

[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Lydd U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

Lydd (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1950

Persistent URL

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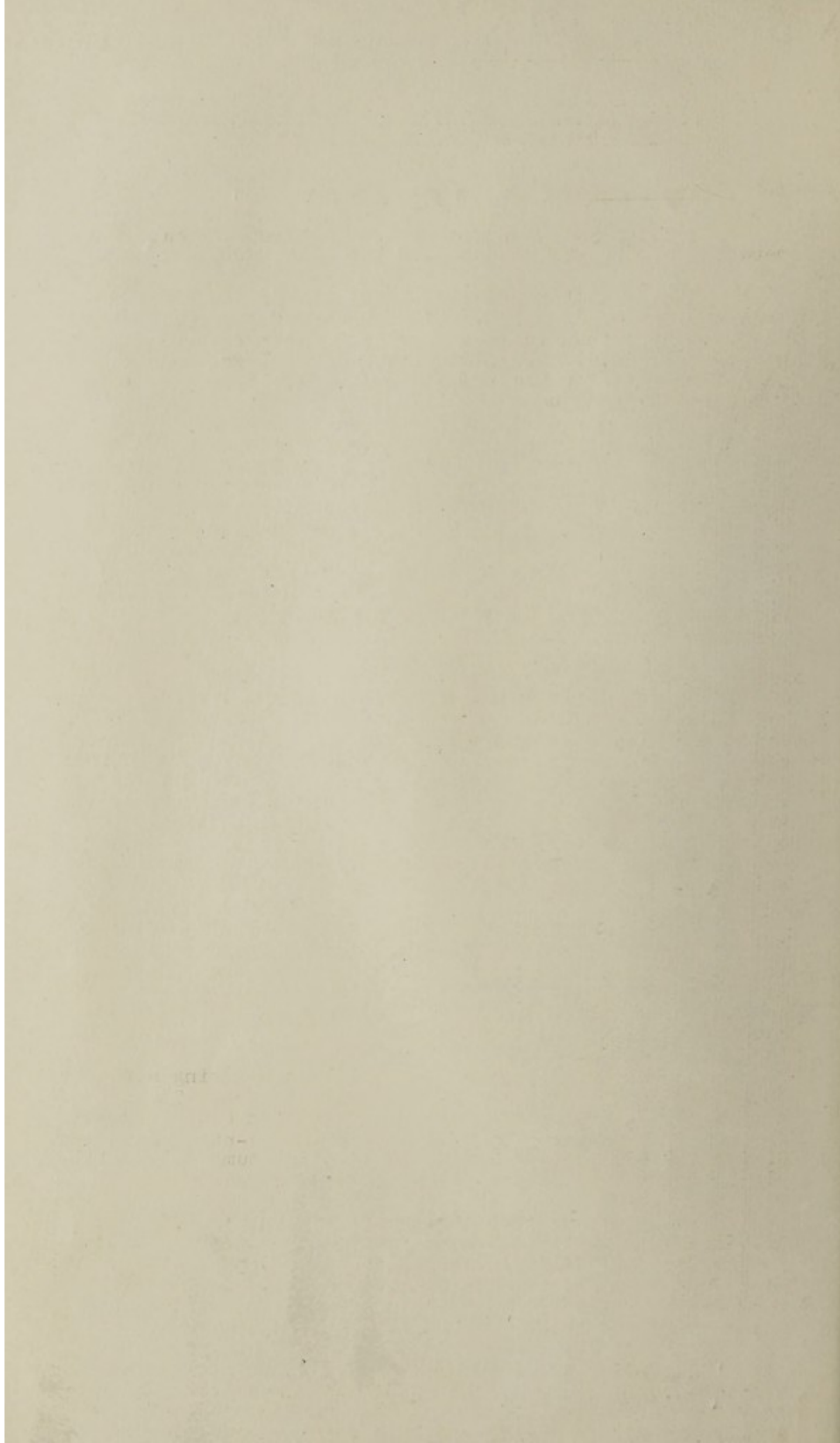
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BOROUGH OF LYDD
(KENT)



ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR
1950.



