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BOGNOR REGIS URBAN DISTRICT

INTERIM REPORT

ON THE STATE

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF

BOGNOR REGIS

1944

BY

H. MICHAEL AYRES,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



August, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen;

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of Bognor Regis for the year 1944. This report is an interim one only in view of the present conditions and the need for strict economy in the use of paper. The present report is, therefore, definitely confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the health of the town during the year.

It will be appreciated that necessary arrangements have, of course, been made for the preservation of all essential records, so that after the present emergency a full report can be made dealing with the period over which only curtailed reports have been made.

The health of the town during 1944 has been maintained at its high standard, which is very gratifying, as it had been felt that the special circumstances during the war period might seriously affect health conditions.

It is very evident that the nutritional state of the population has been maintained. The Ministry of Food, in consultation with the Ministry of Health have undoubtedly made wise provision as regards the additional protective foods supplied, especially for expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

The scheme of the Ministry of Education for school meals and milk has proved itself a wise and effective scheme, and this has laid the foundation for a much wider extension of the provision of the necessities of life among the less favoured members of the community.

HEALTH STATISTICS.

For the first time since 1941 it is now permissible to include the Registrar General's estimated civilian population, which is, for 1944, 21,360 as compared with the 1939 population of 22,650.

It will be appreciated that the statistics supplied by the Registrar General, although computed as accurately as possible, must be accepted with some reservation because of the moving population during the war period, but they are as reliable as can be ascertained. Therefore, in considering the points which are brought to your notice, it must be understood that the rates per 1000 population are not quite as accurate as in pre-war days.

It should also be understood that, in a town with a small population, the slightest variation, as shown in births and deaths, etc., will affect any calculation of rates to a considerable extent.

1. BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE:

There has been a slight increase in births from 387 in 1943 to 394 in 1944 which, however, in view of a population change, shows a rate of 18.4 for 1944 as compared with 19.4 for 1943, per thousand population, and as compared with 17.6 for 1944 for England and Wales, which is comparably quite satisfactory.

It will be noted that there is a natural increase in population, the difference between births and deaths, of 65 (394 minus 329).

The illegitimates for 1944 were 67 and, for 1943, 51.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES:

There was a slight decrease in deaths from 335 in 1943 to 329 in 1944, which latter shows a rate of 15.4 per thousand as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. The Registrar General has not, however,

resumed the issue of comparability factors and this must be borne in mind.

(a) DEATH RATE FROM ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS:

There was a slight decrease in the deaths which were 12 in 1944 and 15 in 1943. The 1944 rate is 0.562 per thousand as compared with 0.752 per thousand in 1943, and as compared with 0.627 per thousand for England and Wales (1944).

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

It is pleasing to be able to report that there were no deaths in 1944 from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

(c) INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:

There were 13 deaths in 1944 and 21 in 1943, which shows a rate of 33 in 1944 as compared with 54.3 in 1943 and as compared with 46 for England and Wales (1944).

(d) CANCER DEATHS AND DEATH RATE:

There has been a decrease in the number of deaths from cancer, which were 56 in 1944 and 62 in 1943 with rates of 2.62 and 3.11 respectively.

It would now appear that provision for the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer will form an integral and most valuable part of the proposed co-ordinated hospital service as outlined in the Government's White-paper.

3. CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES:

Quite contrary to expectations, there have been no serious epidemics which might have been anticipated because of the big movement of troops and evacuees. There has, however, been an increase in the number of notifications, from 343 cases in 1943 to 643 cases in 1944.

It will be noted that there were only 5 cases of diphtheria (as compared with 10 in 1943) and no deaths, and as far as it can be ascertained, none of these cases had been artificially immunised.

There were the usual fluctuations in some types of infectious disease. For instance, there was an increase in whooping cough from 31 cases in 1943 to 151 cases in 1944.

Measles showed an increase from 219 cases in 1943 to 403 cases in 1944.

A very large decrease in scarlet fever occurred, from 60 cases in 1943 to 25 cases in 1944.

There were 33 cases of dysentery in 1944 all of which were of the mild type. In the previous year, there were none.

