METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

OF

CAMBERWELL

ANNUAL (ABRIDGED) REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

H. W. BARNES, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

for the year

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Camberwell, S.E.5.
23rd December, 1940.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
of the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

For reasons which I am sure will be readily understood it has not been possible to prepare a report on customary lines upon the health of the Borough for the year 1939. Indeed, the Ministry of Health, realising the increasing pressure of work in Public Health Departments resulting from the war, issued a further circular on the subject of the preparation of Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health in which it was suggested that the report for 1939 need only be an interim report, typewritten if desired, and confined to essential and urgent matters affecting the Public Health during the year.

For many months before the outbreak of war the activities of the Department were divided between the performance of duties normally undertaken and those of a war-time character. In this latter group fell such duties as the training of Civil Defence Volunteers in anti-gas measures and first aid, the selection, adaptation and equipping of premises for use as Stretcher Party Depots and First Aid Posts.

When war was declared on September 3rd, 1940, practically the whole of the staff of the Department were allocated to Civil Defence duties - the Sanitary Inspectors acting as Superintendents of Stretcher Party Depots and the Municipal Health Visitors and the female Sanitary Inspector as Nurses in Charge of First Aid Posts.

These staff arrangements continued until the end of the year when it became necessary, in view of the drift back of families from reception areas, to re-open some of the Infant Welfare Centres and to arrange for the return of the Health Visitors to their normal duties. The arrears of work in the sanitary districts also compelled attention to the question of appointing Superintendents of Stretcher Party Depots so as to enable the Sanitary Inspectors engaged in these duties to be released.

The estimated resident population of Camberwell at the middle of 1938 was 222,400. The Registrar-General has furnished the following figures for statistical purposes for the year 1939 upon which information the birth and death rates in this report have been calculated :-

Estimated population (a) for birth rate 219,500 (b) for death rate 208,500.

The comparative birth and death rates for 1938 and 1939 are as follows:

	1938.	1939.
Birth Rate	13·97	13·85
Death Rate	12·27	12·43

It has always been my practice in the Annual Report on the health of the Borough to express my indebtedness to the Staff for their valuable help in the administration of the health services. For their work during 1939, which bore little or no resemblance to the tasks normally undertaken, I cannot speak too highly; the whole Staff were frequently called upon to work long hours and at week-ends which they did without even a suspicion of a grumble. I accordingly take this opportunity of tendering to them my sincere thanks for their excellent services throughout the year, particularly during that period of the change-over from peace to war-time conditions.

I also wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council especially the Members of the Emergency Committee and the A.R.P.Controller, for their kind consideration and support in all matters relating to the discharge of the duties of my appointment as Medical Officer of Health.

Your obedient Servant,

H.W. Barnes.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939

Area of the Borough in acres	4,480
Population (estimated resident population) -	
for birth rate	219,500
for death rate	208,500
Population (Census 1931)	251,294
Number of live births -	
for birth rate	3,040
for infant & maternal mortality rates	2,926
Birth rate	13·85
Number of deaths	2,592
Death rate	12·43
Infantile Mortality :-	
Deaths under 1 year	108
Infantile deaths per 1,000 births	36
Maternal Mortality :-	
Deaths of women from diseases or accidents associated with childbirth	6
Maternal death rate (per 1,000 live births ...	2·05
Maternal death rate (per 1,000 total births ...	2·04
Deaths from phthisis	145
Phthisis death rate	0·69
Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis	165
Tuberculosis death rate	0·79

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DEATHS, CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DURING THE YEAR 1939

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
All causes	M.	1,292	57	6	12	21	35	39	59	141	262	324	336
	F.	1,300	51	5	8	10	42	35	61	93	188	307	500
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fevers	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	M.	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	M.	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	M.	5	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	M.	18	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	3	7
	F.	24	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	5	6	8
Encephalitis lethargica	M.	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	M.	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M.	90	-	-	-	1	9	16	19	21	16	8	-
	F.	55	1	-	-	-	16	12	9	5	7	3	2
Other tuberculous diseases	M.	11	-	-	2	1	3	3	-	1	-	1	-
	F.	9	1	-	3	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	M.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-
	F.	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	M.	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	-
	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-
Cancer, malignant disease	M.	179	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	30	59	59	25
	F.	191	-	1	-	1	3	3	12	28	51	53	39
Diabetes	M.	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	7	4
	F.	23	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	3	10	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	M.	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	16	19	21
	F.	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	17	27	38
Heart disease	M.	403	-	-	-	3	2	5	7	34	68	119	165
	F.	457	-	-	-	1	3	4	15	18	44	123	249
Aneurysm	M.	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	2
	F.	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	2

