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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
OF ROMSEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the

URBAN DISTRICT (Municipal Borough) OF ROMSEY

YEAR 1957

To His Worship the Mayor,

Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Romsey.

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Romsey. The report is presented as follows:-

1. Vital Statistics.
2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.
3. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases and Prophylaxis against Infectious and Contagious Diseases.
4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.
 - (a) Water Supply.
 - (b) Drainage and Sewerage.
 - (c) Public Cleansing.
 - (d) Insect Infestation.
 - (e) Rodent Control.
 - (f) Smoke Abatement.
5. Factories and Workshops.
6. Swimming Pool.
7. Housing.
8. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
9. Meat Inspector's Report.
10. Adulterations.

Sections 4-8 of this report have been prepared by Mr. Bell, your Chief Public Health Inspector.

Four matters require to be brought to your attention:-

In April on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the granting of the charter of incorporation to the Borough, Her Majesty, The Queen visited the Borough and there was for April 6th an exceptionally large influx of visitors to Romsey. The Chief Public Health Inspector and Borough Surveyor arranged for temporary sanitary accommodation of the type used at the big agricultural shows as the public conveniences in the town are inadequate for ordinary holiday crowds.

During 1957 there was consideration of the urgent need for the provision of an adequate sewage disposal works and an adequate system of sewers and there is hope that some progress will be made during 1958. The present works are quite inadequate, they were not kept up properly many years ago and the effluent discharging from them now is often offensive to both nose and eye and is potentially harmful. The Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff give constant attention to the sewage works but their work cannot serve instead of an adequate and efficient plant. The need for more sewers to connect more properties with a sewage disposal works is a problem of almost equal seriousness.

Ten small dwellings (one bedroom) were completed during the year. This has enabled a little progress in exchanging tenancies to overcome the relative wastage of housing space where larger houses were occupied by only one or two people, usually elderly. Unfortunately there are so few small housing units in the Borough that there are still several family size houses occupied by only one or two people. During the year national loan charges were increased so that some people who might have attempted to begin buying their dwellings decided to rely upon your Council's provision of houses so that the housing waiting list is still regrettably large.

The Chief Public Health Inspector died in August after a short illness. Mr. Bell undertook the work of the Public Health Inspectorate and the Borough Surveyor's department and on 4th November he was appointed Chief Public Health Inspector and Borough Surveyor. No additional Public Health Inspector was appointed before 31st December, 1957.

I am, Mr. Mayor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E. Jackson,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	E. Jackson M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(part time $\frac{1}{2}$ day per week)	...	...	...	From 1.2.1957.
Chief Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	F. J. East, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.S.I.
				until 18.9.1957.
				W. Bell, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
				from 4.11.1957.
Additional Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	W. Bell, M.S.I.A.
(with combined duties as Deputy Surveyor)				until 3.11.1957.
Meat Inspector	...	...	...	E.H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S.
(part time)	...	...	...	
Secretary	...	...	...	Miss J. Harding

1. Vital Statistics

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	1,212
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	6,510
Rateable Value (Estimated at 1.4.1957)	...	...	...	£80,331
Product of 1d. rate (Estimated)	...	...	...	£332
Number of Council houses built before September, 1939	...	...	...	182
Number of Council houses built after January, 1945	...	...	...	280
Total number of rateable premises	...	...	...	2,296
Rainfall - Winter months	...	...	...	11.64 inches
Summer months	...	...	...	20.63 inches
Annual	...	...	...	32.27 inches

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1957 from figures supplied by the Registrar General.

				Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Total Registered	...	...	98	48	50
	Legitimate	...	...	95	47	48
	Illegitimate	...	...	3	1	2
Still Births	Total Registered	...	...	2	0	2
	Legitimate	...	...	2	0	2
Deaths	Total Registered	...	...	84	46	38
Maternal Mortality		...	...	Nil	-	0
Infant Mortality						
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.						
	Total Registered	...	...	2	1	1
	Legitimate	...	...	2	1	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age						
	Total Registered	...	...	2	1	1
	Legitimate	...	...	2	1	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0

	Romsey Borough	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	15.1	16.1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	20.0	22.4
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.1	11.5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year - all infants per 1,000 live births	20.4	23.0

Comparability factors Births 1.08 Deaths 0.81

Causes of Death during the year 1957.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0	0	0
" (Other forms)	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	1	1	2
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	0	1	1
" " Lung and Bronchus	1	0	1
" " Breast	0	2	2
" " Uterus	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	0	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	7	6	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	9	5	14
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart diseases	12	7	19
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	1	4
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	5	1	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	6	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
All other Accidents	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTAL	46	38	84

The number and causes of death in 1957 do not show any significant difference from previous years. It is, however, encouraging to see that there were no deaths from motor accidents, and that, once again, there were no deaths from the common infectious diseases of childhood.

