

[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, Bradford-on-Avon U.D.C.

Contributors

Bradford-on-Avon (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1945

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1875 TO 1936.

REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL BY

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, and

K. R. BLACKMORE, Cert. R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector

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Annual Report of Medical Officer.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

—::—

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area—2,005 Acres.

Population—5,054 (estimated).

Number of Inhabited Houses—1,544.

Rateable Value—£24,162.

Sum represented by Penny Rate—£96.

Social Conditions.

During the year a fair proportion of the war-time influx of people returned to their own districts. Owing to the presence of a 40 bed Emergency Maternity Hospital, however, the Evacuation and Billeting department were still functioning at the end of the year. A Hostel for Difficult and Mal-adjusted Children (which had been opened as a Sick-Bay and Hostel for Unbiletable Children by the Urban Council in 1942) administered by Wilts C.C. for the Ministry of Health, was also still in use, so that Bradford-on-Avon was still reminded of the War years and their difficulties—more than other towns in the area.

The Rubber Works, the main industry in the town, was still working to capacity, and the several smaller works—a 'Precision' (small parts) factory, a research laboratory, and a cabinet maker (introduced as a result of destruction by bombing of the original one in a large town)—were still functioning and giving employment both to workers from other districts and local people. The proximity of the town to sundry large Government Departments and underground workings gave rise to extra population (apart from evacuees) who had to be found accommodation.

VITAL STATISTICS.

				M.	F.		Total.
Live Births	...	...	...	56	64	...	120
Legitimate	...	...	...	43	53	...	96
Illegitimate	...	...	...	13	11	...	23
Still Births	...	...	...	1	0	...	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	0	...	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	...	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	3	2	...	5
Legitimate	3	1	...	4
Illegitimate	0	1	...	1
Deaths of Infants under 2 years				
From Diarrhoea and Enteritis	0	0	...	0
Deaths (from All Causes)	35	36	...	71

BIRTH & DEATH RATES.

Live Birth Rate :—		Compare.	
23.7 per 1,000 population.	England & Wales		16.1
Still Birth Rate :—			
0.19 per 1,000 population.	”	”	0.46
Death Rate Infants under 1 year :—			
41.6 per 1,000 live births	”	”	46.0
Death Rate Infants under 2 years			
From Diarrhoea and Enteritis :—			
0 per 1,000 live births	”	”	5.6
Death Rate :—			
14.4 per 1,000 population.	”	”	11.4

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	M.	F.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	0	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	0	0	0
Acute Infective Encephalitis	0	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity :			
Oesophagus (M) ; Uterus (F)	0	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	0	3
Cancer of Breast	0	3	3
Cancer all other sites	4	7	11
Diabetes	0	0	0

	M.	F.	Total.
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	3	2	5
Heart Disease	10	10	20
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	0	1
Bronchitis	0	3	3
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0	0
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	0	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	1	0	1
Nephritis	3	1	4
Puerperal and Post Abortion Septicis	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0	0
Premature Birth	0	0	0
Congenital Malprivations ; Birth Injury and Infantile Diseases	2	1	3
Suicide	0	0	0
Road Traffic Accidents	0	0	0
Other Violent Causes	1	2	3
All Other Causes	4	3	7
Total	35	36	71

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. **Staff.** (i) One Part-time Medical Officer : a full-time Public Health Officer who acts for 2 other districts, and is also an Assistant County Medical Officer.
(ii) One Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor.

II. (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

Dr. Douglas Thornton, the County Pathologist, Salisbury General Infirmary ; Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien, Bristol.

N.B.—All swabs, etc., collected from the 5.30 p.m. 'bus at Salisbury. Other 'buses or trains met on receipt of a telephone message.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

(1) During the War the local division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, with the assistance of the "1941 Club," collected sufficient money to buy an ambulance. Through the kindness of Messrs. Spencer Moulton it is garaged in the centre of the Town, and members of the Brigade act as drivers and attendants.

(2) Again, owing to the efficiency of the Civil Defence Ambulance Service, it was possible to obtain ambulances and hospital car service. A special tribute must be paid to the members of the Emergency Car service who carried out the whole of the transport required for the Emergency Maternity Hospital. This was done by a few women and men for years until both drivers and cars were worn out, when it was transferred for a period to the National Fire Service. Finally a full time paid driver was appointed.

The one-time C.D. Ambulance continues to work for the County Council under the County Council Car Pool, and there are still a few car drivers who volunteered for this work. Miss Hopkins, the C.D. Transport Officer can give information on this service.

(3) The Hospital Car Service under the direction of the Red Cross is administered by Miss Bond, Court House, Trowbridge.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are two local District Nurses—one general, one midwife.

