

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

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

(ABRIDGED)

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year

===== 1942. =====

BY

John W. Miller, M.B., Ch.B, D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

UNITED STATES

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES

FOR THE YEAR

1915.

BY

John W. Miller, M.A., C.B., D.P.S.

Special Officer of Statistics

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

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1942.

In consequence of war time restrictions it is again an abridged report, prepared on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health. The statistics for the year indicate that the health standards of the Borough are being maintained satisfactorily not withstanding the war conditions. The Birth Rate at 16.8 per 1000 and the Death Rate at 12.0 per 1,000 compare favourably with the mean of the previous five years at 13.9 and 12.5 per 1,000 respectively.

In the course of the year six Day Nurseries were established by the Council for the care of children of mothers in war time employment for which an increasing demand was found to exist. At the time of writing this report, these Nurseries are occupied almost to their full capacity.

I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the members of the Council for their support and consideration during the year.

The Public Health staff, both permanent and temporary, have worked well during the year under difficult conditions, and I desire also to record my indebtedness to them.

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

John W. Smith.

October, 1943.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Area of Borough ..	7.015 acres.	Number of Deaths:-	
Rateable Value ..	£1,781,519	Males	1,013
Estimated Product of ld. Rate ..	£6,300	Females	942
		TOTAL ..	1,955
Population Census 1931, ..	219,953.	Death Rate.	12.0
" Estimated figure for 1942 not available for publication.		Number of Infant Deaths:-	
		(a) Legitimate ..	94
Approximate Number of Inhabited Houses ..	52,000	(b) Illegitimate ..	9
Number of Live Births:-	2,732	Infant Mortality Rate:-	
(Males. Females		(a) All Infants per thousand Births ..	37.7
(a) Legitimate 1,328 1,261		(b) Legitimate Infants per thousand Legitimate Births ..	36.3
(b) Illegitimate 74 69		(c) Illegitimate Infants per thousand Illegitimate Births ..	62.9
TOTAL 1,402 1,330			
Birth Rate.	16.88	Number of Maternal Deaths:-	
Total Still-births:-		(a) Puerperal Sepsis ..	4
(a) Legitimate .. 99.		(b) Other Puerperal Causes	5
(b) Illegitimate .. 6.			
Still-birth Rate per thousand births. ..	38.		

Number of Deaths from Measles (all ages)				0
"	"	"	" Whooping Cough	4
"	"	"	" Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	12
"	"	"	" Tuberculosis	131
"	"	"	" Cancer	311

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE
DURING THE YEAR 1942.

List No.	CAUSES OF DEATH.	Ages at Death						TOTALS All Ages.
		Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1.	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
2.	Corebro Spinal Fever	1	-	-	1	1	1	4
3.	Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
4.	Whooping Cough	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
5.	Diphtheria.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System..	-	-	-	68	42	8	118
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	1	2	1	5	4	-	13
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	2	15	6	23
9.	Influenza	-	-	-	2	5	3	10
10.	Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Ac. Poliomyelitis & Poliocencephalitis..	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
12.	Ac. Infectious Encephalitis (Lethargic).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Cancer, Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus	-	-	-	1	13	16	30
14.	Cancer, Stomach & Duodenum ...	-	-	-	3	17	30	50
15.	Cancer, Breast	-	-	-	2	18	9	29
16.	Cancer, all other sites	-	-	-	16	69	117	202
17.	Diabetes	-	-	1	3	2	14	20
18.	Vascular Lesions	1	-	-	4	39	123	167
19.	Heart Diseases	-	-	3	26	99	370	498
20.	Other Circulatory Diseases ...	-	-	-	2	14	29	45
21.	Bronchitis	5	-	-	3	31	79	118
22.	Pneumonia	21	3	4	7	17	38	90
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	-	3	1	3	9	8	24
24.	Ulcer, Stomach & Duodenum	-	-	-	2	14	10	26
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	10	2	-	-	-	-	12
26.	Appendicitis	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	5	1	-	1	19	3	29
28.	Nephritis	-	-	2	5	9	20	36
29.	Puerperal & Post Abortive Sepsis	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
30.	Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
31.	Premature Birth	26	-	-	-	-	-	26
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases	23	-	-	1	-	1	25
33.	Suicide	-	-	-	1	13	1	15
34.	Road Traffic Accidents.....	-	-	-	2	1	5	8
35.	Other Violent Causes	4	3	3	11	11	37	69
36.	All other causes	2	5	2	35	33	144	221
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		103	21	19	216	497	1099	1955

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases notified (omitting Tuberculosis)
and Deaths during the year 1942.

