

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

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF FULHAM

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

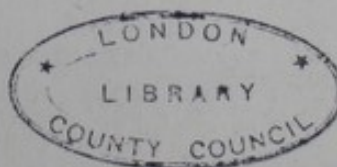
for the year

1940

JOHN ALEXANDER SCOTT, O.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Town Hall,
Fulham, S.W.6.

December, 1941

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1940. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health this Report is in a summarised form.

I should like to call attention to the low Infant Mortality Rate, 45 per 1,000 live births as against 47 per 1,000 last year, which is again the lowest on record for the Borough.

The only item in the report on which I wish to comment is the Death Rate. The population, owing to evacuation, is, of course, over 40,000 below the normal peace time figure, and the actual Death Rate in relation to that of other years clearly depends on the accuracy of the estimated population. In any case the whole of the increase can be ascribed to one group of causes. Deaths by violence from all forms are 300 more than in a normal year - the cause will be quite obvious, and is not capable of any remedy by public health methods proper.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. A. Scott

Medical Officer of
Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA (acres) ... 1,706. Population (Census 1931) 150,928
 Population, mid-1940 (Registrar-General's estimate): ... 106,630
 Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) 26,245
 Rateable Value, March, 1941 £1,269,109
 Sum represented by a penny rate £4,645

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:-</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	
Legitimate	1,579	794	785	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 15.7
Illegitimate	97	53	44	
<hr/>				
TOTALS	1,676	847	829	Rate for London 13.7 " " England and Wales. 14.6

<u>STILLBIRTHS:-</u>				
Legitimate	42	25	17	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 26.1.
Illegitimate	3	2	1	
<hr/>				
TOTALS	45	27	18	

<u>DEATHS</u>	1,994	1,011	983	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: Crude rate ... 18.7 Adjusted rate. 18.1 Rate for London 17.2 " " England and Wales..... 14.3
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Percentage of deaths occurring in public institutions 49.19

Deaths from puerperal causes:

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.</u>
From sepsis	2	1.26
From other causes	1	0.63

Death rate of Infants under One Year of Age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	22

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	248
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	5

CAUSES OF DEATH.

These are classified in Table I at the end of this Report, which shows that the five commonest causes were: Heart Disease, 407 (20.41 per cent. of the total deaths), Respiratory Diseases, 316 (15.85%), Cancer 248 (12.44%), Intra Cranial lesions, 135 (6.77%) and Tuberculosis (all forms) 105 (5.26%).

Maternal Mortality.

There were three deaths resulting from pregnancy and childbirth giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.89 per 1,000 births.

Infant Mortality.

The causes of death of the 70 children who died before attaining the age of one year were:-

Gastro-Enteritis & Diarrhoea.....	4
Premature Birth, Debility & Marasmus....	17
Bronchitis and Pneumonia.....	12
Congenital Malformations.....	13
Atelectasis.....	3
Injury by birth.....	6
Digestive diseases.....	3
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.....	4
Whooping cough.....	2
Chronic constipation.....	1
Enemy action.....	5

The Infant Mortality Rate was 45 per 1,000 births, which is the lowest rate in the history of the Borough.

Nursing in the Home. The Fulham District Nursing Association has continued to carry out this work on behalf of the Council and during the year paid 5,818 visits to 573 cases.

Clinic and Treatment Centres. The Dispensary and Ultra Violet Light Clinics were open throughout the year. The Infant Welfare Clinics at Wandsworth Bridge Road and Greyhound Road were re-opened in March and April respectively. At the end of April the Parson's Green Clinic was re-opened for Antenatal sessions and Eridge House used for Infant sessions only. In November a new Clinic was opened in North Fulham at Burne Jones House, both Antenatal and Infant sessions being held.

- Hospitals. (a) General. The Fulham Hospital continued to function throughout the year.
- (b) Children. The Babies' Hospital was partially re-opened on 30th March.
- (c) Infectious Diseases. The Western Hospital continued to function as a Casualty Hospital and Infectious Disease Hospital.

Ultra Violet Light Clinic. This Clinic re-opened at the end of 1939 and during 1940, 7,638 attendances were made.

Babies' Hospital. The number of cases admitted to the hospital from its opening on 30th March until the end of the year was 55. One child died in the Hospital owing to Bronch-Pneumonia.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres of children under one year was 10,748 and of children aged one to five years 5671. The number of attendances at the Ante-natal clinics was 4,227.

Health Visitors. The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors was 23,495.

Infant Life Protection. At the end of the year there were only 27 children on the Register, about one quarter of the usual number.

