[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Poplar, Metropolitan Borough].

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF POPLAR.



ABRIDGED INTERIM REPORT

on the

health of the Borough

during 1948

by

W. T. DONOVAN,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Poplar Town Hall,
Bow Road, E.3.

1st September, 1949.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlomen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1948 on behalf of Dr. G.O.Mitchell who continued to act as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough subsequent to his appointment as Divisional Medical Officer in November 1948 up to the end of the year.

GENERAL STANDARD OF HEALTH.

The general standard of health of the borough, as evidenced by the vital statistics, may be considered satisfactory.

Measles and Whooping Cough accounted for 76 per cent of the notifiable diseases. No deaths occurred from these diseases or from Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever during the year.

Six definite cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified, one of which was fatal.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The birth rate for the borough is 21.0 per 1,000 estimated population, as compared with 26.7 for the year 1947.

The death rate for the year is 11.3 per 1,000 estimated population, as compared with 13.5 for the previous year.

The infantile mortality rate is 33 per 1,000 live births, the corresponding figure for the country as a whole being 34.

The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births is 0.62, the corresponding figure for England and Wales being 1.02.

The death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis is 0.83, which compares favourably with the pre-war (1938) figure of 0.81.

TRANSFER OF SERVICES.

As from 5th July, 1948, certain services and staff, formerly under the control of the Borough Council, were transferred to the London County Council which is the responsible authority for the administration of the services concerned.

I am confident my predecessor, Dr. G. O. Mitchell, would like me, on his behalf, to express his thanks to the Council for the consideration shown in all matters affecting the public health of the borough, to the officers of the other departments for their co-operation and to the entire staff of the Public Health Department for their loyalty and assistance.

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

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

Summary for 1948.

	-					
AREA:	2136 acres.					
POPULATION:	At Census 193	1		155,089		
	Registrar-Gen estimated civ population, 1	il		74,940		Year 1947. 73,490
BIRTH RATES:	Live births	Poplar.	London.	Eng. & Wales.		Poplar. 1947. 26.7
	Still births	0.57	0.39	0.42		0.68
DEATH RATES:	All causes	11.3	11.6	10.8		13.5
	Tuberculosis: of respirato system	ry 0.79				0.87
	other forms	0.04	3	0.44		0.07
			?	0.07		0.94
	all forms	0.83	0.63	0.51		0.94
	LITY: Rates pe 1,000 li births	.ve 33	31	34		40
MATERNAL MOR	TALITY: Rates p 1,000 to births		?	1.02		0.50
	gitimate 1491		756)I	Birth rate per 1,000 populati 21.0		26.7
STILL BIRTHS	43	21		Rate per 1,000 total births		24.8
DEATHS - all	ages 844	500		Rate per 1,000 population 11		13.5
Pue	PUERPERAL CAUS erperal sepsis er maternal ca			ate per 1,000 otal births 0	.62	0.50
INFANTILE MO	RTALITY RATES:					
All	infants per l	L,000 liv	000 leg:	itimate	33	40
I11	egitimate info	ants per	1,000 i	llegitimate	34	39
			bir	ths	24	57

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES. The 844 deaths at all ages were classified by the Registrar-General as follows :-

