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Portland Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1951

E. J. Gordon Wallace M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the
PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

Council Offices,
PORTLAND.

July, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Portland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

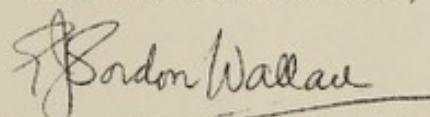
I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1951 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

There was no outstanding epidemiological happening and in happy contrast to the preceding year only 4 cases of poliomyelitis were notified - all of them non-paralytic.

It will be recollected that during 1950, no representations in respect of unfit houses were made under the Housing Act 1936. This year, however, representations were made that 7 such houses should be demolished. Experience indicates that there are probably many more houses on the Island which - if the housing shortage were not so acute - would be considered as unfit for human habitation. In the meantime, however, it is regrettably necessary to take notice only of the very worst dwellings.

It is again a pleasure to record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has invariably been extended to me throughout the year. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their helpful co-operation. Mr. Bolt, your Sanitary Inspector, has been particularly helpful and the part-time clerical assistance of Miss J. Hall has done much to promote the efficiency of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department Staff

1. Medical Officer of Health:

E.J. Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

2. Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. H.R.A. Bolt, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

3. Clerk (part-time)

Miss J. Hall.

4. Sanitary Labourer:

C. Otter.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area(land and internal water) 2,905 acres.

Population (mid 1951)

Estimated by Registrar General 15,100

No. of houses inhabited at 1st April, 1952.
(exclusive of Government properties) 2445

Rateable Value at 1st April, 1952. £61,695.

Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April, 1952:
£249.

VITAL STATISTICS

Total Births: 146

Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 9.66

*Comparability factor (births): .1.66

Standardised Birth Rate: 16.03 per 1,000
population.

Live Births : 142.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	69	71	140
Illegitimate	2	-	2
TOTAL	<u>71</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>142</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 9.40

Still Births: 4.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 0.26.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000(live & still)births: 27.39.

Deaths: 134

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
76	58	134

Death Rate per 1,000 population: 8.87

*Comparability Factor (Deaths) : 1.36

Standardised Death Rate: 12.06

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

All infants per 1,000 live births: 42.25
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births: 42.85
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births: -
 Neo-Natal Mortality Rate: 28.16
 Deaths from Puerperal causes: -

* Comparability Factor This is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the populations of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised birth and death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude rates.

	England and Wales	126 C.Boro's and Gt.Towns including London	148 Smaller towns (resident pop.25-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County.
<u>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</u>				
<u>Births</u>				
Live births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
<u>Deaths</u>				
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and Para.T.	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Ac. poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
<u>Notifications (corrected)</u>				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Ac. poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>				
<u>Deaths</u>				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6(a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
<u>Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.</u>				
<u>Notifications (corrected)</u>				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia.	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90
(a) Per 1,000 related live births .				

<u>Maternal Mortality in England and Wales</u>			
<u>Intermediate List</u> <u>No. and cause</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>of Deaths</u>	<u>Rates per 1,000</u> <u>Total (Live and</u> <u>Still) births.</u>	<u>Rates per</u> <u>million women</u> <u>aged 15-44.</u>
All15 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	70	0.10	0
(Abortion with toxæmia	3	0.00	
All16 (Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	167	0.24	
All17 Haemorrhage of preg- nancy and childbirth	91	0.13	4 7
All18 Abortion without men- tion of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	
All19 Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	
All20 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT - 1951.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
3. Syphilitic disease	2	-	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	1	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	5	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	6	20
18. Coronary disease, angina	10	6	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	1	5
20. Other heart disease	9	21	30
21. Other circulatory disease	3	1	4
22. Influenza	2	1	3
23. Pneumonia	2	1	3
24. Bronchitis	2	3	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	4	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	3	-	3
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u>76</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>134</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious Disease notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:

	<u>March</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total for 1951.</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	1
Whooping cough	-	10	136	62	208
Paralytic poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic poliomyelitis	-	-	3	1	4
Measles	3	19	6	-	28
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Acute pneumonia	1	6	-	-	7
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-
Para-typhoid	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	2	-	2	4
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	4	4

FOOD POISONING

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning but 4 apparently unconnected cases were notified at different times during the year.

