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Contributors

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS.PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1943.

The Ministry of Health has issued Circular 10/44 indicating that the Annual Report for 1943 should be prepared on similar lines to that of 1942 and previous war years.

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

The general health of the community during the year was good apart from measles, which had reached epidemic proportions at the end of the previous year, but gradually subsided during the first quarter of 1943. There was an outbreak of influenza towards the end of the year which was widespread in its distribution, and was of short duration. There were nine deaths from influenzal pneumonia.

VITAL STATISTICS.(a) Birth rate.

The Statistics show there has been a further increase in the birth rate which was higher than for many years. The figure was 19.2 per 1,000 population, compared with 18.3 for the previous year.

(b) Death rate.

This was about the average for recent years, viz. 13.8 per 1,000 population.

(c) Infantile Mortality.

The figure of 53.6 per 1,000 births was one of the lowest figures for many years. This rate was the lowest over a period of 40 years apart from one occasion only.

(d) Maternal Mortality.

The maternal mortality rate of 4.8 based on six deaths was rather higher than previous years which have been consistently low.

CANCER.

The death rate for this disease, consistent with the rest of the country, tends to rise. The rate is 1.8 per 1,000 population.

TUBERCULOSIS.(a) Incidence.

Pulmonary - Only on one occasion in the history of the Borough has the death rate been slightly lower than this year.

Incidence during past 7 years.

		Puly.		Non-Puly.		Total.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. of new notifications	- 1943	38	20	15	12	53	32	85
	1942	33	20	14	17	47	37	84
	1941	38	28	13	17	51	45	96
	1940	36	21	12	15	48	36	84
	1939	33	25	22	35	55	60	115
	1938	44	25	23	17	67	42	109
	1937	37	19	18	13	55	32	87
<hr/>								
Average for war years	-	37	22	17	18	54	40	94
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Two pre-war years (av)	-	41	22	20	15	61	37	98

The above table reveals :-

(i) That the incidence of tuberculosis within the Borough has not increased.

(ii) That a comparison between the "war years" and the average of the two years preceding the war shows :-

(a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis - Number of male patients notified is below the average for the whole war period. In the case of female patients the average was exceeded in two of the five years only.

(b) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis - Males exceeded the average in one year only. Females exceeded the average in three of the years.

For the year 1943 the average number notified in each of the sections (pulmonary and non-pulmonary) was appreciably below that of pre-war years.

(b) Maintenance Allowances.

The Government Scheme for maintenance allowances for certain tuberculous cases was put into operation during the year. The scheme is working quite well and has enabled early cases of tuberculosis to accept sanatorium treatment and cease work at a much earlier stage, since the payments offer relief from economic embarrassment. The main objection is that those patients who have become chronic and are unlikely to be fit for work again must be excluded from the scheme. This exclusion has a psychological effect on patients as they realise that the prognosis is bad, and this places the Tuberculosis Officer in an invidious position.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) Municipal Midwives.

In the capacity of Midwives or Maternity Nurses the Municipal Midwives attended - 76.6% of total domiciliary births in the Borough, and 42.0% of total births in the Borough.

One reason for the reduction of domiciliary midwifery was due to the complete absence of Home Helps. In these days of widespread employment of women in industry and high wages it is impossible to recruit personnel for this more or less casual and less remunerative employment.

The Midwives attend special ante-natal clinics with their cases who are examined by a Maternity and Child Welfare Officer and special cases are referred to the Obstetric Consultant.

(b) Municipal Maternity Hospital.

(i) Statistics.

<u>No. of beds available.</u>	...	...	...	...	28
Total admissions.	...	...	...	...	606
Number of deliveries.	...	...	...	...	503
Number of ante-natal patients treated as in-patients.	...	...	...	...	157
Cases delivered by midwives.	...	...	...	...	433
Cases delivered by doctors -					
(a) General practitioners.	...	...	...	...	38
(b) Obstetrician.	...	...	...	...	33
Cases in which medical aid was summoned -					
(a) General practitioners.	...	...	...	...	28
(b) Obstetrician.	...	...	...	...	116
<u>Maternal Deaths.</u>	...	...	...	...	3
<u>Infantile Deaths.</u>					
(a) Stillborn.	...	...	...	...	17
(b) Neonatal deaths.	...	...	...	...	12

Clinics.

