

Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for Chelsea, 1943.

Contributors

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ANNUAL (ABRIDGED) REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1943.



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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for 1943.

As in the three preceding years, by direction
of the Ministry of Health, the present Report is an abridged and
interim one, and omits the figures of the population, birth rate,
and death rate, for reasons of security.

The health of the population has continued to
be satisfactory, notwithstanding prevailing conditions.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious
disease during the year under review.

The number of notified cases of diphtheria
continues small, and it is reasonable to regard this as mainly due
to the immunisation work carried out in the past at the Chelsea
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic. None of the notified cases had
completed a course of immunisation before the onset of the disease.

There has been a progressive increase in
Maternity and Child Welfare work, the number of attendances alone
(1714), by mothers at the ante-natal clinic, constituting a notable
record.

Approval was given in November by the Ministry
of Health for the establishment of a second war-time nursery, to
accommodate 96 children, at Cheyne Hospital for Children. This
was opened on 15th February, 1944.

The scheme for Special allowances for those
who have given up work to undergo treatment for Tuberculosis became
operative on July 1st. Of the forty-six cases considered, forty-two
have been granted allowances.

I should like to thank members of the Council
for the support and sympathetic consideration which they have extended
to me and for their attention to the problems which it has been my
duty to lay before them.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W.H.L. McCarthy, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
CHELSEA, S.W. 3.

August, 1944.

AREA. ... 660 acres.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:-</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate . . .	205	184	389
Illegitimate . . .	30	40	70
	<u>235</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>459</u>

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	5	6	11

(Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 23.4).

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	267	287	554

<u>DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:-</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.1
Other Puerperal Causes		

<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	20	12	32

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	70
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	62
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	114

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

The causes of deaths (554) were as follows :-

Scarlet Fever	1	Bronchitis	36
Tuberculosis of		Pneumonia	44
respiratory system	22	Other respiratory	8
Other forms of T.B.	2	diseases	
Syphilitic disease	6	Ulceration of Stomach	11
Influenza	12	or duodenum	8
Cancer - various sites	99	Diarrhoea (under 2)	2
Diabetes	1	Appendicitis	17
Intra-cranial vascular		Other digestive diseases	7
lesions	30	Nephritis	1
Heart disease	152	Maternal Causes	10
Other diseases of the		Premature birth	
circulatory system	18	Congenital malformations,	8
		birth injuries	
Suicide			7
Road Traffic accidents			3
Other violent causes			14
All other causes			35

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS. The total number carried out was 115, including 67 for the bacillus associated with Diphtheria.

NURSING IN THE HOME. The total number of visits paid by the nurses from the Chelsea District Nursing Association was 1,305 (160 cases).

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. The total number of attendances at the Clinics by children under one year of age was 3,298, and 963 children attended between the ages of 1 and 5 years. There were 1,714 attendances by mothers at the ante-natal clinic and 18 mothers attended the post-natal clinic.

INVALID CHILDREN'S AND ASSOCIATION. The number of applications referred to the Association for assistance of children under 5 years of age was 26 (actual cases 26).

HEALTH VISITORS. The total number of visits made was 5,769. The number of half-day attendances at Clinics was 600.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. 90 visits (including 40 miscellaneous visits) were made to Foster Mothers.

DENTAL TREATMENT. 70 cases attended the Dental Clinic at the Violet Melchett Infant Centre for the provision of preventive dental treatment for children under 5 years of age. Arrangements were also made for 64 expectant mothers to receive dental treatment at St. Stephen's Hospital. Of these, 8 mothers were provided with dentures.

HOME HELPS. One case was attended by a Home Help - the nett cost to the Council being £4:0:0.

DISTRIBUTION OF VITAMINS TO EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. By arrangement with the local office of the Ministry of Food these preparations were distributed from the Welfare Centre by a member of the Public Health Staff.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADMINISTRATION.