	Age groups: Totals:						Tot	als:	1947. Totals	
	0-	-	-	15-	45-	65 & over	M.	-	P.	20000
yphoid & paratyphoid		-	-	-	-	0.461	-	-	-	
fevers erebrospinal fever	:	1:	1:	:	1:	1:	:			i
Scarlet fever										
Mooping cough iphtheria	:	:	1:	:	1:	1	:	:		6 2
uberculosis of respiratory system	1	2		24	26	6	42	17	59	64
ther forms of tuberculosis	-		1	1	2		3	1	3	5
yphilitic disease	1			1	3	5	6	4	10	7
nfluenza					1	2	3		3	8
leasles cute poliomyelitis and										2
polioencephalitis				1			1		1	
cute infective encephalitis					1	1 :				i
ancer of: (a) buccal cavity and										
oesophagus (M)				1	1	8	10		10	8
(b) uterus (F)		1.			5	4		9		7
ancer of stomach and										
duodenum				2	9	16	15	12		20
ancer of breast ancer of all other sites		i	i	10	5 34	5 44	53	37		21
iabetes		1	1	10	5	1	1	5	6	95 3
ntracranial vascular					1	-	-		0	
lesions		1		1	13	46	30	30	60	67
eart diseases			1	7	40	165	113	100	213	225
ther diseases of the					1	70		-		
circulatory system ronchitis	4			1	27	39	27		48	61
neumonia	9	2		3	10	17	22	100000	41	143
ther respiratory diseases		1.		1	1	3	1	3	4	6
lcer of stomach or									80.2	
duodenum					6	5	9	2	11	14
iarrhoea (under 2 years)	2		:			: 1	1	1	2	4
ppendicits ther digestive diseases	i	i	1		7	1 8	13	4	2	16
ephritis	-	1	i	i	3	2	6	1	7	15
uerperal and post-abortive									1	
sepsis										
ther maternal causes	:			1			:	1	1 5	1
remature birth ongenital malformations,	5						3	2	5	21
birth injury, etc.	24			1			15	10	25	21
uicide				2	4		4	2	6	4
oad traffic accidents			3	1	1	2	4	3	7	13
ther violent causes	32	1	2	12		10	16	12		36
ll other causes	2	2	2	7	6	19	25	13	38	42
(Males	32	7	6	46	145	264	500			582
ALL CAUSES (Females	20	2	5	32	71	214		344		412
Persons	52	9	11	78	216	478			844	994

INFANTILE DEATHS. It will be seen that 42 (81 per cent) of the 60 (77%) deaths under one year of age were due to premature birth, congenital malformations, with injury, etc. (29) and respiratory diseases (13).

Venr

37 23

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. This service was transferred to the London County Council on 5th July, 1948, but by arrangement with the County Council the Borough Medical Officer continued to be responsible for the day to day administration.

CENTRES (taken over by L.C.C. on 5th July, 1948) :

1. Borough Council.

Trinity Hall

Ruston Street	Infant Consultation.	Thursdays	10.30-12.30 and 2-4.
	Ante-natal	Tuesdays Wednesdays	10.30-12.30 and 2-4.
Wellington Way	Ante-natal	Mondays & Fridays	2-4.
	Infant Consultation	Wednesdays	2-4.
	Dental	Tuesdays Wednesdays	2-4.
	Sunlight	Tuesdays & Thursdays Saturdays	9.30-12.30 and 2-4. 9.30-11.30.
154 Poplar High Street	Infant Consultation	Mondays	2-4.
	Ante-natal	Tuesdays	2-4.
	Sunlight	Mondays & Wednesdays Fridays	9.30-12.30. 9.30-11.30.
54 West Ferry Road	Infant Consultation	Wednesdays	10.30-12.30 and 2-4.
	Ante-natal	Mondays Fridays	10.30-12.30 and 2-4.
2. Royal College of St.K	atharine.		
All Hallows Hall	Infant Consultation	Tuesdays	2-4.
St.Michael's Hall	Infant Consultation	Mondays	2-4.

+ The following statistics relating to Maternity and Child Welfare refer to the period 1st January - 4th July, 1948.

Wednesdays 10.30-12.30.

Thursdays 10-12.

