

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

Contributors

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Metropolitan Borough of Southwark.

Interim Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health.

Relative to the work of the
Health Services Department during the year.

1941.

W. Stott. M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

November, 1942.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my report concerning the health of the Borough during the year 1941. As in former years this report is in abridged form including only such vital statistics and other items of interest affecting the Health Department as suggested by the Minister of Health in a circular to Local Authorities.

During the year the health of the population has been good, and has been maintained at a very satisfactory standard although so many restrictions in the mode of living have necessitated many alterations in family life. There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year, but the Government drew attention to the necessity for Local Authorities to be prepared for an almost immediate out-break of typhus fever. After a number of meetings with Medical Authorities I prepared a comprehensive scheme for controlling and dealing with this disease had it arisen. Fortunately no cases were reported, although the control measures which I have mentioned, are ready to be put into action at a moment's notice.

The risk of an out-break of disease calls attention to a matter which I should like particularly to emphasize; the Ministry of Labour and National Service in its unceasing drive to draft men into the Services or industry are continually calling upon Local Authorities to make still greater contributions from their own staffs. Whilst I agree that many of the executive posts, which do not require specialized knowledge can be undertaken by women in a Public Health Department, there are many situations which require an extensive knowledge of procedure and precedent. The knowledge gained during a number of years by the permanent officers cannot be acquired by temporary staff even given some months previous training. The depletion of the official staff has now reached such a state that to make a further reduction would be to imperil the working of the department, and thus endanger public health itself.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Department has continued to function throughout the year, and it has been noticed that the number of women and children attending clinics has increased consequent upon their return from Reception Areas. The Ministry of Labour and National Service drew attention during the year to the necessity for opening War-Time Nurseries, and as a result negotiations have proceeded, and a new Nursery was opened early in 1942.

The supervision of foodstuffs called for special attention; as a result of action taken by the Department, the import of prepared meat from Eire was banned by the Ministry of Food.

The work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary has been on rather a heavier scale than formerly, due in a large measure to cases referred to the Borough by Army Medical Boards.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W.STOTT.

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics - 1941.

Estimated civilian population - 69,740

For Birth Rate

For Infant Mortality & Maternal Mortality Rates.

	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
<u>Live Births.</u>						
Legitimate	534	503	1037	381	325	706
Illegitimate	30	40	70	30	38	68
	564	543	1107	411	363	774

Live Birth Rate 15.9

	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
<u>Still-Births</u>						
Legitimate	24	13	37	20	12	32
Illegitimate	1	1	2	1	1	2
	25	14	39	21	13	34

Still-birth Rate 34.0

<u>Deaths.</u>	M	F	Total
	1068	848	1916

Death Rate 27.5

Maternal Deaths.

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 (Live & Still-births)
From Puerperal Sepsis	3	3.71
Other Puerperal Causes	1	1.24

Infant Deaths (Under 1 year)

	Death Rate
All infants - per 1000 live births	80
Legitimate infants - per 1000 live legit. births	82
Illegitimate infants - per 1000 live illegit. births	59

Deaths from:-

Measles (all ages)	1
Cancer (all ages)	176
Whooping Cough (all ages)	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age)	9

Classification of Deaths.

The causes of death (1068 males and 848 females) were as follows:-
 Typhoid and paratyphoid 2; Cerebro-spinal fever 1; Whooping cough 5;
 Diphtheria 4; Tuberculosis of the respiratory system 96; Other Tuberculous
 diseases 20; Syphilitic diseases 30; Influenza 12; Measles 1; Acute
 infective Encephalitis 2; Cancer 176; Diabetes 14; Cerebral Haemorrhage
 etc. 82; Heart Disease 460; Other Circulatory Diseases 44; Bronchitis 141;
 pneumonia 137; Other respiratory diseases 10; Peptic Ulcer 24;
 Diarrhoea 9; Appendicitis 1; Other digestive diseases 26; Nephritis 45;
 Puerperal Sepsis 3; Other maternal causes 1; Premature Births 14;
 Congenital malformations and birth injuries 13; Suicide 10; Road traffic
 accidents 19; Other violent causes 424; All other causes 90; Total
deaths at all ages 1916.

