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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF FULHAM.

REPORT



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1941.

JOHN ALEXANDER SCOTT, O.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF FULHAM

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Town Hall,
Fulham, S.W.6.

December, 1942

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1941. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health this report is in a summarised form and the General Statistics and the birth and death rates are not available in the usual form.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. A. Scott

O.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:-</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate.....	1,261	635	626
Illegitimate.....	101	45	56
TOTALS.....	1,362	680	682

STILLBIRTHS:-

Legitimate.....	32	19	13
Illegitimate.....	3	2	1

TOTALS.....	35	21	14
DEATHS.....	1,378	709	669

Percentage of deaths occurring in public institutions.....62.91

Deaths from puerperal causes:	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Live and still) births.
From sepsis.....	1	0.72
From other causes.....	-	-

Death rate of Infants under One year of Age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births.....	46
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births.....	90

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages).....	191
Measles (all ages).....	2
Whooping cough (all ages).....	2
Diarrhoea (under two years of age).....	4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

These are classified in Table 1 at the end of this Report, which shows that the five commonest causes were: Heart Disease, 370 (26.85 per cent of the total deaths), Respiratory Diseases, 192 (13.93%), Cancer 191 (13.86%), Intra Cranial lesions, 117 (8.49%) and tuberculosis (all forms) 93 (6.74%)

Maternal Mortality.

There was only one death resulting from pregnancy and child-birth giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.72 per 1,000 births.

Infant Mortality.

The causes of death of the 59 children who died before attaining the age of one year were:-

Congenital Malformations.....	23
Premature Birth, Debility & marasmus.....	16
Bro. chitis and Pneumonia.....	11
Measles.....	1
Whooping cough.....	1
Influenza.....	1
Gastro-Enteritis & Diarrhoea.....	4
Digestive diseases.....	1
Violence.....	1

The Infant Mortality Rate was 50 per 1,000 births.

Nursing in the Home. The Fulham District Nursing Association has continued to carry out this work on behalf of the Council and during the year paid 5,405 visits to 464 cases.

Ultra Violet Light Clinic. This Clinic was open throughout the year and 13,752 attendances were made.

Babies' Hospital. The number of cases admitted to the hospital was 51. There was one death.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres of children under one year was 11,121 and of children aged one to five years 5,934. The number of attendances at the Ante-natal clinics was 6,461.

Health Visitors. The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors was 24,650.

Infant Life Protection. At the end of the year there were 67 children on the Register, about one half of the peace-time number.

Maternity Home. During the year 425 cases were admitted for labour and 81 for antenatal treatment. There were no maternal deaths but there were 9 infant deaths and 3 stillbirths.

Day Nursery. The Nursery continued in its Sussex surroundings as a residential nursery. In October the Fulham premises, after re-decoration, were opened as a wartime day nursery for the accommodation of 40 children.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The following table gives a summary of the Inspections made by the sanitary inspectors during the year:-

Cause of Inspection.	First inspections	Re-inspections	Total Inspections
In consequence of complaint	1,583	5,714	7,297
" " " infectious disease	844	121	965
House to House Inspections	28	26	54
Infirm and Dirty Tenants	226	76	302
Rent Restriction Act applications	21	-	21
TOTALS	2,702	5,937	8,639

As a result of these inspections 887 Intimation Notices and 216 Statutory Notices were served. The routine visiting of food premises, factories etc., was continued, 1,322 visits being made.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

Drainage of Buildings. During the year 71 plans were approved by the Public Health Committee.

Rent(Restrictions) Acts. In response to applications by the tenants, 16 certificates were issued during the year.

Aged, Infirm and Physically Incapacitated Persons. During the year 302 visits were paid by the woman sanitary inspector to aged persons. One order for compulsory removal to Hospital was obtained.

Rat Repression. During the year 169 complaints were received and the Rat Officer in addition to attending to these complaints continued his routine visits to business premises, particularly food premises, paying 2290 visits. Rats known to be destroyed numbered 1115, double that in peace-time.

Mortuary. During the year 252 bodies were received into the Mortuary.

Shops Act. Inspections numbered 62.

Factories. The inspections of factories numbered 269 and 4 notices were served.

Outworkers Premises. Visits to these premises totalled 92. No notices had to be served.

HOUSING.

Inspections of Dwelling Houses. The number of house-to-house inspections was 54 (28 being first inspections). No Notices were served. The number of inspections of houses after complaint, occurrence of infectious disease, or applications under the Rent Restriction Acts was 8283 (2448 being first inspections). The number of Intimation Notices served was 879 and the number of Statutory Notices 216.

Disinfestation. During the year 80 families had their furniture treated by HCN process prior to removal to a Borough Council estate. The treatment of rooms found to be infested with vermin was continued during the year, 216 rooms being treated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. Samples taken numbered 608 and of these 7 or 1.1 per cent were found to be adulterated.

Food and Drugs, Act. During the year 1,000 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst and 39 or 3.9 % were reported adulterated. The following are the comments of the Public Analyst on these adulterated samples (it is regretted that it is not possible to publish his complete report).