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	25	25	4
Diphtheria	53	53	1
Dysentery	34	34	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	2	2	1
Erysipelas	52	38	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-
Measles	858	117	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	2	-
Pneumonia	103	27	90
Polio Myelitis	5	5	-
Puerperal Fever	3	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	27	27	4
Scarlet Fever	255	255	1
Whooping Cough	254	66	4
TOTALS.	1,679	654	105

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified during the year 1942 and the number of deaths (together with comparative figures for the previous year) were as follows:-

	<u>NEW CASES NOTIFIED</u>		<u>DEATHS.</u>	
	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
Pulmonary	261	284	137	118
Non-pulmonary	54	70	19	13
TOTALS.	315	354	156	131

The age distribution of the New Cases notified and the Deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following table:-

AGE GROUPS	<u>NEW CASES</u>					<u>DEATHS.</u>				
	Pulmonary		Non pulmonary		TOTALS.	Pulmonary		Non pulmonary		TOTALS.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
1 to 5 years	2	2	6	5	15	-	-	1	1	2
5 to 10 "	4	1	9	3	17	-	-	1	-	1
10 to 15 "	7	2	9	4	22	-	-	3	-	3
15 to 20 "	22	29	6	4	61	64	46	1	5	116
20 to 25 "	22	32	2	7	63					
25 to 35 "	26	27	-	3	56					
35 to 45 "	35	13	2	3	53	5	3			8
45 to 55 "	21	11	-	2	34					
55 to 65 "	19	2	1	3	25					
65 & upwards	6	1	-	1	8					
TOTALS.	164	120	35	35	354	69	49	7	6	131

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE
BOROUGH.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Council's Maternity Home which was closed on the outbreak of war was opened as a Day Nursery on the 25th May, 1942, after some necessary structural alteration. Otherwise the Maternity and Child Welfare Services were maintained practically on the pre war basis during the year under review.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In compliance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, steps were taken to give publicity to this subject by the display of posters and distribution of informative leaflets. The Council's Health Visitors were temporarily relieved of some of their routine duties in order to prepare lists and make special visits to parents of un-immunised children and persuade them to have immunisation carried out; This, and the national publicity campaign, resulted in a large increase in the number of children immunised, as shown in the following comparative statement:-

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED.

	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
Under five years of age.	824	2,368
Five years and over	2,276	2,736
TOTALS.	<u>3,100</u>	<u>5,104</u>

Under the Council's Immunisation scheme, which was adopted in March, 1935, the work of Immunisation was only undertaken by Medical Practitioners at their surgeries, but the arrangement commenced in 1941 under which a doctor in the employ of this Council undertook the work in the London County Council Schools was continued.

The following table shows the number of cases of Diphtheria and the number of deaths, since the Immunisation scheme was introduced:-

Year.	No. of cases of Diphtheria Notified.	Number Immunised	No. of Deaths from Diphtheria.
1935	314	236	14
1936	247	448	4
1937	328	1,027	11
1938	469	1,406	23
1939	137	686	8
1940	78	220	6
1941	82	3,100	8
1942	55	5,104	1

The accompanying chart, showing the incidence of Diphtheria in Lewisham from 1921 to 1942 and the cumulative immunisations that have been carried out in the Borough since the inception of the scheme in 1935, is of interest.

The following table shows the number of persons introduced into the service of the Government since 1901 and the number of persons who have been carried out of the service since the inception of the scheme in 1901, in all years.

