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Contributors

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

upon the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

of the

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

for the Year

1939

C. B. MOSS-BLUNDELL, M.D., D.P.H.

County Medical Officer of Health,

School Medical Officer and Tuberculosis Officer.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Alderman W. Brown

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor G. Herbert

Aldermen:

C. G. Argles

A. J. Bird

F. C. S. Green

The Earl of Sandwich

C. G. Tebbutt

A. G. Lenton

W. M. Richards

W. Wood Horn

W. Reed

Councillors:

Mrs. Allen

M. J. Allen

F. C. Boyes

C. A. Brown

W. L. Burgess

C. H. Chandler

F. Chapman

R. L. Farley

F. W. Figg

C. J. Godfrey

E. H. J. Duberly

W. Gray

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J. H. Howgate

G. H. Ibbett

H. E. Ibbott

E. E. Mann

C. Norman

F. H. M. Nichols

Rev. E. V. O'Connor

G. P. Radford

Lord de Ramsey

Lady Shepperson

W. A. Strangward

C. F. Tebbutt

Sir John Scott

H. Vawser

Co-opted Members for the purposes of the Midwives Act, 1917:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Mrs.E.V.Compton | Miss Edith Tillard |
| Mrs.C.D.Day | Lady Sandwich |
| Mrs.M.Harding | Mrs.R.F.Serjeant |
| Miss P.Looker | Mrs.Percy Tomson |
| Mrs.D.L.Pledger | Mrs.E.M.Wicks |

County Medical Officer of Health:

C.B.Moss-Blundell, M.D., D.P.H.
Telephone :- Huntingdon 81.

Assistant Medical Officers:

Anne E.Connan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M.
D.S.Buchanan, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
(Appointed January, 1939)

Dental Officers:

H.G.L.Fletcher, L.D.S., R.C.S., (Eng.)
(On Military Service from September, 1939).
W.K.Rimmer, L.D.S., D.D.S.
(Appointed Acting Senior Dental Officer, Sept.1939).
W.D.McDonald, L.D.S.
(Appointed Temporary Dental Officer, 1939)

County Superintendent of Nurses:

Miss D.L.Speechley.

Health Visitors:

Mrs.E.C.Archer. Mrs.M.E.Bullock. Miss M.E.Lewis.

Medical Officers whose services are available.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

Dr.J.Hurndall Gann.

Orthopaedic Surgeons:

Mr.Wilson Stuart, F.R.C.S., and Mr.J.S.Dockrell, F.R.C.S.

Mental Treatment Specialist:

Dr.N.McDiarmid and the staff of the Three Counties Mental Hospital.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons:

Mr.J.P.Monkhouse at the Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
Dr.H.Craven Veitch at the Huntingdon County Hospital.

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1939 is divided into two periods, the first eight months before the war commenced, and the second four months during the period of the war.

The earlier period was one of preparation in which the energies of the Public Health Department were to a great extent centred upon First Aid Posts and Points and the training of personnel. The ordinary work of the Department went on in a modified form but a scheme was approved for the extension of the Clinics, both for Maternity and Child Welfare and for School Children, and the districts of the Health Visitors were altered, partly to cut down unnecessary travelling. Proposals were discussed for a new Clinic, and a new Hospital, and a scheme for the early diagnosis and treatment of Cancer was inaugurated.

In September everything changed. Thousands of refugees came into the County, ordinary work was suspended and every attention was given to the housing and care of the evacuees. Amongst other parties to be received were the Dockland Settlement and the Sun Babies' Nursery, both of which, towards the end of the year, ceased to be independent units and were merged into a County Scheme. Brampton Park, St. Edwards Home and The Holme, Godmanchester, were used for this purpose.

The Health Visitors were directed to devote their attention to the care of the refugees and to prevent, as far as possible, infection which might be brought from the evacuated towns.

Sick Bays for the nursing of cases of illness, not sufficiently severe to permit of admission to Hospital, were opened and Paxton Park Maternity Hospital commenced to function at a few hours' notice. An Obstetric Consultant was allocated to the area from London, extra Medical and Dental Officers were appointed and, by the end of the year, things were beginning to settle down under the altered conditions.

The health of the County was much better than one might have anticipated and no serious epidemic was experienced by the end of 1939.

This report, following the wishes of the Ministry of Health, is much reduced in size compared with its predecessors but the necessary records are being preserved for future reference.

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient servant,

C.B.MOSS-BLUNDELL.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres) 233,985
Population (estimated mid 1939) 57,210

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|-------|---------|-------|
| Live Births | | | |
| (Legitimate) | 419 | 384 | 803 |
| (Illegitimate) | 22 | 17 | 39 |
| (Total Births) | 441 | 401 | 842 |
| Birth-rate per 1,000 population: 14.7 | | | |
| Still births: 33 Rate per 1,000 total births: 37 | | | |
| Deaths: Total 795 Death-rate - Crude 13.4 Adjusted 11.3 | | | |
| Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth | | | |
| Sepsis: nil Other causes: nil | | | |
| Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births | | | |
| Legitimate 32 Illegitimate 103 Total death-rate 36 | | | |
| Deaths from measles (all ages) nil | | | |
| Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) 1 | | | |
| Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1 | | | |

The Birth-rate for 1939 is 14.7 as compared with 15.2 for 1938. Illegitimate births number 5 per cent of the total live births. The adjusted Death-rate for 1939 is 11.3; the rate for England and Wales is 12.1. The Infant Mortality Rate is 36 as compared with 46 for 1938 and the rate for England and Wales for 1939 is 50.

