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Contributors

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EXTRACT from ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year 1943

Vital Statistics



Population, Houses, Buildings, etc.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid-year 1943 is 61,260 compared with an estimate of 65,770 for the previous year.

The Rating Officer has recently made a detailed estimate of the number of Dwelling-houses and other buildings in the town. The figures arrived at are as follows:-

Dwelling-houses	14,321
Dwelling-house with shops attached	<u>594</u>
Total of inhabited houses	<u>14,915</u>

Uninhabited buildings, including lock-up shops, stores, factories, works, schools, colleges and cinemas, total 1076. The figures do not include non rated buildings such as churches and church schools.

The rateable value of the Borough stands at £475,264, showing an increase of £2,155 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £1,950, an increase of £30.

Births

The total number of births in the Borough during the year was 2016 of which 57 were still births. There were 23 cases of twins. The number of births ascribed to permanent residents was 1182 including 41 still births. This gives a birth rate of 18.6 live births per 1000 population, the highest rate since 1920 when the rate was 21.8.

Illegitimate Births.

Illegitimate births numbered 112 giving a rate of 95 per 1000 total births. The rates for previous years, from 1942 back to 1935 are as follows:- (1942) 83, 77, 42, 54, 54, 65, 56 and (1935) 62.

Dr. Percy Stocks, Medical Statistician to the Ministry of Health, has shown that up to and including 1941 the increased illegitimacy rate was more than balanced by a decrease in the number of births occurring during the first eight months after marriage. His suggestion is that many of the illegitimate births would have been legitimised by marriage had not circumstances associated with the war interfered. The full figures for 1942 and 1943 which are required for this investigation are not yet available. Dr. Stocks states as a result of his investigations so far that "it must be concluded that up to 1941 there was no war time increase in extra-marital conceptions".

Infant and Maternal Mortality etc.

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 57 giving a death rate of 49.9 per 1000 live births. This compares with a rate of 49 for the country as a whole and a rate of 58 for the 126 great towns among which Cheltenham is included.

There was one death from puerperal sepsis and one from other causes giving a total maternal death rate per 1000 total births of 1.7 compared with 1.84 for the whole country.

The number of maternity cases for whom accommodation was provided at a reduced charge by the Corporation was, Victoria Home 110, Sunnyside 175, a total of 285. In addition some cases were admitted to the Emergency Hospital.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The number of deaths was 943 compared with 851 for the previous year. This gives a crude death rate of 15.4 compared with 13.2, 13.3 and 16.6 for the previous three war years.

Corrected Death Rate.

The Registrar-General states, that "The variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions". If the last figure given .82 were used, the corrected rate would be 12.6. The increase over the last two years is only accounted for to a small extent by deaths from influenza, of which, there were 37 compared with 6, 17 and 21 for the three previous years.

Tuberculosis Deaths.

The position with regard to Tuberculosis deaths in Cheltenham is as follows.

Deaths in 1943 from all forms of this disease numbered 39. The average number of deaths annually for the four war years 1940 to 1943 was 37.8 compared with averages of 34.5, 30.8 53.8 and 47.5 for four similar periods back to the period 1924 - 1927. Recent figures do not compare very unfavourably with earlier ones when account is taken of the increased war time population, because, for this reason, the war years' average of 37.8 might reasonably be reduced by about 15%. The figure would then read approximately 32.

Diphtheria

There was a somewhat severe outbreak of Diphtheria in the autumn of 1943 and there were six deaths. Only three of the cases resulting in death were admitted for treatment to the Delancey Fever Hospital.

Out of the 107 cases admitted, 37 had received a complete course of immunising doses. Of these, nine were not considered to be true cases while the remainder suffered to a varying extent. There was no death in this group but three unimmunised children died.

As far as is known no child immunised under the Borough Scheme has ever died of Diphtheria .

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The figures for immunisation during 1943 are as follows:-

Number of cases in which immunisation was commenced	1831
Number of completed cases	1749
Number of cases in which attendance ceased before completion.....	150
Number of Schick Tests.....	171

Estimated percentage of children immunised at end of 1943

Estimated percentage of children immunised, who were between the age of 1 and 5 years	69
Estimated percentage of children immunised, who were between the age of 5 and 15 years	74
Estimated percentage of elementary school children who have been immunised	71

Scarlet Fever

There were 107 cases of Scarlet Fever. One child died several months after an attack of Scarlet Fever and this death is included in the Registrar's return as a death from Scarlet Fever, though the association was indefinite.

Other Diseases

The number of other infectious diseases was small and no comment is called for.

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Donald E. Hoyle
Medical Officer of Health.

M/S 16/6/44.

