

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

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1939

JOHN W. MILLER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1881

ALBANY, N. Y., 1882

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Catford, S.E.6.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The publication of this Report has been delayed owing to the heavy additional duties undertaken in connection with organising and the administration of the Casualty Services of the Civil Defence Scheme.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the Report is in an abridged form, but the appended summaries contain the principal vital and other statistics. They indicate satisfactory health conditions and do not call for any special comment. All the essential health services in the Borough have been maintained, except for the closing of the Maternity Home at the outbreak of war.

In submitting this report I wish to express my appreciation of the consideration shown to me by Members of the Council. I also wish to place on record my indebtedness to the staff of the Department for their invaluable assistance, particularly in connection with the arduous duties imposed upon them during the period of change-over to war conditions.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN W. MILLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough 7,015 Acres.

Population

Census 1931 219,953.

June 1939 (Registrar General's estimate)

(a) For calculation of Birth Rate .. 231,000

(b) " " " Death Rate .. 220,300.

Number of inhabited houses 56,000 (approximate)

Rateable Value (at 1st April 1939) .. £1,911,096.

Estimated product of a penny rate
for the financial year 1939-40 £7,500.

BIRTHS

Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	3004	1536	1468
Illegitimate	131	65	66
	<u>3135</u>	<u>1601</u>	<u>1534</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. 13.6

(Rate for London).. 12.3

Number of Stillbirths ... Males 61, Females 51, Total 112.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 35.7.

DEATHS

Total 2356. (Males 1129; Females 1227).

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:-

Crude 10.69 Corrected 10.79.

Rate for London .. 11.9.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live and still- births).
Puerperal Sepsis.	2	0.65
Other Puerperal Causes.	7	2.29.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	42
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	38
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate live births ..	130.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	7
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	25
" " Cancer (all ages)	389
" " Tuberculosis	159

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

The causes of Deaths were as follows :-

Causes	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-
Measles	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	4	7
Diphtheria	4	4	8
Influenza	12	22	34
Encephalitis lethargica	2	-	2
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	-	2
Respiratory tuberculosis	85	55	140
Other tuberculosis	11	8	19
Syphilis	1	-	1
General paralysis of the insane, etc.	4	5	9
Cancer	174	215	389
Diabetes	17	20	37
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	37	67	104
Heart disease	294	367	661
Aneurysm	6	1	7
Other circulatory diseases	65	70	135
Bronchitis	25	34	59
Pneumonia (all forms)	45	41	86
Other respiratory diseases	16	12	28
Peptic ulcer	22	6	28
Diarrhoea	24	8	32
Appendicitis	10	7	17
Cirrhosis of liver	4	2	6
Other liver diseases	2	6	8
Other digestive diseases	17	20	37
Nephritis	27	34	61
Puerperal sepsis	-	2	2
Other puerperal diseases	-	7	7
Congenital causes, etc.	28	32	60
Senility	20	40	60
Suicide	13	8	21
Other violence	54	35	89
Other defined diseases	105	94	199
	1129	1227	2356

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases notified and deaths during the 52 weeks
ended 30th December 1939.

Disease	Total cases notified.	Total Deaths.
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	11	2
Diphtheria	137	8
Dysentery	10	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	2
Erysipelas	52	-
Malaria	2	-
Measles	48	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	14	-
Pneumonias - Acute Primary and Influenzal.	216	86
Polio Myelitis	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	29	2
Puerperal Fever	2	7
Scarlet Fever	330	-
Whooping Cough	704	7
Continued Fever	1	-
Paratyphoid Fever	2	-
Typhoid Fever	1	-
TOTALS	1563	115

The number of cases notified during the year 1938 was 1553

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised during the year :-

Under 5 years of age 383

5 years and over 303

TOTAL. 686

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified during the year 1939 and the number of deaths (together with comparative figures for the previous year) were as follows :-

	<u>NEW CASES</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>	
	1939	1938	1939	1938
Pulmonary	245	264	140	153
Non-pulmonary	56	66	19	22
TOTALS	301	330	159	175

The age distribution of the notified cases is shown in the following table :-

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		TOTALS.
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Under 1 year	-	-	1	-	1
1 to 5 years	-	1	2	3	6
5 to 10 "	4	-	6	5	15
10 to 15 "	2	2	7	2	13
15 to 20 "	22	19	4	4	49
20 to 25 "	21	22	1	7	51
25 to 35 "	23	32	1	5	61
35 to 45 "	23	18	1	2	44
45 to 55 "	25	12	3	-	40
55 to 65 "	11	4	1	-	16
65 and upwards	2	2	-	1	5
TOTALS	133	112	27	29	301

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity Home was closed at the outbreak of war, but there was no material change in the other services, details of which are shown in my report for 1937.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Samples purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst.	732
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Samples found to be adulterated:-	
Formal Samples.	None

Informal Samples.	7
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Coroner's Court and Mortuary.

Number of bodies brought to Mortuary	430
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"	" Inquests held	328
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"	" Post Mortem examinations held	169
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