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Contributors

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Town Hall,
PADIHAM.

16th July, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Padiham.
Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty fifth Annual Report dealing with the health of the inhabitants of Padiham during 1950.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this report will be an interim report, confined to essential or urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year: outbreak of infectious diseases, overcrowding, sanitation, and distribution of clean food, etc.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population:- Estimated population in 1950 10,090.

Number of live births registered:-	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate.	150	84	66
Illegitimate.	5	3	2
Total.	155	87	68

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population - Crude 15.4
Adjusted 16.1

Number of still births:- 2 males, 2 females Total 4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 25

Number of deaths registered:- 75 males, 71 females. Total 146.
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population - Crude 14.5
Adjusted 13.0

Maternal mortality:

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. Nil.
Mortality rate per 1,000 (live and still) births Nil.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births. 26.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. 27.
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births. Nil.

Post-natal mortality.

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age. 4.
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births. 26.

	Mean of 5 years 1945/49	Year 1947	Year 1948	Increase or decrease on 5 years average.	Increase or decrease on previous year.
Live birth rate.	18.7	14.7	15.4	-3.3	10.7
Crude death rate.	15.7	14.8	14.5	-1.2	-0.3
Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	0.35	0.30	0.20	-0.15	-0.10
Death rate from cancer.	1.92	1.87	-	-	-
Maternal mortality rate. per 1,000 live births.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Per 1,000 total births.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.	48	13	26	-22	113

Causes of Death.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Syphilitic diseases	1
Whooping Cough	1
Malignant diseases of Stomach	3
Malignant diseases of Lungs	2
Malignant disease of breast	3
Malignant diseases of Uterus	2
Other malignant diseases	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15
Coronary disease, Angina etc.	11
Hypertension with heart disease	3
Other heart disease	51
Other circulatory diseases	9
Influenza	3
Pneumonia	3
Bronchitis	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1
Congenital Malformation, birth injuries etc.	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18
All other accidents	2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Unemployment was again a more or less negligent factor during 1950.

Most of the mills are running their own canteens and these should be encouraged and used more than they are, by the workers. Probably they would be more frequented if special catering could be adopted for patients suffering from Diabetes, Duodenal Ulcer, and Gastric Ulcers, Nephritis, etc. In this way absenteeism due to sickness from these diseases could be considerably reduced.

Three premises under the control of the County Council are doing valuable work looking after children (under school age) of women engaged in industrial occupations. There is still a need of another nursery in Clay Bank Ward.

In times of epidemic, stricter supervision of children attending these nurseries is essential and provision of observation rooms would be very beneficial and there by reduce the risk of spreading infection.

All the schools in the area provide dinners for the scholars, and this also is to be very highly commended.

The health of the inhabitants has been remarkably good during the year and so far as recreations are concerned, full advantage was taken of all facilities controlled by the Local Authority and the various Sunday schools etc.

In connection with the welfare of the old people, a Voluntary Association has been set up and is doing valuable work such as letter writing, doing shopping, where necessary, giving advice, and arranging for domestic help in cases of sickness.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water Supply: The water supply has been good in both quality and quantity. Bacteriologically and Chemically the water has been much better than in previous years.

The following are the results of the Bacteriological and Chemical Examinations carried out on one of many occasions in 1951.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS:-

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastral agar.	No. of Colonies per c.c. of water.
in 3 days at 22 C.	Nil.
in 2 days at 37 C.	Nil.
Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 c.c. of water -	Nil.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Colour None .	None.	Hardness temporary	6.6
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 27 C)	0.64.	(Clarke's Permanent method.)	39.6
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.050.	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	6.6
Nitric Nitrogen.	0.55.	Total solids	110.

SNIAITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Houses. P.H.A. ...	253
Houses. H.A. ...	21
Complaints ...	338
Common Lodging Houses ...	8
Factories ...	33
Workshops ...	8
Infectious Disease Cases ...	30
Rodent Control ...	51
Shops Act ...	453
Revisits to property under notice ...	261
Bakehouses ...	35
Fried Fish shops ...	16
Butchers' Shops ...	38
Market ...	49
Ice Cream premises ...	37
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	1
Foodstuffs ...	40
Samples - Food and Drugs ...	9
Houses after disinfection ...	27
Houses after disinfestation ...	12
Miscellaneous ...	1090
Total.	2810.

DERATISATION.

51 visits of inspection were made to premises alleged to be rodent infested, and each case was dealt with by the Rodent Operator. Sausage rusk to which is added Zinc Phosphide was used for bait purposes and occasionally, damp bread mash bait and Arsenous oxide poison.

DISINFESTATION.

12 premises were dealt with for vermin, four for bugs and eight for cockroaches. The refuse tip at Lumb Wood was periodically dusted with D.D.T. powder to ensure cockroach and cricket control.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All the activities associated with the inspection and supervision of food have been closely watched by the Sanitary Inspector during the year. There were no cases of genuine food poisoning during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses in the register is 15. These premises were regularly visited and no contraventions were observed.

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HOUSING.

No. of houses erected during the year. 24

No. of houses erected under the various acts:-

i) Housing Act 1919	31
ii) Housing Act 1923/24	170
iii) Housing Act 1930/36	228
iv) Housing Act 1936/46	21
v) Housing Act 1946/50	24
Total	474

OVERCROWDING.

i) No. of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	12
ii) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
iii) No. of persons concerned in such cases	24

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.

This can best be answered by stating that approximately 100 married people are without houses, and that approximately 250 married people require modern houses with baths etc.

Housing Schemes in hand at the end of the year:-

39 houses - 12 one bedroom bungalows - 8 two bedroom bungalows - and 17 two bedroom traditional houses, are in course of erection and should be available early in the next year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Apart from 3 small epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough, and Chicken Pox, 1950 was more or less a normal year. The type of each epidemic was generally mild and only one death was reported in the case of the Whooping Cough epidemic. No cases of Diphtheria were reported during the year and this again is a very pleasing feature in this report. Padiham has always been at the top of the list so far as immunisation against Diphtheria is concerned, but I would like to suggest to the Divisional Medical Officer for the District, that parents should be instructed to bring their children to the various surgeries for immunisation instead of notifying the Practitioners to visit houses for this purpose. Practitioners have enough to do without visiting healthy infants.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	23
Measles	120
Whooping Cough	118
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Erysepilas	2
Chicken Pox	110
Total	383

~~Tuberculosis~~

TUBERCULOSIS

Only 2 cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year, both pulmonary type. This is another pleasing feature of this report.

6.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the submission of my twenty fifth report gives me a lot of satisfaction in one or two ways. When I look back on the reports of my early years as Medical Officer of Health, and note the various "black marks" on each report, epidemics, unsatisfactory water supplies, and the high incidence of Diphtheria, and the accompanying high mortality rate, it certainly proves that Public Health administration is proving its worth and getting dividends each succeeding year.

I would like to render thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his usual loyal co-operation and services rendered during the year.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. J. FORSYTHE.

Medical Officer of Health.