

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

Contributors

Shoreditch (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.

Publication/Creation

[1946]

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ABRIDGED REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

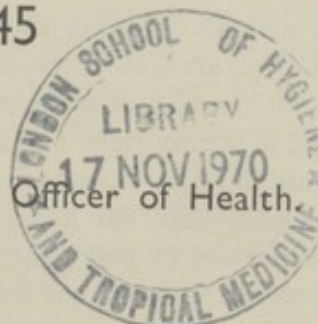
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SHOREDITCH

IN THE COUNTY OF LONDON

FOR THE YEAR 1945

BY

E. H. R. SMITHARD, M.B.E., 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
1944	35,390	53	3.8	663	18.7	584	16.5	36	2.3	0.9
1945	36,760	56	4.0	697	18.9	603	16.4	39	2.1	1.1

To the *MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS.*

Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report on the Health Department for 1945 is once more an interim statement recording only the basic facts of the work done. As stated in the introduction to the last report, I was temporarily released from the Health Department in February 1945 to join the R.A.M.C. for military government work in Germany. During my absence Dr. McGregor was the acting medical officer of health, and most of the work included in this report was done under her control.

The *vital statistics* show that the number of births classified as belonging to the borough underwent a small increase. They were 697 as against 663. The Registrar-General estimated that in mid-summer 1945 there had been also a slight increase in the population, but in spite of this the birth rate, i.e. the number of births per thousand population, rose slightly from 18.73 to 18.96, which is the highest rate recorded since 1930. The infant mortality rate for the year was 39 as against 36, which is again pleasingly low for a borough of this type. It is again below the rate for London as a whole. The general death rate shows little change, being 16.5 as against 16.4. This is well above the figure for London as a whole (which is 13.8), but without knowing the age distribution of the population it is not possible to make an accurate comparison.

At the risk of speaking too soon and of being depressed by subsequent figures I feel it is only right to comment on the relatively low infant death rates occurring during the war. Although this is one of the poorest and most overcrowded of London boroughs, with old housing, badly damaged through enemy action—all of which factors tend to make the infant death rate high—the fact is that, compared with pre-war times when our death rate was substantially higher than the rest of London, during the latter war years it was lower.

The comparable figures for Shoreditch, the whole of the L.C.C. area, and the whole of England and Wales respectively, are as follows :—

	AVERAGE 1929- 1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Shoreditch	72	31	69	63	51	46	36	39
London	63	47	48	57	50	51	51	44
England and Wales ...	62	51	57	60	51	49	45	46

There are many things which may have affected the rate favourably, amongst them evacuation, better wages, better food due to rationing, fairer distribution of food, and the benign influence of an enlightened Ministry of Food policy on nutrition. But a word of thanks can also be said to the doctors and nurses at the antenatal and infant welfare centres and to the influence of the midwives and health visitors in the homes. Nevertheless many of the deaths are still, in the strict sense of the word, preventable, and our efforts must be continued in all directions—food, housing, education, parentcraft, employment, wages, and medical services amongst them—to cut down the rate still further.

With regard to *infectious disease*, both scarlet fever and diphtheria showed increases, as did also dysentery. Pulmonary tuberculosis on the other hand showed a slight decrease. With regard to the commoner infections of children, 1945 was a

measles year and 449 cases were notified as against 101 in 1944. On the other hand there were many less cases of whooping cough, the number being 68 as against 207. There were 20 tuberculosis maintenance allowances in existence at the end of the year as compared with 26 at the end of the previous year. A scheme for mass radiography in connection with tuberculosis, which was mentioned in the last report, operated in this borough between November 1944 and February 1945. Of 725 males examined, 9 were referred for further investigation as probably active cases of tuberculosis, and of 990 females examined 13 were similarly referred.

The *water supply* of the borough is controlled by the Metropolitan Water Board and is relayed from public mains direct to houses. No complaint was received about the quality of the supply. Bacteriological examinations are undertaken by the water board but there are also a few wells located in the borough the water of which in some cases is used for factory work. No dwellinghouses are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

The work of the *nurseries* continued during the year both in the borough (Sun Babies and Brunswick) and outside (Copthorne and Mayfield). Copthorne ceased to be regarded as a wartime nursery in September, 1945 and subsequently children in need of country air were sent there in a similar way to those sent to Mayfield. In addition, preparations were made for sending mothers with young babies. Mayfield, which had been closed in September 1944, was re-opened on 1 February 1945. Although in "bomb alley" it was unharmed.

Comment was made on the care of *premature infants* in the last report. During 1945, 24 first visits and 106 total visits were paid to premature infants and of these infants two were subsequently moved to hospital, the rest being cared for at home; full equipment was lent in 15 cases.

