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Slough Borough Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

V. A. T. SPONG,

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.)

For the Year 1939

including the

Annual Report of the Chief
Sanitary Inspector,

JOHN DEMPSEY, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.





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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the health of the district for the year 1939, which, in accordance with Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health, has been restricted to essential matters.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-Year 1939)	53890
Population (National Registration—September 1939)	57585
Population (National Register—December 1939)	60526

Live Births.

TOTAL	1014	Male	513	Female	501
Legitimate	969	„	493	„	476
Illegitimate	45	„	20	„	25
Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.3
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	15.0

Still Births.

TOTAL	45	Male	26	Female	19
Legitimate	43	„	25	„	18
Illegitimate	2	„	1	„	1
Still-birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.85
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	0.59
Still-birth rate per 1000 total Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	44.37

Deaths.

TOTAL	482	Male	252	Female	230
Death rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.94
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	12.1
Death rate corrected for age and sex distribution	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.65

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Death rates from Puerperal causes per 100 Live Births—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	0.99	National rate	0.77
(b) From other causes	.....	1.97	National rate	2.16
(c) TOTAL	.....	2.96	National rate	2.93

Death rates from Puerperal causes per 1000 total Births (i.e. Live and Still Births)—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	0.94	National rate	0.74
(b) From other causes	.....	1.89	National rate	2.08
(c) TOTAL	.....	2.83	National rate	2.82

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	48	Male	22	Female	26
Legitimate	44	„	21	„	23
Illegitimate	4	„	1	„	3

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	47.3
National rate " "	50.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	45.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	88.9

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—

TOTAL	0	Male	0	Female	0
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—

TOTAL	1	Male	0	Female	1
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Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2)—

TOTAL	1	Male	1	Female	0
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Causes of Death.

							Male	Female
						ALL CAUSES	252	230
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers						0	0
2	Measles						0	0
3	Scarlet fever						1†	0
4	Whooping Cough						0	1
5	Diphtheria						1	1
6	Influenza						5	4
7	Encephalitis lethargica						1	0
8	Cerebro-spinal fever						0	0
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system						14	15
10	Other Tuberculosis diseases						2	1
11	Syphilis						1	0
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis						1	0
13	Cancer, malignant disease						28	37
14	Diabetes						1	4
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.						16	14
16	Heart disease						52	58
17	Aneurysm						4	0
18	Other circulatory diseases						9	12
19	Bronchitis						3	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)						12	8
21	Other respiratory diseases						4	3
22	Peptic ulcer						3	0
23	Diarrhœa, etc (under 2 years)						1	0
24	Appendicitis						2	1
25	Cirrhosis of liver						1	1
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.						2	1
27	Other digestive diseases						10	1
28	Acute and chronic nephritis						6	4
29	Puerperal sepsis						0	1
30	Other puerperal causes						0	2
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.						13	22
32	Senility						6	8
33	Suicide						0	1
34	Other violence						24	11*
35	Other defined diseases						28	13
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown						0	1
37	Diarrhœa (over 2 years)						0	1
38	Tetanus						1	0

† Contracted the disease and died outside the area.

* Road Accidents : 12 Male, 5 Female.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical.

On 14th July the arrangement whereby the Medical Officer of Health carried out certain County Council duties in Slough in exchange for the services of an Assistant County Medical Officer, who acted as deputy during his annual leave and on week-ends of alternate weeks, came to an end, and Dr. A. A. Miller commenced duty as whole-time deputy to the Medical Officer of Health. The medical staff is therefore now as follows:—

Medical Officer of Health: V. A. T. Spong, M.B., B.S. Lond., D.P.H. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond. Also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban and Rural Districts of Eton; Medical Superintendent Eton Joint Isolation Hospital. Whole time.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: A. A. Miller, M.A., M.D., Edin., D.P.H. Lond., D.T.M. Liverp. Also Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the Urban and Rural Districts of Eton; Deputy Medical Superintendent Eton Joint Isolation Hospital. Whole time.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: J. Dempsey, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors: E. G. Wingate, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.; J. A. Quigg, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.; G. V. Jinks, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

Clerical.

Miss B. Philbey; R. L. Barker joined H.M. Forces September 1939, and Miss M. Cox appointed.

Laboratory Facilities.

Prior to August 1939, all Laboratory work had to be sent to London for examination by the Clinical Research Association. Since then, however, a local service has been provided at the Laboratory at the Town Hall, Slough, which serves the Borough, in addition to the Urban and Rural Districts of Eton and the Eton Joint Isolation Hospital.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These Services are administered by the County Council as the Education and Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis Authority.

