

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

Contributors

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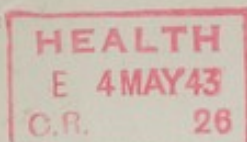
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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STEPNEY.

ANNUAL REPORT
(Abridged)

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

ADMINISTRATIVE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER

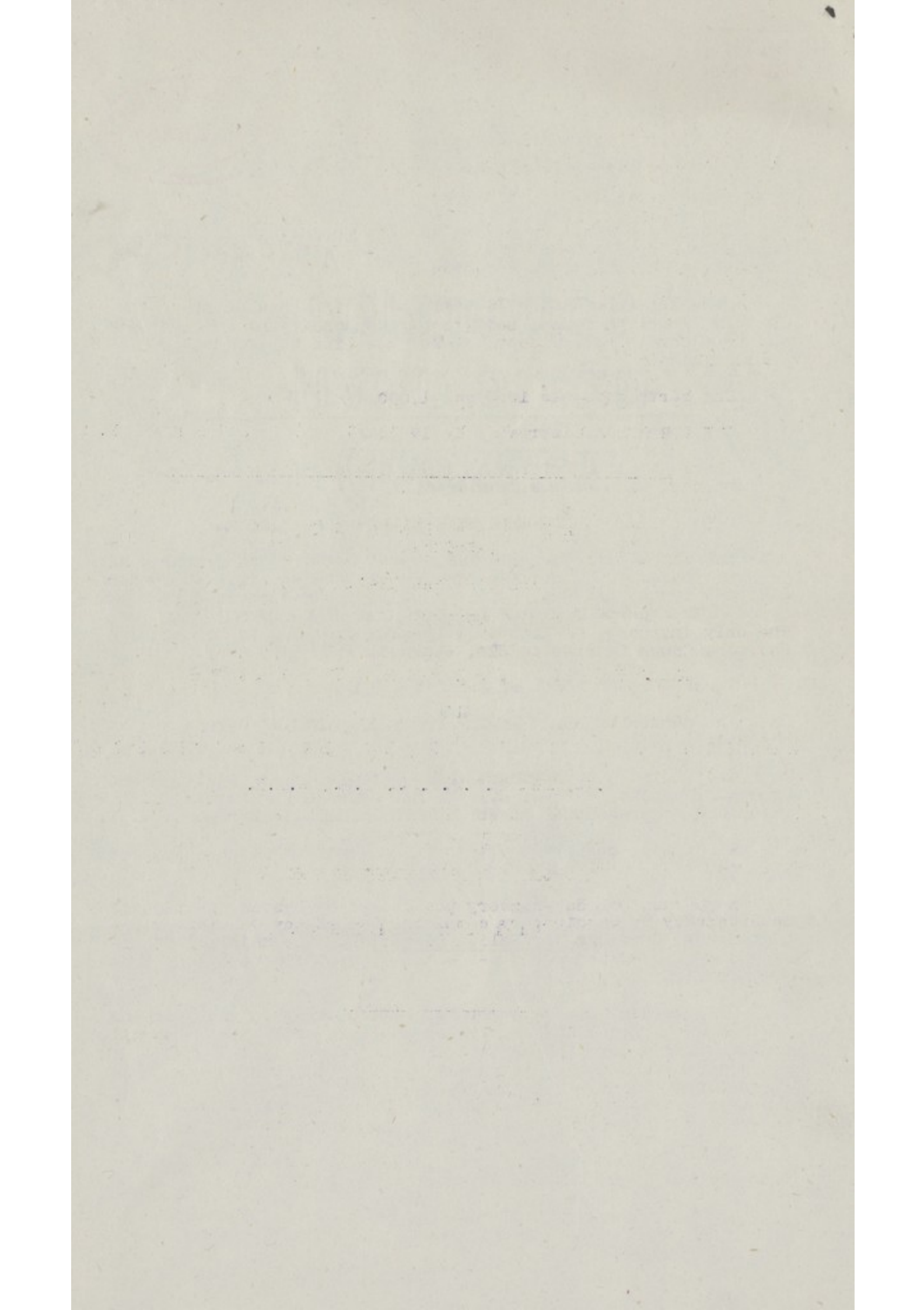
FRO'SHIEL, L.R.C.P.I., L.M., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH

A

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC ANALYST..



