

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Portslade-by-Sea U.D.C.

Contributors

Portslade-by-Sea (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

Persistent URL

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URBAN DISTRICT
of
PORTSLADE-BY-SEA



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
for the Year 1944,

BY

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also
M.O.H. of Hove

SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

PHYSICIANS TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRES—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

Miss D. A. CAREW HUNT, M.D., London.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL NURSES—

Nurse TURNER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate

Nurse GUEST, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1944—a year which while it brought with it some alleviation of definite war-time problems, presented other difficulties in the initiation of the post-war reconstruction. The general health of all ages continued to be as good as in the previous war years, and there were no epidemics or outbreaks of disease which could be attributed to the strain of the previous five years. The realisation that at last this was the beginning of the end, and excitements and expectations of the landings on the continent, combined to invigorate anew the spirit of a people tired after a long period of strain and tension, fortified by a food supply, which if it filled, did not always satisfy.

The Birth Rate rose to 20·2, a figure not previously exceeded since 1921, the Corrected Death Rate was the same as in 1943—11·8; and the Infant Mortality Rate was 48·4, rather more than double last year's phenomenally low figure. An examination of the causes of the 12 individual deaths, reveals that 10 only survived for periods under one month, 7 were Premature, 2 had Congenital Defects which are incapable alike of prevention or treatment.

The major Infectious Diseases were light, both in incidence and type—only 17 cases of Scarlet Fever; one of Diphtheria. Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent during the spring and early summer, but there were no deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation continued to be accepted generally as a well-tried method of prevention—some 167 infants under 5, and 17 over 5 receiving their initial

injections. It was the exception to find at School Medical Inspections any children who had not been immunised in previous years, but additional stimulating doses were given on these occasions to those whose immunity had presumably lapsed through the passage of time. I estimate that some 90% of the child population under 5, and 65% of those over that age have been immunised. It is unwise to claim results incapable of exact proof, but it is perhaps of some significance that only one case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis shewed about the same incidence as in 1943—7 new notifications of Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary, with 5 deaths, all Pulmonary.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector concentrated on preventing any further deterioration in properties and supervising the production and distribution of perishable foods. In addition, he gave considerable attention to dealing with the Rat menace.

The Casualty Section of the Civil Defence Services again had a quiet year and with the disappearance of the flying bomb became reduced to care taker proportions.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{ Legitimate	219	109	110
	{ Illegitimate	29	18	11

Birth-rate 20·2

Stillbirths :—5 Rate per 1,000 births—23·0.

DEATHS	128	77	51
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Corrected Death Rate 11·8.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :—

From Sepsis : none. From other causes : 1.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—12

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 48·4

Deaths from

Measles (all ages)	...	...	none
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	none
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			none

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

DRAINAGE

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :—

There are 10 houses served by 6 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board

SANITARY INSPECTION—The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :—

Houses inspected for housing defects	...	205
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts		458
Houses inspected after complaints	...	130
Premises disinfected	... ..	16
Informal notices issued (Housing & P H. Acts)		262
Statutory notices issued	, , ,	22
Houses found dirty	... ..	42
„ with insufficient bin	... ..	88
Drains defective	... ..	96
Closets „	... ..	47
Sinks „	... ..	17
Roofs and Gutters defective	... ..	57
Paving of Yards defective	... ..	3
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceilings, Floors etc.		123
Offensive Accumulations	... ..	13

RATS AND MICE (Destruction Act, 1919)

A considerable amount of time and labour was spent during the year in the drive to destroy Rats and Mice.

Publicity was given to this by the display of posters and the distribution of pamphlets requesting the public to report infestations. The response was fairly good but inspections discovered infestations which had not been reported.

A part-time Rodent Operator is employed on this work and a small charge to cover the cost of baits and poisons is made.

During the year 175 infestations were dealt with and 783 visits were made to infested premises.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 5 Council Houses and 33 other houses were found to be infested with vermin, and were disinfected as follows :—
- (2) By removing or easing all woodwork, architraves, skirting-boards, etc., and spraying with insecticides, and in some cases by the use of gaseous fumigants.

This work has been carried out by the Council, and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	205
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				412
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	18
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				54
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	205

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	174
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A-Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		33
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a) By Owners	... ..	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		0

B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		141
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :		
(a) By Owners	... ..	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		0

C-Proceedings under sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made		0

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :—	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	0
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	0

D-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	8
(ii)	Number of families therein	13
(iii)	Number of persons	75
(b)	Number of new cases reported during the year	1
(c) (i)	Number of cases relieved	1
(ii)	Number of persons concerned	10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—There is only 1 farm in the district from which milk is supplied; this is kept in a satisfactory condition.

There are 4 dairies in the district, 1 Cowkeeper, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only; and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

148 lbs of Beef, 1 Sheeps Carcase, 56 lbs of Margarine, 12 lbs of Boiled Ham, 54 lbs of Flour, 1 cwt of Macaroni, 2 lbs of Sausages, 3 lbs of Butter, 5 Stones of Fish, 186 tins of Food, 14 lbs of Biscuits, 6 Loaves of Bread, 1 jar of Pickles, 1 bottle of Sauce

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1944.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Re- moved Hospitl	De'ths
Scarlet Fever ...	17		1	1	2	6	6	1						8	
Erysipelas ...	6							1		2	3			1	
Pneumonia ...	14		1		1	1	1			5	4	2			1
Diphtheria ...	1							1						1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2									2					
Ophthalmia neon- atorum ...															
Measles ...	124	5	9	11	14	10	61	5	3	5				1	
Whooping Cough	41	4	1	7	3	2	23	1						1	
	205	9	11	19	18	15	91	14	4	9	5	7	2	12	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
35	...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals		4	3	1	4	2	4	—	—



