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INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR

1941.



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Brentwood Urban District Council

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part Time) :

B. Fraser Beatson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(late Indian Medical Service and R.A.F. Medical Service)

BACTERIOLOGIST AND ANALYST :

E. V. Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
The Counties Public Health Laboratories,
91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

F. G. Spencer, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food
Inspector, and Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

E. Badcock, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food
Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

CLERKS AND SHORTHAND TYPISTS :

N. F. Webber (*Royal Navy*).
Miss P. E. B. Wenden
Miss D. H. Fraser (resigned November, 1941).
Miss E. Totman (resigned December, 1941).
Miss D. Clarke.

BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present an Interim Annual Report for the year 1941, drawn up in accordance with Circular 2604 of the Ministry of Health and taking the same very brief form as in the previous year. Statistics and records usually published are to be preserved carefully for future use.

I am indebted to the Senior Sanitary Inspector for assistance in compiling part of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION B.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

During the year 1941 24 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological and for chemical analysis with the following results :—

15 samples were taken from public supplies, all found to be satisfactory for drinking purposes.

2 samples taken from shallow wells, one found to be unsatisfactory for drinking, the well was closed and a main supply laid on to the dwellings concerned.

7 samples taken from swimming pools. In the case of a private pool three unsatisfactory samples were obtained and the pool was closed pending repairs to the chlorination plant.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	Inspections	Re-inspections
Housing	—	1
Housing (Overcrowding) ...	6	1
Sanitary Defects	218	86
Infectious Diseases	75	35
Verminous and Dirty Houses ...	57	22
Water Supply	12	14
Drains and Sewers Inspected or Tested ...	132	40
Cesspools	40	6
Factories (except bakehouses) ...	21	5
Bakehouses	18	—
Ponds, Ditches, Water Courses ...	34	21
Rat Infested Premises... ..	47	13
Council Houses	29	3
Accumulations of Refuse and Tips ...	29	—
Swine, Fowls, etc.	10	2
Tents, Vans, etc.	3	—
Knackers Yard	128	—
Common Lodging Houses	3	—
Miscellaneous Visits	87	—

Civil Defence.

Emergency Mortuaries, etc	68
Gas Contaminated Food	55
War Damage	174
Air Raid Shelters	15
Decontamination etc.	53

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses :—

Day	760	930
Sunday	26	
Evening or Morning	144	
Meat Shops ... ..	...	67
Provision and other Food Shops ... ..	...	80
Dairies and Milk Shops ... ..	...	46
Cowsheds ... ..	...	149
Samples of Milk ... ..	...	64
Samples of Water ... ..	...	24
Food Salvage ... ..	...	20

SECTION C.

HOUSING.

1. (a) Inspection of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 122
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 305
2. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 56
3. 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 38
4. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners... .. Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners... .. 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

SECTION D. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk Sampling.

Accredited Producers.

Number of samples taken 25

Number of samples satisfactory 22

3 samples failed the Coliform test.

2 samples failed the Methylene Blue test.

All samples submitted to the Methylene Blue and Coliform tests.

Pasteurised Milk.

Number of samples taken 25

Number of samples satisfactory 25

All samples submitted to Bacteriological and Phosphatase tests

Undesignated Milk.

Number of samples taken 14

Number of samples satisfactory 12

All samples submitted to the Bacteriological and Coliform tests.

Meat and other Foods.

Slaughterhouses in use 2

Number of inspections 930

Total number of carcasses inspected 7,909

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Numbers Inspected	1028	498	80	5322	981
All Diseases Except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	2	9	1	5	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	146	122	3	123	54
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tubercu- losis	14.39	26.30	5.00	2.40	5.70
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole Carcasses condemned...	2	15	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	111	244	Nil	Nil	27
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tu- berculosis	10.99	52.00	Nil	Nil	2.75

Surrender of Unsound Food.

Number of whole carcasses, parts of carcasses organs and offals surrendered :—

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
Whole carcasses, including organs	23	4	1	1
Part carcasses	21	7	4	2
Heads	102	16	22	—
Tongues	95	16	22	—
Livers	156	82	24	—
Lungs	283	46	29	1
Hearts	28	23	26	—
Kidneys	42	3	1	—
Diaphragm	33	—	—	—
Mesenteries and Intestines ...	70	1	14	—
Udders	4	—	—	—
Strippings	11	1	6	—
Spleen	25	—	4	—

Reason for Surrender, with Weight.

