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1959

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
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ROMSEY
YEAR 1959

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 Service 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. Formal Sampling.

I am grateful to your Chief Public Health Inspector for the preparation of Sections 4 - 9.

There was progress in the paper-work preliminaries which are necessary before the new sewage works and sewers can be built. No objections to the scheme were lodged and in December the Minister sent an Inspector to Romsey to investigate the Council's proposals.

Like much of southern England, Romsey enjoyed glorious weather during the summer but there was no shortage of water and no outbreaks of fly borne infections. Indeed the Borough was not so much troubled by fly infestations as were many of the country areas of England.

Because of lack of trained Public Health staff, frequent inspections of Food premises and training of food handlers was not carried out.

Building of dwellings to house people from a further slum clearance area was in progress by the end of the year although the major scheme at Harefield must wait until the new sewers will be available. Many houses in Romsey have not been well maintained during the past 30 years but the shortage of trained Public Health staff has meant that routine inspections of property and subsequent advising of owners and occupiers has not been possible. Because of this lack there is an unfortunate deterioration in houses which could be expected to provide satisfactory accommodation for many years to come.

The passing of the New Mental Health Act was noted by your Council. The County Council, as the Local Health Authority is preparing plans to implement the Act but the success of a modern mental health service depends on a change in public understanding. This change in popular attitude will be achieved partly by an increase of knowledge about mental illness and mental subnormality and the enlightenment of public opinion is a matter of great importance.

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)
Chief Public Health Inspector
(also Engineer and Surveyor)
Meat Inspector
(part-time)
Secretary

E. Jackson,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
W. Bell,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
E. H. Dayus,
M.R.C.V.S.
Miss J. Harding

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	1,212 acres
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	6,490
Rateable Value	£91,252
Product of penny rate	£367
Number of Council Houses built before September, 1939	182
Number of Council Houses built after January, 1945	292
Total number of rateable premises	2,297
Rainfall - Winter months	22.00 inches
Summer months	7.63 inches
Annual	29.63 inches

Summary of vital statistics for the year, 1959 as supplied by the Registrar General.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births:			
Total Registered	88	51	37
Legitimate	84	48	36
Illegitimate	4	3	1
Still Births			
Total Registered	-	-	-

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths:			
Total Registered	75	41	34
Maternal Mortality:	0	-	0
Infant Mortality:			
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age -			
Total Registered	1	1	0
Legitimate	1	1	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age -			
Total Registered	0	0	0

	Comparative Statistics where available	
	Romsey Borough	England & Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.5	16.5
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	20.7
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births -		
Total	11.4	22.0
Legitimate	11.9	
Illegitimate	-	
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Nil	15.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	Nil	
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	0.38
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.7	11.6

Comparability Factors - Births 1.08 Deaths 0.68

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959			
Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis			
Respiratory	0	0	0
Other Forms	0	0	0
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 Bronchus	0	0	0
Breast	-	2	2
Uterus	-	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	4	12
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	3	7	10
Coronary Disease and Angina	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
Other heart diseases	11	8	19
Other circulatory diseases	4	1	5
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bronchitis	4	0	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	7	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
All other Accidents	0	1	1
Suicide	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTAL	41	34	75

Although there are one or two figures very different from the preceeding year the difference is not significant for the country as a whole. Once again the Borough had no deaths from motor accidents nor 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. 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.

The District Nurses are:- Nurse M. Laycock and Nurse B. D. Sharp, 'Brambles', Cupernham Lane, Romsey, Telephone Romsey 3302.

(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.

The Health Visitors (at the end of the year) are Mrs. M. E. Ward, Flat 2, Harefield House, Winchester Hill, Romsey, Telephone Romsey 3170 and Miss K. Porter, 6 St. Catherine's Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton.

(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 receive reports. The Organiser for this area has an Office at the Red House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Telephone Eastleigh 2558.

Care of the Elderly

A County Council home for the elderly is situated in Romsey at The Gardens, Winchester Road.

(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 Wessex Regional Hospital Board supply general maternity and infectious diseases (including Smallpox and Tuberculosis) hospital services for this area.

General medical and surgical hospital services are provided at Romsey Hospital, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, General Hospital, Southampton, Chest Hospital, Eye Hospital and Childrens Hospital, Southampton, Sanatoria - Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford (Women), The Mount Sanatorium, Bishopstoke (Men) and The White House, Milford-on-Sea (Children).

Maternity Services - at Romsey Hospital and at the Maternity Unit, Southampton General Hospital.

(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.

(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 1959 although one case was 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. Details of the chiropody service are available from 4 Market Place, Romsey, Telephone Romsey 3202.

