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**Contributors**

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THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
TO THE  
**PENZANCE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
FOR THE YEAR  
**1942.**

— / PENZANCE —  
JOHN W. SAUNDRY,  
13 CHAPEL STREET.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,  
PENZANCE.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
BOROUGH OF PENZANCE.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration for the year 1942, together with the Vital Statistics in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health's Memo. S.D.54, 1943.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROWLAND HURST HADFIELD,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**Public Health Officers of the Local  
Authority.**

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

DR. R. H. HADFIELD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

DR. DOROTHY CHOWN.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

A. T. HARPER.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

R. E. WARBURTON.

A. O. SHARPE.

HEALTH VISITORS :

MISS E. TONKIN.

MISS I. M. GOACHER (returned to Lambeth M.B.C.  
October, 1942).

## SECTION A.

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area : 3,578 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1942 : 20,300.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1942 according to rate books : 6,268.

Rateable value : £121,552. Sum represented by a penny rate : £478.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<i>Total.</i>	Males.	Females.
Live Births :	Legitimate	283	145	138
	Illegitimate	21	12	9

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 1942 : 15.0.

National birth rate : 15.8.

		<i>Total.</i>	Males.	Females.
Still Births	...	15	9	6

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 47.0.

		<i>Total.</i>	Males.	Females.
Deaths	...	313	148	165

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population, 1942 : 15.4.

National death rate : 11.6.

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil.	Nil.
		<hr/> Nil.	<hr/> Nil.

		<i>Total.</i>	Males.	Females.
Infantile Deaths	...	19	8	11

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 62.5

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... 56.5

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 14.3

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 53

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... 1

## SECTION B.

**General Provision of Health Services for the  
Area.**

1. (i) Medical Officer of Health :  
DR. R. H. HADFIELD.  
  
Deputy Medical Officer of Health :  
DR. DOROTHY CHOWN.  
  
School Medical Officer :  
DR. R. C. LAWRY.  
  
Chief Sanitary Inspector :  
A. T. HARPER.  
  
Additional Sanitary Inspectors :  
R. E. WARBURTON.  
A. O. SHARPE.  
  
Health Visitors :  
MISS E. TONKIN.  
MISS I. M. GOACHER (returned to Lambeth M.B.C.  
October, 1942).
- (ii) Developments or changes in the services provided in the area including those due to war time conditions :
  - (a) Laboratory facilities. No changes.
  - (b) Ambulance facilities. No changes.
  - (c) Nursing in the home. No changes.
  - (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. No changes.
  - (e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary. No changes.
2. Nil returns.
3. Maternity and Child Welfare.—Developments or changes in services provided under the following heads :
  - (i) Midwifery and Maternity services. No changes.

- (ii) Institutional provision for mothers or children. No changes.
- (iii) Health Visitors. As the outcome of the return of the evacuees to their home towns and the consequent reduction of the number of scholars attending the Emergency Schools the Lambeth M.B.C. requested the return of Nurse Goacher who had been seconded from that district during 1941 to assist in the greatly increased work which fell on the Health Visitor's department as a result of the Government Evacuation Scheme.
- (iv) Child Life Protection. No changes.
- (v) Orthopaedic treatment. No changes.

4. Nil returns.



## SECTION C.

**Sanitary Circumstances of Area.**

1. (i) WATER.—No new sources of public supply were brought into use nor any important extensions of the mains carried out during the year. Except in remote areas of the Borough all districts are provided with a piped water supply the quality of which is controlled by filtration and chlorination and frequent bacteriological examinations carried out by the Water Department. In addition 19 samples have been taken by the Sanitary Department, 2 chemical, 17 bacteriological. No district was short of water at any time during the year.
  - (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No important extensions of the sewerage and drainage arrangements were carried out during the year.
2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Sanitary Department was responsible for routine inspections of the various water-courses passing through the Borough and notices for the abatement of nuisances were served when found necessary.
3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—No major improvements were carried out during the year.
  - (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No extension of arrangements were made during the year.
  - (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—
    - 172 Complaints received and attended to.
    - 105 Inspections of houses under Public Health Act.
    - 58 Inspections of houses under Housing Act.
    - 4 Inspections of houses for repair.
    - 132 Visits re Infectious Diseases.
    - 128 Houses disinfected.
    - 156 Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected.
    - 57 Inspections of infested premises.
    - 65 Premises disinfested.
    - 114 Visits to Isolation Hospitals.
    - 55 Water Closets inspected.
    - 16 Water Closets found defective.
    - 12 Water Closets repaired or renewed.

