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B O R O U G H   O F   R Y E

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

REPORT

for

1945.

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To the Mayor and Members of the

RYE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Borough.

By direction of the Ministry of Health (circular 28/46 of February 11th, 1946) the Report is on the lines of that for 1944.

Except measles little infectious illness is known to have occurred. 111 cases of measles were notified. This means that 3.02 per cent of the whole population had the disease if every case was notified, and some probably were not.

In the Battle District 650 cases give 2.56 per cent.

It is disappointing that so few children have been immunized against diphtheria, the more so because the Borough Council was so prompt to recognize the importance of the treatment when it was first brought to notice.

Since early in June, 1945 medical men have been able to use the clinic at the Junior Council School for immunizing, and this has led to more children's being protected than formerly, but not nearly enough. The one encouraging sign is that more children have been immunized under 5, of the ages at which diphtheria is most prevalent and most dangerous. The figures have risen from 23% to 34%, and they are better than they seem because, since children are not treated till the end of their first year, the percentage of those of immunizable age is higher than a percentage referring to the time from birth to the fifth birthday.

To make diphtheria as rare as smallpox something approaching 80% of the children must be protected throughout the country.

Scabies continues to be a nuisance, not confined to the Borough.

As always I have to thank the Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector for much ready help in public health work and in compiling this report.

The help of the District Nurses in discovering illness and in treatment is invaluable. All who wish for the welfare of the Borough and its inhabitants owe them a debt of gratitude.

In presenting my last Annual Report may I, Mr. Mayor and Councillors, note that I hold it an honour to have been an officer of your Ancient Town

and

your obedient servant,

*Alan Moore*

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
The Watch Oak,  
BATTLE, Sussex.

26th August, 1946.



Area .. .. .	1,021 acres
Population by census, 1931 .. .. .	3,947
Estimated population in 1945, Registrar General's figure .. .. .	3,671
Number of inhabited houses, estimated (not including houses occupied by H.M. Forces)	1,255
Number of rateable premises, March 31st, 1945	1,610
Rateable value .. .. .	£39,421
Sum represented by a penny rate for the Financial year ending March 31st, 1945, estimated ..	£145

## Occupation &amp; Industry

Shopkeeping,

Fishing. About 50, probably, of the 206 fishing vessels using the port usually berthed up at Rye.

General and structural engineering.

Agriculture,

Wooden shipbuilding. Two keels were laid.

## Unemployment

The Labour Exchange at Hastings reports that there was very little unemployment.

BIRTHS

						Registrar General's figures		
						Male	Female	Totals
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	19	31	50
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
Total	..	..	..	..	..	22	35	57
Live-Birth rate per 1,000 of Resident Population								10.07
Live-Birth rate for England and Wales								16.1

DEATHS

Male 30 Female 29  
(Registrar General's figures)

Death-Rate per 1,000 of Population	16.07
Death-Rate of England & Wales	11.4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	0
Maternal death-rate for England & Wales per 1,000 total births, excluding abortion	1.22
For 1944	1.53
Stillbirths	Male 0 Female 0
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	
Legitimate	2 2
Illegitimate	0 0
Death-Rate of Infants per 1,000 live births	70.17
Infant death-rate for England & Wales (The same as in 1944)	46.00
One child under 2 years of age, a girl, died from diarrhoea and enteritis. This would give a death rate from diarrhoea and enteritis per 1,000 live births, of	17.54
Death-Rate from diarrhoea and enteritis per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	5.6
No deaths were due to measles or whooping cough.	
Death-rate for measles per 1,000 civilian population for England and Wales	0.02

Deaths from Cancer

All deaths are included for which any form of carcinoma was mentioned in the Death Certificate. No sarcoma was recorded.

Age at death and seat of disease

Ages	Alimentary Canal		Breast		Lungs and bronchi		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
30 - 34								1
35 - 49								
50 - 54		1						
55 - 59				1				
60 - 64					1			
65 - 69								
70 - 74		1						
75 - 79		1					1	1
80 - 84	1							
85 - 89							1	



## HEALTH SERVICES

### Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health                      A. H. Moore, M.B., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health of the Battle Rural District and Assistant School Medical Officer under the County Medical Officer of Health for East Sussex.

