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Contributors

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Urban District of
PORTSLADE-BY-SEA

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REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1946

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



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N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also M.O.H. of
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Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1946—the first one for seven years which can be devoted entirely to peace-time, or at any rate after the war activities.

The Vital Statistics showed an almost total decline of serious illness of any type and infectious disease was exceptionally light in both incidence and severity. There were 16 cases of Scarlet Fever, no cases of Diphtheria, 23 cases of Measles and of Whooping Cough, with no deaths. In this connection the returns for Diphtheria Immunisation which showed according to our records that 2,259 children under the age of 15 years had been protected, must be a factor in the low incidence of that disease.

The Birth Rate, after a decrease last year, rose again to 18.55, which nearly totalled the high level of 1944. The General Death Rate was slightly higher than in 1945, but the Infant Mortality Rate showed a welcome fall from 65 to 29. Of the 7 deaths under 1 year, 4 survived for periods up to a month and 4 were due to infections of various types.

Tuberculosis of all forms remained at the former level, 18 new cases, some of them transfers from other districts, and 3 deaths only were notified.

With the disappearance of his Civil Defence responsibility, the Sanitary Inspector was able to devote himself exclusively to his real duties, and the summary of his work shows how much

time he devotes to rectifying defects of ordinary households and alleviating the lot of those whose accommodation falls short by much or little of a reasonable standard.

In 1946 no permanent Council houses were completed although some 66 had been commenced, and it is hoped that by the end of 1947 some 100 will be ready for occupation. 12 prefabricated temporary houses were erected and occupied in 1946.

In 1946 the National Health Service Act was placed on the Statute Book. The effect of this will be to give Portslade a bigger share in the running of its Maternity and Child Welfare Services than it has hitherto enjoyed, since in accordance with the provisions, a Joint Sub-Committee for the two areas is to be set up in 1948 to which will be delegated the day-to-day running of the services.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—12,670

BIRTHS.		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	220	117	103
	Illegitimate	15	9	6

Birth-rate 18.55.

Stillbirths—6. Rate per 1,000 births—25.5.

DEATHS	154	79	75
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Corrected Death Rate 12.15.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth :

From Sepsis—Nil. From other causes—1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—7.

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 29.7.

Deaths from

Measles (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	1

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 9 houses served by 5 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. One house served by a cesspool was connected to the sewer and the cesspool filled in.

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 INSPECTOR. The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects ..	228
Number of inspections made for the purpose	541
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	231
Number of inspections made for that purpose	512
Number of complaints received	407
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act) ..	246
Statutory Notices served	27
Houses found dirty or verminous ..	18
Houses with insufficient refuse bin ..	146
Defective Drains	47
Defective Closets	25
Defective Sinks	14
Defective Roofs and Gutters	57
Defective Paving of yards	5
Damp and Defective Walls and Ceilings ..	128
Defective Floors	49
Defects to Windows, Doors, Grates, etc. ..	97

RATS AND MICE (Destruction Act, 1919).

The drive against the Rat nuisance has been continued throughout the year with some success and a complete treatment of the foul sewerage system has been completed.

A part-time Rodent Operator is employed on this work and a small charge is made to occupiers of infested properties in accordance with the Ministry of Food's Recommendations.

The previous year's work seems to have been successful, and the number of complaints of infestation has decreased.

During the year, 71 infestations were dealt with and 294 visits were paid to infested properties.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 14 houses were found to be infested with vermin, and were disinfested as follows :
- (2) By removing and 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) | 228 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 541 |
| (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 | — |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | — |
| (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 | 228 |

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

65

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	22
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	9
(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	60
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	10
(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
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- (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.

The number of overcrowded premises has increased considerably during the year, and there are numerous cases of two or more families living in one house. This is due to the shortage of Housing Accommodation, and although every effort is being made to provide accommodation by the requisitioning of empty properties, no real progress can be made until new houses are built.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. There is only 1 Farm in the district from which milk is supplied.

There are 4 Dairies in the district, 1 Cowkeeper, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairy-men 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 :

61lbs. of Beef, 46 stones of Fish, 6lbs. of Sausages, 20lbs. of Flour, 17lbs. of Butter, 2lbs. of Lard, 10lbs. of Dried Peas, 8lbs. of Macaroni, 61lbs. of Figs, 25lbs. of Sultanas, 461 cans of Food.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality, 1946.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Age not known	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
0	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
35	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
66	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	5	3	—	2	1	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1946.

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	R'moved Hospital	D'ths.
Scarlet Fever ..	15		1	2	1	6	3			2				3	
Erysipelas ..	2										1				
Pneumonia ..	20		1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	4	3		5
Diphtheria ..	—														
Measles ..	23	1	7	1		10	3	1							
Whooping Cough ..	23	3	4	3	1	3	9								
	83	4	4	12	6	5	26	7	2	3	6	4	4	3	5

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to
31st December, 1946.

Age at 31-12-46, <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5 to 9 1937-1941	10 to 14 1932-1936	Total under 15
Number Immunised	13	70	221	181	267	1507		2259
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1946			1010			1820		2830