A *social welfare worker* was appointed in the early days of the year to help with the care of illegitimate children, with the domestic help scheme, with the visiting of difficult cases in mothers with babies, and for other social work. 207 visits were paid in connection with illegitimate children and during the year the births of 89 illegitimate children were notified. This compares with 49 for the previous year, and the rate per thousand live births consequently is considerably up—127 as compared with 89 for 1944 and with an average of slightly under 50 for the earlier war years. The domestic help scheme for the sick and the elderly was started in close co-operation with the home help scheme for maternity cases which has been in operation in this borough for a number of years. The main difficulty in the early days of the domestic help scheme was in obtaining suitable persons as domestic helps.

In the matter of *civil defence* this report will probably be the last one to comment on the subject. Until the war ended in the May, there were in 1945 few incidents affecting the borough. The disinfecting station in Cester Street was among those buildings sustaining damage. The medical services generally (including first-aid post personnel, light rescue parties, mortuary workers and ambulance personnel) showed commendable keenness in their work up to the end. On looking back over the period of nearly six years during which the Health Department was responsible for most of the first-aid services in the borough, I should like to put on record my appreciation of the work done both by the whole-timers and the part-timers, frequently in personal circumstances of living which were far from ideal.

The poor housing in the borough undoubtedly keeps up the relatively high rate of *infestation*. The personal cleansing baths were transferred from one of the first-aid posts to Haggerston Baths during the year and 672 persons as against 475 were cleansed for scabies, and 55 as against 102 for vermin. The actual number of cases of scabies notified, notifications being confined to the first case in the house, dropped from 330 to 236.

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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
3 Scarlet fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Whooping cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	7	4	8	3	5	—	—	25	10	35
7 Other tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	2	3	5
8 Syphilitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	4	1	5
9 Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
10 Measles ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
11 Ac. poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12 Ac. inf. encephalitis (lethargic) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13 Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M.) uterus (F.) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	1	1	5	5	10
14 Cancer stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	7	7	2	—	—	13	8	21
15 Cancer breast... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	1	—	—	—	8	8
16 Cancer, all other sites	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	8	15	13	11	1	—	40	13	53
17 Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	3
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	12	17	12	1	—	25	23	48
19 Heart diseases ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	5	4	22	37	41	11	—	60	62	122
20 Other circulatory diseases... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	10	10	—	—	19	9	28
21 Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	17	26	20	5	—	47	26	73
22 Pneumonia (all forms)	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	8	5	1	—	18	13	31
23 Other respiratory diseases... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
24 Ulcer, stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	3	1	—	—	6	5	11
25 Diarrhœa (under 2 yrs.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6
26 Appendicitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	3	3	1	2	—	4	8	12
28 Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	4	4	—	—	9	8	17
29 Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 Other maternal causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
31 Premature birth ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	8
32 Congenital malformations, birth inj., inf. dis. ...	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	7
33 Suicide... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
34 Road traffic accidents...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	4	2	6
35 Other violent causes...	1	—	3	3	—	1	1	6	5	6	9	4	1	—	20	20	40
36 All other causes ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	4	7	8	20	2	13	33	46
Total deaths (all causes)	27	2	5	7	1	5	9	13	29	66	120	160	134	25	326	277	603

GENERAL DATA

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	662 acres
Average height above sea-level	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 feet
Estimated number of houses (including separately-rated flats)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,300
Number of families (1931 census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,156
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£667,000
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,223

	SHOREDITCH		LONDON	
	1945	Average 1935-1944	1945	Average 1935-1944
Birth rate (rate per 1,000 living)	18.96	15.67	15.7	13.54
Still births (rate per 1,000 total births)	29.25	30.97	—†	—†
Death rate (deaths per 1,000 living)	16.40	14.66	13.8	13.94
Marriage rate (persons married per 1,000 living)...	27.64	24.67	—†	—†
Infantile mortality rate— (deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births)	39	54	44	55
Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	1.43	2.29	—†	—†
Death rate from pneumonia and bronchitis	2.83	1.94	—†	—†
“ “ “ cancer	2.50	1.93	—†	—†
“ “ “ diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years) per 1,000 births	8.61	12.60	7.6	10.15
“ “ “ pulmonary tuberculosis	0.95	0.98	—†	—†
Notifications of tuberculosis (per 1,000 population)	2.12	1.77	—†	—†

† Figures not available.

PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICAL INFORMATION

VITAL STATISTICS

Population, estimated at midsummer, 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,760
Number of births registered	...	...	697	Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	18.96
“ “ stillbirths registered	...	...	21	Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	30.13
“ “ infant deaths registered	...	...	27	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	...	...	...	39
“ “ deaths registered	...	...	603*	Death rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	16.40
“ “ maternal deaths registered	...	...	1	Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	1.43

* Includes 40 due to “other violent causes.”