Surveyor, Town Planning Officer,            A. G. J. Cornner, O.B.E.,  
Slum Clearance Officer, Water              M.Inst.M. & C.E., M.R.San.I.  
Superintendent and Petroleum  
Inspector

Sanitary Inspector, Meat                      H. C. Gower, A.R.San.I.  
Inspector and Deputy Surveyor

### Legislation in Force

Adoptive Acts and Sections of Acts and Byelaws relating to Public Health in force in the Borough:

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890: adopted 4th September, 1896.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (Parts II and III): adopted 4th September, 1896.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (Sections 15, 16, 19, 29, 32 and 33 in Part II): adopted 19th January, 1925.

The Public Health Act, 1925: Sections 13 to 19 and 23 to 33 and 35 in Part II: adopted 12th March, 1926.

Byelaws for cleansing footways &c: adopted 11th July, 1871.

Byelaws for dealing with Nuisances: adopted 16th October, 1896.

Byelaws for Good Rule and Government: adopted 31st December, 1903.

Byelaws for New Streets and Buildings: adopted 19th June, 1925.

### Hospitals

The Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital in the parish of Rye Foreign.

The nearest large general hospital is the Royal East Sussex at Hastings.

For maternity, the Hastings Municipal Hospital and Fern Bank Maternity Home, Old London Road, Hastings.

Patients suffering from notifiable infectious diseases are sent to the Hastings Borough Sanatorium.

### Insulin

In July 1943 the Borough Council at the advice of the Finance & Executive Committee resolved that insulin should be supplied at the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health to diabetics who could not afford it or get it through Insurance, the Poor Law or the Education Act. None was so supplied in 1945.

### Laboratories

Throat swabs and the like are sent to the Pathological Laboratory of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings. Sputum is examined for tubercle bacilli at the County Laboratory, Hellingly.

An ambulance, not for infectious patients, was moved from Wright & Pankhurst's yard in Cinque Ports Street to the new headquarters of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade at Conduit Hill.

A rota of Nurses and Drivers is kept and the ambulance is always available.

### Public Conveniences

The Council controls the following:

Cinque Ports Street	Men, 3 W.C.s & 3 stall urinal, Women, 4 W.C.s
Landgate Tower	3 stall urinal
Strand Quay	Men, 3 W.C.s & 3 stall urinal, Women, 4 W.C.s.
Ypres steps	3 stall urinal
Fishmarket	Urinal
Battery Gardens	Men, 3 stall urinal & 2 W.C.s Women, 2 W.C.s.

This convenience was relinquished by the Military during 1945.

### THE BOROUGH SURVEYOR REPORTS:

#### Civil Defence

Releases in whole-time personnel commenced at the end of 1944 and final releases of whole-time personnel took place on the 10th July, 1945. During the period generally to July, 1945, the Civil Defence Organisation gradually closed down and the various orders affecting part-time personnel terminated. From July onwards the work in connection with Civil Defence was that of winding up the Organisation.



### Water Supply

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination once a month and for chemical examination once a quarter.

Other samples are taken when advisable.

In 1945, 39 bacteriological samples (28 pre-chlorinated and 11 post-chlorinated) and 10 chemical samples (7 pre-chlorinated and 3 post-chlorinated) were taken.

All water supplied to consumers was satisfactory. The water is chlorinated.

62,204,216 gallons were supplied from the Cadborough and Military Road Pumping Stations. Of this amount 3,614,700 gallons were supplied in bulk to the Battle Rural District Council.

The Borough Surveyor was instructed to prepare a Scheme together with estimates for the reconstruction of water mains in the central area of the Borough, and also for the renewal of pumping plant at the Cadborough Pumping Station.

