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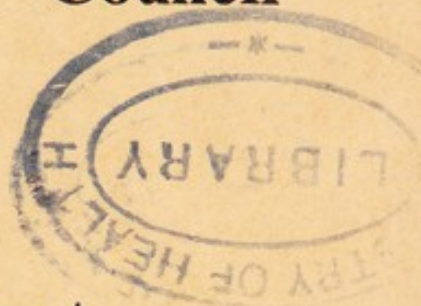
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**Epping Urban District Council**



# **Annual Report**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

including the Report of the

**Sanitary Inspector**

**For the year ending December 31st, 1949**

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# Epping Urban District Council

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Epping Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

## **Vital Statistics**

The birth rate was 16.7 per 1,000 population and the death rate 12.3, the corresponding figures for England and Wales were 16.7 births per 1,000 population and 11.7 deaths per 1,000 population.

With a total of 109 births and 81 deaths there was a natural increase in population of 28, but the Registrar General estimated our population at 6,540, an increase of 130 on the previous year. The difference in the natural increase and the Registrar General's estimate must be explained by immigration. House building has tried to keep pace with this increase in population.

Only one infant died before reaching the age of one year, and if it is justifiable to work out an infant mortality rate on a single death the infant mortality rate was 9 per 1,000 live births, as compared with the figure of 32 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales. There was no maternal death.

## **Infectious Diseases**

The matter of greatest concern during the year was the occurrence of a nationwide poliomyelitis epidemic. In England and Wales 14 cases were notified per 100,000 of the population. Two cases of poliomyelitis were notified in this district. The aftermath of paralysed limbs in those who recover presents a serious problem not only to the individual, but to the community. It is regrettable that there is no known method of preventing an outbreak or controlling its spread.

During a poliomyelitis epidemic the virus is assumed to be widespread and it is believed that many are infected who never develop symptoms, and efforts have been made to find those factors which render the infected person susceptible to the paralytic manifestations of the disease.

The poliomyelitis cases here and in Epping and Ongar Rural Districts were investigated with the help of Dr. McFarlan of the Department of Human Ecology, Cambridge University, and in those cases developing muscular paralysis, a history of unaccustomed muscle exercise, muscle strain or muscle injury was common. In one case of polioencephalitis—a mental form of the disease—an abnormal mental stress had occurred a few days before the onset. Research elsewhere has suggested that the trivial injury from tonsil operation or from an intra-muscular inoculation may act as a precipitating factor in some cases which later develop paralysis. The exact nature of such an association is not yet known, but it can be said that this possibility appears to be limited to cases where the virus of poliomyelitis is already present and therefore, broadly speaking, to periods of outbreaks of poliomyelitis.

The matter is being investigated by the Medical Research Council, and in the event of a poliomyelitis outbreak, immunisation can be postponed temporarily.

For many years the statistics of Infectious Disease have been accepted as a measure of the health of a district, but advances in chemotherapy since 1935 have brought about a change. The sulphonamides have reduced the danger from puerperal sepsis and pneumonia. Penicillin has quelled the menace of scarlet and meningococcal fever. Streptomycin gives promise of the reduction of menace of tuberculosis and chloramphenicol shows similar promise in typhoid and whooping cough. Immunisation has done much to reduce diphtheria and last year no diphtheria cases were notified in the Epping Urban District.

The housing shortage still exists but as yet there is no means of statistical assessment of the dissatisfaction, frustration and despair arising from the compulsory and interminable sharing of households that show themselves in unhappy and broken homes, in anti-social behaviour and in psychosomatic illnesses.

Tuberculosis and poliomyelitis were the most serious infections in 1949.

During 1949 five new cases of Tuberculosis were notified compared with three cases in 1948. The disease caused five deaths compared with two deaths in the previous year.

#### **Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.**

Several cases have been considered for possible action under the powers given in this Act. (Persons living in insanitary conditions).

It has not been considered necessary to take action in any instance as co-operation was obtained. The investigation and action taken, however, did draw attention to the shortage of hospital accommodation for the elderly chronic sick. Urgent cases are expected to wait for long periods before admission. The ratio of beds available for chronic sick should be maintained in a fixed ratio to the estimated numbers of over 70's in the population composition. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that the increase in hospital beds for elderly chronic sick is being maintained in proportion to the gradual increase in their numbers.

#### **National Health Service Act, 1946.**

With regard to the review of the working arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council have, so far as possible, adhered to their proposals made as Local Health Authority and the work over the past year has been conducted on these lines as set out under the various sections of the Act, being expanded so far as this has been possible.

No major difficulties seem to have arisen, and I think a fair summary would be to say that the year's work has been mainly a continuation of existing services.

