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Contributors

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BOROUGH



OF LEIGH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1942



BOROUGH OF LEIGH, 1942.

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 W. Kearney, 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.	Coun. Rev. R. J. King
Coun. F. Bamford	Coun. T. Lowe, J.P.
„ W. Blackshaw, J.P.	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :

Chairman :

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor W. KEARNEY, J.P.)

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor T. LOWE, 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. Kearney)	
Mrs. Fairclough	Mrs. Lowe
Mrs. Greenough	Mr. H. Warburton



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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
*†† J. M. Stables	† M. Smith	

Maternity Home Staff :

*† S. J. Storey (Matron)	*† T. C. Hall (Sister)
*† A. Bradley (Staff Nurse, resigned 31/1/43)	
*† M. A. Hill (Staff Nurse, appointed 1/9/42)	
† E. M. Shepherd (Staff Nurse) and seven temporary Staff Nurses	

Municipal Midwives :

*† A. Ashworth,	† A. Gibbon,	† M. E. Makin,
*† B. J. Heathcote (Resigned 30/11/42)	*† E. Mercer	
*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.
	(Joined H.M. Forces)
Hilda M. Dixon	Helen Mulrooney.
Doris Cunningham	

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

Public Health and School Medical Department,
 Town Hall,
 Leigh,
 Lancashire,
 August, 1943.

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

Messrs. Chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour, as Medical Officer of Health, to present my
 Annual Report for the year 1942.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS 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 1942 was :—

Population.....	45,060
„ (Census) 1931.....	45,317
No. of inhabited houses, end of 1942, according to rate books.....	13,910
Rateable value.....	£240,826
Sum represented by Penny Rate.....	£940

Comments on Vital Statistics.

It is pleasing to be able to record in the fourth year of the war a reduction in the maternal and infant mortality rates of the borough. The maternal mortality rate which was 3.46 last year has fallen to 2.32. The maternal mortality rate of England and Wales for the year 1942 is 2.01 and for the previous year 2.23. The infant mortality rate of an area can be looked upon as a sensitive index of the general healthiness of that area. In spite of war conditions the infant mortality rate has shown a marked reduction and has fallen from 68 for the year 1941, to 52 for the year under consideration. During the year special efforts were made to improve the diet of nursing and expectant mothers and infants. The attention of mothers was directed to the Government Scheme for the provision of milk, cod liver oil and fruit juices and other dietetic supplements were made available at the Welfare Clinics in an effort to remedy

nutritional deficiencies. Nothing is of greater importance to the well being of the expectant and nursing mother and of her child than the taking of a diet which is qualitatively and quantitatively adequate.

It was recorded in last year's report that the birth rate for 1941 was the highest since 1923. This high rate has been maintained during the current year. The rate for 1942 was 18.30 which compares favourably with the rate of 18.12 for the previous year.

Last year we were able to record that the number of notified cases of diphtheria had fallen from 178 in 1940, to 63 in 1941. This year we are able once again to report a favourable trend in the incidence of diphtheria. The number of notified cases was 48, which represents a decrease of 15 cases, when compared with the number which were notified during the year 1941. The number of deaths which occurred during the year is three, which is one less than the number which occurred last year. These deaths all occurred among children who had not been immunised. If these children had been immunised it is quite probable they would not have died from the disease. Parents are earnestly requested to avail themselves of the facilities provided by the Health Department for the free immunisation of their children. The number of children in the borough who have been immunised has steadily risen during the past two years. At the time of writing it is estimated that about 41 per cent. of the pre-school children and 51 per cent. of the school children of the town have been immunised. At the end of 1940, it was estimated that only 3% of the pre-school children and 19 per cent. of the school children had been immunised. Most experts are of the opinion, however, that unless at least seventy-five per cent. of the child population of a town are immunised the process will not be effective in stamping out the disease in that town. A child who has been immunised has an infinitely greater chance of avoiding diphtheria than the child who has not been immunised, and if such a child should contract the disease it is likely to be mild and unlikely to prove fatal. Parents by allowing their children to be immunised can give us the most effective assistance in our efforts to rid the borough of diphtheria.

