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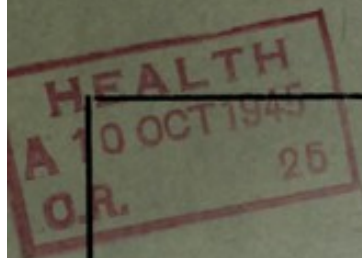
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**Slough Borough Council.**

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# **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 1944**

*Mayor:*

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

*Deputy Mayor:*

ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN.

**Members of the Health and Sanitation Committee.**

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

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

ALDERMAN A. G. TREVENER, J.P.

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

COUNCILLOR R. C. ABBOTT.

COUNCILLOR W. H. COOTE.

COUNCILLOR A. S. DIXON.

COUNCILLOR MISS R. HARRISON.

COUNCILLOR E. W. LOBJOIT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. E. TAYLOR.



Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1944, which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 49/45 of the Ministry of Health. I regret it has been impossible to complete it earlier as figures relating to the Vital Statistics were not received until July 16th, 1945.

## Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-Year 1944) 61,250

### Live Births.

TOTAL	1260	Male	623	Female	637
Legitimate	1175	"	582	"	593
Illegitimate	85	"	41	"	44
Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	20.5
National rate	"	"	.....	.....	17.6

### Still Births.

TOTAL	28	Male	14	Female	14
Legitimate	27	"	13	"	14
Illegitimate	1	"	1	"	—
Still-birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.45
National rate	"	"	.....	.....	0.5

### Deaths.

TOTAL	557	Male	284	Female	273
Death rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.9
National rate	"	"	.....	.....	11.6

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

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

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

(a) From Sepsis	.....	0.77	National rate	0.59
(b) From other causes	.....	0.77	National rate	1.34
(c) TOTAL	.....	1.54	National rate	1.93

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	47	Male	26	Female	21
Legitimate	46	"	26	"	20
Illegitimate	1	"	—	"	1

## Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	37.3
National rate     "      "	46.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	39.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	11.7

## Causes of Death.

	Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	284	273
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0
2 Measles	0	0
3 Scarlet fever	0	0
4 Whooping Cough	0	3
5 Diphtheria	1	1
6 Influenza	4	1
7 Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	18	14
10 Other Tuberculosis diseases	4	1
11 Syphilitic diseases	2	1
12 Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	0	0
13 Cancer, malignant disease	29	40
14 Diabetes	4	2
15 Intra-cranial vascular lesions	34	32
16 Heart disease	67	84
17 Other circulatory diseases	7	9
18 Bronchitis	13	7
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	15	8
20 Other respiratory diseases	9	6
21 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	1
22 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	3	6
23 Appendicitis	1	2
24 Other digestive diseases	12	6
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	7	7
26 Puerperal sepsis	0	1
27 Other maternal causes	0	1
28 Premature birth	8	6
29 Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	10	3
30 Road Traffic Accidents	2	2
31 Suicide	3	1
32 Other violence	8	3
33 All other causes	16	25



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## Notifiable Diseases during 1944.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified during 1944, numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths, also notifications for years 1932-1943.

	Notified Cases 1944	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths	Population in thousands											
				62	64	65	60	53	50	48	44	41	38	36	35
				1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Small Pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	151	120	—	120	63	80	72	60	130	100	36	70	94	61	65
Diphtheria .....	30	30	2	23	5	38	91	78	57	5	2	26	10	6	7
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .....	10	5	1	9	10	13	15	33	12	14	8	3	6	2	7
Pneumonia .....	33	7	2	34	27	26	34	23	36	33	31	12	23	29	18
Erysipelas .....	7	—	—	22	5	28	22	26	33	16	9	5	13	17	15
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	2	1	—	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	—	3
Measles .....	29	9	—	995	179	258	998	6*							
Whooping Cough .....	146	35	3	164	36	224	64	7*							
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....	5	5	—	5	8	10	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—	—	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 .....	13	26	10	3	4	4	5	3	22	12	17	32
Diphtheria .....	—	3	—	5	—	2	—	5	4	6	4	1
Pneumonia .....	5	1	5	7	1	—	2	1	—	3	3	5
Erysipelas .....	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	2	2	3	1	3	—	1	12	2	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	44	25	27	5	11	6	1	10	3	4	1	9



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	2	1	1	2	—	1	2	2	—
5 -	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 -	4	10	2	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	1
25 -	3	5	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	4	—	—
35 -	6	4	—	1	3	1	—	—	8	4	—	—
45 -	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 -	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	—
65 up-	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	—
TOTAL	18	20	6	3	9	4	4	—	18	14	4	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis ..... 0.59 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 1,260, representing a rate of 20.5 per 1,000—the highest for any year since 1921—the national rate being 17.6.

The infantile mortality rate of 37.3 is 8.7 below the national rate and is the lowest recorded since 1935. Two maternal deaths occurred, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.54 compared with 1.93 for England and Wales.

The Death rate, at 9.9 per 1,000, compares favourably with the national rate of 11.6. The death rate for Tuberculosis was .59 per 1,000, the corresponding figures for the past 10 years being 0.52, 0.45, 0.64, 0.5, 0.5, 0.4, 0.6, 0.5, 0.6, 0.5.

30 cases of Diphtheria were notified, of which 5 were adults, 19 children of school age and 6 under school age. With the exception of 4 children who had the disease in a very mild form, none of the cases had been immunised. 2 deaths occurred—a girl of 5 and a boy of 12.

92% of the school children in the Borough have now been immunised against Diphtheria and 52% of the children under five. The school children are immunised at the Schools and a Clinic is held weekly at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue.

Scarlet Fever showed an increase over previous years, 151 cases being notified. Over 50% occurred during the Autumn months.