(a) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS are held weekly at:

1. The Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, on Mondays at 2.30, the Medical Officer attending on the 1st and 3rd and 4th Mondays.

2. The Social Centre, Farnham Road, on Mondays at 2.30, the Medical Officer being in attendance at each Session.
3. The Women's Institute, Langley, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. The Medical Officer attending on the 2nd Wednesday.
4. The Central Hall, Cippenham, weekly on Fridays, the Medical Officer attending on the 2nd and 4th Fridays.

School Clinics.

A Dental Clinic is held daily at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue.

A Minor Ailment Clinic is also held daily at the Health Centre by the County Health Visitors, and weekly at certain schools in the area. If necessary, cases are referred to the Assistant School Medical Officer for advice and treatment.

The School Eye Clinic is held on the second and fourth Wednesdays in each month at the Health Centre.

A Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is also held on the second Monday in the month, at the Health Centre, at 9.30 a.m., for children under School age.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held by the County Tuberculosis Officer on each Friday in the month, at 11 a.m., at the Dispensary, Alpha Street, Slough.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Apart from extension of mains, there is no change to report in the water supplies which have been fully described in earlier reports.

Work has proceeded on the new 48-inch Bore-hole at the Datchet Pumping Station referred to in my previous report.

In order to overcome any possible contamination of the supply during progress of the work, a chlorinating plant has been installed at the Works.

Monthly samples are taken for analysis: invariably the reports have shown the samples to be of a high degree of bacterial purity, pure and wholesome, and suitable for public supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year work was commenced on six additional filters and three humus tanks at the Cippenham works, to relieve the overloading of the works consequent upon the unforeseen increase in the volume of sewage to be dealt with. The works will still be operating on a considerable overload, and experimental work is being carried out on the activated sludge method of treatment, with a view to its adoption in the future.

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Government Evacuation Scheme.

Owing to Slough being designated a Reception Area under the official evacuation scheme, and the duties of Billeting Officers being allocated to the Public Health Staff, it has not been possible to carry on with all the usual routine work appertaining to the department. Every effort, however, has been made to carry on with the essential services in the interests of Public Health, and consequently this report only deals with the most important services.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

A weekly collection of house refuse is still maintained, and 5 15 cubic yard, petrol-driven freighters, with moveable floors and rear loading, are employed in this work. There are approximately 16,904 houses, shops and factories on the refuse book for the purpose of collection, an increase of 904 over the preceding year.

A charge is made for the removal of trade refuse, where it exceeds the amount of one bin per week. The revenue derived from this source compared with the preceding year is as follows:

	1938	1939
Trade refuse revenue	£490/17/3	£654/0/4

Arrangements are still in force whereby tradesmen can remove their own refuse to the tip or destructor, according to the nature of the refuse, and a charge of 2/- is made, and the revenue from same being £37/9/-. Particulars of Refuse Collection for this and the preceding year are given below.

	1938	1939
No. of calls made	827,823	863,294
Tons collected	12.488	10.716
Cost per house per week	1.21 pence	1.23 pence
Cost per ton collected	6.71 shillings	8.27 shillings
Cost per 1000 houses	£263/0/8	£271/6/4
Cost per 1000 pop.	£82/14/4	£82/5/0
Total Cost	£4678/2/5	£4434/18/0
Weight per 1000 pop. per day	13cwts. 58lbs.	13cwts. 28lbs.
Tons disposed of by burning	10,858	6,262
Tons disposed of by tipping	1,630	4,453

Salvage.

The salvaging of bottles, jars, metals, rags, etc., is still in operation, and the revenue derived from this source during the year amounted to £673/7/10.

Waste Paper.

The Council is still under contract with the paper mills for the purchase of waste paper, and the amount collected and sold during the year was 197 tons, 11 cwts., 35 lbs., and the revenue derived therefrom amounted to £315/6/6.

I regret to again find it necessary to complain of the amount of clean paper and cardboard which is deposited in the dustbins, in spite of the fact that publicity has been given, in the form of posters and handbills, stressing the necessity of salvaging these materials. It is only since the National Crisis has arisen that the public are realising the necessity of salvaging this material. The improvement brought about by these circumstances cannot, however be dealt with in this 1939 report.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

At the end of the year there were ten wholesale producers and forty Retail Purveyors of milk on the register, and fifty-seven inspections of these premises were carried out.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were issued.

Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	6
Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised	3
Supplementary Licences to sell T.T. Milk	3

During the year eight samples were submitted for analysis, i.e., bacterial count and phosphatase test, and all were found to be satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Food Inspection.