There were 236 notified cases of measles during the year compared with 21 during 1941. This increase in the incidence of measles was not unexpected and is in conformity with our knowledge of the epidemiology of the disease. Measles gave rise to no mortality during the year.

There were no deaths from whooping-cough in 1942 and the number of notified cases was 76, which compares favourably with the figure of 108 for the previous year.

The mortality from heart disease was similar to that in 1941. Sixty-seven deaths were due to this cause.

There were 69 deaths attributed to cancer compared with 67 in the previous year.

The death rate for the borough showed a slight increase and was 12.13 compared with 11.72 in the previous year. Important factors contributing to this increase were the greater number of deaths from cancer and respiratory tuberculosis. There were 70 deaths from cancer compared with 60 in the previous year. The mortality from respiratory tuberculosis is dealt with later in the report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1942

		Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate per 1000 of the resident population....18.3
Live Births	Legitimate	801	438	363	
	Illegitimate	24	11	13	
	Totals	825	449	376	

		Total	Male	Female
Stillbirths	Legitimate	31	16	15
	Illegitimate	4	2	2
	Totals	35	18	17

Deaths		547	283	264	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resi- dent population..12.13
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		Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—			
Puerperal Sepsis	.....	2	2.32
Other Maternal Causes		—	—
		—	—
		2	2.32
		<u>2</u>	<u>2.32</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	42	24	18
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Totals	43	25	18

Death rates of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	....	52
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....				52
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births....					42

Principal Causes of Mortality.

Below are listed the four principal causes of mortality. This year cancer replaces heart disease as the chief individual cause of death.

Cancer	....	....	....	....	70
Cerebral Vascular Lesions..				....	69
Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	67
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	48

Comparative Table

BOROUGH OF LEIGH	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		
Mean of 5 years — 1937 — 1941 ..	15.39	13.15	0.49	1.44	3.96	3.77	66	
Year 1941	18.12	11.72	0.43	1.31	3.61	3.46	68	
Year 1942	18.30	12.13	0.57	1.55	2.42	2.32	52	
Increase or decrease in 1942 on 5 years average — 1937 — 1941	+2.91	-1.02	+0.08	+0.11	-1.54	-1.45	-14	
Increase or decrease in 1942 on 1941	+0.18	+0.41	+0.14	+0.24	-1.19	-1.14	-16	

Causes of Death During 1942.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid fever, etc.....	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever.....	—	2	2
3. Scarlet fever.....	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough.....	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria.....	1	2	3
6. Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	14	12	26
7. Other Tuberculosis.....	3	3	6
8. Syphilis.....	3	1	4
9. Influenza.....	4	2	6
10. Measles.....	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis.....	—	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis.....	—	2	2
13. Cancer—b. cav. & oesoph (M) uterus (F).....	5	5	10
14. „ stomach and duodenum.....	11	4	15
15. „ breast.....	—	11	11
16. „ other sites.....	17	17	34
17. Diabetes.....	2	3	5
18. Intra-cran. vasc. lesions.....	31	38	69
19. Heart disease.....	35	32	67
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	14	8	22
21. Bronchitis.....	33	15	48
22. Pneumonia.....	14	13	27
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	4	1	5
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	3	—	3
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	3	2	5
26. Appendicitis.....	1	—	1
27. Other digestive diseases.....	4	8	12
28. Nephritis.....	5	12	17
29. Puerperal & post abortive sepsis.....	—	2	2
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth.....	8	3	11
32. Con. Mal. birth inj. Inft. dis.....	4	9	13
33. Suicide.....	2	1	3
34. Road traffic accidents.....	3	—	3
35. Other violent causes.....	16	6	22
36. All other causes.....	43	50	93
TOTALS.....	283	264	547

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1942

	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.	Diph- theria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
Leigh	18.3	0.77	12.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.11	52
England and Wales	15.8	0.54	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.09	5.2	49
126 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	17.3	0.66	13.3	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.09	7.5	59
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Adjusted Populations 25,000—50,000)	18.4	0.62	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.10	4.8	46
London	14.0	0.48	13.9	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.07	8.6	60

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

Staff.