The County Council have tried to obtain "Home Helps" but with little success.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held in the Old Church House on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. I attend on the 1st Tuesday; the County full-time Health Visitor with the assistance of two local nurses attends both times.

(e) Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes.

(1) Strenuous efforts are being made to open Bradford Leigh House as a local Hospital. The local Committee hope that it will offer facilities for treatment of all kinds, but will be run in conjunction with the Royal United Hospital, Bath, where all major operations, etc., will still be carried out. It is hoped that the establishment of this hospital will relieve the strain on the Royal United Hospital and allow for longer convalescent treatment.

(2) In 1940 the Ministry of Health opened an Emergency Maternity Hospital of 40 beds at Berryfield House. While this operated almost entirely for cases from London, special arrangements were made on occasion to admit local cases.

The Trowbridge & District Hospital Maternity Dept. (13 beds) continued to admit Bradford-on-Avon cases.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

I. Water Supply.

The opening of the new well ensured a full supply for the area. As however, with the opening of large establishments (i.e., Berryfield Hospital, Woolley Grange Hostel for Expectant Mothers, Conigre House for Difficult and Maladjusted Evacuee Children—in addition to the already existing boys' preparatory School—all on the upper part of the town, and some of them at the end of the mains) it was impossible even with boosters to ensure a constant pressure.

The Council intends to take steps to improve the supply to the upper part of the town as soon as possible.

The quality of the water supplied was satisfactory. The purity is ensured by pressure operated Chlorinator run at the minimum throughout the year, and increased when necessary to keep the proportion at 1.5 per 1,000,000 in the reservoir, and 1.0 per 1,000,000 in the mains.

TYPICAL BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(1) From Reservoir.

1. Bacteriological Count.

Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C in 48 hours : 2 per 1 ml. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C in 48 hours and 44°C in 48 hours.

Quantity of Water Tested	Acid and Gas from lactose									
	at 37°C					at 44°C				
Five tubes of 10 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As result of calculation made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml. growing at 37°C ... Nil

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 ml. growing at 44°C ... Nil

OPINION :—

Bacteriological examination shows no evidences whatsoever of harmful pollution.

(2) From Sub-Station.

1. Bacteriological Count.

Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C in 48 hours : 4 per 1 ml. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C in 48 hours and 44°C in 48 hours.

Quantity of Water Tested	Acid and Gas from lactose					
	at 37°C			at 44°C		
Five tubes of 10 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—

As result of calculation made from above :

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml. growing at 37°C ... 3
 (2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 ml. growing at 44°C ... Nil

OPINION :—

Bacteriological examination shows very small numbers of surface type coliform organisms only.

(3) From Tap in Centre of Town (office).

1. Bacteriological Count.

Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C in 48 hours : 1 per 1 ml. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C in 48 hours and 44°C in 48 hours.

Quantity of Water Tested	Acid and Gas from lactose					
	at 37°C			at 44°C		
Five tubes of 10 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculation made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml. growing at 37°C ... Nil

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 ml. growing at 44°C ... Nil

OPINION :—

Bacteriological examination shows no evidence whatsoever of harmful pollution.

Type of Supply.

I. Rivers and Streams.

There has been no necessity for action to prevent pollution in the district.

II. (1) Closet Accommodation.

A few houses on the outlying portion of the town only have other than water-closets.

(2) Public Cleansing.

During the War, the Council decided to cancel the previous method of refuse disposal, and a modern refuse-lorry was obtained and the work carried out by the Council's employees.

III. Sewage Disposal.

There has been no extension of the sewerage system, and the Sewage Works continued to function satisfactorily.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications corrected and arranged for Sex and Age.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	1	0	3	2	2
1	0	1	0	2	3	3
3	3	1	0	1	7	8
5	8	3	1	3	23	15
10	1	0	0	0	1	1
15	1	0	0	0	0	1
25 and over	0	1	0	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total ..	13	7	1	9	36	33

Age Group	Pneumonia		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	0	0
15	0	1	0	0
45	1	0	1	0
65 and over	0	0	1	0
Age unknown	0	1	0	0
Total ..	1	3	2	0

As in other years, the cases of Scarlet Fever were mild ones, several of which were nursed at home. The Measles cases occurred in the first 3 quarters of the year, stopping abruptly in the holiday period.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This continued to be carried out by the County Council, their special officer appointed for this work visiting the schools at intervals. In future, the original first immunisation of children under school age will be carried on at the Child Welfare Clinic, Church House, on the 1st Tuesday in each month, by myself. The re-immunisation of school children will be started as soon as practicable.

