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Contributors

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Brentwood Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1931.

TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRENTWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN:—

I have the honour to present the following Report for the year ended 31st December, 1931. I regret that it has not been possible to meet the wishes of the Minister of Health regarding the early submission of Annual Reports owing to delay in completion by the Sanitary Inspector of those particulars which necessarily form an integral part of a Medical Officer of Health's Report. To ensure smooth working in future it is desirable to take steps to obviate a recurrence of this difficulty.

I desire to express my thanks to yourselves, to the Clerk of the Council and to the County Medical Officer for consideration and help accord~~ed~~ to the Department throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area, 460 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of Population 1931, 6898.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1703.

Rateable Value, £58,739.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £239.

A number of residents follow their occupations in London. The remainder are largely employed in business in the district.

There is no occupation which has a particular influence on public health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		M.	F.	Totals		
Live Births	{	Legitimate	38	38	76	} Birth Rate per 1000 of population, 11.59
		Illegitimate	2	2	4	
Still Births			nil.			
Deaths			47	49	96	Crude Death Rate per 1000 of population, 13.91

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:—

All infants per 1,000 live births, 12.50.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births 13.15.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births, Nil.

There were no deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth, nor from measles, whooping cough, nor infantile diarrhoea.

The following table shows the deaths at various ages during 1931:—

	M.	F.	Totals
Under 1 year	1	0	1
1 and under 2	0	0	0
2 and under 5	2	0	2
5 and under 15	3	1	4
15 and under 25	4	7	11
25 and under 45	5	4	9
45 and under 65	14	8	22
65 and upwards	18	29	47
	—	—	—
	47	49	96
	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE.

General Health Officers. Medical Officer of Health, Major B. Fraser Beatson. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., I.M.S. (Ret.)

Sanitary Inspector—Mr. A. J. Meeson, M.Inst~~M~~& Cy.E., M.R.San.I.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Assistant County Medical Officer of the District.

Nursing in the Home. There have been no changes in the arrangements previously in force,

Midwives. There are two midwives practising in the district, whose control is in the hands of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities. As in the past the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., have provided the necessary facilities.

The specimens examined by the Bacteriologist for Essex were as follows:—

Diphtheria	77
Sputa	43
Enteric Group	20
Miscellaneous	5
	<hr/>
	145
	<hr/>

Legislation in Force. The Adopted Acts are:—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907, Parts II, III, IV and V except sections 30 and 31.

The Bye-laws are:—

Keeping of Animals, Removal of Refuse, etc.

Lodging Houses.

Regulations under "Dairy and Cowsheds Order."

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Public Conveniences.

Slaughter Houses.

New Streets and Buildings (Revised July 1925).

Hospitals. There is no hospital within the Urban District which is used by the local population.

The following hospitals outside the District are available for use by the inhabitants:—

1. Brentwood Cottage Hospital, Shenfield Common: 20 beds for General Medical and Surgical Cases.

2. Billericay Public Assistance Hospital: General Medical and Surgical Beds, 29 male, 29 female. Children, Beds 4, Cots 4. Maternity Beds 5.

3. Billericay Isolation Hospital, Gooseberry Green: 30 beds used for males, females or children as required.

4. West Ham Smallpox Hospital, Orsett: 26 beds.

Smallpox. The agreement between this Authority and the Corporation of West Ham, whereby accommodation for cases of Smallpox is provided in the Orsett Smallpox Hospital, was due to terminate in March 1932 and new schemes for the whole southern part of the County are under consideration.

There have been no cases of Smallpox in this Urban district for a number of years.

Registered Nursing Homes in the District. Nil.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Infectious Cases. These are removed by the motor ambulance belonging to the Billericay Isolation Hospital.

(b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases and Maternity Patients. These are conveyed by the British Red Cross Society's ambulance stationed at Brentwood.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. There is no Clinic under the jurisdiction of this Local Authority.

A combined Treatment Centre is provided by the County Council at No. 39, Queen's Road, and is in the charge of the Assistant County Medical Officer who, as previously stated, is also the Medical Officer of Health.

At this centre are provided a Child Welfare Centre, an Eye Clinic, a School Clinic, an Orthopaedic Clinic and a Tuberculosis Dispensary.