Age Groups	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and upwards	Total
Males:	34	14	18	179	359	464	1068
Females:	28	21	15	143	206	435	848
	62	35	33	322	565	899	1916

Infant Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 62, the causes of death being as follows:-
 Whooping cough 4; Tuberculosis of the respiratory system 1; Other Tuberculous diseases 5; Influenza 1; Bronchitis 3; Pneumonia 10; Diarrhoea 9; Other digestive diseases 1; Premature births 14; Congenital Malformation and birth injuries 12; Other violent causes 1; All other causes 1.

Maternal Mortality.

Three deaths were attributed to Puerperal sepsis and one to other Puerperal causes.
 Mortality rate 4.9.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Home Nursing.

682 visits to sick children at home were made under arrangements with the local Nursing Associations.

Home Visiting.

The Health Visitors made 26,511 visits to homes of expectant mothers, infants and toddlers.

Welfare Centre Attendance.

Expectant Mothers (seen by Doctor)	3,095
Post Natal	662
Infants under one year	8,201
Children one to five years	5,899

The Assistant Medical Officers examined 7,264 children during the year.

Child Life Protection.

There were 4 children and 4 foster-mothers on the register at the end of the year, all of whom were regularly visited.

Home Helps.

7 Home Helps were provided for home confinements.

Municipal Nurseries.

In addition to the Council's Nursery at "Whitnorth" Shalford, Surrey which is maintained under the jurisdiction of the Surrey County Council and which has accommodation for 40 Southwark Children, it was found necessary to negotiate for a further Residential nursery in the county and representations were made to the Ministry of Health with the result that on January 1st, 1942, a new Residential Nursery at Tilford, Surrey with accommodation for 40 children was started. This nursery is also maintained by Surrey County Council by arrangement with this Authority.

During the year the Ministry of Labour and National Service indicated that it was necessary for a War-time Nursery to be opened in Southwark to accommodate children of women war-workers. The Crossways Central Mission whose own nursery was evacuated at the out-break of war expressed a wish to re-open their Nursery in New Kent Road. The Ministry of Health sanctioned this proposal on condition that the Nursery was controlled and managed by the Local Authority. Adaptations are now in progress and equipment has been received from the Ministry of Health's Central Store and it is expected that the Crossway's War-time Nursery will be opened early in the new year. This Nursery will have accommodation for 45 children.

Women's Country Holiday Fund.

4 women and 5 children were sent for convalescence under this scheme.

Solarium - Health Services Department.

68 children under 5 years of age were treated in the Solarium at the request of the Council's Medical Officers, a total of 767 attendances being made.

Convalescent Treatment.

75 children were sent away by arrangement with the Invalid Children's Aid Association.

Extra Nourishment.

140 dinners were provided to children, necessitous expectant and nursing mothers.

Dental Clinic.

Treatment was provided for Maternity and Child Welfare patients. There were 115 patients who received 325 treatments, examinations etc.

Vaccination.

The total number of certificates of success of vaccination received during the year was 329.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspectors have supervised the sanitary conditions of their districts including the inspections of lodging houses, factories and workshops. In addition the air raid shelters in the Borough were frequently inspected and reported on. After bombing had occurred during air raids the Inspectors immediately prepared the War Damage Report which necessitated some thousands of visits being made.

Total number of inspections	2,486
Total number of re-inspections	5,809
Total inspections (factories & workshops)	207
Visits in connection with air raid shelters	4,630
Visits in connection with war damage	3,909
x	17,041

x Additional to War Damage Reports:-

Number of sanitary defects found and remedied	4,676
Number of Intimation Notices served	758
Number of Statutory Notices served	139

Public Health(London) Act 1936 - Section 224

One person was removed to an institution upon an Order of the Court.