- 12 New Water Closets provided.
- 124 Drains inspected.
- 80 Drains found defective.
- 80 Inspections of drainage work in progress.
- 75 Drains repaired or renewed.
- 6 Drains tested with water.
- 3 Drains tested with smoke.
- 16 Inspections re percolations of water.
- 52 Inspections re removal of offensive deposits.
- 29 Inspections re rat infestation.
- 13 Inspections re animals improperly kept.
- 2 Inspections re Offensive Trades.
- 26 General Inspections of refuse piles.
- 12 Inspections of streams and watercourses.
- 246 General Inspections.
- 341 Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections.
- 28 Inspections of factories and workplaces.
- 2 Inspections of Common Lodging House.
- 4 Inspections of Public Conveniences.
- 18 Inspections of fish markets and stalls.
- 7 Inspections of fish stores.
- 4 Inspections of bakehouses.
- 588 Inspections of foodstores and shops.
- 64 Inspections of farms.
- 39 Inspections of cowsheds.
- 87 Inspections of dairies.
- 4 Inspections under Milk and Dairies Order.
- 351 Inspections of markets.
- 20 General Inspections of Schools.
- 2 Attendances re N.S.P.C.C. Prosecutions.
- 43 Inspections and Visits re Scabies Order.
- 491 Inspections re Civil Defence.
- 10 Visits re Emergency Mortuary arrangements.
- 48 Inspections of Air Raid Shelters.
- 25 Inspections of Fireguard Premises.
- 686 Visits and Inspections re Salvage.

- 100 (approx.) Visits made in September re Salvage Drive.
- 17 Water samples taken for bacteriological analysis.
- 2 Water samples taken for chemical analysis.
- 128 Milk samples taken for bacteriological analysis.
- 54 Informal notices served.
- 65 Informal notices complied with.
- 6 Statutory notices served.
- 7 Statutory notices complied with.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.—Informal action taken in the few instances where it was found necessary to administer the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, resulted in satisfactory arrangements being made.

(v) CAMPING SITES.—No action taken.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action taken.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—The only Bathing Pool within the Borough is, owing to war time conditions, no longer available for the use of the general public.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.—Investigations of complaints concerning premises infested by either bugs or fleas made by the Department during the year resulted in disinfection being carried out at 65 premises. The work in all cases was carried out by the local authority and the methods usually employed were either (1) fumigation by sulphur dioxide gas followed by spraying with one of the proprietary solutions or (2) in cases of mild infestations the use of the second treatment only. 11 premises were found to be infested with bugs and of these 6 were council houses.

4. SCHOOLS.—No improvements were effected during the year in the sanitary arrangements or water supply at any of the Council's schools. Action taken by the Council to combat the menace of diphtheria amongst school children is referred to in Section F (i).

## SECTION D.

**Housing.**

There were no major developments in the housing situation and the unfortunate position of housing refugees in condemned properties was not materially altered during the year. This was due in part to a further shortage of housing accommodation caused by enemy action, for which the Council could not be held responsible. The desirability of finding better accommodation for refugees was however kept before the notice of the appropriate committee.

## SECTION E.

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—During the year 151 visits were paid to farms and dairy premises. 10 samples of designated milk and 8 samples of ordinary milk were submitted to the Pathological Department of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, for bacteriological analysis. In addition 110 samples were taken in connection with the National Milk Advisory Scheme and these were subjected to the Resazurin and Methylene Blue tests at the St. Erth Creameries.