Public Health Department,
Queen Mary College,
Mile End Road,
London, E. 1.

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

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1941. It is again an abridged report in accordance with the direction of the Ministry of Health (Circular 2504).

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough is not recorded, because of war conditions it fluctuated and no accurate comparisons can be made with the figures of former years.

The birth rate was 15.5 per 1,000.

The death rate increased in 1941.

The death rate of infants under 1 year of age was 79.5 per thousand live births.

Maternal mortality was 3.58 per thousand births.

Infectious disease during the year was low, as compared with pre-war years. 1027 notifications were received in 1941 compared with 867 in the previous year. Scarlet fever decreased from 135 to 66. Diphtheria from 166 to 120. Pneumonia from 142 to 108. The only increases of note were Measles from 205 to 382 and Whooping Cough from 44 to 214, compared with last year.

There were no cases of Smallpox.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year was 217.

The Public Health Department was transferred on 1st December from 43, Whitehorse Road, E.1. to the Temporary Municipal Offices which are at present at Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E. 1.

All the peace-time health services carried on as throughout the year.

A residential day-nursery was opened at Syston Court on the 13th January by a voluntary committee under Lady Gunston, representing the American War Relief Committee. The majority of the places were reserved for pre-school children from the East End Boroughs, mainly Stepney.

Defence Reg. 31a came into operation early in the year and gave power to local authorities to compulsorily evacuate children suffering from the effects of air raids. Circular 2261 of the Ministry of Health, dated 8th January, dealt with the administration of these regulations. Provision was made for the Council's part-time Medical Officers of the infant welfare centres to medically examine children under these regulations.

The facilities for Medical Aid Posts in Public Air Raid Shelters and medical supervision were continued.

Arrangements were made, as suggested by the Ministry of Health for immunising against Typhoid Fever those persons who so desired.

The diphtheria immunisation clinic at 35, Stepney Green continued and for part of the year an extra session was opened. The attendances have increased considerably viz. from 714 in 1940 to 1893 this year.

The Scabies Order 1941 came into operation and gave useful new powers for dealing with Scabies and Vermin.

The Council opened a Scabies Clinic at the London Hospital and a Scabies & Vermin clinic at Branch Road.

The Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors were released from part-time supervision of Stretcher Party depots and First Aid Posts and thus were enabled to give more time to normal duties. The Sanitary Inspectors still assist in manning the rota for the Casualty Services at the Civil Defence Control Centre, after office hours.

Upon inspection of underground bakehouses it was ascertained that eight such bakehouses had been closed for a period of twelve months or more and in consequence they were removed from the register. There are now in the Borough only 30 out of the original 69 which remained open in 1904.

Once more I desire to express my gratitude to the staff who have worked hard to maintain the services of the department under difficult conditions and to the Chairmen and Members of Committees for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your Worship, Ladies & 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 1941.

AREA OF BOROUGH (In acres) 1902,766

POPULATION: Registrar-General's estimate for the mid-year 1941 is not available for publication.

BIRTHS. Live legitimate and Illegitimate.

Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15.5

Live and Still; Rate per 1000 total births 76.3

DEATHS.	M.	F.	TOTAL.
	1145	738	1883

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES. Rate per 1000 total (Live and still births)

Puerperal sepsis	1.....	1.19
Other puerperal causes	2.....	2.39
	3	3.58

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

All infants per 1000 live births 79.5

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births .. 78.5

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 89.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 203

" " Measles " " 7

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 4

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age 11

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

	England & Wales.	London.	Stepney.
Live births.	14.2	8.9	15.5
Deaths.	12.9	16.3	-
Infant Mortality.	59.0	68.0	79.5
Puerperal Causes.	2.23	(Not available)	3.58

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The facilities were provided as usual but not availed of during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Total number of Bacteriological Examinations was 387, 373 for Diphtheria Bacilli (of these 45 were found to be positive) and 14 for Dysentery (all of which were negative).