12,825 inspections (including re-inspections) were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. Included in this total number were 1,376 inspections on complaint of nuisance, 463 with reference to Infectious Disease and 173 as to conditions in Factories.

442 Intimation Notices and 86 Nuisance Notices under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 were served during the year.

Legal proceedings under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, in respect of sanitary conditions were undertaken in 17 instances.

DISINFECTION OR DISINFESTATION. The routine disinfection of rooms after the occurrence of infectious disease was continued, and also disinfestation for vermin. At the Disinfecting Station 23,721 articles were disinfected or disinfested and 239 articles were destroyed in the incinerator.

SCABIES. Scabies was made notifiable this year, and 217 Adults and 158 children were treated at the Cleansing Station. The total number of treatments was 848, as compared with 1,356 in 1942. Disinfection of the patients' personal clothing was carried out whilst the patients were being treated. The Woman Sanitary Inspector visited homes, and arranged for examination of contacts.

VERMINOUS PERSONS. 24 Adults and 251 children (including children attending elementary schools) were cleansed at the Disinfecting Station.

HEAD LICE. To give effect to the recommendations contained in the Ministry of Health's Circular regarding infestation by head lice, special attention and advice is given by the Health Visitors at the Welfare Centre and when visiting homes. Suitable combs are made available whenever necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Inspectors made 980 inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold. Unsound food was surrendered and either destroyed or disposed of for purposes other than human consumption.

Analyst for analysis during the year. Of these 200 were taken as "formal" and 200 as "informal". Seventeen samples were returned as adulterated. In each of these cases a warning letter was sent to the Vendor concerned. All other samples were returned as genuine.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS. The total number of notifications received during the year was 753 as follows :-

Diphtheria	18	Acute Primary Pneumonia	18
Erysipelas	10	Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	6
Scarlet Fever	96	Measles	297
Enteric Fever	2	Whooping Cough	42
Puerperal pyrexia	6	Scabies	62
Cerebro-Spinal fever	4	Food Poisoning	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	72
Dysentery	85	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4

DIPHTHERIA. 18 cases were notified, of which one proved not to be suffering from this disease. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC. 348 new cases attended.

SCARLET FEVER. 96 cases were notified, of which two proved not to be suffering from this disease. There was one death - female 4 years.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. One case was notified - the child made a complete recovery.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION. No case of Smallpox was notified. Of the 179 births registered in Chelsea during 1942, 114 were successfully vaccinated - a percentage of 63.7. (Figures for 1943 are not yet available).

TUBERCULOSIS. 72 new cases of pulmonary and 4 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. In addition, 20 new cases came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health from other sources. The total number was therefore 96, (Pulmonary - Males 44, Females 45; Non-pulmonary - Males 2, Females 5). The total number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis was 24, (Pulmonary 22, Non-pulmonary 2).

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REVELATIONS, 1940. The total number of cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough on the 31st December, 1943, was 222, (Pulmonary - Males 108, Females 83; Non-pulmonary - Males 15, Females 16). The Tuberculosis Visitor paid 79 visits to non-dispensary cases.

DISPENSARY AND SPECIAL CASES. New cases examined 185. Of these, 24 were found to be definitely tuberculous. 117 contacts also examined. The number of attendances (including contacts) was 1,156, and 2,679 visits were made by the nurse to homes of patients. The Tuberculosis Officer visited 17 patients at their homes, and 94 patients were referred to him at the Dispensary by Medical Practitioners, 152 specimens of sputum examined, and 552 X-Ray examinations were made in connection with the work. The total number of cases on the Dispensary Register on the 31st December, 1943 was 151.

CHELSEA TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE. The Committee met 4 times and 118 cases were considered. Social services in co-operation with voluntary societies were continued.

During the year 35 patients received artificial pneumo-thorax treatment, 31 patients were in receipt of extra nourishment provided by the Council, and one patient received dental treatment under the Borough Council scheme.