In concluding my Report, I would like to record my appreciation to the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support during 1949.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

# **Epping Urban District Council**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1949.**

Chairman: Councillor A. D. Rankine.

### **Members :**

Councillor A. L. Fosh

„ E. Hebden.

„ J. G. Lusty

„ G. Temple

„ Mrs. F. M. Pollitt

„ C. G. Lowe

### **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :**

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. J. L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

Mrs. I. M. STOCK.

Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. H. J. MEAD, M.S.I.A., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.

Clerk :

Mrs G. J. BRUCE.

## STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	1,440
Population	...	...	...	...	...	6,540
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,918
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£42,395
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£163

The rate in the pound was 20s.

## VITAL STATISTICS

		Male	Female	Total
<b>Live Births :</b>				
Legitimate	...	47	60	107
Illegitimate	...	1	1	2
				<hr/>
			TOTAL :	109

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population ... 16.7

		Male	Female	Total
<b>Still Births :</b>				
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
				<hr/>
			TOTAL :	2

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... 18.4

		Male	Female	Total
<b>Deaths</b>	...	45	36	81
				(Registrar General's Figures)
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	12.3

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	0	1	1
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
				<hr/>
			TOTAL :	1

Death rate of infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births)	9
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under age 2 years	0
Deaths from maternal causes	0

**CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR**  
**GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1949.**

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	4	1	5
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	0	1	1
Influenza ... ..	0	1	1
Diabetes ... ..	1	0	1
Cancer (all forms) ... ..	6	10	16
Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..	4	0	4
Heart Disease ... ..	13	12	25
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	3	4	7
Bronchitis ... ..	2	0	2
Pneumonia ... ..	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	1	2
Digestive Diseases ... ..	3	1	4
Nephritis ... ..	0	0	0
Congenital malformations & Birth Trauma	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	1	0	1
Suicides ... ..	1	1	2
Other violent causes ... ..	0	0	0
All other causes ... ..	3	2	5
	—	—	—
TOTALS :	45	36	81
	—	—	—

## TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns)

Rates per 1,000 population.

			England and Wales		Epping U.D.	
			1948	1949	1948	1949
<b>Births :</b>	Live Births	...	17.9	16.7	19.1	16.7
	Still Births	...	0.42	0.39	0.30	0.30
<b>Deaths :</b>	All causes	...	10.8	11.7	9.82	12.3

## PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

				Cases Notified	Deaths
Tuberculosis	...	...	(4)*	7	5
Influenza	...	...			1
Measles	...	...	(164)	10	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	(40)	16	0
Dysentery	...	...	(0)	11	0
Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	(5)	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	(10)	2	0
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	(0)	2	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	(4)	4	0
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	(0)	1	0
Erysipelas	...	...	(1)	2	0
Paratyphoid B	...	...	(1)	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	(0)	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	(2)	4	3
Diphtheria	...	...	(0)	0	0

\* Cases notified during the previous year (1948) shown in brackets for comparison.

## FOOD POISONING.

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

# COMPARATIVE TABLES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATION AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

1948 and 1949.

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly Returns)

## 1. Notification per 1,000 population.

			England and Wales		Epping U.D.	
			1948	1949	1948	1949
Typhoid Fever	...	...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.15
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1.73	1.63	0.62	0.62
Whooping Cough	...	...	3.42	2.39	6.24	2.50
Diphtheria	...	...	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	...	...	0.21	0.19	0.15	0.30
Smallpox	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	...	9.34	8.95	25.58	1.5
Pneumonia	...	...	0.73	0.80	0.31	0.62
Poliomyelitis	...	...		0.13	0.00	0.30
Polio-encephalitis	...	...		0.01	0.00	
Food Poisoning	...	...		0.14	0.00	0.00

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

### (1) WATER

The whole of the district is still served by the Herts & Essex Waterworks Company. Further representations were made to the Company with regard to the installation of a Water Softening Plant. The limitation of capital expenditure, shortage of labour and materials are, however, still holding up this proposal.

### (2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

**(a) Northern Outfall.** Messrs. W. C. French were engaged as contractors for the extensions to the Northern Outfall Works, and commenced operations in October, 1949. It is anticipated that the contract will be completed before the end of 1950.

**(b) Southern Outfall.** The scheme for extending these works has been approved by the Ministry of Health but they have not given authority to proceed with the actual construction. In the

meantime, some unsatisfactory samples have been taken and although the Essex County Council have also approached the Ministry, there is still no information as to when the works are likely to be commenced.

(3) **SCHOOLS**

No change.

(4) **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

Two new vehicles were delivered during the year and a regular weekly collection of house refuse was instituted and has since been regularly maintained. There is no doubt that this improved service has been much appreciated in the District.

