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Contributors

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Portland Urban District Council



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1956

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

Council Offices, PORTLAND, Dorset. August 1957

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for you information and consideration my Report for the year 1956 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

There were no outbreaks of serious infectious diseases but 300 notifications of measles were received. Eleven cases of tuberculosis were notified, 9 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. No cases or outbreaks of food poisoning were notified during the year.

The standardised Birth Rate (18.16) per 1000 population was again lower than that for the previous year (20.06); While the standardised Death Rate (9.95 per 1000 population) was also lower than that of the previous year (10.23). Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 55.

Once more it is a pleasure to place on 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. In particular Mr. Williams, your Public Health Inspector and Miss J. Bridle, part-time clerical assistant, have 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. Public Health Inspector:

Mr. P. A. Williams, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

3. Clerk (part-time)

Miss J.E. Bridle

4. Sanitary Labourer:

Mr. C. Otter (up to July, 1956).

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (land and internal water)	2,905
Population (mid 1956) (Estimated by Registrar General)	14,970
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1957	£106,596
Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April, 1957	£ 422
No. of houses inhabited at 1st April, 1957 (exclusive of Government properties)	2,479
Shops assessed with private dwelling accommodation	97
Licensed Premises, hotels or boarding houses	35
Total	2,611

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:

	Total Births		152
x	Birth Rate per 1,000 population		10.15
41	Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population	::	18.16

Live Births: 146

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate	72	70	142
	TOTAL 75	71	146
Live Birth Rate per l	000 population		9.75

Still Births: 6

Legitimate Illegitimate TOTAL	Males 1 1 2	Females 4	Total 5 1
Still Birth Rate per 1 Still Birth Rate per 1	,000 population	ill) births	39.47
DEATHS: 91			
	Males 61	Females	Total
Mate per 1,000 p K Comparability Factor (Standardised Death Rate	opulation (Deaths)	30	6.07 1.64 9.95
Deaths of Infants under 1 v	ear:		
Legitimate Illegitimate To	Males 4	Females 1 - 1	Total 5
Deaths of Infants under 4 w	reeks:		
Legi tima te Illegi tima te	Males 4	Females	Total 4
Infant Mortality Rate			
All Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Infants per Illegitimate Infants p births Neo-Natal Mortality Ra Maternal Mortality Rat	r 1,000 legitime per 1,000 Illegi	ate births timate	34.24 35.21 Nil 27.39 Nil

X Comparability Factor. This is worked out for each District by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in age and sex constitution of the population 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. The death rate area comparability factors have this year, for the first time, been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND U.D. - 1956

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	mark-ind	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
3.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	- 101	-	
7	Acute poliomyelitis	- (-	1108 - T	-
8.	Measles	-	-	
9.	Other infective and parasitic	14.0		
	diseases	-	- 15 1211	100

		Males	Females	Total
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronch	is 1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	17-110	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic			
	neoplasms	7	1	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	. 1	1 S 10 - 3 112	8
16.	Diabetes O	-	19 14	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous			
	system '	5	. 6	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	11	. 6	15
	Hypertension with heart disease			-5
20.	Other heart disease	10	2 5	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	2		15 2 15 2
22.	Influenza	-	a constitution	00 5
	Pneumonia	2	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	18 1
	Bronchitis	E	1	5
	Other diseases of respiratory	7		and and
۵).	system	7		7
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	- 1
		т_	2	7
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrho	bea-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	7	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	0937
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined	4	,	
	diseases	6	1	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	Ţ	113 - 113 - 113 - 113	1
	All other accidents	2	6100271267	2
40.7	Suicide	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	7.2
			20	-07
	TOTAL	61	30_	71