It is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths of women from conditions directly associated with child-birth. The number of deaths from Cancer was 128 as compared

with 104 for 1938, from Heart Disease 181 as compared with 165 for 1938 and from Pneumonia 35 as compared with 32 for 1938, and from Tuberculosis (all forms) 28 as compared with 30 for 1938.

MATERNITY AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES

There are 19 Nursing Associations employing 28 Nurse Midwives. The work done by these Nurses is as follows:- Midwifery cases 456, Maternity cases 367, General Sick Nursing cases 2,427, No. of Nursing visits 48,875, No. of casual visits 6,099 and Ante-natal visits 5,969.

The District Nurses also act as Infant Health Visitors and 7,110 visits were made to children of under 1 year of age and 9,629 visits to children between 1 and 5 years of age.

The County Council are fortunate in having the services of Mr. Leonard Phillips as Gynaecological Consultant.

Dental treatment is available for expectant and nursing mothers. During the year 1186 attendances were made by patients and in 139 cases dentures were supplied, the whole or part cost being recovered from the patient according to her means.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

There was an increase in attendances at all Centres during the year, and an increase in attendance of children over one year as well as those under one year.

St. Neots - The numbers increased to such an extent that it was necessary to spread the attendances over two sessions so that the town people could attend at one and the people from the outlying districts could attend at the other on a day suitable

from the point of view of bus services.

Ramsey - The attendances here remained much the same and a good many wives of R.A.F. men attended with their babies.

Gt. Staughton - With the large village hall we were able to accommodate more women and the mothers and babies were brought up by bus from the outlying villages of Kimbolton, Tilbrook, Perry and Grafham and the attendances were much increased.

St. Ives - The attendances at this Clinic continue to increase.

Huntingdon - Huntingdon and Godmanchester were divided and mothers and babies from both districts attend at the Huntingdon County Council Clinic, George Street, Huntingdon. The attendances have increased.

Thanks are due to the ladies, who come and run the Centres voluntarily, for the very fine work they do there, encouraging the mothers and making them welcome, and really making the Welfare Clinic a Social Centre. I should also like to thank the members of the Red Cross who give valuable assistance.

When it is possible, the Doctors like to give a short talk to the mothers, but the attendances are becoming so much increased that unfortunately these talks are getting crowded out. Some other arrangements will have to be made for carrying these on.

MIDWIVES ACTS

The number of Midwives who notified their intention to practice was 40 (29 Domiciliary and 11 in Institutions). Notices of sending for medical help were received in 187 cases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 - 1938.

On the 31st December, 1939 there were 66 Accredited Producers in the County and 2 Tuberculin Tested Producers. Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928 and Food and Drugs Act 1938.

On the 1st October 1939 the Food and Drugs Act 1938 which is largely a consolidating Statute took the place of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928. The County Council are the "Food and Drugs" Authority for the County of Huntingdon, and for the Boroughs of Godmanchester, Huntingdon and St. Ives, the Rural Districts of Horman Cross and St. Neots, the County Council have undertaken certain duties which would otherwise be carried out by these local authorities.

119 formal and 13 informal samples of milk were taken during the year. Of these 38 formal and 4 informal samples were regarded as adulterated, below standard, or otherwise not complying with prescribed requirements.

8 formal and 53 informal samples of other articles were taken and of these 1 formal and 4 informal did not comply with prescribed requirements.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following shows the position as regards infectious diseases in the County during 1939 :-

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <u>Diphtheria</u> | The number of cases notified was 29 |
| <u>Smallpox</u> | No cases notified |
| <u>Scarlet Fever</u> | 46 cases notified as against 25 in 1938 |
| <u>Enteric Fever</u> | 3 cases notified as against 1 in 1938 |
| <u>Erysipelas</u> | 28 cases notified |
| <u>Pneumonia</u> | 65 cases notified as compared with 42 cases in 1938 |
| <u>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</u> | 1 case notified |
| <u>Puerperal Pyrexia</u> | 17 cases notified |

TUBERCULOSIS

47 cases of pulmonary and 19 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

47 cases were admitted to Sanatoria and 204 attendances were made at the Dispensaries.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The arrangements in force during previous years have been continued. The following is an abstract relating to persons treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinics:-

| | <u>Cambridge</u> | <u>Peterborough</u> | <u>Bedford</u> |
|--|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| No. of new cases: Syphilis | 2 | 4 | - |
| Soft Chancre | - | 1 | - |
| Gonorrhoea | 4 | 17 | - |
| Conditions other than Venereal | 2 | 11 | 2 |
| Total | <u>8</u> | <u>33</u> | <u>2</u> |
| Total number of attendances of all patients | 93 | 1078 | 25 |