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Contributors

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Urban District of Brentwood




Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1952



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Urban District of Brentwood

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL: (as at 31.12.52)

Chairman: E. R. D. de Rougemont, C.C., J.P. (1)

Vice-Chairman: J. Durston (1)

P. Anderson	(1)	A. F. Harper	(1)
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J. Farrow	(1)	J. M. Smith	(1)
C. Green		S. A. Wilson	
W. Hammond	(1)		

(1) Member of Public Health Committee.

(2) Chairman of Public Health Committee.

(3) Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee.

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:

I. 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:

I. 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:

I. A. Sheppard, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerical Staff:

Miss C. F. Connatty (resigned 21.6.52).

Mrs. D. R. Griffiths (appointed 23.6.52).

Mrs. M. Davidson (part-time).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Again it is my privilege to present to you an Annual Report on the health of our Urban District. The report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 2/53 of the Ministry of Health dated 22nd January, 1953.

The arrangement by which the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Sanitary Authority is also an officer of the local Authority for duties under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1948, i.e., the Essex County Council, continues. In my view this is beneficial to both Authorities as it ensures that a professional official on the spot is in touch with all aspects of Public Health administration.

I am happy to say that the year 1952 now under review saw the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of Public Health. The population is steadily rising owing to the creation of housing estates to accommodate the overspill from greater London. Such estates are well planned and built. On their occupants now falls the grave responsibility of helping the Local Authority to maintain a high level of environmental hygiene. Nothing so weakens the moral fibre of a family or of a nation as the idea that individual effort is not needed.

Private enterprise is also busy providing many new homes for the people.

The total of Notifiable Diseases was lower than in 1951. Measles was again most prevalent and at the end of the year the incidence curve of this disease was clearly shown to be sharply in the ascendant. Diphtheria was absent for the fourth year running. Poliomyelitis provided only two cases, both in married women. Food poisoning occurred at a residential school on one occasion, of which fuller particulars are given on a later page. Fortunately there was no serious result.

In the Spring we welcomed a visit from the Mass Radiography Unit of Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, lasting about three weeks. I was happy to renew my acquaintance with Dr.

V. L. Yell, the Medical Director, who subsequently sent me the report which appears in the section on Tuberculosis. There was nothing remarkable in the Brentwood survey; a finding of 3.8 per thousand of active post primary disease is quite common.

I am pleased to record that the Sanitary Inspectors, under the leadership of Mr. F. G. Spencer, have again kept the whole district under very careful supervision. My thanks are due to my whole staff and to my fellow Chief Officers for their help throughout the year.

We should not forget the devoted work constantly being done by medical practitioners and hospitals in our midst. I am grateful for the friendly co-operation of my professional colleagues.

I also note with satisfaction the continuing support given to me by the Health Committee and by the Council. When a Local Authority and a Public Health Department mutually rely on each other they can always go forward, without fear or favour, in the best interests of their district and people.

Good health transcends in value all material wealth. As Martial puts it "Non est vivere, sed valere, vita."

Though pain and suffering must often be recognised as a spiritual discipline, the chronic invalid may with reason transpose the words of a Persian poet and cry out that his condition does "Life's golden outlook into lead transmute."

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

JUNE, 1953.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	18,166
Estimated Resident Population	31,690
Number of Inhabited Houses	8,400
Rateable Value	£278,363
Sum represented by a penny rate	£ 1,113

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	396	192	204
Illegitimate	7	2	5
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population			12.71
Area Comparability Factor			1.17
Corrected Birth Rate			14.87

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 1952:—

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.
15.3	16.7	14.87

Stillbirths.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	9	5	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births			21.84

Deaths.

	Total	M.	F.
	335	176	159
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			10.57
Area Comparability Factor			0.90
Corrected Death Rate			9.51

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.
11.3	11.2	9.51

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	27.29
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	25.25
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	142.85
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer and other Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	54
Death Rate from Cancer and other Malignant Disease per 1,000 of the estimated population 1.70					

Deaths at various ages:—

Age Groups	Number of Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total
Under 1 year	7	3	10
1 and under 2	1	—	1
2 and under 5	1	—	1
5 and under 15	—	—	—
15 and under 25	2	—	2
25 and under 35	3	2	5
35 and under 45	8	3	11
45 and under 55	12	13	25
55 and under 65	31	23	54
65 and under 75	50	38	88
75 and over	61	77	138
	<hr/> 176	<hr/> 159	<hr/> 335

Causes of Death:—

	Number of Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	2	7
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1

Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	1
Measles	1	—	1
Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	24	30	54
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	2	—	2
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	24	26	50
Heart diseases	55	49	104
Other Circulatory diseases ...	6	10	16
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	12	6	18
Bronchitis	16	6	22
Ulcer of Stomach and Duo- denum	4	—	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	6	—	6
Congenital malformations ...	4	2	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	18	28
Accidents, other than motor- vehicle	1	5	6
Suicide	1	1	2
	176	159	335

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 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.
Friday afternoon.	Child Welfare (H.V. only).
Daily.	Dental.

