

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

### **Contributors**

Richmond upon Thames (London, England). Council.  
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BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

(SURREY).



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1943.

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RICHMOND :

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

PARKSHOT,

RICHMOND, (SURREY).

August, 1944.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF RICHMOND (SURREY).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

The Ministry of Health have requested that on grounds of National security care should be taken not to publish in the Annual Report complete tables of local populations, or quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar-General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed.

The Report is therefore considerably shortened, as several tables of statistics have been omitted. The figures are however tabulated, and will be kept in the Department for future reference.

### **Typhoid Fever.**

In June 1943 I received notification of a case of Enteric Fever. This was immediately removed to hospital and the usual enquiries made. Another case was notified in a few days, and from the enquiries made other suspicious cases were found. The Ministry of Health were at once informed, and I had the assistance of one of the Medical Officers from the Ministry.

The medical practitioners in the neighbourhood were notified so that they would be on the lookout for suspicious cases, and several patients were seen, and bacteriological examinations made.

Altogether twelve cases were notified, and all recovered after a stay in hospital.

From the blood of two of the cases it was found that the germ of the disease belonged to what is known as Type L. 2. No cases due

to this type had been met with in the London area since 1940, and Type L. 2 strains had been isolated only on two occasions—viz. in 1939 from a child in Aberdeen, and in 1940 from a family in Oxfordshire.

It would therefore appear that the outbreak was not imported from the Metropolitan area.

The cause of the outbreak in this Borough was never definitely discovered, but it was thought that some of the cases at least were due to the eating of raw salads.

### **Diphtheria.**

During the year under review only one case of Diphtheria was notified to me, and this case was that of a man serving in H.M. Forces who came on leave suffering from the disease.

It may be said therefore that during the year there was a complete absence of Diphtheria in the Borough.

In this Report will be found a statement as to the number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the year, and also the total number of children now immunised in the Borough.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. S. BREBNER.

*Temporary Medical Officer of Health.*



### STATISTICS.

Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£572,146
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£2,193

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	17.3
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	15.4
Death-rate from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	4.93
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	73
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	4

#### Infantile Mortality.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age (all infants per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	46
Deaths of infants occurring				
(a) in the Borough	...	...	...	14
(b) outside the Borough	...	...	...	13
(c) in Institutions	...	...	...	20

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE & ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1943  
(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 Civilian population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian 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 ... ..	16.5	0.51	12.1	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.37	5.3	49*
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	18.6	0.63	14.2	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.36	7.9	58
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ... ..	19.4	0.61	12.7	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.37	4.4	46
London Administrative County ...	15.8	0.45	15.0	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.27	10.4	58
RICHMOND ... ..	17.3	0.49	15.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.49	6.8	46

\*Per 1,000 related births.

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows	Per 1,000 Total Births	Abortion with Sepsis. 0.34	Abortion without Sepsis. 0.11	Puerperal Infections. 0.39	Other. 1.45
The maternal mortality rates for Richmond are as follows	... Per 1,000 Total Births	0.00	0.00	1.64	3.29



### Attendances at Clinics.

Ante-natal.	Number attended.	Total attendances.
	413	1,378
		Attendances.
Windham Road	Mothers ...	... 5,277
	Children ...	... 5,327
Trefoil House,	Mothers ...	... 1,209
Petersham	Children ...	... 1,268
Doctor's Consultations	... ..	... 2,116
	Toddlers ...	... 620
Health Visitors' Visits	First visits	Re-visits.
	489	3,179

### Nursing Homes.

The Surrey County Council have registered eight Nursing Homes.

44, Onslow Road,	General Medical and Maternity;
25, West Park Road,	"                    "
86, Mount Ararat Road,	General Medical
22, Cardigan Road	"            "
19, Grena Road,	"            "
18, Mortlake Road,	"            "
108, Church Road,	"            "
Beaconsfield, Kew Green,	Maternity only.

All these Homes have been visited during the year.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Owing to the restricted size of the Annual Report, it is not possible to give a detailed report of the Department's activities during the year, but some indication of the nature of the work carried out is given below :—



**Inspections under the Housing and Public Health Acts.**

Total inspections	...	...	...	10,559
Nuisances discovered on 716 of the premises	...	...	...	1,396
Defects abated by the end of the year	...	...	...	1,261
Defects in course of being remedied at end of year	...	...	...	61
Outstanding defects at the end of the year	...	...	...	63
Action deferred	...	...	...	11
Visits paid to ascertain that the defects were being properly remedied	...	...	...	1,565
Defects outstanding at the end of 1942, which have now been abated	...	...	...	40

**Shops Acts.**

Number of shops on register at the end of the year	...	...	...	720
Special visits made	...	...	...	40
Changes of occupancy	...	...	...	41

