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URBAN DISTRICT OF BRENTWOOD



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

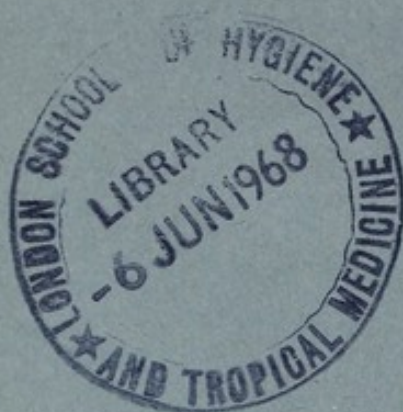
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR

1950



67988



URBAN DISTRICT OF BRENTWOOD

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Vice-Chairman : H. J. Kirby

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector and Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works

FIRST ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

P. T. Shelton, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works

SECOND ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

G. H. Roberts, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss C. F. Connatty
Miss A. Whitley

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950

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

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-first Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Brentwood. Once again I have been assisted and encouraged during the year by the sympathetic consideration of the Council and of the Chief Officers of other Departments.

In my own Department I desire to record my appreciation of the loyal services rendered by all members of the staff.

The highly trusted Senior Sanitary Inspector has collaborated with me in the compilation of the statistics which follow.

The report is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 112/50 dated the 6th December, 1950.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

July, 1951.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	....	....	....	18,166
Estimated Resident Population	....	....	....	29,880
Number of Inhabited Houses	....	....	....	7,835
Rateable Value	....	....	....	£263,171
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	£1,052

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	383	202	181
Illegitimate	17	9	8

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales and with Smaller Towns having a population from 25,000 to 50,000.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 1950 :—

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.
15.8	16.7	13.38

Stillbirths

Total.	M.	F.
14	8	6

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births :—33.81.

Deaths

Total.	M.	F.
329	162	167

The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 11.01.

The Registrar-General's Area Comparability Factor for 1950 was 0.91. By multiplying the Crude Death Rate by this figure a corrected rate which may be compared with the corrected rates of other districts is obtained.

The corrected rates for Brentwood Urban District is 10.01.

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales and with Smaller Towns having a population from 25,000 to 50,000,

Death Rate per 1,000 population for 1950 :—

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.	
11.6	11.6	10.01	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births			35
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			36.55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil
Deaths from Cancer and other Malignant Disease			.62
Death rate from Cancer and other Malignant Disease per 1,000 of the Estimated Population			2.07

Deaths at various ages :—

Age Groups.	Number of Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total.
Under 1 year	9	5	14
1 and under 2	—	1	1
2 and under 5	—	—	—
5 and under 15	1	—	1
15 and under 25	1	3	4
25 and under 35	3	2	5
35 and under 45	5	6	11
45 and under 55	11	13	24
55 and under 65	26	11	37
65 and under 75	46	35	81
75 and upwards	60	91	151
	162	167	329

Causes of Death :—

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	5	9
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasm	28	34	62
Diabetes	3	1	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	19	31
Heart Diseases	56	61	117
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	6	8
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Bronchitis	14	7	21
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	1	8
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	21	25	46
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
All other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	1
	162	167	329

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Routine examinations of milk, water, and ice-cream supplies were again carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

National Health Service Act, 1946—Local Health Services under Part III

The Urban District of Brentwood forms part of the South Essex Health Area, the other two constituents being the Urban Districts of Hornchurch and of Thurrock.

The following is a list of the Clinics provided by the County Council under this heading :—

Brentwood Combined Treatment Centre

Day.	Clinic.
Monday morning.	Ante-Natal.
Tuesday afternoon.	Orthopaedic.
Wednesday morning.	Minor Ailments.
Wednesday afternoon.	Child Welfare.
Thursday morning.	Eyes.
Thursday afternoon.	Speech Therapy.
1st and 3rd Friday mornings.	Diphtheria Immuni- sation.
2nd and 4th Friday afternoons.	Women's Welfare.