BOROUGH OF LYDD (KENT)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population is 2,623. The number of live-births was 53, less by 3 than in 1949, and the birth-rate was accordingly 20.21 per 1,000 estimated Home Population. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 15.8. The rate for Lydd has thus been maintained at a relatively high figure. Factors influencing the birth-rate are numerous and complex, but on a general basis, a high rate can be regarded as a favourable social sign. The Royal Commission on Population indicated in their report published in 1949 that the number of marriages had greatly increased in recent years owing to the influence of the war. They also found that there has been a remarkable decline in the size of individual families since the middle of the 19th Century. It is probable therefore that the comparatively high birth-rate in the Borough is due to a greater number of post-war married couples, than to any other single factor.

It must be very gratifying to all engaged in the Midwifery and Child Welfare Services in the Borough that no infants under one year of age died during the year. When it is recalled that in England and Wales at the beginning of this Century e.g. 1901, there was 151 deaths per 1,000 live births amongst infants under one year of age, it is not difficult to realise and to measure the effects of the great advance that has been achieved, especially in these latter decades in medical science, and skill of application and in the efficiency of the administration of the Health Services.

It is also very gratifying that no deaths occurred due to pregnancy and childbirth, another index that should truly be a source of satisfaction to those engaged in the Midwifery Services, having regard to the numerous dangerous complications which may beset women who are pregnant or in labour.

There were however, two stillbirths giving a rate of 36.36 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. The national rate has fallen from 40, since registration became compulsory in 1927 to approximately 23. Thorough ante-natal care and obstetric skill are essential to keep the number of stillbirths within the limits of unavoidable causes.

The crude death-rate for the Borough in 1950 was 10.9 per 1,000 estimated home population and when adjusted for age and sex distribution by the Area Comparability factor given by the Registrar General, becomes 9.57. This latter rate compares favourably with the death-rate for England and Wales which was 11.6.

Regarding the causes of deaths there were no significant variables. Diseases of the heart and circulation as in previous successive years took the greatest toll of lives, mostly amongst the aged, and Cancer the second highest number, again amongst the aged. Early diagnosis of Cancer is essential to successful treatment. Many patients seek advice

when the disease is too advanced for any other than symptomatic treatment.

It is pleasing to record that there were no deaths from Infectious Disease. Of the notifiable diseases, only 7 cases of Measles, 7 cases of Whooping Cough and 1 case of Erysipelas were notified. Measles and Whooping Cough are most infectious before the diagnosis is usually confirmed and during this period, commonly about 7 days, the infection is disseminated in classrooms and in other places where children congregate. Control therefore is almost impossible. Fortunately they are not per se killing diseases, like Diphtheria, but their complications such as broncho-pneumonia can be very dangerous in infants. Active immunisation against Whooping Cough is still very uncertain and should not be promised to parents, unlike immunisation against Diphtheria which can definitely be promised as a safe-guard and which since the mass campaign was begun in 1941 has almost eliminated the disease from the Country. There must however, be no slackening in propaganda and every effort should be maintained to keep the need for it in the minds of parents. Although the disease is becoming uncommon, the possibility of its occurrence should be kept in mind, particularly in adults and in children who have not been immunised or if immunised who have not received further inoculations to re-inforce waning immunity.

It is noteworthy that no infectious disease of a really serious nature occurred in the Borough. For example, no case of Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) has occurred for more than 6 years. No cases of Food Poisoning were notified, but constant supervision of food and food preparing and cooking premises is essential to prevention. The number of outbreaks of Food Poisoning has considerably increased throughout the Country since the last war.

One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified, and the total number of pulmonary (respiratory) cases on the register at the end of the year was 6. The number of cases therefore is relatively small and the notification rate viz. 0.38 per 1,000 of the estimated population was very low. There are no cases in the Borough of other forms of Tuberculosis. The causal organism in the majority of these latter cases is the Bovine Bacillus, which is conveyed to the human body in most instances by infected milk. It may be assumed therefore, as a corollary, that the milk supplies in the Borough have contained few, if any, of these dangerous organisms. Milk however, is always a potential source of danger and pasteurisation, or boiling especially for infants and young children, of all milk consumed is the only certain safeguard, not only against the Tubercle Bacillus but also against many other types of organism which may cause an outbreak of infectious disease.

In conclusion I should like to thank you for your interest and co-operation in the work of the Department and the staff for their loyal and efficient service.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. MARSHALL.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
FOR 1950.

