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BOROUGH OF LYTHAM ST.ANNES.

HEPORT

OFTHE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1945

BY

JOHN P. LITT, M.D. D.P.H.

PUBLIC OFFICES,
CLIFTON DRIVE SOUTH,
LYTHAM ST.ANNES.





Public Offices, Clifton Drive South, LYTHAM ST. ANNES.

August, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st 1945.

I resumed my duties on July 1st 1945 on release from the Royal Army Medical Corps, to which I had been recalled on April 1st 1940.

During my absence Dr. James Mair has deputised as Acting Medical Officer.

The Health of the Borough has been very good for the past twelve months, the number of cases of notifiable Infectious Disease has been very small and it is very satisfactory to note that only one case of Diphtheria was recorded.

The most urgent need at the moment is for additional housing accommodation and no effort should be spared to provide this as expeditiously as possible.

I desire to thank the members of the Health Committee for the assistance they have accorded to me, and to express my appreciation for the work which has been so ably and loyally carried out by the Staff of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN P. LITT, M.D. D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	.802 acres.
Population (Census) 1931 25	
" (Midsummer 1945, estimated by Registrar General) 29	
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	,300.
" " " (Rate book end of 1945) 8	,360.
Rateable Value£3	46,198.
Produce of Penny Rate	£1,400.
Live Births: Legitimate Illegitimate Males. 1777) 18) 195. Females 154) 168.	363.
Birth Rate(Live births per 1,000 of the estimated population)	12.3
Still Births: Males 7 Females 4	
Still Births: Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	29.
Number of Deaths: Males 212 Females 274	486.
Death Rate	16.4
Corrected Death Rate. (See x below)	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	NIL.
Rate per 1,000 total births: Sepsis Other maternal causes	NIL.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:	
Legitimate 10 Illegitimate 1	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age Per 1,000 live births	30.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	30.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births.	31.
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (6) Rate	
"from other Tuberculosis Disease (Nil) Rate ("from Scarlet Fever (Nil) Rate ("from Diphtheria (Nil) Rate ("from Measles (Nil) Rate ("from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) (3) Rate (0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
7 an the	.88

x as the comparability factor is not now issued by the Registrar General, the "corrected" death rate cannot be given.

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Causes of Death	Valo	Fomale.
(Civilians only) All causes. Total.	212	274
1 6 11 12		~ ' '
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		-
o. corecto-spinar rever		-
		-
The second secon		1
5. Diphtheria		
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	. 1	5
8. Syphilitic Disease		-,
9. Influenza	. 1	1
10. Measles		
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis.		
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis		_
10. M. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus.	. 3	_
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	10
13 F. Cancer of Uterus		2
15 Cancer of Breast		11
	. 24	28
17. Diabetes	. 2	4
19 Heart Disease	. 34	41
20 Other diseases of Circulatory System	. 61	93
21 Bronchitis	. 11	12
22 Pneumonia	. 5	3
23 Other Respiratory Disease	. 2	1
24 Ulceration of the Stomach and Duodenum	. 1	ī
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	. 1	2
26 Appendicitis		2
27 Other Digestive Diseases	. 5	6
28 Nephritis	. 6	15
29 Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	-	-
	-	-
31 Premature Birth	. 1	2
Infantile Disease	,	0
33 Suicide	. 4	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents	. 2	-
35 Other Violent Causes	6	1
36 All other causes		23

Statistics of the Area.

1. Population.

The Registrar General estimates the population at the middle of 1945 at 29,510; 840 less than in the previous year and 3,750 more than at the last Census (1931).

2. Births.

363 live births - 195 male and 168 female are credited by the Registrar General to the Borough. This is 50 less than in the previous year and the birth rate is 12.3 per 1000 which is 2.5 per 1000 above the mean rate for the preceding five years; but 3.8 below the rate for England and Wales and 6.8 below that for the 148 Smaller Towns.

There were 32 illegitimate births - 18 male and 14 female - representing 8.8 per cent of the total live births and an illegitimate birth rate of 1.08 per 1000 of the population. The corresponding figures for 1944 were 6.0 per cent and 0.8 per 1000.

STATE OF THE SECOND SERVICE AND PARTY OF THE STATE OF THE SECOND

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Still Births.

There were eleven still births - seven male and four female during the year as compared with 14 during the previous year. This represents 3.0 per cent of the total births and a still-birth rate of 0.37 per 1000 of the population.

Deaths

The number of resident deaths which occurred during the year was 486 of which 212 were males and 274 females. This gives a crude death rate of 16.4 per 1000 which is 0.8 per 1000 above the mean death rate for the previous five years and 5.0 above the rate for England and Wales, and 4.1 above that for the 148 Smaller Towns.

