

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

Contributors

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BOROUGH OF DAGENHAM



SEEN BY THE
MEDICAL OFFICER

INTERIM
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1944

CECIL HERINGTON, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.



BOROUGH OF DAGENHAM



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REPORT OF THE

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1914

San Francisco, California

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dagenham.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report on the health of the district for the year 1944 follows closely on the lines of those for the preceding war years, the main difference being that certain figures, such as the estimated population, are now included.

It will be noted that the population as estimated by the Registrar General is 91,770, there are good reasons to believe that since that estimate was made there has been a very substantial increase, largely due to returns from evacuation.

The vital statistics are very encouraging, the birth rate of 22.26 is the highest since the year 1931, the death rate remains low, but the infant mortality rate of 39.16 per 1,000 live births is worthy of special mention; this establishes a new low record and is all the more significant when one recalls that it is about half that experienced less than a generation ago. It can fairly be stated that the infant mortality rate inversely represents the health of a community.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Later in the report reference will be found to the low rate of maternal mortality, the actual number of maternal deaths was two, the figure for the previous year was four. The rate per thousand total births is almost exactly half that for England and Wales. From some quarters criticism has been directed against the Council for not providing a maternity home in the Borough, surely the consistently low death rate is sufficient to vindicate the Council's policy of making satisfactory arrangements with Oldchurch County Hospital and the East End Maternity Hospital for institutional confinements.

The following quotation from the recent Hospital Survey for the Ministry of Health is pertinent to the argument "We share the views advanced by the Department's Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and elsewhere that maternity accommodation should whenever practicable be provided in a unit associated with a general hospital, and that small units are unable to maintain the skilled medical and nursing staff required, the optimum size of unit being in the neighbourhood of 70 beds (including ante-natal beds)."

GAS/AIR ANALGESIA.

The use of this service is being extended to meet the increasing demand which is no doubt prompted by good reports of its efficacy. Formerly the Central Midwives Board required that the "second person," i.e., additional to the midwife, should possess certain specified qualifications, this restriction somewhat hampered the scheme as these people were not always available after the Civil Defence Service was

disbanded. It has now been decided that any person approved by the midwife and acceptable to the patient may act in this capacity. The apparatus is now conveyed by the sitting case car of the ambulance service. We extend our cordial thanks to those ladies who in the past kindly acted as "second persons."

DOMESTIC HELPS.

Authority was given at the end of the year 1944 for Welfare Authorities to arrange for the provision of helps for households in need owing to illness, old age and other specified conditions. The beneficiaries contribute to the cost in accordance with their means. This service is distinct from the Home Help scheme which caters only for maternity patients and has been in operation in Dagenham for many years.

CLINICS.

War-time conditions of necessity disturbed our arrangements, the two buildings owned by the Corporation were turned over to the Civil Defence Service and for this purpose radical alterations were carried out. Those using the clinics were subjected to inconvenience and discomfort which they bore with very little protest. There is reason to believe that both Becontree Avenue and Ford Road Clinics will soon be restored to their former use.

A war-time nursery situate in Ballards Road is very suitable for a clinic and this has now been purchased by the Corporation. With a few comparatively minor alterations it will serve a much needed demand and it is hoped to put it into service early in December of this year.

The sunlight clinics which were suspended for a time during the war are now again in operation.

DIPHTHERIA.

A small but explosive outbreak occurred at one of the schools. On information being received the school was visited immediately, a large number of contacts were examined and swabs taken. Altogether 11 cases were confirmed and unfortunately two children aged six and ten years died. Only two of the children affected had previously been immunised and both of these suffered only a mild attack.

Whilst the bereaved parents are deserving of every sympathy, it must be borne in mind that these tragedies need not have happened. Preventive treatment is free to all, children under the age of five can receive it at any of the Infant Welfare Centres without appointment; appointments for the treatment of school children can be made on applying to the Head Teacher or the Medical Officer of Health at the Civic Centre.

