

## **[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Westminster, City of].**

### **Contributors**

City of Westminster (London, England). County Council.  
Shinnie, Andrew J.

### **Publication/Creation**

[1944]

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wmnqpdw9>

### **License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

AC 4344

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1943

ANDREW J. SHIMIE, M.D., D.P.H., (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health and Administrative Tuberculosis Officer.

---oOo---

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE, JANUARY 15, 1912.

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1911.

ALBANY: JAMES BROWN PUBLISHING CO., 1912.

PRINTED AT THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, ALBANY, N. Y.

FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK:

WALTER S. LINDLEY, COMMISSIONER OF LAND OFFICE.

ALBANY, N. Y., JANUARY 15, 1912.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1911.

ALBANY: JAMES BROWN PUBLISHING CO., 1912.

PRINTED AT THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, ALBANY, N. Y.

FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK:

WALTER S. LINDLEY, COMMISSIONER OF LAND OFFICE.

ALBANY, N. Y., JANUARY 15, 1912.

HOWSON  
DUPLICATOR

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1943

---

Mr. Mayor, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a report on the health and sanitary conditions of the City of Westminster for the year 1943. This report is termed an interim report within the terms of the directional circular No.10/44 of the Ministry of Health and the information contained is therefore limited in scope as was the case in the preceding reports for the war years.

The absence of any serious air raids has naturally reawakened interest in the development of public health activities and particularly housing. I had the honour to submit several reports during the year dealing with such matters as further clearance areas and the more pressing problem of providing improved amenities in houses occupied by more than one family in order to secure where possible and practicable a measure of self contained accommodation. It is gratifying to note that the Ministry of Health is inclined to encourage this policy of adaptation where the houses lend themselves to such internal re-arrangement. By this means a number of the houses let in tenements might be worthy of adaptation and thus provide a higher standard of housing than hitherto existed in them.

It will be remembered that the winter and spring of 1943 was abnormally mild; summer like temperatures were found in January and February. This may have had a bearing on the increased incidence of infectious disease of most types. Fortunately serious or fatal cases were extraordinarily few except as regards pneumonia where there were 19 deaths compared with 15 last year. The onset of a wave of influenza towards the end of the year contributed to this. The birth rate increased but so did the number of still births. Maternal mortality increased from 2.9 to 5.8 per 1000 births. Of the five cases, three were due to septic abortion occurring in districts outside London. These three should not be regarded as deaths ~~due to~~ due to confinement. Cancer again exacted an increased toll of victims chiefly in the higher ages.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, on a representation from the Ministry of Labour, the Council took steps to provide two additional war time nurseries in other districts of the City. One of these was ready for occupation by the end of the year in part of the premises belonging to the Westminster Training College in Horseferry Road. The other in Bloomfield Terrace was in process of adaptation but the work has been much impeded owing to the more urgent calls on the building trades. The accommodation for the children of women on work of National importance will be between 170 - 180 nursery places. The Council made a substantial grant to the enterprise of the Westminster Health Society in setting up a day nursery for five half days per week. There is no doubt that after the war part time nurseries will fulfil a very definite need.



Increased accommodation for maternity cases in hospital was arranged with Charing Cross Hospital and the existing arrangements with Westminster Hospital were extended. In addition the City Council took part in the London County Council scheme for further provision of maternity beds by having a call on four more beds in Westminster Hospital.

The question of Home Helps and the better care of illegitimate children were the subject of inquiry by the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee. The lady members visited specially the various centres and considered the circumstances of each district. They recommended in the first instance the employment by the Council of two whole time Home Helps and the Council accepted the recommendation. So far, owing to the priorities of war work, it has been possible to obtain one Home Help but her services have proved of great benefit not only to mothers in confinement but in other circumstances where housewives require help, such as acute illness in the family. As regards illegitimate children tribute was paid to the fruitful work of the voluntary moral welfare organisations. As a result of the efforts of their experienced and able workers there was little in the way of a problem in Westminster. There was, however, an urgent need for the re-establishment of the home for mothers and babies formerly run by one of these voluntary bodies but at present requisitioned for war purposes.

Throughout the year, at the request of the Ministry of Health, advantage was taken of the local press to inform the public about Diphtheria immunization. It is estimated that some 51% of the children up to 14 years of age are protected against Diphtheria.

A special note is made of the coming into force in August 1943 of the payment of allowances to sufferers from pulmonary tuberculosis in order to assist their recovery and return to work. There were 63 beneficiaries during the year. Arrangements were made through the London County Council for mass radiography on a voluntary basis of the staffs of large undertakings. The object is the early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis among certain age groups. Among the 391 examined only 5 were referred for treatment.

Among other matters affecting the public health may be mentioned the measures to combat rat infestation. The Council appointed an officer of special experience to deal with this matter with three whole time assistants. On the grading adopted by the Ministry of Food there were 13 areas of major infestation in the City. Very satisfactory progress was made in clearing these areas.