One milk producer in the district was licenced under the Milk (Special Designations) Order to produce T.T. milk and one to produce Accredited milk, whilst two retailers were licenced to sell T.T. milk and two to sell pasteurised milk in the Borough.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Visits to food premises included 588 to food stores and shops, 351 to markets, 25 to fishmarkets and stalls, besides 2,795 visits to slaughter-houses for purposes of meat inspection. The number of carcasses inspected at the time of slaughter or immediately after was :

Bovine animals	...	3965
Sheep and lambs	...	4634
Calves	... ..	2189
Pigs	... ..	797
Goats	... ..	9
		Total
		11594

The following table gives particulars of meat and other food rejected during the year as being unfit for human consumption :—

	Bovine Animals	Sheep and Lambs	Calves	Pigs
<b>TUBERCULOSIS :</b>				
Carcases and Viscera...	103	—	1	10
Forequarters	79	—	—	3
Hindquarters	17	—	—	—
Briskets	59	—	—	—
Flanks	4	—	—	—
Lungs	458	—	—	23

			Bovine Animals	Sheep and Lambs	Calves	Pigs
<b>TUBERCULOSIS :</b>						
Livers	... ..	131	—	—	12	
Heads and Tongues	... ..	272	—	—	52	
Mesenteries and Intestines		39	—	—	1	
Omenta and Stomachs		12	—	—	—	
Hearts	... ..	29	—	—	11	
Diaphragms	... ..	36	—	—	—	
Spleens	... ..	9	—	—	1	
Kidneys	... ..	3	—	—	1	
<b>CHRONIC EMACIATION (JOHNE'S DISEASE) :</b>						
Carcases and Viscera...		4	—	—	—	
<b>CHRONIC EMACIATION AND DROPSY :</b>						
Carcases and Viscera...		10	6	1	1	
<b>PYAEMIA :</b>						
Carcases and Viscera...		1	1	—	—	
<b>UMBILICAL PYAEMIA :</b>						
Carcases and Viscera...		—	—	2	—	
<b>SEPTICAEMIA :</b>						
Carcases and Viscera...		2	—	—	—	
<b>MORIBUND ANIMALS :</b>						
Carcases and Viscera...		—	2	—	—	
<b>IMMATURITY :</b>						
Carcases and Viscera...		—	—	2	—	
<b>BRUISING :</b>						
Forequarters	... ..	3	—	—	—	
Hindquarters	... ..	2	—	—	—	
Carcase Meat	... ..	272lbs.	—	12lbs.	283lbs.	

			Bovine Animals	Sheep and Lambs	Calves	Pigs
PUTREFACTION, DECOMPOSITION, BONE TAINT, ETC.						
Carcase Meat	...	...	286lbs.	—	—	719lbs.
Heads and Tongues	...	...	1	—	—	—
Livers	...	...	1	4	—	—
Lungs	...	...	1	—	—	—
Spleen	...	...	1	—	—	—
ABSCESSSES :						
Hindquarters	...	...	1	—	1	—
Forequarters	...	...	—	2	—	—
Briskets	...	...	2	—	—	—
CIRRHOISIS AND FLUKES :						
Livers	...	...	240	77	—	10
OTHER CONDITIONS :						
Forequarters	...	...	—	3	—	—
Flanks	...	...	3	—	—	—
Livers	...	...	368	147	2	2
Lungs	...	...	12	32	2	5
Heads and Tongues	...	...	27	—	—	—
Hearts	...	...	1	8	—	5
Kidneys	...	...	9	2	—	4
Spleens	...	...	4	5	—	—
Omenta and Stomachs			9	—	—	—
Mesentery and Intestines			1	—	—	—
Diaphragms	...	...	4	—	—	—
Carcase Meat	...	...	123lbs.	38lbs.	18lbs.	24lbs.