**Factories Act 1937.**

## FACTORIES ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Mechanical	...	...	...	127
Non-Mechanical	...	...	...	67
Inspections made	...	...	...	82
Written notices served	...	...	...	2
Verbal notice given	...	...	...	2
Defects found	...	...	...	16
Defects (a) remedied	...	...	...	16
(b) in abeyance	...	...	...	Nil

**Service of Notices.**

Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	349
Statutory or Formal Notices Served	...	...	...	180

**Petroleum Acts 1928.**

Visits made during the year	...	...	164
Licences for which applications for renewal were made during the year:—			
(a) Petroleum	...	...	45
(b) Carbide of Calcium	...	...	2
New licences issued during the year	...	...	1
Number of persons licensed to keep Petroleum	...	...	43
Number of persons licensed to keep Carbide of Calcium	...	...	2
Premises under Government control and not subject to licence by the Local Authority	...	...	4

**Slaughterhouses.**

There is one slaughterhouse in the district, but this is not now in use, as the slaughtering of animals has been centralised, and is carried out under the supervision of Government inspectors.

The nearest slaughterhouse under this scheme is at Kingston.

Visits made to meat shops or stores, and other premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	...	208
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**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Disinfestation methods were applied to the following properties:—

Council Houses	...	...	...	2
Other Houses	...	...	...	65

**Disinfection of Premises.**

Reason.	Houses.	Rooms.	Bedding. disinfected.	
Infectious Fevers	...	37	38	291
Tuberculosis	...	3	3	19
Scabies	...	Nil	Nil	18
Other Diseases	...	6	11	52
Vermin	...	77	141	58

**Complaints.**

Number received and dealt with during the year	...	906
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### Diseases of Animals Acts.

Five hundred and fifty sheep were dipped in Richmond Park during the summer, and the necessary certificates were furnished to the owners of the animals.

### Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

As a result of a Conference of various local authorities, called early in the year by the Ministry of Food, a survey of rat infestations in the Borough was undertaken.

Of the three types of infestation to be considered (reservoir type—major primary—minor secondary), it was found that only the minor secondary type appeared to affect this Borough.

On the 1st of October a Rodent Publicity Campaign was launched under the directions of the Ministry of Food. This campaign urged the public to report rat infestation, and it covered (a) advertisements in the local Press: (b) posters: (c) cinema slides, and (d) coupons incorporated in advertisements, to be sent to this Department via the local wardens' posts.

As a result of this drive, 113 complaints of rat infestation were received, and were found in all cases to be due to the minor secondary type—i.e. stray rats settling in old buildings, on vacant land, etc.

The Rat Officers of the Surrey County Council were employed at the request and under the supervision of this Department, and carried out extermination and ratproofing for the various owners or occupiers of the buildings and land concerned.

The following is a summary of the work done during the year in connection with the destruction of rats and mice:—

Total complaints received	...	...	...	178
Visits of inspection paid	...	...	...	827
Informal notices served	...	...	...	36
Formal notices authorised	...	...	...	3
Premises under contract to the Surrey County Council at the end of the year:—				
Annual contract	...	...	...	23
Monthly contract	...	...	...	5

### **Pigeons (Richmond (Surrey) Corporation Act).**

During the year, 72 pigeons have been caught and disposed of in accordance with Section 85 of this Act

### **Unsound Food.**

A very large quantity of tinned and other food has been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

### **Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

During the year a survey was made of all known premises in the Borough where food intended for sale was prepared or stored.

At 11 premises the attention of responsible persons was called to unsatisfactory conditions.

### **Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269.**

One licence was issued during the year permitting the use of a caravan on vacant ground in the Borough, subject to certain conditions as to sanitation and general cleanliness being complied with, the licence to expire at the end of twelve months.

### **Rehousing.**

This branch of the work has again received special attention during the year.

43 houses were requisitioned and adapted for 77 families who had been rendered homeless by enemy action.

In addition to these, good progress has been made with regard to the requisitioning of houses to rehouse persons inadequately housed.

10 houses were requisitioned and adapted for the rehousing of 20 families.

59 houses were requisitioned and the work of adaptation for the rehousing of 13 families is practically complete.



13 further houses have been requisitioned and are awaiting adaptation for the rehousing of 24 families. This work has, however, been postponed owing to the manpower shortage, priority being given to the repair of war damaged houses.

In addition to the above, 10 houses are under requisition and have been repaired and completely furnished for the housing of 169 persons, rendered homeless by enemy action, this being temporary accommodation until their own houses have been rendered habitable.

#### **Billeting of Evacuees, and the care of Foreign War Refugees.**

The routine work in connection with the evacuees billeted in the Borough, and with the Foreign War Refugees here, has continued.

