

## **[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Shoreditch].**

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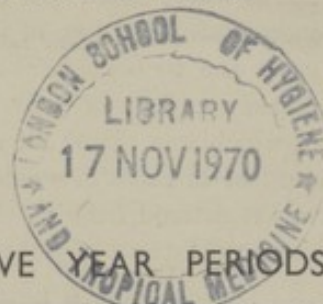
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**ABRIDGED REPORT**  
ON THE  
**HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION**  
OF THE  
**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SHOREDITCH**  
IN THE COUNTY OF LONDON  
**FOR THE YEAR 1943**

BY

E. H. R. SMITHARD, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health



AVERAGED TABULATED STATISTICS IN FIVE YEAR PERIODS

Years	Population	Density per acre	Persons per hereditament	Births	Birth-rate (per 1,000 pop.)	Deaths	Death rate (per 1,000 pop.)	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	T.B. notification rate (all forms) (per 1,000 pop.)	T.B. death rate (all forms) (per 1,000 pop.)
1893-1897	121,749	188	—	4,266	35.0	2,744	22.5	185	—	2.9
1898-1902	118,835	185	—	4,029	33.8	2,646	22.3	196	—	2.8
1903-1907	115,549	180	—	3,810	32.1	2,324	20.1	170	—	3.0
1908-1912	112,305	167	—	3,594	32.0	2,070	18.5	144	—	2.4
1913-1917	101,341	156	—	3,032	29.9	2,002	19.8	145	6.3	2.9
1918-1922	98,913	153	—	2,727	27.6	1,667	16.9	117	3.8	2.0
1923-1927	105,640	164	—	2,538	24.0	1,372	13.0	79	2.5	1.4
1928-1932	98,336	149	—	1,888	19.2	1,318	13.4	76	2.2	1.1
1933-1937	88,044	133	6.6	1,347	15.3	1,104	12.5	68	1.7	0.9
1938-1942	57,198	86	4.7	897	15.7	933	16.5*	52	1.8*	1.2*
1941	36,360	55	3.6	634	17.4	879	24.2	63	3.0	2.2
1942	34,900	53	3.6	642	18.4	611	17.5	51	2.2	1.4
1943	35,460	54	3.7	671	18.9	566	15.7	46	2.7	1.5

\* These rates are based on an average population figure for deaths of 56,324

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report of the health department for 1943 is again an interim statement recording only the basic facts of the work done.

The *vital statistics* show that the number of births classified as belonging to the borough again increased, and were 671 as against 642. The Registrar-General estimated that there was at the same time a slight increase in the population, but in spite of this the birth rate, i.e., the number of births per thousand population, went up from 18.39 to 18.92, which is the highest rate since 1930. The infant mortality rate for the year again decreased, this time from 51 to 46, which is pleasingly low for a borough of this type, but which, being based on relatively small figures, is not likely to be stable. It is no less than 12 per thousand below the figure for London as a whole. The biggest cause of deaths of infants under one year of age was premature birth, with the high total of 13 cases. Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis remained relatively low, only four occurring under one year of age in spite of an epidemic of enteritis in the latter part of the year. Some further remarks on the infant mortality rate occur later in this introduction and are illustrated by a new table placed on the last page of the report. The general death rate, which for 1943 was 15.7, although still above the average for the last 10 years, shows a decrease on 1942 and a considerable decrease on 1941.

With regard to *infectious disease*, points of interest are that the pneumonia group again showed a considerable decrease in mortality, while dysentery showed a large increase in incidence, although there were no deaths from it. The type of dysentery was that due to an organism called Sonne's bacillus and it began spreading about July, 1943. In September, possibly as a result of the warm weather and increase in flies, two of the nurseries were affected. It was of a very mild type but gave rise to considerable administrative trouble and expense in the detection of carriers and to inconvenience in the exclusion of children from the nurseries, one of which was closed for a few weeks. There was also a considerable increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever, but here again the disease was mild and no death was registered from it. Measles remained fairly prevalent, and, much more serious, the notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis increased by nearly one-third.

During June a new scheme of *tuberculosis allowances* came into existence as part of a wider scheme for diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The intention is to help keep the home going while necessary treatment is being carried out. The wartime official purpose is the restoration of the patient to working capacity, and for that reason cases unlikely to be so restored are excluded. The scheme only applies to pulmonary cases. The allowances are "maintenance," and also possibly "discretionary" (for high rents, mortgages, education, etc.), or "special" (for example, travelling, domestic help). Figures to the end of the year are given in the table on page 6.