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.

Number of attendances at the Dispensary.	3624
" " consultations with medical practitioners	
Personal	128
Other	544
" " visits by Tuberculosis Officers to homes	389
" " specimens of sputum examined	447
(of these 89 were positive)	
" " X-ray examination: films 617, screening	333 950
" " children boarded out	11
" " visits by Tuberculosis Health Visitors	
to homes	5436

Special treatment was given to Tuberculosis patients as follows:-

Pneumo-thorax refills to 45 patients necessitating 448 attendances

Finsen light to 1 patient necessitating 68 attendances

Number of patients recommended for Sanatorium treatment 222

" " contacts examined 385

Extra nourishment to tuberculous patients. 461 grants were made to 110 patients during the year. Each grant was for a period of 28 days.

DENTAL CLINICS.

(a) Tuberculosis: Total attendances	71
" number of new patients	9
(b) Maternity & Child Welfare:-	
Total attendances	293
" number of new patients	54

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND HEALTH VISITING.

(a) Number of Health Visitors employed:	
Municipal	10
Voluntary	9
Total:	19
(b) Number of all Health Visitors' visits to expectant mothers, first visits 601	Total 1303
(c) Number of all Health Visitors' visits to children under 1 year, first visits 673	Total 7733
(d) Number of all Health Visitors' visits to children between 1 and 5 years.	Total 19688
(e) Number of Infant Welfare Centres on 31st December, Municipal 6, Voluntary 6.	
(f) Number of children at first attendance under 1 year old, 828, between 1 and 5 years	434
(g) Number of attenders under 1 year old at end of year 681, over 1 year old 1628.	
(h) Total number of visits made during the year for all purposes by Health Visitors:-	
(a) Municipal	14732
(b) Voluntary	30194

ANTE & POST NATAL CLINICS.

(a) Number of clinics:-	Municipal 2, Voluntary 3.
(b) Total number of women who attended, 2192 (including 110 post natal). Note:- These figures include women who are not Stepney residents.	

SUPPLY OF MILK. The National Milk Scheme came into operation in July 1940.

	Free.	Cheap rate.
Number of beneficiaries 1941:- Liquid milk	3437	4354
Dried "	214	214

In addition the Council continue their scheme in supplying virol and oil and malt to mothers and children attending the centres.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION:- Number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year ... 2
 Number of children so received 2
 " " " Protection Visitors, Health Visitors ... 10
 " " " " " Others 1
 Visits made by above to Homes of Foster Mothers 11
 " " " " " " " " " Children 16

Proceedings taken during the year under part XIII of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 Sect. 239 (a) Nil.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA:- The following is a summary of the inspections carried out by the nine District Sanitary Inspectors:-

To houses and other premises (Complaints, Nuisances, Infectious Diseases, Restaurants, Lodging Houses, etc.) 5825
 Miscellaneous Inspections 6178
 To factories and other premises under Factories Act 1650
 Number of re-visits 3975
 " " Intimations Served 1748
 " " Statutory Notices 186
 " " Summonses taken out 1
 " " Visits to air raid shelters 2570
 " " Visits to Rest and Feeding Centres 109

A summary of sanitary work carried out as a result of notices served is as follows:-

Repair to roofs, gutters and rain water pipes ... 519
 Cleansing or repairs to drains, Water Closets, Sinks, baths and lavatory wastes 926
 Miscellaneous repairs 795
 Dampness in premises remedied and rooms cleansed . 780
 Drains tested 223 of which 16 were defective 223
Transfer of Sanitary Inspectors to Town Clerk's Department.

