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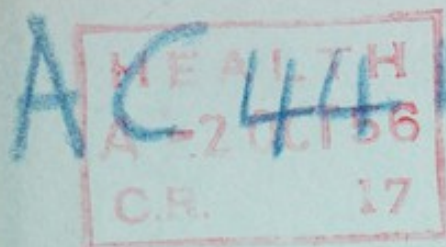
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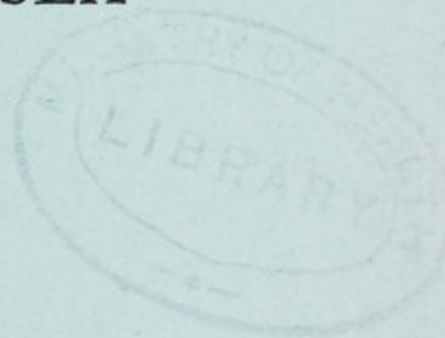


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REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1955
by
N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1955

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

SANITARY AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Councillor W. HUNT, J.P.

(Chairman of the Council).

Chairman—Mrs. A. M. WILLIAMS.

Councillor A. J. BROOMFIELD.

Councillor P. W. GLADWIN.

Councillor S. HARRIS.

Councillor W. HUNT, J.P.

Councillor W. E. PHILLIPS.

Councillor R. C. SECKER.

Councillor A. B. STEER.

Councillor C. T. SMITH.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

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

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

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

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1955, which in most respects follows the trend of its predecessors since the end of the war, in so far as there has been very little alteration in population or in Birth and Mortality Rates. One of the features of the coastal areas of Southern England is that the very considerable building and conversional development has added very little to the overall population and although the number of occupants of premises may have increased it is only in reality an increase in accommodational units rather than of persons.

If, however, no spectacular advances of that nature can be mentioned for 1955, it is satisfactory that the number of infant deaths and deaths from infectious diseases and incidence of those diseases has remained very small. Apart from measles the number of all infections affecting both children and adults hardly equalled double figures. There was only 1 case of poliomyelitis—non-paralytic—occurring in an adult right at the end of the year, from which a complete recovery was made. 3 cases of paratyphoid were notified and removed to hospital but in fact only one was a true case with symptoms, the other two falling into the category of symptomless excretors. They formed part of a larger outbreak which affected quite a number of towns in this part of Sussex, the origin of which, despite a tremendous amount of patient investigation and the examination of hundreds of specimens, remained a mystery. No connection could be found between the patients and no common article of food or drink discovered, and one could only postulate that some widely disposed basic ingredient of a commonly consumed foodstuff, such as Chinese frozen egg, at some stage had become infected and those developing the disease were in that respect the unlucky ones.

Sonne Dysentery, a very mild form, has become of great nuisance value since the war. It is spread by faulty hygiene and personal contact, and is responsible for a considerable amount of temporary incapacity. Fortunately, except in small babies, it is rarely severe.

Tuberculosis.

There were 19 new cases of Pulmonary and 3 of Non-pulmonary added to the register in 1955, which after allowing for deaths and other causes of removal, raised the total from 113 to 121. Not all the new cases were new diagnoses, quite a number represented transfers from other areas, but it is revealing to notice that the biggest reservoir of infection is amongst males from 35 upwards—just the group which it is so difficult to persuade to accept investigation of suspicious symptoms or a routine check-up by the Mass Radiography. This Unit did not repeat its visit of 1954 although it hopes to do so in 1956, but the percentage of new cases discovered through this means is going down, largely because it is re-examining year by year the same population. Its main task for the future must, therefore, be the breaking of new ground and efforts to find fresh sections of the population or age groups which hitherto have not responded to previous invitations.

Food Poisoning.

There were 4 of what the Ministry of Health terms Food Poisoning incidents during 1955—all individual cases in households, and 2 of these were in babies of eighteen months. In only 2 of these cases was it possible to discover the offending organisms and in no instance could the offending foodstuff be identified. In these individual cases this is usually the case and it is only in families where several or all of the members have been simultaneously affected that it is likely that any identification is possible and then only if some of the suspected items of food remain available for investigation.

In my 1954 Annual Report I mentioned that a provisional figure of 155 properties had been suggested as the number which could be dealt with over the next five years under slum clearance procedure but I suggested that this might have to be modified in the light of more detailed inspections. This, in fact, did happen and the final figures submitted to and accepted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was 109, grouped in 15 clearance areas and 8 individual unfit houses. By the end of the year I had made official representation in

respect of properties contained within 5 of these areas, 39 houses in all, and clearance orders in respect of 3 of these areas were made by the Council.

