

**[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Littlehampton U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Littlehampton (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1944

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/b2n4kt3m>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Littlehampton Urban District Council.

HEALTH  
10 SEP 45  
C.R. 42

10, Bulkington Avenue,  
Worthing.

July, 1945.



Gentlemen,

Annual Report 1944.

Acting on instructions from the Ministry of Health that reports should again be confined to essential and urgent matters which affected the public health during the year, especially any matter arising from or connected with the war, outbreaks of infectious disease, together with any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health, I beg to make the following observations.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres) 2,720  
Resident Population (1944) estimated by the Registrar General, 9,861  
Population (1931) Census, 10,176  
Rateable Value (1944) £124,919  
Sum represented by ld. rate, £475  
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to rate books, 3,378

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

Live Births-	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the
Legitimate ...	201	103	98	estimated resident population,
Illegitimate ...	31	17	14	23.53
Stillbirths ...	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 3.55.
Deaths ...	154	76	78	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.62

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:-  
From Sepsis - Nil. From other causes - Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-  
All Infants per 1,000 live births - 65  
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 65  
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 65  
Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 24  
" " Measles (All ages) Nil.  
" " Whooping Cough (All ages) 1  
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age) 1

Comparative Statistics 1944.

	England & Wales.	West Sussex. Urban	Rural	Littlehampton
Birth Rate	17.0	18.52	19.58	23.53
Death Rate	11.6	16.62	13.36	15.62
Infantile Death Rate.	46	44	45	65
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.52	0.43	0.31	0.71
Cancer Death Rate	1.89	2.38	2.09	2.43
Epidemic Death Rate	-	0.14	0.04	0.2
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births.	1.93	2.0	2.5	0.0

Infectious Disease.

During the year the following cases of infectious disease were notified:-

	No. Notified.	No. of Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	17 (15 in 1943)	0
Pneumonia	5 (20 " " )	7
Tuberculosis	11 (10 " " )	9
Measles.	83	0
Whooping Cough.	56	1
Erysipelas.	2	

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows:-

- 82% of children of school age had been immunised.
- 43% of children under school age had been immunised.

No case of Diphtheria was notified in the district during the year.

Scabies.

During the year 72 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department, namely:-

- 20 adults.
- 46 School children
- 6 children under school age.

All cases were treated with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion with satisfactory results. Clothes and bedding were disinfected by washing or hot ironing.

Evacuation.

At the end of the year there were 20 adult evacuees and 19 accompanied evacuee children in the district. There were no unaccompanied evacuee children.

Housing.

No new houses were erected during 1944.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 348

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. ... 470

(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. ... 181

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. ... 270

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... 5

(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. ... 217



Housing. Contd.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 210

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

There were no proceedings under Statutory Powers.

Bacteriological Samples.

The usual samples of milk were taken as follows:

	No. of samples taken.	No. Complying with standard.	No. Failing to comply with standard.
Tuberculin Tested.	2	2	-
Accredited.	13	11	2
Pasteurised.	72	61	11
Ordinary.	3	-	3

(Accredited standard taken)

Where a sample is found in any way unsatisfactory on examination, the matter is taken up with the producer or retailer, and should the milk be from an outside district, the information is passed on to the Local Authority concerned.

Water.

There is an abundant supply of pure water. The supply is constant and all the houses in the area are served direct. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Nineteen samples of raw water and six samples of water after chlorination, were sent for bacteriological examination. All the results were satisfactory. Two samples were sent for chemical analysis and proved satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. No. of Council Houses:		
Found to be infested	...	Nil.
2. No. of other houses:		
Found to be infested	...	4
Disinfested.	...	4

Sulphur Dioxide, Zeldeicide, Vermoose and Matefli are used. All woodwork, such as skirtings and picture rails, is eased away from the wall. The burning of Sulphur candles and spraying with insecticide have proved very effective.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

32 complaints were received and dealt with during the year.

Infestations were found to be mostly of a minor character, and in the majority of cases, due to the keeping of poultry, etc., in back gardens. The main infestations were at the land used for controlled tipping, the Admiralty Wharf and slipway, the Railway Station and Goods Yard, and Army billets. Extermination work was carried out satisfactorily by the use of Red Squill and Zinc Phosphide and also Hydrogen Cyanide Gas. The sewers were also systematically treated.

The estimated number of rats killed was 4,320 (Ministry of Food formula)

Sanitary Inspection.

I have had a complete report from the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. McGarry) as in former years, but as this is not required I do not think it necessary to amplify any further beyond giving the following summary:

Total no. of inspections made for all purposes	5236
Total no. of notices served.	Informal 410
	Statutory. 1
Total number of summonses issued	Nil.
Complaints received.	116
Complaints found justified and dealt with.	101

Records.

All records, including statistics supplied by the Registrar General, are being carefully preserved in order that after the termination of the war a report can be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year, so that annual records may, as far as practicable be continuous and complete.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.H. Wilshaw.

Medical officer of Health,

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bathampton Urban District Council.