

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

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STEPNEY.

ANNUAL REPORT
(Abridged)

FOR THE YEAR 1940 .

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
ADMINISTRATIVE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER

F. R. O'SHIEL, L.R.C.P.I., L.M., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH A

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC ANALYST.

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26/Reg

5/3

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1911

TO THE PRESIDENT

OF THE UNIVERSITY

OF CHICAGO

FROM THE FACULTY

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

AND THE STUDENTS

OF THE UNIVERSITY

OF CHICAGO

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION

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Original on 438/10000.
Metropolitan Borough of Stepney
Medical Officer of Health's Report 1940
Please note the following corrections-

Page 1 of Preface

Death rate should be 20.0
Notifications of Tuberculosis received
Total = 269. (instead of 409)

Page 3 of Report

Notifications of Tuberculosis received
Total = 269 (instead of 409)

(1405) W14698/963
2,000,000 5/39 JCSL,PL
Gp644/230
(REGIMITE)

Public Health Department,
43, White Horse Road,
Stepney, E.1.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Metropolitan Borough of Stepney.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

An abridged report in accordance with the Ministry's suggestion is herewith submitted to you for the year 1940.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough was 136,030 but the actual resident population was probably much lower especially during the latter half of the year. Because of war conditions the population fluctuated and no accurate comparisons can be made with the figures of former years.

The birth rate rose to 15.1 from last year's rate of 12.5

The death rate increased from 12.05 in 1939 to 20.5 in 1940. The increase in the death rate was mainly due to enemy action.

The death rate of infants under 1 year of age was 43.1 per thousand live births - the lowest recorded in the Borough - and last year was 53.7.

Maternal mortality also has decreased from 3.35 per thousand births in 1939 to 2.39 in 1940.

The incidence of infectious disease during the year was remarkably and surprisingly low - a matter for satisfaction considering the very unfavourable living conditions prevailing during the period of air raids in the latter half of the year - only 867 notifications were received in 1940 compared with 1643 in the previous year. Scarlet fever decreased from 413 to 135, Diphtheria from 204 to 166, Pneumonia from 219 to 142, and Whooping Cough from 546 to 44. The only increases of note were Measles from 50 to 209, Cerebro-spinal Fever from 9 to 50 and Enteric Fever from 3 to 8 compared with last year.

There were no cases of Smallpox.

The number of notifications of Tuberculosis received during the year was 409.

All the peace time health services carried on throughout the year without diminution. Many new responsibilities were placed upon the Council in connection with Civil Defence, air raid shelters and evacuation which towards the end of the year increased in urgency, and much credit must be given to the staff of the Health Department for the willingness with which they shouldered their additional burdens.

These duties included shelter visiting, inspection of war damaged properties, salvage of war damaged foodstuffs, supervision of Stretcher Party Depots and First Aid Posts, training and control of several hundred Civil Defence personnel and the clerical duties connected with their wages, stores and equipment. The urgent establishment of Medical Aid Posts in

shelters and supervision of their staff, control of emergency mortuaries, provision and supervision of motor transport for the Casualty Services, arrangements for meals, canteens, laundry, disinfection, medical inspection etc. Rotas of the staff also undertook night duty at the Civil Defence Report and Control Centre and many other incidental duties.

I desire to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of all Committees associated with the work of this Department and my gratitude to the staff for the splendid work they have put in and the cordial assistance they have given me during a very trying and difficult year.

I am,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

F. R. O'SHIEL
Medical Officer of Health.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STEPNEY.

ANNUAL (ABRIDGED) REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1940.

<u>AREA OF BOROUGH (in acres)</u>	1902.766
<u>POPULATION (Registrar-General's estimate)</u>	136,030

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Legitimate	2040	1009	1031	Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population15.7
Illegitimate	104	53	51	
	2144	1062	1082	

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	97	61	36	Rate per 1000 total (Live and still) births 41.2
<u>Total births.</u>	2241	1123	1118	

<u>DEATHS.</u>	2729	1532	1197	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population20.0
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DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

		Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis.....2		0.95
Other puerperal causes....3		1.44
	<u>5</u>	<u>2.39</u>

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:-

All infants per 1000 live births.....	43.1
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.....	40.7
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births..	86.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	292
" " Measles " "	NIL
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).....	NIL
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	10

RATES FOR ENGLAND, WALES AND LONDON COMPARED WITH RATES FOR THE
BOROUGH OF STEPNEY.

