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1958

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

OF ROMSEY





ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ROMSEY
YEAR 1958

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. Formal Sampling.

I am grateful to your Chief Public Health Inspector for his co-operation in the preparation of sections 4 - 10.

During 1958 little tangible progress was made toward the provision of an adequate sewage disposal works and adequate sewers. The necessary preliminary paper work has been going on but overflowing manholes and smelly effluent have caused many complaints and the lack of a satisfactory system still holds up the building of houses in the Borough. I can only repeat what I wrote in my report for 1957.

Very little progress was made in slum clearance largely because major schemes for building houses must wait upon the provision of sewers.

It proved difficult to fill the appointment of Additional Public Health Inspector so your Council decided that Mr. Bell, who holds the joint appointment of Borough Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, should continue without any qualified assistant. This arrangement means the omission of much of the work which should be undertaken by the Public Health Department, especially the preventative and health educational work.

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

E. JACKSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part time - ½ day per week)	E. Jackson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector, also Engineer and Surveyor.	W. Bell, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Meat Inspector (part time)	E. H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S.
Secretary	Miss J. Harding.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	1,212 acres
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General) ...	6,480
Rateable Value	£90,100
Product of ld. rate (estimated) ...	£365
Number of Council houses built before September 1939	182
Number of Council houses built after January 1945	292
Total number of rateable premises	2,276
Rainfall - Winter months	17.98 inches
Summer months	16.35 inches
Annual	34.33 inches

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1958 from figures supplied by the Registrar General.

				Total	Male	Female
Live Births:						
Total Registered	83	48	35			
Legitimate	82	48	34			
Illegitimate	1	0	1			
Still Births:						
Total Registered	3	1	2			
Legitimate	2	1	1			

				Total	Male	Female
Deaths:						
Total Registered	...	...	...	96	44	52
Maternal Mortality:	...	...	...	0	-	0
Infant Mortality:						
Deaths of infants under one year of age -						
Total Registered	...	...	...	1	0	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under four weeks of age -						
Total Registered	...	...	...	1	0	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0

	Comparative Statistics where available	
	Romsey Borough	England & Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.8	16.4
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	34.48	21.6
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births		
Total	12.0	22.5
Legitimate	12.2	
Illegitimate	-	
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.0	16.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	12.0	-
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	nil	0.43
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	14.9	11.7
Comparability Factors - Births 1.08 Deaths 0.72		

Causes of Death during the year 1958

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis			
Respiratory	0	0	0
Other Forms	1	0	1
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
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	0	0
Lung and Bronchus	4	1	5
Breast	-	1	1
Uterus	-	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	1	2
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	2	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	4	12	16
Coronary Disease and Angina	12	7	19
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
Other heart diseases	6	10	16
Other circulatory diseases	1	0	1
Influenza	0	2	2
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	2	2
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	-	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	0	0
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	7	15
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	44	52	96

The number and causes of death in 1958 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. The Organiser for this area has an office at the Red House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh.

(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 Inspector and Medical Officer of Health. Extra publicity was arranged in the Borough during the national campaign in November "guard that fire".

(b) Health Education.

Posters and other material from the Central Council for Health Education and the County Council are received and displayed. Education of staffs in food-handling establishments was not undertaken because of shortage of trained Public Health Staff.

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

No case was dealt with under this Section of the Act during 1958 although three 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 and the Red Cross provides the only subsidized chiropody service for old people in the Borough.

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.

Smallpox Vaccination:

One hundred (100) vaccinations were carried out during 1958. Of these fifty three (53) were of infants under one year old, twenty two (22) more were primary vaccinations and fifteen (15) were revaccinations.

The figure for babies vaccinated expressed as a percentage of the live births represents 64%. This is a lower proportion than in previous years and the number of unvaccinated people in the Borough is dangerously high. 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 is now available to all 13-year old school children in the County.

During the year skin testing and vaccination where the skin testing had shown this to be advisable, was offered to the 13-year old children in the County Secondary School in the Borough.

Immunisation against Diphtheria:

The estimated number of children in the area who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation by 31st December, 1958 was as follows:-

Children born in	1958	1
" " between	1954 - 1957	228
" " "	1949 - 1953	404
" " "	1944 - 1948	275

Almost all of the children who received primary immunisation injections during 1958 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. There has been a marked drop in the number of children taken for a booster injection before entering school at 5 years old. In the country as a whole there has been an increase in the number of cases of diphtheria, there was no case in the Borough.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis:

Eight hundred and seventeen people had received at least two injections of vaccine by the end of the year.