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:-

	March	June	September	December	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	5	2	2	9
Whooping Cough	-	n-st	0 00 - 70065	NY - 25 67	2 500
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	in bits	- T	gnoo -latel	920 T 575	rio Tries
Non-Paralytic do.	11-	-	OCH DESI TO	100 500	Total
Measles	233	66	a nace ,aug	1	300
Diphtheria	0 0- 01	-	sblas an	lo ofference	700
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	1	-		1	2
Smallpox	-	-	-		
Acute encephalitis	-	-		1000	
Typhoid Fever	-				-
Para-typhoid Fever	2	200	Per League 1 76	1	3
Erysipelas	-		200000	A STATE OF THE STATE OF	-
Meningococcal Infection Food Poisoning		_	BESOFIE	949 24 553	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	_	_	-	Transfer of the	-
Tuberculosis Respiratory	2	4	2	1	9
Non-Respirator		-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	1	1	2

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

(1) Meat.

(a) Meat Premises. There are no registered slaughterhouses in the District and all meat for human consumption had been inspected by Meat Inspectors of adjacent authorities before it was brought to the Island. Regular visits were made by your Public Health Inspector to Butchers' shops. The covered metal-lined van used for bringing meat to the Island has been inspected periodically and found to be maintained in good condition.

One man was registered as a slaughterman, and employed mainly outside the district or in slaughtering for private consumption, and not for re-sale.

(b) Sausage and Cooked Meat Premises. Twelve visits were made to the eight premises used for small sales in conjunction with butchers' shops. All were found to be maintained satisfactorily.

Many individual visits were made to explain the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 in various food premises, particularly bake-houses cooking meat products and two circulars were sent to all firms employing food handlers in the district, drawing attention to the Regulations and especially to the changes required. No special lectures were given or Clean Food Guilds inaugurated, the individual requirements of each premises being explained separately at the time of visiting.

(ii) Milk The only grades of milk permitted to be retailed in Portland, are Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised. There is no pasteurising plant on the Island - neither are there any local producers of Tuberculin Tested milk.

The main suppliers of milk are Messrs. Lovell's Creameries Ltd. and the Weymouth & District Co-operative Society who are licensed as Supplementary Dealers.

All raw milk produced on the Island is forwarded by the farmers for pasteurisation in Weymouth.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) or Milk (Pasteurised & Sterilised) Regulations, 1949, the following licences were issued by the Council:-

Tuberculin Tested
Dealers or Supplementary
Purveyors Dealers

Pasteurised
Dealers or Supplementary
Purveyors Dealers Sterilised

6

11

Nil

During the year the Public Health Laboratory at Dorchester examined 17 samples of pasteurised milk, all of which were reported to be satisfactory.

(iii) Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the Urban District, pre-packed supplies being obtained from the larger manufacturers on the mainland. All premises used for the sale of ice cream were inspected and the freezing apparatus checked and these conformed with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947.

Three samples of wrapped ice cream examined by the Public Health Laboratory were classed as Grade 1. No loose ice cream was sold within the area.

(iv) Summary

(i) Food premises within the area are as follows:-

Butchers Shops	8
Bakers Shops	7
Bakeries	7
Greengrocers	13
General Provision Shops	35
Confectionary Shops	22
Works Canteens	3
School Canteens	
Hotels	5
Licensed Premises	33
Salvation Army Hostel	1
Cafes	9

(ii) The following were registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

(a)	For the sale of ice-	cream 3	87
(b)	For the manufacture	of sausages	8
(c)	Cooked Fish & Chip S	hops	5

- (v) Byelaws & Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. With regard to the handling and wrapping of food, the Eye-laws made in 1950 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 have been of considerable assistance.
- (vi) <u>Cafes & Food Premises</u>. All Hotels and Cafes together with all other food premises such as Provision Shops, Greengrocers, Confectioners, Works and School Canteens were visited during the year and in appropriate cases attention was drawn to the need for staff facilities for washing hands. Clothing lockers or compartments were also mentioned and much adaptation was carried out. A total of 131 visits were made.

