

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

Contributors

Stoke Newington (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.

Publication/Creation

[1945]

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STOKE NEWINGTON.

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ANNUAL REPORT

(Abridged)

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1944.

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S. KING, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL (ABRIDGED) REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the Year 1944.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, N. 16.

25th October, 1945.

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 1944 is herewith submitted.

During the year there was a considerable movement of population resulting from the variations in enemy activity. From January to June with comparative freedom from enemy action there was a return flow to London, but with the use of the V weapons many of the residents evacuated to safer areas.

These changes are reflected in the attendances at the Welfare Centres, although where possible no changes were made in the number or times of the sessions.

In spite of this activity in the fifth year of a world war health statistics were maintained and in some cases improved compared with those of the previous year. The infantile mortality rate dropped from 41.9 to 32.4 as compared with 58 to 52 respectively for London as a whole. The birth rate increased from 20.1 to 21.9. It will be noted that the illegitimate infantile mortality rate was nil.

There has however been a steady deterioration in the housing position in the borough which has been aggravated by enemy activity. In my annual report for 1941, it was stated with satisfaction that there were no known cases of overcrowding on the 1936 Housing Act standard at the end of that year. The situation at the end of 1944 was entirely different. Many cases of overcrowding were known to this department but it was not found possible to remedy the position as all available housing was required for "bombed out" families.

There has been a general deterioration in the condition of property resulting from the absence of routine maintenance and bomb damage. In the early part of the year 15 inadequately housed families were rehoused in requisitioned property under Ministry of Health Circular 2845.

The three war-time nurseries continued to meet a very great need. Owing to the difficulty in finding local girls to act as probationers, a Hostel was opened at St. Anne's on 14th February, 1944 to accommodate 7 probationers and a resident housekeeper. This scheme has worked well and young girls from the provinces have been found by the Ministry of Labour for this important work.

The tuberculosis maintenance allowance scheme has continued to be administered satisfactorily, but experience has confirmed earlier doubts of the adequacy of the scheme. The allowance in itself is not sufficient to satisfactorily maintain the family of a man undertaking treatment, and is particularly inadequate in the case of a man, with a young family, whose wife is unable to go out to work to supplement the allowance.

It is gratifying to note that the notifications of diphtheria have been 2, 5 and 3 during the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 respectively. There has been no death from this disease for the past 5 years. This fall in the incidence of diphtheria has coincided with the intensive diphtheria

immunisation campaign, which in my opinion, has been the main contributory factor in this change.

I have again to express thanks for the support and encouragement which I have received from the Mayor, Councillors and members of the various Committees and all members of the Council, and to the staff of the Public Health Department, who have loyally and efficiently carried out their Civil Defence duties in addition to the routine work of the Department.

S. KING.

Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL (INTERIM) REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year 1944.

<u>AREA:</u>	863 acres.	<u>POPULATION:</u>	35,240
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Legitimate.	727	375	352
Illegitimate.	<u>44</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u>
	<u>771</u>	<u>399</u>	<u>372</u>
			} Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population - 21.9 mid 1944.
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate.	16	10	6
Illegitimate.	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
			} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 20.3

BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

Of the 598 Stoke Newington births, 427 occurred in institutions. There were 587 live and 11 still births.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	511	240	271	Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 14.5.
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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.	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes.	<u>2</u>	<u>2.6</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2.6</u>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	32.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	34.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	-

(The average for London is 52.0)

DEATHS FROM :-

CANCER (all ages).....	85
MEASLES (all ages).....	-
WHOOPIING COUGH (all ages).....	4
DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age).	3

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

The causes of deaths (511) were as follows:-

Influenza 1, Tuberculosis of Respiratory System 19, Other Tuberculous Diseases 3, Syphilis 2, Cancer 85, Diabetes 3, Heart Disease 136, Other circulatory Diseases 19, Bronchitis 35, Pneumonia 21, Other respiratory Diseases 7, Peptic Ulcer 7, Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 3, Other Digestive Diseases 10, Acute and Chronic Nephritis 5, Premature birth, Congenital Malformation, etc, 10, Suicide 6, Other violent causes 53, Other defined Diseases 41, Typhoid 1, Cerebro Spinal Fever 2, Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions 32, Other maternal causes 2, Road Traffic accidents 4.

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

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 25 deaths of infants under one year of age.

