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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

1944.

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

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 Fifteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1944.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 49/45, of the 19th March, 1945, this is intended to be an interim report.

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.

July, 1945.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | 5,787 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Book | ... | ... | ... | 2,670 approx. |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | £54,500 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | £280 |

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 Total population:-

Live Births: 17.6 Still Births: 0.50 Deaths: 11.6

Rate per 1,000 Live Births:

Deaths under one year of age: 46

Rayleigh U.D.

| | Total. | M. | F. | |
|----------------------|--------|----|----|--|
| <u>Live Births:</u> | 113 | 61 | 52 | Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: |
| Legitimate | 107 | 58 | 49 | .. 15.2 .. |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 3 | 3 | |
| <u>Still Births:</u> | 4 | 3 | 1 | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: |
| Legitimate | 4 | 3 | 1 | .. 34.2 .. |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - | |
| <u>Deaths:</u> | 102 | 52 | 50 | Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: |
| | | | | .. 13.7 .. |

Deaths from puerperal causes:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Puerperal sepsis | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Other maternal causes | | ... | ... | Nil |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| Total number of deaths | ... | ... | 4 |
| All infants per 1,000 live births | | ... | 35.4 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | ... | ... | 28.0 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | ... | 166.6 |

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1944.

| Age | D E A T H S. | | | No. of deaths which apply to district. |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| | No. in district. | Outward transfers. | Inward transfers. | |
| Under 1 year | 1 | - | 3 | 4 |
| 1 and under 2 | - | - | - | - |
| 2 " " 5 | - | - | - | - |
| 5 " " 15 | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| 15 " " 25 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 25 " " 35 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 35 " " 45 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 45 " " 55 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 13 |
| 55 " " 65 | 9 | 1 | 11 | 19 |
| 65 " " 75 | 24 | 2 | 16 | 38 |
| 75 and upwards. | 18 | - | 5 | 23 |
| TOTAL: | 64 | 5 | 43 | 102 |

TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

| | <u>Birth Rate.</u> | <u>Death Rate.</u> | <u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u> |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1939 | 12.6 | 14.2 | 66.6 |
| 1940 | 12.0 | 13.6 | 74.5 |
| 1941 | 12.0 | 13.7 | 50.5 |
| 1942 | 16.1 | 15.5 | 39.0 |
| 1943 | 14.8 | 14.5 | 17.7 |
| 1944 | 15.2 | 13.7 | 35.4 |

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF RAYLEIGH
DURING 1944.

| | | | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|------------|--|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | 52 | 50 | 102. |
| All causes | ... | ... | | | |
| 1. | Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | | - | - | - |
| 2. | Cerebro-spinal fever. | ... | - | - | - |
| 3. | Scarlet fever. | ... | - | - | - |
| 4. | Whooping cough. | ... | - | - | - |
| 5. | Diphtheria. | ... | - | - | - |
| 6. | Tuberculosis of respiratory system. | | - | 2 | 2 |
| 7. | Other forms of tuberculosis. | ... | - | - | - |
| 8. | Syphilitic diseases. | ... | - | - | - |
| 9. | Influenza. | ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| 10. | Measles. | ... | - | - | - |
| 11. | Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis | ... | - | - | - |
| 12. | Acute infective encephalitis | ... | - | - | - |
| 13. | Cancer of buc: cav: and oesoph (M), uterus (F) | ... | - | - | - |
| 14. | Cancer of stomach and duodenum | | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 15. | Cancer of breast. | ... | - | 2 | 2 |
| 16. | Cancer of all other sites. | ... | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 17. | Diabetes. | ... | - | - | - |
| 18. | Intra-cranial vascular lesions. | | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| 19. | Heart disease. | ... | 17 | 8 | 25 |
| 20. | Other diseases of circulatory system | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 21. | Bronchitis. | ... | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 22. | Pneumonia. | ... | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 23. | Other respiratory diseases. | ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| 24. | Ulcer of stomach or duodenum. | ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| 25. | Diarrhoea under 2 years of age. | | - | - | - |
| 26. | Appendicitis. | ... | - | - | - |
| 27. | Other digestive diseases. | ... | - | - | - |
| 28. | Nephritis. | ... | - | 3 | 3 |
| 29. | Puer: and post-abortion: sepsis.... | | - | - | - |
| 30. | Other maternal causes. | ... | - | - | - |
| 31. | Premature birth. | ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| 32. | Con: mal birth inj: dis: | ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| 33. | Suicide. | ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| 34. | Road traffic accidents. | ... | - | - | - |
| 35. | Other violent causes. | ... | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 36. | All other causes. | ... | 6 | 4 | 10 |

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

During the year 16 houses formerly relying on wells were connected to the mains of the water undertakers.

The approximate proportion of dwelling houses and the approximate proportion of population supplied from public mains at the end of the year was as follows:-

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Direct to the houses | - | 96.63 per cent of dwelling houses. |
| | | 97.00 per cent of population. |
| By means of standpipe | - | 1.23 per cent of dwelling houses. |
| | | 1.0 per cent of population. |

Drainage. Most of the built up area containing approximately 75.4% of the properties is served by a sewerage scheme.

Several groups of premises too congested to rely on conservancy systems still rely on this system and nuisances occur from time to time which can only be eliminated by the institution of a sewerage scheme.