Ante-natal Clinics.

Number of patients who attended.	...	...	...	713
Total attendances made.	...	...	...	4,429

Post-natal, Gynaecological & Endocrine.

Number of patients who attended.	...	...	...	472
Total attendances made.	...	...	...	1,099
Post-natal.	...	...	...	228
Gynaecological.	...	...	...	215
Endocrine.	...	...	...	29

The lack of Home Helps has resulted in a greater increase in institutional confinements. The number of deliveries would have been increased compared with previous years, but owing to an outbreak of pemphigus the Hospital was closed for new admissions for about three weeks, and many of the cases had to be accommodated at the Emergency Maternity Hospital at Arnside.

(ii) Proposed Extension.

The number of bookings steadily increasing, and the indications being that this is likely to continue, proposals for extensions to the Hospital have been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

(c) Emergency Maternity Hospital.

The Emergency Maternity Hospital at Arnside, which is under the jurisdiction of Westmorland County Council has been used extensively and 43 cases were delivered during the year. This arrangement has been accepted in good grace by patients, although they would prefer to be confined nearer their own homes for domestic reasons, and especially in view of the difficulty in arranging for the care of children of school age whilst the mother is away.

(d) Welfare Centre.

The work at this Centre has again increased during the year. The average attendance of children per clinic being 172.

The number of children who first attended during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were under one year, was 1065, as against 994 in 1942, which with a live birth rate of 1204, gives a percentage of 88.45 of total births. If early infantile deaths were deducted from the birth rate, it is probable that the percentage would be about 90.

The work at the Clinic follows the usual routine. All babies are weighed weekly until three months, when, if their condition is satisfactory, it is suggested that monthly weighing is sufficient, but in practice it is found that the majority of the mothers request that their babies be weighed every week. The Medical Officers see all children attending for the first time and then on request by either the mothers or Nurses. Advice on feeding and the general management of the child is given individually to each mother by the Medical Officer or the Health Visitors.

The scheme for the supply of dried milk, foods and certain medications, eg. Vitamin preparations, iron, etc. was continued, together with the Ministry of Food scheme for the distribution of fruit juice and cod liver oil.

(e) War-time Nursery.

The War-time Nursery was in operation during the year and the accommodation of 45 children by day and 15 by night was used to capacity. The children definitely improved in their physical condition and behaviour with the necessary training and care provided at the Nursery. After the measles epidemic in the early part of the year had subsided, the health of the children was maintained. One of the difficulties experienced was continual changing of staff and difficulty in procuring suitable substitutes.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The work of the Venereal Diseases Clinic has been carried out at the temporary Clinic situated in the grounds of Devonshire Road Hospital. There is still only one Clinical Venereal Diseases Officer and one male attendant. Two sisters of the Isolation Hospital attend the Clinics in connection with the treatment of female patients.

In accordance with the rest of the country the incidence of Venereal Disease in the Borough has increased. The new Government Regulation 33B came into operation and several cases were dealt with under the Regulation. So many cases could not be dealt with formally, but an instruction from the Principal Medical Officer was issued to the effect that informal action should be taken in those cases where only one formal notification had been received, and this has resulted in further cases being encouraged to accept treatment.

SCABIES.

The number of cases dealt with at the special School Clinic, First Aid Posts and Public Assistance Institution were as follows :-

School children	...	839
Men	...	179
Women	...	247
Babies (under school age).	...	204
Total		1469

Propaganda.

The Sound Film made by the Ministry of Information entitled "Scabies : Diagnosis and Treatment", was exhibited at one of the local cinemas, and attended by a representative gathering of Doctors, Hospital Nurses and others interested in general public health work, and was much appreciated.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The scheme for immunisation against diphtheria was carried out energetically by means of Health Visitors, School Nurses, Medical Officers and propaganda leaflets. It was found necessary to close the auxiliary clinics at the First Aid Posts, which were in operation during the previous year, as it was found that all cases could now be dealt with at the weekly Central Clinic. Fresh efforts are still being made to encourage all pre-school children to be immunised before they reach school age.

The following statement shows the numbers dealt with up to the end of 1943 :-

Total number of children immunised to end of 1943.	...	11,004.
Percentage of child population.	...	73.6%
Number immunised during the year.	...	1,260. *
* (under 5's - 928). (over 5's - 332).		