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Other circulatory diseases	M.	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	23	23
	F.	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	9	18	33
Bronchitis	M.	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	6	17	13
	F.	35	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	11	16
Pneumonia (all forms)	M.	73	8	3	2	-	2	-	1	8	18	15	16
	F.	57	5	1	2	-	1	1	3	1	9	13	21
Other respiratory diseases	M.	10	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	2	2	2	-
	F.	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	-
Peptic Ulcer	M.	24	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	10	3	4
	F.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Diarrhoea, etc.	M.	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F.	11	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Appendicitis	M.	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F.	9	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	2	-	2
Cirrhosis of liver	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Other diseases of liver etc.	M.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2
Other digestive diseases	M.	19	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	3	2	3	6
	F.	26	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	4	7	7	4
Acute & chronic nephritis	M.	21	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	4	5	5	3
	F.	27	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	6	6	5
Puerperal sepsis	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other Puerperal causes	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Congenital debility, premature	M.	34	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
birth, malformation etc.	F.	27	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senility	M.	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	20
	F.	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	46
Suicide	M.	19	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	4	3	4	2
	F.	7	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	1	-	-
Other violence	M.	65	2	1	-	6	9	7	8	5	10	11	6
	F.	16	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	5	4
Other defined diseases	M.	73	3	-	1	3	5	2	4	4	17	16	18
	F.	72	4	1	-	2	5	2	9	8	11	11	19
Causes ill-defined or	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
unknown	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES
SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED.

	No. of cases notified.	Treated in Hospital	Found to be not suffering from the disease
Diphtheria and Croup	212	212	33
Scarlet Fever	343	295	27
Measles	29	7	3
Whooping Cough	571	132	6
Enteric Fever & Para-typhoid	8	8	2
Pneumonia (Acute Influenzal	51	22	-
Pneumonia (Acute Primary	104	75	-
Erysipelas	71	35	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	9	9	-
Poliomyelitis	17	15	5
Polio-Encephalitis	2	2	1
Anthrax	2	2	-
Dysentery	3	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	7	-
Puerperal Fever	5	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	32	29	-
Totals	1,469	858	80

DISINFECTING STATION - RETURN OF WORK

	Notified Infectious diseases	Other diseases	Miscel-laneous	Scabies	Vermin	Total All Cases
Rooms disinfected	934	343	22	257	952	2,508
Lots of bedding disinfected	629	198	316	254	210	1,607
Total Visits	1,277	548	1,273	509	803	4,410

Number of articles disinfected by steam	36,080
Number of articles disinfected by formalin	2,017
Number of books disinfected	627
Beds and mattresses destroyed	721
Miscellaneous goods destroyed	1,579
	T. C. qr. lb.
Weight of Unsound foods destroyed	22. 7. 0. 14¾
Weight of furniture etc., destroyed	6, 5. 0. 0.
Weight of dead animals destroyed	3.14. 2. 0½

Cleansing Station.

Persons cleansed	Number of attendances.			
	Scabies		Vermin	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Adults	83	84	54	1
Children	2,036	2,248	216	1,063

NUMBER OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS PERFORMED 1939

Swabs for diphtheria	1905
Sputa for tubercle	1431
Blood for Widal test	3
Faeces for Typhoid-paratyphoid group	3
Milks (bacteriological)	40
Bath waters "	14
Well waters "	16
Ice Cream "	6
Miscellaneous specimens	11
Total	3429

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VACCINATION 1939.