As a result of these visits, nine informal notices were served in regard to the provision of extra sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, tidying of stores and redecoration. The standard of hygiene in food shops, hotels, licensed premises and cafes was found to be generally satisfactory and many improvements were put in hand to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 which became operative on 1st January, 1956.

WATER SUPPLY

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

Fifty-two samples of the public water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:-

	Satisfactory	Suspicious	unsatis.	TOOGT
Council Offices	23	-	3	26
Friar Waddon	17	2	7	26
rilar maddon	10	2	70	52
	-10	-	***************************************	-

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS 11th March, 1957

Appearance: Clear bright and colourless.

Reaction: pH 7.47

Parts per Million

Free Carbon Dioxide	11
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.015
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	23
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	38
Oxygen absorbed (4 Hrs.)	
Nitrite	Slight reaction
Nitrate	origin o reaction
	2250/
Appearance on ignition	No charring
equivalent to Sodium Chloride tygen absorbed (4 Hrs.)	23 38 0.25 Slight reaction 2.7 335 15 No charring

Mineral Analysis

Calcium Magnesium Carbonate Sulphate Nitrate	Ca m Mg so ₄)3		66 18 130 18 12
Chlorine Lead Copper Zinc Iron	C1 Pb Cu Zn Fe		Less than	23 0.02 0.02 0.07 0.05

These are probably combined somewhat as follows:

Calcium Carbonate CaCO3	165
Magnesium " MgCO 3	717+
" Sulphate MgSO4	22
Sodium Nitrate NaNQ	17
" Chloride (Salt) NaCl Undetermined (Silica etc.) Loss on ignition	38 34 <u>15</u> 335
Hardness: Temporary Permanent Total	335 216 22 238

In forwarding their report, Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien, Analytical Chemists said, "The figures for the chemical analysis are very similar to those taken in March 1952 and October 1955. Such changes as have occurred have no real significance, especially at the rather long intervals that have elapsed. The water is still of a high degree of organic purity, and provided satisfactory bacteriological results are obtained, is an excellent drinking water."

HOUSING ACTS 1936-1954

Under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936, the following 9 houses were represented as being individually unfit:-

No 60 Weston Road	-	Undertaking accepted.
No 41 Straits	-	Undertaking accepted.
No 1 Clements Lane	-	Closing order made.
No 77 Chiswell	-	Undertaking accepted.
No 109 Chiswell	-	Demolition order made.
No 107 Chiswell	-	Demolition order made.
No 81 Chiswell	-	Closing order made.
No 97 Weston Road.	-	Closing order made.
No 37 Wakeham	-	Notice of "Time & Place"
		to be served December 1956

Action taken in houses officially represented in previous year

No 131 Chiswell - Specification of works carried out and undertaking given by owner, cancelled by Council.

163 High Street Notice of 'Time & Place' was served in December 1955 and the owner's undertaking not to re-let was subsequently accepted by the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269

Three licences to use individual caravans for a period not exceeding six months were issued during the year.

At the end of the year a licence was issued to Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Legg in respect of the Caravan Site in the paddock adjoining Pennsylvania Castle.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No formal action was taken under these Acts but 34 visits were paid to aged or infirm persons, and help or guidance given as needed.

One elderly man living under most unsatisfactory conditions was persuaded to enter hospital, where he improved sufficiently to enable him to be transferred to a County Council Home.

PUBLIC REALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

It was not necessary for me to issue any notice on behalf of the Council under these regulations.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One shop was licensed under this Act.

The Local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. has continued to act as Inspector under the Act. No complaints were received from him during the year. Six visits were paid by your Public Health Inspector and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS

The electric cabinet for the humane destruction of cats and dogs loaned to the Council by the R.S.P.C.A. was available at the Council's Wide Street Depot on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30 and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 4.30.

This service has been much appreciated and during the year 89 dogs or puppies and 144 cats or kittens were humanely destroyed.