Immunisation should be commenced at the age of one year, and a further injection is strongly recommended on entering school.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPIG COUGH.

On a number of occasions approaches have been made urging the Council to institute this service. I have advised against it chiefly on the grounds that the reagents at our disposal are not sufficiently trustworthy to prevent the disease to warrant its introduction. Further, the failures to prevent, which would undoubtedly ensue, would undermine the confidence we have built up after many years of patient labour in the efficacy of Diphtheria Immunisation.

To strengthen my argument, a report has recently been made to the Medical Research Council by three eminent workers which states : "The evidence obtained from this investigation lends no support to the view that pertussis vaccine is of value in the prophylaxis of whooping cough." And again "We should not discard the present vaccine prophylaxis of whooping cough because it is disappointing, but because it sometimes produces quite a severe reaction which has no immunising result."

Many workers are now engaged on the production of a suitable vaccine; when the time is opportune the sanction of the Council will be sought to make it available to the public. I have no misgivings as to the attitude the Council will adopt!

FOOD POISONING.

A factory canteen experienced what threatened to be an outbreak of alarming proportions. The management sought the advice of this department, which of course was readily forthcoming. The Medical Officer of Health and the Senior Sanitary Inspector visited the factory and inspected the appliances used for the preparation of the meals. A defective joint in a potato peeling machine was discovered; this joint was packed with red lead, some of which might have passed into the potatoes. The canteen manager had, previous to our visit, ordered the use of this machine to be suspended until a proper repair had been carried out. Our later enquiries showed that potatoes were not a common factor amongst those affected.

In all 117 persons were questioned, all of these had symptoms of food poisoning to a greater or less degree, the predominant one being diarrhoea associated with abdominal pain, and/or vomiting. Careful enquiry elicited the fact that the only article of diet common to all was beef. The origin of this beef was quickly traced and enquiries made as to whether there had been any trouble experienced by other consumers, with negative results.

Rectal swabs taken from a number of those affected failed to establish the identity of any specific organism as the cause. It seemed quite clear, however, that one particular joint out of the consignment of meat delivered on the material day was the cause of the outbreak.

Fortunately there were no fatal cases, and the symptoms though acute, did not persist for long. From an epidemiological point of view the outbreak presented many aspects of great interest and the investigation was greatly facilitated by the willing co-operation afforded by the staff of the factory.

THE FUTURE.

There are indications that the exercise of the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, relating to the School Medical Service will be largely delegated to the Corporation by the County Council and that when the draft of the promised Bill to establish a national health service is published, it will have regard to integrating the maternity and child welfare service with the school medical service. If events justify this surmise, distinct advantages will emerge; it will be possible to arrange for the medical and nursing staff to supervise the welfare of families as units, the same individual doctors and nurses will be able to watch the progress of the families from the stage of ante-natal care to school-leaving age. This in addition to providing mutual confidence will widen the scope of the staff and thus maintain their professional interest.

I gladly seize upon this opportunity of recording my thanks to the staff of this department, including those engaged on civil defence, for their loyal co-operation during a very difficult year. To the latter I bid farewell, sharing with them the gratitude we all feel that circumstances have rendered their services no longer necessary.

Finally, I would offer my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Services Committee for their continued help and interest in the work of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL HERINGTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Civic Centre,

Dagenham.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(31st December, 1944.)

Mayor :

Councillor F. BROWN, J.P.

Deputy Mayor :

Councillor F. G. THOMAS.

Aldermen :

A. F. J. CHORLEY, J.P., E.C.C.	W. C. MARKHAM.
R. J. D. CLACK.	M. E. MARLEY (Mrs.), J.P.
L. F. EVANS (Mrs.), J.P., E.C.C.	B. H. SAUNDERS, E.C.C.
E. E. HENNEM.	C. A. THORNEYCROFT.

