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BOROUGH



OF LEIGH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1941

COLLINS & DARWELL, Printers, LEIGH



BOROUGH OF LEIGH, 1941.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Councillor T. R. GREENOUGH, M.A., (Camb.), F.I.C., J.P.

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor W. SEDDON

His Worship The Mayor (Councillor P. Gibson, J.P.)	
Ald. W. Collier, J.P.	Coun. C. H. Bratt
„ N. Fairhurst, J.P.	„ H. Gough, J.P.
„ W. Grundy, J.P.	„ T. Haseldine
„ W. Higenbottam, J.P.	„ J. Horrocks, J.P.
„ W. Hindley, J.P.	„ T. Hourigan
„ J. L. Prescott, J.P.	„ W. Kearney, J.P.
Coun. F. Bamford	„ T. Lowe, J.P.
„ W. Blackshaw, J.P.	„ R. Starkie, J.P.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :

Chairman :

Councillor W. KEARNEY, J.P.


Deputy Chairman :

Councillor T. LOWE, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor P. Gibson, J.P.)	
Alderman N. Fairhurst, J.P.	Councillor E. Green
„ J. L. Prescott, J.P.	„ T. R. Greenough, J.P.
Councillor F. Bamford	„ J. Parr
„ T. Battersby	„ W. Woolstencroft
„ H. Gough, J.P.	

Co-opted Members :

The Mayoress (Mrs. Gibson)	
Dr. J. H. Young	Mrs. Lowe
Mrs. Fairclough	Mr. H. Warburton
Mrs. Greenough	



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BOROUGH OF LEIGH.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

H. J. PETERS, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer :

M. S. MILLER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under Canal Boats Acts, Rat Officer :

†H. CLUSKY.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

†*T. Hailwood. †*J. Mather. †*G. Keaveny.

†Cert S.I.B. *Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspector.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

† †A. B. Belyea, *†L. M. Goulden, *††M. Meacham (Appointed 15/4/41)

*††J. M. Stables (Appointed 17/11/41), †M. Smith, *††M. Tonge (Resigned 31/10/41).

Maternity Home Staff :

*†S. J. Storey (Matron), †*T. C. Hall (Sister), †*A. Bradley (Staff Nurse).

Municipal Midwives :

*†A. Ashworth (Apptd. 1/11/41), †A. Gibbon, †E. Makin, *†B. J. Heathcote

*†E. Mercer (Appointed 14/5/41).

*State Registered Nurse. †Central Midwives' Board Certificate.

‡ Health Visitors' Certificate.

Consultants (Part-time) :

K. V. Bailey, M.C., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.G.....Obstetrician

G. E. Hayward, M.B., M.R.C.S.....Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon

J. Holt, M.R.C.V.S.....Veterinary Surgeon

*Mrs. Dickenson.....Puerperal Nurse

Clerical Staff :

S. Cunningham (Senior). Gladys M. Davies.

Hilda M. Dixon Helen Mulrooney.

The clerical staff is engaged jointly in Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Work

Public Health & School Medical Department,
Town Hall,
Leigh,
Lancashire.

November, 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health
and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.*

Messrs. Chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual Report as Medical Officer of Health. The report has reference to the year 1941 and in accordance with the expressed desire of the Minister of Health is a comparatively short one.

The year under review has been characterised by a large decrease in the incidence of, and mortality from, diphtheria. There has also been a considerable increase in the number of children who have been immunised against this dangerous disease.

Much of the time and energy of the department continues to be taken up with the maintenance and organisation of the A.R.P. Casualty Service.

My thanks are due to the Chairmen and Members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for their help and encouragement and to the members of my staff for their continued faithful service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. PETERS.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE
AREA.

Local Statistics.

The Borough covers an area of 6,359 acres.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population at mid-year 1941 was :—

Population.....	45,460
„ (Census) 1931.....	45,317
No. of inhabited houses, end of 1941, according to rate books.....	14,013
Rateable value.....	£242,209
Sum represented by Penny Rate.....	£1,009 (gross)

Social Conditions.

The inhabitants are largely of the working class, coal mining employing the largest number of any single occupation.

The percentage of insured persons unemployed in December, 1941, was 0.97 compared with 2.1 in December, 1940.

