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Contributors

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HAVERHILL URBAN DISTRICT

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1969

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District
of Haverhill in the County of West Suffolk for
the year ended 31st December 1969

Public Health Department,
Severals House,
Newmarket.

October, 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1969. Dr. J.R.M. Murdoch, your Medical Officer of Health, resigned in September having only served the authority and adjoining districts for one year. Accordingly the work of the Medical Officer of Health has been carried out by myself and associates in the public health service. Repeated attempts have been unsuccessful in obtaining a qualified Medical Officer of Health to succeed Dr. Murdoch and it may quite well be that the probable delay over local government re-organisation and conditions of service have created an air of uncertainty amongst public health medical officers which is affecting morale and recruitment. Until the whole position of the medical officer of health in local government is clarified it would appear that there is little possibility of recruiting a qualified public health doctor to the service.

A study of the vital statistics as enumerated in section B shows that this expanding town in East Anglia is growing at a steady rate. Apart from immigration the difference of birth rate and death rate is such as to make a significant alteration to the natural growth of population. Whilst the crude death rate is a low figure of 7.6 when adjusted to take account of the age and sex population in the community it produces a figure of 11.1 which is significantly below the general death rate for England and Wales of 11.3. The number of notifiable infectious diseases was at a very low ebb and only a total of 9 were recorded, as compared with 127 in the previous year when there was an outbreak of measles.

A perusal of your public health inspector's report detailing the work which is carried out in the town shows that he and his assistant are dealing adequately with the manifold problems which are inherent in a town which is rapidly growing in all spheres of local government.

May I now take the opportunity of saying how satisfactory it is to me personally to be associated with Haverhill as I have for a number of years and record how much I am indebted to the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Banks in particular, and all other members of the Urban District Council staff, not only for the help they give the health department but their interest in all matters affecting the social development of the county.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

D.A. McCRACKEN

Acting Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District
of Havering in the County of West Suffolk for
the year ended 31st December 1939

Public Health Department,
Haverhill House,
Haverhill.
October, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1939. Dr. J.M.W. Knibb, your Medical Officer of Health, resigned in September having only served the authority and adjoining districts for one year. Accordingly the work of the Medical Officer of Health has been carried out by myself and associates in the public health services. Reported attempts have been unsuccessful in obtaining a qualified Medical Officer of Health to succeed Dr. Knibb and it may quite well be that the probable delay over local Government re-organisation and conditions of service have created an air of uncertainty amongst public health medical officers which is affecting morale and recruitment. Until the whole position of the medical officer of health in local government is clarified it would appear that there is little possibility of recruiting a qualified public health doctor to the service.

A study of the vital statistics as summarized in section I shows that this expanding town in East Anglia is growing at a steady rate. Apart from fluctuations the difference of birth rate and death rate is such as to make a significant addition to the natural growth of population. Whilst the crude death rate is a low figure of 7.6 when adjusted to take account of the age and sex population in the community it produces a figure of 11.1 which is significantly below the general death rate for England and Wales of 11.7. The number of notifiable infectious diseases was at a very low ebb and only 2,400 of 9 were recorded, as compared with 127 in the previous year when there was an outbreak of measles.

A perusal of your public health inspector's report detailing the work which is carried out in the town shows that he and his assistants are dealing adequately with the manifold problems which are inherent in a town which is rapidly growing in all spheres of local government.

My I now take the opportunity of saying how satisfactory it is to me personally to be associated with Haverhill as I have for a number of years and record how much I am indebted to the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Harris in particular, and all other members of the Urban District Council staff, not only for the help they give the health department but their interest in all matters affecting the social development of the country.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
D.A. McCORMACK

Acting Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

<u>GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS</u>	
Area of the District	2,530 acres
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.69)	£414,669
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,750
Rates	15/2d.
(County Rate 9/11d. U.D.C. Rate 5/3d.)	
Number of inhabited houses	3,872
Estimated population	11,210
Population - Census 1961	5,446

The industrial activities of the district are varied and include agriculture, the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats, textile fabrics, brushes, ropes, twines, sacks, telecommunications equipment, office furniture, steel furniture, wooden furniture, sports equipment, sheet metal products, essences, oil well equipment, jewellery, watches, ladders, non-ferrous castings, scientific glass-ware, fibre glass mouldings, wooden cabinets, wooden household products, fine chemicals, paint, refrigeration appliances, weighing machines, food machinery, tools and electrical and mechanical components, ventilation equipment, display models, motor vehicle lamp holders and batteries. There are firms engaged in engineering, specialist packing, the processing of animal feeding stuffs, paper converting and food warehousing.

There is a Town Development scheme which is being carried out with the co-operation of the Greater London Council.