2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area

(i) The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council and an Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer to the Hampshire County Council. This combined appointment helps to co-ordinate the Medical Services supplied by the County Council as the Local Health Authority, in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the services supplied by the District Council and Regional Hospital Board.

Your Medical Officer attends the quarterly meeting of the District Health Sub-Committee. At this Committee the local representatives are kept in touch with the working of the local County Council services.

(ii) The County Council supply the following services:-

(a) Ambulance Service.

An ambulance stationed at Romsey serves the area but is controlled from the County Council Offices at Winchester, additional ambulances can be sent to the District from the depot at Winchester if required.

(b) Nursing in the Home.

District Nurses are responsible for domiciliary midwifery and home nursing. They keep in close touch with the County Council Health Visitor, the Medical Officer of Health and the General Practitioners in the area. The County Council rent one of the houses erected by this Authority for use by the two District Nurses whose areas are centred in the Borough. No nursing arrangements or contributions are made by the District Council but two members represent the Council on the District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

(c) Child Welfare.

The County Council employ Health Visitors who visit children from the age of two weeks, when they pass from the care of the District Nurses, until the age of five years when the child enters school. A child welfare clinic is held every Thursday at Church House.

(d) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Ante-natal supervision and dental care are provided for expectant mothers and dental care is provided for mothers in the first year of the baby's life and for children up to school age. Ante-natal clinics are held every Monday at the County Council Clinic at Church House.

(e) Home Help.

This service is provided for mothers confined at home, for those in charge of the elderly, chronic sick, etc. The District Health Sub-Committee receives reports.

(f) Vaccination and Immunisation - see later in this report.

(g) Prevention of illness, care and after-care.

These services are part of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors and District Nurses.

(iii) Hospital Services.

The South West Regional Hospital Board supply general, maternity and infectious diseases (including smallpox and tuberculosis) hospital services for this area.

(iv) Laboratory Service.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Medical Research Council Laboratories at Southampton, Winchester, and Salisbury.

(v) Public Health Services provided by this Council during the year:-

(a) Prevention of accidents.

Education of the public to lessen the incidence of accidents, especially those in the home is undertaken by your Public Health Inspectors and Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Health Education.

Posters and other material from the Central Council for Health Education and the County Council are received and displayed.

(vi) National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No case was dealt with under this Section of the Act during 1957 although several cases were dealt with informally.

(vii) Work carried out by the Romsey Division of the British Red Cross Society

The Division continued activities in all branches of their work detailed in the 1955 report. During the year the Division became the Romsey Division, a separate Stockbridge Division being re-formed.

3 Prevalence of Infectious Diseases and control of infectious and other diseases

The incidence of notified infectious diseases was low during the year; many cases of measles, mumps, whooping cough and diarrhoea are not notified; chicken pox is not a notifiable disease.

Notification by age-groups.

Disease	Total Notified	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10-14 years	15-44 years	45-64 years	65 and over	Fatalities
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis									
Paralytic	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	76	2	25	47	2	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

Smallpox Vaccination

One hundred and eight (108) vaccinations were carried out during 1957. Of these seventy six (76) were of infants under one year old, eleven more were primary vaccinations and 21 were revaccinations.