Comments on Vital Statistics.

The maternal mortality rate for the year was 3.46 compared with the previous year's figure of 2.69. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales during 1941 was 2.23 compared with 2.16 for the previous year.

The birth rate has shown a considerable rise, being 18.12 compared with 15.49 during the previous year. This is the highest birth rate recorded in the borough since the year 1923 when the rate was 18.2. In spite of war conditions and a considerable increase in the number of births, the infant mortality rate has shown no increase. The rate was 68 compared with a rate of 69 during 1940. The national rate for 1941 was 59 compared with 55 during 1940.

There has been a notable decrease in the incidence of diphtheria during the year and this has been accompanied by a corresponding decrease in mortality. The number of cases notified was 63 compared with 178 during 1940, and the number of fatal cases was 4 compared with 16 in the previous year. These 4 deaths from diphtheria might have been prevented by immunisation and point a warning finger to those parents who, up to now, have not availed themselves of the facilities for free immunisation.

The year 1940 was an epidemic one in regard to measles and there were 1330 cases notified. This disease tends to become epidemic every two years and hence the comparatively small number of cases (21) which occurred in the year under review is in conformity with our knowledge of the epidemiology of measles.

There were two deaths from whooping cough and the number of cases was 108 compared with 97 during the previous year.

The year 1940 had witnessed an excessively large mortality from bronchitis and during 1941 there was a considerable decrease in the number of deaths from this disease. Thirty-six deaths occurred compared with 88 during 1940.

The number of deaths from heart disease has shown a considerable decrease during the year. There were 69 deaths due to this cause compared with 123 during the previous year.

There has been a decrease in the mortality due to cancer. The total number of deaths was 60 compared with a total of 67 for the year 1940.

The death rate for the borough was 11.72 and the rate for the year 1940 was 13.00. War conditions, for example, large movements of local populations, have rendered it impossible to prepare a comparability factor which would have enabled local death rates to be compared.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1941

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births (a)	Legitimate	796	425	371	Birth Rate per 1000 of the resident population....18.12
	Illegitimate	35	21	14	
	Totals	831	446	385	
Live Births (b)	Legitimate	789	423	366	
	Illegitimate	35	21	14	
	Totals	824	444	380	

	Total	Male	Female	
Stillbirths....	(a) 34	21	13	
„	(b) 33	21	12	
Deaths	533	293	240	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resi- dent population..11.72

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—		
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.15
Other Maternal Causes	2	2.31
	—	—
	3	3.46
	==	==

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	51	33	18
Illegitimate	6	2	4
Totals	57	35	22

Death rates of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	68
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	64
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births....	171

Number of Deaths from :—

Heart Disease	69
Cancer	60
^{ex} Cerebral Vascular Lesions	60
Bronchitis	36

NOTE:—Live Births (a) For calculation of Infant and Maternal mortalities
 „ „ (b) „ „ „ Birth Rates

Comparative Table

	Per 1000 Estimated Population					Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	Death Rate from Cancer	Rate per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 total live and still births		
BOROUGH OF LEIGH								
Mean of 5 years — 1936 — 1940 ..	14.33	13.46	0.50	1.44	4.61	4.35	69	
Year 1940	15.49	14.74	0.68	1.48	2.83	2.69	69	
Year 1941	18.12	11.72	0.43	1.31	3.61	3.46	68	
Increase or decrease in 1941 on 5 years average — 1936 — 1940	+3.79	-1.74	-0.07	-0.13	-1.00	-0.89	- 1	
Increase or decrease in 1941 on 1940	+2.63	-3.02	-0.25	-0.17	+0.78	+0.77	- 1	