On 15th November 4 Sanitary Inspectors were transferred to the Town Clerk's department to assist in the work concerned with repair to war damaged properties.

On 1st December another 4 Sanitary Inspectors were similarly transferred.

Whilst so temporarily engaged these officers are designated District Technical Inspectors.

HOUSING.

Number of houses inspected for housing defects ... 10594
 " " inspections made for such purposes 12016
 " " houses not reasonably fit 1828
 " " houses rendered fit informally 1679
 " " houses in respect of which notices were served 1246
 " " houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice 191
 " " bombed properties inspected 40474

Special survey of the above 35692

OVERCROWDING.

May 1936 to Dec. 1941.

Houses in which the rooms were measured and the permitted number ascertained 7565
 Number of visits to the above 9214
 " " houses in which the information has been supplied to owners and occupiers 7891

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 amount to 7538.

Legal Proceedings were taken out in 39 instances. The quantity of foodstuffs destroyed during the year amounted to 1295 tons under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, and 76 tons under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 (see also Analyst's Report). 1294 samples of food and drugs and 98 other samples were taken and submitted for analysis. Assistance was also rendered by these Inspectors to the Food Control Committee on Food Salvage, new registrations etc.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (Other than Tuberculosis) 1027 notifications were received during the year, particulars of which are given as follows:- Scarlet Fever 66, Diphtheria 120, Enteric Fever 2, Measles 382, Puerperal Fever 5, Puerperal Pyrexia 4, Erysipelas 66, Cerebro-spinal Fever 52, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 2, Food Poisoning 3, Lysentery 3, Pneumonia, 108 and Whooping Cough 214.

No notifications were received with respect to Anthrax, Encephalitis Lethargica, Poliomyelitis, Polio-encephalitic, Membranous Croup, Malaria and Smallpox.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS. Pulmonary 190, Non-Pulmonary 27, Total 217.

BUG ERADICATION:- 1103 inspections and re-inspections of premises were carried out by the Inspectors on bug eradication. 355 premises and 729 rooms were sprayed during the year.

During the year the Housing Committee decided not to disinfest as a preventative against bug infestation the effects of any families prior to their removal to the Council's dwellings.

30 lots of furniture were treated at the Cyanide disinfection chamber for the rehousing of bombed-out families before the tenants were removed to other premises.

There were 45 lots of bunks treated in the Cyanide chamber for the Shelter Department of Civil Defence.

118 loads of straw were fumigated as a precaution against foot and mouth disease - as required by the Ministry of Agriculture.

CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION:-

1081 rooms were fumigated because of infectious disease and 88 because of pulmonary tuberculosis.

84482 articles of clothing and bedding were disinfected.

SMALLPOX & VACCINATION:-

No cases of smallpox were notified. There were 1962 births registered during 1940, of these 417 were successfully vaccinated, 692 Statutory declarations were received. In addition, 631 children who were registered outside the Borough were successfully vaccinated. The total number of persons vaccinated was 1049.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STEPNEY.

SUMMARY OF BOROUGH ANALYST'S QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1941.

1,334 samples were submitted for analysis. Of these 1,285 consisted of foods and drugs. The remaining 49 samples were received from various Borough Departments.

Out of 534 formal samples 31 or 5.8 percent, were adulterated and of 751 informal samples 38 or 5.1 percent, were adulterated making a total of 1,285 samples out of which 69 or 5.4 percent, were adulterated.

Of the samples taken under the Act 1,127 consisted of foods and of these 65 or 5.8 percent, were adulterated (12 samples contained an allowed amount of preservative). Of 158 drugs 4 or 2.5 percent, were adulterated.

Legal Proceedings. Offences were committed in 69 cases, these were dealt with as shown below:-

		<u>Adulterated.</u>
Formal	(Proceedings	17
	(Caution	9
	(No action	5
Informal		38
		<u>69</u>

Fines and costs totalled £51.13. 0d.

