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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

FOR

1939.

MALDON : RICHARD POOLE, 37 HIGH STREET.



MALDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health (JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

FOR

1939.

MALDON : RICHARD POOLE, 37 HIGH STREET.

London Road, Chelmsford.

20th November, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of Maldon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district during the year 1939.

In accordance with the Circular from the Ministry of Health the report has been considerably curtailed.

Owing to the abnormal conditions both before and since the outbreak of war, a great amount of time has had to be given to other than normal public health activities.

In spite of the considerable movement of population, no increase in the incidence of infectious disease occurred, and the general health of the community was maintained.

To my colleagues I am much indebted for valuable assistance in the preparation of this report.

For the sympathic consideration and assistance received during the year, I beg to thank the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

Public Health Officers.

Clerk to the Rural District Council ... A. W. Freeman, Solicitor. Deputy Clerk ... L. H. Hiscott. Assistant Clerk ... H. J. Freeman, Solicitor. John F. Macdonald, M.D., CH.B., Medical Officer of Health D.P.H., who also acts in this capacity for the Rural Districts of Chelmsford and Rochford. Clerk to Medical Officer of Health ... M. C. Barton. Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector W. Almond, A.R.SAN.I., who also acts as Water Engineer.

Second Sanitary Inspector

Assistant Sanitary Inspector

...

- ... M. H. McIntosh, CERT.S.I.B., Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
- ... S. Maher, CERT.S.I.B., M.I.H., Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Assistant Surveyor

... A. G. E. Peters.

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1939.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	78,507 (land	l and inland	water-ways).
Registrar-General's estimate of			
(a) Resident Population, m	id 1939 .	13,5	30.
(b) Average Population ap	propriate to th	ne	
calculation of death rat	es .	13,7	40.
Houses (end of 1939) according	to Rate Bool	ks 5,0	52.
Rateable Value on 1st April, 19	39	£72,9	84.
The sum represented by a pen	ny rate on 1	st	
April, 1939			08 : 10 : 6.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births (Legitimate	147	63	84)	Birth Rate per 1,000
(B.R.) (Illegitimate	7	1	6	estimated resident
Live Births (Legitimate	149	65	84	population, mid
(I.M. &c.) (Illegitimate	7	1	6)	1939 11.4
Still Births Legitimate	8	4	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 49.4
l'inegrennate				births 49.4
Deaths	185	93	92	*Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population 13.5

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :----

		Deaths.	(live and still) births.
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	 Nil
No. 30	Other Puerperal causes	Nil	 Nil

Deaths Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :--

	s per 1,000 live bi			 44.9
Legitimate	e Infants per 1,000	0 legitimate liv	e births	 47.7
Illegitimat	te ,, ,, ,,	illegitimate	,, ,,	 Nil
Deaths from Ca	ancer (all ages)			 32
,, ,, M	leasles (all ages)			 Nil
,, ,, W	hooping Cough (a			 Nil
" " " Di	iarrhœa (under 2	years of age)		 Nil

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

DURING	THE	YEAR	1939.
--------	-----	------	-------

	Rate per resident p	Deaths under 1 year	
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	per 1,000 registered live births.
England and Wales 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including	15.0	12.1	50
London 148 Smaller Towns	14.8	12.0	53
Resident Population of from 25,000 to 50,000			
(1931 Census)	15.6	11.2	40
Maldon Rural District	11.4	13.5*	44.9

*In order to render this figure comparable with the death rate for the Country as a whole, it must be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," or as it is now styled the "Areal Comparability Factor (A.C.F.)," 0.75, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 10.1 as compared with 12.1 for the Country as a whole.

			-	No. of Deaths.
Und	er 1 y	ear	 	 7
1 a	nd un	der 2	 	
2	,,	5	 	 1
5	,,	15	 	 3
15	,,	25	 	 5
25	,,	35	 	 6
35	,,	45	 	 9
45	"	55	 	 18
55	,,	65	 	 27
65	,,	75	 	 43
75 a	nd ove	er	 	 65
				184*

The deaths classified according to age were as follows :--

* This is 1 less than the Registrar-General's figures for the same period.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		MALES.	Females.	Totals.
Influenza		_	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		2	1	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases		1		1
Syphilis		1	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease		13	19	32
Diabetes		1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.		7	11	18
Heart Disease		32	26	58
Aneurysm		2		
Other Circulatory Diseases		5	4	2 9 7 8 2 1 2 5 3
Bronchitis		4	3	7
Pneumonia (all forms)		3	õ	8
Appendicitis		_	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver		1	-	1
Other Diseases of Liver		1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases		3	2	ð
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		2	1	3
Congenital Debility and Malforma	tion,			
Premature Birth		1	4	5
Senility		1	4	5 5 2 5
Suicide		2		2
Other violence		2 5		5
Other defined diseases		5	6	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown		1	-	1
Totals		93	92	185

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Additional facilities to supplement those already available have been provided by the Establishment of Emergency Public Health Laboratories, under the direction of the Medical Research Council, at Brentwood and Ipswich.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. These meet the needs of the district, and if they should be overworked they can now be augmented by arrangement with vehicles of the Emergency Medical Services.

