

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Crayford].

Contributors

Crayford (London, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

[1941?]

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Urban District of Crayford

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1940

BY

C. M. OCKWELL

M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.)



Crayford Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council and Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twentieth Annual
Report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	2,698.71
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	15,896
Resident population	...	...	...	23,770
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	7,049
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£152,294
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£618

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births —Legitimate	...	...	418	212	206
Illegitimate	...	...	10	6	4
			428	218	210

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
18.0.

General birth rate for England and Wales 14.6.

			Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths —Legitimate	...	...	10	7	3
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 22.8.

			Total	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	256	145	111

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
13.8.

General death rate for England and Wales 14.3.

Deaths from puerperal causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	38.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	34.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	200
General death rate of infants under 1 year of age for England and Wales		55
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		—
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health (part time)

C. M. Ockwell, M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H.
(Camb.).

Sanitary Inspectors (whole time)

R. Milligan, Cert.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

F. C. Weston, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

Health Visitors (whole time)

Miss E. B. Kiddell.

Miss I. E. Smith, S.R.N., S.C.M. Health Visitors'
Cert.

No further developments have occurred in the Health
Services under the following headings :—

Treatment Centres.

Hospitals.

Nursing in the Home.

Ambulance Facilities are adequate.

Laboratory Facilities.

The following specimens were sent to the County
Laboratory from this district :—

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	33
Sputa	...	...	...	...	...	62
Others	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bacteriological examination of School Milk	...					23
Bacteriological examination of Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	...	37

Child Welfare Clinics.

The attendances at the Clinics are considered satis-
factory in view of the day light air raids and also the
number of children evacuated from the area.

The average attendances are as follows :—

Toddlers Clinics				No. of Clinics.	Atten- dances	Average
Crayford	...	...	23	772	33.6	
Slade Green	...	...	25	454	18.2	
Barnehurst	...	...	24	823	34.3	
Infants Clinics.						
Crayford	...	...	47	2319	49.3	
Slade Green	...	...	24	763	31.8	
Barnehurst	...	...	47	2066	44.0	
Totals at both Clinics				190	7197	37.9

Milk.

1,364 pints and 1,503 pounds (dry milk) of milk were granted to Clinic mothers and children during the year either free or at less than cost price.

Government Evacuation Scheme.

Number of expectant mothers evacuated	...	15
Number of children under 5 evacuated	...	267
Total number of children evacuated	...	464

Home Helps.

Home helps have carried out their duties satisfactorily to 21 families during the year.

On the 1st October, 1940, the Ante Natal Clinic was transferred from the Methodist Hall, High Street to the First Aid Post.

164 women attended the Clinic. The total number of attendances during the year was 587.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Of the 428 births 224 occurred at Institutions and 70 of these at the Crayford Russell-Stoneham Memorial Hospital.

Health Visiting.

During the year the Health Visitors paid 13,533 visits.

Infant Life Protection.

At the end of the year there were 5 persons receiving children for reward under the Children Act, 1908, and Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

16 visits were paid to foster children during the year. At the end of the year there were 5 children remaining on the register.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

No extensions of Water Mains have been made in the district.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extension of the sewer system has been made. In spite of hostile air attack it has been possible to maintain in working order the foul sewerage system. The numerous cases where drains and sewers have been damaged, have been promptly cleared and only in very few instances has the use of W.C's. and sanitary appliances had to be suspended.

Rivers and Streams.

Except for temporary pollution by oil, due to enemy action there is nothing to mention.

Closet Accommodation.

Approximate number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in the district :—

W.C's. into drainage system	...	...	...	7872
W.C's. into Cesspools	...	...	...	11
Earth Closets or privy middens	...	...	...	4
Pail Closets	...	...	...	9
Number of premises not connected to public water supplies	...	...	...	2

Public Cleansing.

It has been necessary by reason of heavy claims on labour and transport for the repair of air raid damage to increase the period of collection from weekly to fortnightly. Efforts have been made to maintain and increase the interest and efforts of the public in the salvage of material useful in the national interest, with a fair amount of success.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	No. in district	No. of visits in 1940	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	3	24	1	1
Dairies	12	24	—	—
Slaughterhouses :				
Licensed	2	26	—	—
Other food - preparing places, which are, as such, subject to inspection	78	477	10	10
Houses let in lodgings ...	1	1	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	34	70	14	14
Factories without mechanical power ...	12	21	—	—

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the previous tabulation).