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

The records for diphtheria immunisation in the town are shown on a subsequent page, and it is pleasing to note that a total of 5126 children have been artificially immunised, and that it is estimated that 52% of children under 5 years of age, and 97% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 years of age have been protected.

There has been considerable propaganda, both nationally and locally, to increase the percentage of children protected, under the age of 5 years, and every effort has been made to establish contact between medical practitioners, nurses, and the parents to obtain consent for the immunisation of their children. It is hoped that an increasing number of children will be treated in the near future.

It will be seen that there is a large discrepancy between the percentages in the two age groups of children who have been protected and our most urgent problem is still how to obtain consent of the parents for the children in the "under 5" group to be treated, as they are not in any daily organised institution, such as a school, but it is hoped that in the future a larger number of children will be able to attend nursery schools and contact will be more readily made with the parents.

This notable discrepancy is common to all parts of the country, and the saving of life and suffering among the younger members of the population continues to be prejudiced by the non-acceptance of the free treatment which is a wide world accepted achievement of protective medicine.

5. SCABIES AND VENEREAL DISEASE.

Special notes are contained in the body of this report which show that full facilities are available for appropriate treatment.

6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are no slaughter-houses functioning in the district at the present time and all meat is conveyed from other areas.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out in milk sampling as in previous years, and as many visits as possible have been made to cow-sheds, dairies, bake-houses, stores and other places where food is prepared and sold.

In addition, a considerable amount of food sampling has been carried out by the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

7. HOUSING:

The Council has given very serious consideration to the provision of suitable houses, and special attention has been paid to effective lay-outs in various types of houses.

Reference has been made to housing in a later part of the Report.

8. MOSQUITO CONTROL:

Several conferences have been held with the various coast-line authorities in West Sussex, also with Portsmouth, Southampton, Gosport, Fareham and Havant, at meetings held at Havant in conjunction with Mr. J.F. Marshall, C.B.E., Director of the British Mosquito Control Institute, Hayling Island. A visit was also made to the Ministry of Health for consultation.

A survey was carried out in the town to estimate the severity of any mosquito infestation which might be present, and I am happy to report that the results showed that there is no cause whatever for anxiety, and any measures which may be necessary at any time, will be carried out by the most effective modern method.

9. RODENT CONTROL:

During the year some complaints were received, and reports that rats had been seen on different premises, as a result of which 603 premises were inspected and 275 infestations dealt with.

Details of this work are given later in the Report.

10. THE CARE OF WOMEN WORKERS' CHILDREN:

During the war period, there have been two day-time nurseries functioning, one at "The Shrubbery", Upper Bognor Road, and the other at "The Forest", Felpham Road, with an accommodation for 50 and 25 children respectively. These were administered by the West Sussex County Council through a local committee of which your Medical Officer of Health was a member.

Most excellent work has been carried out, and, apart from ordinary visits, the children were medically examined once a month.

All evacuated children between the ages of 2 and 5 years were accepted, and any local children of the same age groups whose mothers were working in the town were also received.

The Chairman and other members of the Council have paid most welcome visits and have seen the extent of the excellent work being carried out.

There is still a demand for day nurseries in the area, and I have no doubt that this important matter will receive sympathetic consideration in the future.

11. WATER SUPPLIES:

The water supplies of the district maintained their very high standard, and I am deeply indebted to Mr. A. Wilkinson, the Water Engineer and Manager, for his unstinted co-operation.

Further details will be found in the body of the Report.

12. SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

The sewerage of the whole district has been held up by war-time conditions, but, as soon as possible, the sewerage of the whole of the Bognor area should be completed and the large number of cesspools abolished. The majority of these are on private estates, and this problem will now have to be approached on the strongest possible lines, as undoubtedly labour and materials will become increasingly available. Cesspools at any time are most undesirable, and, in an urbanised area, are quite insupportable.

If they are not abolished at an early date, two at least of the expensive cesspool emptiers will have to be replaced, but, knowing that the Committee are entirely of the opinion that the area should be rid of cesspools, I am sure every attention will be given to this absolute necessity.

During the year, an exceptionally large amount of work has been carried out by the staff of the Health Department, and I wish to place on record the excellent work of Mr. Cullen and his assistant, also of my Chief Clerk, Mr. Fishleigh, and the other members of the staff of the Public Health Department.

