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Contributors

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DUNMOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH
A 24 AUG 1946
O.R. 25

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Public Health Offices
Town Hall
Braintree.

August. 1946.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a short report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Dunmow Rural District for the year 1945. This review follows the same lines as those submitted during the war and incorporates the work of the Sanitary Inspector's department.

The Health of the District remained good and there has been no serious epidemic of Infectious Disease.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There have been 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 until October, 1945.

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 93 new connections were made to the water mains in the course of the year.

Samples from all three sources were analysed by the Counties' Public Health Laboratories at regular intervals. Typical reports are as follows:-

Thaxted Waterworks. 11.2.45.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, but not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Dunmow Waterworks. 4.12.45.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes.

Herts and Essex Waterworks Company. 24.10.45.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance having only very faint opalescence and slight deposit, due to the presence of a trace of iron. The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution, and is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes, apart from the slight objection that it is not quite clear and bright in appearance.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Great Dunmow Sewage Works.

The three samples taken during the year all gave unsatisfactory results.

Thaxted Sewage Works.

3 samples were taken during the year. 2 gave unsatisfactory results, and 1 satisfactory.

Felstead Sewage Works.

4 samples were taken during the year. 3 gave satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory results.

Hatfield Heath Sewage Works.

All 3 samples taken during the year yielded satisfactory results.

Hatfield Broad Oak Sewage Works.

All 3 samples taken during the year yielded satisfactory results.

Dunmow Aerodrome Sewage Works.

All 4 samples taken yielded satisfactory results.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the combined system of refuse and salvage collection continued in 1945.

Sanitary Inspection.

Inspection on complaint was made as promptly as circumstances permitted.

INCUBATION

Incubation of property, private and hospitalization, was carried out and regular expected to keep the property up to a reasonable standard. No new houses were constructed in the District during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

44 samples of milk were submitted to the District for tuberculin test. None gave positive results. 8 samples were submitted to the District for bacteriological examination and 3 were satisfactory.

Meat

Inspection of meat was carried out in butchers' shops and other premises where it is exposed for sale. There is no slaughtering in this area.

The slaughterhouse at the District was closed at the outbreak of the epidemic. The same management as before was continued as usual with the same management as before with regard to meat inspection. No meat is sold in the District's shops for this work.

EXAMINATION

No organized vaccination took place during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were reported during the year:-

Whooping Cough	25	Acute Folliculitis	1
Dysentery	12	Cerebro-spinal Fever	3
Diarrhoea	1	Trachoma	5
Scabies	1	Scabies	1
Measles	12	Measles	1

There were 4 cases of Infectious Diseases in 1945: 2 from Cerebro-spinal Fever and 2 from Whooping Cough.

An epidemic of Measles occurred in the early summer. Cases were principally confined to children under the age of 10 years.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

Monthly injections for Diphtheria Prophylaxis were given to all children under 15 years of age in the District during the year.

The total number of children immunized in this District since the inception of the scheme in 1940 was as follows:-

Children aged 5 - 15 (1st dose only)	2,302
Children under 5 years (1st dose only)	931

These figures represent approximately 75% and 85% of the general child population in the District in the respective years.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 110, and was made up as follows:-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
26	29	26	29

29 new cases were notified during 1945, and were made up as follows:-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
8	10	6	5

There were 3 deaths of persons on the Tuberculosis Register in 1945.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council's Officers who have kindly assisted me in compiling this Report.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S.A.HALL.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of cases on the International Register at the end of the year was 110, and was made up as follows:-

Respiratory. Non-Respiratory.

Y.	M.	F.	T.
30	22	23	30

His new cases were notified during 1902, and were made up as follows:-

Respiratory. Non-Respiratory.

Y.	M.	F.	T.
5	3	10	2

There were 3 deaths of persons on the International Register in 1902.

I wish to express my thanks to the General's Office who have kindly assisted me in compiling this Report.

I am,
Sir, your obedient servant,

Wm. Johnston, M.D.

Edinburgh.

Accepted for the Registrar-General of Scotland.

An epidemic of Measles occurred in the early summer. Cases were principally confined to children under the age of 10 years.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.