Councillors :

J. R. ANDREWS.	J. E. MUNN.
W. E. BELLAMY.	R. G. MURRELL.
D. E. BROWN.	J. NEISH (Mrs.)
J. W. BURRIDGE.	E. OSBORNE.
A. A. BUTTERS.	A. E. PRENDERGAST (Mrs.)
S. W. DEEKS.	E. S. REDDY (Mrs.).
E. EDWARDS.	M. REDDY.
A. E. GIBBS.	F. L. M. ROGERS (Mrs.)
F. T. GRINDROD.	E. R. SAYWOOD.
J. P. HOLLIDGE.	A. R. THOMAS (Mrs.).
H. L. LYONS.	M. A. E. WARREN (Mrs.).

HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor (Mrs.) A. E. PRENDERGAST, *Chairman.*

Councillor (Mrs.) E. S. REDDY, *Vice-Chairman.*

The Worshipful the Mayor

(Coun. F. BROWN).

Deputy Mayor

(Coun. F. G. THOMAS).

Coun. A. E. GIBBS.

Alderman M. E. MARLEY (Mrs.), J.P.

Coun. M. REDDY.

Coun. A. R. THOMAS (Mrs.).

OFFICERS of the PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Full-Time Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

CECIL HERINGTON, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

(Serving with R.A.M.C.).

JAMES A. C. FRANKLIN, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant Medical Officer :

(Serving with R.A.F.).

HARRY B. CARTER-LOCKE, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Temporary Assistant Medical Officers :

M. WEIZMANN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

G. H. MILES, L.M.S.S.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

L. E. PRIOR (1, 2).

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. W. ALLAM (1, 2).

A. J. JAMES (1).

F. W. S. FOX (1, 2, 3, 4).

F. W. KNIGHT (1, 2).

Senior Health Visitor :

M. SMITH (5, 6, 7).

Health Visitors :

V. A. EVERITT (5, 6, 7).

L. SALTER (5, 6, 7).

E. FISKE (5, 6, 7).

P. SILBY (5, 6, 7).

H. H. L. FREYTAG (5, 6, 7, 8).

D. B. STEWART (5, 6, 7).

A. K. GIBSON (5, 6, 7).

D. E. WALLER (5, 6, 7).

D. GORDON (5, 6, 7, 8, 9).

Senior Midwife :

E. M. BEDFORD (5, 6).

Midwives :

D. K. ANKER (6).

H. MITSON (5, 6).

M. HALL (6).

M. E. RISBY (5, 6, 10).

C. HURRY (6).

M. ROBSON (6).

M. GOODBUN (5, 6).

M. J. STOREY (6).

O. M. LISSAMORE (6).

Clerical Staff :*Senior Clerk :*

B. E. E. DENNY.

Clerk to Sanitary Inspectors :

H. FIELD (I).

(Serving with R.E.M.E.)

Clerks :

G. BALLARD (8).

E. HIGHAM (8).

I. M. BISHOP.

K. W. SKEATES (Serving with R.A.F.)

K. BRIMBLECOMBE (8).

M. A. WATTS.

G. K. HARRIS.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute	..	..	..	..	..	1
Meat Inspector's Certificate	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works Certificate	..	..	..	..	..	3
Smoke Inspector's Certificate	..	..	..	..	..	4
General Trained Nurse	..	..	..	..	..	5
State Certified Midwife	..	..	..	..	..	6
New Health Visitor's Certificate	..	..	..	..	..	7
Temporary War-Time Appointment	..	..	..	..	..	8
State Certified Mental Certificate	..	..	..	..	..	9
State Registered Fever Nurse..	..	..	..	..	..	10

Part-Time Staff :*Consulting Gynaecologist :*

R. L. DODDS, M.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon :

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Dentist :

F. C. RITCHIE, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Public Analysts :

BERNARD DYER, D.Sc., F.R.I.C.