There are four subsidiary Centres :—

1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons.	Hutton Child Welfare.
4th Wednesday afternoon.	Herongate Baby Weighing Clinic.
1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons.	Bentley Child Welfare.
2nd Thursday afternoon.	South Weald Baby Weighing Clinic.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service in this District is operated by the County Council, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures.

During the year 16,506 calls were answered, and the mileage covered was 121,249. The following table shows the nature of the cases conveyed :—

	Total.	Monthly Average.
Maternity	368	31
Street Accidents	275	23
Home Accidents	154	13
Out Patients & Clinics (Treatment)	12,467	1,039
Hospital Admissions and Dis- charges (Illness)	3,242	270
	16,506	1,376

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supplies

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

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

Temporary, 25. Permanent, Nil. Total, 25.

Six samples of water taken from the South Essex Waterworks Company's mains showed the water to be clear and bright in appearance and of a high standard of bacterial purity and, therefore, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. This is a relatively hard water, the average hardness being :—

Temporary, 165. Permanent, 150. Total, 315.

The number of properties which obtain their water supply from standpipes has been further reduced, as during the year two houses were provided with a piped supply from the mains, and taps installed inside the houses.

Sanitary Inspection of Area

		Inspections.	Re-Inspections.
Housing Regulations	....	18	550
Housing (Overcrowding)	....	1	—
Allocation of Council Houses	....	1	1
Moveable Dwellings	....	42	128
Sanitary Defects	....	276	1,022
Verminous Premises	....	13	26
Dirty Premises	....	4	12
Infectious Diseases	....	15	10
Water Supply	....	17	12
Drains—Inspected	....	58	139
—Tested	....	7	18
Sewers	....	71	—
Cesspools and Pail Closets	....	28	59
Factories—Power	....	48	14
—Non-Power	....	7	4
Outworkers' Premises	....	15	1
Bakehouses	....	34	6
Ponds, Ditches and Watercourses	....	37	65
Swine, Fowls, etc.	....	6	2
Accumulation of Refuse	....	18	33
Refuse Tips, etc.	....	17	3
Requisitioned Property	....	1	—
Rats and Mice—General	....	110	265
—Sewers	....	97	3
Miscellaneous Visits	....	275	11
Hairdressers' Premises	....	15	—
Miscellaneous Interviews	....	112	7
Swimming Baths	....	7	—
Rag and Bone Dealers	....	1	1
Establishments for Massage or Special Treatment	....	3	—
Fair Grounds	....	1	—
Public Houses (Sanitary Conveniences)	....	4	24
Swimming Bath Samples	....	12	—
School Premises	....	2	1
		1,373	2,417

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses	....	....	31	—
Meat Shops	....	....	107	—
Other Food Shops	....	....	207	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	....	....	73	—
Knackers Yards	....	....	27	—
Cafés and Restaurants	....	....	146	—
Ice-Cream Premises	....	....	133	—
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	10	—
School Canteens	....	....	13	—
Horseflesh Shops	....	....	3	—
Food Preparing Premises	....	....	1	—
Works Canteens	....	....	4	—

Food Sampling

Samples of Milk	....	....	48	—
Samples of Ice-Cream	....	....	56	—
Samples of Water	....	....	13	—
			872	—

Housing

1. (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 276
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,866
2. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit 115
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 its officers				118
--	------	------	------	-----
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 17

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	26
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk Sampling

Pasteurised Milk

Number of samples taken	24
Number of samples satisfactory	21
(Three samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test)	

Undesignated Milk

Number of samples taken	24
Number of samples satisfactory	24

Ice-Cream Sampling

Number of samples taken	56
Number of samples satisfactory	44

Meat and Other Foods

Number of inspections	314
----------------------------	-----

Total weight of meat and other foodstuffs condemned :—

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1	15	2	14½

Knackers Yards

Number of Premises	1
Number of Inspections	27

MISCELLANEOUS

Swimming Pools

There are five fresh water Swimming Pools in the District, namely Brentwood Council pool, Ursuline High School pool, Brentwood School pool, Girls' County High School pool, and a private pool at Coxtie House, Coxtie Green.

