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Slough Borough Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

V. A. T. SPONG,

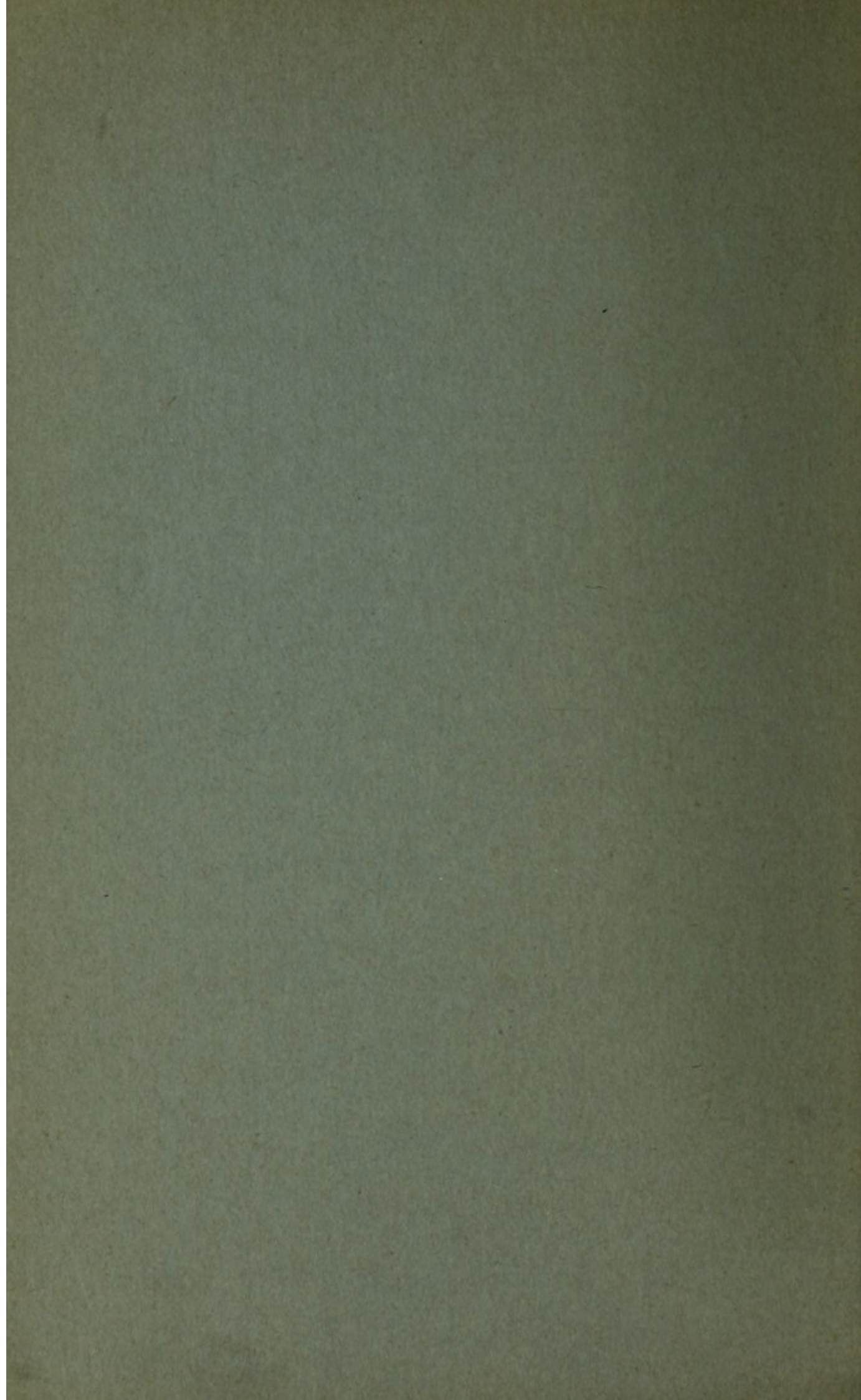
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.)

For the Year 1940

including the

Annual Report of the Chief
Sanitary Inspector,

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



Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1940, which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, has been restricted to essential matters, more particularly the compilation of figures for record purposes.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-Year 1940)	60,670
Population (National Register—December 1940)	66,933

Live Births.

TOTAL	1150	Male	606	Female	544
Legitimate	1099	„	583	„	516
Illegitimate	51	„	23	„	28
Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.95
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	14.6

Still Births.

TOTAL	36	Male	17	Female	19
Legitimate	35	„	17	„	18
Illegitimate	1	„	0	„	1
Still-birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.59
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	0.55
Still-birth rate per 1000 total Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	31.3

Deaths.