During the year 1,091 inspections of slaughter houses, food shops, markets, and private slaughtering have been made, and 8 tons, 4 cwts, 54 lbs. of meat and food has been condemned as being unfit for human consumption. These figures show a decrease over the previous year, and in no case was it found necessary to resort to legal proceedings. There are nine slaughterhouses in the district, five of which are licensed, and four registered.

These are regularly inspected, as far as possible, during, or immediately after, slaughter, and the butchers readily co-operate in the event of any abnormal conditions being observed in the carcasses.

The number of animals inspected during the year are 583 oxen, 2,597 sheep, 8,673 pigs, 323 calves. Total inspected - 12,276.

Factories and Workshops.

Four complaints from H.M. Inspector of Factories have received attention; these were in respect of:

Three factories with insufficient sanitary conveniences.

One factory not kept in a cleanly condition.

70 inspections of these premises were made, and 26 certificates were granted in respect of provision of means of escape in case of fire.

Bakehouses.

There are five factory and fifteen retail bakehouses on the register, and, owing to evacuation work, the number of inspections made are lower than usual. It was, however, possible to make twenty inspections, after intimation had been sent to the occupier informing him that the cleaning and limewashing was due, and in all cases the necessary cleansing had been carried out satisfactorily.

Notices issued and complied with.

During this period 333 notices were issued in respect of general repairs, etc., and 290 notices were complied with.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1939.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified in the various Age Groups, numbers admitted to Hospital, and Deaths, also notifications for years 1930 - 1938.

	Total all ages 1939	Number during Age periods						Cases admitted up. to Hosp.	Total Deaths	Total Cases notified during								
		0-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 up.			1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	60	23	20	10	6	1	—	53	2	130	100	36	70	94	61	65	62	49
*Diphtheria	78	23	46	5	4	—	—	77	2	57	5	2	26	10	6	7	37	77
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	2
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	33	—	—	16	17	—	—	25	1	12	14	8	3	6	2	7	5	3
Pneumonia	23	6	5	—	8	8	13	3	2	36	33	31	12	23	29	18	25	8
Erysipelas	26	1	—	2	11	8	4	6	—	33	16	9	5	13	17	15	8	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	3	1	—
†Measles	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Whooping Cough	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

† Notifiable from October 23rd.

* Not including 9 "Carriers."

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	8	6	10	2	5	6	7	1	3	3	2	7
Diphtheria	10	1	—	1	12	4	1	9	3	18	12	7
Pneumonia	1	6	10	2	—	1	—	—	1	4	1	2
Erysipelas	3	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	1	3	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	3	2	3	1	2	1	6	5	2	4	1

TABLE III.

Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough.

Estimated Population	Burnham 7,818	Central 10,508	Chalvey 7,522	Farnham 13,168	Langley 5,672	Stoke 10,005	Upton 4,814
Scarlet Fever	3	14	6	19	5	5	8
Diphtheria	3	6	2	49	5	12	1
Pneumonia	7	5	2	8	3	2	1
Erysipelas	6	5	3	3	2	4	3
Puerperal Fever	3	3	4	13	—	4	6
Tuberculosis	2	2	7	13	1	5	2
Measles	—	1	—	1	—	4	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	4	3	—	—

In September 1939, Slough was a reception area, and in that month 2,654 official evacuees, consisting of 711 unaccompanied children, 1,719 mothers and children, 138 expectant mothers, and 86 teachers and helpers came into the district.

It was anticipated that the influx might adversely affect the Vital Statistics, but these fears were unrealised.

The Death and Infantile Mortality rates are at a satisfactory low level, and remain below the National Rates. The Death rate from puerperal causes is approximately the same as the National rate, but when it is remembered that 138 expectant mothers in the last week or so of pregnancy, arrived in Slough by 'bus from London, and had to be accommodated, at very short notice, in the Slough Emergency Hospital, Princess Alice Home, and in various billets in the district, it might have been thought that the figure would have been far less satisfactory.

It was only on the 26th August that I learnt that some 100 expectant mothers were to be evacuated to Slough, and by September 2nd, the day of their arrival, Princess Alice Home, which had been standing empty for many months, had been taken over, furnished and staffed. In this connection, I must express my thanks for the kind and willing help of the owners, together with Dame Louise McIlroy, Hon. Obstetric Consultant, Bucks County Council, Miss Parris, the former Matron of the Maternity Home in Burlington Road, Miss Buchanan, Commandant of the Iver Detachment of the B.R.C.S., and others.

