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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

URBAN DISTRICT

(MUNICIPAL BOROUGH)

OF ROMSEY



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1944

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT

(MUNICIPAL BOROUGH)

OF ROMSEY

TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROMSEY.
GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1944.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	..	..	..	..	..	1212
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	..					5838
Rateable Value ..	..	..	..	..	..	£35,438
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	..	..	..	..	..	£141

A Brewery, a Nursery and Mills, give employment to a proportion of the population. The rest of the inhabitants are mostly engaged in retail trade or in other occupations common to a market town. It has good sanitation, lighting and a piped water supply.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate ..	33	50	83	} Birth Rate 15.4.
Illegitimate ..	1	7	8	
Still Births ..	4	—	4	Rate 42.
Deaths ..	35	34	69	Death Rate 11.8.
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth	}		From Sepsis ..	0.
			From other causes	0.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	..	..	..	54
Legitimate per 1000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	54
Illegitimate per 1000 illegitimate	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	0
„ „ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	0
„ „ Diarrhoea, under 2	..	..	..	0
„ „ Cancer, all ages	..	..	..	8

Of all causes of death, Heart Disease accounted for 28, Cerebral Haemorrhage 6, Premature Births 3 and Tuberculosis 1.

There was no excessive mortality from any particular cause.

The number of deaths from Heart Disease and Cerebral Haemorrhage are above the average.

Deaths from road traffic accidents 1. This is low considering the amount of military traffic which has passed through the town and the narrow roads.

Owing to the small population it is difficult in some cases to draw any definite conclusions from variation in the statistics from year to year.

Cheap milk, cheap school meals and the fact that the price of essential foods has not increased, while the parents wages in some cases has increased, has made a difference in the physical condition of the school children, most of whom appear to be in a better physical condition than pre-war, but the children seem disinclined to concentrate on their work. It may be due in some cases to defective home supervision or possibly some defect in the diet.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) The Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health of the adjoining Rural District of Romsey and Stockbridge.
- (b) The Sanitary Inspector is also Borough Surveyor.
- (c) A Veterinary Surgeon for the inspection of Dairies, etc.

2. Services provided.

There has been no change in the services provided in the area, viz. Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home and Hospitals.

Scabies Clinic.

This is held at the Gas Cleansing Station, Love Lane.

Staff: The Health Visitor Miss Lane and Mr. and Mrs. Kemp.

All members of the family are treated, those with evidence of scabies get two treatments, others one.

82 patients were treated.

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 "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.

(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 Sadler's Mill from which it is pumped to the Sewage Disposal Works.

The sewerage system is working fairly satisfactory. During the year under review 78,201,250 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 213,665 gallons, which is the discharge expected from a population of 10,683 persons at an allowance of twenty gallons per head per day. During the six winter months 39,160,000 gallons were pumped, equal to an average twenty-four hour flow of 213,989 gallons—a discharge expected from a population of 10,699 persons, and during the six summer months 39,041,250 gallons were pumped equal to an average twenty-four hour flow of 213,340 gallons—a discharge expected from a population of 10,667 persons, allowing in both instances 20 gallons per head per day.

The amount of rainfall for the year registered at the Disposal Works was 27.21 inches, 16.47 of which fell in the winter months and 10.74 in the summer months.

No major works were carried out during the year but attention was directed to overhaul and renewal of the pumping plant and general maintenance work.

(2) RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is little pollution of the streams passing through the Area. No flooding was experienced in the Greatbridge Road Area.

(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 :—

<i>Quarter ended</i>	<i>No. of Loads Collected.</i>	<i>Total weights</i>	
		<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>
31st March	262	262	0
30th June	248	248	0
30th September	257	257	0
31st December	253	253	0
Total for Year		1020	0
TOTAL FOR PREVIOUS YEAR		1033	0

The collection of waste paper and other materials was continued throughout the year, and 90 tons, for which £488 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. 100 loads of street sweepings with an estimated weight of 88½ 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 671 and 92 nuisances were discovered and subsequently abated.

During the year one fumigation was carried out after a case 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 action is in the hands of the Police.

(vii) *Swimming Baths and Pool.*

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 frequent intervals for bacteriological examination. The reports on the condition of the water are very satisfactory, and no adverse report has been received.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

Number of Council Houses found to be infested	..	Nil
Other Houses found to be infested	..	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.

Four building plans were submitted for approval during the year, one of which was for alterations and renovations of a temporary structure, and one for adaptations to an existing house. The latter, owing to restrictions on building, was not proceeded with.

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

SECTION E. Prevalence of, and control over Infections and other Diseases.

Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital.

The incidence of infectious disease was low. There were no cases of Diphtheria and only one case of Scarlet Fever was notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Children of school age are immunised in school. The under school age are done by local practitioners at their surgeries and a fee of 6s. 6d. paid by the Council. Some under school age are immunised at the Welfare Centre once a month.

70% of the children under school age and 89% of children of school age have been immunised.

Disease.	Total No. notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Measles	1	0	0
Chicken Pox ..	8	0	0
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ..	1	1	0

CANCER.

Deaths :—Males 2. Females 6.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases Notified 1. Deaths 1.

TABLE.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMSEY URBAN DISTRICT, 1944.

ALL CAUSES	Males 35	Females 34
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	1
Cancer	2	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc. ..	4	2
Diabetes	0	2
Heart	14	14
Other Circulatory	1	2
Bronchitis	2	0
Pneumonia	1	2
Diarrhoea under 2	0	0
Other Digestive	1	1
Nephritis	1	0
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Maternal	0	0
Premature Birth	3	0
Road Traffic	1	0
Other Violent	0	1
All other	5	3

Yours faithfully,

G. TATE,
Medical Officer of Health.



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