The figure for babies vaccinated expressed as a percentage of the live births represents 77%. This is a very marked improvement on the percentage during the past few years but there still remain dangerously many unvaccinated people in the Borough. It is possible that smallpox may be introduced from countries where it is still prevalent and Romsey is near to great sea and air ports.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old schoolchildren is planned to start soon. The Chest Physicians have vaccinated a small number of children who are known to require special protection because they have been or are likely to be in frequent contact with people undergoing treatment for tuberculosis or people who have recently had tuberculosis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The estimated number of children in the area who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation by 31st December 1957 was as follows:-

Children born in 1957	9
" " between 1953-1956	236
" " " 1948-1952	308
" " " 1943-1947	448

Many of the children who received primary immunisation injections during 1957 were given protection at the same time against whooping cough and tetanus by the use of a triple vaccine. This meant that while three injections were given there was established an active immunity to diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. Although the protection afforded against whooping cough is less complete than against the other two diseases the relatively few children who do develop whooping cough after immunisation usually have only a very mild attack.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The supply of poliomyelitis vaccine in the country increased during the year and vaccination was offered to children born since the original scheme of registration started and to children up to 15 years old. Many worried parents make anxious enquiries about delay in vaccination after registration, some people still doubted the safety of the vaccination procedure and decided not to register their children. At present the standard dose in this country is two injections.

Forty three (43) children in the Borough received 2 injections. Almost all the injections were given by the family doctors while the administrative work of registration, distribution of vaccine and record keeping is undertaken by the Local Health Authority, duties delegated to your local Medical Officer of Health.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

(a) Water Supply.

The Southampton Corporation are statutory water undertakers for the Borough. The area is provided with a piped supply by the undertakers from their Waterworks Pumping Station at Timsbury. The quality of the water is excellent although fairly "hard".

It is to be noted that although such an excellent water supply is available many of the dwellings are not provided with a piped supply of water within the house but draw their water from communal stand pipes often situate some distance away.

Bacteriological examinations of the water from three wells still in use at Cupernham were carried out and showed that the water was satisfactory.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

There are 2,296 premises in the Borough of which 1,948 are sewered and 348 unsewered.

The quantity of sewage dealt with by the sewage disposal works during the year was 131,431,000 gallons which is an average daily flow of 360,085 gallons.

The sewage disposal works is still severely overworked and does not function efficiently with the result that the final effluent discharged into the River Test is very unsatisfactory.

Progress has been made with the scheme to extend and modernise the sewage disposal works at Greenhill and it is hoped that constructional work will commence during 1959.

A scheme to treat the effluent by land irrigation before discharge into the leat has been put into operation and it has resulted in a slight improvement in the quality of the final effluent although, as stated above, the effluent reaching the River Test cannot be considered satisfactory.

(c) Public Cleansing.

The refuse collection service is carried out by direct labour and covers the whole of the District. All premises are visited once per week in normal circumstances but extra collections and trade refuse collections are made where necessary.

Refuse is disposed of on a controlled tip at Casbrook Common operated by the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council, a charge being made by the Rural District Council for this arrangement.

The Borough Council's former tip at Timsbury is not in use at present and is undergoing natural consolidation.

Approximately 30 tons of refuse per week is collected which means that about 1,560 tons are tipped per year.

All highways receive weekly cleansing, the main roads being cleansed by arrangement with the County Council who contribute towards the cost of this service.

(d) Insect Infestation.

Several cases of flea and cockroach infestation of dwelling were found during the year and treatments to exterminate these pests were carried out.

(e) Rodent Control.

Test baiting of the public sewers was carried out early in the year in accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and two subsequent maintenance treatments of the sewers were completed when 4 cases of infestation were found.

63 infestations were found in domestic and business premises.

All rodent infestations notified to the Department by the public were investigated and the necessary treatment carried out, no charge being made in the case of domestic premises but the cost of treating business premises was recovered.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act requires that a periodical survey of the district for rodents be made and whenever possible this obligation is carried out concurrently with inspections made for other purposes.

(f) Smoke Abatements.

The Borough has few factories and no nuisances arose from the excessive discharge of smoke.

5. Factories Act, 1937.

(i) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(a) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	10	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	29	1	-
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	40	39	1	-

(ii) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

(iii) There is one outworker employed in the District in the making of Wearing Apparel.

6. Swimming Pool.

The Council own and manage the only swimming pool in the area.

The pool which measures 75 ft. X 35 ft. is uncovered and is provided with adequate washing facilities and changing and clothes storage accommodation.

Routine samples of the water in the pool were sent for bacteriological examination and in every case the results were very satisfactory.

This swimming pool is an asset to the amenities of the Borough and to the health of the inhabitants, particularly the younger generation, and the following attendance figures show that it is well patronised.

