

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

Contributors

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ANNUAL (ABRIDGED) REPORT.

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year 1943.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, N.16.

2nd October, 1944.

To - The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Metropolitan Borough of Stoke Newington.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

An abridged report concerning the health of the Borough during the year 1943, is herewith submitted.

It is satisfactory to report that after four years of war, the health of the population has, as a whole, been good. Some anxiety was experienced during the influenza outbreak at the end of the year - but the cases were, in general, mild in nature and relatively few deaths were attributable to this disease.

Amongst factors contributing to the maintenance of the health of the population are not only the efficient rationing scheme with its emphasis on essential food stuffs at reasonable prices, but also the financial ability of the population to buy the foods to which they are entitled. There is no doubt that the war has raised the financial level of many of the poorer citizens and has thus enabled them, in many cases for the first time, to buy sufficient suitable food and thus to improve and maintain health. This, in my opinion, has been sufficient to counterbalance the potential danger to health resulting from long hours of work, poor ventilation and nervous strain.

It will be noticed that the live birth rate has risen from 16.6 per 1,000 civilian population to 20.1. This is the highest rate since 1921.

The infantile mortality rate has dropped from 45.1 to 41.9 as compared with London as a whole from 60 to 58 respectively. This low rate reflects the care which is given to the babies by their mothers; by the Council through its Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme and by the Ministry of Food through its scheme for the priority supply of milk, vitamin preparations and food, to expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

During the year, consequent upon comparative freedom from enemy action, there was a steady return of the population to London. The Maternity and Child Welfare Services were expanded to meet the demand and there was a considerable increase in the number of attendances at the Council's Welfare Centres.

This return to London emphasised the great housing shortage which exists, and many cases of overcrowding were brought to the Council's attention. Following upon receipt of Ministry of Health Circular No. 2845 in August, 1943, steps were taken to requisition vacant property for the rehousing of the inadequately housed, and by the end of the year, 25 families had been rehoused under this Scheme.

At the time of writing (September, 1944), the "Flying Bomb" attack on London has caused a considerable deterioration in the housing position. Prompt action, initiated by the Central Government, is required, if this is not to be reflected in the health of the population.

In April, 1943, the Ministry of Health issued a circular providing for the grant of maintenance allowances to certain persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. This was an important advance, and the scheme in London provided for the actual payment to be made by the Metropolitan Borough Councils. The scheme, taking into account its limitations, has worked well, but there is a definite need for its extension to cover all cases of tuberculosis, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary.

Scabies was made notifiable in the County of London from 1st August, 1943, in an attempt to bring this disease, which had been increasing since 1939, under control. From that date to the end of the year, 118 cases were notified in this Borough.

A third war-time Nursery for 60 children, was opened in Victorian Grove on the 28th June, 1943. This Nursery rapidly filled to capacity and it became necessary to send the children who could not be accommodated in this Nursery to St. Anne's Nursery, by ambulance.

I have again to express my appreciation of the consideration and support shown to me by the Mayor, Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Child Welfare Sub-Committees, and to thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal assistance throughout the year.

S. KING.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL (INTERIM) REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.For the Year 1943.AREA. 863 acres.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	} Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population - 20.1 mid 1943.
Legitimate.	671	357	314	
Illegitimate.	45	22	23	
	<u>716</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>337</u>	

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 24.5.
Legitimate.	18	12	6	
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	
	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	

BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

Of the 602 Stoke Newington births, 431 occurred in institutions. There were 585 live and 17 still births.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	523	262	261	} Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 14.7.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

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

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.	1	1.4.
No. 30 Other puerperal causes.	<u>1</u>	<u>1.4.</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2.8</u>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	41.9.
(The average for London is 58.0.)	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	40.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	66.6

DEATHS FROM :-

CANCER (all ages).....	87
MEASLES (all ages).....	-
WHOOPING COUGH (all ages).....	1
DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age)	2

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

The causes of deaths (523) were as follows :-

Influenza 14, Tuberculosis of Respiratory System 26, Other Tuberculous Diseases 2, Syphilis 6, Cancer 87, Diabetes 7, Heart Disease 130, Other circulatory Diseases 19, Bronchitis 45, Pneumonia 39, Other respiratory Diseases 5, Peptic Ulcer 8, Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 2, Other Digestive Diseases 8, Acute and Chronic Nephritis 13, Premature birth, Congenital Malformation, etc., 18, Suicide 3, Other violent causes 18, Other defined Diseases 40.

It is noteworthy that 57 per cent of all deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 30 deaths of infants under one year of age.

The causes of deaths were as follows :-

Bronchitis 3, Influenza 1, Whooping Cough 1, Diarrhoea 2, Pneumonia 2, Syphilis 1, Premature birth 11, Congenital Malformation 6, Violent Causes 3,

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were 2 deaths 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 184 of which 4 were positive to Tuberculosis, and 4 positive to Diphtheria.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Infants under 1 year made 10335 attendances (610 new children) and children 1 to 5 years made 5,046 attendances (138 new children) at the Council's Welfare Centres.

FREE MILK SCHEME.

Wet and Dried Milk to the value of £46 18s. 6d. was provided free during the year to necessitous cases in the Borough, compared with £30 17s. 10d. in 1942, and £76 15s. 8d. in 1941. This indicates the extent to which, since the 1st July, 1940, the National Milk Scheme has affected the Council's scheme.

In addition, the Council supplied, free of charge to mothers and children attending the Centres, Virol, etc., valued at £117 14s. 0d. as compared with £126 0s. 10d. in 1942.

PRE-NATAL CLINIC.

165 sessions were held and 358 mothers made 2109 attendances.

DENTAL CLINIC.