J. HUBERT HAMENCE, Ph.D., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	6,556
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1944..	91,770
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books.. .. .	25,629
Rateable value (December 31st, 1944)	£599,024
Sum represented by a penny rate (approximate, 1944-45) ..	£2,330

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births :—

	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	1,948	1,043	905	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 22.26.
Illegitimate	95	51	44	

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	44	28	16	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 22.02.
Illegitimate	2	2	—	

Deaths	717	412	305	} Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 7.81.
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Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	1	0.48
Other puerperal causes	1	0.48
Total	2	0.96

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	39.16
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..	39.53
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	31.58

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	112
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	4
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	10

Births.

2,043 live births were registered during the year, there being 1,094 males and 949 females. There is an increase of total births from 1,845 in 1943 to 2,043. The birth rate per thousand population was 22.26 compared with 17.6 for England and Wales and 20.3 for the 126 large towns, including London. The rate compares with that of 24.2, 26.5, 30.6, 23.8, 23.6, 20.4, 18.6, 19.6, 18.59, 18.47, 18.7, 18.06, 17.61, 18.77, 19.08, 20.37 and 19.83 for the years 1927 to 1943 inclusive.

The illegitimate birth rate continues to be very low, being only 4.65 per cent. of total births. The rate of illegitimate stillbirths is 4.35 per cent. of total stillbirths.

Death Rate.

Total deaths in district	..	..	..	..	..	472
Outward transfers	..	..	..	..	..	101
Inward transfers	..	..	..	..	..	346
Deaths of residents	..	..	..	..	..	717

Of the 101 deaths of non-residents occurring in the district, 49 took place at the West Ham Sanatorium, 40 at the Joint Isolation Hospital and four at Storrington Nursing Home.

Of the 346 deaths of local residents taking place outside this area, most occurred in institutions. Of these 118 occurred at Oldchurch Hospital, 23 at The Retreat, Great Burstead, 20 at 32a, Spital Road, Maldon, 14 at King George Hospital, Ilford, 12 at 42, The Plain, Epping, 10 at the London Hospital, seven at Warley Hospital, seven at 14, Pope's Lane, Colchester, six at 48, Wood Street, Chelmsford, six at 142, Rayne Road, Braintree, five at Ilford Isolation Hospital, four at East End Maternity Hospital and four at Orsett Lodge.

717 deaths are equivalent to a death rate of 7.81 compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. For the years from 1927 to 1943 inclusive, the local rates were 7.0, 7.3, 8.3, 6.6, 7.2, 6.5, 6.5, 6.6, 5.63, 6.43, 6.24, 6.19, 5.96, 8.90, 8.51, 6.85 and 7.98.

A table giving the causes of death, and the age periods at which they occurred, is given at the end of the report.

Table showing Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1944.

Provisional Figures.—The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population, but for London and the towns to civilians only.

	Rate per 1,000 total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total Deaths (under one year)
England and Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.8	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	7.3	52
148 smaller towns (1931) resident populations 25,000–50,000	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	4.4	44
London	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	10.1	61
Dagenham	22.26	0.50	7.81	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.02	4.89	39.16

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Infant Welfare Centres.

CENTRE.	Sessions held.	Times Sessions held.	Average Attendances.	Average New Cases.
First Aid Post, Ashton Gardens, Chadwell Heath.	Weekly	Tuesday, p.m.	56	5
Valence Club, Corner of Becontree Avenue and Bennetts Castle Lane, Dagenham.	Weekly	Monday, a.m.	47	3
	Weekly	Monday, p.m.	71	6
The Leys Nursery, Ballards Road, Dagenham.	Weekly	Thursday, a.m.	41	3
	Weekly	Thursday, p.m.	54	6
Out-Patient Dept., King George Hospital, Five Elms, Dagenham.	Weekly	Wednesday, p.m.	26	2
	Weekly	Friday, a.m.	65	8
Rush Green Clinic, 179, Dagenham Road, Rush Green.	Weekly	Friday, p.m.	25	2

Ante-Natal Clinics.

