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1942



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

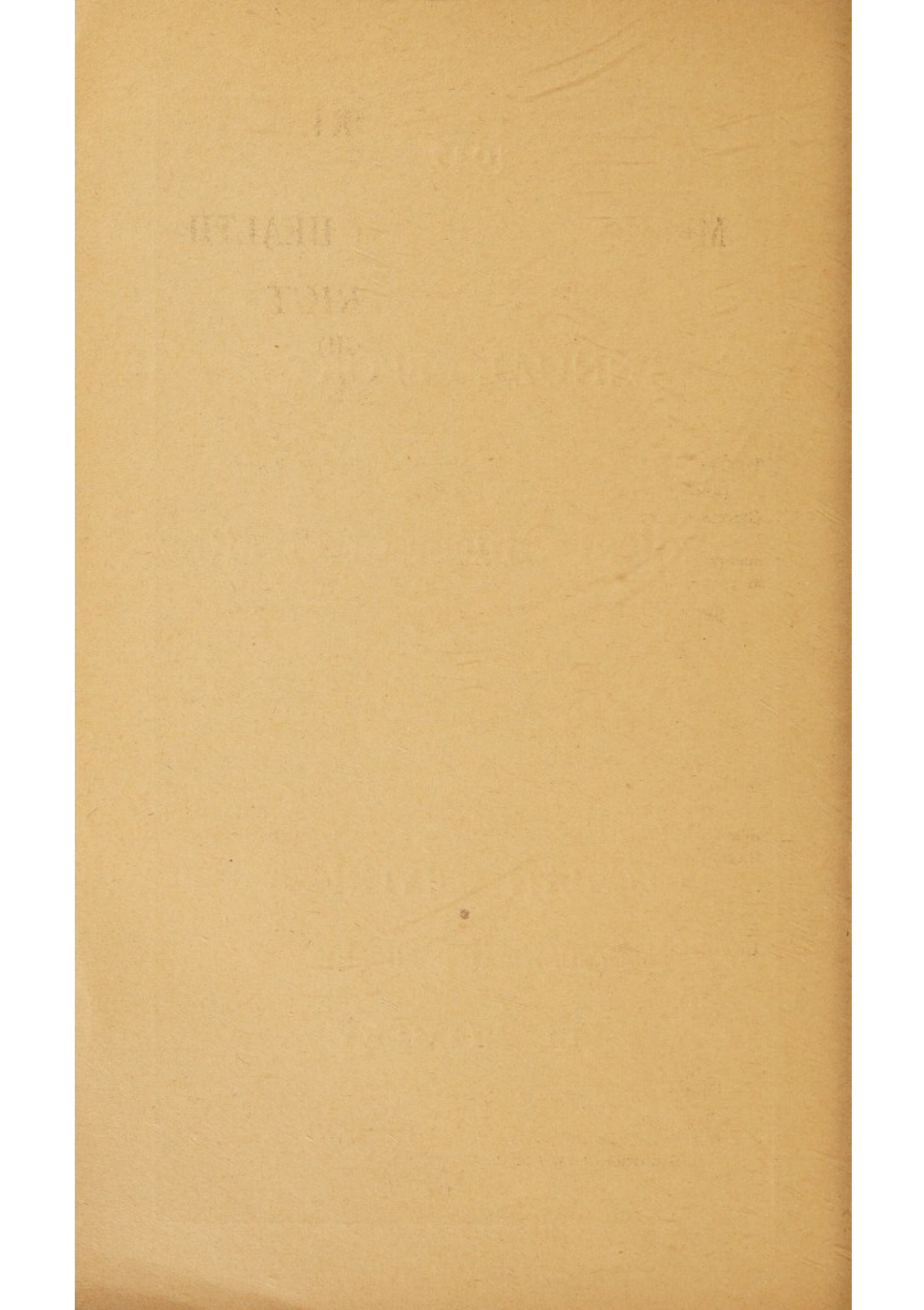
Medical Officer of Health

for the

URBAN DISTRICT

(MUNICIPAL BOROUGH)

OF ROMSEY



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1942

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT

(MUNICIPAL BOROUGH)

OF ROMSEY

TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROMSEY.

(Acting as the Urban Sanitary Authority)

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1942. The report has been materially shortened, several items omitted and others dealt with as briefly as possible.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Acres)	1212
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	6130
Rateable Value	£35.542
Sum represented by a penny rate	£141 14s. 8d.
Number of Council Houses.....	160

The entry of non-official evacuees and the taking over of houses by the authorities has rendered the housing situation acute.

The Air Raid Casualty Services are under the control of a Joint Committee formed of representatives from the Romsey Urban and Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Councils.

