

[Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Lincoln City.

Contributors

Lincoln (England). City Council.

Publication/Creation

1942

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City and County Borough of Lincoln



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year

1942

By

M. L. BERY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

"CHRONICLE" PRINTING WORKS
LINCOLN



Annual Report of M.O.H.

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City Health Department,
Lincoln,
August, 1943.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the City during 1942.

This is my thirteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

The Report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular 2773, and, on account of War conditions is in the nature of an interim report only.

Intensive propaganda was continued during the year in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation. Arrangements were made for Immunisation to be carried out at the City Health Department, at the Infant Welfare Clinics, at the School Clinics and at Schools to suit the convenience of the parents. At the end of the year, of the child population below 15 years of age, 61.7% had been immunised against Diphtheria.

Parents who have not had their children immunised as yet should be urged to have them protected against Diphtheria in the interests of the health of their children and the Nation's health as a whole.

The number of beds provided for Maternity cases proved to be inadequate for the needs of the City, and some cases had of necessity to be confined in the Burton Road Hospital.

There was also need for more adequate accommodation for sick children.

In post-war planning the provision of additional and more up-to-date Hospital accommodation generally should be borne in mind.

The treatment and supervision of tuberculous patients received constant attention, and the Council continued to re-house tuberculous families where the housing accommodation was unsatisfactory. Special provision was made for air raid shelters for the protection of the patients and to safeguard the spread of infection.

The work of the Venereal Diseases Clinics continued to be carried out under confidential conditions, and I would like to emphasise that the patients should seek treatment as early as possible and should continue treatment until declared free of infection by the Medical Officers in charge of the Clinics.

The Birth-rate was 15.21 and was the highest recorded during the War years.

The Death-rate was 12.21 and was the lowest recorded during the War years.

The first Treatment Centre for Cancer under the Joint Committee, consisting of the two County Boroughs and the three County Councils of Lincolnshire was opened at the War Memorial Hospital, Scunthorpe during July, 1942.

During the year a great deal of the time of your Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Medical Officer of Health was of necessity occupied by the Casualty and Emergency Hospital Services.

The Deputy Medical Officer of Health joined the Forces in October, 1942 and his services were not available for the rest of the year.

I am glad to state that full activities of the Health Services were maintained during 1942.

In conclusion I wish to thank all Members of the Council for their keen interest in the various problems put before them in connection with the health of the City, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the good work accomplished by all the Staffs engaged in carrying out the work of the Health and Hospital Services and the Casualty Services.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

M. L. BERY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(I) MEDICAL CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

It is pleasing to report that all medical clinics and treatment centres were available during 1942 as in previous years, and were of great assistance in looking after the health of Lincoln citizens.

The Clinics are held as follows:—

AT THE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, BEAUMONT FEE, LINCOLN.

Immunisation Clinic (Diphtheria).

9-30 a.m. to 10 a.m. each morning.

Tuberculosis Clinics.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays—Adults.

9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Tuesdays—Children.

Venereal Diseases Clinics.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays—Women.

9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Thursdays—Women.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays—Men.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays—Men.

AT THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, 34, NEWLAND,
LINCOLN.

Infant Clinics.

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

By appointment—Mondays.

Birth Control Clinics.

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays.

Treatment by Ultra-Violet Rays.

Daily—By appointment.

Dental Clinics for Children under 5 years, and Pregnant and Nursing Mothers.

By appointment.

AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC, BEAUMONT FEE, LINCOLN.

Medical Clinics.

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

Eye Clinics.

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

Dental Clinics.

By appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Daily—By appointment.

Minor Ailment Clinics.

9 a.m. Each morning.

OTHER CLINICS.

Infant Clinics for Children below 5 years.

Monday—2 p.m. to 4 p.m. St. Helen's Hall, Skellingthorpe Road.

Thursday—2 p.m. to 4 p.m. St. Giles Methodist Church.

Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.

9 a.m. each week-day at St. Giles Junior School.

9 a.m. each week-day at Sincil Bank Boys' School.

9 a.m. each week-day at Skellingthorpe Road School.

(2) HOSPITALS.

I. Provided by the Local Authority.

The following four hospitals were available during the year and the annual admissions in each were as follows :—

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>Admissions during</i>	
	1942	1941
City Hospital and Sanatorium	356	349
City Maternity Home	243	192
Burton Road Institution	912	891
Joint Smallpox Hospital	Nil.	Nil.

At the City Hospital and Sanatorium there is an X-ray apparatus which deals with all the work required under the Tuberculosis Scheme.

There was considerable difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable and adequate nursing and domestic staffs for the Hospitals generally, but, in spite of this, the work of the Hospitals continued to be efficiently carried on.

The Council is fully aware of the need for additional and more up-to-date hospital accommodation, and in post-war planning this should be given urgent attention.

II. Hospitals not wholly subsidised by the Local Authority.

County Hospital.

This is a voluntary general hospital which deals with patients from the City and the neighbouring County area.

