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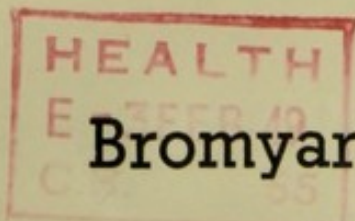
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Bromyard Urban District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1947

Staff of the Public Health Department

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|---|--|
| Medical Officer of Health | ... | ... | H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. | |
| Clerks | ... | ... | { | MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT (resigned on 18th January, 1947) |
| | | | | MISS S. DENSHAM (appointed on 17th February, 1947) |
| Sanitary Inspector (part-time) | ... | | J. D. BARRS, M. Inst. M. Cy. Engs., C.S.I. | |

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.

Telephone: Leominster 95.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with great regret that I have to comment in this report on the death of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. D. Barrs, on the 8th January, 1948.

He has been Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for more than 44 years. He retired in 1940 and returned to work in 1943 to fill the post vacated by Mr. Watts and has carried on since in spite of his failing eyesight and his deafness. He has always worked unsparingly for the Council and the work that he has done lives after him.

I must draw your attention to the fact that much of the property in Bromyard has reached the age at which it requires urgent replacement. The housing survey should be undertaken to ascertain the needs of the next decade, both for replacements and for the amelioration of the overcrowding. Water supplies are not at the moment adequate in times of dry weather.

Consideration should be given to the finding of a new Surveyor, either in collaboration with the Bromyard Rural District Council or on your own.

H. F. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area (in acres) | 213 |
| Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to the Rate Books | 484 |
| Rateable Value | £8,803 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £34 13 0 |

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

| | |
|--|------|
| LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) | 24.3 |
| STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still Births) | 75.0 |
| DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) | 14.4 |
| INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 Live Births) | 0.0 |
| DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: No deaths in 1947 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes. | |

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1947:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Live Birth Rate | 20.5 |
| Death Rate | 12.0 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate | 41.0 |

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS

There are none provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district.

Child Welfare Centre: In Frome Bank, Bromyard, on alternate Thursdays, at 1.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The County schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

Owing to the death of Mr. Barrs, it is unfortunately impossible to provide an adequate statement in Sections C to E of this report. His records were not capable of interpretation by anyone else.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The shortage of water was felt during the summer months. Adequate supplies were maintained throughout the year, the town supply being supplemented by water drawn from the River Frome and being filtered and chlorinated by means of a War Department Water Purification Trailer. This plant was kindly loaned by the Army Authorities. It is capable of pumping 3,000 gallons an hour of treated water. It proved very satisfactory, but requires more attention than would be economical for a permanent fixture.

All water samples taken during the year proved satisfactory on bacteriological examination.

The whole of the district is supplied and also eleven houses and four farms in the Rural District. Altogether, some 500 houses and numerous premises are supplied.

The yield from the six wells varied from 60,000 gallons to 100,000 and upwards daily.

SEWERAGE

Owing to the continuance of wartime conditions, the proposed sewage disposal scheme formulated in 1937 remained in abeyance, and the sewage was discharged at three outfalls in a crude condition as in previous years.

The principal outfall is at the "Forburries" where some 40,000 gallons daily flow into the River Frome. Fortunately the level of the river was not lowered by drought conditions as in 1944, and consequently the sewage was diluted and rendered less noxious to the nearby householders.

The pipe sewers in the town were examined every month and they were generally found in a satisfactory condition and remarkably free from odour.

Conditions remained the same as they did in 1946.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Except for the matter of pollution described under the previous heading, there was nothing calling for comment.

HOUSE REFUSE

The collection of house refuse is carried out by a motor lorry contractor, and the speedy removal thereby is a great improvement on the old horse-drawn trolley method. The dustbins are now emptied and cleared off the street footways early in the day.

CONVERSION OF PAIL OR PIT CLOSETS INTO W.C.s.

There are some 30 houses in the town with either pail or pit closets and this number represents six per cent. of the occupied houses. The Council are desirous for W.C.s to be substituted in place of the insanitary pail closets, the emptying of which is very objectionable to women tenants. Owners have been directed to carry out the proposed conversion as soon as circumstances, such as labour and materials, will permit.

HOUSING SCHEME

The Council approved of a scheme for the erection of 26 houses on the Ballhurst Estate site and a tender has been accepted for the carrying out of the work, including the making of roads, and the construction of drains. Steady progress has been made with the work, and twelve houses have been completed and occupied at the end of 1947.

SANITARY INSPECTION

No figures are available of the number of inspections carried out.

DEFECTS REMEDIED

No figures are available.

FACTORIES

No figures are available of the number of inspections of factories with mechanical power.

CAMPING SITES

There are no registered camping sites in the area.

BED BUGS

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

No figures are available.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK

There are no milk producers in the Urban District. Inspection of the Dairies in the town is carried out regularly and samples taken when necessary. Most of the milk retailed in the town is sampled outside the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat is inspected at the Hereford Abattoir. Transport and handling of the meat was satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Six premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

No figures are available of the amount of food examined, found unsound and destroyed.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The one case of infantile paralysis was mild and recovered completely. The source of infection could not be traced.

The epidemic of measles, common to the whole country, did not affect Bromyard unduly seriously.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

| DISEASE | AGE OF PATIENT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| | 0 — 1 | 1 — 2 | 2 — 3 | 3 — 4 | 4 — 5 | 5 — 6 | 6 — 7 | 7 — 10 | 10 — 15 | 15 — 20 | 20 — 30 | 30 — 40 | Over 40 | Unknown | |
| Measles ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 36 |
| Pneumonia ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Anterior Poliomyelitis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1947 is indicated in the table below:

| Number | Under 5 years of age | Number | Between 5 and 15 years of age | Total under 15 Number |
|--------|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Percentage of group | | Percentage of group | |
| 66 | 46.8% | 280 | 122.3% | 346 |

You have already received a report on this matter. The figures show an improvement on the year 1946.

I must point out that these figures are not in any way comparable to those given in 1940 and 1941. In the first place, many unofficial evacuees who were present at that time have since left. They cannot easily be distinguishable from the normal resident population. In the second place, the population figures are obtained from the Registrar General's returns, whereas during the war years, the estimate had to be made from local returns given by the Food Office. The fact that these figures apparently dropped between 1944 and 1946, is due in particular to the stress of the war and also to the loss of novelty of the scheme. Diphtheria immunisation now has to be a social habit rather than an exciting novelty.

"LOCAL" CHILDREN, aged 0—4 years

| | | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 |
|------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number immunised during year | ... | 42 | — | 30 | 37 | 30 | 25 | 14 | 15 | 22 |
| Number immunised at any time | ... | 42 | 28 | 52 | 74 | 79 | 95 | 73 | 63 | 66 |

"Immunised" indicates only those children who have completed a full course of injections.

As from the 5th July, 1948, all immunisation becomes the responsibility of the Herefordshire County Council. The County Medical Officer will in future report annually on the state of immunisation of children.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1947, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of two males and nine females, who normally reside in the Council's district.

During the year one new case was notified, on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period, no deaths from the disease occurred.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

| Disease | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Cancer (all forms) | — | 1 | 1 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 1 | — | 1 |
| Diseases of the Heart and Arteries | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Diseases of the Digestive System | — | 2 | 2 |
| Congenital conditions (at birth) | 1 | — | 1 |
| Violence | — | 1 | 1 |
| All other causes | 1 | — | 1 |