SECTION B

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR (as supplied by the General Register Office)

(Figures in brackets relate to previous year)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	159	131	290	(254)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	6	15	(16)
Total								168	137	305	(270)

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.2	(25.2)
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor .75)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.4	(18.6)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.3	(16.9)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	(5.9)

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	(4)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1	(-)
Total								2	3	5	(4)

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	(14.6)
" " " " " " " " (Eng. & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	(14.0)

<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160	134	294	(258)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	6	16	(16)
Total								170	140	310	(274)

<u>DEATHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	40	85	(92)
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor 1.46)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.6	(8.6)
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.1	(13.8)
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.9	(11.9)

<u>INFANT MORTALITY - Deaths of infants under one year of age</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	1	1	(5)
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(-)
Total								-	1	1	(5)

<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>											
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	(18.5)
" " " " " " " " (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	(18.0)

<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>											
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	(11.1)

<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>											
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	(11.1)

<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>											
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	(25.5)

<u>ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS</u>								<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Birth Rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.9	20.1	21.4	21.0	18.6	20.4
Death Rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.5	10.9	11.0	11.3	13.8	11.1

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-
Other malignant neoplasms	3	2
Diabetes mellitus	1	1
Anaemias	1	-
Hypertensive disease	2	2
Ischaemic heart disease	15	4
Other forms of heart disease	-	2
Cerebrovascular disease	4	12
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	-
Influenza	2	2
Pneumonia	1	6
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Peptic ulcer	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1
Congenital anomalies	1	-
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1
	<u>45</u>	<u>40</u>
1968	50	42

SECTION C

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.R.M. Murdoch
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Resigned September 1969

ENGINEER and SURVEYOR

F.G. Johnson, C.Eng., M.I. Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.I.H.E.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. Banks, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. R. Purr, M.A.P.H.I.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals within the area

Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

Nursing in the Home

District Nurses are available for nursing and midwifery duties

Infant Welfare

A Welfare Clinic is held weekly on Fridays and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1969 is shown in the following table :-

	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	5	6	13	1	7	21	1	-	1	-
Measles	11	2	191	3	246	5	34	549	5	121	3
Whooping Cough	5	2	27	4	8	29	1	21	30	5	5
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	16	9	224	20	255	41	56	571	36	127	9

SECTION E

TUBERCULOSIS

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis Register

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1. Cases at commencement of 1969	5	5	-	1	11
2. First notified during 1969	-	1	-	-	1
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by transfers	1	1	-	-	2
5. Cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-
6. Remaining at 31.12.69	6	7	-	1	14

SECTION F

WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied to your area by the West Suffolk Water Board.

Purity of the Water

Samples taken throughout the district for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

Samples for chemical analysis were taken by the Board. The Analyst reported that the water was suitable for drinking and general purposes.

The fluoride content of the water is negligible.

Rainfall

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge during the years 1964 to 1966 at the Waterworks and at the Sewage Works since 1967, as compared with 1969

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
January	2.39	2.06	1.21	1.02	1.96	0.80
February	1.95	1.02	1.59	2.25	0.81	1.44
March	2.23	1.22	0.80	0.51	1.63	2.02
April	1.39	1.81	2.48	2.15	2.03	1.94
May	2.44	1.19	2.83	1.34	1.05	1.15
June	1.45	2.37	1.54	2.95	1.91	3.14
July	3.17	3.24	1.18	2.71	3.00	0.76
August	2.25	3.33	1.99	2.01	2.67	0.62
September	0.60	4.66	2.28	0.65	3.83	0.79
October	0.24	2.04	3.95	2.52	0.70	0.90
November	2.87	1.09	2.27	1.63	2.46	1.05
December	2.60	1.43	2.33	3.08	3.72	1.69

23.58	25.46	24.45	22.82	25.77	16.30
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OPEN-AIR SWIMMING POOL

The Open-Air Swimming Pool is situated at Swan Lane near to the centre of the town. The main pool is 75' x 30' with a maximum depth of 7' constructed in 1930, with a Junior Pool 40' x 20' with a depth varying from 1'6" to 3'0". A filtration and chlorination plant was installed in 1938 and increased in capacity in 1964. A heating system for both pools was installed for this year's season.

The charges are £1.5s.0d. for Adult Season Ticket holders and 17/6d. for Junior Season Ticket holders. The charge for a single session is 2/- for adults and 1/- for children.

There were 15 Adult season, 200 Junior season tickets sold. In addition 2,979 adults and 16,699 juniors paid for admission.

The pool was reserved for the exclusive use of schools during the summer term in the mornings and four afternoons and one evening each week is reserved for the Swimming Club.

Daily field tests are carried out on the bath water and regular bacteriological tests are carried out which show that a regular high standard was achieved.

SEWERAGE

During this past year a new sewer was laid from the existing trunk adjacent to the Sturmer Arches along Bumpstead Road and the Helions Bumpstead Road in order to deal with the expanding industrial estate. The Contract figure for this work was £18,000.

A commencement was made on the provision of the new Trunk sewer from the Sewage Works along the Relief Road, the Pightle, Withersfield Road to the junction at Melbourne Bridge. The Contract figure for this Scheme is £90,584. 13s. 3d.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Work commenced on the re-design and Extension of the Sewage Works at Coupals Road. A Contract in the sum of £624,000. 0s. 0d. has been let and work commenced on 8th April, 1969. The Scheme is due for completion in June 1971 and will cater for a flow of 1.83 million gallons per day DWF, and is designed to give a 10:10 standard to meet the requirements of the Essex River Authority.