DEALERS IN OLD METALS

Three persons were registered as Dealers in Scrap Metal under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 and seven visits were made to check books and premises. No Marine Stores Dealers were registered.

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 & 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register		Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	27	31	1	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	30	35	4	
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (exclud- ing out-workers' premises)	1	14	14	
TOTAL	58	70	9	-

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of
Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspec- tor	ferred By H.M. Inspec- tor	in which prosecu- tions were instituted
Want of cleanliness Overcroding	1	1	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature Inadequate	-	-	-	-	.Selstens
Ventilation Ineffective drainage of	-	-	-	-	-
floors Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insuffi-		-	-		
cient (b) Unsuit-	-	-	-	-	-
defective (c) Not separ-	2	2	-	-	-
ate for sexes Other offences against the	1	1	-	-	- 5,000
Act	3	3	-	1 7 3	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	-	-

DRAINAGE AND GENERAL WORK . ETC.

All new drainage and repairs or alterations to existing drainage of all premises other than Government buildings were tested by water pressure or smoke machine in the presence of your Public Health Inspector, and a good standard of work was maintained by both Council employees and Contractors. All drains and private sewers in the area were cleared where required by the Council's Sanitary Labourer, who in addition to this work carried out all rodent destruction throughout the area, disinfections and disinfestations of buildings, disposal of unwanted cats and dogs, the spraying of the Council's Tip and other miscellaneous duties, e.g. sewer flushings etc.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Portland has approximately 2,600 houses and business premises and with a few exceptions these are sewered into four outfalls at Chiswell, Chene, Portland Bill and Sheat. Apart from a small area at Pennsylvania Castle, all the sewage from TophiTl entered the sea by natural fall, but in the Underhill district automatic sewage pumps were employed.

Private housing development in Southwell, together with drainage from a large Government establishment built for the Admiralty, caused some flooding of roads in this area after heavy rain storms, and apart from a proposal being submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for relieving sewers, only minor works of surface water overflows were put in hand during the year. Certain improvements were also carried out in the Verne Common and Chiswell areas which resulted in reduction of the overloading of these sewers at peak periods.

There are still a few septic tanks remaining on the Island used for factories far distant from the sewers, and for a few isolated houses and one public convenience situated on the sea shore at Church Ope Cove below the sewer level. These septic tanks are being reduced in number as time goes on, but during the year the tanks still in existence were all maintained in good order by a mechanical sewage tanker borrowed from a neighbouring authority under contract.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year 152 visits were made by your Public Health Inspector in connection with rodent control.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food methods of destruction were used and their Divisional Rodent Inspector checked the work regularly. Twice during the year all the non-tidal and unflooded portions of the sewerage systems were test baited, and poison baited according to the Ministry Inspector's advice.

One man was employed part-time on rodent destruction work. The regular man being sick from July, a temporary employee undertook the 3-day Ministry Course and carried out the work until the end of the year.

Number of visits of part-time rodent operatives (Inspections & Treatment)	976
Infestations reported and eradicated	144
Baits laid (including prebaiting)	521
Sewer manholes test baited	55
Sewer manholes poison baited	22

FUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council maintained a weekly collection of house refuse throughout the year and also removed trade refuse. This work was under the control of the Council's Surveyor. One 'Karrier' 10 cubic yard side-loading covered lorry was used for refuse collection and a driver and four assistants were employed on this vehicle.

It is estimated that 3,800 tons of house and trade refuse were disposed of during the year. The tip at Wide Street was maintained free from rats, by being regularly baited. This latter work was also checked by the Divisional Rodent Inspector from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

LICENSED PREMISES

During the year the 33 Licensed Premises were inspected and certain owners were asked to fix wash-hand basins with cold water service in the ladies' toilets.