It is hoped that in future the number of children immunised will approximate much more to the number of children born. The most far-seeing parents do not wait to be informed about it, but ask for it: many of the others come forward after persuasion by the Nurse, but there are still some who prefer not to accept the offer to safeguard their children, and thus help to safeguard all other children.

The table given below has been supplied by the County Medical Officer.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.

Age at 31st December, 1945	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
<i>i.e.</i> , born in year ...	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1936-40	1931-5	
Number Immunised ...	1	15	29	33	53	254	267	652
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1945 ...			402				747	1149

HOUSING.

The following work has been carried out by the Council :—

I. Temporary Houses.

The Budbury Site for 10 Prefabricated Houses was ready for the erection of the houses by July, 1945. The Ministry of Works Contractors commenced work in November, 1945.

II. Permanent.

(a) " Church's " Site. This site was bought by the Council before the War, and plans prepared for the re-housing of persons from condemned houses. The layout and plans of house design had to be re-drawn in conformity with post-war requirements, and this was completed and the new layout-draft plans for 45 houses were submitted by October, 1945.

(b) **Priory Park Site.** The completion of this purchase was effected. It is the Council's intention to erect 42 houses on this site.

(c) **New Road Site.** This purchase was also completed, and the Council hope to erect 50 houses on the site.

(d) **Avonfield Site.** The Council has completed the purchase of this site, upon which it is intended that approximately 50 houses should be erected.

Requisitioning of Houses for Unsuitably Housed Persons.

The Council has pursued the acquisition of suitable houses ; especially those given up by the Military, and other houses requisitioned for evacuation purposes. They had plans accepted for the conversion of :—

- (1) Northleigh House into 7 flats ;
- (2) Church House into 5 flats ;
- (3) Sundry smaller houses for one family each.

As so many of the old houses in the town, already pre-war far below the housing standards, are suffering from a further 7 years use, it is hoped that the new housing plans will go ahead. Bradford-on-Avon being a picturesque historic town built on a steep rocky hillside, offers many difficulties in the improvement of existing houses. In certain cases in the past where persons have been willing to discount the difficulties in favour of the view and sunshine, quite desirable little houses for single people have been made from the old cottages : at the expense of those willing to live in them. The problem of making them conform to the standards laid down by the Housing Act " at reasonable expense " is almost insuperable. Many of them

are built with at least 2 storeys against the rock, making through ventilation an impossibility. Lack of space inside the houses (some of them have 'cave-like' kitchens actually sunk into the rockface) and low ceilings make the conversion of them internally almost impossible.

JEAN MURRAY.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Nuisance Inspections.

Number of Inspections made in 1945	...	53
„ Informal Notices served	...	9
„ „ „ complied with	...	6
„ Statutory Notices served	...	1
„ „ „ complied with	...	1

New Houses.

The erection of 4 houses under licence was commenced.

The alterations of 2 houses to provide 11 flats were commenced.

Roads and Sewers for 42 Council Houses were in course of construction.

Roads and Sewers completed for 10 Temporary Houses.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Number of Cowsheds	...	25
„ „ Inspections	...	20
„ „ Dairies	...	26
„ „ Inspections	...	15

Slaughterhouses.

Number of Slaughter Houses (Registered)	...	2
„ „ „ „ (Licensed)	...	3
No slaughtering has occurred at the above during the year.		
Number of Butchers' Shops	...	5
„ „ „ „ Inspected	...	5

Meat and Other Foods.

A total of 131½ lbs. of meat and 230 lbs. canned meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

412 lbs. of other foods was also condemned.

Signed KENNETH R. BLACKMORE,
Sanitary Inspector.

are built with at least 2 inches of insulation through
 ventilation an insulating layer of space inside the floors
 (some of them have been the kitchen space) and the
 (rocks) and low ceiling height the conversion of their
 any almost impossible.

JEAN MURRAY

REPORT OF BARRIARY INSPECTOR

Number of inspections	1
Number of complaints	1
Number of violations	1
Number of citations	1
Number of violations corrected	1
Number of citations corrected	1
Number of violations outstanding	0
Number of citations outstanding	0
Number of violations referred to court	0
Number of citations referred to court	0
Number of violations referred to court	0
Number of citations referred to court	0

The section of a house under repair was examined.
 The attention of the householder was drawn to the
 fact that the householder was not provided with
 a permit for the work being done.
 The householder was advised that a permit
 should be obtained from the local health
 department before any work of this nature
 is undertaken.

Number of houses inspected	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1
Number of houses found to be in violation	1

No violation was found in the above during the year.
 The householder was advised that a permit
 should be obtained from the local health
 department before any work of this nature
 is undertaken.

A total of 121 houses were inspected and 231
 violations were found. The violations were
 as follows:

JEAN MURRAY

Barrinary Inspector