The borough's *nursery scheme* was completed during the year. Mayfield continued to fill a real need as a short-stay holiday or convalescent home for toddlers, and at the end of the year it was decided to renew the lease for a further five years. Copthorne was open throughout the year but owing to a mild but persistent streptococcal infection it was deliberately not filled to capacity. During the year the third war-time nursery, at Vince Street, was opened and this had accommodation for 62 children between the ages of 0 and 5. Apart from the diarrhoea and dysentery cases referred to above there is little to report in the nursery work. The benefit to the children's conduct, appearance and mental development is clearly seen, and probably easily outweighs the extra risk of picking up infectious disease.

Certain *other decisions* and work require to be mentioned in connection with the year 1943. Included are the following items :—

In January I was authorised to supply insulin to poor inhabitants of the borough suffering from diabetes. In the same month it was decided to appoint two full-time home helps in addition to any part time home helps remaining on the panel. In April it was agreed to institute an evening antenatal clinic. In May I was authorised to enter into negotiations with voluntary hospitals for the provision of extra beds for maternity cases, any agreements to contain a clause stating that no woman be refused admission for reason only that she is unmarried. (This problem of extra beds was later in the year settled by the L.C.C. arranging to set aside up to five beds for us at St. Bartholomew's.) In May the scale for dinners for mothers and toddlers was modified by being made more generous. An additional foot clinic session was instituted and it was decided to appoint a whole-time chiropodist in addition to one of the part-time workers. In that month also the committee recommended for adoption some standards submitted for reconditioning selected houses. In August the compulsory notification of scabies came into force. In that month too the health committee and the housing committee decided to set up a joint committee to deal with the requisitioning and reconditioning of houses to mitigate housing difficulties. In September the health shelter in Reeves Place was closed, arrangements having been made with Bethnal Green for the use of their health shelter if required. In November a Rodent Officer was appointed and shortly afterwards started work with a small staff; by the end of the year the first of two intensive treatments had been applied to the whole sewer system.

In the matter of *civil defence* only a few incidents occurred during the year and the medical services showed commendable keenness in all their work and exercises. Disinfection and disinfestation of bedding used by firewatchers and other A.R.P. workers continued and the mobile hot-air disinfector was of great assistance. Altogether during the year nearly 88,000 articles were treated by this means.

A word should be added about the new table included on the back page of this report and described as *Reproductive Wastage*. This table demonstrates some interesting points. The reproductive wastage rate attempts to show the number of pregnancies per thousand live births which do not result in the birth of a child who lives beyond the age of one year. It includes therefore the number of still births and the number of babies dying within the first year of life. It should also strictly include the number of abortions, but as these are not notifiable and as the vast majority of them occur within the first month or two of pregnancy they may be regarded as of less account than children dying any time between the sixth month of pregnancy and the end of the first year of life. The total reproductive wastage rate, as can be seen, is gradually diminishing, but is still too high. It remained up last year owing to the increase in still-births, and in neo-natal deaths—a serious statement in itself as possibly, among other things, indicating lowered nutrition in the mother. Further interesting points are the neo-natal death rate, that is, the number of babies dying in the first month of life per thousand live births, and the rate of deaths during the rest of the first year of life. It will be seen that the neo-natal rate has fallen from 36 in the years 1905–9 to 22 in the years 1940–43, that is, a drop of 39 per cent., whereas the rest of the first year rate has fallen from 117 to 36 in the same period, which is equivalent to a drop of no less than 70 per cent. The figures for 1943 alone are striking, although too small to be reliable. They show that for the second time on record (1943 and 1942) the rate of deaths from the first month to the end of the first year was less than the rate of deaths during the first month.

## CAUSES OF DEATH WITH AGE DISTRIBUTION

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGES														SEX		Total deaths due to each cause
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 and Upwards	Male	Female	
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
2 Cerebro-spinal fever...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
3 Scarlet fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Whooping cough ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
5 Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	10	8	7	7	2	—	—	30	16	46
7 Other tuberculosis ...	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	6
8 Syphilitic diseases ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	—	—	8	2	10
9 Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	—	3	4	7
10 Measles ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
11 Ac. poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12 Ac. inf. encephalitis (lethargic) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13 Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M.) uterus (F.) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	5	1	6
14 Cancer stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	2	—	7	4	11
15 Cancer breast...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	9	9
16 Cancer, all other sites	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	6	10	15	8	1	30	17	47
17 Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	16	9	2	18	15	33	
19 Heart diseases ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	6	15	35	45	11	58	60	118	
20 Other circulatory diseases...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	10	5	2	12	13	25	
21 Bronchitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	18	14	17	6	38	21	59	
22 Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	6	12	7	1	24	11	35	
23 Other respiratory diseases...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	4	—	7	1	8	
24 Ulcer, stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	3	1	4	
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.)	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	
26 Appendicitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	1	3	
27 Other digestive diseases	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	4	3	3	1	3	11	14	
28 Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	4	3	7	
29 Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
30 Other maternal causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31 Premature birth ...	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	13	
32 Congenital malformations, birth inj., inf. dis. ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	
33 Suicide...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	2	
34 Road traffic accidents...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	6	1	7	
35 Other violent causes...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	5	1	2	1	1	10	4	14	
36 All other causes ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	7	7	11	22	25	29	54	
Total deaths (all causes)	31	4	5	4	1	5	11	21	29	46	93	148	130	28	314	242	556

