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1938.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

Rural Sanitary District

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT

BY

W. S. WALLACE, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Isle of Hight:

w. blake and son, printers, town lane,
newport.

Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

W. S. WALLACE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.

County Hall, Newport, F. W.

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W. BLAKE AND SON, PRINTERS, TOWN LANE,
NEWPORT.

County Hall,

Newport, I.W.

June, 1939.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my thirteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances, Sanitary Administration and Vital Statistics for the year 1938.

The report is in accordance with Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health and the tables are in the prescribed form.

The year has been a healthy one and the amount of infectious disease apart from measles has been negligible.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. WALLACE, Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)					57,463
Estimated Population	(1938)				15,740
Number of inhabited	hous	es (enc	l of	1938)	
according to rate	books				5,434
Rateable value					£108,653
Sum represented by a	penny	rate			£436

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area is mainly rural and the industries mainly agricultural. There is also a large fluctuating population of seaside and other visitors.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	YEAR	R.	
Live Births—	Total	Male	es Females
Legitimate	182	95	87
Illegitimate	11	6	5
Birth rate per 1,000 12.3	of the estin	nated resi	dent population—
Still Births	Total	Male	es Females
Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	1	1	_
Rate per 1,000 tot	al (live an	d still) bir	rths—44.6
	Total	Male.	s Females
Deaths	213	116	97
Death rate per 1,000 13.5	of the estir	nated resi	dent population—
Death from puerper Registrar Gener	The state of the s		29 and 30 of the
			Rate per 1,000 (Live & still) births
No. 29 puerperal sep	osis	-	-
No. 30 other puerpe	ral causes	_	
Total		_	

Death rate o	f infants	under o	ne year	of age	:	
All infa	nts per 1	,000 live	e births			36.3
Legitim	ate infan	ts per 1,	000 legi	timate	live birt	hs 22.0
Illegitin	nate	,,	illegi	timate	,,	272.7
Deaths from	Measles	(all age	es)			1
>>	Whoopi	ng Cou	gh (all a	ages)		Nil
,,	Diarrho	ea (und	er 2 yea	ars of a	ge)	1
,,	Cancer	(all age	s)			35

BIRTHS.

The total number of births was 202. This gives a birth-rate of 12.8 per 1,000 living, the birth-rate for England and Wales generally being 15.7.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 213, giving a crude death-rate of 13.5 per 1,000, of the estimated resident population. The Registrar General gives a comparability figure of 0.73 which makes a comparative death-rate of 9.8; the death-rate for England and Wales being 11.6.

The causes of death were as follows:-

The cause	s of uc.	atti we	ic as ic	mows		
					Males	Females
All Causes					116	97
Typhoid and I	aratyp	hoid F	evers			_
Measles					-	1
Scarlet Fever					_	_
Whooping Cou	igh				_	
Diphtheria					-	
Influenza					4	1
Encephalitis le	thargica	a				_
Cerebro-spinal	Fever				_	
Tuberculosis of	respira	atory s	ystem		1	2
Other tubercul	ous disc	eases			_	2
Syphilis					-	2

			Males	Females
General paralysis of the	insane,	tabes		
dorsalis			1	-
Cancer, malignant disease		***	10	25
Diabetes			1	3
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c			5	7
Heart disease			46	26
Aneurysm			-	_
Other circulatory diseases			5	5
Bronchitis			2	-
Pneumonia (all forms)	***		6	3
Other respiratory diseases			1	_
Peptic ulcer			1	_
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 y	ears)		_	1
Appendicitis			2	1
Cirrhosis of liver			_	-
Other diseases of liver, &c				3
Other digestive diseases			6	-
Acute and chronic nephrit	is		4	1
Puerperal sepsis				
Other puerperal causes				-
Congenital debility, prer	nature	birth,		
malformations, &c.			1	2
Senility			4	4
Suicide			2	_
Other violence			5	1
Other defined diseases			9	7
Causes ill-defined or unknown	own			
Diarrhoea (2 years and ov	er)		_	
Special Causes (included a	bove)			
Small-pox			-	-
Poliomyelitis			-	_
Polioencephalitis			-	

NATURAL INCREASE OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS.

Year	Births	Deaths	Increase
1921-1925	 2212	1672	540
1926-1930	 1926	1723	203
			Decrease
1931-1935	 1407	1429	22
			Increase
1936	 206	186	20
			Decrease
1937	 185	216	31
1938	 202	213	11

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths under one year of age was 7. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 36.3 per 1,000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales generally being 53.