There has been no new provision nor alteration in the above arrangements.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply. The town has a constant supply of water from the South Essex Waterworks Company. Samples are taken periodically and examined at the County Laboratory. In practically all cases the water for drinking purposes is taken directly from the mains. All houses in the district are supplied from the Company's mains and two houses have a dual supply, Company's and spring water. There are now no wells used for domestic purposes.

There are for common use 10 standpipes to 35 cottages and for private use 29 standpipes to 36 cottages. Three houses have had the water laid on in-doors during the year and the standpipe removed.

Rivers and Streams. There are none inside the district, except two small streams referred to under drainage.

Drainage and Sewerage. The outfall sewers and sewage disposal works for the Brentwood Urban District and parts of Shenfield and South Weald Parishes of the Billericay Rural District Council, Special Drainage District, are under control of a Joint Committee, which is composed of nine members, six representing the said Urban District and three the Rural District. When the proposed extension of the Urban District boundaries is an accomplished fact the aforementioned sewers and disposal works will come under the entire control of the Brentwood Urban District Council.

The sewers are all stoneware pipes, with one section of nine inch cast iron tributary outfall sewer, which, owing to the number of houses erected since 1919, requires to be enlarged. The surface water from the roads and fronts of houses is, for the most part, discharged into small watercourses which run between Brentwood and the parishes of Shenfield and South Weald and which eventually discharge into the Ingrebourne Brook and a tributary of the Wid Brook. Generally speaking as regards drainage and sewerage the district is adequately supplied.

Closet Accommodation. All houses in the district are provided with closets connected to the sewers. The number of hand flushed closets is gradually being reduced. There are 20 cottages which have the joint use of 10 water closets within their own curtilage.

Scavenging. Both house and dry trade refuse is removed by means of two covered motor vans by direct labour to the Sewage Disposal Farm about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles outside the Urban District in the open country. 1,497 loads of house refuse and 195 loads of trade refuse were collected during the year.

About one third of the house refuse consisted of waste paper and was burnt with the dry trade refuse, etc., to reduce the bulk. and the remaining refuse was used for filling in four disused contact bed tanks on similar lines to controlled tipping. In previous years, 1925-30, the refuse was dumped and burnt in a heap on the land. The accumulation of such burnt residue has been used for levelling the surrounding low ground and covering the fresh refuse in the four tanks which are now filled in. Controlled dumping is now being carried out on the ground outside the tanks.

The refuse is cleared once a week from all houses and in the case of large Institutions twice weekly. Movable ashbins with proper coverings are used throughout the District.

Sanitary Inspection of Area. The following is a report of the Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926 :—

Nuisances in hand at close of year 1930	17
Inspections made during year 1931	593
Nuisances in hand at close of year 1931	15
Nuisances detected or reported to Council during year 1931	295
Nuisances abated during the year 1931	297
Informal notices served during the year 1931	58
Informal notices complied with during the year 1931	58
Statutory notices served during the year 1931	8
Statutory notices complied with during the year 1931	8
Legal proceedings during the year 1931	2

Overcrowding. There were four cases of overcrowding for three of which Notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1875, to abate the nuisance. All were complied with. The other case was abated by the owners transferring the occupiers to a two-bedroom cottage, closing the defective one bedroom cottage for human habitation and using it as a store place.

Legal Proceedings. In the case of the summons against a Dairyman and his roundsman for the offence of filling a bottle with milk in the street at the end of 1930, the Justices dismissed the case against the employer and fined the roundsman 20/-.

On a summons against the occupier for overcrowding (one of the above cases) the Justices made an Order to abate the nuisance and the family eventually moved out of the district.

Closing Orders. Two defective one-bedroom cottages were closed for habitation purposes by agreement without recourse to Closing Orders, the owners transferring the occupiers to other cottages and turning the said defective cottages into storage places.

Demolition Orders. Seven dilapidated cottages were demolished without recourse to Orders, three of which were in connection with the Council's Housing Scheme and the other four, closed during April and December 1930 by the owners, were demolished during April 1931.

Cottages Improved. Three cottages had their sculleries rebuilt and an extra bedroom built over each scullery.