NURSING IN THE HOME. Local Nursing Associations' arrangements remain the same ; one independent nurse has gone.

REGISTERED NURSING HOMES. There are now two in the district.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS; HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY. Remain the same as last year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

During 1939 the following extensions to mains were carried out :---

1,853 yards of 3-inch main was laid from the Chelmsford-Purleigh Road to The Hall, Woodham Mortimer, and this replaced 720 yards of old 2-inch main.

250 yards of 3-inch main was laid on the Down Hall Beach Estate, Bradwell, the cost of which was borne by the Estate Proprietors.

463 yards of 3-inch main from Beacon Hill along the School Road, Cold Norton,

185 yards of 3-inch main in Catchpole Lane, Great Totham.

1,564 yards of 3-inch main from East Newlands Farm to the 6-inch main near the Church, St. Lawrence, completing a circuit.

995 yards of 3-inch main from Chapel Corner, Great Totham, along Braxted Lane, to Porters Farm, Great Braxted. This main now serves the village of Great Braxted from the Great Totham Scheme in place of a small temporary connection. 100 yards of 3-inch main was laid in the Broad Street Green, Great Totham, connecting up the Great Totham Scheme to the Borough of Maldon's mains.

A further connection between the Dengie District Scheme and the Southminster mains was made at Wellingtons Corner, Southminster.

The total length of new mains in the southern area of the district, excluding the original Purleigh Scheme, but including all recent extensions, is :--

	15,867	yards	of	7.	inch		
	24,774	,,	39	6	33		
	290						
	18,941	,,	,,	4	,,		
	22,968	,,	,,	3	,,		
Total	82,840	yards	-	47	miles	120	yards.

Prior to these two schemes there were the following lenghts of water mains in the district :---

manno m the dictive		I	Length	
		Miles	Yards	
Althorne		2	1,736	
Cold Norton		3	1,669	
North Fambridge		$\frac{2}{1}$	610	a that the second second
Hazeleigh		1	960	
Latchingdon		4	18	
Mayland		3	846	Purleigh Scheme
Mundon		3	405	
Purleigh		15	462	
Stow Maries		2	478	
Woodham Mortime	r	4	668	
Woodham Walter		1	137,	
		44	949	
Southminster		4	1,058	
Tolleshunts Knight	s)			
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	1	4	1,080	
Tollesbury		3	621	
]	[otal	57	188	
Add to above :	-			
The new mains in t		(32	1,274	
2 schemes described		47	120	
		_		
Grand To	tal	136	1,582	yards

At the end of 1939 there were 3,788 properties with a main water supply-75 per cent. of the total number of dwelling-houses in the district-as shown in the following table.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF HOUSES IN EACH PARISH AND PROPERTIES TAKING WATER FROM THE MAINS AT END OF 1939.

Parish. Nu	mber of Houses.	Number of Properties taking Water from Mains.
Althorne	163	155
Asheldham	47	26
Bradwell	258	111
Braxted, Gt	104	18
Braxted, Lt	44	18
Cold Norton	139	139
Dengie	56	29
Fambridge, N	107	99
Goldhanger	143	103
Hazeleigh	47	47
Langford	50	23
Latchingdon	251	248
Mayland	155	149
Mundon	86	78
Purleigh	305	303
St. Lawrence	123	42
Southminster	509	458
Steeple	117	69
Stow Maries	54	54
Tillingham	240	150
Tollesbury	556	524
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	253	149
Tolleshunt Knights	137	132
Tolleshunt Major	120	64
Totham, Gt	364	263
Totham, Lt	85	52
Ulting	45	
Wickham Bishops	247	131
Woodham Mortimer	87	81
Woodham Walter	160	
	5,052	3,788

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE; RIVERS AND STREAMS; CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. No material change has taken place. PUBLIC CLEANSING. In July the Council accepted the tender of Messrs. J. J. McLean & Son, of Warley, for the collection and disposal of unburnable refuse in the more populated parts of all parishes, except Southminster and Tollesbury. The price was £230 for monthly collections from 2,649 houses. This is at the rate of 1/9per house per annum and the refuse is removed to Warley. This contract can be extended. The normal monthly load is 15 tons.