Ten preliminary notices were issued in regard to insufficient accommodation, or the fitting of wash-hand basins for the Staff under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

Extensions of sanitation were provided by owners as follows:-

Extra W.C. for Wash-hand basins for Ladies 3

Schemes agreed to, and drawings submitted but work not started:-

Ladies Gents Ladies 2 Wash basins Ladies 3

All licensed premises now have sinks with hot water for glass washing.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Portland, as a Naval Port and industrial area attracts technicians from many parts, and this has encouraged the provision of privately owned flats and houses let in lodgings. Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, 16 such houses let in lodgings were inspected, together with 12 furnished houses, when conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory, although several houses let in lodgings and flats had separate tenants sharing sanitary conveniences and bathrooms. Five preliminary notices were issued mainly involving repairs or extensions to drainage, all of which were complied with in good time.

UNSOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

Food	No. of	
2000	containers	Weight
Tomatoes	139	129 lbs.
Spaghetti	2	1 1b.
Soup	21	11 1b.
Peas	8	124 lbs.
	2	1 1b.
Beans	2	3½ 1bs.
Plums	3	J2 103.
Oranges	3	2 1bs.
Strawberries	6	5½ 1bs.
Pineapple	15	18% lbs.
Loganberries	i	1 1b.
Dogametres	24	23 lbs.
Cherries	12	15 lbs.
Raspberries	14	54 1bs.
Pears	2	
Peaches	2	32 lbs.
Gooseberries	5 2 19	32 lbs. 23 lbs.
Apricots	2	2 lbs. 2 pint 8 lbs.
Milk (condensed)	1	2 pint
	- Z	8 lbs.
Butter	27	963 lbs.
Meat	27 2 7	964 lbs. 62 lbs.
Bacon	2	7 lbs.
Fish	7	7 105.

(12)

Condemned Food. Condemned Food is collected by Council transport after voluntary surrender has been agreed to in writing, and disposed of at the Council's Tip.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Sanitary Defects, Nuisances investigated. Visits to verminous premises. Premises disinfested by Local Authority. Premises disinfected by Local Authority. Investigating Infectious Diseases. Visits to houses owned by Local Authority. Visits to Aged and infirm persons. Housing Survey Inspections. Investigating overcrowding or	21 8
unsatisfactory conditions	67
Structural Delects and disrenair found	159
Intervious with owners, agents atc.	
In cerviews with contractors	64
Revisits Butchers' Shops and Meat Preparation Rooms	157
Dakenouses	14
Provision Shops	34 18
rish *rvers	18
Cafe and Hotel Kitchens. Canteens (Including 3 School canteens).	31
Ice Cream premises	41
Licensed Premises	39
Ullices inspected	10
School Conveniences	5
School's drainage	6
Pet Animals Shops Shops for the purposes of Shops Acts	22
Milk Shops	32
Milk Samples for bacteriological examination	17
Ice-cream samples taken	3
Routine drinking water samples for bacteriological	
examination	30
Waterworks visited re sampling	19
Inspections of factories and workplaces	70
Petroleum Installations Visits	17
Petroleum Installations Tests	29
Notices sent under Eactory Acts	9
Factories re fire certificates	3
Other matters in Factories	7
Public Conveniences	13
Inspectors visits re rodents	152
Visits to refuse tip	23
Tip sprayed for flies etc	6
Tip baited for rodents	8
Complaints re refuse collection, dustbins etc.	16
Visits to Camavan and camping sites	26
Pig sties	4
Cess-pools & Septic Tanks inspected	13
Septic Tanks emptied	2

Miscellaneous visits	204
Scrap Metal Dealers visited	7
Drainage Inspections and test:-	
Smoke	40
Water	72
Visits re drains	118
Quarries inspected for accumulations	11
Accumulations removed	15
Drains or sewers cleared by Council men	108
Food disposal certificates issued	17
Magistrates Food Condemnation Certificates	27
Visits re unsound foods	1
Public Health Acts & Housing Acts.	577
Notices served - Informal	
Formal	10
Notices complied - Informal	2
Formal	
Total number of inspections made	20/0



