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INTERIM

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

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County Hall,

NEWPORT,

Isle of Wight.

July, 1946.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual
report on the health of the District for the year 1945.

The year was a healthy one and there is
no matter to which I wish specially to draw your
attention except for a large and progressive housing
programme.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.S. WALLACE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Population (Registrar General's Figures) | 24,180 |
| Area (in acres) | 57,463 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945) | 5,546 |
| Rateable Value | £109,692 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate ... | £435 |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
resident population 17.5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and
still births) 27.4

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
resident population 18.3

Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000
(live and still) births Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 32.3

Legitimate Infants per 1,000

legitimate live births 31.1

Illegitimate infants per 1,000

illegitimate live births 43.5

Deaths from measles (all ages) 1

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 1

" " Cancer (all ages) 45

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

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.
C.V. SMITH, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

WATER SUPPLY.

There are actually 12 water undertakings in the District and 11 of these are the property of, or are controlled by, the Council. There is one small supply in Brooke Parish which is still privately owned.

With the exception of the major portion of Arreton, all Parishes in the area have a piped water supply.

During 1945, although economy in the use of water was necessary, in only one area was it found necessary to curtail the supply. The Freshwater area, supplied from wells at Freshwater Bay and Shalcombe (supplemented from Calbourne), had a restricted supply during the summer months, the water being cut off at night.

During the years 1941-45 inclusive the annual rainfall has been below the average for the last 60 years. In 1942 it was 92% below, in 1944 90% below, and in 1945 81% below and there was only 0.39 inches of rain in November against an average of 3.25 inches over the last 60 years. Consequently the springs at the end of the year were running below average strength.

Six of the Council's supplies are pumped and all of these are treated by chlorine.

Five are gravity supplies and two of these are also treated.

Both the raw and treated waters are periodically submitted for bacteriological analysis and the results are generally satisfactory. The chlorinator for the Apse supply to Newchurch Parish gave a good deal of trouble during the year and adverse analyses were obtained on two occasions, B. Coli being found in large numbers. There is little possibility of this water being contaminated by human excreta, but it is unsatisfactory that after heavy rainfall B. Coli in such large numbers should be found in the water. The reservoir is fed by several springs through long lengths of pipe which periodically have to be cleared of vegetable

growths. On every line of pipe there are inspection pits with iron covers and I have frequently seen animal excreta lying on these covers. Recently these inspection pits have been fenced off and it is thus hoped to prevent further fouling of the water.

The Brighstone supply, which is unchlorinated, showed the presence in September of a few colonies of B. Coli of surface soil type.

Another very small gravity supply - "Carpenters" - in October, after heavy rain, showed a gross degree of pollution of Coli Aerogenes organisms, the majority of which were of surface soil type.

The Whitwell supply from Bierley in October showed a moderate degree of pollution with Coli Aerogenes organisms of surface soil type.

The gravity supply to Totland, which is chlorinated, showed in September that the raw water contained a moderate degree of pollution with surface soil types of Coli Aerogenes organisms, but all the samples of the treated water have showed no evidence of harmful pollution.

Of the pumped supplies which are all chlorinated, Bembridge in October showed in the raw water 11 colonies per 100 mil. of Coli Aerogenes bacteria of surface soil type. These probably came from the auxiliary supply from White Oak, which after heavy rain must get a certain amount of surface water. However, in November both sources showed that the raw water showed no evidence of harmful pollution. In October, too, the raw water from the St. Lawrence springs showed a heavy degree of pollution with Coli Aerogenes bacteria, minimal numbers of which were of faecal type. The raw water from the well at Freshwater Bay in September and December showed a slight degree of pollution with Coli Aerogenes bacteria, all of surface soil type, and in February and December the supposedly treated water also showed a slight degree of pollution with surface soil bacteria.

When an adverse sample is received from any source, inspection of the supply is at once made and suitable action taken.

