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Contributors

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DUNMOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking, -
Braintree.

December, 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a short report on the public health and sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1941. The usual type of report has had to be curtailed owing to war-time conditions, and for this same reason the Chief Sanitary Inspector has not submitted a separate report, but a short summary of the work of his department has been included in this report. Although the bulk of the usual statistical information has been omitted, all necessary records have been preserved with a view to their inclusion in fuller reports to be made available when conditions are more favourable.

The general health of the district remained satisfactory during the year, with no serious outbreak of infectious disease.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There were no changes in the general health services provided in the district during the year.

Staff.

The staff consisted of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and one unqualified assistant from January to September, when the unqualified assistant joined H.M. Forces. In September an additional Sanitary Inspector and a clerk commenced duties. At the end of the year the Staff consisted of the two sanitary inspectors and one clerk.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The public supplies were derived from the Council's waterworks at Thaxted and Dunmow and, in the case of the Parishes of Great and Little Hallingbury and Hatfield Broad Oak (including Hatfield Heath) from the Herts and Essex Waterworks Co.

At Thaxted, the installation of the plant for the removal of iron from the water was completed during 1941.

In all 108 new connections were made to the water mains in the course of the year.

Samples from all three sources were analysed by the County Bacteriologist, Dr. Suckling, at regular intervals throughout the year. Typical reports are as follows :-

Thaxted Waterworks - 15th November 1941.
Chemical results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance.	Clear and bright.			Odour	Nil.
Colour	Normal.			Free Carbonic Acid	4.0
Reaction pH	Neutral 7.0			Total solids dried at 180°C	49.0
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	730			Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	29.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	3.3			Temporary	27.0
Hardness: Total	36.0			Permanent	9.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00			Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.0140			Ammoniacal Nitrogen	-
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.004			Albuminoid Nitrogen	-
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80°F	0.010			"Free Chlorine reaction"	
Metals Iron: 0.010	Other metals absent			0.2 p.p.m.	

Bacteriological Results .

Number of Bacteria Growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in 1 day at 37°C	<u>0.</u>
" " " " " " " " cc. or ml. in 2 days " 37°C	<u>1.</u>
" " " " " " " " cc. or ml. in 3 days " 20°C	<u>-</u>
The Bacillus Coli _____ Present in _____ Absent in <u>100 cc.</u>	

Report:

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction although containing a distinct trace of free carbonic acid, and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character although not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of salinity, is of satisfactory organic quality and a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Dunmow Waterworks. 15th November 1941.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and bright.			Odour	Nil.
Colour	Normal			Free Carbonic Acid	2.2
Reaction pH	Neutral 7.3			Total solids dried at 180°C	46.0
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	690			Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	31.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	3.7			Temporary	29.0
Hardness: Total	36.0			Permanent	7.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00			Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.0004			Ammoniacal Nitrogen	-
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004			Albuminoid Nitrogen	-
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80°F	0.005			"Free chlorine reaction"	
Metals Absent.	"Free chlorine reaction"			0.1 p.p.m.	

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in 1 day at 37°C	<u>1</u>
" " " " " " " " cc. or ml. in 2 days " 37°C	<u>1</u>
" " " " " " " " cc. or ml. in 3 days " 20°C	<u>-</u>
The Bacillus Coli _____ Present in _____ Absent in 100 c.c.	
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis sporogenes) Present in _____ Absent in _____	

Report:-

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character although not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, is of good organic quality and a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory and consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for the purpose of public supply.

Herts and Essex Waterworks Company. 3rd November, 1941.

Number of colonies per cubic centimetre or millimetre of water growing on Agar in 37°C in 1 day	0
Number of colonies per cubic centimetre or millimetre of water growing upon Agar in 37° in 2 days	1
Number of colonies per cubic centimetre or millimetre of water growing upon Agar at 20°C in 3 days	8
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37°C (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)	Absent in 100 c.c
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteriditis Sporogenes)	Absent in 100 c.c

This is a very satisfactory sample.

It is clear and bright in appearance and of a high standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Great Dunmow Sewage Works.