Public Health (London) Act 1936 - Section 95

One certificate in regard to water supply was granted in respect to 67 flats.

Common Lodging Houses.

The inspection of these premises was carried out at frequent intervals, and nuisances were abated in several instances. The London County Council Annual Census was not undertaken.

Smoke Abatement.

Although the special Recommendation of the Ministry of Home Security in regard to the emission of smoke resulted in discontinuation of the observations, very few complaints of smoke nuisance were received and these were found to be capable of adjustment.

Shops Act, 1934.

Several inspections were made under the Act, but action in respect thereto is somewhat limited as a result of war restrictions.

Factories.

Inspection of factories etc. has been maintained as far as possible; some have required the installation of additional lavatory and water-closet accommodation for the use of augmented staffs whilst in some cases temporary accommodation of this character has been sanctioned purely as an emergency measure.

Rats and Mice.

In accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Food, a District Sanitary Inspector was appointed Rodent Officer to give special attention to food premises, wharves etc., where rat infestation was likely. He is able to give supervision to any troublesome cases met with by the Sanitary Inspector's Assistant besides which he provides the monthly return required by the Ministry of Food. This arrangement has been found to work very satisfactorily. I am able to report that, despite many cases of damage to sewers and drains, the rat menace has not assumed the proportions that one might have anticipated due to the fact that immediate attention is always given in these cases.

Summary of investigations and inspections made during the year 1941.

Inspections - By Inspector	505
By Rat Officer	453
Re-inspections - By Inspector	1,185
By Rat Officer	1,746
Premises where rats were found	157

Action Taken.

Poison Baits laid by Rat Officer	23,013
Wire Traps set " "	213
Break-Back Traps set " "	1,110
Premises freed from Rats	100

Probable source:-

Rat runs and holes	150
Defective Drains	78
No. of Notices served	8

Housing.

The situation with regard to housing is now fairly stabilized. Some belated cases of war damage are discovered and dealt with from time to time and reconditioned properties are becoming available in increasing numbers.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Inspection has been maintained as necessary. Owing to the conditions prevailing some unscrupulous persons attempted to benefit at the expense of, and risk to, the community at large by importing meat from Eire of a very unsatisfactory character. Two persons were successfully prosecuted and the commodity in question was banned from importation by the Government upon the Councils' representation.

The total quantity of food destroyed after inspection amounted to some 237 tons, a very small fraction of the parcels examined amounting to approximately 0.6%. The percentage of food examined, which has been rendered unedible by reason of enemy action did not amount to one half of one per cent.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, and
Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations.

Duties under these Regulations although somewhat limited have been carried out as necessary, samples for examination being taken as required and submitted to the Public Analyst.

Mortuary and Coroner's Court.

Post-mortems conducted - without inquest	312
Post-mortems conducted - with inquest	114
Inquests held, Post-mortems conducted else- where	51
Bodies brought in for convenience	2
	<hr/> 479 <hr/>

Verminous Persons.

During the year there has been a total attendance of 9,154 persons for bathing and treatment.

Of this number 3,802 were treatments given to children in accordance

with the Council's Agreement with the London County Council.

5,352 treatments and baths were given to persons sent from various Common Lodging Houses, Hospitals and Local Practitioners.

The increase in the number of treatments given to adults is due to the gradual increase of Scabies among all classes of the public. The decrease in the verminous cases can be attributed to the demolition by Air Raid of several Common Lodging Houses which formerly constituted the main supply of verminous persons. Owing to the steady return of many of the formerly evacuated school children the figures for the verminous cases show a slight increase.

