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BOROUGH OF LYTHAM ST. ANNES.

REPORT

OFTHE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

BY

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

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



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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 5,6	802 acres
Population (Census) 1931	760.
" (Midsummer 1946, estimated by Registrar General)	490.
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	300.
" " (Rate book end of1946) 8,	482.
Rateable Value £351,	764.
Produce of Penny Rate £1,	
Live Births: Males. Females. Legitimate 176) 185 166) 177 362. Illegitimate 9) 11) 11)	
Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the estimated poulation).	11.8
Still Births: Males. 10 Females. 4	
Still Births: Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	37.
Number of Deaths: Males 196 Females 296 4	92.
Death Rate	16.1
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	29.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	50.
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (10) Rate	.32
"from other Tuberculosis Disease (Nil) Rate	0.00

^{*} 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 IN LYTHAM ST. ANNES BOHOUGH, 1946.

	Causes of Death.	Male.	Female
	All causes. Total.	196	296
1.	Tunhoid and Paratunhoid Poyons	-	
2.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		-
3.	Scarlet Fever		-
4.	Whooping Cough	• [1
5.	Diphtheria		+
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	- 6
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	_	-
В.	Syphilitic Disease	2	-
9.	Influenza	. 3	2
11:	Measles		-
12.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-
3.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	. 1	-
4.	M. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	. 3	-
3.	F. Cancer of Uterus	7	6
5.	Cancer of Breest		4
6.	Cancer of all other sites	16	15 24
7.	Diabetes		2
8.	Intracranial vascular lesions	29	53
9.	Heart Disease	61	102
0.	Other diseases of Circulatory System	4	7
1.	Bronchitis	18	16
2.	Pneumonia	4	3
3.	Other Respiratory Disease	2	1
4.	Ulceration of the Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
5.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-
7.	Appendicitis	1	-
В.	Other Digestive Diseases	2	4
9.	Nephritis	8	18
0.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	-	-
1.	Premature Birth	2	-
2.	Congenital Malformations, - Birth, Injury,	2	1
5.00	Infantile Disease	5	1
3.	Suicide	1	1
4.	Road Traffic Accidents	5	1
5.	Other Violent Causes	3	4
6.	All other causes	14	24

Statistics of the Area.

1. Population.

The Registrar General estimates the population at the middle of 1946 at 30,490; 980 more than in the previous year and 4,730 more than at the last Census (1931).

2. Births.

362 live births - 185 male and 177 female are credited by the Registrar General to the Borough. This is 1 less than in the previous year and the birth rate is 11.8 per 1,000 which is 1.1 per 1,000 above the mean rate for the preceeding five years; but 7.3 below the rate for England and Wales and 9.5 below that for the 148 Smaller Towns.

There were 20 illegitimate births - 9 male and 11 female - representing 5.5 per cent of the total live births and an illegitimate birth rate of 0.65 per 1,000 of the poulation. The corresponding figures for 1945 were 8.8 per cent and 1.08 per 1,000.

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Still Births.

There were fourteen still births - ten male and four female during the year as compared with 11 during the previous year. This represents 3.8 per cent of the total births and a still birth rate of 0.46 per 1,000 of the poulation.

Deaths.

The number of resident deaths which occurred during the year was 492 of which 196 were males and 296 females. This gives a crude death rate of 16.1 per 1,000 which is 0.7 per 1,000 above the mean death rate for the previous five years and 4.6 above the rate for England and Wales, and 4.4 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. 23 samples taken during the year showed that the water supply in this Borough is satisfactory and wholesome.

2. Drainage and Sewarage.

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 Accomodation.

Excrement disposal is almost entirely by water carriage and there are in the Borough approximately 12,106 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 2,144 premises were visited and 794 defects or nuisances were discovered of which 707 had been remedied at the end of the year.

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7. Rodent Control.

In December 1945, a full-time Rodent Operator was engaged and during the year 1946 a total of 1355 visits has been made to various properties in the Borough. 108 infestations of rats and mice were treated with an estimated kill of 785 rats and 385 mice. The principle source of infestation was found to be the Liggard Brook, and this has now been reduced from a major to a very minor infestation.

8. Factories.

238 visits have been made to factories (mechanical and non-mechanical). The following defects etc. were discovered or reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories and in each case the matters were remedied:

Bakehouse not limewashed	1
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1
Walls of factory dirty	3
Conveniences not effectively lighted	2
No conveniences on building site	1

HOUSING.

- 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects(under Public Health or Housing Acts) 38
 - (2) (b) Number of dwelling-houses(included under sub-head
 (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the
 Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.
 - (1) (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose..... 47
 - (2) (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...... 15
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....
- 2. kemedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-
- 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 repairs.....
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fitafter service of formal notices ::-
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

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HOUSING . (CONT'D) .

- - (b) By local authority in default of owners....
 - (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
 - (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

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 demolition 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 a large number of 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.

Work has been continued with the building of the 82 houses commenced in September 1945. In addition 94 permanent and 10 pre-fabricated houses are to be built.

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) Milk Supply.