(3) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological work was available during 1942, and it was decided to close the Laboratory at the City Health Department on 31st March, 1942. An Area Laboratory for Pathological work to serve the needs of this Region was opened at the Lincoln County Hospital on 1st September, 1942.

(4) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Two motor ambulances were stationed at the City Hospital and Sanatorium, and were available for infectious disease and tuberculous cases.

The two motor ambulances which were transferred during 1941 from the Police to the Civil Defence Services continued to be available during the year for all other cases.

(5) NURSING IN THE HOME.

The arrangements with the Lincoln District Nursing Association for the nursing of the patients in their homes were continued during the year. They attend cases of any nature with the exception of certain notifiable diseases.

The total number of visits paid by the Association for Tuberculosis cases was 480; for Maternity and Child Welfare cases 294 and for Public Assistance 5,381.

No special nurses were employed for the nursing of infectious cases in the home.

(6) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

The scheme for the provision of domiciliary medical relief, under which the patient has free choice of doctor, was continued during the year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

Intensive propaganda was continued during the year to bring to the notice of parents the importance of having their children protected against Diphtheria, and their co-operation was asked for to eradicate Diphtheria from Lincoln. Arrangements were made for children to be immunised at the Infant Welfare Clinics, at the School Clinic, at the City Health Department and at Schools to suit the convenience of the parents.

The number of children fully immunised during 1942 was 2,444, out of these 1,022 were under 5 years of age and 1,422 were between 5 and 15 years of age.

At the end of the year, of the child population below 15 years of age, 61.7% had been immunised against Diphtheria.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
41	34	14	92	98

There were 2 deaths but these did not occur amongst immunised children.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was ;

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
80	61	78	45	70

There was no death.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
2	3	26	10	11

There were three deaths.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
1	1	3	—	—

There was no death.

DYSENTERY.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
—	4	11	6	12

There was no death.

ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS AND ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
3	—	1	17	1

There was one death.

ERYSIPELAS.

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
15	5	10	13	11

There was one death.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
1	—	—	—	—

There was one death.

MALARIA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
—	—	—	—	1

There was no death.

PNEUMONIA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
87	97	93	59	76

The deaths attributed to this cause numbered 28.

SMALLPOX.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
—	—	—	—	—

There was no death.

CHICKENPOX.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was :

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
482	265	138	384	697

There were no deaths.

MEASLES.

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Not Notifiable.		718	42	182

There was no death.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Not Notifiable.		40	316	15

There was no death.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

GERMAN MEASLES.

No cases were brought to the notice of the Health Department as against 4 in 1941.

MUMPS.

304 cases were reported in 1942 as against 250 in 1941.

INFLUENZA.

The deaths directly attributed to Influenza were 4 as compared with 9 in 1941.

SCABIES.

In connection with school children the percentage of children suffering from scabies from 1933 to 1939 varied from 0.6% to 0.2%. This percentage rose to 1% during 1940, to 2.3% during 1941 and to 4% during 1942.

Owing to the increase in the number of scabies cases it was found necessary to increase the facilities for the treatment of school children, children below five years of age, and adults. The Bailgate First Aid Post in the north of the City, and the Football Ground First Aid Post in the south of the City were used for the treatment of scabies from the 23rd March, 1942. The treatment was carried out by the personnel of the First Aid Posts under the supervision of the Public Health Medical Staff. Patients requiring inpatient treatment were admitted to the Burton Road Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The importance of early diagnosis in the treatment of tuberculous patients continued to be emphasised during the year.

The number of primary notifications received during the last five years was:—

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	
51	41	58	54	72	Pulmonary
12	12	19	22	13	Non-pulmonary
<hr/> 63	<hr/> 53	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 76	<hr/> 85	

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the last five years was:—

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	
27	28	50	32	43	Pulmonary
8	11	10	9	3	Non-Pulmonary
<hr/> 35	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 46	

During the year 58 cases were admitted to the Lincoln Sanatorium and 5 cases were sent to Hospitals elsewhere.

At the end of the year 36 patients were undergoing treatment at the Lincoln Sanatorium and 7 were receiving treatment in Outside Institutions.

Ten new cases were referred for treatment to the Light Clinic during the year.

The Lincoln District Nursing Association paid 480 home nursing visits to tuberculous patients as compared with 534 in the previous year.

In connection with the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, 167 sessions were held and the patients made 1,783 attendances, 120 visits were paid by the Medical Staff and 3,566 by the Tuberculosis Nurses to the homes of the patients and 730 X-ray examinations were carried out at the City Hospital and Sanatorium.

The number of patients on the Dispensary Register on the 31st December, 1942 was 299 as compared with 268 in 1941.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme was on the same lines as described in my Report for 1938.

The number of new Lincoln patients who attended the Clinics for the first time during 1942 was 175, out of these 71 proved to be suffering from Venereal Diseases, 70 were not Venereal and in the case of 34 the diagnosis had not been completed at the end of the year.