TOTAL	600	Male	309	Female	291
Death rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.89
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	14.3
Death rate corrected for age and sex distribution	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.56

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

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

(a) From Sepsis	.....	2.53	National rate	0.52
(b) From other causes	.....	0.85	National rate	1.64
(c) TOTAL	.....	3.38	National rate	2.16

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	54	Male	28	Female	26
Legitimate	50	„	27	„	23
Illegitimate	4	„	1	„	3

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	46.8
National rate „ „ 	55.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	45.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	78.43

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—

TOTAL	2	Male	1	Female	1
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—

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

TOTAL	6	Male	1	Female	5
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Causes of Death.

	ALL CAUSES	Male	Female
		309	291
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers		0	0
2 Measles		1	1
3 Scarlet fever		0	0
4 Whooping Cough		0	0
5 Diphtheria		3	2
6 Influenza		6	6
7 Encephalitis lethargica		0	0
8 Cerebro-spinal fever		3	3
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system		11	15
10 Other Tuberculosis diseases		2	3
11 Syphilitic diseases		2	0
12 Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis		0	0
13 Cancer, malignant disease		38	43
14 Diabetes		4	4
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.		19	18
16 Heart disease		69	75
17 Other circulatory diseases		5	10
18 Bronchitis		17	13
19 Pneumonia (all forms)		17	17
20 Other respiratory diseases		11	3
21 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum		9	0
22 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)		1	5
23 Appendicitis		1	0
24 Other digestive diseases		8	10
25 Acute and chronic nephritis		11	2
26 Puerperal sepsis		0	3
27 Other puerperal causes		0	1
28 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.		13	7
29 Road Traffic Accidents		13	2
30 Suicide		2	3
31 Other violence		22	11
32 All other causes		21	34

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

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 of the sanitary department. Every effort, however, has been made to carry on with the essential services in the interests of Public Health.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

Owing to labour and transport difficulties it has not been possible to maintain a regular weekly collection of house refuse, but every effort has been made to effect a collection as frequently as possible beyond this period. Five 15 cubic yard petrol driven vehicles, with movable floors and rear loading, are employed in this work, and it has been most difficult to have essential repairs carried out, where necessary, within a reasonable period, and this factor has had a decided bearing on the irregularity of collection in some instances. There are approximately 16,900 houses, shops, and factories on the refuse book, there being little alteration from the previous 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:-

	1939.	1940.
Trade Refuse Revenue	£654 0s. 4d.	£528 6s. 0d.

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 2s. per ton is made, the revenue from this source being £34 6s. 6d.

Particulars of refuse collection for this and the preceding year are as follows:-

	1939.	1940.
No. of calls made	863,294	894,756
No. of tons collected	10,716 tons	9,272 tons
Tons disposed of by burning	6,262 tons	8,572 tons
Tons disposed of by tipping	4,453 tons	700 tons

Waste Paper.

The Council is still selling all waste paper to Paper Mills at the controlled price fixed by the Ministry, and during the year 354 tons 14 cwts. were collected and baled, the revenue being £1,345 16s. 2d. Efforts have been made to increase the salvage of waste paper by means of appeals in the local press, delivery of handbills to householders, and display of posters on the refuse vehicles, but, in spite of this, a large amount of paper is still being deposited in the dustbins. It is gratifying, however, to record that there is an increase of 157 tons over the preceding year, and an increase of over £1,000 in revenue, this increase is accounted for by the rise in the price of the paper, plus the increase in amount collected.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

At the end of the year there were 10 wholesale producers and 38 Retail Purveyors of milk on the register, and thirty-four 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	4
Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	2
Supplementary Licences to sell T.T. Milk	2

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

(b) Meat and Food Inspection.

Under the Government Control Scheme there are only two slaughterhouses in commission, and under the Regional Scheme the meat derived therefrom supplies Slough, part of Eton Rural and Windsor districts. Although the number of slaughterhouses has been reduced from nine to two, the work entailed in supervision and inspection has increased very considerably, and, in order to facilitate the clearing and distribution of the meat, the Inspector is often on duty before 7 a.m. and sometimes until midnight, and on Sundays.

During the year 1,104 inspections of slaughterhouses, food shops and markets have been made, and approximately 20 tons of meat and other foodstuffs have been condemned as being unfit for human consumption. As far as practicable, this was utilised as salvage.

The number of animals inspected during the year was 1,864 oxen, 863 cows, 10,223 sheep, 10,828 pigs and 1,574 calves. Total inspected—25,352 carcasses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Ten complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and have received attention; these were all in respect of insufficient sanitary conveniences.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are five factory and fifteen retail bakehouses on the register, and these have been kept in a cleanly and satisfactory condition, the limewashing of same being carried out twice yearly.

NOTICES ISSUED AND COMPLIED WITH.

During this period 261 notices were issued in respect of general repairs, and 185 notices were complied with.

[illegible]

TABLE III.

Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough.