Section B .-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(i) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: W. S. Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Sanitary Inspectors:—

H. B. Cullin, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

F. W. Buxton, A.M.I.M.C.E., M.R.S.I.

T. W. Robertshaw, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

The services of Mr. A. Buxton, formerly Senior Sanitary Inspector, are retained in an advisory capacity with reference to inspection of sewage and other works in the West Wight.

(ii) SERVICES PROVIDED.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There has been no change in these since my last report.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These are adequate in normal times and no change has taken place since last reported on.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is done by the District Nurses of the various District Nursing Associations.

(d) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are as described in previous reports.

(e) HOSPITALS.

A full report was made on these in 1930 and since then no change has taken place.

Section C .-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) WATER.

No special difficulties were experienced during the year and none of the supplies were restricted.

Bembridge.

There is nothing to report on this supply beyond a more adequate pressure on the high levels due to the laying of a short length of new 6in, main from the reservoir. Brighstone.

The construction of the proposed new reservoir has not yet commenced owing to difficulties experienced in purchasing the necessary site.

Freshwater.

A new main was laid in Copse Lane.

Niton.

The new reservoir and rising mains were completed during the year.

South Arreton.

A scheme for the supply of this Parish was prepared by your Consulting Engineer. This report has been submitted to the Isle of Wight Regional Water Committee before being forwarded to the Ministry of Health for approval.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

At Freshwater a new storm water pumping plant and main were installed and it is hoped that this will lessen the flooding caused in low lying districts during rain storms.

Otherwise no alteration was made in the systems of Drainage and Sewerage.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No action was found necessary to check pollution of the rivers and streams in the area.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

Seven privy pits were abolished and 19 premises with closets on the conservancy system were connected to cesspools and 21 to sewers.

The number of houses now connected to sewers in the Rural District is 3,859.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

There is no change to report.

An improvement was shown in the refuse tips at Yarmouth and Freshwater.

(iii) TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY STAFF.

Total number of Inspections and Re-inspections made 5038.

Nuisances—				
Number of Visits paid				 368
Complaints received				 296
Nuisances found (on com	nplain	t)		 123
Informal Notices issued				 99
Statutory Notices issued				 1
Nuisances abated				 108
The Commonest Nuisano	ces Re	medied i	were—	
Accumulations of Refuse				 38
Defective Closets				 27
Defective Drains				 74
Overflowing or Objection	nable	Cesspo	ols	 38
Drainage and Closet Co.	nvenier	nces-		
(In existing and new ho				
Number of Visits paid				 460
Houses drained to Sewer	S			 103
Houses drained to Cesspe	ools			 57
Water Closets provided				 184
Pail Closets provided				 9
Privy Pits abolished				 21
Water Supplies-				
Number of Visits paid				 440
Samples taken for Analys	sis			 29
Houses connected to Ma	ins			 98
Sewage Works-				
Number of Visits paid				 471

Construction and Re-construction of Buildings—	
Number of Visits paid	650
Plans approved	202
Completed	150
Housing—	
Number of Visits paid	1227
Preliminary Notices issued	112
Dairies, Cowsheds, Etc.—	
Number of Visits paid	. 942
Cleansing Notices issued	coo
Contraventions Found	. 85
Contraventions remedied	. 75
Carbide or Petrol Stores-	
Number of Visits paid	. 56
Contraventions found	. Nil
Contraventions remedied	. Nil
Bakehouses—	
Number of Visits paid	. 54
Cleansing, etc., Notices issued	. 37
Contraventions found	. 7
Contraventions remedied	. 7
Workshops (excluding Bakehouses)-	
Number of Visits paid	. 142
Cleansing, etc., Notices issued	. 29
Contraventions found	. 6
Contraventions remedied	. 6
Slaughterhouses, Etc.—	
Number of Visits paid—	. 1011
Contraventions found	. 4
Contraventions remedied	. 4

Meat Shops and Depots an	nd Other I	Good Sho	ps-	
Number of Visits paid				107
Contraventions found				2
Contraventions remedied				2
Infectious Diseases (including	g Tubercul	osis)—		
Number of Visits paid				5
Number of Rooms Disinfect	ted			5
Number of Articles of Bedd	ing destro	yed		Nil
iv Shops-				
No action has yet bee	en taken v	with reg	gard to	venti-
lation and heating of exis	sting shop	s but v	vhen sa	nitary
conveniences were absent the	hese have	been pr	ovided	where
considered necessary.				
v Camping Sites-				
(1) The number of site	s in the a	area wh	ich wer	e
used for camping pu	irposes du	ring 193	. 38	27
(2) The number of ca	mping sit	es in r	espect o	of
which licences have				
authority under Se	ection 269	9 of th	e Publi	ic
Health Act, 1936				19
(3) The estimated max	imum nui	mber of	campe	rs
resident in the are	a at one	time di	uring th	ie
summer season, 193	8			4055
These figures do not includ	e the orga	nised h	oliday c	amps,
of which there are nine in	this distric	t, accon	nodating	g some
1,900.				
vi Smoke—				
No action was taken d	uring the	year.		
vii Swimming Baths and Pe	ools-			
None of these exist in	the area	except	in conn	ection
with private houses.				
viii Eradication of Bed Bug	is-			
No cases of infected pr		ve yet l	been obs	served
in the area				