The County Council's road foremen have noticed that there has been much less trouble in their ditches and culverts, due to this scheme.

Other scavenging arrangements remain the same.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following table gives details of the work carried out. The work was considerably curtailed as a result of Civil Defence duties by one of the staff.

Inspections		Notices				
Nature	Number	Informal	Formal	Complied with	Outstanding at end of year.	
Infectious Diseases Inquiries	30					
Disinfection	20					
Ordinary Nuisances	112	47		52	4	
Dwelling-Structural Defects	940	214	8	360	46	
Housing-Overcrowding Cases	48	3		3		
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	390	150	10	180	54	
Bakehouses	22	2	1	3		
Slaughterhouses	572	30		24	6	
Privies and Pail Closets	40	27	2	19	20	
Water Closets	20					
Defective Yard Paving	53	18	4	20	16	
Drainage	160	42	2	70	13	
Water Supply	19	6	5	12		
Animals improperly kept	- 2	1		3		
Offensive Accumulations	2	1		1		
Other Nuisances	15	4		. 9		
Urinals	3	1		2		
Schools	10					
Food Shops	27	1		1		
Appointments and Interviews	400					
Factories and Workshops	28	4		5		
Rats and Mice	15	4		4		
Miscellaneous Inspections	300					
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc.	15	6	2		2	
Ice Cream Vendors	12					
Shops	20	2		2		
Dilapidated Buildings	48	8	4	4		
Totals	3323	571	38	712	170	

FACTORIES.

1.-INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of							
(1)	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)					
Factories with mechanical power	25	1	-					
Factories without mechanical power	21	4	-					
			-					
Total	46	5	_					

2.-DEFECTS FOUND.

0	Nu	Number of defects in respect of		
Particulars. (I)	Found. (2)	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	which Prose- cutions were instituted. (5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	_	_
Overcrowding (S.2)			_	_
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		-	_	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)		-		-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)			-	-
(insufficient			-	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) unsuitable or defective not separate for	1	1	-	-
sexes			-	-
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act. 1937)	1	1		
m. (.)				
Tctal	5	5		

SMOKE ABATEMENT; SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS; ERADICATION OF BED BUGS; KNACKERS' YARDS. No alteration or action affecting these matters took place during the year.

CAMPING SITES. Under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, licences were granted for 11 sites.

BAKEHOUSES. Remain the same.

SCHOOLS. The school at Tolleshunt Major was closed down during the year.

HOUSING.

Statistics for the Year 1939.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

Total			 	97
(i) By the	e Local Autho	ority	 	55
(ii) By oth	ner bodies and	l persons	 	42

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)	301
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1162
(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	250
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	712
(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	42

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	174
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	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit by owners after service of formal notices	8
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notices	5
(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	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	17
(a) Undertakings to repair accepted under Sections 11 and 13 and work subsequently completed	10
(b) Undertakings to repair accepted	10
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	11
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	90
(iv) Equivalent number of persons dwelling therein	78
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	16
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	106
(iii) Equivalent number of persons concerned in such cases	90

- Observation is kept of the records of border line cases so that when they become overcrowded due to the increasing ages of the inmates they are reported to the Public Health Committee.
- In December, 1938, the Ministry of Health held their inquiry into the six clearance areas which involve 25 houses in the following parishes :—Purleigh 7, Southminster 6, Steeple 2, Little Totham 5, Great Totham 3, Tollesbury 2. All these orders were later confirmed, and 7 of the 25 houses were demolished during 1939.

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. -- Overcrowding.

4.

	Numbe	er of houses during 1939.			of houses in tion at end o	
Parish.	By the District Council	By private persons with Subsidy	By private persons without Subsidy	By the District Council	By private persons with promise of Subsidy	By private persons without Subsidy
Althorne		_	_	_		1
Asheldham			_	-		-
Bradwell	. 6		4	-	-	1
Braxted, Great						
Braxted, Little				-		
Cold Norton		-	2	-	-	2
Dengie		_		-		_
Fambridge, North		-	2	-		1
Goldhanger	4		1		_	
Hazeleigh	_	-	-	-		-
Langford .	_		-	-		-
Latchingdon	10	2	$\frac{2}{2}$	-	-	1
Mayland		-	2		_	
Mundon		-	_	-		
Purleigh	. 3		4			
St. Lawrence		-	5			5
Southminster	. 10	-	1	-		1
Steeple	. 4		2	-	_	
Stow Maries	-		1	-		-
Tillingham	-		-	-	-	-
Tollesbury			2			
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	_	1	1	-		_
Tolleshunt Knights	-		3	-	-	
Tolleshunt Major	10		1	_		_
Totham, Great	0	_	1	-	_	1
Totham, Little	-	-				
Ulting			1	-	_	-
Wickham Bishops		-	3		-	-
Woodham Mortimer	-	-	_		-	-
Woodham Walter	-	-	1		-	
Totals	55	3	39			13

