

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Deptford Borough].

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942



Public Health Department, Central Clinic, Amersham Road, S. E. 14.

30th November, 1943.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following Report summarises the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics of the Borough, in an abridged form.

During the year, the Council's public health services were continued but with a still further depleted staff. The following members of the staff are serving in His Majesty's Forces:- Messrs. G.B.Allen, R.W. Allen, S.Burridge, E.J.Elliott, D.K.Evans, W.H.Jennings, G.A.Langley, L.C.Southgate and J.E.Waring. It is with the deepest regret that I have to record that Mr.J.W.Law was killed in action abroad - much of the success of the Council's Foot Clinic was due to the professional ability and personality of this Officer.

GENERAL DATA

Area of Borough..... 1,564 acres

Table with 3 columns: Description, Deptford, Comparative Figures for London. Rows include Birth rate, Still births, Death rate, Infantile Mortality rate, Estimated Population, Total live births registered, Still births registered, Infant deaths registered, Deaths registered.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table with 4 columns: Disease Name, Number of Cases, Deaths, and Notes. Rows include Enteric fever, Cerebrospinal Meningitis, Scarlet fever, Whooping cough, Diphtheria, Erysipelas, Smallpox, Measles, Pneumonia, Puerperal fever, Puerperal pyrexia.

DISINFECTION & DISINFESTATION

Premises disinfected (infectious disease)..... 837	Total articles disinfected in Steam Disinfectors.... 49,639
Premises disinfected (requests)..... 98	Books disinfected in formalin chamber..... 222
Premises disinfected (verminous conditions)... 243	Articles destroyed at Owner's request..... 532
	Van loads of verminous furniture destroyed..... 10

BATH CENTRE

Total baths given to School children (other than for Scabies)..... 1,156	Total baths given in the Disinfecting station to adult males in connection with verminous conditions.... 356
Scabies baths to School Children..... 4,745	Scabies baths given to adult males..... 585
Total baths given to adult females and young children (other than for Scabies)... 71	
Scabies baths given to female adults and young children.. 2,411	

To the extent possible with a reduced Health Visiting staff, the supervision of verminous conditions in the homes has been carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. Systematic advice upon prevention is given and children found verminous are dealt with mainly at the Cleansing Station - Lethane Hair Oil is not used.

MORTUARY & CORONER'S COURT

Bodies received..... 226	Inquests held..... 235
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MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE

Visits paid by Health Visitors:-

To expectant mothers.....	First visits	834	Total visits	1,031
To children under 1 year..	" "	1,001	" "	8,381
To children 1-5 years.....	" "		" "	12,458
Infant Welfare Centres....	Total children who attended.....			1,965
Antenatal Centres.....	Total women who attended.....			862
Post-natal Centres.....	" " " "			199

WAR-TIME NURSERIES

At the end of 1942, there were two Nurseries in the Borough; one situated in the Lady Florence Institute with accommodation for twenty children over two years of age and the other housed in a building at the rear of Goldsmiths' College has forty places for children 0-5 years of age. Since then, two further Nurseries have been opened and plans for a third have been approved.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

Persons receiving children for reward.....	23
Number of children involved.....	24
Total visits of Health Visitors.....	63

GYNAECOLOGICAL & POST-NATAL CLINIC

Sessions held.....	30
Total attendances.....	645
Total women who attended (new cases).....	129

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases notified for first time.....	(Pulmonary 143 (Non-pulmonary 17)
New cases coming to knowledge otherwise than by formal notification..	(Pulmonary 16 (Non-pulmonary 3)

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY

Cases on Dispensary Register 31/12/42...395

Consultations between Practitioners and Tuberculosis Officer.....	252	Number of contacts examined	123
Visits of Tuberculosis Officer to homes.....	120	Total attendances of patients and contacts at Dispensary	1,672
Visits of Tuberculosis Health Visitors to homes:-	:	X-ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary cases.....	422
To Dispensary cases.....	2,904	Total specimens of sputum examined at Dispensary.....	624
To other cases.....	1,265		

CARE COMMITTEE

Recommendations for institutional treatment to Care Committee.....	175
Visits paid by Secretary.....	1,003
Interviews.....	738
Cases dealt with by Care Committee.....	724
Sums raised by Christmas Seals (1942)....	£103. 2. 5d. Expenses £3.12.8d.
Grant from National Association to supplement above.....	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION

Total primary inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.....	3,879
Total re-inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.....	12,162
Total Intimation Notices served.....	1,100
Total Statutory Notices served.....	263
Cases in which legal proceedings were instituted to enforce compliance with Notices.....	1

Some measure of dislocation of the routine work of Sanitary Inspection occurred during the year, by reason of the assistance required and freely given by my staff in connection with the supervision of First Aid Posts and Stretcher Party Depots.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

	<u>Milk.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Samples taken.....	134	226	360
Number adulterated or otherwise infringing the Act, by reason of improper labelling.....	3	19	22
Instances in which legal proceedings were instituted.....			2

In conclusion, I desire to record my appreciation of the able manner in which the members of the staff have responded to the additional duties placed upon them.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

L. Leonard Keith.

Medical Officer of Health.