Proposals to extend the accommodation for the cleansing of persons affected by lice, scabies, etc. were approved but the work required had to give way to the needs for making good war damaged dwellings. There was a considerable increase in disinfection owing to the calls of the service departments, while the number of persons cleansed likewise greatly exceeded that of the previous year.

I should like to conclude by expressing my appreciation of the kindness and consideration which I have always received from members of the Council and from my colleagues. My gratitude is always due to the ready assistance and interested loyalty given me by the staff of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

September 1944.

ANDREW J. SHINNIE.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres): 2,502.7

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) ... .. 22,536  
 Rateable value, March 1944 ... .. £9,459,894

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	660	340	320
Illegitimate	168	89	79
	828	429	399

Births notified ... 556

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 12.6  
 (Rate for London: 15.8; for England & Wales: 16.5)

Number of Stillbirths ... .. 30

Rate of Stillbirths per 1,000 (live & still) births ... 34.9

DEATHS

Net deaths ... .. 1087 (males 599; females 488)

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.. 16.6  
 (Rate for London: 15.0; for England & Wales: 12.1)

Deaths from puerperal causes ... 5 (5.8 per 1,000 births)

Deaths of infants under 1 year ... 64 (males 38; females 26)

Death rate of infants under 1 year:-

All infants per 1,000 live births ... .. 77.2

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. 68.1

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births .. 113.1

Rate for London ... .. 58

Deaths from measles (all ages) ... .. 1

" " whooping cough (all ages) ... .. -

" " diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... .. 12

" " cancer ... .. 188

INFANT MORTALITY - Causes of Death.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>
Diarrhoea & Enteritis ... ..	12	11	1
Congenital malformation			
Prematurity etc. .. ..	24	15	9
Want of attention ... ..	4	-	4
Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	10	9	1
Accident ... ..	3	3	-
Tuberculosis ... ..	3	3	-
Other causes ... ..	3	3	-
Syphilis ... ..	3	-	3
Murder ... ..	1	-	1
Digestive disease ... ..	1	1	-
	64	45	19



CAUSES OF DEATH (At all ages)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Influenza ... ..	12	12	24
Meningitis & Convulsions ..	1	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .	-	1	1
Diarrhoea & Enteritis	5	7	12
Septic diseases ... ..	2	2	4
Syphilis ... ..	5	2	7
Diabetes ... ..	4	5	9
Tuberculosis of Lungs ...	51	19	70
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	3	6
Malignant growths ... ..	104	84	188
Congenital debility)			
Malformation etc. ) ...	16	12	28
Old age ... ..	4	8	12
Locomotor ataxia & general paralysis .. ...	5	4	9
Diseases of nervous system	2	2	4
Circulatory diseases ...	223	200	423
Bronchitis ... ..	20	21	41
Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	39	34	73
Pneumonia ... ..	8	11	19
Respiratory diseases ...	5	2	7
Alcoholism ... ..	-	2	2
Appendicitis ... ..	2	-	2
Digestive diseases .. ...	24	8	32
Bright's disease ... ..	21	13	34
Cystitis ... ..	7	5	12
Accidents & Negligence ...	19	12	31
Suicide & Murder ... ..	6	6	12
Other defined diseases ...	8	5	13
Measles ... ..	-	1	1
Parturition ... ..	-	5	5
Other violent causes ...	-	2	2
Diphtheria ... ..	1	-	1
Cirrhosis ... ..	2	-	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	599	488	1087

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Removal to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Polio-myelitis ... ..	1	-	-
Diphtheria ... ..	51	50	-
Erysipelas ... ..	19	12	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	141	127	-
Enteric Fever ... ..	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever ... ..	4	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ...	10	10	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	6	6	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	5	-
Measles ... ..	328	98	1
Pneumonia ... ..	15	5	19
Dysentery ... ..	19	15	-
Whooping cough ... ..	53	16	-
Malaria ... ..	1	1	-
Scabies ... ..	183	-	-

Non-notifiable diseases - removed to hospital:-

German Measles ... ..	16 cases
Chickenpox ... ..	50 "
Mumps ... ..	36 "

### INFLUENZA.

The Medical Officer of Health noted during the early winter months the rise in the incidence of influenza amongst Westminster residents and initiated discussions with the Local Medical War Committee, the three district nursing associations operating in the City, the British Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Women's Voluntary Services in order to explore the possibilities of ensuring adequate medical attention and rendering nursing assistance and domestic help in homes where there was sickness, in view of the shortage under war conditions of such assistance. The Minister of Health early in December suggested certain lines of action which might be undertaken by Local Authorities to this end.