Causes of Death During 1941.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid fever, etc.....	—	1	1
2. Cerebro-spinal fever.....	1	—	1
3. Scarlet fever.....	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough.....	—	2	2
5. Diphtheria.....	2	2	4
6. Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	10	10	20
7. Other Tuberculosis.....	1	1	2
8. Syphilis.....	2	—	2
9. Influenza.....	3	2	5
10. Measles.....	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis.....	—	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis.....	1	2	3
13. Cancer—b. cav. & oesoph (M) uterus (F).....	4	3	7
14. „ stomach and duodenum.....	12	3	15
15. „ breast.....	—	6	6
16. „ other sites.....	19	13	32
17. Diabetes.....	1	8	9
18. Intra-cran. vasc. lesions.....	32	28	60
19. Heart disease.....	39	30	69
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	18	9	27
21. Bronchitis.....	18	18	36
22. Pneumonia.....	16	11	27
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	2	3	5
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	3	1	4
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	2	3	5
26. Appendicitis.....	—	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases.....	6	12	18
28. Nephritis.....	9	4	13
29. Puerperal & post abortive sepsis.....	—	1	1
30. Other maternal causes	—	2	2
31. Premature birth.....	7	5	12
32. Con. Mal. birth inj. Inft. dis.....	14	6	20
33. Suicide.....	4	2	6
34. Road traffic accidents.....	5	2	7
35. Other violent causes.....	20	10	30
36. All other causes.....	42	39	81
TOTALS.....	293	240	533

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1941

	Birth-rate per 1,000 total population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 live Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
Leigh	18.12	0.72	11.72	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.08	68
Eng'and and Wales	14.2	0.81	12.9	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.19	5.1	59
126 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	14.7	0.58	14.9	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.17	7.5	71
148 Smaller-Towns (1931 Adjusted Populations 25,000-50,000)	16.4	0.60	13.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.20	4.6	56
London	8.9	0.53	16.3	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.15	6.8	68

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.

Full particulars regarding the Public Health Officers of the Authority are incorporated at the beginning of the report.

Considerable difficulty was experienced during the year in filling vacancies on the nursing staff at the Maternity Home. In many instances these could only be filled by nurses engaged on a temporary basis from homes in the surrounding districts.

Laboratory Facilities.

The bacteriological work of the department is carried out at the laboratory in Astley Sanatorium.

The table below shows the examinations made for the presence of diphtheria bacilli and haemolytic streptococci and the results obtained :—

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
Throat swabs.....	8	77	85
Nasal swabs.....	7	23	30
Ear swabs.....	—	2	2
Haemolytic Strept—			
Throat.....	6	25	31
Nose.....	—	4	4

The other laboratory facilities remain the same as in previous years.

Ambulance Arrangements.

The arrangements regarding ambulances are as outlined in last year's report.

During the year a 29 horse power Railton car was converted into an ambulance by making use of the body of a horse drawn ambulance which had been in our possession for some time.

The total number of available ambulances remains the same. The Austin Ambulance which had been in commission since 1925 had to be taken off the road as it was unfit for further service. In normal times it would have been sound economy to have replaced some of the vehicles by new ones.

Nursing in the Home.

There are three district nurses working in the area and the scope of their work was outlined in the annual report for 1940, which also gives information regarding the other facilities for home nursing.

At the end of 1941, only one midwife was in private practice in the borough.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The arrangements regarding treatment centres and clinics remain the same as in previous years. It has been found necessary, however, to organise a special centre for the treatment of scabies. The centre is situated at the Stone House Clinic and is available for the treatment of both children and adults. The centre is being run with the voluntary assistance of the personnel of the A.R.P. Casualty Service.

Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

During 1940, an arrangement was made whereby my Council accepted financial responsibility for abnormal obstetrical cases admitted from the borough to Hope Hospital, Salford and St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester. This decision was taken because no adequate local hospital facilities at present exist for dealing with such cases.

Forty abnormal obstetrical cases were admitted to these hospitals in the course of the year under review.

The Municipal Maternity Home (18 beds) serves an area larger than the confines of the borough. The demands for admission are greater than the accommodation of the hospital. Consequently 107 prospective patients had to be refused admission during the year owing to lack of accommodation.

The only other hospital in the borough is the Leigh Infirmary, which is a Voluntary Hospital.

Midwifery Service.

During the year the Municipal Midwives attended 371 cases either in the capacity of midwife or maternity nurse. The number of cases dealt with in 1940 was 303. During the last two years there has been a considerable increase in the work done by the Municipal Midwives and this necessitated the appointment of an additional midwife.

Maternity Service.

Three hundred and ninety-seven cases were admitted to the Municipal Maternity Home during the year.