MILK. 750 samples of milk were examined. The average composition, including 22 adulterated samples was:-

Fat 3.54 percent, and solids-not-fat, 8.64 percent.

5 samples of milk taken from hospitals, etc. averaged:-
Fat 3.47 percent, and solids-not-fat 8.69 percent.

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

Nature.	Sam- ples taken.	Adulterated			Legal Pro- ceed- ings.	Fines.	Costs.
		infor- mal.	for- mal.	Percen- tage adul- terated.			
<u>Foods.</u>						2. s. d.	£. s. d.
Bread and Butter	58	16	6	37.9	6	-	8. 8. 0
Milk	750	7	15	2.9	8	7. 0. 0	13.13. 0
Butter	17	1	-	5.9	-	-	-
Cream	1	-	1	100	1	5. 0. 0	2. 2. 0
Butter and Margarine rolls	1	-	1	100	1	-	2. 2. 0
Ground Almonds	3	1	-	33.3	-	-	-
Vinegar	6	2	2	66.7	-	-	-
Meat Roll	1	-	1	100	-	-	-
Ice Cream	7	1	-	14.3	-	-	-
Sausage	18	1	-	5.5	-	-	-
Sugar Substitute	3	1	2	100	1	5. 0. 0	8. 8. 0
Egg Substitute	17	1	1	11.8	-	-	-
Salad Oil	3	1	1	66.7	-	-	-
Dried Egg	2	1	-	50.0	-	-	-
Cottage Spread	1	1	-	100	-	-	-
Creamy Spread	2	1	-	50.0	-	-	-
<u>DRUGS.</u>							
Boric Ointment	6	1	-	16.7	-	-	-
Tincture of Iodine	9	1	-	11.1	-	-	-
Saccharin Tablets	10	-	1	10.0	-	-	-
Sol Volatile	4	1	-	25.0	-	-	-

Poor quality samples. 83 samples including 66 samples of milk were reported as of inferior grade or doubtful quality.

p.t.o.

CAUSES OF ALL DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1941.

Male 1145. Female 738.....Total 1883.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	TOTAL.		Under 1 yr.		1 - 5		5 - 15		15 - 45		45 - 65		65 etc.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro spinal fever	3	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	3	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1
Tub. of resp. system	99	29	-	1	-	-	-	2	43	20	41	4	15	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	11	6	1	-	5	4	2	1	-	1	2	6	1	-
Syphilitic diseases	13	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	5	5	3
Influenza	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	2	3	3
Measles	5	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac.polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ac.inf.enceph.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Cancer of buc.cav.& oesoph.	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	-
uterus	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	1
Cancer of all other sites.	78	49	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	4	38	19	33	26
Diabetes	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	4	5	4
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	40	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	10	27	32
Heart Disease.	214	183	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	12	43	30	160	139
Cancer of breast	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	7	5
Other dis. of circ. system.	54	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	16	10	36	20
Bronchitis.	106	52	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	39	13	63	38
Pneumonia	81	48	7	2	1	2	-	-	6	4	31	13	36	27
Other resp.dis.	11	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	2	2	5	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	16	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	1	3	6
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	30	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	12	5	16	5
Diarrhoea under 2 yrs.	8	3	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other digve. dis.	18	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	8	7	5	5
Nephritis	13	17	-	1	-	-	-	1	4	1	4	9	5	5
Puer.& post-abortion.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
sepsis.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Prem. birth.	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Con.mal.birth inj.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
infant dis.	10	8	6	5	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	1
Suicide	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	-
Road traffic acc.	18	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	6	1	7	-
Other violent causes	204	112	1	2	1	2	9	7	92	50	66	28	35	23
All other causes	60	51	-	2	-	-	1	-	10	10	21	12	28	27

.....
 Miscellaneous Samples. 49 samples were submitted for analysis, of these 29 were foods of which 9, or 31 percent were unsatisfactory.
 Of the remaining 20 samples 11 samples were unsatisfactory.

D. HENVILLE.