Full details regarding the staff of the Health Department are set out in tabular form on page 3. of this report. During the year Mr. S. Cunningham joined the Merchant Navy. He returned to the department after a period of service of 5 months. He was discharged from the Merchant Navy on medical grounds after having been torpedoed. Miss G. M. Davies left the department in December to join H.M. Forces and the vacancy so created was filled by the appointment of Mrs. D. Cunningham as a temporary clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

These remain the same as in previous years. The table below shows the examinations made for the presence of diphtheria bacilli and other results obtained :—

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
Throat swabs.....	10	103	113
Nasal swabs.....	1	14	15
Ear swabs.....	—	3	3
Vaginal swab	—	1	1
Faeces.....	—	1	1

Ambulance Arrangements.

The ambulance facilities are as outlined in my annual report for 1941. In the interests of efficiency and economy there is a need for new vehicles.

Nursing in the Home.

Three district nurses are working in the area and the scope of their work was outlined in my annual report for 1941.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

As was mentioned in last year's report a clinic has been established for the treatment of cases of scabies. During the year under review 55 pre-school children, 320 school children and 76 adults attended the clinic for treatment. The information at one's disposal leads one to conclude that the borough, in common with other areas of the country has experienced an increased incidence of scabies during recent years. Scabies is a disease with a tendency to affect eventually the majority of the members of a household in which a case occurs. When a case

attends the clinic steps are taken to see that other members of the household who are affected receive treatment and to persuade the non-affected members to receive prophylactic treatment as contacts. Scabies is a condition in which one is not likely to attain maximum success in prevention unless provision is made for all the members of an affected family to be treated simultaneously. We have had no difficulty in persuading families to have treatment and it has not been necessary to take any legal action under the Scabies Order.

The clinic for the treatment of scabies has been established on the ground floor at premises situated at Stone House, St. Helens Road, Leigh. This portion of Stone House was originally a First Aid Post, but is not now used as such. A spray type of bath is given with apparatus which had been provided for gas casualties. There is separate provision for the bathing of male and female patients. The therapeutic agent used is a 25% emulsion of Benzl Benzoate. In view of Mellanby's findings the disinfection of clothing and bedding is not made a routine practice. Such disinfection is carried out in individual cases when the circumstances warrant it. A morning session is set aside each day of the week save Sunday, for the treatment of children. Adults are treated by arrangement at time convenient to them.

Local practitioners have been fully informed of these facilities for the treatment of scabies, which are freely available to all residents of the Borough.

The personnel at present employed at the treatment centre consists of two trained nurses, 6 female workers and one male worker. They all belong to the Casualty Section of the Civil Defence Organisation. The orderlies have been trained in their duties and work under the supervision of the trained nurses and the Medical Officer of Health or his Assistant. The male orderly is concerned with the treatment of adult males.

Hospitals—Public.

The hospital facilities remain as outlined in last year's report. The accommodation at the Municipal Maternity Home again proved inadequate to meet the demands made upon it. As a result 122 prospective patients had to be refused admission during the year.

Midwifery Service.

The Domiciliary Municipal Midwives attended 356 cases in 1942. They acted either in the capacity of a midwife or a maternity nurse. There is only one midwife in private practice in the borough.

At times considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining midwives to fill the vacancies on the staff of the Maternity Home. In many instances such vacancies could only be filled on a temporary basis by nurses obtained from nursing agencies.

As a result of war conditions the number of persons on the panel of Home Helps has gradually diminished until at the present moment we have no Home Helps. This fact places obvious difficulties, which are not solved by the provision of a domiciliary midwife, in the way of the expectant mother who through lack of available accommodation cannot gain entry to a maternity hospital and whose female relatives, who might have been of assistance to her at the time of her confinement, are on war work.

Four hundred and seventeen patients were admitted to the Municipal Maternity Home. In order to make the greatest use of the beds available and to avoid overcrowding it was found necessary to discharge some of the patients between the tenth and twelfth days of their puerperium. By this means a greater number of patients were admitted to the Home than would otherwise have been possible.