The home remained closed from the 15th of February to 15th March owing to the occurrence of puerperal pyrexia. Seven patients developed pyrexia and all made a complete recovery. In each instance the pyrexia was due to a haemolytic streptococcus of type 12. During the period of closure the Home was re-decorated.

The following are the statistics for the Home for the year 1941 :—

Patients admitted	....	....	....	397
Live Births	....	....	....	385
Stillbirths	....	....	....	7
Total Births	....	....	....	392
Normal deliveries	....	....	....	352
Instrumental deliveries....	....	....	....	40
Complications—				
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	....	4
Albuminuria	....	....	....	3
Chorea	....	....	....	1
Breech presentation	....	....	....	8
Ante-partum Haemorrhage	....	....	....	1
Post partum Haemorrhage	....	....	....	6
Twin pregnancy	....	....	....	4
Epilepsy	....	....	....	1
Hydramnios	....	....	....	1
Premature Labour	....	....	....	1
Transferred before delivery—				
To Hope Hospital, Salford	....	....	....	1
St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester....	....	....	....	4
Transferred after delivery—				
Astley Sanatorium....	....	....	....	11
Leigh Infirmary	....	....	....	2
Patients X-Rayed	....	....	....	31

Health Visitors.

Five full-time Health Visitors are employed by the Borough.

The Health Visitors made 2,741 home visits to infants and pre-school children during the year.

The following is a summary of their work.

Primary Visits	{under 1 year	737}	751
	{over 1 year	14}	
Revisits	{under 1 year	849}	1990
	{over 1 year	1141}	

Child Life Protection.

The Health Visitors undertake the supervision and protection of children under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, etc. cases.

All the facilities provided for the school children of the Borough are available to pre-school children suffering from dental, orthopaedic and other defects. Dental treatment is available for expectant mothers.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Closet Accommodation.**

Below are set out particulars regarding the closet accommodation in the borough.

Fresh water closets ....	....	....	....	13,190
Waste water closets....	....	....	....	432
Privies (no water supply or sewer available)				57
Pail closets (no water supply or sewer available)	....	....	....	5

Public Cleansing.

The arrangements for the collection and disposal of house refuse remain the same as in previous years. The cleansing Superintendent informs me that 14,800 moveable ashbins were emptied on 758,791 occasions.

Three hundred and sixty tons of refuse were dealt with at the destructor and 9,583 tons were delivered to tips in the borough.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**(a) Summary of Inspections.**

In connection with Infectious Diseases	(a) Primary	....	208
	(b) Re-visits	....	15
Slaughter-houses	....	....	737
Piggeries	....	....	106
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	264
Milk Shops	....	....	48
Bakehouses	....	....	153
Common Lodging-houses	....	....	6
Vans and Tents	....	....	40
Offensive Trades	....	....	16
Factories	....	....	197
Butchers' Shops	....	....	147
Market	....	....	147
Schools	....	....	4
Food premises (including Ice Cream Makers)	....	....	296
Canal Boats	....	....	9
Stables	....	....	176
Houses inspected :—			
For Nuisances	....	....	1230
Re-visits for Nuisances	....	....	1977
Visits for other causes	....	....	472
Interviews	....	....	872

(b) Defects or Nuisances found.

Drains and gullies	....	....	111
Roofs and chimneys	....	....	167
Eaves and downspouts	....	....	99
Walls	....	....	256
Windows and frames	....	....	125
Doors and frames	....	....	63
Floors	....	....	127
Paving, channelling and Yards	....	....	42
Closets	....	....	59
Sinks and sink pipes	....	....	38
Plaster work	....	....	21
Ashbins	....	....	5
Other defects	....	....	21

(c) Notices Served.

(a) Informal	....	....	....	....	....	....	156
(b) Statutory	....	....	....	....	....	....	56

(d) Results.

Number of Defects dealt with	....	....	....	....	1134
" " " abated after statutory notice	....	....	....	....	224
" " " " " informal notice	....	....	....	....	539

Shops.

During the year 51 inspections were made.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The annual report of the Rat Officer for the year under review shows 266 visits were paid to infested premises and a total of 1,418 rats destroyed. The services of three rat catchers are available to the public, the Council providing each with two dog licences, three ferrets and the requisite netting.

Canal Boats.