<u>SCABIES.</u>	Men	Women	Children	Total
1st Qtr.	384	490	404	1,278
2nd Qtr.	315	434	374	1,123
3rd Qtr.	327	566	513	1,406
4th Qtr.	445	768	779	1,992
<hr/>				
Whole yr.	1,471	2,258	2,070	5,799
<hr/>				
<u>VERMINOUS.</u>				
1st Qtr.	441	74	382	897
2nd Qtr.	345	92	401	838
3rd Qtr.	342	41	437	820
4th Qtr.	243	45	512	800
<hr/>				
Whole yr.	1,371	252	1,732	3,355

As a result of the steady increase in Scabies the existing bathing accommodation was found to be inadequate and a scheme for the provision of a new Men's Bathing and Treatment Centre was submitted and the necessary alteration and addition is now in hand.

Verminous Premises.

There has been a considerable drop in the figures relative to disinfection of houses counterbalanced to some extent by the treatment of A.R.P. Public Shelters, Control Posts and Depots.

Fumigation by sulphur owing to the effects of blast has been very limited and in most cases the use of liquid fumigants has been the only possible method.

During the year 872 verminous rooms and their contents were treated by the disinfecting staff.

Council Houses found infested	N11
Council Houses disinfested	N11
Other premises found to be infested	472
Other premises disinfested	472

Verminous Bedding Disinfested.

<u>Articles</u>	<u>Disinfested</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
Beds	299	47
Palliasses	1,883	47
Bolsters & Pillows	2,594	56
Cushions	297	-
Blankets	11,166	3
Sheets	854	4
Quilts	794	5
Articles of clothing etc.	66,517	262
	<hr/> 84,404	<hr/> 424

In addition 53 cwts of bedding, household effects etc. were also destroyed. 24 pairs of boots and 44 steel helmets were treated with formalin.

Disinfection.

The total number of disinfections of rooms during the year by the Council's disinfecting staff was 331. Of this number 289 rooms were disinfested after the occurrence of the ordinary notifiable infectious diseases, and 42 after cases of phthisis.

872 verminous rooms were sulphured and otherwise cleansed by the Council's staff during the year.

<u>Articles.</u>	<u>Disinfested</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
Beds	84	4
Palliasses	125	3
Bolsters	30	
Pillows	338	7
Cushions	74	
Blankets	432	
Sheets	197	
Quilts	246	5
Articles of Clothing, etc.	790	2
Books	34	
	<hr/> 2,350	<hr/> 21
Total:	<hr/> <hr/> 2,350	<hr/> <hr/> 21

In addition, 1,100 lbs. of bristles were disinfested. 20 cwt. of household effects were destroyed.

Legal Proceedings:-

Public Health Acts etc.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Cause of Proceedings</u>	<u>Result</u>
C. Wilson-Sears, Montague Close, S.E.1.	Having in his possession food, to wit, Eire pressed meat, intended for, but unfit for, human consumption.	Fined £50 & 15 guineas costs.
W. & D. Harvest, King William St. Hse. Arthur Street, E.C.4.	Depositing unsound food (Eire pressed meat) at New Hibernia Cold Stores.	Fined £30 & 20 guineas costs.

Food & Drugs and Other Acts.

