

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Stoke Newington, The Metropolitan Borough].

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STOKE NEWINGTON.

20 NOV 1970

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, N.16.
12th December, 1940.

To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following upon the instructions of the Ministry of Health, an abridged report only of the Health of the Borough for the year 1939 is herewith submitted.

It is hoped that after the war, it will be possible to publish a complete report reviewing the conditions of the previous years.

It is to be noted that the Infantile Mortality rate of 28.2 in 1939, as compared with 43.2 in 1938, was the lowest yet recorded in the borough, - but it is not to be anticipated that such improvements can recur when the conditions under which large numbers of the inhabitants of this Borough are now living are taken into consideration.

The epidemic of measles which was anticipated in London, did not materialise in the winter of 1939.

The wartime health services of the Borough were well maintained during the year, and the attendances at the Clinics although falling for the first few weeks of the war soon rose, and in some cases exceeded the figures for the corresponding period during the previous year.

It is noteworthy that although 89 families were living in overcrowded conditions at the beginning of the year, this number had been reduced to 3 at the end of the year.

At the time of writing (December, 1940) our great concern is with the public shelters and with the measures to be taken to attempt to prevent the spread of disease in them. We have to face the problem of men and women, living in close contact with one another in underground rooms, who have not removed their clothes for weeks, and who live a life alternating between the streets, their work and the public shelters. It is under these conditions that disease thrives, but up to the present, we have had no epidemic or spread of disease attributable to these shelters.

Active measures are being taken by the Ministry of Health and the Emergency Committee to deal with these problems.

A considerable proportion of the time of the staff of the Public Health Department is now taken up with Air Raid Precautions duties, and I should like to express my most sincere thanks for the splendid way they have responded to all the calls made upon them.

S. KING.

Medical Officer of Health.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STOKE NEWINGTON.
ANNUAL (INTERIM) REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1939.

AREA.

863 acres.
 The number of inhabited houses was ... 8,363.
 The rateable value ... £434,212.
 Sum represented by a Penny rate ... £1,763.

POPULATION.

Census 1931. ... 51,215
 Registrar General's estimate for mid 1939.
 (a) For calculation of birth rate 49,360.
 (b) For calculation of death rate 46,930.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate.	649	346	303	} Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 13.7 mid 1939
Illegitimate.	25	14	11	
	<u>674</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>314</u>	

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate.	15	9	6	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 27.4
Illegitimate.	2	2	-	
	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	

BIRTHS.

Of the 691 Stoke Newington births 453 occurred in institutions within the borough or in outlying districts. There were 674 live and 17 still births.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	580	282	298	Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 10.2
				Corrected death rate 9.8

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list.)

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	0	0
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	1.4
	<u>1</u>	<u>1.4</u>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	28.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	40.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	200.

<u>DEATHS FROM:-</u>	CANCER (all ages)	...	87.
	MEASLES (all ages)	...	-
	WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	2.
	DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age) ..	...	2.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

The causes of deaths (1930) were as follows:-

Whooping cough 7, Tuberculosis of Respiratory
System 2, Typhoid 2, General
Infectious Diseases 85, Diabetes 11, Cerebral
Hæmorrhage 2, Anæmia 2, Other
Infectious Diseases 28, Other
Infectious Diseases 3, Cirrhosis of
Liver 1, Other Digestive Diseases
1, Other General Causes 1.

Communicable Diseases 1, Infantile
Parotitis 1, Other Infectious Diseases 18.

In the following table are given the causes of all deaths occurring
in the Borough over the years of age.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age.
The infantile mortality rate (I.M.R.) in the Borough was recorded
in the Borough, the average being 27.5 in 1937.

The causes of deaths were as follows:-

Whooping cough 1, Pneumonia 1, Diarrhoea 2, Communicable
Diseases 1, Infantile Parotitis 1, Other
Infectious Diseases 1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one death during the year attributed to
complications of pregnancy, the maternal mortality
rate being 1.4.

PROVISION OF DENTAL SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

Mr. Stanley King was
appointed as Dental Officer of Health resigned.

Mr. M. B. H. Warner replaced Mr. P. R. Asplett as Dental
Officer, Mr. A. C. W. Dental Clinic.