## GENERAL DATA

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	662 acres
Average height above sea-level	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 feet
Estimated number of houses (including separately-rated flats)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,500
Number of families (1931 census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,156
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£685,000
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,254

	SHOREDITCH		LONDON	
	1943	Average 1933-1942	1943	Average 1933-1942
Birth rate (rate per 1,000 living)	18.92	15.45	15.8	13.10
Still births (rate per 1,000 total births)	35.92	31.67	—†	—†
Death rate (deaths per 1,000 living)	15.68	14.11	15.0	13.28
Marriage rate (persons married per 1,000 living)	23.74	23.39	—†	—†
Infantile mortality rate— (deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births)	46	62	58	59
Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2.98	2.23	—†	—†
Death rate from pneumonia and bronchitis	2.65	1.9	—†	—†
“ “ “ cancer	2.06	1.77	—†	—†
“ “ “ diarrhœa and enteritis (under 2 years) per 1,000 births	7.45	14.53	10.4	10.55
“ “ “ pulmonary tuberculosis	1.3	0.97	—†	—†
Notifications of tuberculosis (per 1,000 population)	2.7	1.72	—†	—†

† Figures not available.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICAL INFORMATION

## VITAL STATISTICS

Population, estimated at midsummer, 1943	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,460
Number of births registered	...	...	671	Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	...	18.92
“ “ still births registered	...	...	25	Still birth rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	37.25
“ “ infant deaths registered	...	...	31	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	...	...	...	...	46
“ “ deaths registered	...	...	556*	Death rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	...	15.68
“ “ maternal deaths registered	...	...	2	Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	2.98

\* Includes 14 due to “other violent causes.”

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(1) Infectious diseases	(2) Cases notified	(3) Re-moved to hospital	(4) Deaths registered	(1) Infectious diseases	(2) Cases notified	(3) Re-moved to hospital	(4) Deaths registered
Scarlet fever	194	186	—	Measles	411	181	2
Diphtheria, membranous croup	62	62	—	Whooping cough	116	45	1
Enteric (including paratyphoid)	—	—	—	Ophthalmia neonatorum	8	2	—
Acute primary or influenzal pneumonia	27	9	6	Puerperal fever	4	3	—
Erysipelas	27	20	1	Puerperal pyrexia	8	7	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	—	Cerebro spinal fever	11	11	1
Dysentery	92	87	—	Continued fever	1	1	—
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	82	—	46	Scabies—first case in house†	231	—	—
“ other forms	14	—	6				

†Notifiable from 1.8.43

## DISINFECTION

Steam : no. of houses dealt with ... ..	1,125	Number of rats destroyed (estimated) ... ..	6,582
no. of rooms dealt with ... ..	1,121	"    " persons (excluding school children)	
no. of articles disinfected ... ..	15,306	cleansed : for vermin ... ..	6
Hot air : no. of articles treated ... ..	87,881	for scabies ... ..	899
Phenol vapourisers : no. of treatments ... ..	387	Shelters : no. of special sprayings ... ..	3,660
no. of articles treated ... ..	30,470	no. of HCN treatments ... ..	1
Number of articles destroyed ... ..	3		

## VACCINATION

Number of names received in birth lists ... ..	268	Certificates of insusceptibility received ... ..	—
Certificates of successful vaccination received ... ..	118	Statutory declarations of objections received ... ..	135
"    " postponement received ... ..	11		

## TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY

No. of cases on Borough register on 1-1-43 ... ..	383
"    "    " added in 1943 ... ..	104
"    "    " deleted in 1943 ... ..	73
"    "    " on Borough register on 31-12-43 ... ..	414
"    " new cases (excluding contacts) ... ..	187
"    " contacts ... ..	167
Total attendances ... ..	2,857
Patients admitted to institutions ... ..	82
Specimens of sputum examined ... ..	380
X-ray examinations ... ..	604
Domiciliary visits by medical officer ... ..	185
"    "    " T.B. visitors ... ..	3,425

## TUBERCULOSIS CARE WORK

New cases and re-registrations ... ..	97
Cases receiving extra nourishment ... ..	598
" given monetary help ... ..	140
" given other help ... ..	82
" referred elsewhere for help ... ..	48

## TUBERCULOSIS ALLOWANCES

Applics. for maintenance allowances ... ..	43
Maintenance allowances granted ... ..	40
do. existing at end of year ... ..	20
Discretionary allowances made ... ..	4
Special allowances made ... ..	18

