

[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Clevedon U.D.C.

Contributors

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Herewith is a brief report on the health of the town, with vital statistics for the year 1941, and attached is a report from your Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Staff

G. Macleod, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

M. O. H. (part time)

I. J. Leach, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
F.L.A.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Area | 3292 acres |
| Registrar General's estimate of Population | 9917 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses and Flats | 2637 |
| Rateable Value | £74,699 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £299.19.10½ |

| <u>Live Births</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 52 | 57 | 109 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 3 | 5 |

Birth Rate per 1000 of the population = 11.5

There were 129 births registered at the local Emergency Maternity Unit, while 34 cases, almost entirely from without the area, were registered at local nursing homes during the year.

| <u>Still Births</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Rate per 1000 of total births = 50

| <u>Deaths: -</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 70 | 107 | 177 |

Death Rate per 1000 = 17.8 (uncorrected)

Using Comparability Factor for 1941 (.67) = 11.9 (corrected)

Deaths of Infants under one year of age: - Male = 4; Female = 3

Infant Mortality Rate = 4.7

Deaths of Children under one year occurred as under -

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Under 1 week: 2 | 1 - 6 months: nil | |
| 1 - 4 weeks: 4 | 6 - 12 " : 1 | Total = 7 |

Deaths from some specified causes: -

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Cancer | 28 |
| Measles | 1 |
| Influenza | 7 |
| Diarrhoea | nil (under 2 years) |
| Whooping Cough | nil |
| Puerperal Sepsis | nil |

| <u>Notifiable Diseases</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Admitted to Hospital</u> | <u>Deaths</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 26 | 20 | nil |
| Diphtheria | 4 | 3 | nil |
| Pneumonia | 20 | - | 4 |
| Paratyphoid | 1 | 1 | nil |
| Measles | 14½ | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 86 | - | nil |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | 1 | nil |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 1 | nil |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | 1 | 1 | nil |
| Dysentery | 5 | - | nil |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 1 | 1 | nil |
| Erysipelas | 4 | - | nil |

Tuberculosis

Pulmonary. 1 Male died at the age of 15, and 2 Females, aged 39 and 2 years.

Other Tuberculosis. One Infant of 17 months died of T.B. Meningitis

Notifications:

| Age Periods | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
|-------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| | Male. | Female | Male. | Female |
| 5 - 15 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 15 - 25 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 |
| 25 - 35 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| 35 - 45 | - | 3 | - | - |
| 45 - 55 | 3 | - | - | - |
| 65 + | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 8 | 6 | 2 | 2 |

A review of the health of the town during the past year leaves one with a feeling of relief that, under war conditions, we have suffered so little - indeed, nothing beyond what one might expect in ordinary times. The health of the people generally is good, their spirits grim and gay. Industrial workers are showing signs of fatigue from long hours and difficult travelling, more especially the younger members of the community who have been incorporated in the industrial machine. It is remarkable, however, how quickly they regain vitality and interest when, through some minor ailment or accident, they are given a short rest on sick leave; a circumstance which leaves one with the impression that shorter hours would husband their resources and increase their capacity for intensive work. The older people, and those beyond work, exhibit remarkable staying powers, physical and nervous; and the health of the children is wonderfully good, to which school meals are a contributing factor, while the British Restaurant is a real Godsend to all classes of the community.

The scarlet fever we experienced was atypical in character; cases were spread over the year, with eleven in the months of April and May. The onset was usually characterised by a grey follicular tonsillar exudation, with appearance of the rash delayed until the third or fifth day, and in one case, it resulted from a generalised impetiginous eruption with no sore throat.

Measles, though widespread, gave no anxiety, and the single death that occurred was due to marasmus, following enteritis. Few cases were notified after the end of May, but in the meantime, whooping cough was gaining ground, and though troublesome, it was not serious, and by the end of September, it had spent itself. In September, we had one case of paratyphoid fever, and a few cases of dysentery of the Flexner type, which were short, sharp and well-defined, but this outbreak quickly subsided. Four sporadic cases of diphtheria occurred during the year, and a vigorous campaign for immunisation against this disease was initiated with good response obtained. This work is still being regularly pursued at the Infant Welfare Centre, at the schools and at a Clinic run by the County Council.

In November, mumps appeared, and though it has not been severe, it has been fairly widespread, and in a proportion of the adult and adolescent males, it was followed by some unpleasant complications.

The increase of notifications of Tuberculosis is partly accounted for by the arrival of cases from other areas.

The Emergency Maternity Unit has been in full commission for the reception of cases from other areas, and many cases, both local and from contiguous areas, have been accommodated at two local Nursing Homes. The Cottage Hospital has had to deal with an ever-increasing number of out-patients suffering from minor and major accidents, while the wards, public and private, have been in constant use. A Sick Bay, opened in May, 1941, has, also, fulfilled a useful function in dealing more particularly with cases of scabies and impetigo; (Early in 1942, Dr. Bott kindly undertook to hold a Clinic for evacuees twice weekly) and the District Nurses have continued to discharge their many functions with gratifying success, while the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, in addition to meeting demands for their services in dealing with the removal of patients, have, also, in company with members of the Red Cross, given valuable assistance at the Cottage Hospital and at the Maternity Unit. The Ambulance Service has been augmented and relieved by ambulances of the A. R. P. Services.