Estimated Population (December 1939)	Burnham 7,818	Central 10,508	Chalvey 7,522	Farnham 13,168	Langley 5,672	Stoke 10,005	Upton 4,814	
Scarlet Fever	10	15	9	19	2	9	7	1*
Diphtheria	6	4	7	57	1	11	3	2*
Pneumonia	4	8	3	10	3	4	—	2*
Erysipelas	2	4	5	2	—	5	2	2*
Puerperal Fever	3	1	1	5	—	1	—	2*
Tuberculosis	9	3	4	13	5	2	3	12*
Measles	—	1	—	1	—	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	3	1	7	—	2	1	3*
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

* Occurred in Slough Institution or Emergency Hospital.

TABLE IV.

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	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5 -	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 -	3	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
25 -	7	8	2	1	1	3	—	—	1	7	—	1
35 -	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
45 -	4	3	—	—	3	2	1	—	5	2	1	—
55 -	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	4	—	—
65 up	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	18	6	4	5	10	1	2	12	15	2	3

Phthisis death rate 0.5 per 1000

In spite of war conditions, the general health of the District has been good. A study of the Vital Statistics shows that, apart from the deaths due to Puerperal causes, the figures compare favourably with the National rates.

The Birth Rate was 18.9, the Death Rate 9.89, the Infant Mortality rate, per thousand Live Births, 46.8, and the Death Rate from Puerperal causes, per thousand total births, 3.38. The corresponding figures for England and Wales were, Birth Rate 14.6, Death Rate 14.3, Infant Mortality 55, and deaths from Puerperal causes 2.16.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases on the whole also compares favourably with the National rates. The rate per 1,000 of population for Slough and England and Wales is given below:-

	<i>Slough.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Scarlet Fever	1.18	1.63
Diphtheria	1.5	1.16
Erysipelas .....	.36	.33
Measles	16.4	10.24
Whooping Cough	1.05	1.34
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....	.29	.32

72 notifications of Scarlet Fever were received. 54 were admitted to Hospital, and no death is recorded from this disease.

This year 91 cases of Diphtheria occurred, of whom 58 were school children. In addition, 22 "carriers" were discovered as a result of investigation in the schools and homes of cases. Five cases proved fatal; three were boys, two of whom were aged 5 and one 6 years, all died four days after admission to hospital. A girl of 9 died the day after admission from the hæmorrhagic type of Diphtheria, while the fifth—a girl of 20—died largely as a result of heart disease and broncho-pneumonia, with which Diphtheria in her throat, in a mild form, was associated. The death rate was .08 per thousand population, the National Rate being .06.

In my Reports for 1938 and 1939 I drew attention to the increasing incidence of Diphtheria in the Borough, and the Council, in December 1939, approved the expenditure incurred in offering immunisation to all elementary and secondary school children. Owing to pressure of other work, it was not found possible to commence this until the latter part of the year, when 922 children were immunised.

Since then, however, a further 4,672 school children have been protected against Diphtheria by immunisation, which I feel sure will reflect very favourably upon the incidence of this disease during 1941, at any rate as regards the school children.

18 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were notified. 16 were admitted to hospital, and 5 of these proved fatal, in addition to one of the two cases treated at home.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in October, in the Farnham Ward of Slough, at the same time as a small outbreak of 7 cases in Farnham Common, in the Eton Rural District. Both cases were admitted to the Burnham Isolation Hospital and recovered completely.

Measles was particularly prevalent during the year; 998 cases being notified and 69 removed to hospital. 64 cases of Whooping Cough were recorded, 11 being admitted to hospital. Two deaths from Measles occurred, but none of the cases of Whooping Cough proved fatal.

A supply of Measles serum is kept at the Town Hall, and is always at the disposal of the General Practitioners for contacts to whom it is considered advisable to administer the serum. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the serum is obtained from blood given by the inhabitants of Slough at the Blood Transfusion Depot at the Social Centre.

At the end of 1940, 2,614 official evacuees were billeted in the District. This represents a decrease of 40 as compared with September 1939. During the year, 18 official evacuees from the Borough were admitted to the Isolation Hospitals, and 27 evacuees suffering from minor ailments to the Sick Bay at Fulmer Rise, as follows:-

(a) To the Isolation Hospitals—

Diphtheria 2, Measles 5, Whooping Cough 1, Chicken Pox 6, Rubella 3, Bronchitis 1.

(b) To the Sick Bay—

Impetigo 9, Scabies 9, Septic Sores 2, Chorea 1, Enuresis 2, Enteritis 1, Influenza and Bronchitis 3.

All Laboratory work is now carried out at the Town Hall. During the year the following specimens were examined:-

For Diphtheria Bacilli	793
For Hæmolytic Streptococci	19
For Vincent's Angina	2
For Meningococci	28
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	189
Blood for Widal	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	5
Miscellaneous Swabs (eyes, ear, skin, etc.)	21

Milk—

(a) Pasteurised Milk	10
(b) Phosphatase Test	6
(c) Fat Content	8

Water—

(a) Domestic	6
(b) Swimming Pools	6

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. A. T. SPONG,

Medical Officer of Health.