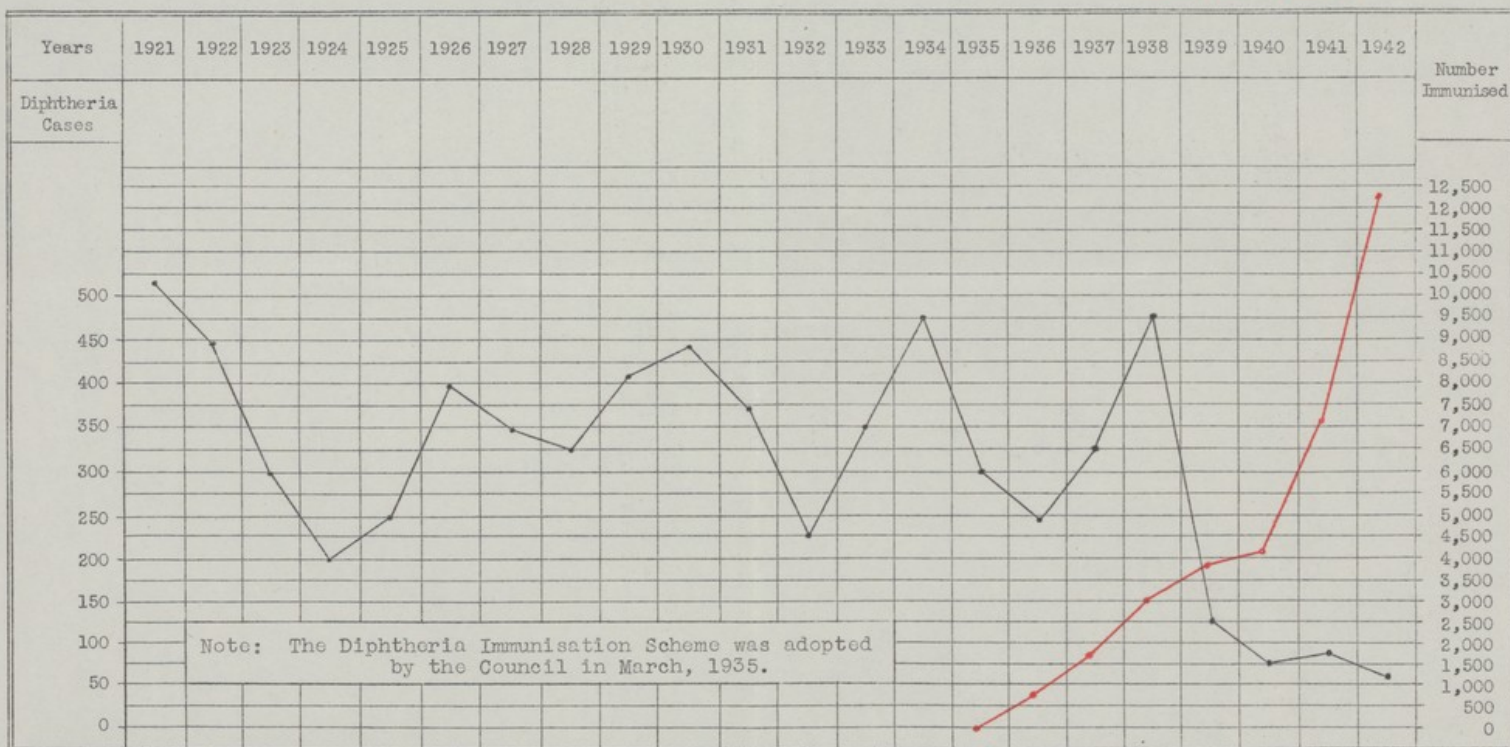
Year.	No. of persons introduced into the service of the Government since 1901.	No. of persons carried out of the service since the inception of the scheme in 1901.
1901	311	383
1902	318	448
1903	328	1,037
1904	369	1,408
1905	381	688
1906	370	630
1907	380	1,100
1908	380	1,100

