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Slough Borough Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

V. A. T. SPONG,

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

For the Year 1942

including the

Annual Report of the Chief
Sanitary Inspector,

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

Members of the Health and Sanitation Committee.

COUNCILLOR A. DARVILL (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR F. H. MARSHALL (*Vice-Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR R. C. ABBOTT.

COUNCILLOR W. H. COOTE.

COUNCILLOR A. S. DIXON.

COUNCILLOR MISS R. HARRISON.

COUNCILLOR C. E. HARVEY.

COUNCILLOR J. E. TAYLOR.

COUNCILLOR P. LIGHTFOOT.

COUNCILLOR E. W. LOBJOIT.

Ex-Officio.

ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, (*Mayor*).

ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN (*Deputy Mayor*).

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1942, 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. The Minister has also drawn attention to the importance, on grounds of national security, of not publishing any figures, from which the local population may be deduced. Such figures in this report are therefore strictly confidential to members of the Council and the Government departments concerned.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-Year 1942) 64,420

Live Births.

TOTAL	1186	Male	617	Female	569
Legitimate	1115	„	574	„	541
Illegitimate	71	„	43	„	28
Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.4
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	15.8

Still Births.

TOTAL	38	Male	21	Female	17
Legitimate	34	„	19	„	15
Illegitimate	4	„	2	„	2
Still-birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.59
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	0.54

Deaths.

TOTAL	464	Male	247	Female	217
Death rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.2
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	11.6

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	0

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

(a) From Sepsis	.....	0	National rate	0.42
(b) From other causes	.....	0	National rate	1.59
(c) TOTAL	.....	0	National rate	2.01

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	48	Male	33	Female	15
Legitimate	43	„	30	„	13
Illegitimate	5	„	3	„	2

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	40.4
National rate " "	49
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	38.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	70.4

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	2	Male	1	Female	1
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Causes of Death.

	ALL CAUSES	Male	Female
	247	217	
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	
2 Measles	0	0	
3 Scarlet fever	0	0	
4 Whooping Cough	0	1	
5 Diphtheria	0	0	
6 Influenza	2	0	
7 Encephalitis lethargica	0	0	
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	2	1	
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	11	13	
10 Other Tuberculosis diseases	3	2	
11 Syphilitic diseases	2	2	
12 Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	0	0	
13 Cancer, malignant disease	36	29	
14 Diabetes	1	3	
15 Intra-cranial vascular lesions	15	27	
16 Heart disease	62	60	
17 Other circulatory diseases	4	4	
18 Bronchitis	11	7	
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	14	12	
20 Other respiratory diseases	5	6	
21 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2	
22 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1	
23 Appendicitis	1	1	
24 Other digestive diseases	5	6	
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	2	6	
26 Puerperal sepsis	0	0	
27 Other maternal causes	0	0	
28 Premature birth	9	8	
29 Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	11	2	
30 Road Traffic Accidents	13	3	
31 Suicide	4	2	
32 Other violence	12	5	
33 All other causes	17	14	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (including Tuberculosis) during 1942.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified during 1942, numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths, also notifications for years 1930-1941.

	Notified Cases 1942	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths	Population in thousands											
				65	60	53	50	48	44	41	38	36	35	33	26
				1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	63	49	—	80	72	60	130	100	36	70	94	61	65	62	49
Diphtheria	5	5	—	33	91	78	57	5	2	26	10	6	7	37	77
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	2
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10	9	—	13	15	33	12	14	8	3	6	2	7	5	3
Pneumonia	27	5	1	26	34	23	36	33	31	12	23	29	18	25	8
Erysipelas	5	2	—	28	22	26	33	16	9	5	13	17	15	8	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	—	3	1	—
Measles	179	1	—	258*	998*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	35	17	1	224*	64*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	8	10	3	10	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—	28	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Notifiable from October 23rd, 1939.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	2	3	2	1	1	19	4	5	6	3	8	9
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	3	6	3	1	2	2	1	1	—	2	4	2
Erysipelas	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1	28	53	15	2	13	1	1	—	64
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	8	2	1	6	2	1	—	2	—	4	10	—
Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE III.

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 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	3	1
5 -	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15 -	6	7	1	2	1	2	—	—	2	4	—	—
25 -	6	7	1	—	2	1	—	—	3	4	—	—
35 -	4	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
45 -	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1
55 -	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 up-	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	24	16	4	4	7	5	3	1	11	13	3	2

Death rate from Tuberculosis 0.45 per 1000

It is gratifying to note that, after four years of war, the general health of the District remains excellent.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that all figures compare very favourably with the national rates, which in themselves are very satisfactory.

The death rate, at 7.2 per thousand, is the lowest yet recorded for the Borough, and is 4.2 per thousand below the national rate. The birth rate is again high, being 18.4 per thousand compared with a national rate of 15.8. This year there were 1,186 live births, and I am pleased to be able to record that there were no maternal deaths. Forty-eight infants died under one year of age, which gives an Infant Mortality rate of 40.4, as compared with a national rate of 49.

Five cases of Diphtheria were notified, compared with 91 in 1940 and 38 in 1941. Of these, 4 were adults. Since Diphtheria is essentially a disease of childhood, and as only one case in a child occurred during the year, it is reasonable to conclude that this is the result of the immunisation campaign, which was commenced in the latter part of 1941.

