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Contributors

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for the Urban District of Clevedon for the year 1951

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1951 and to include a summary of some of the work done by your Sanitary Inspector for the same period.

In January and February we had a minor outbreak of Influenza which fell most heavily upon the older section of the community and to which no less than twelve deaths have been attributed; the average age of these cases was 73 years.

Measles, which broke out at the end of 1950, assumed epidemic proportions during the first six months of the year and sporadic cases continued till the end of August; while sporadic cases of Whooping-cough appeared from June to September to become epidemic in 1952. There has been no fatality from either disease.

It is pleasant to repeat the complete absence of Diphtheria and to express the hope that parents and guardians will see to it that this fell disease will never regain a foothold in the community, by having all children protected against it by immunisation.

There have been five cases of Poliomyelitis during the year. In April, in a boy of five, the disease followed on a severe attack of measles. The other cases occurred in August; two young men of 18 and 21 lived in one of the new housing estates but had no known points of contact one with the other; the younger man unfortunately died from an explosive attack; a boy of 12 who had been visiting in this estate but not at the infected houses also contracted the disease; the fifth case occurred in a distant part of the town and affected a woman of 36 who had no contacts with any of the cases mentioned above.

The general Death Rate at 13.5 compares with 12.5 for the whole country and reflects the composition of the local population. The figures for Infant rates must be taken with reserve as they are derived from returns for a small community. It is perhaps pertinent to report that while four of the infant deaths were due to prematurity the fifth was a child of eleven months, the second infant to succumb to Tuberculous meningitis from contact with a visiting relative who suffered from unsuspected open Pulmonary tuberculosis.

The local Hospital continues its beneficent functions as a General-Practitioner Unit under the Health Scheme and is regularly visited by medical and surgical consultants from Bristol. Apart from inpatients there is a considerable outpatient department including treatment by physiotherapy, while for special treatment or investigation there is close liaison with the Bristol general hospitals.

The District Nurses continue their invaluable work in the homes of the people; general nursing, maternity nursing and child welfare work.

A further addition to the hospital amenities of the district has been the opening of a Maternity Unit at The Knoll where General Practitioners from Clevedon and district can attend their patients under the general supervision of a Bristol Consultant who holds inpatient and outpatient clinics.

One case has been dealt with under the National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47; a woman of 93 was found to be in danger of setting fire to herself and the house in which she rented a room and as she had no friend or relative who could accept responsibility for her the Court ordered her removal to a County Home where she is suitably cared for.

Housing

The housing of the people still remains a pressing problem but much has been done already to relieve the situation. New types of houses and substitute materials used in their construction add to your worries. It is greatly to be regretted that present restrictions and shortages tend to delay repairs to some of the older properties which will deteriorate in course of time beyond economic recovery. Some of the large well-built stone houses do not readily lend themselves to satisfactory conversion into self-contained flats.

Water supply

There is nothing fresh to report on the public supply which is ample in quantity and pure in quality as evidenced by satisfactory chemical and bacteriological analysis of the raw and the chlorinated samples. There has been no need for action on account of contamination or plumbo-solvent properties of the supply which is piped to all areas.

Sewerage

The flooding at East Clevedon commented on last year has been abated and the main low-level sewer has been cleared of obstruction but owing to the increased load which has been thrown upon this section of the system by the influx from the new housing estates it is obvious that further provision must be made for carrying this load and plans are being prepared for a comprehensive low-level scheme with a new outfall to the sea.

Cesspits are emptied twice a year free of charge and at other times at cost plus a percentage. House refuse is collected weekly and trade refuse by contract with the local authority.

The new refuse dump away from the town and from human habitation is a great improvement on the old one which still requires supervision on account of stagnant water and potential nuisance.

Food

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning and the preparation, handling and serving of food are generally satisfactory. As there is no slaughtering of animals here, inspection is confined to consignments of tinned foods, fish, etc; some of which are found unfit for human consumption. The retail of ice-cream in pre-wrapped containers has become much more general; this makes for safer handling of a potentially dangerous food.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge with thanks the help and co-operation I have always received from your technical and clerical staffs and from the Health Departments of Counties of Somerset and Bristol.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

3rd June 1952

G. MACLEOD

Statistics

Area	... 3292 acres
Registrar General's estimate of population	... 9563
Number of inhabited houses and flats	... 4000
Rateable value at 31st March 1952	... £80,647
Estimated product of penny rate	... £325. 19. 9.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	60	71	131
Illegitimate	1	2	3

Birth Rate per 1000 of population = 15.7 (corrected)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4

Still Birth Rate per 1000 of population = 0.45

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	68	125	193

Death Rate per 1000 = 13.5 (corrected)
Average age at death = 72 years

<u>Deaths of infants under one year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	4	1	5

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births = 37.3

<u>Deaths of infants under four weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	3	1	4
(all due to prematurity)			

<u>Comparability Factors</u>	For Births = 1.12
	For Deaths = 0.67

Some of the principal causes of death:-

Cancer and Malignant Disease	25
Coronary Disease	27
Vascular Disease of Nervous System ..	24
Heart & other Circulatory Diseases ..	47
Influenza	12
Pneumonia, Bronchitis & other respiratory diseases (not tuberculosis)	10

Public Health Staff

G. Macleod, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health (part-time)
T.H. Chambers, M.I.Mun.E., M.I.H.E., M.R.San.I. Engineer, Surveyor, and Sanitary Inspector

Notifiable Diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases notified</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	4	1	0
Whooping Cough	44	0	0
Measles	144	0	0
Pneumonia	9	2	3
Polio-myelitis	5	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15		0
Other do.	3	1	1

Tuberculosis:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0-1	0	0	1	0
1-5	0	0	0	1
15-25	1	1	0	0
25-35	3	1	0	0
35-45	2	2	0	0
45-55	1	2	0	1
55 & over	1	1	0	0
Totals	8	7	1	2

Housing

	<u>Houses erected during year</u>		<u>Houses in course of erection</u>		<u>Conversion to flats or dwellings</u>	
	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Tempy.</u>	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Tempy.</u>	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Tempy.</u>
Local Authority	0	22	28	50	0	0
Private Enterprise	10	0	0	0	16	0
	10	22	28	50	16	0

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority - 298

Number of post-war houses erected to 31/12/51 -

By Local Authority - 178

By Private Enterprise - 0

Programme for 1952 - By Local Authority - 78

By Private Enterprise - 17

Total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of year - 160

Grants made under Housing Act 1949 - nil.

Milk

Registered Dairy Premises	- 28
Registered Distributors	- 17
Supplementary licences to distributors from outside the district	0

Ice Cream

Premises registered for:- Manufacture only	- 0
Manufacture & retail	- 6
Retail only	- 33

Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - 9

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, operative from 3/7/50
Action taken - nil.

There are no slaughter houses & no knackers yards in the District.