CENTRE.	Sessions held.	Times Sessions held.	Average Attendances.	Average New Cases.
First Aid Post, Ashton Gardens, Chadwell Heath.	Weekly	Monday, a.m.	15	3
Becontree Clinic, Becontree Avenue, Dagenham.	Weekly	Tuesday, p.m.	20	5
	Weekly	Wednesday, a.m.	15	3
	Weekly	Friday, a.m.	18	4
The Leys Nursery, Ballards Road, Dagenham.	Weekly	Monday, p.m.	14	4
	Weekly	Tuesday, a.m.	17	4
	Weekly	Wednesday, a.m.	14	3
Rush Green Clinic, 179, Dagenham Road, Rush Green.	Monthly (1st in month)	Friday, a.m.	13	3
York House, Frizlands Lane, Dagenham.	Weekly	Tuesday, a.m.	18	4
	Weekly	Thursday, a.m.	16	3
	Weekly	Thursday, p.m.	16	4

School Clinics.

Clinic.	Inspection.	Minor Ailment.
Co-operative Hall, Whalebone Lane North, Chadwell Heath.	Tuesday morning.	Friday morning.
Green Lane School, Dagenham.	Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.	Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.
Five Elms School, Wood Lane, Dagenham.	Monday and Friday mornings.	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.
Finnymore Road School, Dagenham.	Every second Tuesday afternoon and every Friday afternoon.	Wednesday morning.

Water.

The water supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity. Since November, 1938, eight local authorities in the South Essex Waterworks Company's area of supply have carried out a co-ordinated system of sampling. Each authority takes one sample a month for bacteriological examination and one sample every six months for chemical examination in accordance with a rota. The 12 bacteriological and two chemical samples taken from the company's mains in this Borough were all satisfactory.

The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent properties and no action was called for in respect of any form of contamination. Approximately .14 per cent. of the inhabited houses and .13 per cent. of the population of the Borough take their water from standpipes.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Report of the Sanitary Inspectors.

(a) Nature and number of visits :—

Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	594
Nuisances under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,970
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Milkshops, dairies and vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Foodshops and stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,304
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	584
Infectious disease enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,655
Visits to foster mothers' premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Number of complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	562
Outworkers' premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	144
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Tents, vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Stables	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Hairdressers' and Barbers' premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Shops Act, 1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	34

Houses fumigated	61
Inspections re billeting of war workers	849
„ of food shops following war damage	273
Rodent control	1,024
Other visits	73

(b) Notices served	Complied with.
Statutory	56
Informal	313

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughterhouses.

The arrangements made in 1942 for a District Sanitary Inspector to be loaned to a neighbouring Borough one day per fortnight to carry out meat inspection at the Regional Slaughterhouse has continued. This procedure was found necessary because of the shortage of Inspectors in that Borough and the failure to obtain additional whole-time staff.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Analyses.

Article.	Number Examined.				Number Adulterated, etc.			
	For- mal.	In- formal	Pri- vate.	Total	For- mal.	In- formal	Pri- vate.	Total
Apple Rings	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Arrowroot	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Baking Powder	6	—	—	6	2	—	—	2
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bread and Butter	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cake Flour	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Cake and Pudding Mixtures	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Cocoa	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Coffee	6	1	—	7	—	—	—	—
Cordials	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Crystals, Lemon, etc.	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Curry Powder	2	2	—	4	—	—	—	—
Custard Powder and Flavour	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Egg Powder Substitute	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Essences, Various	5	2	—	7	—	—	—	—
Flavourings, Various	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—
Flour, Self Raising	11	—	—	11	—	—	—	—
„ „ Pea	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Gelatine Powder	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Ginger, Ground	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Golden Raising Powder	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Gravy	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Jam	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Meat	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Medicinal Samples	22	1	—	23	—	—	—	—
Milk	71	—	—	71	11	—	—	11
Mustard	3	1	—	4	2	—	—	2
Paste, Fish	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—
Pepper	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Rennet	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Saffron	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sausages and Sausage Meat	21	1	—	22	—	—	—	—
Semolina	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Soups	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Spices and Herbs	15	1	—	16	—	—	—	—
Spreads	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Stuffing	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Sugar, Icing	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Table Creams	7	1	—	8	—	—	—	—
Tea	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Turpentine	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vinegar	17	1	—	18	1	—	—	1
Whisky and Gin	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Total	270	14	—	284	16	—	—	16