Except at Calbourne where chlorine in its gaseous form is used, all the chlorinators which are of the fluid drip type require very careful supervision on account of the hard water causing blockage of the lumen of the drip feed pipe. Small water softeners have been installed in several of the stations to soften the water used for the chlorine solution but even with this constant trouble is experienced.

In all, 51 samples for bacteriological analyses were taken, 31 of raw water and 20 of treated water. Of the 31 samples of raw water, 17 were satisfactory and 11 were unsatisfactory. Of the 20 samples of treated water, 17 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.

The number of houses connected to public water mains in the Rural District is 4651.

WORK OF THE SANITARY STAFF

| | |
|---|------|
| Total number of visits of inspection made | 1462 |
| Houses inspected | 367 |
| Houses re-inspected | 185 |
| Other inspections (including cowsheds, new buildings, food premises, etc.) | 910 |

During the latter half of the year there has been a resumption of building trade activity and this has necessitated a large increase of work in inspections and the issuing of building licences on behalf of the Ministry of Works (Civil Building Regulations 56A).

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 26 cases of Mumps, 29 of Influenza and Influenzal colds, 30 of Chicken-pox, 11 of Scabies, 5 of Impetigo, 5 of Ringworm, 7 of German Measles, and 5 of Jaundice.

There was a decrease in the number of notifications of infectious diseases, 77 as against 209 in 1944. Measles and Scarlet Fever were less prevalent and Diphtheria was again absent.

The percentage of school children immunised against Diphtheria is now 73, and of children under school age 39.4.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

| DISEASE | Total cases notified | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths. |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Measles | 45 | - | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | 19 | 16 | - |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | - | - | - |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 2 | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 5 | 3 | - |
| Pneumonia | 4 | 1 | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | - | - |
| Brucella Abortus Infection | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 77 | 20 | 1 |

NOTE. Figures for non-civilians are not included.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

| AGE | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Puerperal Pyrexia | Pneumonia | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Measles | Whooping Cough | Erysipelas | Brucella Abortus Infection |
|---------------|------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Under 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1 and under 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2 " " | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| 3 " " | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| 4 " " | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - |
| 5 " " | 7 | - | - | 1 | - | 20 | - | - | - |
| 10 " " | 5 | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - |
| 15 " " | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 20 " " | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 35 " " | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 " " | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 19 | - | 5 | 4 | - | 45 | 2 | 2 | - |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN PARISHES.

| NAME OF PARISH | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Whooping Cough | Puerperal Pyrexia | Pneumonia | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Measles | Erysipelas | Brucella Abortus Infection |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Arreton | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Brading | 11 | - | - | - | 3 | - | 35 | - | - |
| Brightstone | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Calbourne | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Freshwater | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Newchurch | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Shalfleet | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Shorwell | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Totland | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - |
| Whitwell | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Yarmouth | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 19 | - | 2 | 5 | 4 | - | 45 | 2 | - |

No notifications of infectious diseases have been received from Parishes not included in above table.

TUBERCULOSIS.

| AGE PERIODS | NEW CASES | | | | | DEATHS | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|----|---------------|---|--------|-----------|---|----------------|---|
| | TOTAL | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | TOTAL | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | | M | F | M | F | | M | F | M | F |
| Under 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 and under 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 " " 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 " " 15 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 " " 20 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 " " 25 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 25 " " 35 | 10 | 5 | 5 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 35 " " 45 | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 45 " " 55 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 " " 65 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 65 and upwards | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | x 25 | 11 | 13 | 1 | - | ø 5 | 3 | 2 | - | - |

x Included in this total are 8 transfers from the mainland and 1 patient previously lost sight of and returned this year.

ø Includes one information from Death Return, and one died from another disease.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

| Cases Notified | Cases Treated | | Vision un-impaired | Vision impaired | Total Blindness | Death |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| | At home | In hospital | | | | |
| Nil | Nil | Nil | - | - | - | - |