Cottages Cleansed. Nine cottages were thoroughly cleansed and distempered throughout.

Caravans and Fairs. On two occasions the District was visited by Fairs and action was taken for the provision of sanitary accommodation and water supply for the use of the caravan dwellers while in the district.

Water Closets and Flushing Cisterns. Eighteen new water closet pans and nineteen flushing cisterns have been fixed and twelve repaired as requested by informal notices served and interviews.

Dustbins. Fifty-one dustbins have been provided at dwelling-houses as requested by informal notices served and interviews. Six occupiers were requested to abate the nuisance caused by wet and offensive bins.

Drains cleared and repaired. Twenty-nine drains have been cleared and repaired as requested by notices served and interviews.

Smoke. Six cases of smoke nuisance were abated after notices had been served and interviews.

Animals. There were two cases of animals improperly kept and in one case it was necessary to serve a Statutory Notice before the nuisance was abated.

Rat Destruction. Notice was served on the owner of some unoccupied premises to abate the nuisance and the premises were demolished.

Schools. There is one public elementary school in the District situated in Coptfold Road and this is a Church School. There are three departments: one for infants standing by itself and two conjoined for boys and girls.

The latter building is old, inadequate and crowded and should give place at an early date to new buildings in another situation.

The sanitary system in this school is antiquated, consisting of trough closets, of which there are not even sufficient for the girls' department.

There is also a shortage of urinal accommodation for the boys. Further no sanitary accommodation is provided for lady-teachers in the senior schools and they have to go across to the Infants' Department.

There is an elementary school for Roman Catholics with senior and junior departments.

Medical Inspection of school children is arranged for by the County Education Committee.

There has been no need to resort to School Closure during the year.

Exclusion from school of individual children on account of infectious diseases has proceeded normally.

The water supply is satisfactory.

At one Institution School eight pedestal water closet pans complete with separate flushing cistern, water laid thereon and separate branch drains were substituted for a range of eight obsolete trough closets with an automatic flush tank and at one private school an extra pedestal water closet with flushing cistern and water laid on was provided.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928. There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Premises and Occupations Controlled by Byelaws. There are three common lodging houses, six bakehouses, six dairies and milk-shops, five slaughterhouses and one knacker's slaughterhouse. Besides the above there are fourteen factories, thirty-nine workshops, and thirteen workplaces on the Register.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc.

	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories (includes Factory Laundries)	19	3
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	53	5
Workplaces (other than outworkers' Premises)	21	2
	—	—
	93	10
	—	—

2. Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Nuisances under Public Health Acts :		
Want of Cleanliness	1	1
Other nuisances	11	11
Sanitary Accommodation :		
Insufficient	2	2
Defective	3	3
Not separate for sexes	2	2
	—	—
Total	19	19
	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1931

The following table is required by the Ministry of Health :—

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the Local Authority	...	62
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	6

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	237
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	535
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Consolidated Regulations, 1925	16
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	48

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
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(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	14
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Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	14
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	---
---	-----	-----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
---	--

(a) By owners	..	...	...	---
(b) By local authority in default of owners				---

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	66
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
--	--

(a) By owners	...	...	...	66
(b) By local authority in default of owners				---

(C) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	---
---	-----	-----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	---
--	-----	-----	-----

(D) **Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —

(E) **Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... —

(b) By local authority in default of owners —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... 2

(F) **Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 7

Number of Houses Owned by the Local Authority :—

Erected under Housing Act, 1924 (completed 1931)	100
Erected under Housing Act, 1923	29
Erected under Housing Act, 1919	33
Erected under Other Acts	31
Total	193

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The houses erected during the past fifty years are brick built with slated or tiled roofs.

There are 1156 houses of the working class type in which the accommodation is as follows:—

Combined living and bedroom	...	...	2
Living room and one bedroom	...	...	14
Living room, scullery and one bedroom	...	...	14
Living room, scullery and two bedrooms	...	...	96
Living room, scullery and three bedrooms	...	...	42
Parlour, living room, scullery and two bedrooms	...	...	342
Parlour, living room, scullery and three bedrooms	...	...	590
Parlour, living room, scullery and four bedrooms	...	...	56
Total			1156

Included in the above are about 30 timber built cottages and some 80 cottages constructed partly in brickwork and studwork covered with boards or plaster which have been erected for about fifty to one hundred years.