<u>Name and address of Defendant.</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Offence or Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Result of Proceedings</u>
English Orchard Co Ltd 4 Rockingham Street	Raspberry Jam	Selling Raspberry Jam 73% deficient in raspberries.	Fined £5 and £5.5s. costs.
English Orchard Co Ltd 4 Rockingham Street	Raspberry Jam	Selling Raspberry Jam 30 parts per million SO ₂ in excess.	Fined £1 and £3.3s. costs.
F. W. Woolworth & Co. 1 New Bond Street, W.1.	Milk	Selling milk with added water to the extent of 22%	Fined £10 and £10.10s. Costs.
Benjamin Jeffers, 16 Fleming Road	Whisky	Selling whisky 43 degrees under proof.	Fined £15 and £5.5s. costs.
Butler, Secretary, Westminster Wine Co. 18 Sussex St. S.W.1.	Whisky	Selling whisky 43 degrees under proof.	Dismissed POA £5.5s. Costs.
James C. Cox, 26 Otto Street.	Milk	Selling milk with added water to the extent of 9%	Fined 10s and £1.1s. costs.
Henry Evans, 24 Burge Street.	Milk	Selling milk with added water to the extent of 8.5%	Adjourned sine die.
Marks & Spencer Ltd. 82 Baker Street, W.1.	Lemonade Powder	Selling Lemonade Powder not of the nature, substance or quality demanded.	Withdrawn on pleading warranty.
Johnston & Son (London) Ltd. 36, 37, 38 St. Botolph Lane, E.C.3.	Liquid Egg Substitute.	"Liquid Egg Substitute" label attached falsely described said article.	Withdrawn on pleading warranty.
Francis Martin Samuel Winand, 67 Murray Rd. Wimbledon.	"Teafusa"	"Teafusa" with label attached calculated to mislead.	Fined £10 & £5.5s. costs.
Palorit Ltd. (G. F. Biro & Co.), 83 Scrubbs Lane N.W.10	Liquid Egg Substitute.	"Liquid Egg Substitute" label attached falsely described said article.	
Olgo Biro, 2 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent	Liquid Egg Substitute.	"Liquid Egg Substitute" label attached falsely described said article.	
M. Saper Ltd. Argall Avenue, Lea Bridge Factory Est. Leyton, E.10.	Lemonade Powder.	Selling lemonade powder not of nature, substance or quality demanded.	Fined £10 & £7.7s. costs.

Food and Drugs Acts.

No. of formal samples taken	1145
No. " " " adulterated	24
No. of informal samples taken	1093
No. " " " adulterated	22
No. of water samples(wells and bombed sites)	31

Analysis of Samples.

	No. of samplesexamined			No. adulterated.		
	Formal	Informal	Total.	Formal	Informal	Total
Milk and Milk Products	500	34	534	15	-	15
Oils, Fats, etc.	73	19	92	-	1	1
Canned and Potted Foods	26	141	167	-	7	7
Meat and Meat products.	51	106	157	-	-	-
Fruits, Canned, Bottled and Preserved.	-	19	19	-	-	-
Preserves, Jams, Jellies, etc.	30	25	55	1	-	1
Cereals, and Cereal Preparations	65	134	199	1	1	2
Bread, Flour and Confectionery	76	140	216	-	2	2
Wines, Spirits and Beverages	2	29	31	2	5	7
Condiments, Spices, Sauces, etc.	72	137	209	-	-	-
Drugs, and Medical preparations	3	85	88	1	2	3
Miscellaneous	247	224	471	4	4	8
Total.	1145	1093	2238	24	22	46

Percentage of adulterated samples for the year - 2.06.

Milksellers.

Retailers & Wholesalers in Borough	227
Retailers & Wholesalers elsewhere	134

1262 Visits were made to dairy premises.

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Principal Licenses	75
Supplementary Licenses	20

Infectious Diseases.

The notifications of infectious diseases received during the year numbered 1157 (excluding Tuberculosis) as follows:-
Scarlet fever 127: Diphtheria 102: Enteric Fever 2: Paratyphoid Fever 1:
Puerperal Fever 3: Puerperal pyrexia 2: Cerebro-spinal fever 22:
Measles 478: Whooping cough 257: Dysentery 7: Epidemic Diarrhoea 1:
Acute primary and influenzal pneumonia 110: Ophthalmia neonatorum 1:
Erysipelas 44. 24 deaths due to infectious disease were recorded:-
Diphtheria 4: Enteric Fever 2: Cerebro-spinal fever 1: measles 1:
Whooping cough 5: Pneumonia 11.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Immunisation against diphtheria was carried out in the Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic and by general practitioners in accordance with the Council's Scheme for Doctors. Owing to the large number of children accommodated in the large air raid shelters in the Borough it was considered desirable to provide immunisation facilities in an easily accessible hall and some 55 children and 16 adults were given inoculations. To ensure the efficiency of the inoculations carried out in London County Council Schools by the County Council's School Medical Officers arrangements were made for the Post Schick Testing of a number of children. The number proving Schick-positive proved to be under 1% and these were referred back for further injections.