During the year 3 houses formerly relying on conservancy systems were connected to the sewer, and in 6 other cases improvements in the drainage system were effected.

Public Cleansing. Refuse and salvage is collected from house to house throughout the district, and a kitchen waste collection is in operation on the communal bin system. Great difficulties were experienced throughout the year owing to the shortage of suitable labour and although a weekly collection in the shopping centre was maintained, it was not possible to maintain the fortnightly collection, as was planned, in the other roads; eighteen days being the average period between collections.

The results of the salvage collection compared favourably with districts of a similar size and character.

Night soil is collected at weekly intervals by the Council from 66 premises in the district.

Factories Act. 32 inspections were made of factories and five defects were found and remedied.

Petroleum (Consolidated) Regulations, 1928. The restriction on the storage of petrol applicable to coastal areas was lifted during the year and 11 licences were granted to store petrol. 30 visits were paid during the year to premises storing or proposing to store petroleum.

General. During the year 1,204 visits and inspections were made in the detection and abatement of nuisances, the repair and improvement of houses, the abatement of overcrowding, the rehousing of persons rendered homeless by enemy action and the administration of the Factory Act, Food and Drugs Act, Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders, Petroleum Regulations, the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act and enquiries into cases of infectious diseases, etc.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Repair of properties was confined to those necessary to abate nuisances and 72 houses were repaired under this heading. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the execution of works owing to the labour shortage and the diversion of labour to war damage repairs.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. There were on the Register of Dairymen on the 31st December, 1944, 13 producers including 4 producer-retailers, 1 bottling establishment, 3 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.

Of the 13 producers referred to above, 5 are licensed by the Essex County Council as producers of Accredited milk and one as a producer of Tuberculin Tested milk.

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 Tested Milk | - | 1 | 1 |
| Accredited Milk | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Ordinary Milk | 24 | 11 | 35 |
| Pasteurised Milk | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| | <hr/> 41 | <hr/> 15 | <hr/> 56 |

14 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and submitted to a phosphatase test as to efficiency of pasteurisation. 12 samples were reported as satisfactory and 2 as unsatisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936. 10 licences for the production and distribution of Graded Milks were issued by the Essex County Council and the district council.

Meat and other Foods. A slaughterhouse situated in the district is being enlarged and modernised with a view to its use by the Ministry of Food. No slaughtering took place at this, the only slaughterhouse in the district, during the year.

8½ cwt. of foodstuff was voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers and condemned as unfit during the year

Food and 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 1944 is a very good one. There are no matters of outstanding importance to report in respect of the prevalence of notifiable infectious disease, and particulars of all cases occurring during the year will be found in the table on page 7.

I am glad to say that the number of cases of measles notified was very much reduced when compared with the number notified in 1943. There was a slight undue prevalence of Whooping Cough throughout the district which was general throughout the country.

Tuberculosis. I am unaware of any undue incidence of this disease associated with any local cause or condition.

During 1944, 6 cases of tuberculosis were notified:-

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Pulmonary | - | 4 | 4 |
| Non-Pulmonary | - | 2 | 2 |

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

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Pulmonary | - | 2 | 2 |
| Non-Pulmonary | - | - | - |

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 of the Casualty Services, Civil Defence, attached to the Post, 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 and the number of patients treated during the year:-

| | <u>Adults.</u> | <u>5-15 yrs.</u> | <u>Under 5 yrs.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Notifications | 20 | 20 | 9 | 49 |
| Treatments | 21 | 32 | 11 | 64 |

Venereal Diseases. 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.

At the end of December, 1944, the percentage of child population considered to be immunised was as hereunder:-

| <u>Under 5 years.</u> | <u>5-15 years.</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 66. | 79.1% |

WAR YEARS - GENERAL REMARKS.

In this District, the health during the war years reveals an encouraging and cheerful picture, although the department had to work under heavy difficulties from time to time. There has been no evidence of any epidemic of a serious nature, infectious diseases in general have been well controlled, although the incidence of Infective Jaundice should be noted.

The highest birth rate was reached in 1942, when the rate for the district was 16.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, and the lowest death rate in 1940, when it was 13.6 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The infant mortality rate in 1943 was as low as 17.7 per 1,000 registered live births, compared with 49.0 for England and Wales, which was a very favourable comparison, and it will be recalled that the infant mortality rate of a district is one of the most reliable guides to the health of the community.

It is worthy of mention that the vitamin supplements, the national milk scheme and meals in schools have helped materially to improve the health of the children, and the children of to-day are the citizens of tomorrow.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

| Cases included in Weekly Returns. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | SEX | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|----------------|----------------|
| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | At ages | | | | | | | | | | Cases admitted to hospital. | Total deaths. | M. | F. | | |
| | All ages | 0 to 65 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 |
| Scarlet fever .. | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| Diphtheria .. | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia | 8 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | 4 | 4 |
| Erysipelas .. | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Cervico-spinal fever | (1) | - | - | - | - | (1) | - | - | - | - | - | - | (1) | - | - | (1) |
| Measles .. | 4 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Whooping cough .. | 30 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 12 | 18 |
| Infective Hepatitis | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 |

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

WAR YEARS - GENERAL REMARKS (Continued)

In my view, the soundly based health services in this district have stood up extremely well to the strains and stresses.