CLEAN FOOD

Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 are in force in the district and have been distributed free of charge to all shops where food is handled.

No special 'Clean Food Campaign' was held during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Ten samples of the public water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were reported to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a main water supply pumped from the Friar Waddon borehole where the supply is chlorinated.

Report on chemical analysis of water sample taken at Friar Waddon Pumping Station 27/2/52 :

Appearance: Clear and colourless. No Smell.

Reaction: pH 7.3

	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Free Chlorine	absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.7
Free and Saline Ammonia	Less than .001
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	2.3
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	3.8
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	0.018
Nitrite	absent
Nitrogen in Nitrate	0.36
Total solids dried @ 100°C.	32.5
Loss on ignition	2.5
Appearance on ignition	No charring

	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Hardness : Temporary	20.8
Permanent	4.2
Total	<u>25.0</u>
Lead and Copper	absent

These figures indicate that the water is organically very pure but rather hard. It is quite suitable for drinking and domestic use.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Under Section 11 of this Act seven houses were represented as being individually unfit for human habitation viz:

No. 83 Chiswell.
 No. 85 Chiswell.
 No. 139 Fortuneswell.
 No. 23 Chiswell.
 Nos. 141, 143, 145 High Street, Fortuneswell.

No. 139 Fortuneswell. An undertaking not to use for 'human habitation' was given in respect of 139 Fortuneswell, the owner of which subsequently submitted a list of works which he was prepared to carry out. The Council indicated that they would be prepared to cancel the undertaking on completion of these works.

Nos. 141, 143, 145 High Street, Fortuneswell. After prolonged negotiations with the owner of these properties Demolition Orders were made: there was an abortive County Court appeal and the Council were finally instructed by the appropriate Ministry to make Closing Orders under the Housing Act 1949 - it being apparently considered that the structures should be preserved on account of some architectural merit.

HOUSING PROGRESS

<u>Council Dwellings</u>	<u>In process of erection</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Completed since end of war</u>
Temporary	-	-	40
Permanent			
Traditional Type	-	-	100
Non-traditional Type	<u>54</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>77</u>
TOTAL	<u>54</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>217</u>

Work commenced on the preparation of a site for a further 134 dwellings of the non-traditional type on the Verne Common Site (Stage II). These will comprise 28 two bedroom flats, 96 three bedroom houses and 10 four bedroom houses. The erection of the dwellings is expected to begin in July 1952.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 269

During the year licences were issued for two caravans to be stationed and used in the district. Each licence was limited to a period of six months and was subject to sanitary conditions being maintained.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Under Section 147 of this Act, a local authority may apply to the Magistrates Court for an order for the removal to a suitable institution of a person who is unable to devote to himself - or cannot receive from others - proper care and attention. Certain other provisions must be satisfied before such a person is thus deprived of his liberty - including one

that the person must be given seven days notice of the intended application. It was therefore impossible to take speedy action when this was found to be necessary in the person's own interest but the National Assistance (Amendment) Act which came into operation on the 1st September 1951, now makes it possible for urgent cases to be dealt with expeditiously. Two Medical Certificates are necessary including one from the Medical Officer of Health - and a single magistrate - if satisfied that the conditions warrant such a course - may order the person's removal for a period of three weeks.

One such case was dealt with during the year - an elderly gentleman - living alone. He was in a very frail state of health and conditions in his house were most insanitary. He was removed to a Geriatric Unit but within a few days his condition necessitated his transfer to another hospital where he died shortly afterwards.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	35	38	9	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62	145	9	Nil.
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	10	2	Nil.
TOTAL	102	193	20	Nil.

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Total carried forward	4	4	-	-	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found (contd.)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Brought forward	4	4	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient	5	5	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	5	5	-	-	-
TOTAL	19	19	-	-	-

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With few exceptions the water carriage system is of general use in the District. The closet accommodation is satisfactory. The disposal is by means of three outfalls to the sea.