Mr. J. W. Howells was appointed as Dental Officer of Health in-
spectors in the Housing section of the Department.

The District Officer (Mr. J. W. Howells) has been absent on
military service and his duties have been performed by Mr. E.
Strachan.

Medical and other examinations were
conducted by the Medical Officer of Health.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

At the Council's Welfare Centre - eleven sessions were
held weekly throughout the year. At the Infant Welfare Cen-
tre, 2 at the Dental Clinic, 2 at the Dental Clinic, and 1
for children's treatment.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

The causes of deaths (580) were as follows:-

Whooping cough 2, Influenza 7, Tuberculosis of Respiratory System 28, Other Tuberculous diseases 3, Syphilis 2, General Paralysis of the Insane 3, Cancer 87, Diabetes 11, Cerebral Haemorrhage 22, Heart Disease 190, Aneurysm 5, Other circulatory Diseases 40, Bronchitis 20, Pneumonia 28, Other respiratory Diseases 6, Peptic ulcer 8, Diarrhoea 3, Cirrhosis of Liver 1, Other Diseases of Liver 4, other digestive Diseases 6, Acute and chronic Nephritis 11, Other Puerperal Causes 1, Congenital Debility, Premature birth, Malformation &c 13, Senility 6, Suicide 8, Other violence 17, other defined diseases 48.

It is noteworthy that 58 per cent of all deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age. The infantile mortality rate (28.2) is the lowest yet recorded in the borough, the previous lowest rate being 37.5 in 1937.

The causes of deaths were as follows:-

Whooping cough 1, Pneumonia 1, Diarrhoea 2, Congenital debility, Premature birth, Malformation, etc. 13, Violence 1, Other defined diseases 1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one death during the year attributed to complications of pregnancy or childbirth, the maternal mortality rate being 1.4.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

CHANGES IN STAFF.

Dr. F.D. Ross-Keyt (Medical Officer of Health) resigned on appointment to Thornaby-on-Tees, and Dr. Stanley King was appointed in his stead.

Dr. A.A. Nicol (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) resigned on appointment to Bermondsey and Dr. M. Florentin was appointed in her stead.

Mr. N.S.H. Warner replaced Mr. P.R. Asplett as Dental Officer, M. & C.W. Dental Clinic.

Mr. J.A. Cummins was appointed additional Sanitary Inspector in the Housing section of the department.

The Disinfector (Mr. J.W. Howell) has been absent on military service and his duties have been performed by Mr. E. Strachan.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The total number of bacteriological and other examinations carried out was 209, of which 4 were positive to Tuberculosis and 3 positive to Diphtheria.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

At the Council's Welfare Centres - eleven sessions were held weekly throughout the year: 6 at the Infant Welfare Centres, 2 at the Pre-Natal Clinic, 2 at the Dental Clinic, and 1 for diphtheria immunisation.

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CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

563 infants under 1 year made 10,723 attendances and 151 children 1 to 5 years made 9055 attendances at the Council's Welfare Centres. Wet and Dried milk amounting to £2,604. 9. 2. were distributed throughout the year to necessitous cases.

PRE-NATAL CLINIC.

103 Sessions were held and 250 mothers made 1035 attendances.

DENTAL CLINIC.

84 Dental Sessions were held at which 93 mothers attended 517 times and 72 children attended 226. Gas anaesthetics were given at 20 sessions to 154 patients. 14 necessitous mothers were provided free of charge with dentures costing £43. 0. 6. After deducting receipts for treatment and dentures, the dental service cost the Council £262. 12. 9. for the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

217 patients attended for treatment on 794 occasions.

SCHOOL TREATMENT CENTRE.

At the Stoke Newington School Treatment Centre:-
54 children under the age of 5 years attended for treatment making 502 attendances.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CLINICS.

48 children under school age were referred for treatment to the artificial Sunlight Clinic at the Mildmay Memorial Hospital, Islington, making 384 attendances, 67 children attended the British Red Cross Clinic, Dalston Lane, Hackney, 859 times and the total number of treatments given was 1631.

HOSPITALS.

The Home Hospital for Women admitted 81 patients during the year, a large percentage being residents of Stoke Newington. 5308 patients were treated at the Stoke Newington Dispensary, making 13,409 attendances. In addition 1,228 home visits were made.

