

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

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STOKE NEWINGTON.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, N.16.

5th August, 1941.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

An abridged report concerning the health of the Borough during the year 1940 is herewith submitted.

In spite of the risks resulting from heavy bombing and the undesirable conditions under which the people were forced to live and sleep in public air raid shelters, there were no epidemics of infectious disease and the health of the population remained remarkably good.

It is encouraging to note that the Infantile Mortality rate of 28.1 in 1940, as compared with 28.2 in 1939, was the lowest yet recorded in the borough. The corresponding figure for London was 50 and for England and Wales 55

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

In comparison with the preceding year, there was a considerable increase in the death rate. This is accounted for by deaths due to enemy action, which are classified as "other violent causes."

It will be noted that during the year there was a fall in the number of attendances at the various Welfare Clinics due to increased evacuation in the latter part of the year.

In view of the scarcity of certain foods, special observation has been made of the health of the mothers and children attending the Centres. No adverse effects have been observed. Preparations containing essential vitamins have been made available at the Centres.

Thanks are tendered to the Mayor and Members of the Emergency Committee who have been ready to assist in the introduction of measures for the safeguarding and improvement of the health of the population, particularly where special difficulties have had to be overcome.

I have again to express my appreciation to the staff of the Health Department for their unfailing loyalty and for their readiness to undertake those extra duties, which it has been necessary to impose upon them in order that the Department might continue to give that service the public has now come to expect and demand.

S. KING.

Medical Officer of Health.

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STOKE NEWINGTON.
ANNUAL (INTERIM) REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the year 1940.

AREA.

863 acres.
 The number of inhabited houses was ... 9,127
 The rateable value £430,198
 Sum represented by a Penny rate ... £1,685

POPULATION.

Census 1931 51,215
 Registrar General's estimate for mid 1940 40,510

LIVE BIRTHS.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate.	593	309	284	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population - 15.3 mid 1940.
Illegitimate.	27	19	8	
	620	328	292	

STILL BIRTHS.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate.	17	11	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 32.8
Illegitimate.	4	2	2	
	21	13	8	

BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

Of the 491 Stoke Newington births 306 occurred in institutions. There were 480 live and 11 still births.

DEATHS.

753	363	390	Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 18.5
			Corrected death rate 18.3

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.	0	0
	0	0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births 28.1.
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. 27.7.
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 37.0

DEATHS FROM:-

CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	83
MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	2
WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	-
DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	-

For the year 1930.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,123.
The value of the houses was \$1,123,000.

It is noteworthy that the number of all deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 15 deaths of infants under one year of age. The infant mortality rate (26.1) is the lowest yet recorded in the borough, the previous lowest rate being 28.2 in 1929.

The causes of deaths were as follows:-

Scrub typhus 2, Congenital debility, Premature birth, Malformation, etc. 3, Violence 1, Other defined diseases 2.

NATURAL MORTALITY.

There was no death during the year attributed to complications of pregnancy or childbirth.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

The following table shows the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, and the number of live births, during the year 1930, and the corresponding figures for the years 1929 and 1928.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

At the Borough's Health Centre - nine sessions were held weekly throughout the year, four of the year at the Infant Welfare Centre, 2 at the Dental Clinic, 2 at the Dental Clinic, and 1 for Diphtheria vaccination.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Infants under 1 year of age 7,792 attendances (119 new children) and children 1 to 5 years of age 2,224 attendances (95 new children) at the Council's Welfare Centres. Wet and Dried Milk Accounting to 22,022 lbs. 54 were distributed throughout the year to necessitous cases.

THE DENTAL CLINIC.

97 sessions were held and 208 patients and 234 attendances.

THE INFANT CLINIC.

25 Dental Sessions were held at which 97 mothers attended 366 times and 106 children attended 254 times. One vaccination was given to 19 children to 33 patients. 10 necessitous mothers were provided free of charge with dentures costing £25 15s. 0d. After denture repairs for treatment and dentures the dental service cost the Council £200 5s. 0d. for the year.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

The causes of deaths (753) were as follows:-

Influenza 8, Tuberculosis of Respiratory System 35, Other Tuberculous diseases 2, Syphilis 2, Cancer 83, Diabetes 9, Heart Disease 180, Other circulatory Diseases 27, Bronchitis 91, Pneumonia 42, Other respiratory Diseases 11, Peptic ulcer 7, Other digestive Diseases 13, Acute and chronic Nephritis 10, Congenital Debility, Premature birth, Malformation &c., 8, Suicide 11, Other violent causes 115, Other defined diseases 99.

It is noteworthy that 54 per cent of all deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 16 deaths of infants under one year of age. The infant mortality rate (28.1) is the lowest yet recorded in the borough, the previous lowest rate being 28.2 in 1939.

The causes of deaths were as follows:-

Pneumonia 2, Congenital debility, Premature birth, Malformation, etc. 8, Violence 1, Other defined diseases 5.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was no death during the year attributed to complications of pregnancy or childbirth.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The total number of bacteriological and other examinations carried out was 117, of which 6 were positive to Tuberculosis and 4 positive to Diphtheria and 1 positive of Meningococcal meningitis.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

At the Council's Welfare Centres - nine sessions were held weekly throughout the greater part of the year: 4 at the Infant Welfare Centres, 2 at the Pre-Natal Clinic, 2 at the Dental Clinic, and 1 for Diphtheria Immunisation.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Infants under 1 year made 7,799 attendances (419 new children) and children 1 to 5 years made 5,524 attendances (95 new children), at the Council's Welfare Centres. Wet and Dried milk amounting to £2,092 11s. 2d. were distributed throughout the year to necessitous cases.

PRE-NATAL CLINIC.

97 Sessions were held and 228 mothers made 994 attendances.

DENTAL CLINIC.

52 Dental Sessions were held at which 97 mothers attended 386 times and 106 children attended 264 times. Gas anaesthetics were given at 19 sessions to 93 patients. 10 necessitous mothers were provided free of charge with dentures costing £35 16s. 0d. After deducting receipts for treatment and dentures, the dental service cost the Council £200 2s. 0d. for the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

137 patients attended for treatment on 437 occasions.

SCHOOL TREATMENT CENTRE.

At the Stoke Newington School Treatment Centre:-
33 children under the age of 5 years attended for treatment making 414 attendances.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CLINICS.

On the 5th August, 1940, arrangements were made for a grant of £50 per annum to be made to the Mildmay Memorial Hospital Sunlight Clinic for the free treatment of those mothers and children referred to the Clinic from the Council's ante-natal and infant welfare clinic.

19 children attended the British Red Cross Clinic, Dalston Lane, Hackney, 348 times and the total number of treatments given was 621.

OPTICAL TREATMENT.

In January, 1940, the Stoke Newington Minor Ailments Treatment Centre undertook the refraction at the Clinic of children under school age for a fee of 8/- per head, and the provision of spectacles at reduced rates. In March, 1940, arrangements were also made with the Queen's Hospital for children, to undertake refractions at a capitation fee of 2/- and for providing spectacles at about 2/6d. to 3/-

STOKE NEWINGTON DISPENSARY.

4425 patients were treated at the Stoke Newington Dispensary, making 10961 attendances. In addition, 784 home visits were made.

HOME HELPS.

Services of Home Helps were used on 48 occasions at a cost to the Council of £169 15s. Od.

INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

Grants were made by the Council as follows:-

£2 2s. Od. in aid of the convalescent treatment of one child under school age.

12/6d. for provision of surgical appliance to one child.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The total number of visits made by the Health Visitors was 4,497.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

7 children in the care of 6 foster mothers were visited on 150 occasions.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

6,003 inspections and re-inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. Included in this total number, were 57 inspections after notification of Infectious Diseases, 398 upon complaint, 1,021 to Food Premises and 156 to Factories and Workshops.

1067 Sanitary Defects were found and remedied.

360 Intimation Notices and 111 Statutory Notices were served.

The Board of Health has the honor to acknowledge the assistance of the following persons in the preparation of this report:

At the District Station a total of 3,819 bottles of medicine were dealt with, and 35 books from the Public Library were furnished with formulae vapoars. In addition, a large quantity of medicines, bedding, etc., used at the A.R.P. Depot and Rest Centre were also distributed.

HOUSING

The total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing purposes was 1,159. None were found to be unfit for human habitation and the number found not to be in all respects reasonable was 112, 352.

At the District Station and 355 Information Notices were issued to the owners of the houses found to be in all respects reasonable.

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OVERCROWDING

On 1st January, 1948, 3 families were living in overcrowded conditions. 3 families were found to be overcrowded during the year. 3 families were rehoused on the Borough Council's Housing Estates, and in 2 instances overcrowding was otherwise rectified. Thus the number of cases of overcrowding was reduced to 1 at the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

52 premises of milkshops resident in the Borough and 62 other premises supplying to the area from premises registered with the Council were inspected.

The District Inspector made 10 visits to dairy premises.

MILK (SPECIAL INSPECTION) ORDERS

1 licence to distribute 3 licences and 25 supplementary licences were issued in 1948.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

1 Inspection House was licensed during the year. 1 inspection was made by inspectors.

DISINFECTION.

The following number of rooms have been disinfected after:-

Notifiable diseases ..	58
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	36
Deaths from Cancer ..	14
Vermin	83
Scabies.. .. .	32
Measles.. .. .	6

229

At the Disinfecting Station a total of 3,819 textile articles were dealt with, and 35 books from the Public Library were fumigated with formalin vapour. In addition, a large quantity of mattresses, bedding, etc., used at the A.R.P. Depots and Rest Centres were steam disinfected.

HOUSING.

The total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects was 1,139. None were found to be unfit for human habitation and the number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit, 355.

43 Statutory Notices and 355 Intimation Notices were served, as a result of which 647 nuisances were abated or sanitary defects remedied.

2,701 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

No house to house inspections were made.

No demolition orders were made in respect of dwelling houses during the year, but 8 houses were demolished in pursuance of orders previously made. 29 Closing Orders were made in respect of underground rooms or separate tenements.

OVERCROWDING.

On 1st January, 1940, 3 families were living in overcrowded conditions, 13 families were found to be overcrowded during the year. 5 families were rehoused on the Borough Council's Housing Estates. 1 on the L.C.C. Housing Estates, and in 9 instances overcrowding was otherwise abated. Thus the number of cases of overcrowding was reduced to 1 at the end of the year

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

89 premises of purveyors resident in the Borough and 62 other purveyors operating in the area from premises registered elsewhere were on the register.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 76 visits to dairy premises.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER.

1 licence to Pasteurise, 6 licences and 25 Supplementary licences were granted in 1940.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

1 Slaughter House was licenced during the year. 1 inspection was made by Inspectors.

FOOD PREMISES.

121 food premises were registered and kept under observation by the Inspectors. The Inspectors visited 1,021 food premises during 1940.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

154 formal and 80 informal samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis. 5 samples of milk and one sausage roll were reported as adulterated, all other samples as genuine

Warning letters were sent to the Vendors of two of the adulterated samples and one dairyman was removed from the register for repeated offences but was subsequently restored to the register by order of the Court.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	17	14
Diphtheria.	15	15
Puerperal Fever.	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	11	10
Pneumonia Acute Primary.	19	10
Pneumonia Acute Influenzal.	8	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	-
Whooping Cough.	5	3
Measles.	38	7
Erysipelas.	15	8
Food Poisoning,	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	5	5

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

No case of Smallpox was notified. Of the 203 births registered in Stoke Newington during 1939, 71 or 35.0 were successfully vaccinated. (Figures for 1940 not yet available).

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were notified 45 new cases of pulmonary and 4 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death rate per 1000 of the population was 0.86 for pulmonary tuberculosis (35 deaths) and 0.05 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis (2 deaths).

TOTAL NUMBER OF TUBERCULOUS PERSONS LIVING IN THE BOROUGH.

The known tuberculous population decreased from 250 to 206 during the year.

	<u>PULMONARY.</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY.</u>	
<u>Number of cases on Register.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
At beginning of 1940	118	76	34	22
At end of 1940	99	59	31	17

ARTIFICIAL PNEUMO-THORAX TREATMENT etc.

The total cost borne by the Council for providing Artificial Pneumo-Thorax treatment to Stoke Newington patients was £124.8.6. and £2.15.0. for Finsen Light treatment.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

The total cost to the Council of providing extra nourishment to patients was £106.9.10.

HOME VISITING.

The Tuberculosis Officer made 55 visits to patients in their homes, and the Health Visitor paid 624 home visits.

DISPENSARY CASES.

The total number of attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensary was 616.

89 attendances were made at the X-Ray Department, and 1 at other Departments.

The number of new cases examined was 143, of which 52 were found to be tuberculous. 25 patients were sent to Sanatorium.

127 Bacteriological examinations were made and in 30 instances tubercle bacilli were present.