Adulterated Samples, etc.

Serial Number.	Article.	Formal or Informal.	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity.	Observations.
270	Milk	Formal	Contained a little added water.	Vendor warned.
337	Vinegar	Formal	Deficient in acetic acid to the extent approximately 1/9th of the quantity proper to vinegar.	Manufacturers fined £5 and 4s. costs.
275	Milk	Formal	1% added water.	Vendor warned.
276	Milk	Formal	1% added water.	Vendor warned.
361	Milk	Formal	28% deficient in fat.	Vendor warned.
285	Milk	Formal	23% deficient in fat.	Samples taken as "Appeal to cows" were deficient in fat. Attention paid by Inspectors to times of milking and "strip-ping," but only slight improvement. Jersey cow added to this small herd and further samples satisfactory.
292	Milk	Formal	26% deficient in fat.	
402	Milk	Formal	30% deficient in fat.	
414	Milk	Formal	3% deficient in fat.	
401	Milk	Formal	13% deficient in fat.	
428	Milk	Formal	9% deficient in fat.	
429	Milk	Formal	28% deficient in fat.	
430	Milk	Formal	27% deficient in fat.	
434	Milk	Formal	12% deficient in fat.	
435	Milk	Formal	14% deficient in fat.	
502	Milk	Formal	13% deficient in fat.	Vendor warned.
458	Baking Powder	Formal	23% deficient in available carbon-dioxide.	Old stock withdrawn from sale.
528	Baking Powder	Formal	25% deficient in available carbon-dioxide.	Old stock withdrawn from sale.
437	Mustard	Formal	Contained only 0.06% of allyl-isothiocyanate and therefore consisted of white mustard instead of a mixture of brown and white mustard yielding at least 0.35% of allyl-isothiocyanate.	Old stock; to be sold as "Pickling Mustard."
490	Mustard	Formal	Yielded not more than 0.05% allyl-isothiocyanate.	Withdrawn from sale.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	No age	Non-Civilian	Total
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	1	—	8	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	12
Dysentery ..	—	2	4	1	1	9	—	2	6	—	1	—	—	—	26
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	5	14	1	—	—	27
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Measles ..	8	14	12	16	17	87	11	9	2	—	3	—	—	—	176
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pemphigus ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia—															
Acute Primary ..	16	11	5	5	5	14	1	5	3	10	13	8	—	—	96
Influenzal ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	5	—	—	—	—	9
Poliomyelitis Acute ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polioencephalitis Acute ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	2	—	—	1	—	18
Scarlet Fever ..	2	9	13	10	15	101	41	9	3	—	1	—	—	1	205
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	63	54	59	43	50	124	8	2	5	—	2	—	2	—	412
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

	Notified.	Admitted to Isolation Hospital, Rush Green.	Admitted to other Isolation Hospitals.	Admitted to other Hospitals.	Deaths Registered.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	2	2	—	—	1
Diphtheria ..	12	12	—	—	2
Dysentery ..	26	7	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	27	6	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	6	—	—	1	—
Measles ..	176	8	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	—	—	—
Pemphigus ..	3	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia—					
Acute Primary ..	96	30	—	—	—
Influenzal ..	9	4	—	2	46
Poliomyelitis Acute ..	1	1	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis Acute ..	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	18	11	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	205	75	—	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	412	21	—	—	—
Malaria ..	1	1	—	—	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Number of SCHOOL children immunised without preliminary testing	243
Number of PRE-SCHOOL children immunised without preliminary testing	706
Number of SCHOOL children re-Schick tested.. .. (This was negative).	1
Number of PRE-SCHOOL children re-Schick tested .. (This was negative.)	1
Number of SCHOOL children who received a boosting dose	5
Total number of children found to be immune during the year	2

