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BOROUGH OF LYDD KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1953



RECEIVED OF A. C. ROBERTSON

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BOROUGH OF LYDD (KENT)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE
YEAR 1953.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 2595 - a very slight increase by 9 over that of the preceding year.

The number of live-births was 44, - an increase by 9 over the preceding year, and the rate was accordingly 16-95; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability factor this becomes 18-81. The rate for England and Wales was 15-5.

The number of deaths was 27, and the death-rate was accordingly 10-56; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which allows comparison with other Districts, the rate becomes 10-66. The factor indicates that there is a normal balance of old people in the Borough.

The highest number of deaths was due to Heart and Circulatory or Vascular lesions and were mostly amongst the aged, concomitant with the degenerative processes of old age.

Cancer caused 4 deaths, compared with 3 in 1952. As in 1952, one (76 years) was due to Cancer of the Lung.

The 4 deaths from Pneumonia were amongst aged people, in whom treatment is less successful.

The remaining causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual influence.

Relevant to the 44 live-births there was one infant death, which, having been due to a congenital abnormality (Patent interventricular septum), may be regarded as having been unavoidable.

There were no deaths amongst mothers due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

There were, however, 5 stillbirths, and the rate per 1,000 live and still births was accordingly 102.04. This rate is high compared with that for England and Wales viz. 22.4, but it must be emphasized that the figures are small for statistical comparisons; for example there were no stillbirths in the preceding year and the rate was accordingly nil.

There are many unknown influences which contribute towards the occurrence of stillbirths, but it has been shown in Hospital Practice that careful ante-natal and obstetric attention are pre-requisites to a low rate.

There were no deaths due to Infectious Disease.

There was a small epidemic of Measles, 49 cases having been notified. It is impracticable to prevent the spread

of this highly infectious disease amongst children owing to the fact that it is most infectious before the rash appears, until when it is not usually identified. Fortunately the disease per se is not serious in normal healthy children and its chief complications viz. broncho-pneumonia and otitis media are uncommon, excepting in weakly children, particularly infants. Gamma globulin is available at the County Laboratory for use to prevent or attenuate an attack when this is indicated; e.g. when a child is in poor health or is suffering from another illness.

Six cases of Whooping Cough were notified. Like Measles, this infectious disease is endemic and persists owing to the fact that it is most highly infectious before the paroxysmal or whooping phase. Children 'suspects' in Schools should be excluded until certification by the family Practitioner that they are not infective; actual cases should be strictly isolated from other children for five weeks from the onset and susceptible contacts in the family should be excluded from school for at least 14 days from the last date of exposure to infection. In practice, these conditions are not thoroughly applied, particularly by parents, and it would seem that immunisation will offer the best means of prevention in future, as with immunisation against Diphtheria which appears to have been effectively eradicated. Strong claims are being made that the new vaccines being produced, are effective immunising agents and it would seem that they are worthy of trial.

Only 2 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred. Those were directly related, viz. 2 brothers, but were mild and uncomplicated and treated at home. The disease is mild in its present phase and complications, of which Otitis Media is the most likely, are uncommon. In practice, it is often difficult to distinguish mild cases of Scarlatina from mild cases of Rubella, and in cases of doubt, nose and throat swabs should be sent for examination for the presence or absence of the Haemolytic Streptococcus. This should be done also, when mild cases are nursed at home, before they are allowed to return to School as small epidemics have occasionally been caused by convalescent carriers.

One case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred in the Military Camp. The source of infection could not be found, but from the history it was probable that the child was infected in another District. Appropriate measures prevented any secondary cases.

Also, one case of non-paralytic Poliomyelitis was notified. There had been no other cases within the area and the child had not been in contact with any known case. It cannot be stated with certainty that the illness was due to the Poliomyelitis virus.

Sixteen cases of Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified. Research, undertaken for the past few years in the Romney Marsh area, has shown that a number of cases of Primary or Atypical Pneumonias have been due to Q Fever; those have occurred mostly during the lambing season when it is thought that the rickettsiae are propagated from sheep to man. A full report will be given when the investigations have been completed.

(3)

It is gratifying that no new cases of Respiratory or Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year and that there were no deaths. Open sources of infection are being steadily eliminated and the fact that the milk supplies of the Borough are designated is an additional safe-guard against Bovine Tuberculosis.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and assistance and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL.

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICTFOR 1953

Area:- 11,932 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of The Resident Population:-	2,595
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Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books:-	1,031
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Rateable Value:-	17,061
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Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:-	£68. 14. 6.10
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Social Conditions.