Officer in charge of Casualty Services—Dr. Lalonde.

VITAL STATISTICS,, 1942.

Live Births—

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	44	57	101	} Birth rate per 1000 estimated population 16.
Illegitimate	4	4	8	
Still Births	1	3	4	} Rate per 1000 (live and still) births, 35.
Deaths	44	37	81	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth				} Death rate per 1000 estimated population 13.2.
				} 0

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	45
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	39
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	125
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6
" " Measles	0
" " Whooping C.	0
" " Diarrhoea, (under 2)	0

Of all causes of death, Heart Disease accounted for 24, Cancer 6, Intra Cranial 9, Tuberculosis 4, Bronchitis 5 and Pneumonia 3.

There is an increase in the number of deaths from Heart Disease, Intra Cranial, Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

The Milk at School and the cheap milk at home has had a good effect on the children, who do not appear to be suffering from any ill effects due to the war. Many of the parents are in better financial circumstances.

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases of Scabies, but the numbers were not sufficient to justify the provision of a special clinic.

There has been an increase in the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis and also in the number of illegitimate births.

As far as I can judge from the result of enquiries, there has been no definite increase in the number of cases of Venereal Disease.

SECTION B (i). Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health of the adjoining Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer.
- (b) The Sanitary Inspector is a full time officer. He is also employed as Surveyor.

(ii) Nursing in the Home.

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority. In cases of Ophthalmia and Puerperal Pyrexia, nursing is provided where necessary by the County Council.

(iii) Laboratory Facilities.

The County Laboratory.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory.

Hospitals.

General.	Romsey and District Hospital. Romsey Emergency Hospital.
Infections.	Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted by arrangement to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital.
Small Pox.	Provision is made by the County Council.
Tuberculosis.	The County Council provide Sanatoria and Dispensaries.
Ambulance.	For Infectious Disease an ambulance is provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.

Report of the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(i) *Water.*

The area is supplied with a piped supply by the Southampton Corporation from their waterworks Pumping Station at Timsbury. The quality of the water is good and the supply is "constant." A few houses in isolated spots still obtain their supply from shallow wells which are liable to contamination.

With few exceptions all houses are supplied direct from the mains, but instances still remain of bib-taps being situated in common yards and shared by more than one household.

During the year three houses previously dependent on supply from wells have had supplies laid on direct from the mains.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The drains of all properties are connected with the sewerage system and it is only in exceptional cases that septic tanks are necessary, that is, where the properties are not within reasonable distance of a sewer. The exceptional cases occur in the Added Area of the Borough, but almost the whole of the available land within the boundaries of the old Borough is served by a sewer leading to the Pumping Station at Saddler's Mill from which it is pumped to the Sewage Disposal Works.

The Sewerage system is working fairly satisfactorily. During the year under review 65,732,500 gallons of sewage were pumped to the Disposal Works at Greenhill to receive treatment, and no nuisance was reported. The effluent discharged into the adjoining stream is satisfactory in every respect and within the limits of the Royal Commission Standard. The quantity dealt with is equivalent to an average twenty-four hour flow of 180,089 gallons, which is the discharge expected from a population of 9004 persons at an allowance of twenty gallons per head per day. During the six winter months 35,120,000 gallons were pumped, equal to an average twenty-four hour flow of 192,967 gallons—a discharge expected from a population of 9,648 persons, and during the six summer months 30,612,500 gallons were pumped, equal to an average twenty-four hour flow of 167,281 gallons—a discharge expected from a population of 8,364 persons—allowing in both instances 20 gallons per head per day.

The amount of rainfall for the year registered at the Disposal Works was 31.285 inches, 17.255 of which fell in the winter months and 14.03 in the summer months.

No major works were carried out during the year. Repairs and renewals have been carried out to the machinery, and the stream conveying the sewage effluent to the River Test has been cleaned, widened and regraded.

A sample of effluent taken and forwarded to the County Laboratories gave the following results of analysis:—

	Parts per 100,000
Free and saline ammonia	1.46
Alburninoid Ammonia	0.154
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.98
Oxygen absorbed in 3 mins. at 27°C	0.36
Chlorine (x 1.648—Common Salt)	6.65
Total solids dried at 100°C	67.8
Dissolved solids dried at 100°C	67.6
Suspended solids dried at 100°C	0.2*

	to 100 mls. of sample
Alkalinity to Methyl Orange in mls. N/50 acid	23.1
Alkalinity to Phenolphthalein in mls. N/50 acid	Nil
PH value	6.9
Temperature on arrival	16°C
Dissolved Oxygen present	0.346
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in 2 days at 22°C	1.360
Phenols	Nil

(2) *Rivers and Streams.*

There is little pollution of the streams passing through the Area, and no flooding was experienced during the year. During the year a River Catchment Board was formed for the River Test under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act, 1930, and their activities will, in due course, doubtless result in alleviating the periodical flooding that occurs in certain parts of the Borough.