There are twelve buildings drained into cesspools. Three have pail closets. Three buildings have septic and filter tanks. In two instances premises are drained into natural fissures.

SHOPS ACT

Number of inspections made under the Shops Acts - 38

No exemption certificates were granted during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS

Number on Register	102
Number of inspections made	193
Number of notices	20
Number of defects found	19
Number of defects remedied	19

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

Total number of complaints received	94
Total number of inspections made	2,144

Nature of Inspection

Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances etc. in course of abatement	674
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	16
Premises disinfected	8
Visits in connection with Infestation	25
Premises disinfested	20
Visits to slaughterhouse	35

REGULATED BUILDINGS

250

Huts are used for seasonal occupation; they have a water supply, but no sewerage disposal system. Public conveniences are provided near the sites by the Local Authority.

MILK SUPPLY

Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

<u>No. on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u> <u>made</u>	<u>Number of Contraventions</u> <u>Found during</u> <u>year</u>	<u>Remedied</u> <u>during year</u>
7	15	-	-

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) 1936/46

Number of Licences issued in respect of -

Tuberculin tested	- Bottling	-
	- Dealers	-
	- Supplementary	-
Accredited	- Bottling	-
	- Dealers	1
	- Supplementary	-
Pasteurised	- Pasteurising Plants	-
	- Dealers (Retail)	-
	- Supplementary (Retail)	2

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

Under Ministry of Food arrangements, all slaughtering was carried out at Dorchester until August 31st 1951. Your Sanitary Inspector regularly assisted with meat inspection there until that date.

Number of animals killed for human consumption under license from the Ministry of Food and examined by him at Dorchester abattoir

Pigs	9
Sheep	88

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS contd.

Calves -
 Beasts 353
 Amount of meat condemned at Slaughterhouse - 1,614 lbs.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Killed	-	353	-	88	9
No. Inspected	-	353	-	88	9
<u>All Diseases</u> <u>except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Some part or organ	-	85	-	5	-
Percentage	-	24.3	-	5.7	-
<u>T.B. Only</u>					
Whole carcasses	-	4	-	-	-
Some part or organ	-	50	-	3	2
Percentage	-	15.3	-	3.4	22.2

FOOD CONDEMNED

Meat,	55 tins
Meat, fresh	96 lbs.
Meat pies	402
Ham, cooked,	11 tins
Sausages	22 tins, 2 lbs.
Soups	8 tins
Fish	32 tins
Fruit	176 tins
Fruit, fresh	53 lbs.
Preserves	47 jars
Vegetables	66 tins
Condiments	3 bottles
Mustard	1 tin
Milk	35 tins
Shell Eggs	651
Fats	18 pkts.
Cheese	37 boxes
Flour	5 bags
Baking Powder	63 pkts.
Spaghetti	1 tin
Mixed Peel.	6 lbs.
Yeast	6 lbs.
Vermicelli	70 lbs.
Oats	1 pkt.
Bread	40 loaves
Confectionery	51 lbs.
Sponge Mixture	19 pkts.
Cereals	162 pkts. 15 lbs.
Biscuits	2 pkts.
Coffee	3 tins

HOUSINGInspection of Dwelling Houses

Total number of dwelling houses inspected
 for housing defects (under Public Health
 or Housing Acts)

HOUSING contd.

<u>Inspection of Dwelling Houses</u>	
No. of inspections made for the purpose	297
<u>Remedy of Defects - Informal Action</u>	
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	98
<u>Remedy of Defects - Statutory Action</u>	
<u>Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:</u>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil.
No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) by local authority in default of owners.	Nil.
<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by local authority in default of owners	Nil.
<u>Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936</u>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of a Demolition Order	1
<u>Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act 1936</u>	
No. of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil.

OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding exists but to what extent is not known. Several cases of overcrowding have been abated by the granting of tenancies of Council Houses by the Council.

