of carcasses slaughtered locally was carried out until January, 1940, 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 in connection with rats and mice, advice given, and appropriate action taken.

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 completed early in 1940. At the 31st December, 1942, there were 643 cesspits in the area.

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

FB

7.7.43.

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