To the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee I am greatly indebted for their encouragement and sympathy under most difficult conditions, and I would express my keen appreciation of the most close co-operation of the Clerk of the Council and the chief officials of the other departments.

I also wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation shown me by the general practitioners, and, what is often lost sight of, the invaluable contribution of the general public.

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 (1944) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,360
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,237
Number of inhabited houses (1944) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,244
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,525
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,239
Rateable value ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£307,198
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,150

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 definitely prejudicial effect on health.

3. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
<u>Live Births</u>				Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population mid 1944
Legitimate	327	167	160	
Illegitimate	67	34	33	
	<u>394</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>193</u>	... 18.4 ...
<u>Still Births</u>				Rate per 1000 total (live & still births) births
Legitimate	10	4	6	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	... 24.8 ...
<u>DEATHS</u>	329	163	166	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population ... 15.4 ...
Total number of deaths occurring in Public Institutions ... 123				(percentage of total deaths .. 37.4)
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 ..				13
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births				33.0
There were 327 legitimate children born and 12 deaths, there-				
fore the death rate per 1000 is				36.7
There were 67 illegitimate children born and 1 death, there-				
fore the death rate per 1000 is				14.9
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..				56
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..				0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...				0
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc., (under two years of age) ...				0

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.6 (16.5)
Death Rate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6 (12.1)
Infant Mortality Rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46 (49)

(The figures in brackets represent the rates for the year 1943)

RESIDUAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following are details of cases notified during 1944, showing in the age analysis columns the final figures after subsequent re-diagnosis.

	RESIDENTS													EVACUEES												
	Originally Notified	Age analysis (after correction of diagnosis)												Originally Notified	Age analysis (after correction of diagnosis)											
		Under 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	TOTAL		Under 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	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	26	-	-	-	2	2	15	5	-	1	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	7	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	145	14	25	23	18	14	47	3	-	1	-	-	145	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Measles	360	10	27	26	33	34	193	21	4	4	2	1	360	43	1	3	4	2	8	23	2	-	-	-	-	43
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Folio-encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute pneumonia	13	1	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	3	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	33	-	1	2	-	3	6	4	-	6	5	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	599	28	55	51	53	53	270	36	6	15	9	12	594	49	1	3	4	2	8	29	2	-	-	-	-	49

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Cont'd)TUBERCULOSIS

49 new cases (compared with 27 in 1943) were added to the register during 1944.

<u>Pulmonary</u>	Males	18	<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	Males	2
	Females	24		Females	5
		<u>42</u>			<u>7</u>

There were 12 deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 9 from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 3 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 0.562 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.627 for England and Wales.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at December 31st, 1944, was 252 as compared with 221 at December 31st, 1943.

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 or to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Hershham, for examination during 1944, both by the Health Department and by general practitioners.

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

<u>Specimens</u>	<u>No. submitted for examination</u>
(1) Swabs for diphtheria bacilli	77
(2) Swabs for haemolytic streptococci	23
(3) Swabs for diphtheria bacilli or haemolytic streptococci	14
(4) Swabs for diphtheria bacilli, haemolytic streptococci or Vincent's organisms	100
(5) Swabs for virulence test (diphtheria)	2
(6) Swabs for general examination	3
(7) Faeces specimens for dysentery	21
(8) Faeces specimens for typhoid and paratyphoid	5
(9) Faeces specimens for general examination	1
(10) Other miscellaneous specimens	8
	<u>254</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
1943	152	61	48	45	54	30	28	24	13	15	14	15	12	12	523
1944	183	49	27	14	17	18	13	12	14	6	8	9	4	3	377
TOTAL															5126

It is estimated that up to December, 1944, 52% of children under 5 years, and 97% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 years in Bognor Regis, had been immunised.