No. of names received in birth lists	3288
Certificates of Successful Vaccination received	1273
Certificates of Postponement received...	4
Certificates of Insusceptibility received	4
Statutory Declarations of Objection received ...	1407

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MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Centres - Clinic Attendances etc. (including "Toddlers" Clinics), 1939.

Attendances of Children	(i) Under 1 year	35,978
	(ii) Between 1 & 5 years	23,288
Miscellaneous attendances		2,918
	Total attendances ...	62,184

Analysis of Attendances -	
Doctors' Consultations	23,777
Seen by Health Visitor	34,850
Weighings only	639

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Health Visitors - Record of Visits (including visits to "Toddlers") 1939

Visits to Expectant Mothers		3,751
" " Post-natal Mothers		2,756
No. of Births reported in the Area		2,759
Visits to Children -		
(i) Under 1 year	14,310	
(ii) Between 1 & 5 years ...	17,356	
Total		31,666
Miscellaneous Visits		1,743
Total Visits ...		39,916

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Ancillary Services.

During the year convalescent treatment was provided for 16 mothers and babies, and 26 children separately.

In 115 instances the services of a Home Help were provided for mothers, either before, during or after confinement. Mid-day meals were also supplied in 54 cases. In 14 cases expectant or nursing mothers were provided with dental treatment.

The District Nursing Associations paid a total of 4848 visits to 390 approved cases under the Council's Domiciliary Nursing Scheme.

A total of 129 patients benefitted under the Council's Treatment of Minor Ailments Scheme, and 72 individual children received Sunlight and Massage Treatment whose collective attendances at the Clinics numbered 581.

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FOOD AND DRUGS.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS - YEAR ENDED 31.12.39

Number examined			Number adulterated etc.			Percentage of Adulteration.	
Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal
589	121	710	10	5	15	1.69	4.13

COMPOSITION OF MILK SAMPLES.

371 formal and 26 informal samples of milk taken during the year and four formal samples were found not to conform with requirements.

MILK ADULTERATION.

Four formal samples were reported against, the percentage of adulteration being 1·07. Each sample reported against was deficient in milk fat.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

Two samples of butter were purchased which did not comply with the provisions of this Act.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (GRADING AND MARKING) ACT, 1928.

There were no infringements of the various orders to be recorded.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Number of samples submitted for examination -

Pasteurised milk	37
Tuberculin tested	4

All graded milks complied with the standards laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR THE PRESENCE OF TUBERCLE BACILLI

One sample of Tuberculin tested milk and five samples of raw milk were examined by means of the animal test for the presence of tubercle bacillus with negative results, except in one case of raw milk obtained from the licensed cowhouse in the Borough. The report in this case showed typical tuberculous lesions.

The result of the examination of this sample was reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who undertook a clinical examination of the herd concerned and further samples were taken by the Ministry's Inspector. These samples were all certified to be non-tuberculous.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of animals slaughtered at the two licensed slaughter houses during 1939 was 856. Of these 1 cow, whole carcase, and 1 pig, whole carcase, were condemned as unfit for human food; also in 106 cases some part or organ of the carcase of the animals slaughtered was affected by disease.

The following table shows the number of carcases and organs condemned and destroyed.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	35	15	Nil	287	519
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	1	Nil	38	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11·42	6·66	Nil	7·55	2·89
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	6	Nil	Nil	39

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11·42	40·00	Nil	Nil	7·89

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses on the register at the end of the year was 78 overground and 36 underground.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION.

Street Markets Inspections	2,092
FOOD PLACES - Inspections:	
Bakehouses	125
Fish Curer's Premises	202
Fried Fish Shops	280
Ice Cream Premises	359
Restaurants and Eating Houses	301

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SANITARY INSPECTION

No. of complaints received	4119
Inspections under Shops Act, 1934	324
" " Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	51
" " Milkshops	497
Factories Act, 1937 :-	
No. of inspections of Factories	844
" " " " Outworker Premises	601
Intimations served	30
House to House Inspections, P.H.(London) Act,1936	125
No. of Intimations, P.H. (London) Act, 1936	3868
" " Statutory Notices	1334
" " Notices (Sec 9) Housing Act, 1936	59
" " Reinspections (all enactments)	19836
Total number of visits	30772

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TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

New cases during 1939. There was a total of 351 new cases including 248 primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, 28 non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 65 inward transfers, 5 posthumous notifications and 5 non-notified deaths obtained from the Registrar's returns.