During the early part of the year there was a limited supply of vaccine available but when large quantities of vaccine were distributed the number of injections given increased rapidly. At the end of the summer two important changes were announced by the Minister of Health, namely that vaccination would be available for all born since 1st January, 1933, and that a third injection should be given. The third injection is given after an interval of at least seven months after the second injection. These developments in the fight against poliomyelitis have invoked much extra work on the part of the family doctors, who have given most of the injections to Borough residents, and in the office of your Medical Officer of Health who is responsible for the administrative work of registration, distribution of vaccine, record keeping and local publicity.

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".

There are still a few dwellings not supplied with mains water in the Cupernham area in isolated positions.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage:

There are 2,276 premises in the Borough of which 1,921 are sewered and 355 unsewered.

The quantity of sewage dealt with by the sewage disposal works during the year was 148,989,750 gallons which is an average daily flow of 408,191 gallons.

The sewage disposal works is still severely over-worked 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 1960.

The treatment of the effluent by land irrigation before discharge into the leat has been continued 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.

The public sewer was extended across Botley Road to Tadburn Road to serve the new houses being erected there and can be further extended to serve part of the existing property in Tadburn Road so that the cesspools there can be abandoned in the future.

Serious flooding occurred in Botley Road at the end of the summer due to the inadequacy of the Tadburn Stream to drain surface water from the area during a heavy storm and representations were made to the Hampshire River Board concerning the matter.

(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 32 tons of refuse per week is collected which means that about 1,664 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.

The Litter Act, 1958 came into operation on the 7th August, 1958 and consideration was given to the provision of litter receptacles about the Borough.

(d) Insect Infestation:

Several cases of flea and cockroach infestation of dwellings 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, Fisheries and Food and two subsequent maintenance treatments of the sewers were completed when eight infestations were found.

45 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 statutory nuisances arose from the excessive discharge of smoke during the year although several minor complaints of smoke from two particular premises were reported.

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	5	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	13	-	-
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	40	18	-	-

(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 (Section 7) -					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

(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.

Child bathers during 1958	-	6,934
Adult bathers during 1958	-	913
Spectators during 1958	-	417

In addition 64 people held season tickets and children from local schools attended in organised parties.

7. HOUSING.

There were 203 applicants for Council houses on the Borough Council's list on the 31st December, 1958.

The construction of two blocks of four flats on the site of Newton Lane Clearance Area No. 1 was completed.

A further 10 unfit houses were demolished on the north side of Newton Lane Clearance Area No. 3 and a third block of four flats erected there.

The preparation of the scheme for the clearance and redevelopment of the land at Banning Street and the Rear of the Hundred continued.

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.

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

Applications for improvement grants were received in respect of 19 premises and 14 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.

After the initial rush for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act 1957 the number of applications slowed down considerably and little action under the Act was taken during the year.

It is to be regretted that the standard of maintenance of much of the property in the Borough is still very poor.

8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The general standard of food premises within the Borough is gradually improving, although in certain cases, particularly the smaller shops converted from dwelling premises, it 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.
- (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	...	...			7
Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses					28
Fried-Fish Shops	...	...			2
Confectioners	...	...	...		<u>10</u>
TOTAL				...	<u>93</u>

A total of 43 premises are registered under Sections 16 and 18 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 30 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 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.

Tinned Foods:

Meat Products	...	118 lbs.
Vegetables	... ..	15 lbs.
Fruit	... ..	64 lbs.
Miscellaneous	... ..	17 lbs.

Other Foods:

11 Chicken

Quantity of Ice Cream.

Slaughterhouses:

There are three 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 next item).

9. MEAT INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

During the year I have inspected the following animals slaughtered in the Borough at the three licensed slaughter-houses, viz. W. Stares, Cornmarket; F. C. Wells, Bell Street; R. Drew, Love Lane:-

Bullocks	...	...	309
Calves	...	...	1,007
Oxen	...	...	19
Sheep	...	...	1
Lambs	...	...	21
Pigs	...	...	2,245
Sows	...	...	<u>9</u>
TOTAL			<u>3,611</u>

The condemnations for the year included 3 pigs, 1 calf, 6 beasts as well as certain offal and parts of carcasses.

10. FORMAL SAMPLING.

The County Council are responsible for the formal sampling of food and drugs sold in the Borough and I am indebted to Mr J. S. Preston, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures under the Food and Drugs Act for the following information.

	<u>No. of samples</u>
Milk	16
Other articles	22

All the samples were satisfactory with the exception of one sample of spirit, which proved to contain 6 per cent excess water calculated on the limit of 65° proof prescribed in the Food and Drugs Act. Legal proceedings were taken in connection with this and resulted in the licensee responsible being fined £25. 0s. 0d. with £3. 10s. 0d. costs.