in the area.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

	Number of				
Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted		
Factories with mechanical power Factories without mech-	26	4			
anical power	64	14	_		
Other premises under the † Act (including works of building and en- gineering construct- ion but not including outworkers premises)	39	12			
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.					
Total	129	30	_		

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.		Number of Defects.			
		Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	respect of which Prosecu- tions were instituted.	
Want of cleanliness Overcrowding Unreasonable temperature Inadequate ventilation Ineffective drainage of floors	13	13			
Total	20	20			

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions and water supplies of these are generally satisfactory. Weekly returns of the number of children absent on account of infectious disease are received from the Head Teachers, and from these any unusual incidence of un-notifiable infectious disease can be observed.

Section D.— HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	838
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1227
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	591
(b) Number of inspections made for	
the purpose	602
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub- head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	130
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	97
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year—	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring	
repairs	1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
 C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936— (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or under- ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.	
(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded	
at the end of year	7

11.	Number	r of families	dv	vellii	ng therein	7
111.	Number	r of persons	dv	vellir	ng therein	58
(b)		r of new case d during the				3
(c) 1.		r of cases during the				8
11.		r of person				53
NEW HOU	JSES ER	ECTED DU	JR	ING	THE YEAR	1938.
Parish.	Total.	Parish.	Te	otal.	Parish.	Total.
Bembridge	14	Freshwater		22	Shalfleet	11
Brading	3	Gatcombe		4	Shorwell	
Brighstone						1
	4	Godshill		2	South Arret	
Calbourne		Godshill Newchurch			South Arret Totland	on —
Calbourne Chale	2			5		on — 1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

81

(a) Milk Supply—

The steady improvement in premises used for the production of milk continues. At the end of 1938 there were 27 Accredited Producers and 8 Tuberculin Tested Producers in the area.

(b) Meat and Food Inspection-

Total

The additional Sanitary Inspector commenced his duties on the 1st of January, and he has carried out the inspection of all meat slaughtered for human consumption. The following table on the Ministry's prescribed form shows the number of animals inspected during or after slaughter and the number condemned.

CARCASES INSPECTED OR CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	55	22	304	804	2031
Number inspected		22			2017
All diseases except T.B.— Whole carcases condemned			1	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		2		20	46
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with			-	20	10
disease other than T.B. Tuberculosis only—	1.81	9.1	0.98	2.63	2.37
Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some		1		-	2
part or organ was con- demned		2	_	_	201
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with					
tuberculosis	12.7	13.6	_		10.1

(e) Nutrition.

No special steps were taken for the dissemination of knowledge on nutrition, but the County Medical Staff gives lectures to Women's Institutes, etc., on this and other health subjects.

(f) Shellfish.

There are oyster beds at Newtown Creek and these are in my opinion free from pollution. The oysters are taken from these layings and marketed in Cowes, I.W.

Oysters and other shell fish marketed in the district by the Mac Fisheries, Ltd., are obtained mainly from jayings of their own in the Duchy of Cornwall.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE. SCARLET FEVER.

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, affecting five parishes. All cases were mild and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

No case was notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

Seven cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year and both recovered.

ERYSIPELAS.

Three cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year, all of whom recovered.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS.

