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Contributors

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DUNMOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1939.

St. Peter's Close,
Bocking.

December, 1940.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a brief report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1939. Owing to present-day conditions the usual type of report has had to be curtailed. For similar reasons no separate report is being made by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, a review of whose work is included in this report.

Throughout the year the general health of the district has been good with no serious outbreak of infectious disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of cases of notifiable infectious disease was as follows :-

Scarlet Fever	8 cases.
Diphtheria	1 case
Enteric Fever	2 cases.
Pneumonia	3 "
Puerperal Pyrexia	3 "
+ Whooping Cough	2 "

+ Whooping Cough and Measles became generally notifiable from November 1939. No cases of measles were notified before the end of the year.

The Dunmow Isolation Hospital was again closed down during the year and the main building adapted for use as a first aid post. Accommodation for infectious diseases cases occurring in the district is provided at Saffron Walden Isolation Hospital, and other adjacent Isolation Hospitals when necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during the year were 14 in number and were made up as follows :-

<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>	
<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>
4	3	5	2

WATER SUPPLIES.

The supplies for the district were obtained from the Council's wells at Thaxted and Dunmow and from the Herts and Essex Waterworks Co., During the year chlorination of the water supplied from the Dunmow well was instituted and an iron removal plant installed.

In the whole district 522 new connections were made in the course of the year.

Samples from the above three sources were analysed during the year by the County Bacteriologist. In all instances these were satisfactory as the following reports show :-

Dunmow. This sample is not quite clear and bright, having faint opalescence and deposit containing iron oxides. The water is neutral in reaction, although a distinct trace of free carbonic acid is present; contains no excess of salinity and is very hard in character, although not to an excessive degree.

It is also of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity in which respects the water is considered pure and wholesome in character,

Dr. John A. Foster,
Boston.

December, 1930.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to submit a brief report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1930. Owing to present-day conditions the usual type of report has had to be curtailed. For similar reasons no separate report is being made by the Health Officer. However, a review of cases with is included in this report.

Throughout the year the general health of the district has been good with no serious outbreak of infectious diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of cases of notifiable infectious diseases was as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	8 cases.
Diphtheria	1 case.
Epidemic Fever	2 cases.
Typhoid	1 "
Paratyphoid	1 "
Shigellosis	1 "

During the year and during the winter months generally notifiable infectious diseases were reported from the district as follows:-

The Health Officer's Office has been notified of the following cases of infectious diseases occurring in the district in 1930:-

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases during the year were 14 in number and were made up as follows:-

Primary	4
Non-Primary	3
Primary	2
Non-Primary	5

WATER SUPPLY

The supplies for the district were obtained from the County's wells at Framingham and from the Lake and River Waterworks Co. During the year chlorination of the water supplied from the County wells was instituted and six new reservoir plants installed.

In the whole district 222 new connections were made in the course of the year.

Supplies from the above three sources were analysed during the year by the County bacteriologist. In all instances these were satisfactory as the following reports show:-

County. This supply is not pure clear and bright, having faint opalescence and deposit containing iron oxides. The water is not used in houses, although a distillate made at the County works is frequently consumed in houses of public buildings, although not in excessive degree.

It is also of satisfactory quality and bacteriologically pure in which respects the water is superior to that supplied in the County.

and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(This report refers to a sample taken before the chlorination and iron removal plants were installed).

Thaxted. This sample contains traces of iron and zinc and has slight opalescence and deposit, such as is customary to this water. It also has a high content of free carbonic acid.

The water is very hard in character, although not to such a degree as to be detrimental to health; contains no excess of salinity, and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity, consistent in these respects with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Herts & Essex Waterworks Company. This is a very satisfactory sample, clear and bright in appearance, and of a high degree of bacterial purity indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

SEWERAGE. GT.DUNMOW:-The effluent from these works was unsatisfactory throughout the year. A scheme for modernising these works was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health, a public inquiry was held and the scheme approved. Tenders were asked for but unfortunately at this stage the outbreak of hostilities brought the scheme to a standstill.

FELSTED:- The modernisation of these works was completed during the year. At the same time the sewer was connected to Felsted School and to Felsted Sugar Beet Factory. At first the effluent from the works was unsatisfactory but by the end of the year it complied with the Essex County Council Standards for a satisfactory effluent.

THAXTED:- These works deteriorated during the year; the effluent for the latter part of the year was unsatisfactory. A scheme prepared by the Surveyor, for these works was postponed by the outbreak of hostilities.

HATFIELD BROAD OAK:- The effluent from these works continued to be satisfactory.

HATFIELD HEATH:- These works also gave a satisfactory effluent throughout the year. In the whole district during 1939 107 new connections were made to the sewer, 96 to Council Houses and 11 to private houses.

HOUSING.

The number of houses recorded during the year was 128. Of these 31 were found unfit and represented.

Houses demolished by formal and informal action numbered 37, 4 were closed as a result of undertakings, 14 were made fit.

INSPECTIONS.

Routine inspections were carried out during the year. With regard to inspection of meat and foods the amount of unsound food surrendered during the year was 20.42 tons, all of which was done without formal proceedings being taken.

From September 1939 the Second Sanitary Inspector was almost wholly employed on Evacuation work as Billeting Officer.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Priority had to be given to work under this heading. By the end of the year the Casualty Services for the district were 1 Fixed First Aid Post and 2 Mobile First Aid Posts at Dunmow. 4 First Aid Parties (2 Dunmow, 2 Thaxted), 5 Auxiliary Ambulances (3 Dunmow, 2 Thaxted) and cars for sitting cases. 12 First Aid Points were established throughout the district.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES. The provision of health services was as in the previous year with expansion where necessary to meet needs of the evacuees received into the district in September.

The number of midwives practising in the district was 13 (12 District Nurse Midwives, 1 Independent).

There were no registered Nursing Homes in the district.

The laboratory facilities which are available through Essex County Council were used as follows:-

<u>Specimen.</u>	<u>No. Examined.</u>
Diphtheria	33
Sputa	28
Typhoid	6
General	19
Milk & Ice Cream	26
Water	29
Sewage	1

In conclusion I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their help and support and the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation since my appointment.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. MOFFAT.

Medical Officer of Health.

There were no registered hunting houses in the district.

The following statistics were available through

Essex County Council were used as follows:-

No. Registered.

25
20
10
10
20
20
1

Registered.

Witchamere
Barn
Tymon
Campan
Witchamere
Witchamere
Witchamere

In connection with the above I wish to thank the members of the
Council for their help and support and the Council's Officers for their valued
co-operation since my appointment.

I am, W. J. Chapman, Justice & Chairman.

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM J. WYATT.

Member, Officer of Health.