HOME HELPS.

Services of Home Helps were used on 36 occasions at a cost to the Council of £126.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

Grants amounting to £12. 16. 11. were made by the Council to the Invalid Childrens Aid Association in aid of the Convalescent Home Treatment of 9 children under school age.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The total number of visits made by the Health Visitors was 7,130.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

13 children in the care of 12 foster Mothers were visited on 293 occasions.

Notifiable Diseases	82
Intestinal Tuberculosis	10
Deaths from Cancer	2
Vermin	63
Gosselin	26
Total	183

At the Disinfecting Station a total of 11,978 textile articles were treated with 79 books from the Public Library were fumigated with formalin vapour.

CLEANING STATION

Under the L.C.O. scheme, the work of cleaning vermin-ous goods and articles was carried out by the Public Health Department. Up to the end of the year, the following quantities of goods were cleaned:

HOUSING

The total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects was 1,312, the number found to be unfit for human habitation was 17 and the number found not to be fit for all respects was 17 only 111.

77 Statutory Notices and 677 Information Notices were served, as a result of which 1,489 nuisances were abated or sanitary defects remedied.

2,121 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

100 houses to which inspections were made and 12 houses were inspected and reported by the Inspectors.

Domestic refuse was collected from 11,978 dwellings. In houses there were in excess of 100,000 refuse receptacles or receptacles.

OVERCROWDING

On 1st January, 1939, 89 families were living in overcrowded conditions, 50 families were found to be overcrowded during the year. 85 families were reported on the Borough Council Housing Register. On the L.C.O. Housing Register, and in 59 instances overcrowding was otherwise abated. The number of cases of overcrowding was reduced to 5 at the end of the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

8,793 inspections and re-inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. Included in this total number, were 42 house to house inspections. 108 inspections after notification of Infectious Diseases, 516 upon complaint, 672 to Food premises and 358 to Factories and Workshops.

1,275 Sanitary Defects were found and remedied.

677 Intimation Notices and 77 Statutory Notices were served.

DISINFECTION.

The following number of rooms have been disinfected after:-

Notifiable diseases	..	82
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	10
Deaths from Cancer	..	2
Vermin		63
Scabies		56
		<u>213</u>

At the Disinfecting Station a total of 11,978 textile articles were dealt with, and 79 books from the Public Library were fumigated with formalin vapour.

CLEANSING STATION.

Under the L.C.C. scheme, the work of cleansing verminous school children was continued until August, when the premises were taken over for A.R.P. purposes. Up to that period, the cases dealt with are as follows:-

Impetigo		304
Nitty & Verminous heads & bodies	..	898
Cases of Scabies		243

Arrangements have since been made for the Islington Council to treat Stoke Newington cases of Scabies or Verminous conditions.

HOUSING.

The total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects was 1,312, the number found to be unfit for human habitation was 17 and the number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit 569.

77 Statutory Notices and 677 Intimation Notices were served, as a result of which 1,489 nuisances were abated or sanitary defects remedied.

3,791 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

House to house inspections were made and 42 houses were inspected and recorded by the Inspectors.

Demolition orders were made in respect of 6 dwelling houses, all of which were demolished during the year. 17 Closing Orders were made in respect of underground rooms or separate tenements.

OVERCROWDING.

On 1st January, 1939. 89 families were living in overcrowded conditions, 66 families were found to be overcrowded during the year. 86 families were rehoused on the Borough Council's Housing Estates. 7 on the L.C.C. Housing Estates, and in 59 instances overcrowding was otherwise abated. Thus the number of cases of overcrowding was reduced to 3 at the end of the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

2 Slaughter Houses and 3 Slaughtermen were licensed during the year. 24 inspections were made by inspectors. 1 Slaughterhouse was permanently closed.

FOOD PREMISES

144 food premises were registered and kept under observation by the inspectors. The inspectors visited 872 food premises during 1939.

FOOD AND DRUG ACT 1938

27 formal and 48 informal samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis. 2 samples of milk were reported as adulterated; all other samples as genuine. A sample of milk was sent to the Vendor of one of the adulterated samples and legal proceedings were taken in respect of the same. The Vendor was fined £5 and £5 costs.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING 1939

<u>Cases notified to hospital.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	
61	65	Scarlet Fever.
5	5	Diphtheria.
5	5	Paratyphoid Fever.
15	17	Paratyphoid Typhus.
22	34	Pneumonia Acute Primary.
7	8	Pneumonia Acute Infectious.
1	2	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
17	155	Whooping Cough.
1	2	Measles.
1	1	Rubella.
1	1	Food Poisoning.
1	1	Dysentery.
2	2	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

The cases of Scarlatina were notified. Of the 250 births registered in Stoke Newington during 1938, 104 or 40.6 were successfully vaccinated. (Figures for 1939 not yet available).

TUBERCULOSIS

There were notified 38 new cases of pulmonary and 13 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death rate per 1000 of the average population was 0.55 for pulmonary tuberculosis (36 deaths) and 0.04 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis (3 deaths).

MILK.

89 premises of purveyors resident in the Borough and 64 other purveyors operating in the area from premises registered elsewhere were on the register.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 78 visits to dairy premises.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER.

1 licence to Pasteurise, 7 licences and 26 Supplementary licences were granted in 1939.

MEAT and OTHER FOODS.

2 Slaughter Houses and 3 Slaughtermen were licenced during the year. 24 inspections were made by Inspectors. 1 Slaughterhouse was permanently closed.

FOOD PREMISES.

141 food premises were registered and kept under observation by the Inspectors. The Inspectors visited 672 food premises during 1939.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

157 formal and 48 informal samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis. 2 samples of milk were reported as adulterated, all other samples as genuine.

A warning letter was sent to the Vendor of one of the adulterated samples and legal proceedings were taken in respect of the other, the Defendant being fined £5 with £5.5.0. costs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	66	61
Diphtheria.	6	6
Puerperal Fever.	5	5
Puerperal Pyrexia.	17	15
Pneumonia Acute Primary.	34	22
Pneumonia Acute Influenzal.	8	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	5	4
Whooping Cough.	155	17
Measles.	3	1
Erysipelas.	11	4
Food Poisoning.	4	4
Dysentery.	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	2	2

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

No case of Smallpox was notified. Of the 256 births registered in Stoke Newington during 1938, 104 or 40.6 were successfully vaccinated. (Figures for 1939 not yet available).

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were notified 38 new cases of pulmonary and 13 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death rate per 1000 of the average population were 0.55 for pulmonary tuberculosis (28 deaths) and 0.01 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis (3 deaths).

ARTIFICIAL PHARYNGEAL FEEDING

The total cost borne by the Council for providing artificial pharyngeal feeding to Stoke Newington patients was £75. 2. 6.

EXTRA NUTRITION

The extra cost to the Council of providing extra-nutrient to patients was £55. 6. 4.

HOME VISITING

The Pharyngeal Officer made 69 visits to patients in their homes, and the Health Visitor paid 145 home visits.

PHARYNGEAL FEEDING

The total cost of pharyngeal feeding was £10. 10. 0.

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The total cost of the pharyngeal feeding was £10. 10. 0.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TUBERCULOUS PERSONS LIVING IN THE BOROUGH.

The known tuberculous population decreased from 255 to 250 during the year.

<u>Number of cases on Register.</u>	<u>PULMONARY.</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY.</u>	
	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
At beginning of 1939.	123	79	32	21
At end of 1939.	118	76	34	22

ARTIFICIAL PNEUMO-THORAX TREATMENT.

The total cost borne by the Council for providing Artificial Pneumo-Thorax treatment to Stoke Newington patients was £78. 9. 6.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

The total cost to the Council of providing extra nourishment to patients was £83. 6. 4.

HOME VISITING.

The Tuberculosis Officer made 69 visits to patients in their homes, and the Health Visitor paid 1143 home visits.

DISPENSARY CASES.

The total number of attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensary was 940.

94 attendances were made at the X-Ray Department, 1 at the Dental Department and 7 at other Departments.

The number of new cases examined was 220, of which 52 were found to be tuberculous. 39 patients were sent to Sanatorium.

223 Bacteriological examinations were made and in 59 instances tubercle bacilli were present.