(3) (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

The District, except in a few isolated cases, is on the water carriage system.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

The service is covered by Direct labour over the whole of the District and mechanical transport is used. All premises are visited once per week, and in certain cases where the volume of refuse is heavy the visits are more frequent. Generally the arrangements are satisfactory.

The return of refuse collected during the year is as follows:—

Quarter ended	No. of Loads collected	Total weights	
		T.	C.
31st March	243	243	0
30th June	232	232	0
30th September	268	268	0
31st December	287	287	0
	-----	-----	-----
Total for year	1030	1030	0
	-----	-----	-----
Total for previous year	1044	1044	0
	-----	-----	-----

The collection of waste paper and other salvageable material was continued throughout the year, and 153 tons, for which £663 was received, were returned to industry.

All the highways receive weekly cleansing, the Main Roads being cleansed by arrangement with the County Council who contribute towards the cost. 96 loads of street sweepings with an estimated weight of 80½ tons were collected during the year.

The refuse collected is taken to the Refuse Disposal Works at Budds Lane, and after sorting is tipped into adjoining meadows in the manner of "controlled tipping."

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

Inspection of the District has been carried out as often as possible and individual complaints received immediate attention.

The total number of Sanitary Inspections amounted to 596 and 115 nuisances were discovered and subsequently abated.

During the year 6 fumigations were carried out after cases of infectious disease.

(iv) *Shops.*

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, relating to Ventilation, temperature and Sanitary Conveniences.

(v) *Camping Sites.*

(1) No sites were used for camping purposes during the year.

(2) No licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 were issued by the Local Authority during the year.

(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the Area at one time—10.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

No complaints were received during the year. The Borough has very few factories. Smoke abatement is in the hands of the Police.

(vii) *Swimming Baths and Pools.*

Bathing for members of the male sex has, for a great number of years, taken place in a portion of the Fishlake Stream towards the upper reaches of the Town. The River is continually flowing—the source of supply being the River Test.

The Corporation also possess an up-to-date open air swimming pool equipped with water purification plant. The Pool was well patronised during the year. Samples of the Pool water are taken at intervals for bacteriological examination. The reports on the condition of the water continue to be satisfactory and no adverse report has yet been received.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

Number of Council Houses found to be infested		Nil.
Other houses	do.	 Nil.
Number of cyanide fumigations carried out during the year		Nil.

4) *Schools.*

An efficient system of supervision ensuring good and proper sanitary conditions on school premises was invariably met with. The Sanitary accommodation and drainage is connected with the Council's sewers and is on the water carriage system.

Water supplies for all purposes are direct from mains of high pressure character, affording abundant and pure deliveries.

Conditions were found to be uniformly good.

SECTION D.—Housing.

New Buildings and Housing.

Only one plan was submitted for approval during the year and this was for the adaptation of an existing house.

There was no displacement of persons from condemned houses and no slum properties were demolished during the year.

SECTION F. Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

With the exception of Measles and Chicken Pox, the incidence of infectious illness has been light. Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to Hospital and four were nursed at home. There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Percentage of child population immunised—under 5, 84 per cent, over 5, 85 per cent.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out the fumigation of the rooms.

There is no steam disinfecter, but where it is considered necessary, the infected articles are sent to the station of a neighbouring authority. There are no facilities in the Area (other than those at the Public Assistance Institution) for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1942.**

Disease.	Total number notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	7	3	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Measles	40	0	0
Chicken Pox	30	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0

CANCER.

Deaths :—Males 2, Females 4, Total 6.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pulmonary T.B.	4	4	2	1
Non Pulmonary	1	1	1	—

TABLE.

Causes of Death in Romsey Urban District, 1942 :

ALL CAUSES	Males. 44	Females. 37
Tuberculosis Respiratory	2	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	—
Syphilitic	1	—
Cancer	2	4
Intra Cranial	2	7
Heart	17	7
Other Circulatory	1	—
Bronchitis	4	1
Pneumonia	—	3
Other Respiratory	1	—
Other Digestive	—	2
Nephritis	—	1
Premature Birth	1	2
Congenital Mal. etc.	1	—
Suicide	1	—
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
Other Violence	1	2
All other	7	7

INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	—	—	—
Factories without	—	—	—
Other premises under Act	—	—	—

(a) Seven copies will be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.

(b) One copy to the County Medical Officer.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. TATE,

Medical Officer of Health.



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