

[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, Rayleigh U.D.C.

Contributors

Rayleigh (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1945

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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

1945.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945.

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 Sixteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District - for the year 1945.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46 of the 11th February, 1946, 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, 1946

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
 OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	5,787
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	..	..	..	7,539
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Book	..	..	..	2,670
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£ 54,968
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	£ 220

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

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
<u>Live Births:</u>	123	72	51	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Legitimate	113	64	49	.. 16.3 ..
Illegitimate	10	8	2	
<u>Still Births:</u>	5	-	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Legitimate	3	-	3	.. 39.1 ..
Illegitimate	2	-	2	
<u>Deaths:</u>	120	62	58	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
				.. 15.9 ..

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal sepsis ..	..	-
Other maternal causes ..	..	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

Total number of deaths ..	..	2
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	..	16.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	..	17.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	..	-

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING
THE YEAR 1945.

	Rate per 1,000 resident population.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes	
England and Wales	16.1	11.4	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	19.1	13.5	54
148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	19.2	12.3	43
London Adm. County	15.7	13.8	53
Rayleigh Urban District	16.3	15.9	16

It will be noted that the Infant Mortality Rate of 16.2 compares extremely favourably with that of England and Wales, and that there is an increase in the Birth and Death Rates; the latter can be accounted for by the number of deaths occurring in the District of old folk.

TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

<u>Rayleigh U.D.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>
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
1945	16.3	15.9	16.2

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1945.

A g e	D e a t h s			No. of deaths which apply to district
	No. in district	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	
Under 1 year	-	-	2	2
1 and under 2	-	-	1	1
2 " " 5	-	-	-	-
5 " " 15	3	-	-	3
15 " " 25	1	-	2	3
25 " " 35	-	-	3	3
35 " " 45	-	-	2	2
45 " " 55	1	-	6	7
55 " " 65	2	-	13	15
65 " " 75	19	1	20	38
75 and upwards	25	-	21	46
T O T A L	51	1	70	120

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF RAYLEIGH DURING 1945.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes	62	58	120
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	-	3
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute infective hepatitis	-	-	-

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

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

By means of standpipe - 1.4 per.cent. of dwelling houses.
1.12 per cent. of population.

Drainage. Most of the built up area containing approximately 75.4 per. cent. of the properties is sewered by a sewerage scheme. There were no extensions of the sewer during the year.

Several groups of houses 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.

There were no new connections to the sewer during the year.

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. 25 inspections were made of factories and 2 defects were found and remedied.

Petroleum (Consolidated) Regulations, 1928. Licences to store petroleum spirit in respect of 13 premises were granted during the year. 26 visits were paid during the year to premises storing or proposing to store petroleum.

General. During the year 975 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 homeless persons, the administration of the Factories Act, Food and Drugs Act, Milk and Dairies Order, Petroleum Regulations, the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, enquiries into cases of infectious disease, water supply surveys, etc.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Repair of properties was confined to those works necessary to abate nuisances and 66 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, 1945 14 producers, including 3 producer-retailers, 2 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.

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

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculin Tested Milk	3	-	3
Accredited Milk	-	-	-
Ordinary Milk	15	1	16
Pasteurised Milk	8	-	8
	<u>26</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>27</u>

Owing to pressure of work, it was not found possible to take any samples during the period 6th June, 1945 to 20th September, 1945, a season when bad samples are more likely.

8 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and submitted to the phosphatase test as to efficiency of pasteurisation and all were reported as satisfactory.

The Essex County Council have supplied the following information relating to samples of graded milks taken at producers premises licenced by them under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Methylene Blue Test.					Coliform Test.				
Tuberculin		Accredited		Total.	Tuberculin		Accredited.		Total.
Tested					Tested				
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory.	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
4	-	23	11	38	1	-	5	-	6

Milk (Special Designations) Order. Licences under this order have been issued by the Essex County Council and the District Council as follows:-

	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited Tested	Pasteurised Tested	Total.
Producers	1	6	-	7
Retailers	2	-	2	4
	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>

Meat and other Foods. During the year an existing slaughter-house within the district was adapted and enlarged by the Minister of Food and in August slaughtering commenced. From the date of opening until the 31st December, 1945, the following was dealt with and inspected:

Meats	859
Sheep	1341
Calves	574
Pigs	273

weighing approximately 542 tons. Of this amount 6 tons 14 cwt. or 1.24 per. cent. was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The following foodstuffs weighing 8 cwt. were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

	lbs.
Meat	279
Canned Meat	172
Cooked Meats	222
Fish	196
Butter	24
Dried Fruit	25
Eggs	6
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	154

Food and Drugs Adulteration. The Essex County Council are responsible for the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration and all the 23 samples of food taken in the district during 1945 (including 8 samples of milk) were reported by the Analyst as being genuine.

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

The bill of health for the district for the year 1945 was exceedingly good. There are no matters of outstanding importance to report, and particulars of all cases occurring during the year will be found in the table on page 9.

It is a great pleasure to record that during the year there was not a clinical case of diphtheria. There was a slight incidence in the number of cases of measles, as was general throughout the country.

One contact to a case of smallpox was kept under surveillance during the required period, and I am glad to be able to report did not contract the disease.

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 outside the District, chiefly from the Greater London area, having already been notified, and are transfers under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930

During 1945, the following cases of tuberculosis were notified:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	6	5	11
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2

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

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	3	-	3
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-

Scabies. The number of cases of confirmed scabies brought to the notice of this department has fallen considerably since the end of the War in Europe, and where in-patient treatment was necessary, this was provided at the County Council's Hospitals and Institutions, although the number of cases coming within this category was very small and not always within my knowledge as scabies is not a notifiable infectious disease in the general sense of the word.

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, 1945, the percentage of child population considered to be immunised was as hereunder:-

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-15 years.</u>
71.4%	83.5%

GENERAL REMARKS.

The following information regarding incidents, etc. in the Rayleigh Urban District during the war may be of interest:-

No. of sirens	1,215
No. of H.E's	100 + 23 U.X.B's + 3 Paramines + 1 U.X. Paramine.
No. of V.I's.	3
No. of V.2's	12
No. of Incendiaries	1,160
No. of Oil Bombs	9
No. of Casualties:	Fatal 14, Severe 48, Slight 116

In the Summary Report of the Ministry of Health for the year ended 31st March, 1945, it is stated that in Essex which was part of bomb alley, there was a record of fortitude and resource similar to London.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1945.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.	Sex.	
	At ages																M.	F.
	At all ages	At 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					
Scarlet fever ..	5	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	1	
Whooping cough .	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Diphtheria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles ..	84	2	5	6	11	8	51	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	35	
Acute Pneumonia .	11	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	-	7	4	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Erysipelas ..	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	1	-	-	6	
<u>Non-civilian:</u>																		
Malaria (contracted abroad)	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4	-	

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance	Total	Total
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