### Drainage & Sewerage

The automatic ejector stations in 1945 lifted the following amount of sewage:

Station A	707,975 gallons
Station B	3,699,000 gallons,
Station C	1,165,575 gallons
Station D	1,826,405 gallons
	<u>7,398,955 gallons</u>

### Scavenging

1,636 tons of refuse were dealt with at the fully controlled Refuse Tip in Cadborough Road.

The collection and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Council. Refuse is removed in a motor-vehicle with a covered metal body to the fully controlled refuse tip in Cadborough Road.

The work is carried out according to the latest instructions of the Ministry of Health and is entirely satisfactory and free from annoyance.

				<u>Salvage</u>				<u>Sums received</u>		
				T	c	q	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	..	..	..	6	16	3	6	38.	13.	4
Textiles										
Rags	..	..	..		4	1	22	2.	19.	1
Bottles	..	..	..	2	10	0	10	10.	2.	6
Bones	..	..	..		3	0	23		13.	3
Scrap Iron	..	..	..	1	2	0	0	2.	9.	6
Totals				10	16	2	5	54.	17.	8

### Post War Housing

The Ministry of Health approved the first post war Site off Cadborough Road for 100 permanent houses on a site of 17.85 acres. The layout was prepared and approved and the engineering details for roads, sewers, water mains and services submitted to the Ministry for approval. The Council appointed Mr. F. L. Jackman, F.R.I.B.A. to prepare plans for this site.

The Ministry of Health also approved the second post war Site adjoining No. 1 for a further 200 permanent houses on an area of 21.04 acres.

### Control of Civil Building

Up to the 5th February, 1945, the Priority Committee dealt with 36 applications for Building Licences.

From the 5th February to the 31st December 107 Licences were issued for the total of £7,422. This amount included Licences in respect of one pair of new houses and the putting into order after Military occupation of a number of houses otherwise uninhabitable.

### GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

#### THE SANITARY INSPECTOR REPORTS:

25 complaints of nuisances were inspected and the complaints found were remedied.

Cowsheds, drains, bakehouses etc. were periodically inspected.

No slaughter houses were in use during the year. All meat comes to Rye from Government Slaughter Houses situated outside the area.

An investigation at Kings Avenue Council Houses disclosed the presence of bed bugs in four houses. It was found possible to temporarily evacuate two houses and these were fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide, the others were treated with D.D.T. spray.

A case of bed bugs in a private house was successfully dealt with by stripping the wall paper and spraying with D.D.T. three times at intervals.

Several complaints of infestations of fleas and cockroaches were dealt with by powder and liquid sprays and sulphurous acid fumigation.

#### Milk Licences taken out in 1945

Supplementary Dealer's Licence for "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	1
Supplementary Dealer's Licence for "Accredited" Milk	1
Pasteuriser's Licence	1



### Food Inspection

No slaughtering was carried out in Rye. Home killed butchers' meat is inspected at the place of slaughtering and, on request, at the shops.

A large amount of fish was brought into Rye from boats operating in Rye Bay. This is inspected at the distributing station.

### Food Condemned

Following is a list of foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year, amounting approximately to 550 lbs.

Tinned Meat	102 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bacon	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Liver Sausage	24 lbs.
Tinned Milk	40 tins
Tinned Soup	9 tins
Tinned Fruit	1 tin
Tinned Fish	26 tins
Tinned Vegetables	45 tins
Wet Fish	84 lbs.
Shell Fish	3 lbs.
Flour	6 lbs.
Soya Flour	19 lbs.
Batter Flour	61 pkts.
Self Raising Flour	12 lbs.
Oatmeal	2 lbs.
Pudding Mixture	75 pkts.
Soup Powder	30 pkts.
Jam	30 lbs.
Marmalade	16 lbs.
Tea	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Eggs	26 doz.
Sugar	5 lbs.
Boiled Sweets	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

### Disinfection

Ten houses were disinfected after the notification of infectious diseases.

### Rat-killing

An operative transferred by agreement with the Battle Rural District Council for the 12 months ending September 30th, 1945, did all the work in the town including the sewers.