The following table shows details of children who attended for immunisation and were subsequently notified as suffering from Diphtheria, together with observations as to type and ultimate result :—

Age	Particulars of Treatment.	Notified as Diphtheria.	Con- firmed.	Severity.	Results
2½	15.6.43.—0.1 c.c. A.P.T. 20.7.43.—0.3 c.c. A.P.T.	8.5.44	Yes	Mild	Recovered
9	Immunised at Deptford privately. Unable to trace.	3.7.44	Yes	Moderate	Recovered

Deaths.

During the year two children, aged 6 and 9 years, died from Diphtheria, and in each case they had not received preventive treatment against this disease.

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of this disease fell from 376 to 205 with no fatal cases. This should allay any fears that the somewhat revolutionary control of scarlet fever, as referred to fully in my report for 1943, might reverse the trend of this infection.

Tuberculosis.

		New Cases.								Deaths.			
		Primary Notification.				Brought to notice other than by Form A.							
		Pul-monary.		Non-Pul-monary.		Pul-monary.		Non-Pul-monary.		Pul-monary.		Non-Pul-monary.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5—	..	1	—	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
10—	..	3	2	3	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
15—	..	14	15	—	2	1	1	—	—	2	7	—	—
20—	..	8	12	3	3	3	5	—	—	2	4	1	—
25—	..	9	14	2	1	3	2	—	—	6	4	—	—
35—	..	12	1	1	2	1	1	—	1	6	1	—	—
45—	..	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	2	—	—
55—	..	11	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
65 and upwards		—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
		68	49	12	19	12	9	1	4	34	19	3	2

Register.

		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
No. on register 1st Jan., 1944	..	462	338	170	151
During the year :—					
New Notifications	..	68	49	12	19
Deaths	..	34	19	3	2
Transfers into area	..	12	9	1	4
Transfers out of area	..	86	80	54	48
No. on Register 31st Dec., 1944	..	422	297	126	124

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.

1,998 notifications of live births were received during the year; the majority of these were notified by midwives.

Stillbirths.

34 male and 18 female stillbirths were notified, the corresponding figures for registration being 30 and 16. The rate per 1,000 of total population registered was 0.50, the rate for England and Wales also being 0.50. The percentage of illegitimate stillbirths to the total was 4.35 compared with a percentage of illegitimate to total births of 4.65.

Infant Mortality.

80 infants under one year of age died during the year, giving an infant mortality rate of 39.16 per 1,000 live births, compared with that of 46 for England and Wales and 61 for London. The rate amongst legitimate children was 39.53 while for illegitimate children it was 31.58.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases of this disease were notified, both of which were treated in hospital; both made complete recoveries.

There were 18 cases in which a medical aid notice was sent by a midwife to a medical practitioner on account of some eye condition occurring in a newly-born infant. All these cases were visited by the Medical Officer of Health and a Health Visitor. Of the total cases investigated, only two were notified as suffering from true Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Maternal Mortality.

Two maternal deaths were assigned to this district, which give a maternal mortality rate of 0.96 per thousand births. This is a remarkably low figure; that for England and Wales for the corresponding period was 1.93 which also is low.

Work of Health Visitors.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year :—

(a) To expectant mothers	.. .. .	First visits	394
		Total visits	559
(b) To children under one year of age	..	First visits	2,096
		Total visits	6,827
(c) To children between the ages of one and five years	.. .. .	Total visits	14,403
(d) Ineffective visits	.. .. .	Total visits	3,466
Grand Total	.. .. .		25,255

Supervision of Midwives.

