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URBAN DISTRICT OF RAYLEIGH.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)


including THE REPORT of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(E. H. Lloyd, C.R.S.I.)

for

1943.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Public Health Department,
London Road,
HADLEIGH, Essex.

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

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Fourteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1943.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 10/44, of the 15th February, 1944, this is intended to be an interim report and, on grounds of national security, as instructed in this Circular afore-mentioned, certain facts and figures must not be published.

Throughout the year the sympathetic consideration and assistance of the Council have been a great help.

I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE.

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

May, 1944.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	5,787
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Book	.. .. .	2,700 approx.
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£53,354
Sum represented by a penny rate	.. .. .	£210

In the above and following statistics, several routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.England and Wales.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-

Live Births: 16.5 Still Births: 0.51 Deaths: 12.1

Rate per 1,000 Live Births:

Deaths under one year of age: 49

Rayleigh U.D.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>			
Total	113	56	57
Legitimate	101	48	53
Illegitimate	12	8	4
<u>Still Births:</u>			
Total	1	-	1
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Deaths:</u>	111	57	54

When compared with the figures for 1942, the 1943 Birth Rate for the Rayleigh U.D. shows a decrease whilst the 1943 Death Rate is also diminished. The Comparability Factor is not available for either year, owing to war conditions.

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

Total number of deaths ..	..	2
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	..	17.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000		
legitimate live births ..	..	19.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000		
illegitimate live births ..	..	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	..	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	..	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	..	-

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory Facilities, (b) Ambulance Facilities, (c) Nursing in the Home, (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics and (e) Hospitals, there are no essential changes to note.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The water undertakers for the area are the Southend Waterworks Company, who maintained a constant supply of water throughout the year. At the end of the year 2735 properties were connected to the Company's mains, an increase of 6 compared with those connected at the end of 1942.

The Company submitted during the year reports from an independent Analyst upon 4 samples of water from their mains, all of which were reported as having satisfied a bacteriological and chemical examination.

Approximately 98.15 per cent. of the houses in the area are now supplied with main water involving 98.55 per cent. of the population.

Drainage. One building formerly relying on a conservancy system of drainage was connected to the sewer during the year and extensions and improvements were carried out to the drainage systems of two other existing buildings.

Public Cleansing. Great difficulties were experienced during the year in maintaining a collection of refuse owing to shortage of suitable labour and collections were as a result irregular and during certain periods infrequent.

Collection of salvage throughout the year was well maintained and results showed a satisfactory comparison with districts of a similar character.

Night soil is collected from 66 houses in the district by the Council.

Visits and Inspections. During the year 1173 visits and inspections were made in the detection and abatement of nuisances, repair and improvement of houses, the abatement of overcrowding, and the administration of the Factories Act, Food & Drugs Act, Milk & Dairies Acts and Orders, Petroleum Regulations, and enquiries into cases of infectious disease, etc.

Factories Act, 1937. 42 inspections were made of factories and 3 defects were found and remedied.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928. One licence to store petroleum was issued during the year and 2 visits were made to these premises.

General. In other branches of Sanitary Administration, the usual routine was carried out without any essential changes.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Repairs of properties were confined to those works necessary to abate nuisances and 46 houses were repaired under this heading.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. 23 persons and premises were on the register of producers and retailers on 31st December, 1943. This included 14 producers premises, 1 Bottling establishment, 5 shops from which milk is sold in sealed bottles as received from a registered dairy, and 3 firms who retail milk in the district from vehicles and who are registered at Dairies situated outside the District.

62 visits were made to producers and retailers premises, and samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis as to cleanliness with the following results:-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculin Test Milk	1	-	1
Accredited Milk	-	-	-
Pasteurised Milk	5	-	5
Ordinary Milk	12	2	14
Total	18	2	20

Five samples of pasteurised milk were taken and submitted to a phosphatase test as to efficiency of pasteurisation, four were reported as satisfactory and one was insufficiently heated.

Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936. 9 licences were issued by the Essex County Council and the District Council for the production and distribution of graded milk.

Meat and Other Foods. There is only one slaughterhouse in the district and this is in only occasional use by the Ministry of Food. 35 pigs were inspected at the slaughterhouse during the year and in only two instances was a diseased condition found and this of a localised nature.

12½ cwt. of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers and condemned as unfit.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938. Sampling for the detection of adulteration was carried out by the Essex County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority for the area.

The facts and figures shown under Sections C, D and E have been provided by the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

It will be seen that the bill of health of the District for 1943 is a very good one. There are no matters of outstanding importance to report in respect of the prevalence of infectious diseases, and particulars of all cases notified during the year will be found in the table on page 6.

There was a slight undue prevalence of measles at the beginning of the year, which was epidemic throughout the country.

SCABIES.

The clinic established at the First Aid Post was available at any time, by appointment, for the out-patient treatment of patients, in conjunction with the nursing staff attached to the First Aid Post, of the Casualty Services, Civil Defence Services, by arrangement with the Scheme-making Authority.

The treatment which is given on a "family unit" basis involves a bath and the use of 25 per cent. emulsion of Benzyl Benzoate as recommended in the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health, 229/Med, revised June, 1942.

The following table shows the number of notifications received during the year, and the number of patients treated:-

	<u>Adults.</u>	<u>5-15 yrs.</u>	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Notifications.</u>				
Jan.-Dec. 43	9	15	3	27
<u>Treatment.</u>				
Mar.- Dec.43	16	21	4	41

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Regulation 33B does not come within the purview of the local sanitary authority.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The scheme in this district is progressing satisfactorily, but the migratory nature of the population adds to the local difficulties.

The fact that during the year there were no confirmed notified cases of diphtheria tended to cause parents of children to be more complacent in respect of accepting the offer of free immunisation.

At the end of December, 1943, the following percentage of the child population was considered to be immunised against diphtheria:-

<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>5-15 yrs.</u>
53.2%	63.5%

TUBERCULOSIS.

I am unaware of any undue incidence of this disease associated with any local cause or condition. The majority of the cases come from the Greater London area, having already been notified, and are transfers under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

During 1943, 15 cases of tuberculosis were notified as follows:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Pulmonary	5	3
Non-Pulmonary	4	3

It is regretted that during the year, there were three deaths from tuberculosis:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Pulmonary	2	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1943.

<u>NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.</u>	Cases included in Weekly Returns.														Sex	
	At Ages														M.	F.
	All ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Cases admitted to hospital.		
Scarlet fever	15 (1)	-	-	-	3 (1)	2	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	12 (1)	8 (1)	7
Diphtheria	(1)	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	2	4
Acute Influenzal and Primary Pneumonia	11	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	6	1	1	2	5	6
Measles	110	2	2	11	6	15	63	7	3	1	-	-	-	2	56	54
Whooping cough	34	3	2	2	3	7	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17
Jaundice (From Dec. 43)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	2

Figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was unconfirmed.