Corrected death rate. This cannot be given as the comparability factor is not now issued by the Registrar General.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and at no time during the year was there any shortage. All houses in the Borough are supplied direct from the main; some of the hotels and boarding houses are also provided with storage cisterns which supply basins etc.

All water is treated by mechanical filtration, lime water is added to prevent any plumbo solvent action and the water is afterwards chlorinated.

No samples have been taken locally but the water board regularly submit samples to bacteriological analysis. 24 samples taken during the year showed that the water supply in this Borough is satisfactory and wholesome.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no alterations or extensions during the year.

3. Rivers and Streams.

The only stream in the district is the Liggard Brook which flows into the Ribble Estuary and is largely fed by ditches which drain the moss on the landward side of the town. Some of the latter are occasionally subject to pollution from the overflow from the cesspools of neighbouring farms.

4. Closet Accommodation.

Excrement disposal is almost entirely by water carriage and there are in the Borough approximately 11919 water closets and 31 waste water closets. At the end of the year there were in use 16 privies and 53 pail closets all belonging to houses where no sewer was available.

5. Removal of House Refuse.

The removal and disposal of house refuse have been carried out on the same lines as in former years. Shortage of staff has given rise to some difficulty in the removal; every effort is being made to empty dustbins as frequently as possible, but in present conditions a certain amount of delay is unavoidable.

6. Sanitary Inspections.

During the year 1884 premises were visited and 615 defects or nuisances were discovered of which 586 had been remedied at the end of the year.

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HOUSING

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwalls.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	. 19
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	23
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (1)	20
the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	9
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	13
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (and)	9
respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal	
Number of defective dwelling be	-
	8
3. Action under statutory powers during the year :-	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring penalty.	
were served requiring repairs	_
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after	
(a) By owners	
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts: (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 2	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(b) By local authority in default of owners 2	
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which	:
Demolition Orders were made	c
x Demolition Orders will be made for the remaining six houses when housing accommodation is available.	
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit	

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The general standard of housing is high, for there is much good class residential property. There are however a few old thatched cottages and houses in the older streets at the east end of the Borough, which will be scheduled for denolition as soon as alternative accommodation for the residents is available.

There is a very serious shortage of houses and many families are compelled to live under restricted and unsatisfactory conditions. There are several hundred families requiring homes and in the majority of instances their needs will be met by two or three bedroomed houses, but in a few instances a larger type will be required.

A scheme for the erection of 82 houses is now in operation and the work of building these houses commenced in September 1945. In addition 50 permanent and 50 pre-fabricated houses are to be built and a further 30 houses constructed by private builders.

There are a number of instances of overcrowding where whole families are accommodated in one or two rooms; this is due to the acute shortage of houses and will only be remedied as new accommodation is provided.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Hill Supply.

1. Cowsheds and Dairies.

At the end of the year there were 28 cowkeepers on the register and the approximate total number of cows in milk was 520. The number of retail purveyors on the register was 35 of whom four had their premises outside the Borough.

Many of the dairies need considerable structural improvement and alterations to bring them up to the standard of the Order and practically all require to be equipped with adequate facilities for sterilising utensils. These defects should be remedied as soon as circumstances permit.

2. Graded Milks.

One licence for bottling and 15 licences for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, one for bottling of "Accredited Milk and one for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk were issued by the Council during the year.

(b). Nont Supply.

1. Hont.

All animals slaughtered for food in the Borough are killed at the Public Abattoirs, St. Annos. The Abattoir is under the control of the Minister of Food, but a Sanitary Inspector is present at the time of slaughtering and inspects all meat. During the year 29 tens 6 cwts were condemned mainly on account of Tuberculosis.

2. Other Foods.

All food shops are regularly inspected and during the year some 322 tinned foods, 1828 lbs. of corned beef, 1 cwt. of fish and a number of other foodstuffs e.g. fowls, e.gs, butter and bacon were condemned.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER DISEASE.

(a) Notifiable Diseases.

1. Scarlet Fever.

During the year 52 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified among civilians and eight non-civilians. The corresponding figures for 1944 were 64 and three.

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The age and som distribution of the civilian cases are set out in the following table :-

	Noars	5-10 Years	10-15 Years	15-25 Yours	25-45 Yours	45 years	Total.
Halos Females	13	7 12	5	4 -	-	-	22 30
TOTAL	19	19	10	4	-	-	52

2 Diphthoria.

During the year only one case of Diphtheria was notified and no death was recorded. This is very creditable, and must be attributed in a great measure to the response by the public in accepting the protective immunisation against this disease, which is offered free by the Council Every effort must be made to maintain our "protected" rate as high as possible.

