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ANNUAL REPORT

1947.



On the Health of the
Rural Sanitary District
of the
Isle of Wight

BY

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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's figures) ...	15,840
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947)	5,656
Rateable Value	£113,222
Sum represented by a penny rate	£440

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	21.2
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	11.8
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.6
Death rate from Puerperal causes per 1,000 (live and still births)	2.9
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	35.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	31.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	95.2
Deaths from measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health :—

John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P.,
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :—

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

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WATER.

During the summer months a heavy call is made upon water in the West Wight and particularly in the Freshwater Bay district. In this district heavy pumping is responsible for an increased chloride content of the water so that to many people the water is unpalatable. Even with maximum pumping it was necessary to curtail water supplies during the night in some areas. Difficulty was experienced during the exceptionally dry summer in keeping the higher parts of Winford supplied with water. This is an annual occurrence which will tend to increase, unless agreement can be reached to tap the Sandown-Shanklin supply in the vicinity of Whiteley Bank.

All water supplies are examined at frequent intervals and in the event of an unsatisfactory report being received immediate measures are taken to trace and remedy the defect.

Bacteriological and chemical investigations of water samples are also carried out at the request of private individuals at their own expense.

During the year 56 samples of Council water were submitted for examination and none were found to be unsatisfactory. The samples taken from St. Lawrence were of extreme purity.

Chemical examinations of water during the period were also satisfactory.

Twenty-six samples were taken for bacteriological examination and one for chemical examination from various waters at the request of private individuals.

It is recommended that chlorination of the Council's water supplies should be carried out with chlorine gas by means of a Chloronome in place of the present methods.

The following is the estimated number of dwelling houses and the estimated number of population supplied from public water mains :—

Parish.	(a) Direct to the Houses.		(b) By means of stand-pipes.	
	No. of Dwelling Houses.	Population.	No. of Dwelling Houses.	Population.
Bembridge	633	1521	14 (house boats)	56
Brading	508	1270	—	—
Brighstone	158	610	3	12
*Brook	80	300	—	—
Chale	160	620	3	12
Freshwater	924	3500	19	72
Gatcombe and Chillerton	102	388	2	8
Godshill	204	607	—	—
Newchurch	269	807	—	—
Niton and Whitwell	409	1227	—	—
Shalfleet	330	1200	7	28
Shorwell	111	395	3	12
South Arreton	39	117	—	—
Totland	469	1850	9	36
Yarmouth	292	1168	6	24

* Privately owned piped supply.

HOLIDAY CAMPS.

Complaints are frequently received concerning sanitary conditions in holiday camps. These frequently consist of complaints of the quality or wholesomeness of the food. Lack of kitchen hygiene and the improper storage of food have been found on numerous visits and attempts have been made to educate the food handlers at these camps. From time to time outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting occur in the camps, none of serious proportions but sufficient to alarm and spoil the sufferer's holiday. Full supervision is difficult owing to the many calls on the Health Department during what is perhaps the busiest time of the year.

CAMPING.

Because of its natural beauty the Rural District is becoming increasingly popular with campers. While properly run camps present no nuisance apart from the unsightly appearance of tents of all shapes and sizes, they are

all liable to become dangerous to health. Overcrowding in the tents offers favourable conditions for the spread of infectious diseases. Incorrect disposal of waste food and sewage offer excellent breeding grounds for flies with their attendant evils, such as gastro-enteritis and sore throats. Improper disposal of waste liquids and grease can cause a considerable nuisance, and it is unnecessary to emphasise the risk attached to the use of unsatisfactory water. Close supervision of the camping sites is therefore necessary and throws an additional burden on the Health Department during the summer months.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Hillway section of Bembridge is now being sewered and work is in progress. This will remedy a very serious nuisance, caused by overflowing cesspools, which unfortunately has been going on for a number of years and has been delayed in consequence of the War.

Preliminary survey of the parishes of Shorwell and Brighstone for a sewerage scheme has been carried out by the Council's consulting engineers.

Small sewage disposal works have been installed at Shalfleet and Shorwell in connection with the new Council Houses.

The 18-inch Freshwater Sewer Outfall at Norton which extends for about six hundred feet on the sea-bed was found to be fractured approximately one hundred feet distant from the shore. Divers have repaired the sewer, inspected the full length of submarine pipe and cleared the outlet.

SCAVENGING.

The first year of refuse collection by direct labour in place of private contractor in the parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth in the West Wight, and Bembridge and Brading in the East Wight, has been satisfactorily effected.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The survey of houses for assessment of standard of fitness for human habitation is almost completed.

WORK OF THE SANITARY STAFF.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	1943
Houses inspected	...	...	262
Houses re-inspected	...	...	192
Other inspections (including cowsheds, new buildings, food premises, etc.)	...	...	1513

During the year building work has necessitated a large amount of work of inspection and the issuing of building licences on behalf of the Ministry of Works (Control of Civil Building Operations).

HOUSING.

Number of new houses completed during 1947	...	43
(of which 25 were Council Houses)		
Number of new houses under construction at 31-12-47		56
(of which 45 are Council Houses)		

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council.

1. INSPECTIONS. Part I of the Act.

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	17	20	6	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers' premises)	30	71	16	—
Total	47	91	22	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

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

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	10	10	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
Total	16	14	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Section 110.

Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) Nil.

Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council Nil.

Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists ... Nil.

Section 111.

Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises Nil.

Notices served Nil.

Prosecutions Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Canned food	...	...	...	...	194 lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	38 lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	919 lbs.
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	2 tons

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

There was an increase in the number of notifications of infectious diseases, 189 as against 136 in 1946, due mainly to outbreaks of Measles and Infantile Paralysis.

The percentages of School children immunised against Diphtheria is now 76.5, and of children under school age 42.9

<i>Disease.</i>				<i>Total cases notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital.</i>	<i>Total deaths.</i>
Measles	...	...	...	142	4	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	6	5	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	5	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	5	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	9	2	—
Brucella Abortus Infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	1*
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	11	11	—
Totals	...	...	...	189	29	3

* Not notified.

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 3 cases of Mumps, 3 of Influenza and Influenzal colds, 54 of Chicken Pox, 1 of Scabies, 1 of Impetigo, 3 of German Measles and 2 of Tonsillitis.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Acute Polio-encephalitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	—
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	1	2	—	—
3 " " 4	—	—	—	1	—	8	3	—	—	1	—
4 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	2	—	—	—	—	76	2	—	1	—	—
10 " " 15	3	2	—	—	—	14	1	—	3	—	—
15 " " 20	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
20 " " 35	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	4	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	2	5	6	1	142	9	5	11	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN PARISHES.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Acute Polionyelitis.	Acute Poli-encephalitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Arreton	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Bembridge	1	2	—	—	—	—	28	1	5	—	1
Brading	1	—	2	—	1	1	44	—	—	—	—
Brighstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Brooke	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calbourne	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Freshwater	1	—	1	4	—	—	43	1	2	—	—
Gatcombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Godshill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Newchurch	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
Niton	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Shalfleet	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shorwell	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totland	—	—	2	—	—	—	15	—	—	1	—
Whitwell	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Yarmouth	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	6	2	9	5	6	1	142	5	11	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 25	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " " 35	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	4	4	—	—	—	5	4	1	—	—
45 " " 55	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
55 " " 65	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—
	*20	8	7	4	1	†9	7	2	—	—

* Included in this total are eight transfers from the mainland, one old case left the Island and returned, and one case in which the Death Return gave the first information.

† Includes one case in which the Death Return gave the first information and one case who died from another disease.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
1	1	—	1	—	—	—