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(1) Infectious diseases	(2) Cases notified	(3) Re- moved to hospital	(4) Deaths regis- tered	(1) Infectious diseases	(2) Cases notified	(3) Re- moved to hospital	(4) Deaths regis- tered
Scarlet fever	109	80	—	Measles	449	139	1
Diphtheria, membranous croup	55	55	—	Whooping cough	68	29	—
Enteric (including paratyphoid)	—	—	—	Ophthalmia neonatorum	5	1	—
Acute primary or influenzal pneumonia	28	10	3	Puerperal fever	2	2	—
Erysipelas	17	9	—	Puerperal pyrexia	4	4	—
Acute poliomyelitis	3	3	—	Cerebro spinal fever	8	8	1
Dysentery	96	87	—	Continued fever	1	1	—
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	64	—	35	Scabies—first case in house	236	2	—
“ other forms	14	—	5				

DISINFECTION

Steam : no. of houses dealt with	773	Number of rats destroyed (estimated)	15,461
no. of rooms dealt with	746	" " persons (excluding school children)	
no. of articles disinfected	11,110	cleansed : for vermin	55
Hot air : no. of articles treated	22,230	for scabies	672
Phenol vapourisers : no. of treatments	50	Shelters : no. of special sprayings	684
no. of articles treated	5,113	no. of HCN treatments	—
Number of articles destroyed	48		

VACCINATION

Number of names received in birth lists ...	261	Certificates of insusceptibility received ...	—
Certificates of successful vaccination received	162	Statutory declarations of objections received	86
" " postponement received ...	—		

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY

No. of cases on Borough register on 1-1-45...	1,056
" " " added in 1945	105
" " " deleted in 1945	162
" " " on Borough register on 31-12-45	999
" " new cases (excluding contacts)	218
" " contacts	147
Total attendances	2,988
Patients admitted to institutions	67
Specimens of sputum examined	412
X-ray examinations	719
Domiciliary visits by medical officer	115
" " " T.B. visitors	3,755

TUBERCULOSIS CARE WORK

New cases and re-registrations	78
Cases receiving extra nourishment	114
" given monetary help	107
" given other help	81
" referred elsewhere for help	41

TUBERCULOSIS ALLOWANCES

Applics. for maintenance allowances	33
Maintenance allowances granted	33
do. existing at end of year	20
Discretionary allowances made	8
Special allowances made	16

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	29	—	—	86	86	232	318
Gynaecological clinic	50	—	—	250	250	557	807
Foot clinic	621	8	23	466	497	6,592	7,089
Diphtheria immunization clinic... ..	76	486	81	7	574	1,428	2,002
Dental hospital	559	94	299	2,297	2,690	4,597	7,287

FOOD, SHOPS, FACTORIES, ETC.

Samples of food taken for investigation ...	541	Inspections of mechanical factories	542
Initial and routine inspections of shops under Shops Acts	200	" " non-mechanical factories	98
Re-inspections of shops under Shops Acts ...	18	" " workplaces	86
Inspections under Pharmacy and Poisons Act	113	" " outworkers' premises	111
" of food premises and milk shops...	1,414	Other Factories Act inspections	—
		Factories Act—intimation notices served ...	14

SANITARY INSPECTION AND HOUSING

Number of complaints received	1,593	Number of house-to-house inspections made	216
" " intimation notices served	2,191	" " re-inspections	12,082
" " nuisance notices served	414	" " notices served under section 9	—
" " premises under sanitary notice	675	Total visits of all inspections	21,180
Letters written to owners and others	1,169	Samples taken of Rag Flock	3

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STATISTICAL INFORMATION

HEALTH VISITING

(1)	(2) 1st Visits	(3) Total	(1)	(2) 1st Visits	(3) Total
Expectant mothers... ..	663	1,898	Puerperal fever	1	1
Infants	722	4,428	Puerperal pyrexia	5	5
Children aged 1-5	396	6,317	Child life protection	—	59
Interviews	—	2,081	Stillbirth visits	19	23
Futile visits	—	2,228	Premature Infants... ..	24	106
Ophthalmia neonatorum, etc.	16	56			

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	549	1,884	4,170	1,377	2,373	2,577	2,878	12,006	1,129
Britannia Walk Centre*	24	170	326	104	155	—	1	474	44
Total	573	2,054	4,496	1,481	2,528	2,577	2,879	12,480	1,773

MISCELLANEOUS ATTENDANCES (INCLUDED ABOVE EXCEPT NURSERIES)