Maternity Home. During the year 270 cases were admitted for labour and 23 for antenatal treatment. There were no maternal deaths but 3 babies died within 14 days and there were 8 stillbirths.

Day Nursery. The Nursery continued in its Sussex surroundings as a residential nursery. In October we were able, through the generosity of an ex-Mayoress of the Borough, to evacuate 25 young children to North Wales.

Supply of Milk. The total quantity of milk supplied to mothers and young children was: Cow's milk free of cost 1,731 gallons, at half cost 151 gallons; dried milk free of cost 7,087 lbs; at half cost 591 lbs. The approximate cost to the Borough was £. 815 In addition 8,841 lbs of dried milk was sold at cost price, a total amount of £736.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The following table gives a summary of the inspections made by the sanitary inspectors during the year:-

Cause of Inspection	First inspections	Re-inspections	Total inspections
In consequence of complaint	1,714	6,090	7,804
" " infectious disease	358	99	457
House to House Inspections	29	113	142
Infirm and Dirty Tenants	65	126	191
Rent Restriction Act applications	14	-	14
TOTALS	2,180	6,428	8,608

As a result of these inspections 1,240 Intimation Notices and 304 Statutory Notices (11 under the Housing Act and 293 under the Public Health Act) were served.

The routine visiting of food premises, factories, etc., was continued, 1,745 visits being made.

Drainage of Buildings. During the year 67 plans were approved by the Public Health Committee.

Legal Proceedings. Twelve summonses were issued in connection with the work of the sanitary inspectors and fines and costs amounting to 26 were imposed.

Rag Flock. Proceedings were instituted against an upholsterer using Rag Flock which contained 150 parts of chlorine per 100,000 parts of rag flock as against the standard of 30 parts and a fine of £5 was imposed.

Smoke Abatement. During the year 5 complaints were received from members of the public, one observation was made and 4 notices served.

Rent (Restrictions) Acts. In response to applications by the tenants, 13 certificates were issued during the year.

Aged, Infirm and Physically Incapacitated Persons. During the year 434 visits were paid by the woman sanitary inspector to aged persons, including 258 for the purpose of arranging evacuation.

Rat Repression. During the year 134 complaints were received and the Rat Officer in addition to attending to these complaints continued his routine visits to business premises, particularly food premises, paying 2,240 visits. Rats known to be destroyed numbered 1,147. Damage to property and drains by enemy action resulted in the disturbance and subsequent destruction of many rats, the total number destroyed being double that in many previous years.

Mortuary. During the year 339 bodies were received into the Mortuary.

Shops Act. Inspections numbered 41.

Factories. The inspections of factories numbered 500 and one notice was served.

Outworkers Premises. Visits to these premises totalled 84; no notices had to be served.

HOUSING.

Inspections of Dwelling Houses. The number of house-to-house inspections was 142 (29 being first inspections). The number of intimation Notices served was 18 and the number of Statutory Notices 9. The number of inspections of houses after complaint, occurrence of infectious disease, or applications under the Rent Restriction Acts was 7820 (1714 being first inspections). The number of intimation notices served was 1,210 and the number of Statutory Notices 293.

Disinfestation. During the year 150 families had their furniture treated by HCN process prior to removal to a Borough Council estate. The treatment of rooms found to be infested with vermin was continued during the year, 179 such rooms being treated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. Samples taken numbered 592 and of these ten or 1.7 per cent were found to be adulterated;

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. During the year 1,000 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst and 13 or 1.3% were reported adulterated. The following are the comments of the Public Analyst on these adulterated samples (it is regretted that it is not possible to publish his complete report).

Article	Total samples examined	Number Adulterated		Remarks.
		Formal	Informal.	
Boric ointment	7	1	1	15% & 14% deficiency in Boric Acid.
Butter	105	2	-	1.6% & 2% excess water
Buttered buns.	2	-	2	Spread with a mixture containing not more than 40% & 60% butter
Fish paste	4	-	1	Lobster paste contained 0.08% boric acid
Rolls and butter	5	1	1	Spread with margarine and not butter.
Sweetened milk powder	2	1	1	65% dried separated milk with 35% sucrose. Labelled that "diluted with water was equivalent to sweetened fresh milk".
Whisky	2	-	1	Contained .0012% iron

It was not necessary to take legal action in respect of any of these samples.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases. Table 2 at the end of this Report gives particulars of the cases notified. Cases of Cerebro-spinal-meningitis numbered 41 as against 8. The number of cases of diphtheria decreased from 158 to 55 and those of Scarlet Fever from 140 to 48. There were 257 cases of Measles notified compared with 42 the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The Clinic re-opened on 2nd May. Sessions numbered 33 and 170 new cases attended, a total of 728 attendances being made by both new and old cases.