Number of dwelling houses connected to the Sewers 3,878

Number of dwelling houses not connected to the Sewers 40
(not within a reasonable distance of a public sewer)

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection of domestic trade refuse is undertaken by the department. 3,837 domestic premises and approximately 254 trade, commercial and other premises are now collected weekly.

The bonus system of refuse collection which was organised in 1963 is continuing and is working satisfactorily.

Collection is carried out by a 40 cub. yd. Dennis Paxit III compressor type lorry and a Fore and Aft tipper lorry and disposal is by tipping.

A Vickers Seerdum 50 ton capacity Refuse Pulveriser plant which the Council ordered is being installed at the Council's Sewage Works, Coupals Road at a Contract figure of £53,326, and will become operative about the middle of 1970. The processed material will be taken to the Council's new tip which has been acquired at Puddlebrook.

The collection of bulk items of household refuse which is undertaken free of charge has proved to be a very useful service to the town and more and more people are taking advantage of the Council's Scheme.

The number of abandoned vehicles in the town has grown but by using the powers given under the Civic Amenities Act for their removal and disposal the problem has virtually ceased. We have moved approximately 54 vehicles during this last twelve months.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of visits and inspections	3,596
The above inspections are divided into :-	
Dwelling Houses (Housing Act)	12
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	109
Complaints investigated	288
Bakehouses	3
Butchers Shops and Manufacturing Premises	127
Cafes Restaurants and Canteens	85
Dairies	10
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	9
Other Food Shops	195
Food Stalls and Vehicles	415
Public Houses	39
Slaughterhouses	14
Poultry Processing Premises	70
Drainage	134
Rodent Infestation	415
Insect Infestation	185
Disinfestation	4
Clean Air Act 1956	64
Factories	296
Outworkers Premises	27
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	452
Noise Abatement Act	91
Water Sampling	42
Water Supplies	8
Swimming Baths	22
Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956	10
Explosives Act 1875 & 1923	56
Petroleum Installations	122
Hackey Carriage Vehicles	17
Miscellaneous Visits	252
Pet Animals Act, 1951	8
Infectious disease enquiries	16
Number of Informal Notices	30

COUNCIL HOUSING

During the year 16 4-bedroom houses and 97 3-bedroom houses were completed.

At the end of the year the Council owned :-

183	4-bedroom houses
1,983	3-bedroom houses
253	2-bedroom houses
52	2-bedroom bungalows
34	1-bedroom bungalows
46	bedsitter bungalows
4	3-bedroom flats
36	2-bedroom flats
16	1-bedroom flats
16	bedsitter flats
21	other houses purchased by the Council
<u>2,644</u>	

POULTRY INSPECTION

There is one small poultry slaughterhouse within the district which was visited 70 times during the year. A total of 4,734 birds consisting of 3,687 hens and 1,047 chickens were slaughtered during the year. 0.32 per cent of the birds weighing a total of 74 lbs. were rejected as unfit for human consumption

Slaughtering normally takes place once or twice a week at these premises and an inspector pays a visit on each occasion. The premises are clean and well conducted and the low rate of rejection of unfit birds is due to the fact that the proprietor rejects emaciated and poor birds at the farms rather than bring them to the slaughterhouse.

FOOD PREMISES

Butchers' Shops	.. .. .	10
Butchers' Manufacturing Premises	.. .. .	9
Bakehouses	.. .. .	1
Grocers' and General Stores	.. .. .	12
Cafes, school kitchens & factory canteens	.. .. .	14
Wet and fried fish shops	.. .. .	4
Greengrocery	.. .. .	7
Sweets, confectionery	.. .. .	16
Dairies, pasteurising plants & milk depots	.. .. .	2
Hotels with catering facilities	.. .. .	2
Public Houses and licensed clubs	.. .. .	14
Off Licence shops	.. .. .	2
Licensed slaughterhouses	.. .. .	1

For the most part there was the utmost co-operation from members of the food trades in securing compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and 1962.

SECTION G

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the

Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

- 1 - Inspections for the purpose of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	90	268	3	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers premises)	9	27	-	-
Total	100	296	5	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	3	3			

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134

Section 133			Section 134			
Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (C) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in u:whole-some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel making etc.	22	-	-	-	-	-
Total	22	-	-	-	-	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more
separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Handled	Referred	
(1)	(2)	(3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)
Want of Cleanliness (8.1)				
Overcrowding (8.2)				
Unreasonable temperature (8.3)				
Inadequate ventilation (8.4)				
Infective drains (8.5)				
Sanitary conveniences (8.6)				
(a) Insufficient				
(b) Unavailable or defective				
(c) Not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)				
Total	3	3	1	

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork - Sections 133 and 134

Section 133				Section 134			
Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August last	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Wearing apparel making etc.	22	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	22	-	-	-	-	-	