The following are the statistics for the Home for the year 1942—

Patients admitted	....	....	....	417
Live Births	....	....	....	394
Stillbirths	....	....	....	8
Total Births	....	....	....	402
Normal deliveries	....	....	....	321
Instrumental deliveries....	....	....	....	79

Complications—

Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	3
Albuminuria	....	....	....	20
Breech presentation	....	....	....	14
Ante-partum Haemorrhage	....	....	....	8
Twin pregnancy	....	....	....	3
Epilepsy	....	....	....	3
Hydramnios	....	....	....	1
Premature Labour	....	....	....	1

Transferred before delivery—

To Hope Hospital, Salford	....	8
St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester....		8
Leigh Infirmary	.... .... ....	1

Transferred after delivery—

Astley Sanatorium....	.... ....	3
Leigh Infirmary	.... .... ....	3
Patients X-Rayed	.... .... ....	53

Health Visitors.

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

The Health Visitors made 3,038 home visits to infants and pre-school children during the year.

The following is a summary of their work.

Primary Visits	{under 1 year 723}	733
	{over 1 year 10}	
Revisits	{under 1 year 731}	2305
	{over 1 year 1574}	

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	.... .... ....	13,127
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 Director of Public Cleansing informs me that 14,850 moveable ashbins were emptied on 677,561 occasions.

Four hundred and two tons of refuse were dealt with at the destructor and 8,135 tons were delivered to tips in the borough.

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

In connection with Infectious Diseases (a) Primary	....	175
(b) Re-visits	....	26
Slaughter-houses	....	759
Piggeries	....	73
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	219
Milk Shops	....	75
Bakehouses	....	152
Common Lodging-houses	....	11
Vans and Tents	....	42
Offensive Trades	....	21
Factories	....	172
Butchers' Shops	....	186
Market	....	137
Schools	....	4
Food premises (including Ice Cream Makers)	....	482
Canal Boats	....	26
Stables	....	177
Visits for other causes	....	390
Interviews	....	950
Houses inspected :—		
For Nuisances	....	1249
Re-visits for Nuisances....	....	2630

(b) Defects or Nuisances found.

Drains and gullies	....	119
Roofs and chimneys	....	159
Eaves and downspouts	....	87
Walls	....	280
Windows and frames	....	115
Doors and frames	....	76
Floors	....	108
Paving, channelling and Yards	....	50
Closets....	....	65
Sinks and sink pipes	....	27
Plaster work	....	43
Ashbins	....	8
Other defects	....	32

(c) Notices Served.

(a) Informal	....	....	....	....	....	279
(b) Statutory	....	....	....	....	....	74

(d) Results.

Number of Defects dealt with	....	....	....	....	1169
" " " abated after statutory notice	....				197
" " " " " informal notice	....				662

Shops.

During the year 60 inspections were made.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The Rat Officer's annual report for 1942 shows that 274 visits were paid to infested premises and 1,425 rats destroyed. At present there are three rat-catchers. They give their services in a voluntary capacity and are each provided with two dog licences, three ferrets and the requisite netting. In order to deal efficiently with the rat problem it is desirable that a rat-catcher be employed by the Council on a whole-time basis. Those who now give their services voluntarily are doing a good work, but cannot, of course, be available at all times.

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.

Twenty-six boats were inspected during the year, with four infringements 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.....	74	2	Nil
Factories without mechanical power.....	102	2	Nil
Other premises.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.....	176	4	Nil

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness.....	20	20	—	—
Want of ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding.....	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances.....	4	4	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient.....	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes..	—	—	—	—
Other Offences.....	—	—	—	—
Total.....	25	25	—	—

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

No. of New Houses erected during the year.

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

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

SECTION E.—MILK AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Two hundred and sixty samples of milk were submitted to the methylene blue and b.coli tests and 86 failed to satisfy the tests. This means that approximately one third of the samples were unsatisfactory from a bacteriological point of view. Last year 50 samples out of a total of 199 submitted to the methylene blue and b.coli tests were found to be unsatisfactory.

The samples submitted included 6 tuberculin-tested milks, of which 3 failed to satisfy the tests and 11 accredited milks, of which 5 were unsatisfactory.