He dealt with 23 major and 109 minor infestations. The number of rats destroyed, estimated by the formula of the Ministry of Food from the amount of poison taken, was 3,400.

After this the employment of a full time rat-killer was felt to be no longer justified. A part time man could not be got.

(The Sanitary Inspector hopes to attend a course of instruction in this necessary work this year, 1946).



### Housing

New Houses - Work was commenced on one pair of houses by private enterprise during the year.

Requisitioned Houses - 5 houses were requisitioned by the Council. These were put into habitable repair and one was converted into two, thus 6 family units were housed.

Derequisitioned Houses - Some few were brought back into use as dwelling houses.

Maintenance Work - An increased amount of work was carried out on State aided and other Council Houses. There is, however, much to be done and it will be some years before these properties are brought up to a pre-war standard.

Repair of War Damage - The Council continued the repair of houses damaged by enemy action and by the end of the year all houses were brought up to a reasonable standard and the outstanding repairs were not of a serious nature.

Shortage of Houses - The shortage is acute and aggravated by the return of men and women from the Services. At the end of the year the Council had on its books 131 applications for houses. This number is rapidly increasing.

Housing Acts - Statutory Notices under Section 9 of the Act of 1936 were served in respect of two houses. The repairs required were extensive and were carried out by the Council in default and at the request of the owner.

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### SCHOOLS

Rye Junior Council School was open.

The Senior School, now called the Modern School, ceased to be used as a school in July, 1940.

It was reopened as a school on March 12th, 1945.

Rye Grammar School returned from Bedford at Christmas, 1944 and reopened in January.

### SCABIES

Cases, 9 or 10 in all, were seen or reported in January, April, May, July and October. Proscabin is supplied and when used properly cures.

### CONTAMINATED MUSSELS AT RYE HARBOUR

That the public health work of the surrounding district and of the Borough cannot be considered entirely apart was shewn by the discovery in April by the Fishmongers' Company that mussels in Rye Harbour were contaminated.

An Order was made by the Battle District Council under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, forbidding the sale for human consumption of shellfish taken from the estuary.

Fishmongers in the Borough were informed.

### NOTIFIED ILLNESS

Diseases other than tuberculosis, in civilians, notified in 1945:

Scarlet fever, 4 cases. Ages of patients, 5, 2, 2, 5.  
Two were sent to hospital and two treated at home.

Whooping Cough, 4 cases. Ages of patients; under 1 year, 3,  
L. 10.

Measles. In 1944 only one case was notified. In 1945 there were 111 notifications. The ages and sex of the patients were:

Under 1		1		2		3		4		5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	Unknown	
m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.
1	3	5	6	3	8	3	10	4	7	16	21	5	5	3	3
														-	7
														1	-

### Tuberculosis

No action was required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 or under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations.

#### Cases on Register 31st December, 1945

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
males	females	males	females
9	5	2	1

#### Cases notified for the first time

Age Groups	Respiratory	
	male	female
15 - 24	1	1
25 - 34	1	

### Deaths

Age Groups	Respiratory	
	male	female
35 - 44	1	
45 - 54	4	
55 - 64	1	
65 - 74	1	
75 - 84		1

Two of the patients had apparently never been notified.



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

The inoculations are free. Medical men are paid a fee of 2/6 for each injection. Half the cost of immunizing children under 5 was borne by the County Council.

Sessions for immunization attended by local medical men are held at the treatment centre at the Junior School. Schick-testing is not provided.

It has been found advisable to give children immunized before the age of 4 a third injection after they are 5 years old.

Babies are not as a rule immunized much before reaching the age of 12 months.

Children receiving the two inoculations in 1945:

Under 5	51
5 - 14	39
18 received the 3rd inoculation.	

Estimated total numbers of Rye children under 15 immunized at December 31st, 1945:

Under 5	106
5 - 14	268

Percentage of child population immunized, estimated at mid year,

Under 5	34.30
5 - 14	50.37

T H E E N D .



