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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

Town Hall,
Lymington.
12th June, 1941.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Annual Report for the Year 1940.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health the report for this year is again an interim one and a substantial part of the report, as submitted in pre-war days, has been deleted.

In view of the war conditions it is satisfactory to know that there has been no serious epidemics during the year, although there have been -

- (a) 4 cases of cerebro spinal fever;
- (b) 44 cases of measles notified;
- (c) 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, and
- (d) 3 cases of Whooping Cough notified.

(a) Cerebro Spinal Fever. This is an increase of 3 over 1939, and is part of the general increase noted throughout the country due to war conditions, such as influx of troops and civilians. The increase is small compared with the last war and at no time has it reached epidemic proportions in this Borough. Considering the large movements of civilian and service personnel into the Borough during this time we are fortunate in not having more than four cases of this disease. Two of the cases were treated at home, one at Bournemouth hospital and the remaining one at Southampton hospital.

(b) Measles. Measles became notifiable in October, 1939 and this accounts for the number of notifications. There is no evidence that there is any real increase in the incidence of the disease. Two of the cases were removed to the Setley Hospital for treatment.

(c) Scarlet Fever. There is a decrease of scarlet fever cases, 5 as against 14 in 1939. The disease in all cases was mild.

(d) Whooping Cough. This disease, like measles, became notifiable in October, 1939.

There have been no cases of diphtheria since October, 1937.

Owing to the Borough Isolation Hospital being timber built, the use of this Institution for Infectious Diseases has been discontinued and cases in the Borough are removed to the Isolation Hospital of the New Forest Rural District Council. Minor infectious cases are removed to Setley Hospital which is also under the control of the New Forest Rural District Council.

Special attention has been given to protective treatment against Diphtheria and facilities are now provided for the children in the Borough to receive

injections of A.P.T. The scheme has been prepared but was not fully in operation until the latter part of 1940 and therefore the number of children who have been treated, as stated below, only covers the comparatively short period to the end of December.

The injections were given at the local Elementary Schools, at Child Welfare Centres and children not attending these places were given injections at the Masonic Hall, Lymington. Where parents have refused treatment for their children, a letter was sent emphasizing the importance of this matter and in several instances the parents have reconsidered their previous decision.

Number of children treated during 1940 :-

By Medical Officer of Health.

No. of children whose treatment has been completed - 72
No. of children given the first injection - 13

By own Doctor.

No. of children whose treatment has been completed - 25

Casualty Services. Since the resignation of Dr. Blackley in June, 1940, I have been in charge of the casualty services in the Borough and Medical Officer of the Lymington First Aid Post. The O/C equipment is Mr. Downing-Fullerton.

The A.R.P. Casualty Services are :-

First Aid Post, Masonic Hall, Lymington.
Commandant - Mr. Downing-Fullerton.

Mobile Unit, Public Hall, New Milton.
Medical Officer - Dr. H.C.J. Ball.

First Aid Party and Point, Public Hall, New Milton.
Under Mr. Geer.

First Aid Party and Point at Milford-on-Sea.
Under Mrs. Farwell.

First Aid Party and Point at Hordle.
Under Mr. Gray.

In addition, there are five other points manned by V.A.D.

Gas Decontamination Centre at the Lymington First Aid Post.

Hospitals - At Lymington and Milford-on-Sea.

Casualties Treated. August 23rd, following an incident at New Milton, 23 persons killed and 6 other casualties etc. dealt with at the Public Hall, New Milton, the Lymington and Milford Hospitals receiving the more serious cases.

Evacuation and Refugees.

Sick Bay. Has continued to function and render valuable service in the treatment of minor ailments. The staffing organisation has been carried out by the W.V.S.

Medical treatment and supervision carried out by the Medical Officer of Health.

Refugees. Over 400 refugees admitted to the Borough in

1940 were temporarily billeted at Ashley Senior School and later, a number removed to Furzie Close and the remainder into private billets. Medical supervision was carried out by the Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. Ball attended to give treatment, together with personnel of the Mobile Unit.

Disinfection and sanitary supervision was carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Difficulties have been experienced in the proper sanitary inspection of the area this year owing to the shortage of staff due to the difficulty in replacing the Additional Sanitary Inspector who died early in 1940. Everything possible has been done to ensure that the health of the Borough has not been jeopardised by lack of sufficient Inspectors.

Special attention has been given to drainage matters and in the case of two housing estates, where the drainage conditions were likely to give rise to serious nuisances, the matter was immediately brought to the notice of the Council. These estates were Greenmead Avenue, Everton, and Lawn Road, Pennington. It was found necessary in the case of the former estate to serve a Statutory Notice on the owner for the abatement of the nuisances arising from the unsatisfactory drainage. All the houses on the two estates were connected to cesspools and the conditions were very insanitary. It is satisfactory to report that the Council took effective steps to deal with this question, as a result of which the main sewer was provided to both estates and the various properties were connected thereto.

In view of possible damage to water mains in the district, efforts have been made to ascertain the position of good well water supplies which might be used in the event of an emergency. During the year 78 wells were inspected and specimen samples taken from fourteen wells situate in various parts of the district. Out of this number five were found to be good and nine unfit for drinking purposes.

The Corporation owned water supply to Lymington Town has been analysed on several occasions and the reports generally were satisfactory. In two reports it was suggested that salt water was gaining access to the bore, but from further reports it appeared that any defect had cleared up.

Arising under meat and food inspections the following were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Pigs	Heads	Tuberculosis	2
Sheep	Whole	Moulds	3
"	Part	Glass splinters	37 lbs.
"	Part	Suppuration of gland	11½ lbs.
Bullock	Part	Putrefaction	261 lbs.
"	Part	Glass splinters	53 lbs.
Sausages		Rancid	96 lbs.
Bacon		Rancid	78 lbs.
Fish (various)		Decay	196 lbs.
Tins evaporated milk		Blown	25 tins.

Port Sanitary Regulations.

The Shipping entering the Port consisted of :-

Coastwise vessels - 107 motor
Foreign vessels - nil

Details of Inspections and Action taken.

Details	Inspections	Defects	Remedied	
			Informally	Formal Action
Dairies and Cowsheds	193	20	20	-
Slaughterhouses and Food Shops	531	4	4	-
Factories	65	7	7	-
Nuisances	226	66	57	4
Drainage	186	27	22	4
Rats and Mice	31	3	2	1
Disinfections	46	-	-	-
Infectious diseases	63	-	-	-
Refuse disposal	128	45	38	-
Water supplies	116	5	3	-
Water samples	22	-	-	-
Schools	23	-	-	-
Shops	24	4	4	-
Camping sites etc.	27	-	-	-
Disinfestation	14	4	4	-
Unclassified	44	-	-	-
TOTALS	1739	185	161	9

Yours faithfully,

W. HOBSON.

Medical Officer of Health.