There is a number of old houses which are below the standard as regards structural conditions, up-to-date sanitary arrangements and density.

Sufficiency of Supply Houses.

(a) The shortage of houses available at reasonable rents arises through people coming from other Districts for various reasons, such as the need for dwellings nearer to their place of work.

The Council have recently erected a further 100 houses making a total of 162 since the War, and with 31 pre War houses you now have 193 working class dwellings.

(b) An extended boundary of the District is anticipated when there will be a large increase of population.

(c) There are no sites available in the present urban area. Three large Institutions occupy several open sites for farming and recreation purposes.

Overcrowding.

(a) There are no unoccupied habitable working-class houses to let in the district, but it is only fair to point out also that the average number of persons per house (exclusive of Institutions) is only 3.4, so obviously there cannot be much overcrowding.

(b) The few cases of overcrowding were due to inability of the tenant with a large family to pay the rent of up-to-date houses with more bedroom accommodation.

(c) Notices are served and proceedings taken to abate known cases.

Fitness of Houses. During the past three years fourteen cottages have been closed and twelve of these have been demolished.

There are 36 cottages each of which have the Company's water supply to a tap outside the back door and there are 35 cottages which are provided with Company's water through ten taps at or near the back door.

There are twenty cottages with joint use of ten water closets within their own curtilage.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.** There are no farms in the District. Dairies have been inspected regularly. Milk samples were taken as usual by the County Inspector.

(b) **Meat and other Foods.** Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops have been duly inspected. There have been no seizures of meat or other foods but, at the request of certain butchers, the following amounts of meat were certified unfit for food and were destroyed :

1 calf carcase,
244 lbs. chilled beef.
45 lbs. chilled mutton.
15 lbs. loin of pork.

(c) **Adulteration.** I am indebted to the County Inspector for the following figures of samples taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 :—Milk 8, Butter 8, Lard 8, Margarine 8, Bacon 4, Pepper 2, Flour (self-raising) 1, Sausages 8, Tea 4, Total 51.

All were satisfactory except the self-raising flour from which the Sodium-Bicarbonate was missing.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There has been no special incidence of infectious or other disease. The majority of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred in Institutes which have their own arrangements for removing cases to London. As previously shown other cases of infectious diseases are dealt with in hospitals outside the District.

Four cases of Paratyphoid B. Fever occurred and were traced to a possible "carrier" in a Dairy, though bacteriological tests were not very conclusive.

The outbreak, however, promptly terminated.

No vaccinations were required to be performed by me during the year.

The incidence of influenza has been marked by cases of sudden death among elderly patients.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners on application.

Disinfection of infected premises and articles has been carried out regularly.

There is no provision for disinfecting verminous persons and none has been required.

During Rat Week cinema films, slides, posters, etc. were displayed.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis):—

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Case admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	18	16	0
Diphtheria	15	15	1
Enteric Fever, Typhoid	1	1	0
„ Paratyphoid B.	4	4	0
Puerperal Fever	1	1	0
Pneumonia	3	0	0
Erysipelas	3	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
	46	38	1

Analysis of Cases under Age Groups: -

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneu- monia	Puerperal Fever	Enteric Fever	Erysi- pelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1 to 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 to 3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
3 to 4	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
4 to 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 10	5	4	0	0	1	0	0
10 to 15	7	1	0	0	2	0	0
15 to 20	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 35	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
35 to 45	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
45 to 65	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
65 upwards	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	18	15	3	1	4	3	1

The one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was treated at home without impairment of vision.

Tuberculosis. Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the district during 1931 are as follows: -

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	2	0	1	3	1	0	0

The above table is exclusive of High Wood Hospital where children ordinarily resident elsewhere are sent for treatment of tuberculosis under arrangements made by the London County Council.

Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer I append the numbers of patients from this District who have been sent to Institutions under the County of Essex Tuberculosis scheme during 1932:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Adults	6	0	0	0	6
Children	0	0	0	1	1