Infant Consultation

Ante-natal

+ The number of attendances at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics :-

Borough Council.	Royal College of St. Katharine.	Total.	<u>Year</u> <u>1947.</u>
16,330	5,218	21,548	38,960

	- 6 -	
+	VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS. The numbers of visits paid by the Health Visitors were :-	
	Borough Council. Royal College of Total. St.Katharine.	Year 1947.
	8,382 11,539 19,921	46,645
+	CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.	
	64 premature babies were born - 12 at home and 52 in hospital. 11 of those born at home survived at the end of one month, and of those born in hospital 5 died during the first 24 hours and 45 survived at the end of one month.	167 - 18 149 17 9 138
	The arrangements for the care of premature infants, outlined in previous reports, continue to operate.	
+	Equipment loaned to mothers of premature infants included: 3 treasure cots with detachable linings . hot water bottles 2 weighing scales	4 4 3
+	CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN. Upon the recommendation of the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee the Council continued their contribution at the rate of £64 per annum to the scheme formulated by the Standing Joint Committee.	
+	CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.	
	Visits to mothers and foster children 19 Foster mothers under supervision 3 Foster children under supervision 3	15 2 1
+	EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC SERVICE. This service was not called upon.	3
+	OBSTETRIC CONSULTANT. It was not necessary to call in a Consultant to any case.	
+	STERILE MATERNITY OUTFITS. 14 outfits were sold.	1
+	CONVALESCENT TREATMENT. 13 cases were sent away through the agency of the Invalid Children's Aid Association.	25
	The grant to the Invalid Children's Aid Association was £1.10s. per week for four weeks for each child, such grant to be extended to six weeks if at the end of four weeks a medical report was received from the Convalescent Home stating the child needed at least another two weeks convalescent treatment.	

+ SUPPLY OF SHEETS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS. The arrangements made in 1944 for the issue of priority dockets to expectant mothers continued in operation and 327 dockets were issued.

+ MILK SCHEME (MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE). No applications for free milk were received. 392 packets of dried milk were sold at the special reduced prices.

544

- + DISTRIBUTION OF COD LIVER OIL AND FRUIT JUICES. The arrangements made in 1941 with the Local Deputy Food Officer continued to operate.
- + DAY NURSERY. The Day Nursery in Tidey Street continued to function.

Throughout the period there was a long list of children awaiting admission.

No outbreak of illness which would necessitate the temporary closure of the Nursery occurred.

- + HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SCHEME. The scheme continued in operation.
- + NURSING IN THE HOME. Grants were made by the Poplar Borough Council to two Nursing Societies in respect of the six months to 30th June, 1948, when the arrangements were taken over by the London County Council.
- + PROVISION OF INSULIN FOR DIABETICS. Under the Council's Scheme liability for the cost of providing insulin was accepted for one new case.

1

		- September		
	SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCE	ES OF THE	AREA.	Year 1947.
inspections an	ARY INSPECTORS' WORK. of reinspections carried ctors was 26,986.			31,087
Number o	f: Inspections Reinspections	7,654 19,332 26,986		
	Intimations served Notices served Final notices served	3,709 2,110 671		4,489 2,378 784
	Nuisances abated	4,352		5,146
	Legal proceedings taken	37		70
	Abatement Orders made including 4 Closing Orde	ors) 25		29
	Work done after issue of Summons	42		41
The volume the 1938 level	of work performed by the	Inspecto	rs equalled	
HOUSES-LET-IN-	LODGINGS, SEAMEN'S AND	COMMON LOD	GING HOUSES.	
	f inspections: Houses-let-in-lodgings Seamen's lodging-houses	466 72	(including 5 night inspections)	727
	Common Lodging-houses	138	(including 6 night inspections)	185
	Other visits	nnn	Inspect violes,	
		773		44
	Visits ro Scabies and verminous conditions	662		116
	Informal notices served Notices served Final notices served	35 14 5		65 17 14
	Nuisances abated	36		59
	Legal proceedings taken			3
HOUSING INSPEC	TOR.			
Number o	f: Rehousing enquiries Complaints of overcrowd: Inspections, etc., of under ground rooms & individuality unfit houses Miscellaneous visits	er-		2,245
Duning the	room Closing Onlong	mode de	annat an	

During the year Closing Orders were made in respect of basement rooms at 7 properties.