In 1942, 35 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the prescribed bacteriological test; and 19 of the samples failed to satisfy the tests. In 1941, 6 out of the 24 samples of pasteurised milk proved unsatisfactory when submitted to the prescribed bacteriological tests. During the year, 11 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the phosphatase test, and all the samples satisfied the requirement of the test.

Two hundred and fifty-five of the 260 samples of milk submitted to the methylene blue and b.coli tests were also examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Tubercle bacilli were found in 21 (8.23%) of the samples. Last year 12 (5.38%) of 223 samples were found to contain tubercle bacilli. No sample of tuberculin tested or pasteurised milk submitted for examination during the year was found to contain tubercle bacilli.

The ideal solution of the milk problem would be the production of milk containing no pathogenic organisms from herds which are free from disease and its subsequent protection from bacterial contamination by the persons who handle it. Such an ideal, however, is, for a variety of reasons, at present outside the realms of what is practical and may be so for a long time to come. In pasteurisation we possess a method of rendering milk safe and incapable of transmitting tuberculosis and the other milk-borne diseases. If legislation demands that a water supply should be pure and wholesome it is reasonable to suggest that it should insist that the milk supply of the community possesses the same qualities. There are, of course, legal standards regarding the wholesomeness of milk and steps can be taken, in certain circumstances, to prevent the sale of milk which might be dangerous to health. The only practical method, at present available, of freeing milk of its disease-producing properties is the compulsory pasteurisation of all milk for human consumption.

One of the chief objections to pasteurisation has been that the process might diminish the nutritive value of the milk. It would appear from the statements occasionally made concerning pasteurisation that there are some who believe the process alters the constitution of the milk in such a radical manner as to denude it entirely of its nutritive value. Experiments have failed to reveal any change in the nutritive value of pasteurised milk for growing children. Pasteurisation simply involves the application of heat to milk—a process common enough in the case of many foods before they are eaten.

Its universal adoption in England and Wales would avoid the 1,500 to 2,000 deaths from bovine T.B., which occur annually and also many other diseases of a serious nature, which are spread by milk. In the meantime, consumers should boil all milk which has not been pasteurised or sterilised.

Adulteration.

The two tables which follow give in tabular form the details of the samples taken during the year under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. a successful prosecution was undertaken in respect of a milk which had been adulterated by watering.

Certain foodstuffs inevitably became scarce or unobtainable as the war progressed and, human nature being what it is, it was not surprising that the market should be inundated with substitutes, many of which were entirely worthless in as much as they were devoid of those qualities which their cunningly devised labels might lead one to suppose they possessed. In our local experience we obtained samples of "olive oil," "onion" condiment and "orange" squash, which were respectively characterised by the absence of any trace of olive oil, onion or orange. In each instance successful legal proceedings were taken against the persons responsible for the offences. In addition to worthless food substitutes a large number of tonic wines appeared on the market. Here again a great deal of misplaced ingenuity was displayed in the labelling of these wines. The labels were attractively coloured and extravagantly worded. Claims were made which could in no way be justified by the composition of the tonic wines. The price of these products were usually unduly high, and the consumer would have derived just as much benefit from the drinking of water. Legal proceedings were taken in regard to one sample of a tonic wine, which resulted in a conviction and fine.

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

Serial Number	Article	Whether Formal Informal or Private	Nature of Adulteration or irregularity	Observations
382	Olive Oil	Informal	Consisted of rape oil	Vendor fined £10 for refusal to sell.
348	Onion Condiment	Formal	Devoid of Onion	Wholesaler fined £5 and £3 3 0 costs.
353	Onion Flavouring	Informal	Consisted of eight bottles, three containing onion flavouring and five containing .15 per cent solid matter dissolved in water with a scarcely perceptible alliaceous smell.	Manufacturer fined £10 0 0 and £18 6 0 costs.
351	Orange Squash	Formal	Devoid of orange juice.	Fined £20 and £6 6 0 costs.
355	Phos-Vita Tonic	Informal	Quinine Sulphate 0.052 w/v phosphoric Acid 0.046 w/v Chloroform 0.067 w/v.	
378	Phos-Vita Tonic	Formal	Quinine Sulphate 0.05 w/v Phosphoric Acid 0.05 w/v Chloroform 0.08 w/v Sugar 2.0 w/v.	Manufacturer fined £15 and costs £5 19 0.
385	Milk	Formal	Deficient 21 per cent solids not fat.	Fined £10 and £1 1 0 costs.
387	Milk	Formal	Deficient 10 per cent fat	Further samples advised.
389	Milk	Formal	Deficient 2 per cent solids not fats.	ditto
396	Milk	Formal	Deficient 3 per cent solids not fat.	ditto