GEORGE LAWS, M.B.E., F.R. San. I., F.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Officer under the Housing Acts.

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL.

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Particulars of samples taken in the Borough of Richmond during the year ended December 31st, 1943.

Articles.	Analysed			Adulterated or Deteriorated			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total		
Milk ... ..	27	—	27					
Coffee ... ..	—	3	3	—	1	1		
Cocoa ... ..	2	—	2	1	—	1		
Sausages ... ..	—	5	5					
Spirits ... ..	1	1	2					
Blackcurrant flavour wine ...	—	1	1					
Dried Milk ... ..	—	2	2	—	1	1		
Lemon-flavour Junket ... ..	—	1	1					
“Glenmar” Pudding ... ..	—	1	1					
Blackcurrant Flavouring Essence ... ..	—	1	1					
Fish Roll ... ..	—	1	1					
Malt Cocoa Spread	—	1	1					
Dessert Powder...	—	1	1					
Meat Extract ... ..	—	1	1					
“Marstead” ... ..	—	1	1					
Sponge Mixture...	—	1	1					
Chocolate Flavour Biscuit Mixture	—	1	1					
Mustard ... ..	1	—	1					
Malt Vinegar ... ..	1	1	2					
Extract of Beef ...	—	1	1					
Real Egg S.R. Flour ... ..	—	1	1					
Chocolate Pud- ding Mixture ...	—	1	1					
Totals ... ..	32	26	58	1	2	3	Nil	Nil



## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER 1936.

No. of samples of milk taken for analysis during the  
year ... .. 26

No. of samples found to be satisfactory ... .. 26

Applications granted for the renewal of licences to sell  
Special Designated Milk :—

Pasteurised Milk ... .. 17

Tuberculin Tested Milk ... .. 9

Applications granted for the renewal of Pasteurisers'  
licences. ... .. 1

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

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

(Civilians only).

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospitals.	Total Deaths.
Typhoid Fever .. ...	12	12	...
Paratyphoid Fever ...	2	2	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	33	20	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	2	...
Pneumonia ... ..	18	1	27 (all forms)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	3	1	...
Erysipelas ... ..	5	3	...
Measles ... ..	209	8	...
Whooping Cough ...	76	1	...
Total ...	361	50	27

## SOUTH MIDDLESEX FEVER HOSPITAL.

## ADMISSIONS CLASSIFIED.

Disease.				No. of Patients Admitted from Richmond.
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	12
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	20
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2
Other Diseases	...	...	...	17
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	<b>60</b>

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

Total number of attendances ... 1,826

## Number of children immunised.

(a) Preschool children (under 5 yrs) ... 559  
 (b) School children (5—15 yrs) ... 429  
 Total ... 988

In addition 107 children were found to have been immunised in other districts.

## Total number of children immunised in the Borough.

(a) Under 5 years ... 1,338  
 (b) Between 5 and 15 years ... 2,949

## SCABIES.

During the year, 241 cases of Scabies were seen, either at the Clinic, or sent by medical practitioners.



Arrangements have been made for Scabies cases to be treated at the First Aid Post adjacent to the Clinic, and the personnel of this post have carried out the treatment in a very satisfactory way.

The material used for treatment was a Benzyl-Benzoate Emulsion.

Of the 241 cases seen, 122 were school children.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

As previously mentioned, Bacteriological Examinations for Infectious Disease are carried out by the Pathologist at the Royal Hospital, Richmond.

During the year the number of specimens, etc., sent up for examination was as follows:—

Disease Suspected.	Nature of Specimen.	Result.		Total.
		Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	Swabs from Throat and Nose ...	1	66	67
Tuberculosis	Sputa ...	4	30	34
Other Diseases	...	7	26	33
	Total	12	122	134

### TUBERCULOSIS.

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS (PHTHISIS). Fifty-seven cases of this disease were notified during the year (36 males and 21 females). Of these 22 (16 males and 6 females) were removed to Hospital or Sanatorium. There were 56 cases notified in 1942.

There were 14 deaths from this disease during the year.

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was responsible for 2 deaths while 14 cases were notified during the year.

### Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ... ..	...	1	2	1	...	1	1	...
5 ... ..	1	4	2	...	...	1	...	...
15 ... ..	5	3	2	1	1	...	...	...
25 ... ..	12	6	1	2	...	...	1	...
35 ... ..	7	3	...	1	2	2	...	...
45 ... ..	9	...	1	...	3	...	...	...
55 ... ..	1	3	...	...	1	2	...	...
65 and upwards ...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
Totals ... ..	36	21	8	6	7	7	2	Nil

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. S. BREBNER,

*Temporary Medical Officer of Health.*









