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**Contributors**

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BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1939.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a report of the health and sanitary conditions of the Braintree Rural District for the year 1939. War-time conditions necessitate that this forms a brief review instead of the usual statistical account. No separate report is being submitted by the Sanitary Inspector, whose work for the year is covered by this report.

The health of the District has been good with no serious epidemic of infectious disease.

Infectious Disease.

Cases of notifiable infectious disease have occurred as follows:-

	44 cases.
Scarlet Fever.	5 "
Diphtheria.	4 "
Pneumonia.	2 "
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1 "
Erysipelas.	

Measles and Whooping Cough were made generally notifiable in November, 1939, but no notifications were received before the end of the year.

There was no increase in the incidence of infectious disease due to the reception of evacuees into the District.

Tuberculosis.

The number of new cases notified during the year totalled eight and was made up as follows :-

	Male.	Female.
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>
	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>
2.	3.	2.
		1.

Water supplies.

The South Eastern Water Scheme has been completed during the year. Apart from isolated houses, all parishes in the Southern portion of the District now have a main water supply available. This supply is connected to the Stisted water mains, and the water-works in that parish have been discontinued, but these works are held as a stand-by in case of a breakdown elsewhere. The booster for the Marks Hall area was installed towards the end of the year.

Analyses of samples from the Water-works at Coggeshall and Terling have been satisfactory.

Progress has been made with the Northern Area Water Scheme, which it is hoped will be completed by the middle of 1940.

Sewerage.

The existing sewerage schemes in the District continue to give satisfaction. The new sewerage scheme for Gressing and Black and White Nottley has been completed, as has also that for Peering Village.

Owners of property have generally been anxious to avail themselves of the facilities for drainage provided thereby, and numerous pail closets have been discontinued and water closets provided in their place.

Inspections.

Routine Inspections of Meat and Food and of licensed and registered premises, were carried out as usual throughout the year.

Housing.

Good progress was made during the year with the improvement of unfit houses one-hundred and fifteen of these being dealt with by comprehensive reconditioning schemes. The outbreak of War brought difficulty in obtaining building materials and this work has practically come to a standstill. That owners should keep these premises in a weatherproof condition and prevent the occurrence of conditions liable to cause ill-health, is the maximum that is asked for the time being.

All the Council's housing schemes have had to come to an end for the duration of the War.

General Health Services.

These have been maintained as far as possible on pre-war lines, and in the latter part of the year, have had to cater for evacuees and the normal population as well.

The laboratory facilities provided by the County Council were made use of as follows :-

<u>Specimen.</u>	<u>Number examined.</u>
Diphtheria.	510.
Sputa.	57.
Typhoid.	3.
Ringworm.	1.
Water.	13.
General.	58.

The number of midwives practicing in the District is fifteen, nine of whom are District Nurse Midwives.

The number of Registered Nursing Homes is two.

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

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. MOFFAT.