

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Brentwood U.D.C.

Contributors

Brentwood (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1947

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/h8yjhyymm>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

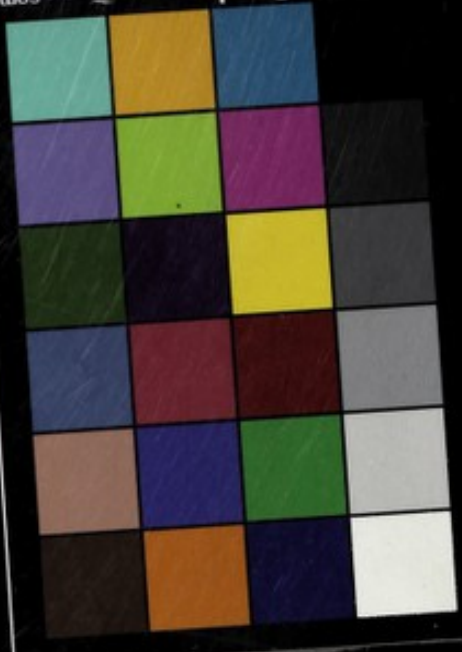
This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

24ColorCard Camera Fax.com



LEFT

LIBRARY

A 13 JUL 1948
O.H. 804

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRENTWOOD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1947

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRENTWOOD

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman: COUNCILLOR H. E. BROWNETT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR W. G. STEVENS, J.P.

Councillors:

F. P. Brinkworth,	H. J. Kirby,
Rev. E. Byles, B.A., B.D.(Lond.),	A. J. Lamb,
D. Campbell,	Miss D. M. Landon (Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee),
W. J. E. A. Carter,	T. N. Lavender,
A. V. Cave (Chairman of the Health Committee),	J. McDonald,
S. B. Farrell,	G. A. D. McTurk,
H. J. Farrow,	F. W. C. Salway,
J. F. Hough, M.A.(Cantab),	D. C. J. Scott,
H. M. Hughes,	W. S. Venner,
J. F. Jones, J.P.	R. H. Willard,
G. R. King,	S. A. Wilson.

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.

Bacteriologists and Analysts:

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

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

First Additional Sanitary Inspector:

P. T. SHELTON, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector,
Royal Sanitary Institute.

Second Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G. H. ROBERTS, M.R.SanI., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector,
Royal Sanitary Institute.

(To commence duty January, 1948.)

Clerks and Shorthand-typists:

N. F. WEBBER (resigned November, 1947).

Mrs. E. M. HOWE (resigned September, 1947).

Miss D. GRIFFITHS (appointed September, 1947).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Brentwood.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1947 in accordance with the Minister of Health's Circular 170/47, and following the abbreviated form which is now so familiar.

The subject matter has been drawn up with the collaboration of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who continues to serve the Council in an exemplary manner. Much credit is due to him and to the First Additional Sanitary Inspector for another year of hard and careful work.

For the first time since I became your Medical Officer of Health eighteen years ago it was necessary for me to take leave on medical certificate owing to a motoring accident abroad. During my absence my Deputy, Dr. G. N. Wardle, a General Practitioner, gave valuable aid to the Department as and when required.

I am indebted to the Council for consideration and support in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Staff.

As a result of my Annual Reports for 1944 and 1946, in which it was pointed out that three Sanitary Inspectors were required, the Council decided in July to appoint a Second Additional Sanitary Inspector.

For various reasons thereafter considerable delay occurred in filling the new post, and it was not until the 17th December that Mr. G. H. Roberts, from Stoke-on-Trent C.B., was selected. Consequently the work of the Department continued to fall into arrears, the position being aggravated at the close of the year by shortage of clerical staff. At the date of this Report a full staff is again at work.

Laboratory Facilities.

(a) Routine examinations of milk and water samples were again carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories at 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

(b) Other laboratory examinations were made at St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supplies.

From Mains:

Main water supplies to the area are provided principally by the South Essex Waterworks Company, and to a lesser extent by the Southend Waterworks Company. These supplies were satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

Six samples taken from the South Essex Waterworks Company's mains showed the water to be clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacteriological purity and, therefore, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. Chemically, the water was free from metals, apart from a negligible trace of iron, but it was hard in character, though not to an excessive degree. The average hardness was:—

Temporary, 177.5; Permanent, 77.5; Total, 255.