With the assistance of the associations referred to and other bodies, a scheme was formulated and put into operation in the City whereby a central office for the receipt of requests for assistance was set up at the British Red Cross Society's offices in Westminster and a rota prepared of nursing personnel of both the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade available to render nursing assistance in the home. The requests for medical assistance received in the central office were transmitted to the secretary of the Local Medical War Committee and the requests for nursing assistance were first referred to the District Nursing Association operating in the area, who would request any further nursing assistance from the Central Office. Any hospitals in the City requiring such nursing assistance could likewise obtain help through the Central Office. The requests for domestic help were transmitted to the Women's Voluntary Services who provided domestic help in the home and rendered assistance with shopping, etc. Arrangements were also made with the London County Council for the use of ambulance services where necessary and for the provision of hot meals for patients through the Londoners' Meals Services.

Fortunately the number of cases requiring such assistance were few in number and up to the close of the year one request was received for nursing assistance and four requests for domestic help, all of which were satisfactorily dealt with.

### VACCINATION

Persons vaccinated by Public Vaccinator: Primary 346  
Secondary 11

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

Diphtheria - negative 137, positive 3.  
Tuberculosis - negative 132, positive 55.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Pulmonary: 185 new cases, including 7 transfers and 16 non-notified deaths.  
Non-pulmonary: 9 new cases, including 2 transfers and 6 non-notified deaths.  
(1942 - Pulmonary: 163 new cases; Non-pulmonary: 29 new cases).



TUBERCULOSIS (contd).New Cases and Deaths

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
1 to 5 years	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 " 10 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " 15 "	2	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 " 20 "	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	1
20 " 25 "	11	21	-	1	4	2	-	-
25 " 35 "	18	20	2	-	5	5	-	-
35 " 45 "	21	15	-	1	6	4	1	1
45 " 55 "	22	7	-	-	15	6	1	-
55 " 65 "	24	4	-	-	16	2	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
Totals	106	79	3	6	51	19	3	3

## Deaths from Tuberculosis:-

Pulmonary: 70 (51 males; 19 females)  
 Non-pulmonary: 6 (3 males; 3 females)

WORK OF TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, 1943.

The work of the Dispensary continued throughout the year and the number of patients, lower in the early years of the war, has been comparable to pre-war years. Some increase is due to the higher incidence of the disease under war conditions, some to the number of patients referred by National Service Medical Boards, and of patients discharged from the Services, on account of tuberculosis.

Total attendances numbered 1645. There were 436 new patients during the year, including 94 contacts. 110 were considered to be definite cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, though not necessarily all at an active stage of the disease. 15 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were also diagnosed.

There have been two new developments in tuberculosis work during the year. The scheme for detecting cases of early disease by Mass Radiography of sections of the population has been inaugurated. Owing to war time difficulties of staffing and equipment, the London County Council had to start operations with one unit only. Mass Radiography has, therefore, only been reasonably available to Westminster residents during certain periods. Some 900 patients have been examined, however, from volunteers obtained by circulating enquiries to some of the larger business firms in Westminster. Fuller development of this scheme may be expected after the war.

The second important development was the institution by the Government of maintenance allowances payable to persons undergoing approved treatment for tuberculosis. These are varied in amount to suit the circumstances of each case.

The first weekly payment of these allowances was made at the Tuberculosis Dispensary on June 30th, 1943. At this initial stage payment was made in 22 cases, but this number will increase steadily for some time.

Broadly speaking, the allowances are payable to persons giving up employment to undergo approved treatment. These are either awaiting or receiving treatment or, having received Institutional



treatment, are not yet fit to resume their occupations and are receiving home treatment under Dispensary control.

Where the Tuberculosis Officer certifies that the patient is eligible, a communication and an application form is issued to him. The patient often requires assistance in completing the form, and enquiries by patients and the verification of details given entails a considerable volume of work. The Dispensary Secretary discusses each case with the County Council Assessment Officer, with whom lie decisions, as to eligibility and the amount to be paid. His order is communicated to the City Comptroller who makes payment to the patient or his nominee at the Dispensary each Wednesday or, in special cases, by post.

Arrangements are proceeding smoothly, and the changing circumstances of each patient are kept under constant review by the Tuberculosis Officer and the Dispensary Staff, so that allowances are varied or stopped when necessary.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The welfare scheme during 1945 was as set out in the report of 1938.

WAR TIME DAY NURSERIES.

There is one war time day nursery in the City with accommodation for 50 children. Two others were nearing completion towards the close of the year.

VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

To expectant mothers	...	...	...	2264
" children under 1	...	...	...	4087
" children between 1 and 5	...	...	...	5668

ANTE AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

Number of women attending	...	...	...	A.N.	P.N.
				1798	482

INFANT CLINICS

Attendances	...	...	...	...	1916
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

HOME NURSING

Number of visits made during year	...	1887
-----------------------------------	-----	------

HOME HELPS

Supplied at the cost of the Council in four cases.