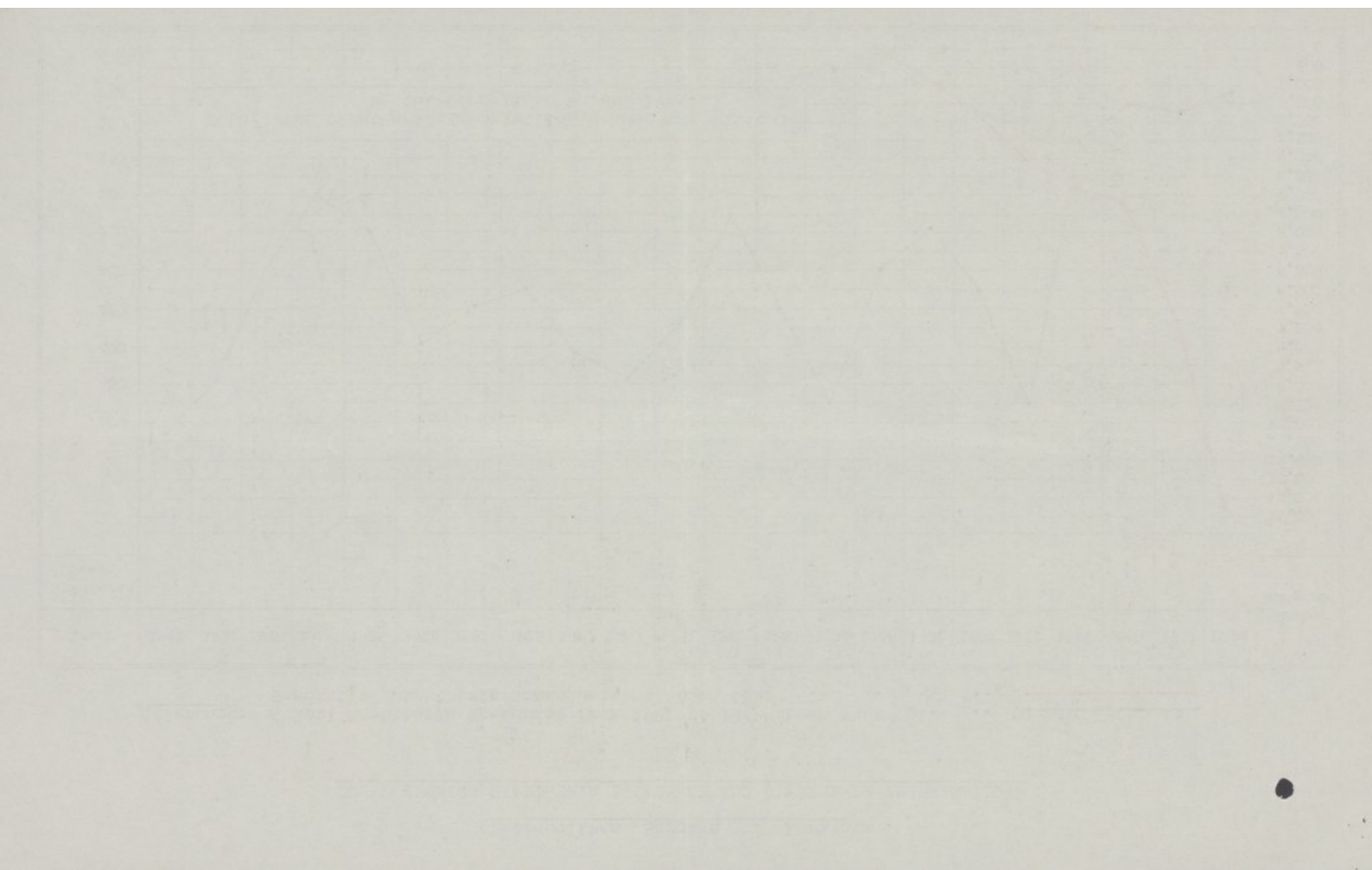
The accompanying chart, showing the incidence of influenza in London from 1901 to 1908, and the cumulative incidence of the disease, shows that there have been carried out of the service since the inception of the scheme in 1901, in all years.