The causes of death were as follows:-

Bronchitis 7, Whooping Cough 3, Diarrhoea 3, Pneumonia 2, Premature birth 6, Congenital Malformation 3, Violent causes 1.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The total number of bacteriological and other examinations carried out was 85, of which 2 were positive to Tuberculosis, 2 positive to Diphtheria, and 1 positive to Dysentery.

In addition, 577 specimens of faeces were examined at the Pathological Laboratory, Whipps Cross Hospital.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Infants under 1 year made 7605 attendances (549 new children) and children 1 to 5 years made 4095 attendances (121 new children) at the Council's Welfare Centres.

FREE MILK SCHEME.

Wet and Dried Milk to the value of £21 11s. 8d. was provided free during the year to necessitous cases in the Borough, compared with £46 18s. 6d. in 1943, £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 £126 0s 10d. as compared with £117 14s. 0d. in 1943.

PRE-NATAL CLINIC.

189 sessions were held and 364 mothers made 2027 attendances.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

144 sessions were held and 94 mothers made 120 attendances.

DENTAL CLINIC.

88 Dental Sessions were held at which 142 mothers attended 738 times and 134 children attended 554 times. Gas anaesthetics were given at 15 sessions to 81 patients. 22 necessitous mothers were provided free of charge with dentures costing £106 7s. 0d. After deducting receipts for treatment and dentures, the dental service cost the Council £284 3s. 5d. for the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

649 patients attended for treatment on 1342 occasions.

INOCULATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH.

A considerable amount of attention has been given to the inoculation of children under 5 years of age against Whooping Cough. In all, 253 children completed a course of injections and made 1,029 attendances during the year.

SCHOOL TREATMENT CENTRE.

At the Stoke Newington School Treatment Centre:-

13 children under the age of 5 years attended for treatment, making 130 attendances.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CLINICS.

During the year 59 children made 1,122 attendances for treatment at the Mildmay Memorial Hospital Sunlight Clinic.

At the British Red Cross Clinic, Dalston Lane, Hackney, 34 children attended 476 times and were given 784 treatments.

STOKE NEWINGTON DISPENSARY.

5,701 patients were treated at the Stoke Newington Dispensary, making 10,117 attendances. In addition, 410 home visits were made.

HOME HELPS.

Services of Home Helps were used on 73 occasions at a cost to the Council of £401 7s. 5d.

INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

Grants were made by the Council as follows:-

£4 4s. 0d. in aid of convalescent treatment of 4 children under school age.

£2 2s. 0d. in respect of treatment of 2 maternity cases in hospital.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The total number of visits made by the Health Visitors was 5924.

Miss Newbery

In view of the evacuation of expectant mothers and the shortage of nursing staff, a request was received from the Ministry of Health for the loan of one Health Visitor to an Emergency Hospital for Midwifery. Miss E. Newbery expressed her willingness to go and she was accordingly seconded to the North Herts. & South Beds. Hospital, Hitchin, from the 8th August to 13th November, 1944.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

9 children in the care of 6 foster-mothers were visited on 99 occasions.

SUPPLY OF SHEETS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

A scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Health in the latter part of the year, whereby expectant mothers being confined in their own homes were enabled to purchase utility sheets on production of priority dockets obtained from the Public Health Department. Such dockets were issued on receipt of the midwife's certificate that the applicant was genuinely in need of additional sheets.

8 such dockets were issued up to 31st December, 1944.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

8,957 inspections and re-inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. Included in this total number were 58 inspections after notification of Infectious Diseases, 679 upon complaint, 1,209 to Food Premises and 145 to Factories and Workshops.

1,353 Sanitary Defects were found and remedied.

527 Intimation Notices and 65 Statutory Notices were served.

INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

A second campaign for the elimination of rats from sewers was conducted during the week commencing 16th January, and it is estimated that 1,000 rats were killed during that period.

DISINFECTION.

The following number of rooms have been disinfected after :-

Notifiable Diseases.....	56
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	17
Deaths from Cancer.....	5
Vermin.....	106
Scabies.....	9

193

At the Disinfecting Station a total of 6,123 textile articles were dealt with, and 29 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 3,753 articles, were Steam Disinfected.

CLEANSING STATION.