The number of boats on the register at the end of the year, which could reasonably be believed to be in use, or available for use was 22

Nine boats were inspected during the year, and there was one infringement of the Canal Boats Acts.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. (Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories with mechanical power.....	125	9	Nil
Factories without mechanical power.....	79	1	Nil
Other premises.....	2	Nil	Nil
Total.....	206	10	Nil

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness.....	8	8	—	—
Want of ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding.....	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	2	2	—	—
Other nuisances.....	—	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient.....	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes..	1	1	—	—
Other Offences.....	—	—	—	—
Total.....	12	13	—	—

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

No. of New Houses erected during the year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	2
(i) by Local Authority	Nil
(ii) by other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) by other bodies or persons	2
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) by Local Authority	Nil
(ii) by other bodies or persons	Nil

Six houses infested with bugs were disinfested with hydrogen cyanide gas. The work was done by a firm specialising in this method of disinfestation and the usual precautions were observed.

SECTION E.—MILK SUPPLY.

Two hundred and twenty-three samples of milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and in 12 of the samples, *i.e.*, 5.38% tubercle bacilli were found. During 1940, 12 out of 106 samples, *i.e.*, 11.32% were found to contain tubercle bacilli.

One hundred and ninety-nine samples of milk were submitted to the methylene blue and *b. coli* tests and 50 were found to be unsatisfactory. This means that approximately one quarter of the samples were unsatisfactory from a bacteriological point of view. The samples included 5 tuberculin-tested milks of which 3 failed to satisfy the tests and 15 accredited milks of which 3 were unsatisfactory. Last year 20 samples out of a total of 68 submitted to these tests were unsatisfactory.

During the year 24 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the prescribed bacteriological tests, and in six instances the samples failed to satisfy the tests. During 1940, ~~15~~⁷ samples of pasteurised milk out of a total of ~~7~~¹⁵ failed to satisfy the prescribed tests. Nineteen samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the phosphatase test during 1941 and all proved satisfactory.

A milk supply which is both safe and possessed of optimum nutritive value necessitates efficient pasteurisation. The terms "tuberculin-tested" and "accredited" carry no guarantee of freedom from bacterial contamination and a multiplicity of terms descriptive of the various grades of milk is somewhat confusing to members of the lay public endeavouring to purchase a safe milk supply. Any official term, for example, "accredited," applied to milk will inevitably tend to make the average purchaser assume that the milk in question is perfectly safe. Clearly, all milk sold to the public should be of one grade only and this grade should be incapable of causing bacterial diseases in those who consume it.

Latterly, the bacteriological quality of the milk supply has tended to deteriorate. This is probably due, in no small measure, to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary labour at farms, dairies and pasteurising plants and to difficulties connected with transport. The public would be well advised at the present time to boil all milk before use.

The sanitary inspectors paid 184 visits to farms and dairies during the year. The number of cowkeepers on the register at 31st December was 35 and the number of retail purveyors 126.

Adulteration.

The following are details of the samples taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938:—

Article	Number examined			Number adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Apple Rings	—	1	1	—	—	—
Beetroot	—	1	1	—	—	—
Blackcurrant Syrup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cocoa	—	2	2	—	—	—
Corned Beef	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Juice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk	84	4	88	1	—	1
Olive Oil	—	2	2	—	—	—
Sage and Onion Stuffing	—	1	1	—	—	—
Seidlitz Powder	—	3	3	—	—	—
Whiskey	—	3	3	—	—	—
Boric Acid	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chicken and Ham Roll	1	—	1	—	—	—
Chicken and Tongue	1	—	1	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lysol	—	1	1	—	—	—
Polony	1	—	1	—	—	—
Potted Meat	4	—	4	1	—	1
Sausage	2	—	2	1	—	1
Sugar Substitute	—	1	1	—	—	—
Beef & Vegetable Extract	—	1	1	—	—	—
Butter	—	3	3	—	—	—
Cooking Fats	—	2	2	—	—	—
Margarine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pressed Beef	2	—	2	—	—	—
Roast Beef	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bacon	—	1	1	—	—	—
Egg Substitute	1	—	1	1	—	1
Lime Juice Cordial	—	1	1	—	1	1
Mincemeat	—	1	1	—	—	—
Onion Condiment	—	1	1	—	—	—
Saccharin Tablets	1	2	3	1	1	2
Vinegar Distilled	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	99	39	138	5	2	7