No case was notified during the year.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases is estimated from the weekly returns of the Head Teachers of the schools. These returns for the year show that there were 42 cases of Whooping Cough, 32 of Chicken Pox, 28 of Mumps, 12 of Influenza, 232 of Measles, 9 of Ringworm, and 16 of Influenzal Colds.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	_	_	
Scarlet Fever	9	7	
Diphtheria Enteric Fever (includ-	-	_	-
ing Paratyphoid)	_		
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	
Pneumonia Other Diseases generally notifiable:—	7	_	_
Erysipelas	3		
Poliomyelitis Ophthalmia Neona-		_	_
torum Other Diseases Noti-	_	_	_
fiable locally	_	_	
Totals	21	8	_

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Under 1		_	_	_	_		_	_	_
1 and under 2		_	_	_	_	1	_	_	
	-		_	_		_	_		
2 ,, ,, 3 3 3 ,, ,, 4		_	_	_	_		_	_	
4 ,, ,, 5		_	_	-			_	_	
5 ,, ,, 10		7					_		_
10 ,, ,, 15	-	1		-	-		_	_	
15 ,, ,, 20		_	_	_	_	-	_	-	
20 ,, ,, 35	-	1			2	1			_
35 ,, ,, 45		-	_				-	_	
45 ,, ,, 65	_	-	_		-	5	1	-	-
65 and over	_	-	-	-	-	_	2	-	-
Totals	_	9	_	_	2	7	3		_

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN PARISHES.

Name of Par	rish.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ervsipelas	Poliomyelitis	Opthalmia Neonatorum
Bembridge		_		_		_			_
Brading		_	-	-		-	2		_
Brighstone		_			-	3	-	-	-
Brooke		-	_		-	1		-	_
Calbourne		1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Chale			-	-		-	_	-	-
Freshwater		1			_	-			_
Gatcombe		1			1	_		_	-
Godshill				-		_	_	-	_
Newchurch			_	_		-	_		_
Niton		-	-	-		_	_	-	_
Shalfleet		4		_		_	_	_	
Shorwell		_	_	_	-	1		-	_
South Arret	on.	2		-		1	1		_
Thorley			_		_	_	_	_	_
Totland		-			1				_
Yarmouth		-		-	_	-	-	-	_
Т	otals	9			2	7	3		

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of notifications of tuberculosis received during the year amounted to 19, including 3 transfers from other areas within the Island, and 4 from the Mainland. In addition one old case previously cured was re-admitted and one case which had left the Island, returned, making the total number of cases added to the Register during the year, 21. Of this number, 16 were Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary. At the beginning of the year the Register contained the names of 65 cases, making the total number of cases in the District during the year 86. Of the 86 patients whose names appear on the Register, 6 died (including one from another disease), 5 left the District, 3 recovered, and 1 had been lost sight of, leaving 71 on the Register at the close of the year. Of these 71 cases, 51 were Pulmonary and 20 Non-Pulmonary.

						New (Cases.				Dea	ths.	
AGE PERIODS		je	Pulm	onary	Non- Pulmonary		al	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmona			
			Lotal	М	F	М	F	Total	М	F	М	F	
0	and	l unde	r 1		_	_	_	_		_	_		_
1	,,	,,	5			-	-	_	-	-	_	-	-
5	,,	,,	10	2	_	_	1	1	-	_	_	_	-
10	,,	,,	15	2		_		2	1	-		_	1
15	,,	,,	20	-	_		-	_	1	_	-	_	1
20	,,	,,	25	5	2	3		_		_			_
25	,,	,,	35	3	1	2	_	_	-			-	_
35	,,	,,	45	2	1	1	_		2	-	2	-	_
45	,,	,,	55	1	1				-		_		_
55	,,	,,	65	1	_	1	-	-	-	_			-
65		upwa	irds	-	_	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
To	tals			16	5	7	1	3	5	1	2		

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	CASES					
	TREA	ATED	Vision Un-	Vision	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	At Home	In Hospital	impaired	Impaired	Blindness	
-	_	_	_	_	_	_

		Average		Doin in	01 00 00 00	House of	Gumlaco
Month	Maximum	Minimum	Mean Tem- perature	Inches,	Rain Days.	Sunshine.	Days.
January	48.1	40.5	44.3	3.62	23	49.3	10
February	45.5	37.6	41.6	0.63	6	80.8	œ
March	53.9	40.7	47.3	0.24	5	190.4	П
April	54.7	38.4	46.5	0.00	0	210.9	Π
May	57.5	44.2	8.09	1.54	12	180.6	
June	64.0	52.0	58.0	0.59	1-	240.5	0
July	64.7	54.1	59.4	1.98	13	175.8	0
August	69.5	56.3	65.9	1.55	9	207.7	Г
September	65.4	52.5	58.9	1.91	11	161.3	1
October	58.5	49.3	53.9	3.68	19	124.9	ಣ
November	55.5	47.8	51.6	4.51	22	47.1	6
December	45.8	38.9	42.3	3.30	21	49.7	11
Year	56.9	46.0	51.4	23,65	148	1719.0	46

The rainfall of 23.65 inches was 5.4 inches below the average for the last 52 years (29.10)

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