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BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS.



ANNUAL REPORT

-- of the --

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1939.



TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Wise and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 37th Report on the Public Health Services. The Ministry of Health have issued two circulars enjoining on Local Authorities the necessity for curtailing these reports, so as to publish merely a census of statistics, and only to expand where special new developments have appeared. This report is, therefore, reduced to the simplest proportions, but for the sake of convenience, comparative figures for the previous year are given in brackets.

Apart from the reception of evacuees from London in September, there was no special matter of outstanding importance. A detailed report was presented both to the Public Health Committee and the Education Committee on the subject of these evacuees and their condition on arrival. There is no need, therefore, to cover the ground again. It only remains to be stated that more recent experience has shown a great improvement in the matters of cleanliness and skin diseases among the people arriving in the area.

Conditions were necessarily difficult in the last quarter for all the staff, but there was no relaxation in the help they have always given me and which I am once again very happy to acknowledge.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

ERNEST STORK

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

The increased activities of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department necessitated the appointment of a second Health Visitor to help Miss Osborne, and Mrs. E. Pettman commenced duty in September.

Except for the resignation of Mr. W. Lincoln Sutton as Public Analyst at the beginning of October, there have been no other alterations.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	3659 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	17020
Census 1931	16708
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	4967
Rateable value	£109616

A penny rate represents £432.

Social conditions.

Out-door relief :-

Men	148	(160)
Women	192	(198)
Children	177	(163)
Total	517	(521)
Cost	£4203. 15. 5.	(£3955. 18. 5.)

Casuals :- There was a considerable decrease in the number of casuals -

Men	5364	(7980)
Women	200	(255)
Children	25	(38)
Total	5589	(8273)

Vital Statistics.

Live births	total	male	female
legitimate	228(252)	104(133)	124(119)
illegitimate	11(5)	7(2)	4(3)

Birth rate per 1000 of Population 14.04 (15.21)
do. do. England & Wales 15.0 (15.1)

Stillbirths - Total 5(8) M 2(4) F 3(4)
Rate per 1000 of population .29 (.47)
do. do. England & Wales .59 (.60)
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 20.49 (30.1)

Deaths total male female
221(188) 111(99) 110(89)

Crude death rate per 1000 of population 12.9 (11.13)
Death rate corrected for areal comparability 10.9 (9.4)
do. for England & Wales 12.1 (11.6)

Deaths from Puerperal causes -

Puerperal Sepsis	0	(0)
Other puerperal causes	0	(1)
Total	0	(1)
Rate per 1000 total births	0	(3.7)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age - Total Male Female
Legitimate 10(4) 3(3) 7(1)
Illegitimate 0(0) 0(0) 0(0)

Rate, legitimate, per 1000 live births 37.8 (15.8)
do. England & Wales 50.0 (53)

Deaths from Cancer 30 (33)
" " Measles (all ages) 0 (0)
" " Whooping cough 0 (0)
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These services have been fully described and there have been no changes or developments to record.

Infant and Child Welfare.

Number of Sessions	103
" attending Clinic - Infants under 1 year	209
" " " " - Children over 1 year	192
Total number of attendances - Infants	1606
" " " " - Children	1156
Health Visitors' Visits to Infants	1292
" " " Children	2336

Evacuees - September to December.

Number attending Clinic - Infants	24
" " " Children	34
Total number of attendances - Infants	81
" " " " - Children	87
Health Visitors' Visits to Infants	48
" " " Children	141

The School Clinic treated 1149 individual children, with a total of 5201 attendances.

The Isolation Hospital. The 21 cases of Scarlet Fever and 6 cases of Diphtheria were above the average.

The Children's Act. Eleven children have been kept under observation by Miss Osborne, their home conditions being uniformly satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. A scheme for improving and augmenting the supply of water in various parts of the Town has been prepared, and during the year new feeder mains were laid to the North and East, where supplies had been inadequate. Additional pumping plant was also installed.

Drainage and Sewerage. The soil sewer was extended some 1100 yards to the West of the Town, for development of land in that area.

Closet Accommodation. All closets are on the water carriage system. This year saw the commencement of measures to secure the provision of suitable flushing apparatus to all W.C's. A great many had been so equipped, but the outbreak of the war unfortunately interrupted the work.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools are all supplied with water from the public supply and connected with the public sewerage system. The sanitary arrangements at the old disused St. Mary's Infants School, which is now occupied by children evacuated from London, leaves much to be desired and steps should be taken to place these conveniences on a level more nearly approaching that of the other Schools.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been maintained. Three licences were in force for the sale of T.T. (Certified) milk and one for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk. Two samples of milk submitted to bacteriological examination gave satisfactory results.

Meat and other Foods. There were eleven slaughterhouses, licensed annually. Routine inspections numbered 1097 and 6803 carcasses were examined.

Adulteration. 16 samples were submitted for analysis, of which 13 were found to be genuine. The remaining 3, all of milk, showed a deficiency of milk fat and the vendor in each case received a warning. On October 1st., this Borough ceased to be a Food & Drugs Authority by the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

There were 31 cases of Scarlet Fever and 6 of Diphtheria. No "return" case has been recorded for many years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Diseases.	Total number Notified.	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	31	21	0
Diphtheria	6	6	0
Typhoid Fever	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	7	0	0
Pneumonia	13	0	7
Whooping cough	16	0	0

Seven cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, four occurring in Institutions. This is a very small percentage and shows that the Maternity services in the Borough, generally speaking, stand on a very high level.

Vaccination. The Vaccination Acts are administered according to the Law as it stands.

Prevention of Blindness.— Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936. The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic deals with all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. For the eighth year in succession there was no case notified.

Tuberculosis. Nine male and six female deaths were attributed to this disease.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25	2	4	-	-	4	1	-	-
35	2	2	-	-	1	2	1	-
45	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	1
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	10	1	2	8	5	1	1

INQUESTS.

Eight inquests were held and eleven deaths were certified by the Coroner without an inquest.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939
IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Registrar-
General's
Figures.

	M	F
All causes	111	110
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
2. Measles	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Influenza	5	2
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	1	-
8. Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	5
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	2
11. Syphilis	-	-
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	-	-
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	14	16
14. Diabetes	2	-
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	3
16. Heart Disease	35	37
17. Aneurysm	-	-
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	14
19. Bronchitis	3	4
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	2	5
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
22. Peptic Ulcer	2	-
23. Diarrhoea etc. (under two years)	-	-
24. Appendicitis	-	-
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
26. Other Diseases of Liver	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	3
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	3
29. Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Puerperal Causes	-	-
31. Congenital Debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	2	5
32. Senility	-	-
33. Suicide	2	1
34. Other violence	2	4
35. Other defined Diseases	11	4
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown	-	-
37. Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	1	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)		
Small pox	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Polio-encephalitis	-	-

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