Attendances by child bathers during 1957 .. 8,157

Attendances by adult bathers during 1957 .. 1,631

Attendances by spectators during 1957 .. 394

In addition 39 people held season tickets and children from local schools attended in organised parties.

7. Housing.

There were 239 applicants for Council houses on the Borough Council's list on the 31st December, 1957.

The demolition of the unfit houses on the Newton Lane Clearance Area No. 1 was carried out and the erection of two blocks of four flats each was commenced.

Negotiations for the purchase of the second clearance area on the north side of Newton Lane have been commenced in order that a further ten unfit houses may be cleared and a third block of flats built on the site.

Ten ~~Eight~~ one bedroom flats and bungalows, together with the road and sewers necessary, were completed at Mitchells Close.

At the junction of Mill Lane and Cherville Street ten unfit houses were made the subject of demolition and closing orders.

Negotiations for the purchase of Test House and adjoining land were continued and it is hoped that the Council will be able to make a start on the erection of houses and bungalows on the site, and the conversion of the House into flats, during next year.

8 new houses were built by private enterprise during the year.

3 applications for improvement grants were received and 2 grants were made enabling owners to modernise and generally improve their dwellings.

Informal action under the Public Health Acts and Housing Act was taken in many cases and resulted in the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of housing defects.

It was found necessary to serve three Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act during the year. The necessary work was carried out in all cases.

The Rent Act 1957 came into force during the year and resulted in a number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair being made to the Council. It is to be regretted that the standard of maintenance of much of the property in the Borough is very poor.

8. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The general standard of food premises within the Borough is gradually improving, although in certain cases is still not entirely satisfactory.

The food hygiene regulations lay down requirements in respect of (i) the cleanliness of food premises and stalls etc. and of apparatus and equipment, (ii) the hygienic handling of food, (iii) the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing, and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections, (iv) the construction of food premises, the repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls, vehicles, etc. and the facilities to be provided, and (v) the temperature at which certain foods that are particularly liable to transmit disease are to be kept in food premises.

Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the Borough is as follows:-

Dairies	2
Bakehouses and Bakers' Shops	4
Grocery and Provision Shops	24
Greengrocers	6
Fish Shops	3
Butchers' Shops	7
Cafes and Restaurants	8
Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses	28
Fried-Fish Shops	3
Confectioners	10
Total	<u>95</u>

A total of 39 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, 25 of these being registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream, and the remainder for the preparation and sale of preserved foods.

Restaurant kitchens and other places in which food is prepared or sold were frequently inspected and advice and informal action resulted in the remedying of defects and the improvement generally of the premises.

Unsound Food Surrendered.

It was not found necessary to seize any food during the year, but the following amount of food was found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered for disposal by the Department.

Meat Products	15 lbs.
Fish.	
Tinned Fish	8 lbs.
Other Foods.	
Miscellaneous Vegetables (tinned)	9 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	32 lbs.
Tins of Milk	5 tins.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 3 licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough where the slaughtering of animals for food is regularly carried out.

Inspections of these slaughterhouses are carried out as frequently as possible to ensure that a good standard of hygiene is maintained.

The routine inspection of meat is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon (see below).

9. Meat Inspector's Report.

During the year I have inspected the following animals, slaughtered in the Borough, at the 3 licensed slaughterhouses, viz. W. Stares, Cornmarket; F. C. Wells, Bell Street; R. Drew, The Hundred:-

Bullocks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	465
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,273
Ox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	184
Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,501
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>5,441</u>

The condemnations for the year included 6 pigs as well as certain offal and parts of carcasses.

10. Adulteration

The County Council are responsible for the formal sampling of food and drugs sold in the Borough and I am indebted to Mr. C.O. Perry, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for the information that the following samples were taken during the year.

It is satisfactory to report that samples of milk showed no adulteration and that all other samples attained the required standard.

Article						Number of samples taken	
						Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Butter and Other Fats	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Drugs	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Ordinary Milk	..	..	..	..	..	15	-
Milk, Channel Islands	..	..	..	..	..	3	-
Sausage, Meat and Fish Products	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Spirits	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Other Foods	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Total	..	..	..	..	..	<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>

The 15 Milk samples proved to contain an average of 3.80% Fat and 8.86% Non-Fatty Solids and the 3 Channel Island Milk samples an average of 4.57% Fat and 9.33% Non-Fatty Solids.