## MEDICAL AND DENTAL TREATMENT

(1) Service	(2) No. of sessions held	New Cases				(7) Re-visits	(8) Total attendances
		(3) 0-5	(4) 5-15	(5) 15+	(6) Total		
General medical clinic ... ..	26	—	—	87	87	265	352
Gynaecological clinic ... ..	52	—	—	242	242	467	709
Foot clinic ... ..	640	6	26	691	723	5,304	6,027
Diphtheria immunization clinic... ..	152	651	330	81	1,062	3,265	4,327
Dental hospital ... ..	557	57	257	1,179	1,493	4,627	6,120

## FOOD, SHOPS, FACTORIES, ETC.

Samples of food taken for investigation ... ..	589	Inspections of mechanical factories ... ..	714
Initial and routine inspections of shops under Shops Acts ... ..	245	"    " non-mechanical factories ... ..	69
Re-inspections of shops under Shops Acts ... ..	46	"    " workplaces ... ..	78
Inspections under Pharmacy and Poisons Act ... ..	89	"    " outworkers' premises ... ..	161
"    " of food premises and milk shops... ..	1,105	Other Factories Act inspections ... ..	1
		Factories Act—intimation notices served ... ..	8

## SANITARY INSPECTION AND HOUSING

Number of complaints received ... ..	924	Number of house-to-house inspections made ... ..	—
"    " intimation notices served ... ..	1,855	"    " re-inspections ... ..	12,232
"    " nuisance notices served ... ..	292	"    " notices served under section 9 ... ..	—
"    " premises under sanitary notice ... ..	1,590	Total visits of all inspections ... ..	20,703
Letters written to owners and others ... ..	1,078	Samples taken under the Rag Flock Act ... ..	5

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STATISTICAL INFORMATION

## HEALTH VISITING

(1)	(2) 1st Visits	(3) Total	(1)	(2) 1st Visits	(3) Total
Expectant mothers ...	554	1,622	Ophthalmia neonatorum, etc. ... ..	21	82
Infants ... ..	695	4,526	Puerperal fever ... ..	4	6
Children aged 1-5 ...	356	7,174	Puerperal pyrexia... ..	7	8
Interviews ... ..	—	1,231	Child life protection ...	—	35
Futile visits ... ..	—	2,316	Still birth visits ... ..	16	16

## CLINIC ATTENDANCES

(1) Centre	(2) No. of Sessions	Children				(7) Ante-natal	(8) Miscellaneous	(9) Total	(10) H. V.'s Attendances
		0-1		1-5					
		(3) Seen by Dr.	(4) Total	(5) Seen by Dr.	(6) Total				
Model Welfare Centre ...	340	1,496	3,242	635	1,169	1,373	3,390	9,174	562
Herbert Grove ... ..	211	1,268	2,418	807	1,352	937	376	5,083	365
Total ... ..	551	2,764	5,660	1,442	2,521	2,310	3,766	14,257	927

## MISCELLANEOUS ATTENDANCES (INCLUDED ABOVE EXCEPT NURSERIES)

(1)	(2) First	(3) Total	(1)	(2) First	(3) Total
Toddlers' clinic ... ..	387	621	Housewifery classes ...	—	1,049
Post-natal clinic ... ..	76	76	Sun Babies War Nursery	102	12,309
Mothers without children...	—	990	Brunswick " " "	92	11,935
Artificial sunlight—mothers	1	1	Vince St. " " †	61	2,550
" " children	90	1,043			

## DINING CENTRE, 210, KINGSLAND ROAD

(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Ordinary dinners served to mothers ... ..	961	Mothers on register at end of period ...	3
" " " " lying-in mothers	—	Toddlers on register at end of period ...	10
Dinners served to toddlers ... ..	2,024		

## MISCELLANEOUS

Mayfield : admissions ... ..	170	Minimum free milk allowances (M.C.W.) ...	6
" discharges and transfers ... ..	170	Maximum free milk allowances ... ..	16
Admissions to other convalescent homes ...	18	Free milk recipients (C.M.S.)—	
Visits under otorrhœa scheme ... ..	159	end of 1st Quarter ... ..	337
Home help cases ... ..	38	end of 2nd Quarter ... ..	496
Midwifery cases : Council ... ..	118	end of 3rd Quarter ... ..	410
" " St. Bart's ... ..	—	end of 4th Quarter ... ..	472
" " ante-natal visits ... ..	823	Reduced cost milk recipients (C.M.S.)—	
Maternity dressings ... ..	143	end of 1st Quarter ... ..	1,854
Copthorne : admissions ... ..	28	end of 2nd Quarter ... ..	
" discharges and transfers ... ..	22	end of 3rd Quarter ... ..	
" no. resident at end of year ... ..	16	end of 4th Quarter ... ..	

† Opened 11.8.43.

‡ Figures not obtainable.