The majority of the school children have now been immunised and about one third of the children under 5. The school children are immunised at the Schools, and two Clinics are held weekly at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, on Thursdays at 9.30 a.m., and on Fridays at 2.15 p.m., at which any child may attend for immunisation. The former Clinic is provided by the County Council and the latter by the Borough Council.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever is the second lowest in the last 10 years, and is well below the national rate, which shows an increase over the previous year.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred—one a child of 4 from the Chalvey Ward, in February, and the other a boy of 15 from Cippenham, in July. Both were mild and made complete recoveries.

Eight cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis occurred, 7 of which were admitted to the Cippenham Hospital. Of these two proved fatal, as also did the one case admitted to the Windsor Hospital.

Measles were not unduly prevalent, 179 cases being notified, with no deaths.

Whooping Cough showed a considerable diminution; only 36 cases being notified compared with 224 the previous year.

The Practitioners have been notified that cases of Whooping Cough and Measles requiring hospital treatment can be admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Mothers who so desire may have their children inoculated against Whooping Cough on payment of the cost of the material at the Immunisation Clinics referred to above.

During the year the following specimens were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory.

For Diphtheria Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	191
For Hæmolytic Streptococci	.....	.....	.....	50
For Vincent's Angina	.....	.....	.....	11
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	196
Blood for Widal	.....	.....	.....	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	.....	.....	.....	5
Milk—				
(a) Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	21
(b) Phosphatase Test	.....	.....	.....	18
Water—				
(a) Domestic	.....	.....	.....	14
(b) Swimming Pools	.....	.....	.....	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

Owing to continued labour and transport difficulties, it was found necessary to request a considerable number of householders to place their dustbins at the front of their houses in readiness for collection. This procedure enabled the Department to maintain a reasonable service during the year.

Five 15-cubic-yard, petrol-driven vehicles with moveable floors and rear loading; one 4-cubic-yard, horse-drawn vehicle and one 7-cubic-yard, rear-tipping electric vehicle are employed in this work. It has been most difficult to have essential repairs carried

out 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.

The collection of large amounts of trade refuse from factories in the area was discontinued in January of this year, but facilities for tipping were given to the firms concerned. In consequence, the revenue from trade refuse decreased as follows:-

1941.	1942.
£999 8 1	£89 13 2

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 as follows:-

1941.	1942.
£4 12 6	£24 18 6

The following figures show the amount of refuse collected and disposed of during the past 2 years:-

	1941.	1942.
No. of calls made	672,343	695,935
No. of tons collected	10,400 tons	7,830 tons
Tons disposed of by burning	8,816 tons	7,675 tons
Tons disposed of by tipping	1,584 tons	155 tons

Waste Paper.

The revenue from the collection of waste paper was more than double that of 1941. This was no doubt due to the salvage drives organised in January and during the Summer months, and to the Salvage of Waste Material Order (No. 2), 1942. The figures are as follows:-

	1941.	1942.
Tons collected	395tons 10cwt. 86lb.	875tons 16cwt. 26lb.
Revenue	£2,115 3 2	£5,237 3 8

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

At the end of the year there were 8 wholesale producers and 38 Retail Purveyors of Milk on the register, and periodic 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	2
Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	Nil.
Supplementary Licences to sell T.T. Milk	2

During the year twenty-one 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.

During the year, 1,006 inspections of slaughterhouses, food shops and markets have been made, and approximately 30 tons of meat and other foodstuffs have been condemned as being unfit for human consumption. As far as practicable, this was salvaged and utilised for animal feeding.

The number of animals inspected during the year was 1,112 oxen, 580 cows, 4,876 sheep, 5,123 pigs and 1,898 calves. Total, 13,598 carcasses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Six 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 clean and satisfactory condition.

NOTICES ISSUED AND COMPLIED WITH.

During this period, 266 notices were issued in respect of general repairs, and 144 notices were complied with.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. A. T. SPONG,

Medical Officer of Health.

During the past few years, the number of establishments were submitted for inspection, the number of establishments inspected, and the number of establishments found to be satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Food Inspection
Under the Government Control Scheme there are only two establishments in commission and under the National Scheme the meat and food inspection is carried out by the local health and sanitary authorities. Although the number of establishments has been reduced from nine to two, the work entailed in supervision and inspection has increased very considerably.

During the year, 1,500 establishments of slaughterhouses, food shops and markets have been visited, and approximately 30 tons of meat and other foodstuffs have been examined as being unfit for human consumption. As far as practicable, this was destroyed and utilized for animal feeding.

The number of animals inspected during the year was 1,112, of which 580 were sheep, 512 were pigs and 1,898 calves. Total, 3,592 animals.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

272 establishments were visited from H.M. Inspector of Factories and have received attention. These were all in respect of mechanical safety and ventilation.

BAKING SHOPS

There are five bakery and fifteen retail bakeries on the island, and these have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

NOTICES ISSUED AND COMPLIANCE WITH

During this period, 350 notices were issued in respect of general repairs and 144 notices were complied with.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. A. T. BROWN.

Medical Officer of Health.