These works continued to be overloaded and in consequence failed to yield satisfactory results. The 4 samples taken in 1941 were all unsatisfactory.

Thaxted Sewage Works.

The 4 samples taken in 1941, were all unsatisfactory.

Felstead Sewage Works.

The improvement noted in 1940 continued in 1941, and out of the four samples taken 2 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory and these latter were not markedly unsatisfactory.

Hatfield Broad Oak Sewage Works.

Both samples taken in 1941 gave satisfactory results.

Hatfield Heath Sewage Works.

The one sample taken this year yielded a satisfactory result.

There was one new connection to the sewer during 1941.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the combined system of refuse and salvage collection instituted in 1940 continued in 1941.

Sanitary Inspection.

Inspection on complaint were made as promptly as possible, but in many instances owing to shortage of staff in the earlier part of the year, there was considerable but unavoidable delay in attending to these matters.

Ordinary routine inspections could not be carried out in the circumstances.

HOUSING.

One licence was issued during 1941 for a condemned house to be occupied, and inspection of properties requisitioned to house homeless persons were made as required and temporary repairs carried out when necessary to bring these properties up to a reasonable war-time standard.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Inspections of all the premises in the district engaged in the production of milk were carried out. In 1941, 61 samples were taken and of these 52 were satisfactory and 9 were unsatisfactory.

Meat.

Inspection of meat were carried out in butchers' shops and other premises where it is exposed for sale. There is no slaughterhouse under the Ministry of Food's scheme for centralised slaughtering in this area. The slaughterhouse at the Dunmow Bacon Factory still continues to operate with the same arrangements as before with regard to meat inspection, whereby no call is made on the Council's staff for this work.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified to me during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	41	Measles	460
Whooping Cough	238	Pneumonia	1
Diphtheria	5	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1
Erysipelas	3	Encephalitis Lethargica	1

The case of Cerebro-Spinal fever proved fatal.

Most of the cases of Measles occurred during the first six months of the year, Whooping Cough being more prevalent in May and June.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

The scheme for the immunisation of children under the age of 15 years against diphtheria was in full working order in 1941. During the year regular visits were paid to all the schools in the district and regular sessions were held at various Child Welfare Clinics. The total number of children completely immunised at the end of 1941 was as follows :-

Children aged 5 to 15 (i.e., school children)	1,635.
Children under 5 years (i.e., pre-school children)	292.

These figures represent approximately 55% and 18.7% of the child population of the district in the respective age groups.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 73, and was made up as follows:-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Male	Female	Male	Female.
21	15	21	16

New cases notified during the year numbered 31. These were made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Male	Female	Male	Female
6	12	3	10

During the year there were 5 deaths of patients on the Tuberculosis Register.

EVACUATION.

In September 1941, 120 unaccompanied children arrived in the district, and billets had to be found for this number. As the year advanced numbers of these children returned to the city.

CASUALTY SERVICES.

As in the past year, administrative matters in connection with the local branches of these services devolved in large measure on the Public Health Officers.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Members of the Council for their support and the Council Officers for their help during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

Medical Officer of Health.

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The first report of cases in the Metropolitan District of the city of New York was made up as follows:

Year	Male	Female	Total
1917	12	3	15
1918	12	3	15
1919	12	3	15
1920	12	3	15
1921	12	3	15
1922	12	3	15
1923	12	3	15
1924	12	3	15
1925	12	3	15
1926	12	3	15
1927	12	3	15
1928	12	3	15
1929	12	3	15
1930	12	3	15

During the year there were 2 deaths of patients on the Metropolitan District.

In September 1931, the Metropolitan District was divided into two districts, and it is to be noted that the Metropolitan District has since that time reported a number of cases which returned to the city.

In the past year, administrative matters in connection with the Metropolitan District have been handled in large measure on the Metropolitan District.

In addition, I have to thank the Members of the Council for their support and the Metropolitan District for their help during the year.

Very respectfully,
W. J. HOFFMAN,
Metropolitan District.

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Metropolitan District.

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