Overcrowding	2	Buildings requiring Re-pointing	9
Keeping of Animals... ..	—	Miscellaneous	106
Hop-Pickers Camp	—	Refuse Receptacles	57
Sanitary Accommodation :		Tents, Vans & Sheds	—
(i) Insufficient	—	Smoke Nuisances	24
(ii) Defective	187	Yard Paving	1
Drainage :		Dampness	46
(i) Re-constructed	1	Roofs and Rain Water Pipes	107
(ii) Repaired	8	Floors	12
(iii) Cleansed	134	Walls & Ceilings	1017
Cesspools :		Windows & Ventilation	54
(i) Abolished	1	Baths, Lavatory Basins and sinks	49
(ii) Repaired	—	Water Supplies	23
Offensive accumulations	1		

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by				
Inspectors during the year	...	...	...	5,316

Approximate number of separate premises in				
area	...	...	...	7,687

Notices served :—

Statutory	...	...	...	...	—
Informal	...	...	...	...	713

Number of houses, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	35
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Batches of clothing	...	...	...	30
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Shops Acts.

591 visits were made during the year. During the short days the majority of Shop Keepers closed their premises in advance of the legal hours to allow their Assistants to get home before the blackout.

Smoke Abatement.

Activity in connection with smoke abatement has been suspended for the war period and in one or two instances installation of Mechanical Stokers has been held up.

Swimming Bath.

Retained popularity in 1940. By installing additional ozone cells the growth of algae was reduced and some very satisfactory reports on water samples were received from the County Pathologist.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Particulars of the action taken in 1940 for the eradication of the Bed Bug are as follows :—

Number of		Infested	Disinfested
Council Houses		8	8
Other Houses		4	4

The method employed for freeing infested houses is by (a) Spray—"Lethane" liquid Concentrate. (b) Fumigation—"Sanitas" Roll Sulphur Trays. "Thermatox."

A preliminary inspection is made of all prospective Council tenants.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1). Inspection of Dwelling-Houses.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | 1,467 |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|

Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	2,415
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932... | ... | 882 |
|-----|--|-----|-----|

Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	1,181
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | Nil |
|-----|--|-----|-----|

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | 713 |
|-----|--|-----|-----|

(2). Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... 713

(3). Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Act :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	Nil	
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	Nil	
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil	
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil	
Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority				995
Number of houses built during 1940 :—				
(a)	By the Local Authority	...	Nil	
(b)	By other bodies or persons	...	2	

(4). Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	20
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein		20
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein		150
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	2
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	13

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Periodical inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Farms are made and all Retailers' premises. There has been no cause for complaint during the year.

Meat and other Foods.

Local Slaughterhouses are closed owing to the Centralised Slaughtering Scheme of the Ministry of Food.

During the year, a total of 13 cwt. 0 qrs. 16 lbs. of food was found to be unfit for human consumption, comprising 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 23 lbs. of meat and 5 cwt. 0 qrs. 21 lbs. of other foodstuffs.

Of this amount 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 5 lbs. was rendered unfit through enemy action representing 19 lbs. meat and 1 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs. of other foodstuffs.

Nutrition and General Health Education.

Supplies of Posters and Leaflets on Health matters have been received from the The Central Council for Health Education. The Posters have been displayed on the Council's hoardings and leaflets distributed at the Clinics.

There is nothing further to note under the following headings :—

Adulteration.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Shell Fish (Molluscan).

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 1,006 children presented themselves for Immunisation as follows :—

Name of School or Clinic	Pre-school Age	School Age
Crayford Child Welfare Clinic	133	40
Barnehurst Child Welfare Clinic	193	16
Slade Green Child Welfare Clinic	50	5
Public Health Department	140	52
Central Girls' School	—	53
Central Boys' School	—	61
Iron Mill Lane Junior Council School	—	81
Crayford Roman Catholic School	—	18
Slade Green Council School	—	19
Northend Council School	—	20
C/E Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schs.	—	51
Barnehurst Junior and Infants' Schs.	—	65
Mayplace Road School	—	9
	516	490

Alum Precipitated Toxoid in two doses (0.1 cc. and 0.5 cc.) is now used as routine.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	2	—
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	15	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	4	4	1
Measles	19	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	—
Totals	55	11	1

Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 up- wards	Total
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	-	7
Diphtheria ...	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	4
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	6	15
Erysipylas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis...	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Measles ...	-	-	4	1	1	-	2	4	3	4	-	-	19
Whooping Cough ...	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	6
Totals	2	-	5	4	1	1	10	6	4	9	5	8	55

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 176.

No action was taken.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

CASES			Vision unim- paired	Vision im- paired	Total blind- ness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At home	In hospital				
1	-	1	1	-	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was taken.

Tuberculosis.

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
15	3	—	2	—	2	1	—	—
25	1	4	—	—	2	2	—	—
35	8	4	1	1	2	3	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	5	1	—	—
55	6	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	22	10	3	2	16	7	0	1

Two Tuberculosis deaths had not been previously notified and the doctors were written to in each case.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (with mechanical power)	70	11	—
Workshops (without mechanical power)	21	—	—
Other premises under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including Out-workers' premises)	—	—	—
Totals	91	11	—

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Work-places.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of cleanliness	8	8	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	3	3	—	—
Totals	13	13	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. OCKWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.