Although the total on page 15 seems to show a considerable decrease in the number of children between the ages of 5-14 who received booster doses of diphtheria prophylactic during the year, this is in fact due to an alteration in administration and the leeway has been more than made up during the first half of the present year. I calculate that the percentage of eligible children, *i.e.*, those who attained their first birthday during the year, some of whom were born in 1954, was 63.8%, and by the same comparison the percentage of those vaccinated amounted to 52.7%.

I should like once again to record my thanks to the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Tozer, the Surveyor, Mr. Rudgley, and especially the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Donald, and for the support I have once again received from the Sanitary and Housing Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : 13,990.

BIRTHS :		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	90	75	165
Illegitimate	..	4	3	7
Birth Rate : 12.29 (Standard).				
13.64 (Corrected).				

STILL BIRTHS : 3

1. Rate per 1,000 Births :

DEATHS :

Male .. 76
 Female .. 63 Total : 139.

Death Rate : 9.93 (Standard).
 9.43 (Corrected).

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-
 birth : Nil.

Death of infants under 1 year of age : 5.

Rate per 1,000 births : 29.06.

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages)	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	Nil
Pneumonia	..	4
Cancer (all forms)	..	31

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 14 houses served by cesspools, of these cesspools 10 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 4 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act.

In addition there are 12 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	..	438
Number of inspections made for the purpose		776
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	..	337
Number of inspections made for that purpose		583
Number of complaints received		150
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act)	..	65
Statutory Notices served		6
Houses found dirty or verminous	..	18
Houses with insufficient refuse bin	..	5

Defective and Choked Drains	..	..	202
Defective Closets	..	..	22
Defective Sinks	..	..	9
Defective Roofs and Gutters	..	..	52
Damp and Defective Walls and Ceilings	..	..	160
Defective Floors	..	..	34
Defects to Windows, Doors, Grates, etc.	..	..	102

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The destruction of rats and mice has been successfully continued throughout the year, both in surface properties and in the Council's sewers.

During the year 156 infestations were dealt with on surface properties and two sewer treatments carried out.

The treatment is free to private properties but a small charge is made for business premises.

Eradication of Vermin.

During the year 18 houses were found to be in a dirty or verminous condition and of these, 11 were disinfested by spraying with insecticides.

This work has been carried out by the Council and the cost of materials used has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED AT 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Council Houses and Flats	..	..	630
Old Peoples Bungalows	..	..	18
Temporary Houses	..	..	6

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)	438
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	776
(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	61
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	75
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(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	121

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
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There is only 1 Farm in the District which is supplying Tuberculin Tested Milk.

During the year there were 25 Dealers' Licences and 9 Supplementary Licences issued for the sale of designated Milk in this District.

ICE CREAM.

There is 1 Factory registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and 52 Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1938 SECTION 14.

There are 6 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, pickled or preserved food.

There were 18 inspections of registered premises and in 1 case an improved supply of hot water for hand washing was provided.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and most of the home killed meat is brought in from Brighton Abattoir.

No butchers meat was condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption.

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

17½lbs. of ham.

12lbs. of corned beef.

2 stones of fish.

105 cans of food.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	6	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62	46	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	2	2	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
TOTAL ..	92	54	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

	* New Cases				Deaths				Other Removals				Cases on Register				Totals
	Pul.		Non.		Pul.		Non.		Pul.		Non.		Pul.		Non.		
	M. F.	F.	M. F.	F.	M. F.	F.	M. F.	F.	M. F.	F.	M. F.	F.	M. F.	F.	M. F.	F.	
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	4	9
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	3	5	1	1	10
25—35	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	11	10	2	—	23
35—45	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	16	16	2	—	34
45—65	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	6	1	3	33
Over 65.	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	6
Totals	12	7	1	2	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—	61	41	11	8	121

* These figures include "Inward Transfers"

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1955.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	7
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	23
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	307
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	13
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	5
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	..	3
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	7
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. 1955.

	AGE			
	at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B).			
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	Total
Number of Children who completed a Full Course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) during the year ..	48	56	39	143
Number of Children who received a Secondary (Reinforcing) Injection (<i>i.e.</i> , subsequently to Primary Immunisation at an earlier age) during the year ..	—	2	62	64

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

VACCINATION ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during Period.

AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 and over	Total
Number Vaccinated	85	2	—	10	1	98
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	2	11	—	13