On September 2nd 65 mothers were admitted to the Home, 50 went to the Emergency Hospital at the Slough Institution and 23 were billeted. Many expectant mothers billeted in the area were subsequently admitted to the Princess Alice Home and within two months 85 babies had been born there.

Here it may be of interest to note that, of the 2,654 official evacuees who came to Slough in September, 1,107 remained on 31st December, as follows:— Unaccompanied children, 680; Mothers and children, 293; 17 Expectant Mothers, and 117 Teachers, helpers, and others.

As regards the incidence of Infectious Diseases, the number of cases of Scarlet Fever shows a considerable decrease over previous years, the rate per 1,000 of population being 1.1, as compared with 1.89 for England and Wales.

Two deaths from Scarlet Fever were registered during the year—one was a child of four years of age, who contracted the disease while in a Hospital in London, and died in the Fever Hospital in London to which he was transferred; the other fatal case was a child aged five, who was admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cippenham as a case of Scarlet Fever. He died twenty-four hours after admission, and should be regarded as a case of Streptococcal Septicaemia rather than true Scarlet Fever.

Seventy-eight cases of Diphtheria were notified, of which forty-nine occurred in the Farnham Ward of Slough. The incidence of Diphtheria amounts to 1.4 per 1,000, as compared with 1.14 for England and Wales. The increased incidence may be attributable to the influx of population from the industrial areas of the North, Midlands, and Wales, where the disease tends to be endemic.

On the occurrence of a case, all contacts are examined and, if necessary, swabbed, and in the case of schoolchildren the class concerned is examined for possible carriers.

Two deaths from Diphtheria were recorded. One was a boy of four, who died in the Cippenham Isolation Hospital nine days after admission; the other, a woman of 24, who, though ordinarily resident in this area, died in the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital, the disease complicating Pyelitis of pregnancy. The death rate from Diphtheria for the year is 0.037 per 1000, comparing favourably with the National rate of 0.05.

In view of the increasing incidence of Diphtheria, the Council has approved the expenditure incurred in offering immunisation to all Elementary and Secondary schoolchildren in the Borough, and this work is proceeding. Under the County Council scheme, parents who so desire may have their children immunised against Diphtheria at the Welfare Clinics.

No case of Enteric Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, or Infantile Paralysis was notified during the year. Twenty-eight cases of Pneumonia and twenty-six of Erysipelas occurred, as compared with thirty-six and thirty-three in the previous year.

Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable infectious diseases on the 23rd October, and, to the end of the year, six cases of Measles and seven cases of Whooping Cough were notified.

Although the incidence of Infectious Diseases shows no appreciable increase as a result of the influx of evacuees and the military into the area, one must anticipate there is likely to be an increase in Infectious Diseases of all kinds with the progress of the war and the unavoidable strains and stresses placed upon the population.

In order to provide additional accommodation for Infectious Diseases and a Sick Bay for evacuees suffering from Minor Ailments, the following arrangements have been made:—

1. Infectious Diseases.

Thirty-nine additional beds for the use of the Borough, the Urban and Rural Districts of Eton, were provided by the Eton Joint Hospital Board, as follows:—

(a) Sixteen beds at the Board's Isolation Hospital at Cippenham: by using the day Nurses' quarters as Wards and housing the nurses in villas adjoining the hospital (brought into use on November 15th).

(b) Twenty-three beds at Burnham at the former Infants' Convalescent Home (opened January 15th, 1940).

2. Accommodation for Minor Ailments.

Twenty-six beds at Fulmer Rise, in the Eton Rural District.

This Home also serves the three constituent Authorities of the South Bucks area, and is managed by a Committee consisting of one representative from each (opened 27th November).

From September to the end of the year, nine evacuees from the Borough were admitted to the Board's Isolation Hospital, as follows:—

4 Diphtheria, 1 Scarlet Fever, 3 Chicken Pox, and 1 Acute Tonsilitis.

Between November 15th, when the Sick Bay was opened, and December 31st, six evacuees from Slough were admitted:—

4 Scabies, 1 Impetigo, and 1 Enuresis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

NEW CASES

Primary Notifications. From Death Returns.

DEATHS.

Age Periods	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 -	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
5 -	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15 -	4	3	2	1	1	3	—	—	3	4	—	—
25 -	5	7	1	—	2	2	—	1	2	5	—	1
35 -	—	1	—	1	4	2	—	—	4	2	—	—
45 -	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	2	—	—
55 -	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 up	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	11	5	3	10	8	1	1	14	15	2	1

Phthisis death rate 0.5 per 1000
County rate for Urban Districts 0.3 per 1000

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. A. T. SPONG,

Medical Officer of Health.