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 1944, 35 cases have been seen at the School Clinic and referred, but as there are also adult and pre-school 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 shown.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during 1944 :-

Scarlet Fever	43
Diphtheria	6
Anterior polio-encephalitis	1
Vincent's Angina	1
Chicken-pox	10
Whooping Cough	6
Erysipelas	9
Sonne dysentery	1
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	2
Mumps	10
Pneumonia	1
Measles	35
German Measles	4
Observation	26
	<u>155</u>

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 arranges for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to :-

	No. of Beds
(a) Brighton Hospital for Women	2
(b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham	20 (or more if available)
(c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home	5 (shared with Worthing B.)
(d) Horsham Maternity Unit	18
(e) St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester	6 (4 for emer- gency cases)
(f) Improvised Maternity Homes at Haslemere, Hindhead and Woking	30

(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 11,468, and the cases conveyed were as follows:-

Accident Cases	...	...	75
Medical Cases	...	...	740
			<u>815</u>

CLINIC AND 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 evacuate 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. CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

Cases in 1944 were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic, Brighton.

A scheme has been established whereby, in 1945, clinics will be set up in West Sussex under a psychiatrist and trained staff. Such a clinic will shortly be opened in Chichester.

E. TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS

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

F. VENEREAL DISEASES

Under the County Council's scheme, clinics are held at Worthing, Portsmouth, Brighton, Horsham and Chichester. Considerable publicity has been given to this subject, and lectures are being given to all the youth organisations.

G. PSYCHIATRIC OR "PATIENTS' CLINICS

Special attention is now drawn to the arrangements which have been made at Graylingwell Mental Hospital for the treatment of out-patients. Clinics are held as follows :-

Horsham Hospital	...	...	...	Mondays, 2 p.m.
Worthing Hospital	...	...	...	Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
Royal West Sussex Hospital,				
Chichester	...	...	...	Thursdays, 2 p.m.

Dr. Joshua Carse, the Medical Superintendent of Graylingwell Hospital, is the Honorary Consulting Psychiatrist to the hospitals mentioned above.

Reports have been received that most excellent work is being carried out.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

The Bognor Regis District Nursing Association employs seven nurses, two 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 1944 and, in certain circumstances, has been extended to evacuees.

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.

I am indebted to Mr. A. Wilkinson, A.M. Inst. C.E., A.M.I. Mech.E., M. Inst.W.E., The Council's Water Engineer and Manager, for the following concise report on the water supply. Further details are, of course, always available.

"An adequate supply of water was afforded to the area throughout the year from the Waterworks of the Council.

"The supply was distributed direct to consumers' premises in all cases and available at all times without restriction.

"The quality of the water, as distributed after treatment, was, without exception, of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity as determined by the examination of 40 samples and the results of chemical examinations of the water indicate the absence of metals, salinity or mineral constituents in solution.

"53 Samples of raw water, which is derived from a deep well in the chalk formation, were examined and the results indicated intermittent pollution, though not to an excessive degree, and no difficulty was experienced in producing a pure and wholesome water by the customary and continuously applied super-chlorination and dechlorination treatment.

"The supply was softened at the source after treatment by the base-exchange process and the average hardness of the water in supply was 10 parts per 100,000.

"Regular inspections of the gathering ground were carried out with special attention to the more undesirable localities and the unusually large influx of people to the area and whilst improvements were effected in cases of temporary establishments the position with regard to the gathering ground as a whole cannot be regarded as satisfactory until a comprehensive sewage disposal scheme for the area concerned has been carried out. On this account the frequency of sampling of the treated water was increased during the year to provide regular proof of the efficaciousness of the treatment applied and a rigid chlorine residual control was maintained in the area of supply".

HOUSING.

Despite difficulties of labour and material, efforts to maintain this important work have continued, and ¹⁹⁴³ 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.

There is an immediate demand for suitable houses in the district and in my report of February last, I estimated that at least 200 houses were required to deal with the number of applications which have recently increased to such an extent that the proposals of the Council must of necessity be reviewed. Most of the over-crowding can be abated by providing houses for the young married couples, especially for servicemen now being demobilised and finding themselves having to be housed by relatives. Progress has been made with the housing programme by the acquisition of land for a small number of houses and another group will be built on land already acquired during the pre-war period.

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 DESTRUCTION ACT - INFESTATION ORDER.

As a result of the campaign of the Ministry of Food, 287 reports of "rats seen" were received, 603 premises inspected and 275 infestations dealt with.

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, 1944, there were 631 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.

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