	England & Wales.	London.	Stepney.
Live Births.	14.6	13.7	15.7
Deaths.	14.3	17.8	20.0
Infant Mortality.	55.0	50.0	43.1
Puerperal Causes.	2.16	(not available).	2.39

NURSING IN THE HOME. This work was continued during the year and the total number of visits was 332, being to 16 cases of measles.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Total number of Bacteriological Examinations amounted to 665 for Diphtheria Bacilli, (of these 66 were found to be positive) and 2 for Typhoid Bacilli, (neither of these was found to be positive).

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.

Number of attendances at the Dispensary.	4028
" " consultations with medical practitioners -	
Personal	284
Other	561
" " visits by Tuberculosis Officers to homes.	446
" " specimens of sputum examined	696
(of these 105 were positive)	
" " X-ray examinations made	714
" " children boarded out	14
" " visits by Tuberculosis Health Visitors to homes.	5471

Special treatment was given to Tuberculous patients as follows:-

Phumo-thorax refills to 73 patients necessitating	663	attendances
Finsen light to 3 patients necessitating	14	"
Gold injections to 1 patient necessitating	3	"

To houses and other premises (Complaints, Nuisances, Infectious Diseases, Restaurants, Lodging Houses, etc).....	9,794
Miscellaneous Inspections.....	935
To Factories and other premises under Factories Act.....	1,336
Number of re-visits.....	9,430
" " Intimations served.....	4,473
" " Statutory Notices.....	950
" " Summonses taken out.....	10
" " Visits to Air Raid Shelters.....	590
" " Visits to Rest and Feeding Centres.....	37

HOUSING. The Sanitary Inspectors made 27,816 visits to houses damaged as a result of enemy action between September and the end of the year, and undertook the inspection of such houses to ascertain their habitability prior to the execution of first aid repairs or rehousing.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. Total number of inspections and re-inspections made by the four Inspectors engaged in the supervision and inspection of food amounted to 9,429. In addition 36 week-end inspections were made by the District Sanitary Inspectors of the market places of the Borough.

Legal Proceedings were taken out in 15 instances. The quantity of foodstuffs destroyed during the year amounted to 379 tons under the Public Health Imported Food Regulations, and 607 tons under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936. (see also the Analyst's report).

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (Other than Tuberculosis) - 867 notifications were received during the year, particulars of which are given as follows:- Scarlet Fever 135, Diphtheria 166, Enteric Fever 8, Measles 209, Puerperal Fever 6, Puerperal Pyrexia 17, Erysipelas 66, Cerebro-spinal Fever 50, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 6, Food Poisoning 8, Membranous Croup 1, Dysentery 7, Malaria 2, Pneumonia 142 and Whooping Cough 44. Total 867.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS. Pulmonary 236, Non-Pulmonary 33. Total 409.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:- Total attendances at clinics 714, number of inoculations given 439, number of Immunisation Certificates given 89, number still in course of treatment at end of year and not yet completed 182.

BUG ERADICATION:- Before being housed in Council flats 126 families had their furniture and effects treated in the Council's Hydrogen Cyanide Chamber to prevent bug infestation. The furniture and effects of 2 families were similarly dealt with prior to their removal to flats owned by the Stepney Housing Trust. 2,346 inspections and re-inspections were carried out by the Inspectors on bug eradication. 181 premises and 234 rooms were fumigated and 417 premises and 874 rooms were sprayed during the year. 23 premises were inspected and disinfected prior to removal to London County Council flats.

CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION:- 116 adults were cleansed during the year because of vermin. 1,159 rooms were fumigated because of infectious disease and 503 because of pulmonary tuberculosis.

36,839 second-hand articles of clothing were disinfected prior to

export. The total number of articles disinfected by steam for all purposes was 88,679.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION: No cases of smallpox were notified. There were 2,466 births registered during 1939, of these 1,402 were successfully vaccinated. 1,631 Statutory declarations were received.

F.R. O'SHIEL.

Medical Officer of Health.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STEPNEY.

