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Contributors

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PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1939. The report is an abbreviated one in accordance with Ministry of Health circulars but is in form similar to previous years.

I have to express my gratitude for the assistance I have received during a very difficult period from yourselves and your officers.

To the Sanitary Inspector I must tender special thanks for the way in which he has shouldered many extra duties.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. D. DEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J.D.Dear, M.B.,CH.B.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector - H.R.A.Bolt, Cert.R.S.I.

Part-time man (R. Morgan) from Surveyor's Department to assist in disinfecting and drain testing.

The Medical Officer of Health holds the dual appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Local Authority and Assistant Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council. He does not engage in private practice.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time Officer.

Health Visitor - Miss. M. R. Truscott

(under the Dorset C. Council).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area. (land and inland water)	2,905 acres.
Population. Registrar General's estimate of:	
(a) Resident Population, Mid. 1939	... 12,630.
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	... 11,800.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the rate book (exclusive of government property)	... 2,189
Rateable Value	... £56,663
Sum represented by a penny rate	£222.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live) Legitimate	141	71	70) Birth rate per 1,000 estimated
Birthe) Illegitimate	4	3	1) resident population
				11.48
Still Births	2	1	1) Rate per 1,000 (live & still)
) births
				13.6
Deaths	104	58	46) Death rate per 1,000 estimated
) average population
				8.8

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
No.29. Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No.30. Other puerperal causes	1.	7.
Total	1.	7.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	Nil.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births -	Nil.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate livebirths -	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

The England and Wales (Smaller Towns) rates for 1939 were as follows:-

Birth rate, 15.6 Death rate, 11.2 Infant Mortality, 40.

During the year there were no causes of sickness or invalidity specially noteworthy in the area nor was there any evidence of prejudicial effect upon health of environment, conditions of employment or of unemployment.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. A list of the Public Health Officers of the Authority will be found at the beginning of the report.
2. There were no significant developments or changes in the services provided in the area during the year, except an increase in the number of ambulances for A.R.P. purposes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. The water supply to the area was as in the previous year. Chlorination was continuous throughout the year. Periodic sampling of the water was continued both at the source prior to chlorination and in the district subsequent to chlorination. The bacteriological analysis was carried out by the County Bacteriologist at the County Laboratory. The samples taken in the district were uniformly satisfactory while two samples taken at the bore hole gave evidence of the need for chlorination. In all 22 samples were analysed during the year. There are no other matters concerned with the sanitary circumstances of the area which call for special attention.

HOUSING.

No. of dwelling houses inspected	... 267.
No. of Inspections made	... 821.
No. of Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	... 37.
No. of inspections for the purpose	... 111.
No. of Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... 161.
No. of Notices issued	... 131.
No. of Notices complied with	... 119.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. Frequent inspections of Farms and Dairies were carried out during the year - some improvements were effected in methods of production. In all 85 visits were made. Of 15 samples of ordinary milk 6 were considered satisfactory and 9 unsatisfactory.

Of three samples of pasteurised milk all satisfied the phosphatase test.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. 85 inspections were paid to the Slaughterhouse and 137 to food shops in connection with which 6 notices were issued and all complied with.

In addition 36 visits were paid to Bakehouses, 3 notices were issued and all complied with.

The amount of meat condemned at Slaughterhouse was ... 273 lbs.
The amount of meat and fish condemned in Shops was ... 120 lbs.

(c) ADULTERATION ETC. Information was received from the County Medical Officer that 48 samples were obtained in the District during 1939. 2 of 24 samples of milk were reported upon as deficient in fat. Appeal to the cow showed that the deficiency was not due to adulteration. All other samples were found satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

141 inspections to factories were carried out.

10 notices were issued and all were complied with.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious disease showed very low incidence during 1939. Artificial immunisation against diphtheria was introduced during the year. This was carried out at Schools and Child Welfare Centres. In addition immunising material was supplied free to General Practitioners in the district. The material was T.A.F. 3 injections of 1 c.c. being given at 2 - 3 weekly intervals. The number of children immunised at Schools and Welfare Centres was:-

Pre School Children	...	148
School Children	...	169

The number of children immunised by General Practitioners under the Council scheme was:-

Pre School Children	...	15
School Children	...	14

No local action was taken during the year in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	3	2	Nil
Diphtheria	8	8	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	1
Pneumonia	6	2	1
Erysipelas	2	2	Nil
Dysentery	1	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil	Nil

SCHOOL INTIMATION OF DISEASE.

Intimations by head teachers of cases of infectious disease occurring in the Schools during the year gave evidence of an epidemic of Influenza (143 cases) in the Spring and one of Chicken-pox (112 cases) in the Summer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was necessary during 1939 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15 -	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	3	2	1	0	2	0	1	0

Two of those who died from Tuberculosis had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease - one died from Military Tuberculosis and the other from Tuberculosis Peritonitis.

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS REMAINING IN THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REGISTER AT DECEMBER, 31st 1939.

Total Cases.	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary.		
	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.
32	16	4	20	6	6	12