DISINFESTATION INSPECTOR 9 -	Year 1947.
Total number of inspections, etc. 2,278 Number of rooms disinfested 1,950 Number of articles disinfested 12,014	
The treatment of Scabies is referred to on a later	page.
REHOUSING AND DISINFESTATION. The practice of insperence of accommodation, bedding and furniture of prospetenants of temporary dwellings and new permanent hous continued throughout the year.	ctive
Disinfestation prior to removal was found to be necessary in 36 instances.	24
WATER SUPPLY. Generally, this service is provided an maintained by the Metropolitan Water Board direct from mains. Examinations of the water are made by the Boa No complaints were received during the year.	m the
WATER CERTIFICATES (Public Health (London) Act, 1936).	
Cortificates were issued in respect of 146 new dwel (Borough Council 63; London County Council 81, and private firms 2).	lings 421
RENT, ETC., RESTRICTION ACTS. Certificates under thes Acts were issued as follows :-	е
to Tenants 142 to Owners 75	212 56
RODENT CONTROL. The Council's Contributory Scheme h continued to operate during the year; work at dwellin houses has continued, and the routine treatment of se has been carried out.	g-
The establishment of 6 rateatchers was maintained throthe year. Allocation of working time was as follows:	oughout
70 man/weeks to dwelling house complaints 16 " " sewer treatments 16 " " lost in sickness 198 " " contributory scheme work	55½ 24 4½ 224
It will be noted that there was a large increase in time spent on dwelling house complaints, but it is anticipated that this figure will in future be much le	
(A) Contributory Scheme.	
At the end of the year there were 178 contribut compared with 152 at December 1947 and 124 at December	
Treatments carried out: 1371 treatments applied to 183 premises of 178	1,274
contributors. 14 treatments applied to 6 P.B.C. premises 599 rats and 331 mice have been found dead	5 976 rats/ 189 mice
Estimated kill per M.O.F.formula is 4,099 rat 82,332 prebaits and 8,438 poison baits have been la at 29,271 baiting points 2,962 visits and inspections have been made by the Rodent Officers.	ts 4,715 pid 96,643/12,001 32,007
7,001 visits to apply treatments have been made by Ratcatchers	y the 6,998

 Infestation	Analysis.			.3		Intake	Dec. 1948.	1947.
Reservoir Major	infestation	excee 20-50	ds 50 rats)	rats)	ıi	15	8	5
Minor Slight	17	(0-20	")		115	. 14	32	115

Premises classed as slight infestations are those which when cleared of rats on entry into Contributory Scheme become re-invaded from outside sources.

(B) Dwelling Houses.

379	complaints relating to 291 premises were	607/490
29	investigated. complaints relating to 22 premises were out-	27/24
987	standing at the end of the year inspections and revisits were made by the	1,389
3,979	Rodent Officers. visits to apply treatments were made by the	3,090
91	Ratcatchers. rats and 330 mice were found dead.	117 rats/ 149 mice

Premises treated:

	dwelling-houses (includes 10 P.B.C.& 6 L.C.C.).	470
4	small shops. business premises all of which entered Council's	12
2	Contributory Scheme. licensed premises.	5

Cause of complaints:

90 related to rats of unknown origin. 12 attributable to defective drains.	101 63
2 " sewer work in progress.	11
100 were found to be mice only.	194
4 " " " birds.	28
1 was " " moths.	1 42
4 related to war debris removal.	42
3 " rats from P.L.A. area.	1
75 were found to be without foundation.	49.

(C) Rodents found dead in 1948.

Contributory Scheme premis Dwelling-houses	ses 599	rats,	331 330	mice.	976 117	189 149
Sewers .	5	11		11	14	
Open spaces	1	11		"		
	200	11	0.03	17	1,107	338
Totals	696		661		1,107	000
	-		-			-

Rats. Mice.

(D) Materials used (all premises and sewers).