There are three subsidiary centres:—

1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons.	Hutton Child Welfare.
4th Thursday afternoon.	Herongate Baby Weighing Clinic.
1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday afternoons.	Bentley Child Welfare.

Brentwood Foot Clinic.

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

Mondays:	9 a.m. to 12 noon.	No. of hours—6.
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	No. of sessions—2.
Tuesdays:	9 am. to 12 noon.	No. of hours—9.
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	No of sessions—3.
	4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.	
Wednesdays:	9 a.m. to 12 noon.	No. of hours—6.
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	No. of sessions—2.
Thursdays:	12.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.	No. of hours—6.
		No. of sessions—1.

During 1952 a total of 427 sessions was 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	...	...	172	
	Children	...	...	30	202

Attendances by:	New Patients	...	202	
	Old Patients	...	3,473	
	Old Age Pensioners	...	59	3,734

Ambulance Service.

During the year, 20,717 calls were answered, and the mileage covered was 101,116. The following table shows the nature of cases conveyed:—

	Total.	Monthly Average.
Maternity	206	17.17
Accident	389	32.41
Other Emergency	512	42.66
Non-Emergency:—		
Hospital Admissions and Discharges.		
Out Patient Clinics.		
Inter Hospital transfers	19,610	1,634.17
	20,717	1,726.41

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 is still being reduced. During the year, two more houses were provided with a piped supply from the mains as a result of formal action under the Public Health Act.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

	Inspections.	Re-Inspections.
Housing Regulations	26	285
Housing (Overcrowding)	6	—
Allocation Council Houses	3	1
Moveable Dwellings /	54	219
Sanitary Defects	280	1,125
Verminous Premises	14	27
Dirty Premises	8	24
Infectious Diseases	18	16
Water Supplies	17	71
Drains—Inspected	151	244
—Tested	30	2
Sewers	16	4
Cesspools and Pail Closets	77	133
Factories—Power	140	14
—Non-Power	3	—
Outworkers' Premises	7	—
Bakehouses	48	1
Ponds, Ditches and Watercourses	44	63
Swine, Fowls, etc.	38	79
Accumulation of Refuse	14	5
Refuse Tips, etc.	11	—
Requisitioned Properties	3	—
Rats and Mice—General	125	311
—Sewers	100	—
Miscellaneous Visits	267	1
Hairdressers' Premises	17	—
Miscellaneous Interviews	50	—
Swimming Baths	17	—
Civil Defence	10	—
Public Houses (San. Cons.)	20	2
Shops Act	25	—
Swimming Bath Samples	14	—
Council House Inspections	7	2
Building Licences	37	1
Common Lodging Houses	1	1
Pet Shops	7	1
Food Poisoning Investigations	1	6
Public Conveniences	11	—
	<u>1,717</u>	<u>2,638</u>

Food Inspection.

Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	177
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	334
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	75
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	...	24
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	177
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	12
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	7
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	171
						<hr/> 984 <hr/>

Food Sampling.

Samples of Milk	...	...	...	...	59
Samples of Water	...	...	...	...	14
Samples of Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	52
					<hr/> 125 <hr/>

Number of Complaints received 382

Housing.

1. (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 280
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1,716
2. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit 106
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 111
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 15
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By Owners 10
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 2

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	7
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners	... ..	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	—

During the course of the year 12 unfit houses were voluntarily closed by the Owners as a result of informal action by the Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES**Milk Sampling.**

Pasteurised Milk:

Number of samples taken	... ..	30
Number of samples satisfactory	... ..	29
Number of samples unsatisfactory	... ..	1

Undesignated Milk:

Number of samples taken	... ..	29
Number of samples satisfactory	... ..	26
Number of samples unsatisfactory	... ..	3

Ice-Cream Sampling.

Number of samples taken	... ..	52
Number of samples satisfactory	... ..	51
Number of samples unsatisfactory	... ..	1

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Inspections 511

Total weight of meat and other foodstuffs condemned:—

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
2	16	—	22½

Knackers Yards.

Number of Premises	... ..	1
Number of Inspections	... ..	24

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 ...	4	1	—
Brentwood Boys' School Pool	2	—	—
Girls' County High School Pool	2	—	—
Ursuline High School Pool	2	—	—
	10	1	—

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)	141	10	10
Factories (Non-Power)	42	2	2

2. Defects Found.

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>
Lack of Cleanliness	2	2
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	9	9
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1	1
Defective Floors	—	—

3. Outworkers.

Number of Outworkers	5
Number of Inspections	7

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.