The following is a summary of the reasons for sending for medical help by midwives :—

Perineal Tear	.. .. .	105
Prolonged Labour	.. .. .	36
Rise of Temperature	.. .. .	35
Miscarriage	.. .. .	24
Ante-Partum Haemorrhage	.. .. .	24
Discharging Eyes	.. .. .	18
Unsatisfactory Condition of Infant	.. .. .	14
Malpresentation	.. .. .	14
Premature Baby	.. .. .	8
Post-Partum Haemorrhage	.. .. .	8
Watery Blisters	.. .. .	6
Albuminuria	.. .. .	4
Retained Placenta	.. .. .	4
Malformation	.. .. .	3
Jaundice	.. .. .	3
Other Causes	.. .. .	25

331

Notices summoning medical aid	.. .. .	331
For (a) Mothers	.. .. .	272
For (b) Infants	.. .. .	59

Notification that they had been associated with the undermentioned conditions were received from midwives as under :—

Liabile to be sources of infection	..	..	..	..	23
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	13
Substitution of artificial feeding	..	..	..	..	12
Infant Deaths	..	..	..	..	10
Laying out dead bodies	..	..	..	..	1

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

Below is a table setting forth in statistical form the work of the Corporation Midwives, Dagenham Nursing Association and Salvation Army Midwives for the year 1944 :—

	Municipal Midwives.	Dagenham Nursing Association.	Salvation Army Nurses.
Births Attended :			
As Midwife	505	361	145
As Maternity Nurse ..	121	74	9
Miscarriages Attended ..	25	18	13
Visits Paid :			
As Midwife	9,833	6,556	5,459
As Maternity Nurse ..	1,756	1,438	287
Ante-Natal	3,551	1,837	1,085
Ante-Natal Clinics Attended	473	257	95
Gas and Air Administered ..	81	108	7

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 year		1 and under 2 years.		2 and under 5 years.		5 and under 15 years.		15 and under 25 years.		25 and under 35 years.		35 and under 45 years.		45 and under 55 years.		55 and under 65 years.		65 and under 75 years.		75 and over.		TOTAL		Registrar- General's Allocations.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	—
4. Whooping Cough	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	16	35	18
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	7	6	4	7	1	6	1	9	—	1	1	—	—	4	6	4	6
7. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	—
8. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
9. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus (Males only)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	4	—	—
13.f. Cancer of Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	7	—
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	5	2	6	1	2	4	15	9	19	13	—
15. Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	9	—	11	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	17	5	10	7	5	7	2	6	38	31	37	21	—
17. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	7	5	4	4	—
18. Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	7	3	8	3	6	7	7	17	31	10	27	—
19. Heart Disease	1	3	1	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	9	5	3	8	10	9	32	8	27	17	34	19	120	73	93	53
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	4	2	16	10	—
21. Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	1	1	1	6	2	13	5	26	12	—
22. Pneumonia	10	8	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	4	1	5	—	2	1	4	2	6	2	34	18	29	17
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	3	—	3	3	9	7	4	4
24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	2	—	—	7	—	8	1	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	1	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	5	5	4
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	7	5	5	4
28. Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	2	3	1	2	—	2	1	11	7	8	6
29. Puerperal and post Abortive Sepsis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
31. Premature Birth	8	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	11	6	11	—
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	9	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	13	16	16	—
33. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	3	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	4	8	4	—
35. Other Violent Causes	1	—	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	4	—	—	6	2	7	3	5	6	1	2	1	3	30	24	29	24
36. All Other Causes	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	3	3	1	3	1	—	1	1	—	5	10	17	18	28	25	—
	40	40	5	1	7	4	16	16	12	18	23	16	35	29	61	38	78	39	63	41	72	63	412	305	412	305