Metropolitan Borough of Lewisham

CHART SHOWING DIPHTHERIA INCIDENCE AND DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS

Reference: Annual Diphtheria incidence from 1921 to 1942 shown thus
Cumulative Diphtheria immunisations shown thus





WAR TIME NURSERIES.

Towards the end of 1941 representations were received from the Ministry of Health that there was need for the establishment of Day Nursery facilities in the Borough for the care of the children of mothers in War Time employment. The matter was carefully investigated and the Council eventually decided to establish the under-mentioned six nurseries which were opened during the year on the dates stated:-

NURSERY	ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED.	DATE OPENED.
St. Peter & St. Paul's Home, Lushington Road, Bellingham, S.E.6.	80	11th May, 1942.
Ladywell Institution, Ladywell Road, S.E.13.	60	18th May, 1942.
41 Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6.	40	25th May, 1942.
Shaftesbury House, 67 Perry Rise, Forest Hill, S.E.23.	60	20th July, 1942.
L.C.C. Nursery School, St. Norbert's Road, Honor Oak, S.E.4.	60	10th August, 1942.
163 Shroffold Road, Downham Estate.	56	26th October, 1942.

Health Visitors - Summary of Visits:-

Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	1,769
Infants under one year	...	...	...	...	...	7,224
Children 1 - 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	15,257

Infant Welfare Centres.

Attendances - Babies	...	...	...	...	2,334
Children 1 - 5 years	...	...	...	...	5,158
New Cases - Babies	2,826
Children 1 - 5 years	1,008

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Total Attendances	2,188
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SANITARY INSPECTION.

The following is a brief summary of the Sanitary Inspector's work during the year.

Inspections.

Dairies and Milk Purveyors	288
After Infectious Disease.....	1,725
Drainage Work	926
Rat infestation	526
Overcrowding	19
Factories and Workshops.....	996
Outworkers	569
For other nuisances.....	1,261
Air Raid Shelters	437
Food Shops	176
Pharmacy and Poisons Acts	43
Miscellaneous	1,445
Meat Shops and Depots.....	514
Re-inspection.....	4,855

Notices Served.

Intimation Notices.....	1136
Statutory Notices	209
Rent Restrictions Acts certificates.....	13

CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION OF VERMINOUS

PERSONS.

Since the outbreak of war there has been a rising incidence of Scabies in the Borough, as shown by the following figures of cases treated at the Council's Cleansing Stations:-

YEAR.	CASES TREATED.	YEAR.	CASES TREATED.
1937	147	1940	357
1938	256	1941	928
1939	155	1942	2,943

Owing to the increase in the prevalence of this disease, the facilities available for treatment at the one Bathing Centre were found to be inadequate, and early in the year the Council considered the matter, and decided to provide additional accommodation in Gas Cleaning Section of one of the First Aid Posts, which was adapted for the purpose.

The Scabies Order, which came into force on 28th October, 1941, was designed to assist Local Authorities to ascertain and treat cases of Scabies and the powers of the Order extend to verminous conditions generally.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of samples purchased and submitted under the Food and Drugs Act to the Public Analyst for examination..... 826

Samples found to be adulterated:-

Formal samples;.....None

Informal Samples7

The inspection of Meat was carried out daily at the Government Meat Depot situated in the Borough. In the course of these inspections 2 tons 10 cwts. of Meat and offals were condemned as unsound.

Owing to the centralising of slaughtering only occasional killings of animals took place at the licensed Slaughter Houses in the Borough, where 94 carcasses were examined.

The total quantity of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption, upon inspection by the Sanitary Inspector, is stated below. Where possible this was passed to the Salvage authorities.

Cheese	3 cwts.	Meat	4 tons 3 cwt.
Canned Fruit & Vegetables	1,674 tins.	Vegetables & Fruit	1 ton 5 cwts.
Canned Milk	680 tins.		
Eggs	21 dozen		

Milk.

41 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk and 11 licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted during the year.

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