

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Midhurst R.D.C.

Contributors

Midhurst (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1939

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MIDHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MIDHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The war, which has so profoundly affected every other detail of our lives, has had the effect also of making this annual report, the sixty-sixth of the series, unlike any of its predecessors. By the order of the Minister of Health (Circular 2067) it is to concern itself with "essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, especially any matters arising from or connected with the war". Accordingly the usual detailed statement of the routine work of your Public Health Department finds no place in it, and the usual statistical summaries are to be retained for a combined report covering the whole war period. The essential matters may therefore be briefly summarised (the section headings being the same as those previously employed).

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. L. NEWMAN.

SECTION A.

Area (acres)	66,892
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1939)	14,480
Estimated number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (end of 1939)	4,498
Rateable value	£105,568
Sum represented by a penny rate	£420
Other statistics not available.	

SECTION B.

(ii) (b) Ambulance facilities.

In addition to the ordinary B.R.C.S. Ambulance the service has been augmented for A.R.P. purposes by the enrolment of trade vans, each to take metal stretchers on a four-stretcher frame. One of these is allocated to each of the First Aid Depots as follows:-

Midhurst, Hammer, Fernhurst, Stedham, Rogate and Harting.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

To meet the possible needs of children evacuated into the District each of the regular Queen's Nurses had one or more Nursing Auxiliaries attached to her. Very little demand was made for their services.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics were started in Midhurst and the villages of Graffham, Camelsdale, Rogate, Wardley, Rake and Harting. These were of an informal nature and did not involve the Local Authority in responsibility for equipment or staffing.

(e) Hospitals.

For the first time the Local Authority became interested in hospital provision. Many residents in the District offered their help in accommodating sick evacuees and three houses were used for the purpose.

Admiral Grant's "Ridge Cap", Marley	- 14 beds.
Admiral Brodie's "Bottingdean", Easebourne	- 9 beds.
Mrs. Miles Reid's Hoyle, Heyshott	- 6 beds.

In each case the staff consisted of one trained nurse helped by local nursing auxiliaries. Equipment was provided, partly by the owners and partly by the Local Authority, who also paid the nurse's salary, the rest of the cost (maintenance, etc.) being met by the householder out of a payment of 25/- a week, (a figure arrived at after consultation with the County Treasurer in the light of the costs of certain County Institutions). The benefits to local hostesses were obvious but the cost high as is shewn by the following figures which refer to maintenance only.

Impetigo, 30 consecutive cases,	maximum	44	days	at cost of	£7. 12. 0.
	minimum	2	"	"	7. 2.
	average	17	"	"	£3. 0. 9.
Acabies, 18 consecutive cases,	maximum	22	"	"	£3. 18. 10.
	minimum	4	"	"	14. 4.
	average	11	"	"	£1. 19. 5.

Accordingly it was decided to do away with the small sick-bays and to open one Auxiliary Hospital for the whole District under the direct control of the Council, and the end of the year saw the end of the sick-bays.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies have not been materially altered, with the exception of the group of houses at West Side, Tillington, whose supply is now being chlorinated.

A comprehensive scheme was investigated for the parishes of Rogate and Harting and it was believed that one of the most serious sanitary defects of the District was on the point of solution. Messrs. John Taylor had done all the preliminary planning and application was about to be made to the Minister when the War intervened. All the same, permission was sought to start the scheme on a limited scale for the village of Rogate itself, but sanction for this was not obtained.

Tillington and Upperton were also included in a preliminary survey by Messrs. John Taylor but the scheme had got no further than a preliminary approval by the Council of the proposed lay-out when the War put an end to it.

On a smaller scale the Council houses at Graffham were connected to the Western Water Supply's private main. The Trotton Council houses continued to give difficulty owing to insufficient supply in dry weather.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Harting was included in the survey referred to above for the installation of a proper drainage scheme. At Upperton a claim was made against the Council for damage to crops caused by the overflow of the effluent, and it was as a result of this that Messrs. John Taylor were asked to produce plans for the drainage of the village together with Tillington.

Cocking was also the subject of special investigation following complaint of various nuisances from sink wastes. It was found that, besides these nuisances, crude human sewage was gaining access to the pond and stream, and that the only satisfactory solution would be a comprehensive scheme. In this case the proceedings did not advance beyond the stage of preliminary report and a resolution in favour of investigation by the Council's Engineers.

The new Sewage Works at Fernhurst was found by analysis to be yielding a satisfactory effluent.

Refuse Collection.

A new Thornycroft Nippy Van to hold 7 cu.yards was bought to replace the old horse-drawn vehicle in the central part of the District. The efficiency of the collection is much improved.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The unsuitable site, so long used in Camelsdale to the annoyance of the neighbours, was not licenced and so became vacant at last. A similar threat to the amenities of South Harting was avoided by informal action.

The following brief summary shows the work done under various headings by your Sanitary Inspectors.

