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Contributors

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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., F.R.San.I.
for the year 1947

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

Health Committee :

Alderman F. Garratt, *Chairman*

Alderman C. H. Averill	Councillor J. Baker
Ald. Miss A. M. Thompson	Councillor C. W. Bridgeman
Alderman F. Williams	Cllr. Mrs. G. E. L. Caswell
Councillor A. L. Garratt	Councillor H. J. Hall
Councillor J. S. Tayler	Councillor Mrs. C. S. Parker

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
(Alderman R. J. Nevill)

Medical Officer of Health :

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

Sanitary Inspector :

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

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of City—3,579 acres.

Estimated resident population according to
Registrar General—9,816.

Estimated resident population according to Food Office—10,661.

Number of inhabited houses—estimated 2,600.

Rateable Value—£58,379.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£228.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—					M	F
Total	...	...	...	...	123	102
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	115	91
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	11

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—22·9

Still Births—					M	F	Total
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	0	1	1

Deaths	66	66	132
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—10·5.

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—35·5

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... Nil.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	12
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
„ 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:—

1947

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para Typh- oid Fever	Polio- myelitis	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1— 2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
2— 3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
3— 4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
4— 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
10—15	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1
20—35	1	...	...	10	...	2	...	...
35—45	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	9	...	...	11	...	10	1	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during the year 1947 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	...	...	...
25—	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35—	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
45— .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55— .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	...

Diphtheria Immunisation.

270 children under five and 1,274 between five and fifteen years of age were immunised.

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. Samples which were submitted to the laboratory at Stafford were reported to be satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.—The City Surveyor states that there is a prospect of the proposed reconstruction of the outfall-works being commenced in the near future.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house refuse is maintained in the city. Disposal is now by controlled tipping. The tip in Curborough Road is inspected at regular intervals and no complaints of any kind have been received from the local inhabitants.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

During the year there were further changes in connection with the clerical work. An arrangement whereby the clerical work of the department was combined with that of the Fuel Office proved to be unworkable and had to be discontinued. The appointment of a Public Health clerk towards the end of the year was marked by an appreciable improvement in the office routine.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Neglect of sanitary work during the war years—aggravated by shortages of materials and labour—has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of complaints. Some of these complaints refer to structural defects, many of which under normal conditions would be remedied without reference to this department. There is still considerable difficulty in getting repairs done and much additional work is caused by re-inspections which have to be made to ensure that notices are complied with. During the year under review 54 informal notices and 2 statutory notices were served.

BUILDING LICENSING.

Repairs and Maintenance.

During the year 456 licences were issued in respect of works of repair and maintenance. This work took up much time in visiting property and drafting the various forms. Some of the licences were in respect of structural repairs, while others were in relation to outside painting and interior re-decoration. Eight applications were refused on the ground that the proposed work was not of an essential character.

HOUSING.

Many of the houses scheduled for clearance before the onset of war are still awaiting demolition and 52 of them are still occupied. In some cases notices have been served under the Public Health Act requiring the houses to be kept reasonably weather proof. In spite of this action, however, there is continued structural deterioration and the need for rehousing of the occupants is becoming increasingly urgent. A few of the more serious cases of overcrowding have been relieved by the provision of new houses. Appreciable improvements in this connection are not to be expected until more houses are available.

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. The Walsall and District Co-Operative Society have a Supplementary licence for the sale of Pasteurised milk in the city. Samples of designated milk for examination at the Medical Research Laboratory at Stafford are taken at regular intervals.

1 tin of Apricots	5 tins of Jam
2 tins of Blackberries	9 tins of Salmon
1 tin of Gooseberries	3 tins of Pilchards
1 tin of Fruit Cocktail	45 tins of Fish
6 bottles of Fruit	4 tins of Cod Liver Roe Paste
4 tins Pears	7 tins of Bacon
2 tins of Orange Juice	2 tins of Veal Loaf
2 tins of Plums	16 tins of Steak
1 tin of Damsons	2 tins of Sardines
26 tins of Grape Fruit	2 Fish Cakes
2 tins of Tomato Juice	1 tin of Mincemeat
3 tins of Tomatoes	2 tins Syrup
3 tins of Tomatoe Ketchup	2 tins of Marmalade
7½ lbs. of Cheese	62 lbs. of Chocolates
1 tin of Cheese	2 tins of Cocoa
3 tins of Meat & Vegetables	2 packets of Allbran
29 2 oz. packets of Chocolate	1 tin of Guavas
1 Date Pudding	1 tin of Potatoes
12 lb. of Liquorice Sweets	12 tins of Condensed Milk
202 tins of Evaporated Milk	28 lbs. of Oats
13 bags of Flour	12 tins of Beans
2 tins of Beetroot	1 box of Sausages
19 tins of Peas	3 tins of Pork Sausages
7 tins of Soup	