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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. MATHIESON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

for the year 1946

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

Health Committee :

Alderman Miss A. M. Thompson, *Chairman*

Alderman F. Garratt

Councillor A. L. Garratt

Alderman C. H. Averill

Councillor A. Nevill

Councillor C. W. Bridgeman

Councillor Mrs. C. S. Parker,
B.A.

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
(Councillor W. F. L. Salloway)

Medical Officer of Health :

A. MATHIESON, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1946.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of City—3,579 acres.

Estimated resident population according to
Registrar General—9,082.

Estimated resident population according to Food Office—10,500.

Number of inhabited houses—2,500.

Rateable Value—£56,695.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£225.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—					M	F
Total	...	...	...	...	108	93
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	98	87
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	10	6

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—21.

Still Births—					Total	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)—9·8.

Deaths					Total	M	F
					112	47	65

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—11·7.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth—

From Sepsis—Nil.

From other causes—Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	44·7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	...	...	...	43
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	62·5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	16
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is an analysis of notified cases of infectious disease under different age groups :—

1946

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para Typh- oid Fever	Polio- myelitis	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
1— 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2— 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3— 4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4— 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—35	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	7	1	...	16	...	1	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during the year 1946 are set out in the following table :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
5— .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
25— .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
45—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	5	1	3	1	2	1	...	...

Diphtheria Immunisation.

236 children under five and 95 between five and fifteen years of age were immunised.

In addition 27 children previously immunised received one reinforcing dose of prophylactic.

Clinics and Treatment Centre.

A child welfare centre is open each Wednesday afternoon with doctor and two nurses in attendance.

An ante-natal centre is open once a fortnight.

A school clinic is open each Wednesday morning. A doctor attends the first Wednesday in each month.

A clinic for the treatment of errors of refraction of the eye is held about once a fortnight. The County Ophthalmic Surgeon has charge of the clinic.

A dental clinic provides dental treatment for school children, children under five, and expectant and nursing mothers.

All the above are administered by the Staffordshire County Council.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is open every Tuesday.

An Orthopædic Centre, supported by voluntary contributions and treatment fees, is open daily.

All the above are held in the building situated at 15 Sandford Street, Lichfield.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious disease cases are removed by ambulance belonging to Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board.

By agreement with the Lichfield Rural District Council an ambulance is provided when required for non-infectious cases.

General Provision of Health Services.

The Public Health Staff consists of one part-time Medical Officer, one full-time Sanitary Inspector and one clerk.

Health Visiting is carried out by two nurses on the staff of the Staffordshire County Council.

Midwives are supervised by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council Laboratories, Bacteriological and Chemical, are available and free use is made of the excellent facilities provided.

Hospitals.

(1) Lichfield Victoria Hospital, which has a maternity block, serves the City and neighbourhood. Local and consulting staffs are provided.

(2) Public Assistance Hospital, which also has a maternity block.

Infectious Disease cases are isolated at one of the hospitals administered by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board.

A. MATHIESON,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CITY.

Water Supply.—Apart from a few isolated houses the city is supplied by the Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust, the water being obtained from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The supply is ample in quantity and of satisfactory quality.

Sewage Disposal.—The City Surveyor states that the effluent from the outfall works is as good as can be expected under present conditions. It is hoped to commence the re-construction of the works in the near future.

Public Cleansing.—The weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained during the year. Disposal is now mostly by controlled tipping. As the destructor is worn out it is expected that the method of controlled tipping will be developed to deal with the whole of the refuse in the city.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

During the year there were three changes in connection with the clerical work. Apart from causing inconvenience, these constant changes mean that a considerable part of my time has been occupied in doing work which could normally have been undertaken by a junior. Another disadvantage associated with frequent changes is that the value of office records, which have been compiled over a number of years, has been greatly diminished.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

It has been estimated that the number of complaints of disrepair in the country as a whole is at least three times greater than in pre-war years. This is true of Lichfield and is, of course, due to the neglect of sanitary work during the war years. Although the number of complaints is greater than in normal times, it becomes increasingly difficult to get repairs done because of shortage of materials and skilled labour. Much additional work is necessitated by re-inspections which have been made to ensure that notices to owners are complied with.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

Repairs and Maintenance.

During the year, 360 licences were issued in respect of works of repair and maintenance. This work takes up much time in visiting property and drafting the various forms. Most of the licences issued were in respect of repairs normally undertaken by property owners, though a substantial number was connected with outside painting and re-decorating. The work of licensing is an important contribution to reconstruction as it affords a check on the use of man-power and materials.

HOUSING.

At the end of the year there were 52 houses, in respect of which clearance orders have been made, still occupied. In some instances serious structural deterioration has occurred since the orders were made. Although notices are served under the Public Health Acts requiring the houses to be kept reasonably weather-proof, it must be realized that re-housing, in most cases, is urgently necessary. As to overcrowding, it is not possible to give reliable figures, but it is known that there are some distressing cases. In view of the shortage of housing accommodation, however, it is impracticable to effect improvements.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk.—One cowkeeper in the city holds a licence for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk and there are three farms licensed for Accredited milk. The Crowsnest Dairies Ltd. hold a Dealer's licence for Tuberculin Tested milk and the Walsall and District Co-Operative Society have a Supplementary licence for the sale of Pasteurised milk in the city. During the year all samples of Tuberculin Tested milk which were submitted to the County Laboratory were reported to have passed the prescribed test.

Other Foods.—The undermentioned articles were found to be unsound and were voluntarily surrendered to be destroyed:—

1 tin of Broth	2 tins of Condensed Milk
12 tins of Beans	2 lbs. of Oats
72½ lbs. of Bacon	1 tin of Victoria Plums
17½ lbs. of Chocolate	6 cartons (14 lbs. each) of Peas
1 jar of Pickled Cabbage	10 tins of Peas
84 lbs. of Smoked Cod	7 tins of Pilchards
13¼ lbs. of Cheese	2 tins of Sardines (3¼ oz. each)
1 tin of Damsons	9 tins of Salmon
2 jars of Jam	1 lb. of Suet
1 tin of Jam	6 tins of Soup
2 jars of Meat Paste	4 tins of Stewed Steak
3 tins of Meat & Vegetables	1 tin of Syrup
2 tins of Marmalade	4 tins of Tongue
53 lbs. of Meat	2 lb. tin of Tomatoes
150 tins of Evaporated Milk	13 lbs. of Trimmings
1 tin of Household Milk	5 tins of Vegetables in Gravy