The age and sex distribution are given below :-

	Years		15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 years and over.	Total	
Males Females	1 -	-	-	:	= ==	1 -	
TOTAL	1 :	-	-	-	-	1	

Immunisation.

Immunisation has been carried out on the same lines as in former years and during the year 797 children were immunised as compared with 216 in the previous year. The age and sex distribution is set out below.

Under	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 -4	4 -5	5 - 10	10 - 15	Total
one year	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	
11	192	40	37	25	288	204	797

The immunising agent used was alum Precipitated Toxoid - two doses being given at an interval of four to five weeks.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Diphtheris antitoxin is available to medical practitioners free of charge and can be obtained from the Public Health Office or, when the Office is closed, at either of the Police Stations in the Borough.

3 Enteric Fever.

No cases of Enteric Fever have been notified during the year.

4 Cerebro-spinal Fever.

One case of Cerebro-spinal fever was notified.

5. Puerperal Pyrexia.

Eight cases were notified, but all were comparatively mild in character and cleared up under modern methods of treatment.

A THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY.

6. Measles.

118 cases of measles were notified as compared with 162 cases in the previous year. The disease was not severe and there were no deaths.

The age and sex distribution are set out below :-

Chert has	Under 1 year	1-3 Years			10-15 Years				
Males Females	1	9	20	33 27	-	- 2	1	-	63 55
TOTALS	1	21	32	60	-	2	2	-	118

7. Whooping Cough.

There was a further decrease in the prevalence of whooping cough during the year, only 25 cases being notified against 42 in the previous year.

The age and sex distribution are set out below :-

T DY CHILD						15-25 Years			Totals
Males Females	1 1	2 6	8 3	-	ī	1	-	-	11
TOTALS	2	8	11	-	1	1	-	-	23

8. Tuberculosis.

The following table sets out the number of new cases notified and the deaths during 1945.

New cases and Mortality during 1945. Age periods New Cases Deaths. hespiratory Non-Respiratory Respiratory Non-Respiratory Years hi 10 1 1 5 2 10 -1 15 -20 -1 1 2 25 -2 3 1 1 35 -2 2 2 1 45 -1 2 1 1 55 -**65** and upwards 1 6 1 5 6 Nil.

There has been a decrease in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified - 25 as compared with 40 and the number of deaths is approximately half those recorded in 1944. The mortality rate is 0.20 per 1000 as compared with 0.42 in the previous year.

Influenza.

Influenza is non-notifiable and the information as to its prevalence is mainly derived from the deaths returns.

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During the year one death(male) - two less than in 1944, was registered as being due to Influenza. It had been anticipated that an epidemic might occur during the winter months and a scheme for dealing with such an outbreak was prepared. Fortunately our fears were not realised.

Cancer.

There has been an increase in the number of deaths from cancer, 85 deaths - 34 males and 51 females were registered as being due to this disease, and the death rate is 2.88 per 1000. The corresponding figures for 1944 were - 63 deaths(23 males and 40 females) and a rate of 2.07 per 1000.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Maternity Services.

The arrangements made with the two local voluntary hospitals for the admission of maternity cases remained in operation and during the year 67 cases were admitted to the Lytham and 50 to the St. Annes War Memorial, hospitals. Both hospitals gave very valuable service and our mothers are fortunate in being able to have their babies under such excellent conditions. There are times however in which the supply of beds cannot cope with the demand and it is hoped that in the new year extensions to the existing accommodation may become available.

Ante-natal Clinic.

An ante-natal clinic is held once a month at both hospitals at which cases referred to the Consulting Obstetrician by private practitioners are seen by him. During this year 21 women attended these clinics. This is in addition to the weekly ante-natal clinics held by the Maternity Sister at each hospital.

Infant Mortality.

The local registrar's return shows that 11 infants - 7 males and 4 females - died within twelve months of their birth, as compared with 21 in the previous year.

Health Visiting.

This has been carried out on the same lines as in former years and during the year the Health Visitors paid 289 first and 1023 total visits to children under one year of age, and 1134 visits to children aged between one and five years. They also paid 98 first and 191 total visits to expectant mothers.

Infant Welfare Centres.

The two infant Welfare Centres continued to be held at the Public Offices, St. Annes and the Lytham Baths, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons respectively.

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Total number of children who attended during the year and who at the end of the year were :-

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

. ...

No cases were notified during the year.

Child Life Protection.

This work has continued on the same lines as in former years. At the end of the year there were on the Register eight Foster parents and 77 children, 69 of whom were being maintained in residential nurs ries. All the premises were visited regularly and the children were always found to be well cared for. In no instance was it necessary to take any action.