(1)	(2) First	(3) Total	(1)	(2) First	(3) Total
Toddlers' clinic	234	497	Housewifery classes	—	—
Postnatal clinic	40	40	Sun Babies War Nursery	61	10,754
Mothers without children... ..	—	194	Brunswick	58	14,055
Artificial sunlight—mothers	—	—			
.. .. children	100	2,147			

DINING CENTRES

(1)	(2) 210, Kingsland Rd.	(3) 108, Shepherdess Walk†	(4) Total
Ordinary dinners served to mothers	3,056	236	3,292
.. .. lying-in mothers	—	—	—
Dinners served to toddlers	3,816	221	4,037
Mothers on register at end of year	20	6	26
Toddlers on register at end of year	26	10	36

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayfield: Admissions	140	Visits under otorrhœa scheme	5
.. Discharges and transfers	132	Minimum free milk allowances (M. & C.W.)	21
Admissions to other convalescent homes	15	Maximum free milk allowances (M. & C.W.)	61
Home help cases	16	Free milk recipients (C.M.S.) :—	
Midwifery : Borough midwives' cases	92	End of 1st quarter	97
.. Antenatal visits	848	.. 2nd	143
Maternity dressings	117	.. 3rd	119
Copthorne : Admissions †	39	.. 4th	152
.. Discharges and transfers	34	Social worker's visits	215
.. No. resident at end of year	5		

* Opened 4-10-45.

† .. 1-10-45.

‡ Released by Ministry of Health as Wartime Nursery on 7-9-45.



GENERAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION

District nursing association :—				Number of common lodging houses	1	
cases visited	81	Public mortuary—bodies received	298	Food and Drugs Acts :—		
total visits	852	" " post-mortem examinations	287	Number of informal samples taken ...	481	
Child life protection :—				" " " adulterated	24	
children received	3	" " formal samples taken ...	119	" " " adulterated ...	14	
cases on register	4	Legal proceedings taken	2	Total legal proceedings taken (none dismissed)	9	
total visits	59	Persons receiving domiciliary relief :—				
Total bacteriological and pathological examinations made				1,990	at end of 1st quarter	243
Social Welfare :—				" " 2nd " 	351	
domestic help cases	17	" " 3rd " 	348	" " 4th " 	356	
visits and interviews	1,318					

TUBERCULOSIS

(1) Year	(2) Pop. (nearest '000)	(3) Total notifi- cations	(4) Notifi- cation rate	Pulmonary notifications							(11) Percentage of M & F in col. (7)		
				(5) 0—5	(6) 5—15	(7)		(8)		(9) 35+			(10) Total
						M.	F.	M.	F.				
1913 ...	109	905	8.3	28	88	109		494		719			
1914 ...	108	604	5.6	18	46	55		359		478			
1915 ...	102	559	5.5	17	38	61		313		429			
1916 ...	99	538	5.4	15	38	52		265		370			
1917 ...	88	577	6.6	10	47	46	38	57	35	221	454	55	45
*1918— 1922	99	368	3.7	6	32	31	28	34	31	148	311	52	48
*1923— 1927	106	271	2.5	3	14	22	28	21	19	110	219	44	56
*1928— 1932	98	215	2.2	2	14	25	30	17	17	72	176	45	55
*1933— 1937	88	147	1.7	2	8	15	20	12	11	53	121	43	57
*1938— 1942	57	101	1.8	2	5	14	18	7	6	32	84	43	57
1943 ...	35	96	2.7	4	6	10	22	2	5	33	82	31	69
1944 ...	35	83	2.3	4	8	10	12	4	4	33	75	45	55
1945 ...	37	78	2.1	3	5	12	15	6	2	21	64	44	56

* Averaged.

REPRODUCTIVE WASTAGE IN 5-YEAR PERIODS

(1) Period	(2) Stillbirth rate	(3) Neonatal death rate	(4) Rest of 1st year death rate	(5) Total infant mortality rate = (3) + (4).	(6) Total wastage rate = (2) + (3) + (4)
1895-99	—	—	—	197	—
1900-04	—	—	—	187	—
1905-09	—	36	117	153	—
1910-14	—	39	110	149	—
1915-19	—	41	98	139	—
1920-24	22	33	63	96	118
1925-29	25	25	53	78	103
1930-34	31	23	52	75	106
1935-39	35	19	36	55	90
1940-44	29	20	33	53	82
1945... ..	30	17	22	39	69

A blank indicates that figures are not recorded.

I am, Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen, your obedient servant

E. H. R. SMITHARD, *Medical Officer of Health.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TOWN HALL, OLD STREET, E.C.1.
23 August, 1946.