Other food rejected during the year included:—309 tins of meat; 46 tins fish; 127 tins fruit; 191 tins vegetables; 15 tins soup; 303 tins milk; 4 tins Bourneville; 9 lbs. jam and marmalade; 2 jars of meat and fish paste; 12 lbs. veal and ham gelantine; 38 lbs. rice; 12 lbs. raisins; 73 lbs. bacon; 31 lbs. carrots; 26 lbs. figs; 2 jars pickles; 56 lbs. sausages; 271 lbs. cheese; 2 lbs. oats.

The following food, etc., was rejected owing to air raid damage:—31 tins meat; 8 tins fish; 2 tins fruit; 130 tins vegetables; 1 tin soup; 24 tins milk; 2 jars meat and fish paste; 12 lbs. bacon; 5 lbs. butter; 5 lbs. lard; 3 lbs. beef; 28 lbs. sugar;  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. tea;  $23\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. coffee; 8 lbs. cocoa;  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. sago; 20 lbs. rice; 13 pkts. cereal; 7 lbs. butter beans; 358 lbs. jam and marmalade; 18 jars honey; 1 cwt. rolled oats;  $\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. barley;  $\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. split peas; 6 lbs. flour;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. prunes; 56 lbs. currants; 7 lbs. figs; 7 lbs. dried apples; 3 tins dried egg; 38 lbs. cooked ham; 10 lbs. luncheon sausage; 6 tins biscuits; dough containing 4 cwt. flour; 65 Cornish pasties; 394 cakes; 137 loaves; 24 rolls; 183 pkts. baking powder; 53 pkts. mustard; 100 lbs. ground spice; 28 pkts. pea powder; 981 pkts. cake and pudding mixture, etc.; 73 lbs. apples; 198 lbs. tomatoes; 12 sticks celery; 246 pkts. blancmange powders; 134 pkts. jellies; 238 pkts. custard powder; 720 pkts. gravy salt; 1 cwt. mixed sweets; 19 bars chocolate; 1,230 pkts. soup; 48 Oxo cubes; 1,148 pkts. Bisto; 1 pkt. sandwich spread; 5 bottles cordial; 2 jars peanut butter; 1 bottle cod liver oil.

(c), (d), (e) and (f). No action taken.



## SECTION F.

## Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

1. Nil Returns.

2. The number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases reported during the year are shown in the following table :—

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Diphtheria ... ..	50	47	5
Scarlet Fever ... ..	27	23	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever ...	6	6	3
Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	21
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	2	—
Erysipelas ... ..	4	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	1	—
Dysentery ... ..	1	—	—
Measles ... ..	6	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	16	—	—

This table shows a gratifying decrease in diphtheria, scarlet fever, cerebral spinal fever over the cases reported in the preceding year, whilst the number of measles and whooping cough cases showed a remarkable reduction from 417 to 6 and 59 to 16 respectively.

Of the cases shown in the above table as being removed to hospital 37 cases of Diphtheria and 23 cases of Scarlet Fever were isolated at the Borough Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Mount Misery and Madron. The remaining 10 cases of Diphtheria were sent to the County Emergency Isolation Hospital at Truro.

The following table shows the age incidence of each particular disease notified during 1942 :—

Disease.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	29
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	1	2	1	1	16
Cerebral Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	2	1	—	—	3
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	4	3	3	2	3

Disease.	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over.
Diphtheria ... ..	10	4	3	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	2	2	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever ... ..	1	—	—	1	2	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	3	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—

The Council's campaign for Immunisation against Diphtheria which was started in 1941 was continued during the year, regular clinics being held for the treatment of both school children and infants under the age of five years, this work being entirely carried out by the Public Health Department.

During the year 453 children from five to fifteen years of age and 307 under 5 years of age completed the full course of Immunisation. Alum Precipitated Toxoid was the prophylactic used in all cases.

Assistance was also given to outside authorities by permitting children from these areas to attend the Council's Clinics for the purpose of immunisation.

3. Nil Returns.

4. (a) No action taken.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS. No action taken.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1942 :—

Age-Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.				
			Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	2	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
25	...	...	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
35	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...		7	5	1	—	4	4	—	—	—