MORTALITY during 1939. There were 165 deaths from all forms of tuberculosis equal to a death rate of 0-79 per 1,000 of population (0·8 per 1,000 in 1938). Of these 145 were pulmonary cases and 20 non-pulmonary cases.

NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Age Periods	New Cases. *				Deaths †			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1
1 ...	2	5	2	1	-	-	2	3
5 ...	5	8	2	4	1	-	1	-
15 ...	31	39	-	3	9	16	3	3
25 ...	35	21	5	1	16	12	3	1
35 ...	24	9	1	-	19	9	-	1
45 ...	29	4	3	3.	21	5	1	-
55...	19	4	-	1	16	7	-	-
65 and upwards	8	5	-	-	8	5	1	-
Totals	153	95	13	15	90	55	11	9

* Includes primary formal notifications and cases which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health from other sources

† After corrections for Inward and Outward Transfers.

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 2,054, i.e. 1,565 pulmonary, 489 non-pulmonary.

The rate of non-notified deaths to the total deaths was 1 to 33 as compared with 1 to 12.8 in 1938.

No case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify cases on the part of medical practitioners occurred.

No occasion arose during 1939 for any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or the Public Health Act 1936. Section 172.

WORK of the TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY during 1939.

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				Grand Total
	Adults		Children.		Adults		Children.		Adults		Children.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A - New cases examined during the year (excluding contacts):-													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	108	76	8	5	6	12	4	1	114	88	12	6	220
(b) Diagnosis not completed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	1	3	18
(c) Non-tuberculous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	261	246	43	44	594
B - Contacts examined during the year:-													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	2	3	2	3	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	3	10
(b) Diagnosis not completed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
(c) Non-tuberculous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	100	66	65	294
C - Cases written off the Dispensary Register as :-													
(a) Recovered	12	6	-	2	-	-	3	3	12	6	3	5	26

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				
	Adults		Children.		Adults		Children.		Adults		Children.		Grand Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	336	352	109	113	910
D - Number of Cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st:-													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	649	497	54	52	114	128	90	77	763	625	144	129	1661
(b) Diagnosis not completed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	1	3	19

1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st ...	1,618	2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years ...	105
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme and cases "lost sight of"	132	4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes)	112
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts)	5,772	6. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December	297
7. Number of consultations with medical practitioners:- (a) Personal ... ... (b) Other	305 905	8. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officers to homes (including personal consultations	515
9. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes ...	7,387	10. Number of:- (a) Specimens of sputum etc. examined ... (b) X-ray examination made in connection with dispensary work	865 1,452
11. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register, and included in A(a) and A(b) above	4	12. Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st	650

HOSPITAL CONSULTATION. The L.C.C. renewed the appointment of the Tuberculosis Officer as Honorary Consultant Tuberculosis Officer to St. Giles' Hospital and 244 cases were seen there in consultation with the Hospital Medical Officer.

ARTIFICIAL PNEUMOTHORAX TREATMENT. A total of 612 refill treatments were given by the Tuberculosis Officer at the St. Giles' Hospital clinic (compared with 401 in 1938 and nil in 1937). There were also 751 refills carried out at various other hospitals.

One patient received FINSEN LIGHT TREATMENT and 16 patients DENTAL TREATMENT. EXTRA DIET was given to 126 patients and 152 POCKET FLASKS were supplied.

X-RAY. Every new case or "contact" attending the dispensary during 1939 received X-ray examination.

CARE COMMITTEE. Christmas Seal Sale. The receipts were £267. 5s. 11d. and payments £106. 17s. 9d. leaving a clear profit of £160. 8s. 2d. which was spent in providing beds, bedding and other comforts for tuberculous patients.

HANDICRAFT CLASS. An Exhibition and Sale of Work held at the Town Hall on December 3rd and 4th produced the sum of £30.