40 10	cwts.	Sausage rusks. Wheat.	20	
5	11	Rolled oats.	늄	
1	11	Middlings.		" Barium carbonate.
248	lb.	Flour.	1	" Antu.

(E) Sewer Treatments.

The 9th and 10th sewer maintenance treatments were carried out in June and December in conjunction with the Works Department, neighbouring local authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (Infestation Division) with the results shown :-

Treat- ment No.	When treated.	Man- holes baited.	No take.	Small take.	Good take.	Complete take.	%Prebait
1st.	Dec. 1943	1566	856	229	334	147	45
2nd.	Jany.1944	1720	1508	149	56	7	12
3rd.	May 1944	1665	1281	129	151	1 104	24
4th.	Jany.1946	1181	354	171	184	472	70
5th.	June 1946	1452	824	291	175	162	44
6th.	Jany.1947	1500	1013	137	170	180	32 1
7th.	June 1947	1680	1399	116	113	52	17
8th.	Dec. 1947	1701	1269	105	125	202	25
9th.	June 1948	1713	1269	131	135	58	20
loth.	Dec. 1948	1831	1360	171	138	162	25

* - 5 · 1		
	Yea 194	
FACTORIES ACT, 1937. During the year 2,332 inspections were made and defects or nuisances were found at 94. All of these were remedied.		03 79 70
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. The Meat and Food Inspectors made 3,703 inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold.	3,7	86
ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, etc.) REGULATIONS, 1947.		
60 samples of ice cream were examined:		42
Grade 1 - 191 Grade 2 - 13: Grade 3 - 14: Grade 4 - 14:	4:	
The unsatisfactory samples manufactured elsewhere than in Poplar were reported to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health and letters were sent to the manufacturers. The remainder were followed up by our own Inspectors.		

own Inspectors.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYSTS. The number of samples examined was 710 and the number found to be adulterated was 28 or 3.9 per cent.

707 35: 4.9%

During the ten years 1939-48 the average number examined was 691 and the percentage adulterated was 4.1.

699: 4.1%

Of 190 samples of milk only one was adulterated.

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The numbers of cases notified (corrected for "altered diagnosis" cases) and the deaths were :-

	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever Diphtheria Typhoid & paratyphoid fevers Erysipelas Puerperal fever Puerperal pyrexia) Cerebrospinal fever Ophthalmia neonatorum Measles Whooping cough Primary pneumonia Influenzal pneumonia Dysentery Zymotic enteritis Malaria Acute poliomyelitis Acute encephalitis lethargica	154 (24) 7 (7) 2 (2) 14 (5) 9 (8) 4 (4) 6 (4) 995 (31) 327 (22) 99 (19) 16 (1) 45 (41) 46 (44) 1 (4) 2 (2) .	7a	145 10 23 (3 17 6 3 712 590 91 18 13 46 2	2 : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
Scabies	1731(218) _81(_2)	11	1688 253	
Totals	1812(220)		1941	

The numbers in brackets are the numbers treated in hospital during the year.

Note: a. Notified cases only.

DYSENTERY.

Of the 45 cases, 39 occurred at a London County Council Children's Receiving Home, the ages of the patients ranging from 2 to 10 years. Four of them were "carriers".

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS. The immunisation clinics at the Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at 54, West Ferry Road, and the Infant Consultation Clinics held by the Royal College of St.Katharine functioned during the year, as also did the arrangements with local practitioners. From 5th July this service was transferred to the London County Council.

Summary of immunisations :-

a.	at Borough Council and Royal Coll	lege of		
	St.Katharine Clinics	1,275		1,318
b.	at London County Council centres	264	4 + 2 (-	279
C.	by Private practitioners	129		90
		1,668		1,687

In connection with the L.C.C.propaganda scheme, publicity by means of notices in the local press, etc., was carried out in conjunction with the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney.