Lydd is a very ancient and historical Borough being mentioned in Saxon Charters from 740 onwards and is a limb of the Cinque Ports. It is predominantly agricultural being chiefly concerned with sheep and cattle raising and arable farming. There are also extensive beach quarrying and crushing plants within the District. Of the Sub-District Dungeness is devoted to the fishing industry and Greatstone, where there is a large holiday camp, and Lydd-on-Sea cater chiefly for holiday-makers. Lydd also contains a large permanent Army Artillery Practice Camp and a 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>Lydd</u> <u>Borough</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>			
1. Live Births	44	16	28	Birth Rate		
(a) Legitimate	42	14	28	per 1,000	16.95	15.5
(b) Illegitimate	2	2	-	estimated		
				resident		
				population		
2. Stillbirths	5	3	2	Rate per	102.04	22.4
(a) Legitimate	5	3	2	1,000 total		
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live and		
				still)		
				births.		
3. Deaths	27	16	11	Death rate	-	11.4
				per 1,000		
				resident		
				population		
4. Deaths from Pregnancy -	-	-	-	Rate per	-	0.76
Childbirth and				1,000 (live		
Abortion.				and still)		
				births		
5. Deaths of Infants	1	1	-			
Under One Year						
of Age						
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					22.73	26.8
Rate re legitimate infants					23.81	
Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					4	
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 1953.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	45
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	16
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LYDD BOROUGH

DURING 1953

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

The following causes of infectious diseases were notified during the year 1953.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Acute Primary or Intermittent Pneumonia	...	...	...
Bacterial Fever	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality 1953.

Age periods	New Cases Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Deaths Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Total Cases on Register			
	M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA1. Water Supply

During the year, the Littlestone-on-Sea District Water Co., became incorporated with the Folkestone Water Works Co., and the latter is now responsible for the supply; this is obtained from shallow wells sunk in a stratum of shingle and sand and it would appear that there is an unlimited supply of wholesome water. Samples of the water are taken monthly for bacteriological analysis and half-yearly for chemical analysis. All the samples taken during the year were satisfactory and no action was necessary for any form of contamination of the piped water supply.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

The sewerage scheme for the drainage of the post-war housing estate continued to operate satisfactorily. Sewage is carried partly by gravitation and partly by pumping to the Sewage Works situated on the outskirts of the town. No further steps have been taken to extend the sewerage scheme within the Borough owing to the high capital cost which would be involved.

Almost all the houses in the Borough are provided with water closets, draining either into the public sewer or cesspools.

3. Public Cleansing(a) House Refuse

A weekly collection of House Refuse is maintained by the Council workmen and the refuse is taken to the authorised tip on the outskirts of the town.

(b) Trade Refuse

In addition to the removal of house refuse, the Council carries out regular additional collections and refuse from a holiday camp during the summer and from a military camp during the winter.

(c) Salvage

This is collected with the house refuse but a separate collection is made from the shops. An incentive bonus is paid to the Council workmen and during the year 22 tons. 19 cwts. of salvaged paper were sold to the Waste Paper Mills.

4. Housing

Two houses and two bungalows, referred to as "infilling" in the 1952 Report were completed during the year and the third phase of the Council's permanent housing programme was commenced. Four dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

Informal action resulted in a number of repairs being effected.

5. Eradication of Vermin

No complaints of infestation by bugs or fleas were received throughout the year.

6. Milk Supplies

There were 2 Producer Retailers within the Borough and 2 Retailer Purveyors from without the Borough. Two of the supplies were Pasteurised and the other two, Tuberculin tested. All the samples taken during the year were satisfactory and samples also taken for examination for the Tubercle Bacillus were negative.

7. Meat and other Foods

Regular routine inspection of all food-preparing places, including restaurant and hotel kitchens was maintained and the general standard was found to be satisfactory.

All the ice-cream in the Borough is pre-wrapped and the arrangements for storage and service were hygienically satisfactory. Most of the samples taken for laboratory examination were Grade 1 and no disease-producing organisms were cultivated.

During the year, 148 tins of varied food-stuffs, 118 lbs. of beef, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of pigs' liver, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of bacon and 1 lb. 13 hock were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

There were two licensed Slaughterhouses in the Borough but only a small amount of emergency slaughtering was done, most of the meat having been bought by the butchers 'off-the-hook'.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 19371. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	6	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12	12	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	18	18	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted (6)
	Fond (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
crowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
reasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
adequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
effective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
offences against the Act not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORY ACT, 1947

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by sanitary inspectors)

Provision	Number on Section	(2)	Number of Inspections	(4)	Number of Co-operatives	(6)
Cases in which Section 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be read by local authorities	5	5	-	-	-	-
Cases in which Section 7 is read by the local authority (excluding orders, provisions)	12	12	-	-	-	-
Cases in which Section 7 is read by the local authority (excluding orders, provisions)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	17	-	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Defects	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Defects (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.8)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.9)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.10)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defects (S.11)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-