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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 1943

Mayor:

ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, J.P., C.C.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN.

Members of the Health and Sanitation Committee.

COUNCILLOR A. DARVILL, C.C. (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR C. E. HARVEY (*Vice-Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR R. C. ABBOTT.

COUNCILLOR W. H. COOTE.

COUNCILLOR A. S. DIXON.

COUNCILLOR MISS R. HARRISON.

COUNCILLOR P. LIGHTFOOT.

COUNCILLOR E. W. LOBJOIT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR F. H. MARSHALL.

COUNCILLOR J. E. TAYLOR.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1943, 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 1943) 62,960

Live Births.

TOTAL	1230	Male	604	Female	626
Legitimate	1151	„	561	„	590
Illegitimate	79	„	43	„	36
Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.6
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	16.5

Still Births.

TOTAL	33	Male	21	Female	12
Legitimate	29	„	19	„	10
Illegitimate	4	„	2	„	2
Still-birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.52
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	0.51

Deaths.

TOTAL	518	Male	278	Female	240
Death rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.2
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	12.1

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	0

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

(a) From Sepsis	.....	0.78	National rate	0.39
(b) From other causes	.....	0	National rate	1.45
(c) TOTAL	.....	0.78	National rate	1.84

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	52	Male	30	Female	22
Legitimate	48	„	27	„	21
Illegitimate	4	„	3	„	1

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	40.2
National rate „ „	49.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	41.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	50.6

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—

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

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

TOTAL	4	Male	4	Female	0
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Causes of Death.

	ALL CAUSES	Male	Female
		278	240
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0
2 Measles	0	0	0
3 Scarlet fever	0	0	0
4 Whooping Cough	1	1	1
5 Diphtheria	1	0	0
6 Influenza	2	7	7
7 Encephalitis lethargica	0	0	0
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	19	13	13
10 Other Tuberculosis diseases	1	0	0
11 Syphilitic diseases	3	2	2
12 Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	1	0	0
13 Cancer, malignant disease	33	38	38
14 Diabetes	3	3	3
15 Intra-cranial vascular lesions	15	25	25
16 Heart disease	76	70	70
17 Other circulatory diseases	3	3	3
18 Bronchitis	14	7	7
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	10	9	9
20 Other respiratory diseases	9	2	2
21 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	9	1	1
22 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	4	0	0
23 Appendicitis	1	4	4
24 Other digestive diseases	10	4	4
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	6	4	4
26 Puerperal sepsis	0	1	1
27 Other maternal causes	0	0	0
28 Premature birth	8	6	6
29 Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	11	7	7
30 Road Traffic Accidents	4	1	1
31 Suicide	1	5	5
32 Other violence	8	6	6
33 All other causes	25	21	21

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during 1943.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified during 1943, numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths, also notifications for years 1931-1942.

	Notified Cases 1943	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths	Population in thousands												
				64	65	60	53	50	48	44	41	38	36	35	33	
				1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	120	105	—	63	80	72	60	130	100	36	70	94	61	65	62	
Diphtheria	23	23	1	5	38	91	78	57	5	2	26	10	6	7	37	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	9	7	1	10	13	15	33	12	14	8	3	6	2	7	5	
Pneumonia	34	7	2	27	26	34	23	36	33	31	12	23	29	18	25	
Erysipelas	22	—	—	5	28	22	26	33	16	9	5	13	17	15	8	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	2	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	—	3	1	
Measles	995	38	—	179	258	998	6*									
Whooping Cough	164	7	2	36	224	64	7*									
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	—	8	10	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	2	28	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	

* Notifiable from October 23rd, 1939.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	8	8	7	4	3	9	15	3	18	20	10	15
Diphtheria	—	3	—	—	1	5	—	—	2	6	4	2
Pneumonia	3	6	3	3	3	2	—	—	2	2	3	7
Erysipelas	1	1	1	—	2	—	4	2	5	2	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	—
Measles	79	325	282	191	67	35	13	2	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	9	7	26	26	18	20	6	7	17	6	22
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	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 -	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 -	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15 -	5	11	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	4	—	—
25 -	5	8	2	—	2	2	—	—	5	5	—	—
35 -	4	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
45 -	5	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
55 -	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 up-	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
TOTAL	23	22	8	1	9	5	—	—	19	13	1	—

Death rate from Tuberculosis 0.52 per 1000

A study of the Vital Statistics again shows that the general health of the district has been good and that the figures compare very favourably with the national rates.

Live births totalled 1,230, representing a rate of 19.6 per 1,000—the highest for any year since 1928—the national rate being 16.5. In the past 10 years the birth rate has varied between 17 and 19.6, reaching the latter figure in 1936 and 1938.

The infantile mortality rate of 40 is 9 below the national rate and is the lowest recorded since 1935. One maternal death occurred, giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.78 compared with 1.84 for England and Wales.

The Death rate, at 8.2 per 1,000, is 3.9 below the national rate and shows an increase of 1 per 1,000 over last year's figure, which was the lowest yet recorded for the Borough. The death rate for Tuberculosis was .52 per 1,000, the corresponding figures for the past 10 years being 0.45, 0.64, 0.5, 0.5, 0.4, 0.6, 0.5, 0.6, 0.5, 0.4.

23 cases of Diphtheria were notified. 4 were adults, and of the remainder 12 were children of school age and 7 under school age. With the exception of 2, aged 12 and 6, none had been immunised against the disease. The two immunised children had Diphtheria in a very mild form, the diagnosis resting largely on the result of a positive throat swab. The incidence per 1,000 population was 0.36, the national rate being 0.88.

80% of the school children in the Borough have now been immunised against Diphtheria and 50% of the children under five. 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.

Scarlet Fever showed an increase over previous years, 120 cases being notified, of which 105 were admitted to Hospital. All were of the prevailing mild type.

1 case of Poliomyelitis was notified—a male—aged 42. He was admitted to one of the London Hospitals, in which he died after a few days' illness.

Only 1 case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis occurred, which was admitted to the Cippenham Isolation Hospital and made a complete recovery.

Measles was prevalent throughout the early months of the year, 995 cases being notified. 38 cases were admitted to Hospital. No death is recorded from this disease.

164 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, which gives an incidence of 2.6 per thousand compared with a National Rate of 2.54. 36 cases were admitted to Hospital and two proved fatal.

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

For Diphtheria Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	319
For Hæmolytic Streptococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
For Vincent's Angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	161
Blood for Widal	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Faeces for Typhoid, Dysentery, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
For Gonococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Milk—					
(a) Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
(b) Phosphatase Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
(c) Methylene Blue Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Water Samples	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

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	.....	.....	.....	3
Pasteurisers' Licences	.....	.....	.....	2
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Supplementary Licences to sell T.T. Milk	.....	.....	.....	1

During the year 44 samples were submitted for analysis, i.e., bacterial count and phosphatase test, and, with one exception, all were 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, 1,048 inspections of slaughterhouses, food shops and markets have been made, and approximately 35 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 1,171 oxen, 629 cows, 5,013 sheep, 1,043 pigs and 1,937 calves. Total, 9,793 carcasses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Twelve 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, 292 notices were issued in respect of general repairs, and 307 notices were complied with.

WATER SUPPLY.

The greater part of the district is supplied by the Slough Borough Council waterworks. The western end, however, receives its supply from the Burnham waterworks. Both supplies have been adequate in quantity and monthly bacteriological analyses have shown them to be of the highest standard of purity.

With the exception of a group of four cottages at the eastern end of the district, where the main is not available, and 16 properties at the western end which have not connected to the main which is available, the whole of the district is on the main supply.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. A. T. SPONG,

Medical Officer of Health.