Considerable attention was given to the provision of New Dust Bins and to the liability of the owner or occupier for their supply.

Following the usual practice of the Council, a Statutory Notice was served upon an owner, who appealed to the Local Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

The Appeal was upheld and the Council have since approached Occupiers when new Bins are required.

(5) **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION**

No change.

(6) **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

No change.

(7) **SWIMMING BATH**

No change.

(8) **ERADICATION OF VERMIN**

No serious infestations were reported during the year.

(9) **HOUSING**

The final plans for the completion of the Centre Drive Housing Estate were approved and building commenced during 1949. In addition to 3-bedroom houses, provision was made for

14 Bungalows for Aged Persons, 6 of which were completed and occupied. The 2-bedroom Duplex Flats also became available during the year and enabled the Council to re-house 24 newly married couples and others with only one child.

Further land for a new site for 198 houses was acquired and a decision made to call the new Estate, Beaconfield Estate. Layout plans were prepared and approved by the Ministry of Health and the Essex County Council, and it is anticipated that work will be commenced during 1950.

## 1. NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

By the Local Authority:—

Permanent Houses (including 24 flats)	...	...	60
By other bodies or persons	...	...	10
			—
		TOTAL :	70
			—

## 2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

	Public Health Acts.	Housing Acts.
(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	20	15
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	65	43
(c) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit by—		
1. Informal action by Local Authorities or Officers	14	10
2. Service of Formal Notices	6	5
3. Statutory Notices	0	0

## **INSPECTION OF FOOD**

### **FOOD PREMISES**

Regular inspections of food premises have been made and in two cases improvements suggested have been carried out by the owners. The general standard in the District remains satisfactory.

### **MEAT**

There has been no alteration in the arrangements for slaughtering meat and this work is still carried on outside the Epping Urban Area. From time to time the Sanitary Inspector is called upon to examine home killed and imported meat delivered to local shops, and the quantity condemned during the year is slightly higher than for the previous 12 months. Tinned meat and other canned goods also receive attention.

There has been a somewhat marked increase in the quantity of Fish which it has been necessary to condemn.

### **MILK**

The 6 cowsheds in the area have been regularly inspected and the usual high standard is being maintained.

### **BAKEHOUSES**

No change.

### **ICE CREAM**

Ten sample were taken during the year of which 4 were satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory. In every case the unsatisfactory product was manufactured outside the Epping Urban Area. Where unsatisfactory results were obtained representations were made both to the Vendor and the producer as well as to the Local Authority in whose area the manufacturer's premises were situated.

### **FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

Regular inspections have been carried out. Certain premises not previously used or built for industrial purposes have been brought into use during the year, and some difficulties have been experienced in securing reasonable standards of sanitary accommodation as well as facilities for escape from fire. No Official Notices were considered to be necessary and the conditions are being improved by personal contact. There is one out-worker employed in the district.

## FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1949

### MEAT

- 334½ lbs. Argentine Beef.
- 93 lbs. Bone In.
- 124 lbs. Rump.
- 17 tins (16 oz.) Corned Beef)
- 4 tins (12 oz.) ditto
- 1 tin (16 oz.) Danish Pork.
- 54 lbs. Topside and Silver
- 45 lbs. Topside and Back Rib.
- 22 lbs. Surloin.
- 1 lb. Mutton Hash.
- 1 Ox Kidney.

### FISH

- 31 stone Cod.
- 16 stone Haddock.
- 5 stone Hake.
- 2 stone Megrin.
- 6 stone wrapped Kippers
- 2¾ stone "Dogs".
- 5½ stone Whole Whiting.
- 6 stone Herrings.
- 3 qrs. 10 lbs. Skate.
- 5¾ stone Bream Fillets.
- 2 stone Headless Long.
- 2 stone Headless Coolie.

### MILK.

- 46 tins Evaporated Milk.
- 10 tins Condensed Milk.

### FRUIT

- 2 tins Plums.
- 1 tin Apples.
- 1 tin Grape Fruit Juice.
- 1 tin Australian Peaches.
- 2 jars Mincemeat.
- 2 tins Tomatoes.

### VEGETABLES

- 9 tins Baked Beans (8oz.)
- 6 tins Process Peas (16oz.)
- 3 tins Peas (19oz.)
- 2 tins Spaghetti.
- 1 tin Mixed Veg.
- 3 tins Beetroot (11lb. 12½oz.)
- 4 tins Beetroot (16oz.)

### OTHER ITEMS

- 1 jar Mayonaise.
- 2 jars Honey.
- 5½ lbs. Gorgonzola Cheese
- 1 jar Heinz Baby Food.
- 115 Eggs.
- 1 tin Soup (10oz.)
- 3 tins Soup (16oz.)



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