1. Cowsheds and Dairies.

At the end of the year there were 27 cowkeepers on the register and the approximate total number of cows in milk was 500. The number of retail purveyors on the register was 27 of whom two 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.

Two licences for bottling and 18 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.

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(b) Meat Supply.

1. Meat.

All animals slaughtered for food in the Borough are killed at the Public Abattoirs, St. Annes. 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 30 tons 9 cwts were condemned mainly on account of Tuberculosis.

2. Other Foods.

All food shops are regularly inspected and during the year some 668 tinned foods, $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwts of fish and a number of other foodstuffs e.g. fowls, eggs, butter and bacon were condemned.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER DISEASE.

(a) Notifiable Diseases.

1. Scarlet Fever.

During the year 16 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. The corresponding figure for 1945 was 60.

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

	1-5 Years	5-10 Years	10-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45 years and over	Total
Males Females	2	3 4	3	1	1	1 -	8
TOTAL	2	7	4	1	1	1	16

2. Diphtheria.

During the year only three cases of Diphtheria were notified and no deaths were 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: -

The Party of the P	1-10 Years		15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45 years and over	Total
Males Females	1 - 1	-	1	- 1	:	1 2
TOTAL		-	2	1	-	3

Immunisation.

Immunisation has been carried out on the same lines as in former years and during the year 766 children were immunised as compared with 797 in the previous year. The age distribution is set out below:-

Under one	1-2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5-10	10-15	Total
year	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years	
10	234	34	13	13	209	253	766

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

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Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Diphtheria antitoxin . available to medical practitioners free of charge 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.

One case of Enteric Fever has been notified during the year.

4. Cerebro-spinal Fever.

No cases of Cerebro-spinal fever were notified.

5. Puerperal Pyrexia.

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

6. Acute Poliomyelitis.

One case of Acute Foliomyelitis has been notified during the year. This was a schoolchild, aged 11 years who made a complete recovery.

7. Measles.

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

The age and sex distribution are set out below --

	Under 1 Year		3-5	5410	10-15	15-25 Years			Totals
Males Females	3	16 16	16 20	17 22	-	ī	-	-	50 63
Totals	4	32	36	39	_	1		1	113

8. Whooping Cough.

There was a slight increase in the prevalence of whooping cough during the year, 28 cases being notified against 23 in the previous year.

The age and sex distribution are set out below :-

			3-5 Years	5+10 Years	10-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45 & Over	Totals.
Males Females	1 3	8	5 5	2 2	1 -	=	-	-	17 11
TOTALS	4	9	10	4	1	-	-	-	28

9. Tuberculosis.

The following table sets out the number of new cases notified and the deaths during 1946.

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New cases and Mortality during 1946

	Resp1	ratory	Non-Re	spiratory	Respi	ratory !	aths Non-Respirato	
Years	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		Female
0 -	-	=	ī	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10- 15-	=	-	=	ī	-	-	=	-
20-	2 2	3 4	Ė	1	1	2	=	-
35- 45- 55-	3 2	1 -	-	1	1	2	-	-
65 and upwards	1		1		2	-	- 1	-

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified - 25 as compared with 23 and there is also a small increase in the number of deaths. The mortality rate is 0.32 per 1,000 as compared with 0.20 in the previous year.

Influenza.

Influenza is non-notifiable and the information as to its prevalence is mainly derived from deaths returns. During the year five deaths (3 male and 2 female) - four more than in 1945. were registered as being due to Influenza.

There has been a decrease in the number of deaths from cancer, 75 deaths - 26 males and 49 females were registered as being due to this disease, and the death rate is 2.46 per 1,000. The corresponding figures for 1945 were - 85 deaths (34 males and 51 females) and a rate of 2.88 per 1,000.

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 admiss ion of maternity cases remained in operation and during the year 82 cases were admitted to the Lytham and Ill 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 acommodation 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 44 women attended these clinics. This is in addition to the weekly ante-natal clinics held by the Maternity Sister at each hospital.

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There has been a decrease in the number of deaths from cancer, as deaths - 26 pales and 49 formales were replaceded as being due to this death rate is fight per 1,000. The corresponding figures for 1945 were - 85 deaths (66 males and 51 females) and a rate of 0.68 per 1,000.

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Infant Mortality.

The local registrar's return shows that ll infants - 7 males and 4 females - died within twelve months of their birth, a similar figure to that of 1945.

Health Visiting.

This has been carried out on the same lines as in former years and during the year the Health Visitors paid 228 first and 1,129 total visits to children under one year of age, and 1,144 visits to children aged between one and five years. They also paid 102 first and 254 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.

The attendances at the Centres are set out below:-

Total attendances of children under 1 year of age	2,985
Total number of children between 1 & 5 years	1,363
time and who at the date of their first attendance were	
Under I year of age	255
Over 1 year of age	51

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

Under 1	year	of a	ge .	 		11	 207
Orron 7			0				 201
Over 1	year (or ag	0	 	 		 306

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 six Foster parents and 73 children, 67 of whom were being maintained in residential nurseries. 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.

Infant Mortelley,

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