PARISH.		Parlour Type.	Non-Parlour Type.	Totals.
Althorne			_	_
Asheldham			-	-
Bradwell-on-Sea		12†	6	- 18
Braxted, Great		-	6	6
Braxted, Little			4	4
Cold Norton			10	10
Dengie			8	8
Fambridge, North]		-	-
Goldhanger			28	28
Hazeleigh			6	6
Langford			6	6
Latchingdon			26	26
Mayland			12	12
Mundon			12	12
Purleigh		8	18	26
St. Lawrence				
Southminster		22	16	38
Steeple			10	10
Stow Maries			12	12
Tillingham			6	6
Tollesbury		10	20	30
Tolleshunt D'Arcy		18	10	28
Tolleshunt Knights		-	10	10
Tolleshunt Major			16	16
Totham, Great		6	28	34
Totham, Little			6	6
Ulting				
Wickham Bishops		2	25^+_{+}	27
Woodham Mortimer		-	6	6
Woodham Walter		-	12	12
TOTALS		78	319	397

The following table classifies the houses erected and owned by the District Council into Parlour and Non-Parlour types.

(†) Of these, 6 are Coastguard cottages bought by the Council in 1925, but not erected by them.

(‡) Nine of these cottages were bought by the Council—3 already erected, and 6 partly erected were completed by the Council

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are 182 cowkeepers in the district, 102 are licensed to produce accredited milk. Two supplementary licences to produce Pasteurised Milk and one to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted during the year.

Below is a summary of notices served and work done in relation to improvements to Cowsheds and Dairies.

Outstanding at the end of 1938.	Informal.	Formal.	Completed.	Outstanding at the end of 1939.
74	136	15	151	59

NUMBER OF NOTICES.

In addition during the year two new cowsheds and seven new dairies were built.

Meat and Other Foods.

During the year there was a decrease of one licensed slaughterhouse. At present there are 8 licensed slaughterhouses and 8 registered slaughterhouses.

In carrying out the work of meat inspection 572 visits were made and approximately 6 tons 16 cwts. of meat condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Approximate number slaughtered	400	900	750	900	3800
Number inspected	180	500	400	743	2300
All Diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcases condemned	1	1	2	9	20
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	9		3	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis		2	•5	1.7	1
Fuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned	2	13	1	_	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	45	_	_	115
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis	1.6	11.6	.25		5.52

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases.

Twenty-four cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified during the year, a decrease of four on the preceding year. Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable as from 23rd October, 1939.

The supply of diphtheria anti-toxin to medical practitioners is still available.

The following tables show the incidence of infectious diseases during the year.

Notifiable Disease		Total	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever		6						4		1			1		6	1
Diphtheria		3						1			2				3	
Erysipelas		3*									1			1		
Pneumonia (Primary Influenzal)	& 	8									4	2	1	1		8
Puerperal Pyrexia		1									1					
Acute Poliomyelitis		1									1				1	
Whooping Cough		1	1													
Measles		1								1						
Total		24	1					5		2	9	2	2	2	10	8

NON-TUBERCULOUS.

* No age given in one case of erysipelas.

		* New C	lases.			Dea	ths.	
Age Periods.	Respir	atory.	Non-Respiratory. Respirato		-Respiratory. Respiratory. Non-R			
	М.	F.	М.	F.	М.	F.	М.	P.
Under 1			-	- 1		-	1 -	-
1 5		-	-			-		-
5-10			1			-	_	-
10-15		_	-				_	
15-20		1	-			_	1	
20-25				_	1		-	-
25-35		2	1	1	_	-	_	_
35-45		1	_			1		
45-55	1				1			
55-65				1				
55 & over			-	_	-	_	-	
Totals	1	4	2	3†	2	1	1	

TUBERCULOSIS.

* Not including cases of Tuberculosis removed into the district during the year, which had been previously notified elsewhere.

+ One female non-respiratory no age given.

Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Poliomyelitis	Erysipelas.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Totals.
Althorne Asheldham Bradwell Braxted, Great Braxted, Little Cold Norton Dengie Fambridge, N. Goldhanger Hazeleigh Langford Latchingdon Mayland Mundon Purleigh Southminster Steeple St. Lawrence Stow Maries Tillingham Tollesbury Tolleshunt D'Arey Tolleshunt Major Totham, Great Totham, Little Ulting Wickham Bishops Woodham Mortimer								1	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Totals	6	3	1	1	1	8	1	3	5	5	34

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.