The number of new cases of definite venereal diseases amongst patients domiciled in the City who came under treatment for the first time during the period of 5 years is given below :—

	<i>Syphilis.</i>	<i>Soft Chancre.</i>	<i>Gonorrhoea.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1938	16	1	48	65
1939	18	—	36	54
1940	18	—	53	71
1941	7	1	47	55
1942	18	—	53	71

It is of the utmost importance that patients should seek treatment as early as possible and should continue treatment until declared free of infection by the Medical Officers in Charge of the Clinics.

The Venereal Diseases Clinics continued to be conducted on confidential lines.

The bacteriological and pathological investigations in connection with Venereal Diseases continued to be carried out at the Grimsby Venereal Diseases Clinic.

CANCER.

There were 107 deaths from Cancer as compared with 105 in 1941.

The Joint Committee of the three County Councils and two County Boroughs of Lincolnshire continued to give attention to the establishment of a Joint Scheme for the diagnosis and treatment of Cancer.

It is pleasing to report that under the Joint Committees arrangements the first Radiotherapy Treatment Centre was opened on 15th July, 1942 at the Scunthorpe War Memorial Hospital. Up to the end of the year 4 Lincoln patients had been treated at this Centre.

CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The arrangements were on similar lines as in previous years.

On 31st December, 1942 there were 199 mental defectives under the care of the Council, of which 76 were in Institutions, 15 were on Licence, 21 under Guardianship, 32 under Statutory Supervision, 50 under Voluntary Supervision, 2 were evacuated from other areas and 3 were absent from Institutions without permission.

The Public Health Medical Staff examined 5 cases for the purpose of Certification and 10 cases were either re-examined or were examined for special reports.

At the end of the year there were 25 Mental Defectives attending the Occupation Centre as against 29 at the commencement of the year.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Arrangements for the Prevention of Blindness were on similar lines as described in my Report for 1938.

WATER.

The chlorination of the water supply was continued during the year and the results of bacteriological examination of samples of water were satisfactory.

The water supply remained satisfactory in quality and quantity.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During 1942 all measures in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare were continued on the same lines as in previous years.

CHILD WELFARE.

During the year 2,181 children were seen at the Infant Welfare Clinics and out of these 688 were under 1 year of age. The Health Visitors paid 7,187 visits in respect of children under 5 years, out of these 2,304 visits were to children under 1 year of age.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year was 7 and the number of children under their care was 8.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The Municipal Midwives attended 431 domiciliary cases as midwives and 135 as Maternity Nurses. Medical aid was summoned in 280 cases.

The total number of ante-natal examinations carried out at the ante-natal clinic was 416.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified during the year as against six during 1941. The vision was unimpaired in each case.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the last five years was :—

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
8	7	8	7	11

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two deaths in the City which were considered maternal deaths, this gives the Maternal Mortality rate of 1.95 as compared with 0.99 for the previous year and 2.01 for England and Wales.

MATERNITY HOME.

The Children's Nursery, Macaulay Drive, continued to be used as the City Maternity Home during 1942. The 10 beds provided are inadequate for the needs of the City and efforts should be made to provide additional maternity accommodation.

There were 243 women admitted to the Home during the year and medical aid was summoned in 67 cases.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

Two War-time Nurseries, each for 40 children, were opened during the year. The one at 64, Newland was opened on 19th January and the one at Macaulay Drive on 6th July, 1942.

The number of children on the Register at the end of the year was as follows :—

Newland War-time Day Nursery	43
St. Giles War-time Day Nursery	27

There is need for a third War-time Nursery at the south end of the City.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The work of the Sanitary Staff continued on the same lines as in 1941.

The total number of preliminary inspections was 6,170 and the total number of re-inspections was 3,440.

The above figures include the inspection of dwelling-houses and other premises, and the inspection of air raid shelters and evacuee billets.

OVER-CROWDING.

The number of new cases of over-crowding reported to the Department was 38 and the number of cases where over-crowding had been abated was 23 during the year. At the end of the year there were 109 dwelling-houses over-crowded to the knowledge of the Department.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Keen supervision was maintained by the Sanitary Staff in connection with the supervision of food, including meat.

The number of specimens taken during the year under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 was 223, of which 30 proved to be adulterated. Suitable action was taken in each case.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Particular attention was given to Swimming Baths as in the previous year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>
Marriages Solemnised	..	643	789	847	674	695
Live Birth-rate	13.4	13.4	14.1	14.6	15.21
Still Birth-rate	00.55	0.41	0.59	0.53	0.64
Death Rate	12.5	13.4	14.6	12.9	12.21
Maternal Mortality Rate	..	3.40	2.29	4.2	0.99	1.95
Infant Mortality Rate	..	44	48	49	60	66

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, 1942.

	Birth rate per 1,000 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
England and Wales ..	15.8	.54	11.6	—	—	.01	—	.02	.05	.09	5.2	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	17.3	.66	13.3	—	—	.02	—	.03	.06	.09	7.5	59
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at Census, 1931)	18.4	.62	12.1	—	—	.01	—	.02	.04	.10	4.8	46
London ..	14.0	.48	13.9	—	—	.01	—	.04	.02	.07	8.6	60
LINCOLN ..	15.21	.64	12.2	—	—	—	—	—	.03	.06	5.0	66



