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Contributors

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DUNMOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1942.

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

September, 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you a brief report on the public health and sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1942. As in the past two years, conditions again necessitate that the usual type of report has had to be curtailed and the bulk of the usual statistical information omitted. No separate report is being submitted by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, but a short review of the work of his department is presented herewith.

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, one qualified assistant 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 Company.

In all 43 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. E.V. Suckling, at regular intervals during the year. Typical reports are as follows :-

Thaxted Waterworks. 17th August, 1942.

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 excessive degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are satisfactory and consistent with an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for the purposes of public supply.

Dunmow Waterworks. 27th October, 1942.

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

It is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest 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 one sample taken in 1942 was unsatisfactory.

Thaxted Sewage Works.

The works continued to give concern during the year. No sample was taken.

Felstead Sewage Works.

The improvement noted in 1940 continued in 1942, and out of the two samples taken one was borderline and one unsatisfactory.

Hatfield Broad Oak Sewage Works.

One sample taken in 1942 gave very satisfactory results.

Hatfield Heath Sewage Works.

The one sample taken this year yielded a satisfactory result.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the combined system of refuse and salvage collection continued in 1942.

Sanitary Inspection.

Inspection on complaint was made as promptly as possible, and routine inspections carried out as circumstances permitted.

HOUSING.

Four licences issued during 1942 for condemned houses 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 1942, 80 samples were taken and of these 49 were satisfactory and 31 unsatisfactory.

Meat.

Inspection of meat was 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	13	Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Whooping Cough	59	Polio-myelitis	1
Diphtheria	2	Pneumonia	3
Measles	18		

There was one death from Laryngeal Diphtheria.

Mumps was prevalent among both adults and children during the spring and summer of 1942.

During the summer there was a slight outbreak of Infective Hepatitis among the Staff and children at St. Luke's Residential Nursery, Dunmow. This did not assume serious proportions and was confined to the Nursery. No other cases occurred in the District at this time.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Visits were paid to a small number of schools in the early part of the year to immunise a number of children who were absent when these schools were visited in 1941. Thereafter, sessions were held at the Child Welfare Clinic, Dunmow for both school children and those of pre-school age. The total number of children immunised at the end of 1942 was as follows :-

Children aged 5-15 (i.e., school children)	2037.
Children under 5 (i.e., pre-school children)	617.

These figures represent approximately 81% and 36% 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 93, and was made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
29	22	17	25

New cases notified during the year numbered 37. These were made up as follows:-

Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
12	7	7	11

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

EVACUATION.

No organised evacuation took place during the year but small numbers continued to require billeting. The number of evacuees remaining in the district at the end of 1942 was 1,274.

CASUALTY SERVICES.

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

In December 1942, Doctor Moffat was released to join the Forces, and from that date I took over his duties in so far as the Dunmow Rural District was concerned. You will understand that the bulk of this report is based on the work of my predecessor. I wish to thank the Council Officers who have so kindly assisted me in compiling it.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. A. HALL,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

THE FOLLOWING STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN RETURNED TO ME BY THE
SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
ON THE 10th DAY OF JANUARY 1901
IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE
AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, THIS 10th DAY OF JANUARY 1901

There are no other persons named in the return
of the Sheriff of the County of Los Angeles
during the term of office of the Sheriff of Los Angeles
except the Sheriff and his deputies and the persons named
in the return of the Sheriff of the County of Los Angeles
and the persons named in the return of the Sheriff of the County of Los Angeles

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