<i>Article</i>	<i>Number examined</i>			<i>Number adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity</i>		
	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Total</i>
Baking Powder	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil	1	—	1	—	—	—
Edible Oil	1	—	1	—	—	—
Egg Substitute	1	—	1	—	—	—
French Pastilles....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gelatine Powder	1	—	1	—	—	—
Grape Fruit Crush	1	—	1	—	—	—
Health Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Cordial	1	—	1	—	—	—
Lemon Substitute	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemonade Powder	1	—	1	—	—	—
Milk	78	—	78	4	—	4
Olive Oil	—	1	1	—	1	1
Non-Alcoholic Cocktail	1	—	1	—	—	—
Onion Flavour	—	1	1	—	1	1
Orange Cordial	1	—	1	—	—	—
Orange Flavour....	—	1	1	—	—	—
Orange Squash	1	—	1	1	—	1
Phos-Vita-Tonic....	1	1	2	1	1	2
Sodium Bicarbonate....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Salad Oil	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sugar Substitute	2	—	2	—	—	—
Margarine	1	—	1	—	—	—
Egg Substitute	1	—	1	—	—	—
Lime Juice Cordial	1	—	1	—	—	—
Onion Condiment	1	—	1	1	—	1
Saccharin Tablets	2	—	2	—	—	—
Vinegar	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS....	102	6	108	7	3	10

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												HOSPITAL			
	Total Cases notified	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District
Smallpox....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	48	—	1	—	3	5	20	11	5	2	1	—	—	3	47	3
Erysipelas ...	18	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	3	9	1	—	10	—
Scarlet Fever....	90	1	4	5	7	10	38	17	6	2	—	—	—	—	69	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia....	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	4	—	—	—	13	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	6	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia }	64	7	4	4	2	3	10	2	5	8	8	9	2	27	1	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia }																
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	450	24	61	61	66	115	117	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	76	7	9	17	14	13	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Any other Disease notified in the District :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	774	46	79	87	93	146	204	38	17	26	17	18	3	32	148	4

Tuberculosis.

The year has witnessed an increase both in the incidence and mortality of respiratory tuberculosis. There were 33 new cases and 26 deaths compared with 29 new cases and 20 deaths during the previous year. The adverse effects of war conditions are most probably responsible for this increase. Persons whose powers of natural resistance would be just sufficient to overcome the infection in a comparatively benign peace-time environment fail to do so under the unfavourable conditions of war and others who would not have been unduly exposed to infection have been so exposed as a result of their changed environment since the outbreak of war.

Whereas the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis has shown an increase the incidence of non-respiratory tuberculosis has shown a decrease. There were 9 cases compared with 14 cases in 1941. The number of deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis has shown an increase in 1942. There were 6 deaths compared with 2 in the previous year.

New Cases and Mortality During 1942

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1
5 „	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 „	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15 „	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „	5	4	—	—	2	3	1	—
25 „	4	4	—	1	5	3	—	2
35 „	4	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
45 „	2	1	1	—	3	3	—	—
55 „	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	20	13	4	5	14	12	3	3
	33		9		26		6	

Health Propaganda.

Special emphasis has been laid on health propaganda during the year under review especially in regard to the prevention of diphtheria and scabies and the improvement of the diet of nursing and expectant mothers and young children. Good use has been made of posters, leaflets press advertisements and verbal methods of giving advice.

This propaganda in relation to diphtheria prophylaxis has been associated with a progressive increase in the number of children who have been immunised. During the year, 1,178 children were immunised compared with 875 in 1941 and 35 in 1940. This number includes 692 school children and 486 pre-school children.

Before concluding I would like to place on record my thanks to the Chairmen and Members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees and the members of the staff of the Health Department for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. PETERS.