	Cattle lbs.	Sheep lbs.	Pigs lbs.	Calves lbs.
Tuberculosis	17,326	—	413	—
Dropsy	2,098	125	—	—
Septicaemia	1,189	—	—	100
Distomatosis	1,075	172	—	—
Emaciation	712	—	—	—
Inflammation... ..	645	78	65	2
Necrosis	196	—	—	—
Melanosis	184	—	—	—
Actinomycosis	180	—	—	—
Injury	167	3	9	19
Abscesses	123	8	18	—
Decomposition	44	48	—	—
Degeneration	44	—	—	—
Cysts	2	—	—	—
Purulent, Growth	—	10	—	—
Strongylosis	—	26	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	249	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	46	—
	23,985	470	800	121

Other Foodstuffs.

Bacon	...	...	237 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Decomposition
Fish	...	...	434 lbs.	Decomposition.
Tomatoes	...	...	109 lbs.	Decomposition.
Imported Meat	...	...	110 lbs.	Decomposition.
Sausages	...	...	40 lbs.	Decomposition.
Canned Goods	...	...	36 lbs.	Decomposition.
Imported Eggs	...	...	1119	Decomposition.
Apple Tarts	...	...	14	Fermentation.

996 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Total Weight of meat and other food condemned :—

11 tons, 15 cwt., 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Knackers Yards.

Number of Premises...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	128

SECTION E.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

There was a considerable increase in Diphtheria compared with 1941, in spite of the drive made to raise the number of immunised children. This increase was felt throughout the whole Country and there can be little doubt that it would have been much higher if immunisation had not been practised on a much larger scale than formerly.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health a great effort was made during the year in all Districts to induce parents to have their children immunised against Diphtheria. In this District much had been done in previous years amongst elementary school children. During 1941 the effort was especially directed towards the pre-school child. The Immunising Agent used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, as supplied free of cost by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

The following table of immunisation carried out by myself at the County Council Clinic (lent by kind permission of the

County Medical Officer) shows the increase in numbers over those of previous years :—

Year.	Number of Children dealt with at Clinio		
1936	245
1937	414
1938	291
1939	154
1940	255
1941	764
			2,123

The total includes children found Schick Negative, or who failed to complete their inoculations

In addition to the figure of 764 for 1941, private practitioners were asked for the first time to furnish the number of immunisations carried out by them in private practise and in Institutions to which they acted as Medical Officers. While no accurate total could be obtained the figure was well over 600. Consequently something approaching 1,400 children in round numbers were protected from Diphtheria during the year.

Measles.

A widespread epidemic of Measles which was considered likely to occur in the Country in 1940 was postponed until 1941. During the former year only 14 cases were notified in this District; in the latter no less than 1,045. The heaviest incidence was in March, closely followed by May and then April. By June the epidemic was rapidly abating and in September it abruptly ceased—no further cases being notified. On the whole the disease was of a mild nature.

A supply of Immune Globulin was kept in my Department and was issued free of cost to local Medical Practitioners as and when required, for use among contacts in families who could not themselves pay a doctor for this protective inoculation. A number of children who, through poor family circumstances or ill health from other cause, might have contracted Measles in a severe form, and with serious complications, were enabled thus to escape altogether or with only a mild attack.

Whooping Cough.

This disease which, like Measles, was made notifiable in November, 1940, in anticipation of a war time epidemic also did not make itself felt until 1941.

In Brentwood the number of notifications in 1940 was 19; in 1941 the figure rose to 425

As Air Raid Shelters in this District were very much less used during this year under review than during 1940, it cannot be said that Shelter Life was responsible for the increase in Notifiable Diseases

Enteric Fever Group.

Free inoculation against Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers—a very necessary war-time precaution against the possibility of contaminated water supplies—was made available to the public during 1941, but there was practically no response except from members of the Civil Defence Services and from the Police. Apart from 12 members of Crescent Road First Aid Post Staff, who were inoculated by the Medical Officer of the Post, all were inoculated by me at the County Council Clinic (again lent for the purpose by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer).

The following table shows the figures of this inoculation.

	1st dose only.	Both doses.	
Children ...	2	5	= 7
Adults ...	2	134	= 136
			—
		Total	143
			—

The immunising agent used was the T.A.B.C. Vaccine of the Lister Institute supplied free of cost by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

No case of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever was notified in the District during the year.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Diseases	Age Groups.											Totals	
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		65 and over
Scarlet Fever...	...	4	9	11	11	24	9	3	5	3	...	1	80
Diphtheria ...	...	3	3	23	22	30	10	6	8	2	...	...	107
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	15	6	2	3	30
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	5	18	14	17	22	78
Erysipelas ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	2	8
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	9
Whooping Cough ...	21	37	53	75	74	141	14	2	4	2	...	2	425
Measles ...	18	54	82	146	124	505	69	15	18	1	2	1	1045
Polioencephalitis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	5