Pneumonia.

The treatment of pneumonia by the drug "M & B 693" provided by the Council in necessitous cases has been continued throughout the year. An examination of the results achieved has provided some interesting facts. In the period under review the total number of cases treated was 19, of which 8 were males and 11 females. 3 of the patients were children under one year of age, the average age being 7 months. 6 patients were over one and under 10 years of age, the average age being 7 years, whilst 10 adults, average age 59 also received treatment.

The types of pneumonia dealt with were various, 2 being acute Primary; 3 Broncho; 8 Influenza; 5 Lobar and one undefined.

Of the patients treated, 2 of the adults subsequently died, but in one of these instances, the secondary cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage. The average number of days Pyrexia was 4, whilst the temperature fell in 12 cases by crisis and 6 by lysis, whilst in one instance no information is given in the reports of General Practitioners attending patients.

It was shown that the Doctors were of the opinion that in 10 instances, the duration of the illness was considerably short, whilst in 6 cases the Doctors reported that they were of the opinion that the illness had been considerably shortened and severity lessened.

Complications arising from the use of M. & B. 693 were few, only in 4 cases was slight sickness reported after administration. One patient, a man of 74, complained of dryness of the mouth and refused further treatment, but he ultimately recovered. Severe vomiting occurred in one case and this was due to the parent disregarding the Doctor's instructions and giving the patient, a child of 4 years, an egg; the vomiting which persisted for half a day, subsided later.

It would appear from all these reports that the administration of M & B 693 has been most satisfactory and obviously justifies the continuance of the Council's scheme for the supply of M & B 693 in necessitous cases where the patients are unable to afford the cost of this treatment.

Tuberculosis.

231 notifications of tuberculosis were received of which 203 were in respect of pulmonary cases and 28 non-pulmonary. According to the return supplied by the Registrar General the number of deaths from tuberculosis was 116.
(96 pulmonary and 20 non-pulmonary)

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

DIAGNOSIS	PULMONARY				NON-PULMONARY				TOTAL				GRAND TOTAL	
	Adults		C'rn		Adults		C'rn		Adults		C'rn			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
A. New cases examined during the year(excluding contacts)														
(a) Definitely tuberculous.	51	42	4	4	3	1	2	1	54	43	6	5	108	
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	54	25	2	4	-	2	1	-	54	27	3	4	88	
(c) Non-tuberculous.	133	94	1	3	1	-	-	1	134	94	1	4	233	
B. Contacts examined during the year:-														
(a) Definitely tuberculous.	4	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	4	1	-	10	
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	10	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	1	-	14	
(c) Non-tuberculous.	30	52	34	29	-	-	-	-	30	52	34	29	145	
C. Cases written off the Dispensary Register as:-														
(a) Recovered.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	3	
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous.)	163	148	35	32	1	-	-	1	164	148	35	33	380	
D. No. of cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st.														
(a) Definitely tuberculous.	380	248	47	45	23	25	9	1	403	273	56	46	778	
(b) Diagnosis not completed.	64	28	3	4	-	2	1	-	64	30	4	4	102	
1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st.	880				2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years.									34
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases "lost sight of"	112				4. Cases written off during the year as dead. (All causes)									57
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts)	3,354				6. No. of insured persons under Domiciliary Treatment on December 31st.									16
7. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners:- (a) Personal. (b) Others	41 412				8. No. of visits by Tuberculosis Officers to homes (including personal consultations)									19
9. Number of visits by nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes.	1,696				10. No. of (a) specimens of Sputum etc. examined (b) X ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work									538 1,287
11. Number of "recovered cases" restored to dispensary register and included in A (a) and A (b) above.	1				12. No. of "T. B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st.									357

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