Below are set out in tabular form details regarding the adulterated samples :

No.	Article	Whether Formal Informal or Private	Nature of Adulteration or irregularity	Observations
254	Potted Meat	Formal	Contained 80.6 per cent of water	Caution
260	Milk	„	Deficient 2 per cent solids-not-fat	Further samples taken which proved satisfactory
287	Beef Sausages	„	Contained 220 parts by weight of sulphur dioxide per million	Not labelled. Prosecution. Case dismissed
315	Egg substitute (Chief Egg)	„	Deficient in protein, fat & organically combined phosphoric acid, as compared with statement on label, viz. every ounce equals 6 eggs.	Caution
320	Lime Juice Cordial	Informal	Contained 0.3 per cent w/v of phosphoric acid	Caution
305	Saccharin Tablets (Labelled Full Strength)	„	Contains 0.09 grain of saccharin per tablet	Caution
319	Saccharin Tablets	Formal	Deficient 25 per cent. of saccharin, as compared with statement on label, viz. 1/3 gr. 550 saccharin per tablet	Caution

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED											Total Deaths	HOSPITAL			
	Total Cases notified	Un-der 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-25 years	25-45 years		45-65 years	65 and over	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District
Smallpox....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	63	—	4	5	2	3	17	21	5	4	1	1	—	63	—	5
Erysipelas ...	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	7	3	11	—	—
Scarlet Fever....	116	2	1	11	10	12	37	24	10	5	4	—	—	86	1	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	4	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia....	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	11	1	1	1	—	—	1	3	1	2	1	—	—	4	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	55	6	5	4	1	4	4	3	1	10	5	9	3	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia																
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	21	2	—	3	5	2	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	108	7	15	15	12	23	33	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Any other Disease notified in the District :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	425	27	26	39	30	44	100	57	19	41	16	18	8	165	35	8

The year has been characterised by a large increase in the number of children who were immunised against diphtheria. Eight hundred and seventy-five children were immunised during the year compared with 35 during the previous year. This number included 665 school children and 210 pre-school children. The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health has on several occasions appealed to parents to have their children immunised.

The process is simple and safe and will be carried out free of cost on application to the Health Department. A strong appeal is made to all parents to follow the advice so frequently given by the Ministry of Health. Until at least three quarters of the child population of the borough have been immunised the process can have little effect on the incidence of the disease in the community as a whole.

Tuberculosis.

It has not been found necessary to enforce the provisions of the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

New Cases and Mortality During 1941

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
5 „	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 „	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 „	—	1	2	2	—	1	—	—
20 „	2	4	1	1	2	1	—	—
25 „	8	2	1	—	2	3	—	—
35 „	3	2	—	—	5	—	—	—
45 „	3	1	—	—	1	3	—	—
55 „	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	18	11	10	4	11	9	1	1
	29		14		20		2	

Whereas during 1940, there had been a considerable increase which was not unexpected, in the number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis (31 as against 19) the present year has witnessed a decrease in the number of deaths from both the respiratory and non-respiratory form of the disease.

During the current year there were 20 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis compared with 31 the previous year and 2 from non-respiratory tuberculosis compared with 4 during the year 1940.

In spite of war conditions the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis has, this year, shown a decrease. There were 29 new cases compared with 35 during last year. There has also been a reduction in the incidence of the non-pulmonary form, 14 new cases being notified compared with 19 in the previous year.

Miscellaneous.

During the year it was possible to arrange with the Regional Blood Transfusion Officer for a supply of plasma to be kept at the Municipal Maternity Home for use in obstetrical emergencies. The plasma is accompanied by the apparatus necessary for its immediate administration and medical practitioners were informed of its availability for women confined in their own homes as well as those confined at the Maternity Hospital.

Early in the year Vitamin C in tablet form was made available at the Child Welfare Clinics.

At the Maternity Home M. & B. 693 has been used with great success in the treatment of ophthalmia neonatorum and a Vitamin K. preparation has been used in the treatment of haemorrhagic disease of the new-born.