Article	Total samples examined.	Number adulterated.		Remarks.
		Formal	Informal.	
Butter	53	-	1	Margarine (sample submitted by member of public)
Cereals	47	-	1	12% attacked by maggots.
Coffee & Chic-ory Extract	5	1	-	Improperly labelled.
Egg substitute	11	1	3	3.45% total solids containing 1% sodium bicarbonate, 0.25% sodium oleate, 0.25% gelatine, 0.3% gum. Labelled "Perfect substitute for eggs for cooking purposes" - preparation was a coloured baking powder egg substitute. Labelled "Contents equal 4 eggs" - contained no egg powder.
Essences and flavourings	9	-	4	Contained 24,000 bacteria viable @ 22° C " 22,000 " " " 2,400 " " Lemon substitute contained no acid constituents.
Rice Custard Pudding.	1	-	1	Misleading label "looks and tastes like a real egg pudding" - Preparation was an ordinary starch substitute.
Saccharin & Sugar Substitutes	9	3	3	19% & 76% deficient in saccharin. Contained 16,000 bacteria viable @ 22° C. Contained only 1/6 recognised content of saccharin.
Sausages	22	2	-	Preservative not declared. Contained 136 pp of SO ₂ per million.
Tea Infusion	2	-	2	Bitter taste due to keeping infusion hot in an urn for too long a period.
Vinegar	11	2	2	12.5% & 4% deficient in acetic acid. Spirit vinegar labelled "Non-brewed"
Glauber Salts.	3	-	3	37%, 14% & 8% deficient in water of crystallisation.

Proceedings were taken in respect of (a) one sample of adulterated milk and the case was dismissed under P of O Act on payment of 3 guineas costs, (b) a sample of falsely described Vinegar - fined £2 & 3 guineas costs, and (c) a sample of Saccharin tablets 76% deficient in saccharin - fined £50 & 5 guineas costs.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases. Table 2 at the end of this Report gives particulars of the cases notified. The number of cases of diphtheria increased from 55 to 64 and those of scarlet fever from 48 to 68. There were 159 cases of measles notified compared with 257 the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation. This work was intensified during the year, an additional session being opened at Burne Jones House in January, another at Greyhound Road in May and another at Wandsworth Bridge Road in August, making a total number of weekly sessions of four. The number of sessions held was 116 and 1,498 new cases attended, a total of 5912 attendances being made by new and old cases.

Cancer. The percentage of deaths from this cause was 13.86 and the death rate 2.16. The age of distribution at death is shown in Table 1 at the end of this Report.

Tuberculosis. The death rate from this cause was 0.92 (pulmonary 0.8 and non-pulmonary 0.12) The following is the information required by the Ministry of Health.

CASES NOTIFIED AND DEATHS.

Age periods years..	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	1	3	1	1	2	1
5 - 15	1	5	2	1	-	-	1	1
15 - 25	27	26	9	4	20 {	23 {	3 {	1 {
25 - 35	20	21	2	1				
35 - 45	14	12	-	1	24 {	5 {	1 {	1 {
45 - 55	21	6	1	2				
55 - 65	12	1	-	-	26 {	22 {	-	--
65 upwards	5	4	-	1				
TOTALS	100	76	16	13	51	31	7	4

Dispensary. A total of 2458 attendances were made including 554 who attended for the first time during the year; 85 patients were recommended for residential treatment.

Vaccination. The annual returns furnished to the Ministry of Health showed that 40.29 per cent of the children born in 1940 had been successfully vaccinated by 31st January, 1942.

Disinfection. The routine disinfection of rooms after the occurrence of infectious diseases was continued as was also disinfestation for vermin. At the Disinfecting Station 19,274 articles were treated.

TABLE 1 - Causes of and Ages at Death during year 1941.

Cause of Death	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65
Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	2					2	
Cerebro-spinal fever	1			1			
Scarlet Fever	-						
Whooping Cough	2	1	1				
Diphtheria	2			1		1	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	82		2		43	29	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11		3	2	4	2	
Syphilitic diseases	16				4	5	7
Influenza	14	1	1		1	3	8
Measles	2	1	1				
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-						
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	1				1		
Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M)	10					5	5
Cancer of uterus (F)	14				2	6	6
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	24				2	12	10
Cancer of Breast	20				2	11	7
Cancer of all other sites	123			1	4	55	63
Diabetes	7					3	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	117					28	89
Heart Disease	370			1	13	80	276
Other diseases of circulatory system	49				2	11	36
Bronchitis	96	4			3	28	61
Pneumonia	83	7	4		11	22	39
Other respiratory diseases	13					5	8
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	25				4	14	7
Diarrhoea under 2 years	4	4					
Appendicitis	3					2	1
Other digestive disorders	25	1			2	11	11
Nephritis	27				9	4	14
Puerperal & post abortion sepsis	1				1		
Other maternal causes	-						
Premature birth	16	16					
Congenital malformations, birth injuries &c.,	26	23			3		
Suicide	10				4	3	3
Road traffic accidents	16				1	9	6
Other violent causes	55	1			20	17	17
All other causes	111		3	2	19	22	65
TOTALS	1378	59	15	8	155	390	751

TABLE 2.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1941.

Notifiable Diseases.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED														Total cases removed to Hospital
	At Ages - Years														
	At all ages	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cholera, Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria	64	4	4	4	6	7	10	5	10	9	3	1	1	64	
Erysipelas	45	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	4	7	22	8	24	
Scarlet Fever	68	-	8	2	2	4	22	8	4	11	3	3	-	56	
Typhus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	
Relapsing & Continued Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Fever	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	2	-	-	11	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	21	-	2	1	-	1	2	1	6	6	-	2	-	21	
Poliomyelitis	4	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	176	-	1	-	-	-	2	4	23	71	26	40	9	-	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	29	1	3	1	-	-	2	1	5	11	1	3	1	-	
Measles	159	13	16	19	17	20	58	5	3	8	-	-	-	23	
Encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	89	3	2	4	2	1	5	2	4	13	7	36	10	38	
Diarrhoea	9	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery	6	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	
Trench Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	220	23	25	36	51	29	55	1	-	-	-	-	-	49	
Totals	989	62	72	69	80	63	160	28	61	147	50	107	29	315	