Cancer. The percentage of deaths from this cause was 12.44 and the death rate 2.33. The age distribution at death is shown in Table 1 at the end of this Report.

Tuberculosis. The death rate from this cause was 0.98 (pulmonary 0.83 and non-pulmonary 0.15) The following is the information required by the Ministry of Health.

CASES NOTIFIED AND DEATHS.

Age periods years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1
1 - 5	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	-
5 - 15	3	2	4	-	1	-	1	-
15 - 25	21	24	6	4	6	8	1	2
25 - 35	30	17	3	1	16	7	1	1
35 - 45	15	11	-	-	13	5	2	-
45 - 55	10	4	-	-	11	1	-	-
55 - 65	11	2	-	1	11	2	1	-
65 upwards	1	2	-	1	5	3	-	1
TOTALS	91	64	14	8	63	26	11	5

Dispensary. A total of 2965 attendances were made including 590 who attended for the first time during the year; 92 patients were recommended for residential treatment.

Vaccination. The annual returns furnished to the Ministry of Health showed that 49.24 per cent of the children born in 1939 had been successfully vaccinated by 31st January, 1941.

Disinfection. The routine disinfection of rooms after the occurrence of infectious diseases was continued as was also disinfestation for vermin. A total of 619 rooms were treated. At the Disinfecting Station 22,164 articles were treated.

TABLE 1 - Causes of and Ages at Death during year 1940.

Cause of Death	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	-											
Cerebro-spinal fever	8					1	1	1		4		1
Scarlet Fever	-											
Whooping Cough	2	2										
Diphtheria	1		1									
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	89				1	14	23	18	12	13	7	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	16	4		2	1	3	2	2		1	1	
Syphilitic diseases	28						3	2	4	12	4	3
Influenza	30				1		1	3	7	7	6	5
Measles	-											
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-											
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-											
Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M)	6									3	2	1
Cancer of uterus (F)	22						1	3	5	6	6	1
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	42							3	4	14	16	5
Cancer of breast	18								7	4	3	4
Cancer of all other sites	160						2	8	26	37	46	41
Diabetes	11								1	3	4	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	135							1	6	26	48	54
Heart Disease	407				1	4	3	6	20	49	127	197
Other diseases of circulating system	69							1	2	10	30	26
Bronchitis	160	2		1			2	1	7	25	47	75
Pneumonia	125	10	2	1	2		4	6	16	26	30	28
Other respiratory diseases	31						3	1	5	10	6	6
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	29					1	2	6	7	2	6	5
Diarrhoea under 2 years	5	4	1									
Appendicitis	9						1	2	2	1	3	
Other digestive disorders	37	3				1	1	4	4	9	12	3
Nephritis	33						1		4	7	8	13
Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis	2					1		1				
Other maternal causes	1							1				
Premature birth	17	17										
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, &c.	28	22	1	1		2	1	1		7	4	1
Suicide	20					1	1	3	3	7	4	1
Road traffic accidents	14					1		2		4	5	2
Other violent causes	326	5	4	8	21	39	47	61	43	46	26	26
All other causes	113	1		1	1	2	9	5	6	15	27	46
TOTALS	1994	70	9	14	28	70	108	142	191	341	474	547

Cases Certified 1754; Inquests 82;
Coroner without inquests 158.

TABLE 2.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1940.

Notifiable Diseases.	Number of cases notified													Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths	D.W.C.	
	At Ages - Years																
	At all ages	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-				
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera, Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	63	2	2	3	6	4	15	6	11	9	4	1	-	55	1	-	
Erysipelas	28	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	10	8	14	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	48	1	2	3	14	5	10	6	3	2	1	1	-	34	-	1	
Typhus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric Fever	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	
Relapsing and Continued Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Fever	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	2	2	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	5	-	-	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	41	4	2	5	1	1	3	2	5	7	2	7	2	36	3	1	
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	155	1	1	-	-	-	3	2	19	73	26	27	3	-	89	-	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	5	9	-	1	1	-	16	-	
Measles	257	18	41	50	37	34	50	3	12	12	-	-	-	88	-	-	
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	100	1	3	-	4	-	2	1	7	19	12	35	16	45	-	-	
Diarrhoea	22	17	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	5	-	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	
Trench Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	17	6	5	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	
Totals	782	56	58	66	67	46	86	22	62	153	52	84	30	315	123	2	