I have to acknowledge with gratitude assistance from all members of the staff, from my colleagues and from the Naval Bacteriological Staff; also, from the Bristol City and the County Council Health Departments.

Your obedient Servant,

The abridged Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year ending March, 1942.

SEWERS. The sewers have been periodically inspected and, in spite of the increased population, have shown no abnormal signs of defects or nuisances through overloading.

Several usual stoppages and defects have been dealt with, but recommendations for improvements have been held over during the period of the War.

RIVERS. The portions of the River for which the Council are responsible have been cleared at the appointed times.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION. The collection of House Refuse has been well maintained, in spite of the added duty by the collection of salvage, and the many calls of the War Services. The estimated average weekly collection is 50 tons.

The householders have been circularised asking them to assist by placing their Refuse Bins on collection days by the street entrance of their premises which would be a considerable help to the house collection staff.

This appeal has received very little response in some areas of the town, but, in others, the response has been good.

GAS UNDERTAKINGS ACTS 1920 - 1934.

GAS EXAMINATION. 24 tests have been made of the Gas supplied by the Clevedon and Yatton Gas Company for Calorific Value, Purity and Water Pressure.

The declared provisions under the Acts and the Statutory prescriptions are to provide Gas: -

1. Of an average Calorific Value of not less than 460 B. T. U.'s per cubic foot;
2. Of an average Calorific Value for any period of 2 hours and upwards to be not as much as 6% in defect of 460 B. T. U.'s per cubic foot (a complete 1% by which the Calorific value is deficient in excess of 5%);
3. Free from any trace of sulphurated hydrogen;
4. At a pressure of not less than 2 inches.

These conditions have been complied with, except on one occasion when the presence of sulphurated hydrogen was detected and reported to the Board of Trade.

DRAINS. 14 inspections have been made, 14 notices have been sent to owners regarding defective drains, and all have been attended to.

COUNCIL HOUSING. A considerable number of repairs have been carried out including new floors, plumbing, drains, ceilings, fencing, windows, gas boilers.

All houses becoming vacant have been inspected and, where necessary, re-decorated before re-letting.

HOUSES (private ownership). Sanitary fittings, lavatory accommodation have been condemned in six small properties, and, in each case, the owner has replaced with new.

DISINFECTION AND FUMIGATION. Several houses have been treated after infectious cases, and five cases of disinfection of premises carried out.

The following articles have, also, been treated by fumigation, etc.: -

| <u>Blankets</u> | <u>Pillows</u> | <u>Sheets</u> | <u>Beds</u> | <u>Mattresses</u> | <u>Wearing apparel, etc.</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 258 | 35 | 1 | 3 | 57 | 30 bundles |

RATS. Baiting of rat haunts was carried out throughout the town in the early part of the year, and, periodically, a number of isolated cases have been dealt with.

MILK TESTS. Pasteurized Milk

No. of examination results: 6
2 satisfactory
1 unsatisfactory
3 technical errors

Accredited Milk

No. of examination results: 8
7 satisfactory
1 unsatisfactory

T. B. test taken from herds at the Farms: No. of examination results: 9
9 satisfactory

Dairies and Cow Houses have been periodically inspected and notifications made of defects and non-compliance with Regulations.

WATER. Two samples of water have been taken of the Town water supply at the source, and the results of the examination and test were satisfactory.

WELLS. Six samples have been taken from water in wells "under consideration for use in case of Emergency", and all were unsatisfactory.

FOODS. Butchers' Meats inspected and condemned: 89 lbs. 5 ozs.

OTHER FOODS.

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------------|----------------------|
| 3 | ... | 3 lb. | tins of Ox Tongue |
| 1 | ... | 6 lb. | tin of Fruit Salad |
| 1 | ... | $\frac{1}{2}$ " | " " " |
| 6 | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ " | " " Evaporated Milk |
| 2 | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ " | " " " (Unsweetened) |
| 1 | ... | | tin of Luncheon Meat |
| 1 | ... | 6 " | tin of Tongue |

HARBOR LAKE. The Bathing Huts have been periodically disinfected

STREET GUTTERS. These are periodically cleaned out and disinfected.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. These have been cleaned out daily and disinfected.

PIG SWILL BINS. An appliance has been fitted up at Hangstone Yard for sterilizing street bins after collection, and this is regularly done.

SAVAGE. (not including old iron). The following amounts (round figures) have been collected and sent away to the Receiving Depots: -

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <u>TAPER</u> | <u>BONES</u> | <u>RAGS</u> | <u>PIG FOOD</u> | <u>METALS</u> |
| 0 tons | 3 tons | $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons | 118 tons | 6 tons 6 cwt. |

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS ACT. The factories have been visited and matters dealt with in connection with notifications received from H. H. Inspector of Factories and reports sent to him.

HOUSING. (Transferred War workers and families rehoused after war damage).

Number of houses dealt with under the Ministry of Health in connection with the above: - WAR WORKERS

Houses converted into Flats: 3

Houses Improved: 2

HOUSES DAMAGED BY BOMB ACTION

Houses made good and families rehoused: 7

Signed: INOW J. LEACH A.R.S.I.
M.R.I.P.H., M.I.H.

Saturday
July 25th, 1942.

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