Area:- 11,932 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of The Resident Population :-	2,623.
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books :-	1,021.
Rateable Value :-	£16,343.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate :-	£64.

Social Conditions

Lydd is a very ancient and historical Borough, being mentioned in Saxon Charters from 740 onwards. It is predominantly agricultural being chiefly concerned with sheep and cattle raising and arable farming. There are also four extensive beach quarrying and crushing plants within the District. Of the Sub-Districts, Dungeness is devoted to the fishing industry and Greatstone, where there is a large holiday camp, and at Lydd-on-Sea cater chiefly for holiday-makers. Lydd also contains a large permanent Army Artillery Practice Camp and a large proportion of the civilians are employed there. There is almost no unemployment and by and large social conditions are satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.F.</u>		<u>Lydd</u> <u>Borough</u>	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>
1. Live Births	53	31 22	Birth Rate per 1,000	20.21	15.8
(a) Legitimate	52	31 21	ostimated resident population		
(b) Illegitimate	1	- 1			
2. Stillbirths	2	1 1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)	36.36	-
(a) Legitimate	2	1 1	births		
(b) Illegitimate	-	- -			
3. Deaths	27	14 13	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	10.29	11.6
4. Deaths from Puerperal Causes	-	- -	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	0.86
5. Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	-	- -			
(a) Legitimate	-	- -			
(b) Illegitimate	-	- -			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				-	29.8
Rate re legitimate infants				-	
Rate re illegitimate infants				-	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				5	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				-	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea				-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1950.

Whooping Cough	7
Measles	7
Pneumonia	3
Erysipelas	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LYDD BOROUGH

DURING 1950.

ALL CAUSES	Males	Females
	14	13
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	-
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	-
18. Coronary disease, angina	2	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
20. Other heart disease	2	7
21. Other circulatory disease	-	-
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-
24. Bronchitis	2	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

- (a) The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.
- (b) Samples of water for bacteriological analysis are taken monthly and for complete chemical analysis twice yearly.
- (c) The water is not plumbo-solvent.
- (d) No action was necessary for any form of contamination of the piped water supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewerage scheme for the drainage of the post-war housing estate is now in operation, and is proving satisfactory.

Sewage is carried partly by gravitation and partly by pumping to the sewage works on the outskirts of the town.

The question of further sewerage of the town has been deferred owing to the high cost.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No action has been found necessary during the year in connection with the pollution of rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Practically the whole of the houses within the Borough are provided with water closets, draining either to the public sewer or cesspool.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) House Refuse

House refuse is collected weekly by Corporation workmen, and taken to the authorised tip on the outskirts of the town.

(b) Trade Refuse

In addition to the removal of house refuse regular additional collections of refuse are made from holiday camps during the summer and from a nearby Military Camp in the winter.

(c) Salvage

Salvage is collected at the same time as house refuse, but a separate collection is made from shops in the area. The workmen are paid a bonus to encourage them to collect as much as possible. 8 tons. 18cwt. of salvaged paper was disposed of during the year.

Section D.

HOUSING

A contract for a further 32 Permanent Houses on the Council's Housing Estate at The Green has been commenced but the Contractor has gone into Liquidation. Four bungalows for old people were completed by the Corporation during the year.

In addition two bungalows were completed by private enterprise.

There is still a number of sub-standard dwelling houses in the Borough, but owing to the acute shortage of houses, no action has been taken under the Housing Act for their demolition.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND
SUPERVISION OF
FOOD

Milk Supply

Number of Milk Producers	3.
Number of Retail Purveyors	3.
Number of Retailers who are not Cowkeepers in the Borough	3.
Number of Dealers Licences in pasteurised milk	1.

Food preparing premises are inspected regularly to ensure a satisfactory standard of hygiene.

During the year 149 tins of varied foodstuff and 10 lbs. sausages; 29 lbs. bacon and 220 lbs. meat were condemned.

Animals to be used for human consumption are not slaughtered in the Borough.

Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological
Examination of Foods.

The local authority is not a Food and Drugs Authority under the Act, this work being carried out by the Kent County Council.

Nutrition

No special work in the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been considered necessary.

Shell-fish (Molluscan)

There are no shell-fish gathered for sale in the Borough.