	Under 5.	Over 5.	Boosts.
At Clinics, Schools, and by Private Practitioners	345	108	462

Tuberculosis.

The care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis continues to be the responsibility of the Chest Clinic at High Wood Hospital, under Dr. E. Woolf.

The notifications for 1952, 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	—	—	—
5 and under 15	—	—	1	1
15 and under 25	1	4	—	—
25 and under 35	2	4	—	—
35 and under 45	—	—	1	—
45 and under 55	3	2	—	1
55 and under 65	3	2	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	12	2	2
	22		4	
Grand Total	26			

There were 8 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

Tuberculosis Care Association. ...

The local voluntary Tuberculosis Care Association continues to give valuable help to households afflicted by this disease.

Mass Radiography Unit, 6c, Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford.

Brentwood Survey, 1952—Number of Miniatures Taken

Date	Survey	Males	Females	Total
13.3.52	Rotary Hoes, East Horndon ...	759	132	891
20.3.52	Ilford Limited, Brentwood ...	593	495	1,088
27.3.52	Linden House, Brentwood (small firms)	287	176	463
27.3.52	Linden House, Brentwood (Ursuline Convent)	—	268	268
1.4.52	Brentwood School (including staff)	448	—	448
2.4.52	Public Session	472	968	1,440
		2,559	2,039	4,598

Summary (excluding Schoolchildren)

Number of Miniatures taken ...	2,130	1,771	3,901
Number recalled for large films	78	47	125 (3.2%)
Number recalled for investigation	43	14	57 (1.4%)
Number referred to chest clinics	31	6	37 (0.9%)

Of the 37 cases referred to chest clinics, 4 were classified as having conditions other than tuberculosis, and the remaining 33 cases of tuberculosis were classified as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Requiring single re-check as precaution	6	1	7
Requiring clinic observation for longer period while remaining at work ...	21	1	22
Requiring to leave work and remain at home without institutional treatment	1	1	2
Requiring sanatorium or equivalent treatment	—	2	2

NUMBER OF CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

	Males—Age Groups					Females—Age Groups					Total
	15—24	25—34	35—44	45—59	60+	15—24	25—34	35—44	45—59	60+	
Active Primary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Inactive Primary ...	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	6
Active Post-primary											
Unilateral ...	1	—	2	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	9
Active Post-primary											
Bilateral ...	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	6
Inactive Post-primary	1	10	8	18	3	1	4	6	4	2	57
											3.8 per 1,000

Schoolchildren.

	Schoolchildren.		Total
	Brentwood School Males	Ursuline Convent Females	
Number of Miniatures taken ...	429	268	697
Number recalled for large films ...	5	—	5
Number recalled for investigation	3	—	3
Number referred to Chest Clinic ...	2	—	2*

* Active post-primary tuberculosis requiring sanatorium treatment.

Food Poisoning.

In July there was an outbreak of food poisoning at Hutton Residential School. About 20 persons were affected, but none suffered more than a temporary illness or inconvenience. A detailed report on the findings in this outbreak is given below:—

- (1) Food causing outbreak: Minced Ham.
- (2) Cases forming outbreak, which occurred on 15th July, 1952:
Total notified: 20. Total ascertained: 20. Fatal: Nil.
- (3) Clinical features: Average interval ingestion to onset.
(Hrs.) = 6.
Main symptoms: Headache, vomiting and diarrhoea.
Severity of illness: Slight.
Duration of illness: One day.
- (4) Results of Laboratory Investigation (Summary).
Heavily infected with strains of staphylococcus aureus proved to be bacteriophage type 6/75+, serologically Group 111, a type usually associated with staphylococcal enterotoxin food poisoning. Organisms of the salmonella or dysentery group or anaerobic sporing bacilli were not found.
- (5) Origin and Preparation of Food causing Illness:
Ham bought on 12th July, 1952, cooked on the same day and put in larder until 15th July, when it was minced and served for breakfast.
- (6) Place at which food causing illness was consumed: School.
Estimated number of consumers at risk: 45.
- (7) Probable origin of infection or contamination of food: Not known.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

Disease	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	2	13	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	19
Pneumonia ...	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	4	—	9	20
Poliomycelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	6	4	9	14	19	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
Measles ...	7	37	40	52	50	206	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	401
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	4	—	1	—	—	10
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	6	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
TOTALS	14	41	50	68	72	245	21	2	8	5	6	9	—	541