The total number of treatments carried out under the London County Council Scheme for school-children, was :-

Scabies.....1,447
Verminous Conditions...1,024

In addition, 95 men, 255 women and 79 children under 5 years received 902 treatments for Scabies; and 4 men, 50 women and 24 children under 5 years, received 78 treatments for Verminous Conditions.

HOUSING

1 Stoke Newington family obtained accommodation on the London County Council's Housing Estates.

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

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

68 premises of purveyors resident in the borough, and 65 other purveyors operating in the area from premises registered elsewhere where on the register.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 60 visits to milk shops and dairy premises.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDER.

1 licence to pasteurise, 6 licences and 17 supplementary licences to sell designated milk were granted in 1944.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

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

FOOD PREMISES.

130 registered food premises were kept under observation by the Inspectors, who made 1,209 visits during 1944.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

80 formal and 77 informal samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis. 2 formal samples (Gin) and 1 formal sample (Whisky) were reported as adulterated.

2 summonses arising out of the adulteration of Gin and Whisky were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, on payment of £2 2s.0d and £5 5s.0d costs respectively. A fine of £5 0s.0d and payment of £2 2s.0d costs was imposed on a summons in respect of a sample of Gin.

Foodstuffs surrendered or condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year amounted to 6 tons.11 cwts.3 qrs.10 lbs. and a quantity of miscellaneous groceries. Of this total 3 tons.12 cwts.3 qrs.14 lbs. were bomb damaged.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1944.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	28	20
Diphtheria.	3	3
Whooping Cough.	111	16
Measles.	117	5
Pneumonia, Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal.	14	2
Dysentery.	61	22
Puerperal Fever.	6	6
Puerperal Pyrexia.	11	10
Scabies.	217	1
Erysipelas.	7	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	4	3
Malaria.	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis.	1	1

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

No case of Smallpox was notified. Of the 169 births registered in Stoke Newington during 1943, 81 or 50 per cent were successfully vaccinated. (Figures for 1944 not yet available).

SUPPLY OF INSULIN TO DIABETIC PERSONS.

8 persons suffering from Diabetes were granted financial aid to cover the cost of their treatment with Insulin, at a charge to the Council of £15 4s. 9d.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were notified 89 new cases of pulmonary and 8 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.48 for pulmonary tuberculosis (17 deaths).

TOTAL NUMBER OF TUBERCULOUS PERSONS LIVING IN THE BOROUGH.

The known tuberculous population increased from 292 to 324 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 1944.	129	107	34	22	292
At the end of 1944.	162	105	34	23	324

FINANCIAL ALLOWANCES FOR TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS UNDERGOING TREATMENT.

The Ministry of Health Scheme for the provision of maintenance allowances to persons undergoing treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis was introduced in this Borough in June, 1943.

During the year 1944, 44 patients received allowances classified as follows:-

Maintenance allowances	44
Special allowances	6
Discretionary allowances	6

The total amount disbursed during the year was:- £1,370 8s. 9d.

ARTIFICIAL PNEUMO-THORAX TREATMENT, ETC.

The total cost borne by the Council for providing Artificial Pneumo-Thorax treatment to Stoke Newington patients was £197 18s. 6d. and £12 10s. 0d. for Finsen Light treatment.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

The total cost to the Council of providing extra nourishment to patients was £114 1s. 4d.

HOME VISITING.

The Tuberculosis Officer made 41 visits to patients in their homes, and the Health Visitor paid 626 home visits.

DISPENSARY CASES.

The total number of attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensary was 1,120.

291 attendances were made at the X-Ray Department, and 9 at other Departments.

The number of new cases examined was 266 of which 57 were found to be tuberculous. 38 patients were sent to Sanatorium.

109 bacteriological examinations were made and in 22 instances tubercle bacilli were present.

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

In the latter part of the year, and in the early months of 1945 arrangements were made with the London County Council for the Miniature Mass Radiography of persons living or working in the Borough.

All firms with 50 or more employees were invited to participate. In all 766 persons were examined and of the 302 men examined 7 were found to be probably tuberculous, and of 464 women 14 were found to be probably tuberculous.

The apparatus was installed for this period in Hackney and transport was arranged by this Council. The average time interval between the departure of the ambulance from the factory to its return after the examination was 1 hour.

These examinations gave very valuable information and it is to be hoped that there will be a very rapid expansion of the facilities available.