		Year
TUBERCULOSIS.		1947.
Dispensary Clinics:		
Monday - 2 p.m. (Commenced 1) for childr		
Monday - 6 p.m. (Workers).	611/ •	
Tuesday - 2 p.m. Thursday - 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.		
Friday - 10 a.m.		
Number of attendances at the Dispensary	3,114	3,776
Number of new cases examined 376; contacts 329 (Tuberculous 121; non-tuberculous 470; diagnosis	705	651 91;535
incomplete 114)		25
Number of visits to homes by Health Visitors Number of sputum specimens examined	2,229	3,227
Number of X-ray examinations at St. Andrew's		
Hospital	915	843
Additional statistics. In addition to the		
2,229 visits paid by the Health Visitors for Dispensary purposes, 72 "Non-Dispensary" visits		71
were paid under the Public Health (Tuberculosis)		
Regulations, 1930.		
Reports to Chairmen of Medical Boards Patients sent away for Institutional treatment	10	12
Patients in receipt of extra nourishment from		
Dispensary during the year Patients in receipt of extra nourishment from	64	57
Dispensary on 31st December	7	33
Reports on child contacts to Divisional School Medical Officer	19	. 29
Letters to General Practitioners concorning		-
Letters to Doctors other than General Pract.	394 188	398
Reports to General Practitioners on official	0.4	39
forms Progress reports from General Practitioners	24	1
Housing Reports to L.C.C	50 72	
Housing Reports to P.B.C. Clinical Reports to L.C.C.& R.H.B. (from 5/7/48)	93	76
Reports to Ministry of Pensions Shelters on loan during year	69	45
Shelters on loan on December 31st		
Beds and bedding on loan during the year Beds and bedding on loan on December 31st	6 5	10
-		19
From 1st January to 4th July 8 new cases and 28 old cases attended Brompton, Colindale, London		31
Chest, and St. Andrew's Hospitals for 413 artificial pneumo-thorax refills.		711
During the year 10 children were boarded out under the London County Council Contact Scheme.		8
From October 72 Skin Tests have been made.		
DENTAL TREATMENT AT ST. ANDREW'S HOSPITAL. Two patients were referred to St. Andrew's Hospital		2
for treatment: (2 Patients examined - 4 extraction	ns)	

Year 1947

50

537

TUBERCULOSIS ALLOWANCES. The Government Scheme for the
provision of allowances for persons giving up work to
undergo treatment of pulmonary tuberculsos was in
operation from 1st January to 4th July after which the
new National Health Service came into force.

Adjudications made ...

Sessions held by Tuberculosis Assessment Officer 26

New applications Cases reviewed Patients in rece		wances on		39 307 48	61 476 53		
NUMBER OF NEW CASES A reported and deaths d	ND DEATHS. Turing the year Cases.	ear were :	-	N/c.	<u>D</u> .	D.R.	
Respiratory Non-respiratory	158 19 175	59 <u>3</u> <u>62</u>	0.79 0.04 0.83		5	0.87 0.07 0.94	
The percentage of non-notified cases to total deaths was 14.5 11.6 The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December was 640 601 The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Dispensary Register at 31st December was :- Definitely tuberculous 547 (T.B.plus 250) 498 (244)							
	ot completed		,		40 538	, ~ /	
SCABIES. 81 cases of	Scabies wer	e notified	during the	year	254		
The number of visit was 460 632 treatments were Of these 49 wer	given at th	e Council	 's Cleansin	g Stn. 1	374 ,122 105		
	158 (76 m 474 (214 780 articles	" ;260	")		291 831 17,2	24	

The weekly evening session at the Cleansing Station was discontinued after 30th September as the small number of attendances did not justify the expense incurred.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS AND CHILDREN. The total number of cleansings carried out at the Council's Cleansing Station was 942:- 990

Adults 45 (31 males; 14 females) 61 Children 897 (232 "; 665 ") 929

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH. 209 lectures were given at 16 centres, the attendances numbering approximately 13,758 ... 23,073

VENEREAL DISEASE. As in previous years the Council approved the display of posters at the various establishments controlled by the Council.