The possibility of reducing the hardness of this water is a matter which is under consideration by several interested local authorities.

Six samples of water taken from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains showed the water to be clear and bright in appearance and of a very satisfactory bacteriological purity, and suitable, therefore, for drinking and domestic purposes. Chemically, this is a soft water, the average hardness being:—

Temporary, 22.5; Permanent, Nil; Total, 22.5.

These figures are now calculated in parts per million, whereas in former years they were based on parts per 100,000.

The position regarding the number of houses in which water supply is obtained from standpipes has not changed from the previous year, when the figure was 0.25% of the population.

Nineteen properties were provided with a piped supply from the mains with taps installed inside the houses. In each case the previous supply was from a well.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

	Inspections.	Re-inspections.
Housing Consolidated Regulation	29	243
Housing (Overcrowding Provisions)	11	—
Council Houses	13	—
Allocation of Council Houses	143	11
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	19	16
Sanitary Defects	410	799
Verminous or Dirty	16	18
Infectious Diseases	35	9
Water Supply	17	21
Drains—Inspected	41	35
Tested	3	1
Sewers	1	2
Cesspools	20	7
Sanitary Conveniences:—		
Licensed Houses	2	—
Cinemas	2	—
Factories—Power	19	10
Non-power	5	1
Outworkers' Premises	4	—
Bakehouses	17	10
Rat Infested Premises	47	24
Ponds, Ditches and Watercourses	16	7
Swine, Fowl, etc.	5	1
Accumulations of Refuse	10	7
Requisitioned Property	24	—
Public Fairs	8	—
Sewers—Rat Baiting	21	—
Food Poisoning Investigation	20	—
Swimming Pools	17	—
Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment	7	—
Miscellaneous Visits	124	5
	<hr/> 1,106	<hr/> 1,227

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Provision and other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Food Sampling.

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
									454

Number of Complaints received — 468.

Cesspools.

Complaints about overflowing Cesspools, which for many years have been numerous, were noticeably less during the year; this was no doubt due to the fact that the Engineer and Surveyor's Department has been provided with another Cesspool Emptying Machine.

The emptying of Cesspools is not one of the duties of the Public Health Department, but a constant watch has to be kept as a safeguard of health.

HOUSING

1. (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 410
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,470
2. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit 230
3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:
 Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers ... 124
4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 29

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	14
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	*28
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	21

[*In addition to these, 11 Notices were served under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring provision of new dustbins.]

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk Sampling.

Pasteurised Milk—

Number of Samples taken	10
Number of Samples satisfactory	10

Undesignated Milk—

Number of Samples taken	31
Number of Samples satisfactory	22

Eight Samples failed to pass Coliform Test, and one Sample contained excessive numbers of bacteria.

Ice-cream Sampling.

Number of Samples taken	28
Number of Samples satisfactory	16

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of inspections	222
------------------------------	-----

Total weight of meat and other foodstuffs condemned:—

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
4 ...	2 ...	3 ...	24½

Knackers Yards.

Number of Premises	1
Number of inspections	13

Food Poisoning.

In May there was an outbreak of Food Poisoning at Brentwood School, where twenty-two boys and two adults were overtaken by illness one day. The cause was found to be a liver sausage compound sold in the form of a galantine under the name of "Haslett," and manufactured by a firm in Ipswich. This "Haslett" had been purchased locally the previous day and eaten at breakfast by about fifty persons in the School. All the cases of illness were mild and made rapid recovery.

The supplies of "Haslett" in the shops were at once seized and the sale of further supplies prohibited until after investigation. Portions of "Haslett" which were sent to the laboratory were reported to be heavily infected with "*Staphylococcus pyogenes*," but no organisms of the "*Salmonella*" group were found.

A report was made to the Ministry of Health, and it subsequently transpired that Brentwood shops had received a warning from the manufacturing firm that this particular consignment of "Haslett" was infected, but the warning arrived too late to prevent the sale and consumption of the commodity.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Generally.