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The town ambulance service is run by the Health Committee and drivers are provided from the Civil Defence Ambulance Service. The attendants are now members of the Rescue Service since the amalgamation of the First Aid Parties and Rescue Parties into one service. Long distance journeys outside the Borough are undertaken for patients who require transport to Hospitals for necessary treatment, and each request is accompanied by a medical certificate. The Health Committee also waived the restriction that only residents of the Borough should enjoy the privileges of this service.

The number of cases transported during the year was as follows :-

Accidents.	...	599.
Illness.	...	1,734.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SCHEME.

The blood bank at the North Lonsdale Hospital has done good work during the year. Permission was granted to use one of the First Aid Posts as an additional centre for bleeding, and members of the Public Health Staff and the First Aid Post Staff have provided the personnel for these additional sessions. The Civil Defence Ambulance Service are still providing part of the transport for conveying donors to and from the Centre, and conveying blood to the E.M.S. laboratory at High Carley.

E.M.S. PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

By arrangement with the Ministry of Health the above local laboratory at High Carley, Nr. Ulverston, under the direction of Dr. J. Carr Brundret, has undertaken all the public health laboratory work and the service is running very efficiently in so far that results can be obtained more quickly, and the services of the Bacteriologist are available for any special investigation.

PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

Owing to the sudden death of the District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator - Dr. J.M. Henderson - and the introduction of the Public Assistance Domiciliary Medical Service, whereby General Practitioners undertake Public Assistance previously carried out by the District Medical Officer, it was found necessary to appoint Dr. R.W. Morrison, a General Practitioner in the Borough, as Public Vaccinator.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS.

Mr. J. Shanks, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :-

Mr. H.T. Marshall, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, retired owing to ill health in October, and the Health Committee recorded their appreciation of his loyal and devoted service extending over a period of almost 30 years.

The general sanitary duties have been carried out as hitherto, and it is gratifying to report that with the release of labour from the repair of war damage, and the increased availability of building materials, nuisances and sanitary defects have been promptly dealt with.

Designated and Ordinary Milk has been regularly sampled for bacteriological and biological examination, and numerous samples of milk, together with other foodstuffs, have been submitted for analysis.

The duties in connection with Port Health work and the inspection of meat and other food have been fully maintained, and special attention was paid to food-preparing premises.

To comply with a Direction issued by the Ministry of Food in connection with Rodent Control, a preliminary survey of the district was carried out and a report thereon forwarded to the Ministry. The services of a full-time rat catcher were employed throughout the year, and at the end of the year steps were being taken to engage the necessary additional staff to operate the Rodent Control scheme of the Ministry of Food.

Routine samples of water were taken during the year, the results of the chemical and bacteriological examinations of the same being highly satisfactory.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

This Clinic is now conducted every two months instead of quarterly as hitherto. 59 children under five years of age made 90 attendances for advice and treatment. Necessary cases were admitted to Ethel Hedley Hospital, Windermere for in-patient treatment.

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC.

204 babies made 2,220 attendances. This is a large increase over previous years and was due to the appointment of a fully qualified Masseuse.

MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISES CLINIC.

This clinic was introduced when the appointment of a Masseuse was made, and it filled a much needed want in the Welfare Service. Clinics were held for school and pre-school children, and 16 babies made 44 attendances at the Clinic.

A.R. Forrest.

Medical Officer of Health.

12th May, 1944.

Received of the Treasurer of the United States
the sum of \$100.00 for the purchase of
the land described in the following

WARRANT

This warrant is given to the person or persons
named in the following, to the effect that they
shall be entitled to the land described in the
following, and to the interest therein, and to
the benefit thereof, and to the same in all
respects as if they were the owners thereof.

WARRANT

This warrant is given to the person or persons
named in the following, to the effect that they
shall be entitled to the land described in the
following, and to the interest therein, and to
the benefit thereof, and to the same in all
respects as if they were the owners thereof.

WARRANT

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named in the following, to the effect that they
shall be entitled to the land described in the
following, and to the interest therein, and to
the benefit thereof, and to the same in all
respects as if they were the owners thereof.

[Handwritten signature]

WARRANT

This warrant is given to the person or persons
named in the following, to the effect that they
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