Complaints received	39.
Informal Notices served	221.
" " complied with	202.
Statutory Notices (Sec.11 of the Housing Act)	34.
" " (Sec.168. " " " ")	14.
" " (Sec.93 of the Public Health Act)	2.

Visits made:-

Housing	1487.
Drainage and Sanitary Conveniences	338.
Sewerage	18.
Water Supplies	294.
Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection	248.
Food Premises	116.
Cowsheds and Dairies	325.
Infectious Disease	64.
Factories, etc.	55.
Movable Dwellings	38.
Overcrowding	92.
Shops Act	26.
Schools	65.
Refuse	36.
Rogate Sanitary Survey	120.
Cocking Sanitary Survey	86.
Miscellaneous	149.
	<u>3557.</u>

Factories and Workshops.

1. Inspections -

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power.	19	-	-
Factories without mechanical power.	36	2	-
	55	2	-

2. Defects found -

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H M. Inspector.	Prosecuted.
Want of cleanliness.	4	3	-	-

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The work so well begun by the Housing Sub-Committee in 1938 was continued energetically in 1939 with every prospect that some of the worst evils in the District would speedily be brought to an end. But in housing, as in other things, the year proved to be noteworthy only as a record of frustration. All the same, a considerable amount of useful work was done, resulting in the making fit of 161 defective houses by informal action, while owners gave undertakings to make 20 houses fit (15 under the provisions of the Housing of Rural Workers Acts) and to put 7 out of use. Of the 498 houses inspected 41 were seriously unfit and 291 not in all respects reasonably fit, and 1031 inspections were made.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:-

- | | | | |
|----|-----|--|------|
| A. | (1) | Dwellings overcrowded at end of year | 18. |
| | (2) | Families involved | 18. |
| | (3) | Persons involved | 125. |
| B. | | New cases reported during the year | 1. |
| C. | (1) | Cases relieved during year | 18. |
| | (2) | Persons concerned | 115. |

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This has received more attention than in previous years, as is shewn by the following facts:-

- (a) Milk Supply. The 164 premises registered received 325 visits.
- (b) Meat and other foods.

364 visits were paid and approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. of unsound food destroyed.

Under the Food & Drugs Act which came into force during the year, applications were received in respect of four registered and one licensed slaughterhouse. As no killing can now take place in the District, the Council decided to adjourn consideration of all applications. All the Slaughterhouses are below the recognised standard for such places and the situation of the two in Midhurst is unsatisfactory.

All butchers shops and food premises were circularised of the provisions of the Act relating to the avoidance of contamination. Ten applications were received for registration of premises used for the preparation of food, and consideration was postponed pending the carrying out of necessary works.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The order making measles and whooping cough notifiable came into force on October 23rd, 1939. The following table shews in brief the incidence of the main diseases, the only notable feature being the presence of polio-myelitis on a small scale.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Died.
Scarlet Fever.	16	3	0
Diphtheria.	2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	0	0
Pneumonia.	2	0	0
Erysipelas.	4	1	0
Polio-myelitis.	4	3	2
Whooping Cough.	5	0	0

The advent of the evacuees had no effect on the health of the District. Impetigo shewed its usual seasonal increase about that time, but the only disease to become troublesome was scabies which was already present but seemed to become aggravated.

Diphtheria immunisation by two injections of A.P.T. was renewed in the schools. The War interrupted the completion of the work, but of the 261 who received the first injection 205 received the second.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non - Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<u>Totals:</u>	2	5	3	2	2	2 ^x	-	-

^x One case not notified.

The general position is shewn in the following table:-

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Respy.	Non-Respy.	Respy.	Non-Respy.	
Jan 1st. 1939.	31	6	26	8	71
No. of cases notified.	2	3	5	2	12
No. of cases removed.	2	0	5	0	7
Dec. 31st. 1939.	31	9	26	10	76

Died	Admitted to Hospital	Total Cases	Disease
0	2	10	Scarlet Fever
0	2	2	Diphtheria
0	0	0	Prophylactic Pyrexia
0	0	0	Pneumonia
0	0	0	Erysipelas
0	0	0	Polio-myelitis
0	0	0	Whooping Cough

The advent of the epidemic had no effect on the health of the District. The epidemic showed its usual seasonal increase about Christmas time, but the only disease to become troublesome was measles which was already present but seemed to become aggravated.

Diphtheria immunization by two injections of A.P.T. was renewed in the schools. The War interrupted the completion of the work, but of the 261 who received the first injection 205 received the second.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 - 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

The general position is shown in the following table:

Date	Cases				Total
	Heavy	Non-Heavy	Heavy	Non-Heavy	
Jan. 1st. 1933	21	0	20	0	21
No. of cases notified	2	0	2	0	4
No. of cases removed	2	0	2	0	4
Dec. 31st. 1933	21	0	20	0	21

The general position is shown in the following table: