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BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(P. C. MCKINLAY, M.D.)

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Beverley :

WRIGHT & HOGGARD, PRINTERS, MINSTER PRESS.
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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Beverley.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my fourth Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.

The fourth year of war has brought no evidence of serious ill-effects on the health of the inhabitants of Beverley, but minor disabilities caused by war conditions and extension of the Health Services of the Borough have increased the work of all members of the staff of the Health Department, but their willing co-operation, aided by the officials of the other departments of the Corporation and of members of the Council, have been greatly appreciated.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. C. McKINLAY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1943.

Officers of the Public Health Department of the Council.

Miss D. Kirby, S.R.C.N., replaced Miss Gibson as Health Visitor and School Nurse.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

54 swabs of the nose and throat, 42 specimens of sputum, 3 specimens of Cerebral Spinal fluid, and 28 other specimens were sent to laboratories at Pocklington, Hull and London.

AMBULANCE.

During 1942, the ambulance carried 253 patients a total distance of 3,287 miles, and has firmly installed itself as a necessity in the life of the Borough. Our thanks are due to the Police and to the voluntary drivers and attendants under the direction of Miss Joyce Goodall and Miss Winifred Plimpton, whose willing and efficient service have made this new venture such a success.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Centre is held every Wednesday afternoon, and 256 children attended for the first time, and the total number attending was 399. Children under five are also seen when necessary at the school children's clinics for minor ailments on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

The Health Visitors paid 258 first visits and a total of 2,083 visits to children up to the age of five. During the year we have made a special drive to increase the number of children under five years of age who have been immunised against diphtheria, and 306 such children were immunised at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The amount of dried milk supplied at cost price to mothers attending the Centre was 2,176 lbs.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

The Ante-Natal Clinic is still held every Friday afternoon and 118 new cases attended, and the total attendances were 339. During this year, the food and clothing coupons for expectant mothers were distributed through the ante-natal clinic, and we are indebted to Miss Whitaker and Miss Wise for their assistance in this matter. In some ways, it is a matter for regret that this arrangement was cancelled by the Government and this service is administered by the Food Office. A valuable opportunity has thus been lost of making contact with persons in need of ante-natal advice.

The dental surgeon conducted two sessions for eight women, and we are continuing to impress on the expectant mother the importance of dental care, both for her health and for that of her baby.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were eight cases of diphtheria during 1942, compared with twenty in the previous year, and of these eight cases, only one had been immunised. By the end of 1942, 3,131 children between the ages of one and fifteen years had been immunised, and 622 children of the same age had not been immunised. From these figures, it appears that the risk of infection by diphtheria is about 40 times greater in the non-immunised than in the immunised groups.

The epidemic of scabies which swept the whole country, as is common under war conditions, was widespread both amongst children and adults in Beverley. Under the Defence Regulations, persons suspected of suffering from the disease could be compelled to undergo examination and, if necessary, treatment, and this procedure had to be adopted in some cases where persuasion was unavailing. The disease was made notifiable within the Borough, and this, aided by the tact and zeal of the Health Visitors, brought many cases to light. Materials were provided for treatment at home where conditions were favourable, and in other cases treatment was carried out at the Cleansing Section of the First Aid Post by paid and voluntary helpers, as a result of which the disease was brought under control.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia	32	14	9
Diphtheria	8	7	Nil
Cerebro-spinal			
Fever	4	2	1
Ophthalmia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	7	3	Nil
Pemphigus	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia .	1	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	26	18	Nil
Measles	105	3	1
Whooping Cough...	26	Nil	2
Dysentery	1	1	Nil
Para Typhoid	Nil	Nil	Nil
Malaria	1	1	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	Nil
Scabies	59	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 10 male and 13 female new cases, with four male and four female deaths during 1942. There were two male and five

female non-pulmonary cases, with one male and two female deaths, during the same period. This is a slight increase on the previous year, and as this is a tendency which is likely to increase as war conditions with increased strain and decreased rest and ventilation are prolonged, a careful watch has to be maintained by the Public Health Authorities, the medical profession and the general public, who must be encouraged to consult their doctor if there is the slightest suspicion of the early symptoms of the disease, such as persistent cough and loss of weight, energy and appetite.

War-time Nursery.

During the year a War-time Nursery was opened in buildings provided by the Ministry of Health and erected in the grounds of St. Mary's Manor. The Nursery is for children under five years of age whose mothers, irrespective of social class, are engaged on full-time work. Any fears that the demand would not be equal to the supply were quickly set at rest, and the Nursery soon had its full quota of 40 children, under the care of a staff of trained nurses and probationer nurses who receive training in the principles and practice of nursery nursing. There is provision for bathing the children, teaching them personal hygiene, a cooking department, where nutritious meals are prepared by special domestic staff, beds for a daily rest, and games and other appliances both for recreation and education. Medical supervision and treatment is given as required, and all the children have been immunised against diphtheria. This is a great social experiment, quite apart from its valuable assistance to the war effort, and the happy, healthy faces of the children are ample proof that it is an unqualified success.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department has again increased during 1942. Salvage returns show another big increase in collections, 277 tons being sold, against 212 in 1941.

Repairs to dwelling houses were carried out during the year under great difficulties, owing to shortage of labour and materials. Only the most urgent repairs have been insisted upon, and there have been long delays in getting even the most necessary works put in hand.

1. WATER.

22 samples of water were submitted for analysis during the year. These samples showed the water supplied to the public to be satisfactory after filtration and chlorination. The water is still carefully watched to ensure the presence of the correct amount of free chlorine, and the necessary adjustments are made immediately the amount of free chlorine falls below, or rises above, the standard laid down in Government Regulations.

2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The position with regard to Sanitary Accommodation in the town at the end of the year was:—

Type of Convenience.	Number.	Percentage.
Water Closets	3664	... 83·60
Privies	208	... 4·75
Pail Closets	511	... 11·65

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year, 4,513 loads of refuse have been collected from private dwelling houses and business premises in the town, corresponding to a weight of 4,557 tons. The total cost of refuse collection and disposal, including salvage, was £1,992. All the refuse in the town, other than that salvaged, was disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Paper, scrap metal, glass, bones and waste food were collected as salvage during the year. To December, 1942, a total of 277 tons were salvaged and sold for £1,804.

4. INSPECTION OF THE AREA UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

135 nuisances from various causes have been abated during the year. 148 visits for housing defects have been made to 95 houses, and 31 Informal Notices have been served. 158 houses have been made fit by informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The housing programme is still in abeyance, due to the War, no Demolition Orders, Clearance Orders or Closing Orders being made during the year. Houses which would otherwise have been demolished are now having to be maintained in a reasonable condition by having essential work carried out.

Cases of overcrowding during the year were visited by the Sanitary Inspectors, but on account of the housing shortage overcrowding still exists.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

987 beasts, 258 calves, 8,091 sheep, and 385 pigs were slaughtered at the Government slaughterhouse during the year. This has been visited daily by the Meat Inspectors for the purpose of meat inspection.

6. FACTORIES.

Inspections of factories were made during the year, and Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, were granted.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births:—				
Legitimate ...	237	111	126	Birth rate per 1,000
Illegitimate ..	20	8	12	of the estimated
				resident population 17·1
Still Births:—				
Legitimate ...	6	2	4	Rate per 1,000 total
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—	(live and still)
				births 22·8
Deaths	186	97	89	Death rate per 1,000
				of the estimated
				resident population 12·4
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—				
All infants per 1,000 live births				58·4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live				
births				50·6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live				
births				150·0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				1
Death Rate, England and Wales				11·6
Birth Rate, England and Wales				15·8
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales				49·0