117 Dental Sessions were held at which 224 mothers attended 1,359 times and 236 children attended 664 times. Gas anaesthetics were given at 26 sessions to 181 patients. 41 necessitous mothers were provided free of charge with dentures costing £268 2s. 3d. After deducting receipts for treatment and dentures, the dental service cost the Council £491 17s. 9d. for the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

785 patients attended for treatment on 1,829 occasions.

SCHOOL TREATMENT CENTRE.

At the Stoke Newington School Treatment Centre :-

27 children under the age of 5 years attended for treatment, making 172 attendances.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CLINICS.

During the year 113 children made 2,006 attendances for treatment and 1 mother attended 7 times at the Mildmay Memorial Hospital Sunlight Clinic.

At the British Red Cross Clinic, Dalston Lane, Hackney, 43 children attended 678 times and were given 1,112 treatments.

STOKE NEWINGTON DISPENSARY.

6,534 patients were treated at the Stoke Newington Dispensary, making 14,225 attendances. In addition, 543 home visits were made.

HOME HELPS.

Services of Home Helps were used on 51 occasions at a cost to the Council of £237 18s. 0d.

INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

Grants were made by the Council as follows :-

£12 3s. 0d. in aid of the convalescent treatment of 8 children under school age.

£5 5s. 0d. for provision of Obstetric Consultant to 1 case.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The total number of visits made by the Health Visitors was 7,192.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

8 children in the care of 5 foster-mothers were visited on 101 occasions.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

9,997 inspections and re-inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. Included in this total number were 146 inspections after notification of Infectious Diseases, 811 upon complaint, 1,165 to Food Premises and 306 to Factories and Workshops.

1,427 Sanitary Defects were found and remedied.

435 Intimation Notices and 110 Statutory Notices were served.

DISINFECTION.

The following number of rooms have been disinfected after :-

Notifiable Diseases.....	156
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	16
Deaths from Cancer.....	7
Vermin.....	127
Scabies.....	91

397

At the Disinfecting Station a total of 10,777 textile articles were dealt with, and 48 books from the Public Library were fumigated with formalin vapour. In addition, mattresses, bedding, etc., used at the A.R.P. Depots, Rest Centres and Firewatchers' Posts, totalling, 1,897 articles, were Steam Disinfected.

HOUSING.OVERCROWDING.

There were no reported cases of overcrowding in the Borough on 1st January, 1943. During the year, 26 new cases were reported and of these 9 were abated by the end of the year. Thus, the number of known cases of overcrowding in the Borough on the 31st December, 1943, was, therefore, 17.

6 Stoke Newington families obtained accommodation on the London County Council's Housing Estates.

25 families were rehoused in requisitioned property under authority of Ministry of Health Circular, 2845.

MILK.

68 premises of purveyors resident in the Borough and 66 other purveyors operating in the area from premises registered elsewhere were on the register.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 62 visits to milk shops and dairy premises.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER.

1 licence to Pasteurise, 7 licences and 23 supplementary licences to sell designated milk, were granted in 1943.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

1 Slaughter House was licensed during the year. No inspection was made by Inspectors.

FOOD PREMISES.

139 registered food premises were kept under observation by the Inspectors, who made 1,165 visits during 1943.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

113 formal and 54 informal samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis. 1 formal sample (Blancomange Powder) and 1 formal sample (Sulphur Ointment) were reported as adulterated.

A Fine of £5 0s. 0d. and £1 1s. 0d. costs on two charges was imposed on a summons in respect of the Sulphur Ointment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1943.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	114	79
Diphtheria.	5	4
Puerperal Fever.	5	5
Puerperal Pyrexia... ..	13	13
Pneumonia, Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal.	31	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1
Whooping Cough	102	14
Measles... ..	360	34
Erysipelas... ..	14	6
Dysentery... ..	9	4
Malaria... ..	1	-
Scabies... ..	118	-
Enteritis... ..	9	9

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

No case of Smallpox was notified. Of the 134 births registered in Stoke Newington during 1942, 67 or 50.0 per cent were successfully vaccinated. (Figures for 1943 not yet available).

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were notified 60 new cases of pulmonary and 10 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.76 for pulmonary tuberculosis (27 deaths) and .035 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis. (1 death).

TOTAL NUMBER OF TUBERCULOUS PERSONS LIVING IN THE BOROUGH.

The known tuberculous population increased from 250 to 292 during the year.

<u>No. of Cases on Register.</u>	<u>PULMONARY.</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY.</u>		<u>TOTAL.</u>
	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	
At the beginning of 1943.	114	87	30	19	250
At the end of 1943.	129	107	34	22	292

ARTIFICIAL PNEUMO-THORAX TREATMENT, ETC.

The total cost borne by the Council for providing Artificial Pneumo-Thorax treatment to Stoke Newington patients was £221 0s. 6d. and £4 3s. 0d. for Finsen Light treatment.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

The total cost to the Council of providing extra nourishment to patients was £126 19s. 7d.

HOME VISITING.

The Tuberculosis Officer made 62 visits to patients in their homes, and the Health Visitor paid 406 home visits.

DISPENSARY CASES.

The total number of attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensary was 848.

291 attendances were made at the X-Ray Department, and 8 at other Departments.

The number of new cases examined was 302 of which 57 were found to be tuberculous. 44 patients were sent to Sanatorium.

95 bacteriological examinations were made and in 24 instances tubercle bacilli were present.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

No case of Smallpox was notified. Of the 134 births registered in Stoke Newington during 1943, 87 or 65.0 per cent were successfully vaccinated. (Figures for 1943 not yet available).

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were notified 80 new cases of pulmonary and 10 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death rate per 1,000 of the population was 2.75 for pulmonary tuberculosis (37 deaths) and 0.25 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis (1 death).

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