Routine samples were taken from each of these Swimming Pools and submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination, the results being as follows :—

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Brentwood Urban District Council	6	—
Ursuline High School	2	—
Brentwood School	2	—
Girls' County High School	1	—
"Coxtie House," Coxtie Green	1	—
	12	—

Factories Act, 1937

1. Inspections

Premises	Inspections.	Number of Notices Served.	Notices Complied.
Factories (Power)	62	6	4
(Non-Power)	11	—	—

2. Defects Found

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Lack of Cleanliness	2	2
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	3	1
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1	1
Defective Floors	—	—

3. Outworkers

Number of Outworkers	13
Number of Inspections	15

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of cases of notifiable disease was 340, a figure which has only twice been lower during the past ten years. In 1948 the figure was 242, and in 1946 it was 338. The highest figure was reached during the war year 1941 when the total notifications was 1,790. The overall average for the decennium is 679.7.

Measles and Whooping Cough are the two diseases which have thrown up the largest figures during the ten year period 1941-1950. It is interesting to note that they have shown a symmetrical alternating ratio. If Measles was prominent one year Whooping Cough took the lead the next year, and so on turn about.

Diphtheria

Once again no case of Diphtheria was recorded. The prophylactic campaign against Diphtheria continued to be waged by the Local Health Authority through its Area Office.

Regular immunisation sessions were held at the Brentwood Combined Treatment Centre and at Schools. Private Practitioners are apparently much more active in this field than formerly.

For the following figures showing attendances of children for immunisation, I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer :—

	Primary.		Boosts.
	Under 5.	Over 5.	
Private Practitioners	194	18	46
Clinics and Schools	120	32	213
Totals	314	50	259

Acute Poliomyelitis

This year we were spared any serious visitation. Only four cases occurred, with one death.

Smallpox

No cases were reported during the year, but on two occasions a possible contact who had landed in the Port of London and entered this district was placed under routine surveillance.

Tuberculosis

Provision for the treatment of Tuberculosis is made by the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospitals Board.

At Brentwood the Chest Clinic is accommodated at High Wood Hospital, and is in the hands of a highly competent Chest Physician.

Notifications of Tuberculosis are still made to the local Medical Officer of Health, and transmitted by him weekly to the County Medical Officer.

The figures for 1950, which are not included in the Table of Notifiable Diseases, were :—

Age Groups.	New Cases.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	2	—	—	—
5 and under 15	—	—	—	—
15 and under 25 .	—	4	1	—
25 and under 35	2	5	—	—
35 and under 45	3	2	—	—
45 and under 55	2	2	—	—
55 and under 65	2	2	—	1
65 and over	3	1	—	—
	14	16	1	1
Totals	30		2	
Grand Total		32		

There were nine deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

Tuberculosis Care Association

A new venture in the furtherance of public health was the formation of the Brentwood and District Tuberculosis Care Association in November, 1949.

This body, which came into being through the initiative of certain members of the Council, is entirely voluntary and is composed of ladies and gentlemen representing various parishes and interests. Meetings have been held regularly throughout 1950, presided over by the Chairman of the Health Committee and supported by certain officers of the Council.

The object of the Association is to provide practical help of varying kinds to individuals and households afflicted by Tuberculosis.

It is an organisation which deserves the support of the whole community and should, therefore, find a place in this report although it is not one of the official activities of the Local Authority.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

Diseases.	Age Groups.												Total
	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 ...	—	—	—	1	3	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	11
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	7
Acute Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	1	1	3	2	—	3	4	7	3	25
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	4
Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough ...	14	15	29	29	26	87	4	2	1	—	—	—	207
Measles ...	1	3	8	9	6	33	2	2	2	2	—	—	68
Jaundice ...	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	3	1	2	2	—	14
Totals ...	15	18	39	42	39	134	12	9	11	8	10	3	340