Apart from Measles, which seems to fluctuate biennially, there was no heavy incidence of those diseases which are notifiable to a Local Authority.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

During the year a widespread outbreak of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred in England and Wales, which has been described by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health as the most severe ever recorded. This epidemic caused much concern to Medical Authorities, and a very natural public anxiety.

The disease, known perhaps more familiarly under the name "Infantile Paralysis," usually afflicts children and adolescents, although older people are by no means immune.

The Essex Epidemiological Committee issued a Memorandum for the guidance of Doctors, which was forwarded through my office to every General Practitioner and Hospital in the District. Careful watch was kept, and although a number of suspects were under observation, Brentwood was fortunate in having actually to record only three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis. One of those was, unhappily, fatal.

Diphtheria.

Attendances at the Immunisation Clinic were as follows:—

Number of children who received their second injection	10	} 177 Immunisation completed.
Number of children who received both injections	167	
Number of children who received their first injection	43	
Number of children who received a "boosting" injection	156	
	<hr/>	
Total number of children treated ...	376	
	<hr/>	
Total number of injections given ...	543	

Whooping Cough.

This disease showed a marked decline from the figures of the preceding year, less than one-third of the numbers for the year 1946 being notified in 1947.

Scabies.

The Clinic for the treatment of Scabies cases, situated in Doddinghurst Road, continued to do good work.

The number of cases dealt with are as follows:—

Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
4	16	28	26	74

MISCELLANEOUS.**Foot Clinic.**

Mr. Sidney Harris, the Chiropodist, was in attendance as usual every Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and 4.30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The table of fees remained unaltered.

The total number of attendances for treatment exceeded the total for the previous year by 620.

Table of Attendances—

The following figures show the number of persons treated between the 11th December, 1946, and 31st December, 1947:—

New Patients.				Attendances by—			Total Attendances.			
Adults.		Children.		Old Age Pensioners.	New Patients.	Old Patients.				
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	...				
52	149	5	15	25	29	...	275	3,330	...	3,605

Swimming Pools.

The following Samples were taken from Swimming Pools and submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination:—

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Brentwood Urban District Council	6	—
County High School for Girls	3	—
Brentwood School	3	—
Ursuline High School	2	1
	14	1

Factories Act, 1937.1. *Inspection—*

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Notices Served.	Notices Complied.
Factories (Power)	29	3	3
Factories (Non-Power)	6	—	—

2. *Defects Found—*

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Lack of Cleanliness	1	1
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	1	1
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1	1

3. *Outworkers—*

Number of Outworkers	10
Number of Inspections	4

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.**Live Births.**

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	499	276	223
Illegitimate	21	8	13

Stillbirths.

Total.	M.	F.
12	7	5

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births was 22.6.

Deaths.

Total.	M.	F.
332	163	169

Deaths at Various Ages.

Age Groups.	No. of Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total.
Under 1 year	17	7	24
1 and under 2	1	1	2
2 and under 5	—	—	—
5 and under 15	6	—	6
15 and under 25	2	3	5
25 and under 35	5	—	5
35 and under 45	5	8	13
45 and under 55	10	10	20
55 and under 65	27	23	50
65 and under 75	33	34	67
75 and upwards	57	83	140
	163	169	332

Causes of Death.

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	9	16
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	2
Influenza	1	1	2
Measles	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Cancer	19	22	41
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	17	32	49
Heart Diseases	35	40	75
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	4	11	15
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Pneumonia	10	12	22
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	2	—	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	4	7
Nephritis	2	2	4
Premature Birth	6	—	6
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	6	3	9
Suicide	2	3	5
Road Traffic Accidents	3	3	6
Other Violent Causes	8	1	9
All other Causes	24	18	42
Total ...	163	169	332

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Diseases.	Age Groups.												65 and Totals over.	
	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.		
Diphtheria ...	—	—	2	3	1	2	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	13
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	6
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	1	6	4	13	18	10	—	2	1	—	—	56
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	6
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	4	6	6	14	9	12	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	52
Measles ...	16	31	51	66	84	255	51	4	6	2	2	1	—	569
Jaundice ...	—	—	1	—	—	2	8	1	5	2	1	—	—	20
	21	39	62	89	98	286	78	18	14	13	12	4	—	734