CAUSES OF ALL DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Total Deaths 2729. Mortality Rate 20.0

CAUSES OF DEATH	Totals.		Under 1 Year	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and over
	M.	F.						
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	3	-	-	-	3	2	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	4	2	-	8	4	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	91	39	1	2	65	51	11	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	11	1	3	1	9	2	1
8. Syphilitic disease.	20	7	1	-	-	3	12	11
9. Influenza	12	7	1	-	-	3	9	6
10. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus.	15	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Cancer of uterus	-	15	-	-	-	3	8	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	42	22	-	-	-	1	20	33
15. Cancer of breast	1	25	-	-	-	3	14	9
16. Cancer of all other sites	109	63	1	-	-	16	72	83
17. Diabetes	9	17	-	-	-	2	8	16
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	56	80	-	-	-	2	43	91
19. Heart disease	392	293	-	1	2	36	136	510
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system.	48	53	-	-	-	1	23	77
21. Bronchitis	148	92	4	-	-	6	57	173
22. Pneumonia	87	80	15	8	-	8	40	96
23. Other respiratory diseases	22	12	-	1	-	3	13	17
24. Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum	20	11	-	-	-	3	12	16
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.)	7	3	8	2	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	4	3	-	1	-	3	2	1
27. Other digestive diseases.	23	29	-	-	-	9	21	22
28. Nephritis	22	26	-	-	-	10	17	21
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis.	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
31. Premature birth.	18	7	25	-	-	-	-	-
32. Congenital malformations birth injury, infantile disease.	15	9	20	1	1	1	1	-
33. Suicide	11	10	-	-	-	8	10	3
34. Road Traffic accidents	20	12	-	1	4	7	10	10
35. Other violent causes	216	217	4	11	22	174	126	96
36. All other causes	110	44	7	2	3	19	44	79
TOTALS	1532	1197	86	15	39	405	768	1396

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STEPNEY.

P.H.C. 21.4.42.

Summary of Borough Analyst's Annual Report for
the year 1940.

During the year, 1,381 samples were submitted to me for examination. Of these 1,313 consisted of Foods and Drugs and the remaining 68 samples were submitted by the various Borough Departments and private purchasers.

Of the 1,313 samples of Foods and Drugs, 556 samples were taken formally and 38 samples or 6.8% were adulterated. Of 757 samples taken informally 56 samples or 7.4% were adulterated, making a total of 1,313 samples, of which 94 samples or 7.2% were adulterated.

Of the above 1,313 samples, 1,202 consisted of foods of which 84 or 7.0% were adulterated. 10 of these samples contained permitted preservative and one sample contained preservative without declaration. Of the remaining 111 samples consisting of drugs, 10 or 9.0% were adulterated.

Legal Proceedings.

Offences were committed in 94 cases. These were dealt with as shown below:-

Adulterated.

	(Proceedings.	23
Formal	(Caution.	12
	(No action.	1
Informal		58
		<u>94</u>

Fines and costs totalled £101.10.0d.

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

<u>Nature.</u>	<u>No. examined.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Prosecutions.</u>	<u>Fines.</u>	<u>Costs.</u>
<u>Foods.</u>						
Buttered						
Rolls.	198	14	31	13	£26.0.0.	£25.4.0.
Butter.	6	-	1	-	- - -	- - -
Milk.	683	14	7	6	£2.0.0.	£16.16.0.
Ground Ginger.	6	1	2	-	- - -	- - -
Cream Cheese.	16	4	5	4	£21.0.0.	£10.10.0.
Cooking fat.	2	-	1	-	- - -	- - -
Lard.	6	1	1	-	- - -	- - -
Vinegar.	4	-	1	-	- - -	- - -
Sausage.	7	-	1	-	- - -	- - -
<u>Drugs.</u>						
Ammoniated						
Quinine Tablets.	1	1	-	-	- - -	- - -
Tincture of						
Iodine.	13	1	3	-	- - -	- - -
Saccharin						
Tablets.	6	-	1	-	- - -	- - -
Tartaric Acid.	3	-	1	-	- - -	- - -
Zinc Ointment.	12	-	1	-	- - -	- - -
Olive Oil.	5	-	2	-	- - -	- - -
		36	58	23	£49.0.0.	£52.10.0.

The composition of 683 milk samples including 21 adulterated samples was: Fat, 3.48%, and solids-not-fat 8.63%.

18 samples examined for the Borough of Finsbury are not included.

14 samples of milk taken from hospitals etc. averaged:- Fat 3.63%, and solids-not-fat 8.71%.

5 samples of milk taken from schools averaged:- Fat 3.85 %, and solids-not-fat 8.61%.

Poor quality samples. 75 samples including 56 samples of milk were reported as of inferior grade or doubtful quality.

Miscellaneous Samples. 68 miscellaneous samples were submitted for analysis. Of these samples 54 consisted of foods and of these 26 or 48.2% were unsatisfactory.

D. HENVILLE.

Borough Analyst.