(viii) Nursing Home

A private nursing home moved into Romsey during the year and was registered under the Act, The Durban House Nursing Home, Woodley Lane, Cupernham, Telephone Romsey 2332.

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, whooping-cough and diarrhoea are not notified and there were no deaths from the infectious diseases of childhood.

Vaccination against Smallpox

One hundred and ten (110) vaccinations were carried out on Borough residents during 1959.

Year	Primary Vaccinations			Re-Vaccination all ages	Vaccination 0 - 1 year as percentage of yearly births
	0 - 1 year	1 - 15 years	over 15 years		
1958	53	15	7	15	63.8
1959	78	7	5	20	88.6

The primary vaccination of infants was at a satisfactory level during 1959. The number of prophylactic injections advised for children has multiplied and during the year the Medical Research Council instituted an investigation into the best timing for the administration of injections.

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. Many of the children attending this school live outside the Borough boundaries.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The estimated number of children in the area who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation by 31st December, 1959 was as follows:-

Children born in	1959	14
" " between	1955 - 1958	212
" " "	1950 - 1954	407
" " "	1945 - 1949	450

Almost all the children who received primary immunisation injections during 1959 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 of diphtheria, whooping-cough and tetanus.

Unfortunately there has been a serious drop in the number of children taken to their doctor's surgery for a 'booster' injection before entering school. This booster restores the level of immunity against diphtheria and tetanus (whooping-cough is not included as it is not considered to be a great danger after 5 years old). This marked falling-off in the number of children taken for booster injections is probably due to the fact that parents have been concentrating on anti-poliomyelitis vaccination and the diphtheria tetanus injections have been forgotten. Many parents have forgotten the horrors of diphtheria but there is a danger of the disease becoming a major killer if the level of protection in the community is allowed to drop. There was no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

One thousand, two hundred and twenty-six (1,226) people received their first 2 injections and one thousand one hundred and thirteen (1,113) received their third injections during the year. As there is an interval of at least 7 months between the second and third injections and as provision for the third injection was made late in 1958 some of these third injections were given to people who had been vaccinated in 1957-1958.

Almost all the injections were again given by the family doctors and the administrative work of record keeping and distribution of vaccine was done in the Office of your 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".

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

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

There are 2,297 premises in the Borough of which 1,922 are sewered and 375 unsewered.

The quantity of sewage dealt with by the sewage disposal works during the year was 131,464,535 gallons which is an average daily flow of 360,177 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.

(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.

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.

(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 during the year in accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and subsequent maintenance treatments of the sewers were completed when two infestations were found.

Fifty eight 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 Abatement

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

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	4	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	12	-	-
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	40	16	-	-

(ii) Cases in which defects were found.

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

(iii) There are no Outworkers employed in the District.

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 1959	14,015
Adult bathers during 1959	2,295
Spectators during 1959	766

In addition 127 people held season tickets and children from local schools attended in organised parties.

The very high attendance figures were due to the exceptionally good weather during the summer.

7. HOUSING.

There were 140 applicants for Council houses on the Borough Council's list on the 31st December, 1959.

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

Tenders were invited for the construction of roads and sewers at Test House Site and work commenced on the conversion of Test House into three flats.

The construction of three pairs of one-bedroom bungalows was commenced in Mill Lane.

Twenty four new houses were built by private enterprise during the year.

Applications for improvement grants were received in respect of 19 premises and 18 grants were approved 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.

Action was taken under the Housing Acts to secure the demolition or closing of 11 unfit houses during the year.

It was found necessary to serve one Statutory Notice under the Public Health Act during the year.

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	5
Fish Shops	3
Butchers' Shops	7
Cafes and Restaurants	7
Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses	28
Fried-Fish Shops	2
Confectioners	10
TOTAL	<u>92</u>

A total of 45 premises are registered under Sections 16 and 18 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 32 of these being registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream and the remainder for the preparation and sale of preserved foods.

The routine inspections of Restaurant kitchens, food shops and other places where food is prepared and sold were not carried out as frequently as desirable but some inspections were made and advice given resulting in improvements in the standard of hygiene generally.

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 -		Other Foods -
Meat Products	96 lbs.	70 lbs Plain Flour
Fish	3 lbs.	A cooked leg of Pork

Slaughterhouses:

At the beginning of the year there were three licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough where regular slaughtering occurred but the licence of one expired on the 31st July 1959, and was not renewed.

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

The inspection of animals slaughtered is carried out by the Meat Inspector, Mr. E. H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S.

9. FORMAL SAMPLING.

Formal sampling of food and drugs, under the Food and Drugs Act, is carried out by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures.