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Urban District of Brentwood



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1951





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Urban District of Brentwood

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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. (Resigned 28.2.51).

E. A. SHEPPARD, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector. (Appointed 21.5.51).

Clerical Staff :

Miss C. F. CONNATTY.

Miss A. WHITLEY (resigned 13.10.51).

Mrs. M. DAVIDSON (appointed 3.12.51, part-time).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951

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

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1951 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Brentwood. The Report conforms to the requirements of the Minister of Health.

The statistical figures which follow reveal that the period under review has been satisfactory. There was no untoward happening affecting the public health. Our death-rate remains below the average figure. No case of food poisoning was reported. Infectious disease records show no case of Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis nor Smallpox. As anticipated in my last report there was a reversal in the figures of Measles and Whooping Cough, the former now being in the ascendant.

The springing up of new housing estates in the district and the influx of an overflow population from Greater London are matters which will require careful observation so that our usual high standard of health may be maintained.

There is a valuable interlocking between the services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act by the County Council as the Local Health Authority, and the activities of the Urban District Council as the Local Sanitary Authority. Certain tables relating to the former are, therefore, inevitably included in this Report.

It is again my pleasant duty to record my appreciation of the services of the Staff of the department, all of whom have given of their best throughout the year. I am also indebted to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to the Chief Officers of other departments for support and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	18,166
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	30,380
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	8,034
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£267,947
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	1,081

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	403	203	200
Illegitimate	18	9	9
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population			13.85
Area Comparability Factor			1.17
Corrected Birth Rate			16.20

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 1951:—

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.
15.5	16.7	16.20

Stillbirths.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	6	2	4
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births			16.35

Deaths.

	Total	M.	F.
	304	147	157
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			10.00
Area Comparability Factor			0.90
Corrected Death Rate			9.00

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 1951:—

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.
12.5	12.5	9.00

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

...	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	34.20
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	34.74
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Deaths from Cancer and other Malignant Disease	58
Death Rate from Cancer and other Malignant Disease per 1,000 of the estimated population	1.91

Deaths at various ages:—

Age Groups	Number of Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total
Under 1 year	9	4	13
1 and under 2	—	3	3
2 and under 5	2	—	2
5 and under 15	1	—	1
15 and under 25	2	1	3
25 and under 35	1	4	5
35 and under 45	10	4	14
45 and under 55	5	7	12
55 and under 65	22	19	41
65 and under 75	37	37	74
75 and upwards	58	78	136
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	147	157	304

Causes of Death:—

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	2	6
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1
Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	30	28	58
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	27	40
Heart Diseases	44	57	101
Other Circulatory Disease	3	9	12
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	8	8	16
Bronchitis	9	3	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1

Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	—	2
Congenital Malformations ...	3	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	17	13	30
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	2	1	3
All other Accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	3	—	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	147	157	304
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Routine examinations of milk, water and ice-cream supplies were 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 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. Women's Welfare.
Tuesday afternoon.	Orthopaedic.
Wednesday morning.	Minor Ailments. Speech Therapy.
Wednesday afternoon.	Child Welfare.
2nd Wednesday afternoon.	Diphtheria Immunisation.
Thursday morning.	Eyes.
Thursday afternoon.	Speech Therapy.
3rd, 4th and 5th Thursday afternoons.	Orthopaedic (Exercises, etc.).
Daily.	Dental.

There are four subsidiary centres:—

1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons.	Hutton Child Welfare.
4th Wednesday afternoon.	Herongate Baby Weighing Clinic.

1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday
afternoons.

Bentley Child Welfare.

2nd Thursday afternoon.

South Weald Baby Weighing
Clinic.

Brentwood Foot Clinic.

Sessions were held at the Doddinghurst Road Clinic as follows:—

Mondays:	9 a.m. to 12 noon.	No of sessions—3.
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	No. of hours—9.
	4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.	
Tuesdays:	8 a.m. to 12 noon.	No. of sessions—2.
	1 p.m. to 6 p.m.	No. of hours—9.
Wednesdays:	9 a.m. to 12 noon.	No. of sessions—2.
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	No. of hours—6.
Saturdays:	9 a.m. to 12 noon.	No. of sessions—1.
		No. of hours—3.

During 1951 a total of 436 sessions were held and the following figures, for which I am indebted to the South Essex Area Medical Officer, show the number of persons treated:—

New Patients:	Adults	107	
	Children	37	144
		————	————
Attendances by:	New Patients	313	
	Old Patients	7,907	8,220
		————	————

Ambulance Service.

During the year 21,933 calls were answered, and the mileage covered was 115,096. The following table shows the nature of cases conveyed:—

	Total.	Monthly Average.
Maternity	214	17.8
Accident	406	33.8
Other Emergency	595	49.5
Non-Emergency:—		
Hospital Admissions and Discharges.		
Out Patient Clinics.		
Inter Hospital Transfers	20,718	1,726.5
	————	————
	21,933	1,827.6
	————	————

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 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, 180; Permanent, 155; Total, 335.

The number of properties which obtain their water supply from standpipes has been further reduced. During the year four more houses were provided with a piped supply from the mains.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

	Inspections.	Re-Inspections.
Housing Regulations	18	206
Housing (Overcrowding)	1	—
Allocation Council Houses	7	1
Moveable Dwellings	65	359
Sanitary Defects	246	857
Verminous Premises	13	19
Dirty Premises	5	4
Infectious Diseases	18	13
Water Supplies	30	55
Drains—Inspected	70	79
—Tested	8	16
Sewers	6	1
Cesspools and Pail Closets	19	16
Factories—Power	92	22
—Non-Power	2	1
Outworkers' Premises	12	7
Bakehouses	34	12
Ponds, Ditches and Watercourses	40	63
Swine, Fowls, etc.	24	20
Accumulation of Refuse	17	3
Refuse Tips, etc.	6	—

Requisitioned Properties	...	4	—
Rats and Mice—General	...	140	246
—Sewers	...	1	—
Miscellaneous Visits	...	312	6
Hairdressers' Premises	...	32	—
Miscellaneous Interviews	...	34	—
Swimming Baths	...	7	—
Civil Defence	...	19	—
School Premises	...	1	1
Public Houses (Sanitary Cons.)		4	—
Shops Act	...	2	—
Swimming Bath Samples	...	12	—
Council House Inspections	...	4	1
Building Licences	...	42	—
Workplaces	...	1	—
Disinfection of Premises	...	2	—
Rag Flock Act	...	4	2
		<u>1,354</u>	<u>2,010</u>

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses	...	...	12
Meat Shops	...	...	73
Other Food Shops	...	...	210
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	47
Knackers Yards	...	...	16
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	176
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	58
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	11
School Canteens	...	...	20
Factory Canteens	...	...	15
Horseflesh Shops	...	...	1

Food Sampling.

Samples of Milk	...	...	48
Samples of Water	...	...	13
Samples of Ice-Cream	...	...	40
			<u>740</u>

Number of Complaints received—370.

Housing.

- (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 246
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1,327

2. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit ...	123
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	105
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	18
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	18
(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	2
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk Sampling.

Pasteurised Milk:

Number of samples taken	21
Number of samples satisfactory	21

Undesignated Milk:

Number of samples taken	27
Number of samples satisfactory	26
Number of samples fairly satisfactory	1

Ice-Cream Sampling.

Number of samples taken	40
Number of samples satisfactory	34
Number of samples fairly satisfactory	4
Number of samples unsatisfactory	2

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Inspections 283

Total weight of meat and other foodstuffs condemned:—

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1	17	1	22 $\frac{3}{4}$

Knackers Yards.

Number of Premises 1

Number of Inspections 16

MISCELLANEOUS**Swimming Pools.**

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

	Satisfactory.	Fair.	Unsatisfactory.
Brentwood Council Pool ...	6	1	—
Brentwood Boys' School Pool	3	—	—
Girls' County High School Pool	2	—	—
	<hr/> 11	1	— <hr/>

The Ursuline High School Swimming Pool was closed during the summer for alterations.

Factories Act, 1937.**1. Inspections.**

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of:</i>	
		<i>Notices Served.</i>	<i>Notices Complied.</i>
Factories (Power)	160	16	9
(Non-Power)	3	1	1

2. Defects Found.

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>
Lack of Cleanliness	7	6
Defective Sanitary Accommodation ...	10	2
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation ...	—	2
Defective Floors	—	—

3. Outworkers.

Number of Outworkers	16
Number of Inspections	19

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

Diphtheria Immunisation.

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

	Primary.		Boosts.
	Under 5.	Over 5.	
At Clinics, Schools, and by Private Practitioners ...	345	155	628

Tuberculosis.

The care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis is the responsibility of the North East Metropolitan Joint Hospital Board. A Chest Clinic is provided at High Wood Hospital under the care of an experienced Chest Physician.

Valuable ancillary work is done by a local voluntary Tuberculosis Care Association.

The notifications for 1951, which are not included in the Table of Notifiable Diseases, were:—

Age Groups	New Cases.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ...	—	1	1	—
5 and under 15 ...	2	2	1	—
15 and under 25 ...	7	5	—	1
25 and under 35 ...	3	5	1	—
35 and under 45 ...	7	4	—	—
45 and under 55 ...	4	1	—	—
55 and under 65 ...	4	1	—	—
65 and over ...	2	2	—	—
Totals	29	21	3	1
	50		4	
Grand Total	54			

There were six deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

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
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	3	7	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	16
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	2	4	3	5	6	26
Meningococcal Infections ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	6	8	9	12	13	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
Measles ...	14	42	58	65	93	270	15	1	10	2	—	—	570
Jaundice ...	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	9
	20	52	68	80	116	304	18	5	17	5	6	6	697