DENTAL TREATMENT - Clinic Reports

	New Cases	Re Appoint- ments	Extract- ions	Fillings	Other Opera- tions	Anaesthetics	
						Local	General
1942	125	579	486	329	369	26	84
1943	146	539	498	283	285	22	96



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION TREATMENT AND SCHICK TESTING

CHILDREN IMMUNISED IN 1943

Under five years of age	...	...	443
Over five years of age	...	...	25
L.C.C. School Children (Immunised by City Council's Medical Staff)	...	...	274
			742
		Total	742

CHILDREN SCHICK TESTED IN 1943

	<u>Negatives</u>	<u>Positives</u>
Under five years of age	342	21
L.C.C. School Children (Tested by City Council's Medical Staff)	200	13
	542	34
Total	542	34

Total number of children Schick Tested ... 576

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

For particulars of general services, see previous reports.

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY WORKS

Plans submitted	...	...	...	110
Combined Drainage Orders made	...	...	...	3

DISTRICT SANITARY INSPECTION

Inspections of Dwelling Houses	..	...	...	3002
" " other premises	...	...	...	4599
" " sanitary works	...	...	...	866

NUISANCES

Intimation notices served	...	...	...	1024
Statutory " "	...	...	...	26
Prosecutions	...	...	...	1
Orders made	...	...	...	1

Fines: NIL. Costs: £3.3.0.

WATER SUPPLY

Metropolitan Water Board notices of withdrawal	...	6
Deep wells: No. of examinations made	...	140

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Shops inspected	...	938
Inspections made	...	959
Notices served	...	64

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

61 defects under the Public Health Acts were found.  
 All were remedied without legal proceedings.

Visits to Outworkers' premises other than factories	-	67
Workrooms measured	...	10
Visits of enquiry re employment of women	...	45
Outworkers	...	64

RATS

Rat complaints	...	743
Total number of rats destroyed	...	10,729
Total number of premises visited re rat complaints	...	4,097

13 major infestations found following Survey carried out on receipt of direction of Ministry of Food. All of these dealt with.

RESTAURANTS

Total number of restaurants inspected	...	2225
Number of notices served	...	349
Legal proceedings	...	1

NUISANCE FROM PIGEONS

Complaints: 5. Pigeons destroyed: 523.

DISINFECTION

Rooms: 553. Articles: 59,782. Articles washed: 8000.  
 Articles destroyed: 775. Books disinfected: 496.  
 Vehicles: 84. Business premises: 10.

CLEANSING OF PERSONS - (Head lice, Body lice, Scabies).

Children: 511. Adults: 767. Total: 1278  
 Number of treatments: 2196.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Samples purchased for analysis - 1806 + 8 Pharmacy & Poisons Act.	
Visits to premises	3679
Notices served	411
Samples found to be adulterated	82
Prosecutions	17
Convictions	16

Fines: £101.13.0d. Costs: £38.17.0d.

AIR RAID SHELTERS (Public and Communal Domestic)

Number of visits	...	985
------------------	-----	-----

ICE CREAM PREMISES

Premises on Register at 31st December, 1943	...	182
---	-----	-----

PRESERVED MEAT ETC. PREMISES

Premises on Register at 31st December, 1943	...	124
---	-----	-----

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 & 1938

Licences issued	...	40
-----------------	-----	----



REGISTRATION OF DAIRMEN & DAIRIES

	Premises	Persons
On Register at 31st December, 1943.	111	125
Registered during the year ...	2	15
Inspections made ...	372	-
Notices served ...	33	-

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY

Bodies received	370
Causes of death:-	
Drowning	1
Street accidents	17
Other accidents	39
Murder	3
Suicide	27
Natural causes	258
Misadventure	6
Miscellaneous causes	19
Inquests held	111
Post-mortem examinations	336

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises: 1192  
 Number of inspectors: 10  
 Number of vehicles: 84  
 Number of samples analysed: 2907  
 Number of convictions: 10  
 Number of notices served: 10  
 Number of samples found to be adulterated: 10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MILK

Number of premises: 1192  
 Number of inspectors: 10  
 Number of vehicles: 84  
 Number of samples analysed: 2907  
 Number of convictions: 10  
 Number of notices served: 10  
 Number of samples found to be adulterated: 10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEAT

Number of premises: 1192  
 Number of inspectors: 10  
 Number of vehicles: 84  
 Number of samples analysed: 2907  
 Number of convictions: 10  
 Number of notices served: 10  
 Number of samples found to be adulterated: 10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF BUTCHERS

Number of premises: 1192  
 Number of inspectors: 10  
 Number of vehicles: 84  
 Number of samples analysed: 2907  
 Number of convictions: 10  
 Number of notices served: 10  
 Number of samples found to be adulterated: 10