5 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis occurred, 3 of which were admitted to the Eton Joint Isolation Hospital and 2 to the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. All recovered.

146 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, of which 3 proved fatal, and 29 cases of Measles, from which no death was recorded.

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

For Diphtheria Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	453
For Hæmolytic Streptococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
For Vincent's Angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	126
Blood for Widal	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Fæces for Typhoid, Dysentery, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
For Gonococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Milk—					
(a) Plate Count	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
(b) Phosphatase Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
(c) Methylene Blue Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
(d) Coliform Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
(e) Informal Chemical Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Water Samples	.....	.....	.....	.....	12



## GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### Table No. 1.

#### General Summary.

Total Inspections .....	5,337
Complaints Received .....	738
Preliminary Notices Served .....	578
Secondary Notices Served .....	113
Statutory Notices Served .....	17
Letters Received .....	1,730
Letters Despatched .....	698
Interviews with Owners, Agents, and Builders .....	375

### Table No. 2.

#### Inspection Work Performed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

General Sanitary Work .....	2,806
Infectious Diseases .....	166
Rats and Mice Destruction .....	253
Shops Acts .....	20
Housing .....	489
Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers' Premises .....	99
Meat and Food Inspection and premises at which food is prepared, stored and sold .....	1,433
Dairies, etc. ....	71

### Table No. 3.

#### Sanitary Improvements Effected.

Dwelling-houses (Repaired, etc.,) .....	254
Drainage .....	206
Portable Dustbins provided .....	249
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	20
Premises used for the preparation of food .....	5
Factories and Workplaces .....	35
Slaughterhouses .....	2

#### Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.

At the request of the Ministry of Home Security (Smoke Division), little action was taken in connection with smoke abatement.

#### Movable Dwellings.

Four applications for licences to use land as camping sites for movable dwellings and two applications for licences to erect movables were considered by the Health & Sanitation Committee. Four Licences were granted and two applications were refused.



## **Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers.**

Twenty-seven Notices were served requiring improvements, etc., at factories, bakehouses and workplaces.

Bakehouses were inspected and found, on the whole, to be maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

Half-yearly lists received from Employers returned 24 Outworkers, whose premises were inspected.

## **Rodent Control.**

215 notifications of rodent infestation were received and 253 investigations were made in addition to the work of the rodent operator. A survey of infestation in public sewers by test-baiting at 249 manholes showed infestation at only nine points.

## **SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.**

### **Milk and Dairies.**

The number of persons registered as wholesale purveyors and producers of milk is 24, and as retail purveyors 17. There are 7 registered cowkeepers with approximately 150 cows, and 32 dairies and milk shops.

Two Pasteurisers' Licences, 1 T.T. Bottling Licence, 4 T.T. Dealers' Licences and 2 Supplementary Licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 & 1938.

### **Examination of Milk.**

38 Samples of Pasteurised and 4 of Tuberculin Tested Milks were examined bacteriologically in the Town Hall Laboratory. 3 of the former failed to reach the prescribed standard.

The keeping quality and cleanliness of 41 Samples of Non-Designated Milk were investigated by means of the Methylene Blue Test. 8 were unsatisfactory. These were, however, taken during hot spells in the summer months.

34 Informal Samples were examined chemically for fat and solids other than fat. All were satisfactory.

### **Food and Drugs Adulteration.**

A total of 38 food samples, of which 3 were formal samples, were procured during the year. Of these, 3 formal samples of milk and one informal sample of coffee were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. One sample of milk was certified as deficient in milk fat and the remainder as "genuine."



## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Seven slaughtering licences were granted during the year. The provisions of the Act have been well observed.

### Meat and Food Inspection.

As in previous years, particular attention has been paid to the inspection of meat. 7,094 animal carcasses (100% of animals slaughtered) were examined. 23 tons were condemned. Details are set out in Tables 4 and 5.

The slaughterhouses in use prior to the operation of the Government Meat Scheme cannot be regarded as entirely suitable for the slaughtering of animals, and a special report was made to the Health Committee by your Chief Sanitary Inspector upon the desirability of providing a Public Abattoir for the Borough as soon as possible after the war.

In addition to the inspection of Meat, much time has been devoted to the inspection of canned and other foods, over 10 tons being condemned as unfit for human consumption. (See Table 6.) Two formal seizures of unsound fish were made during the year.

**Table No. 4.**

<b>CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.</b>					
<b>No. of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected</b>	<b>Cattle Ex. Cows</b>	<b>Cows</b>	<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Calves</b>
	1,115	749	2,795	679	1,756
<b>Disease Except Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	3	3	8	24	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	131	81	65	104	8
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11 %	11.2 %	2.6 %	18.9 %	0.6 %
<b>Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	5	23	1	6	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	158	297	—	22	13
% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.6 %	42.7 %	0.04 %	4.1 %	1 %

**Table No. 5.**

<b>WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT.</b>						
	<b>Tuberculosis</b>			<b>Other Diseases</b>		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
<b>Carcases and parts of carcasses</b>	182	0	27	68	0	6
<b>Organs</b>	157	3	4	60	2	5
<b>Totals</b>	340	0	3	128	2	11
<b>TOTAL WEIGHT: 23 tons, 8 cwts., 2 qrs., 14 lbs.</b>						

**Table No. 6.**

<b>WEIGHTS IN POUNDS OF CANNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.</b>					
<b>Canned Foods</b>	<b>Preserves</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Bacon</b>	<b>Imported Meat</b>	<b>Vegetables</b>
4,452	327	3,297	539	108	4,474
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>Cereals</b>	<b>Cheese</b>	<b>Eggs</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	
5,130	1,817	381	79 doz.	3,729	
<b>TOTAL WEIGHT: 10 tons, 6 cwts., 2 qrs., 6 lbs.</b>					

**Legal Proceedings.**

## 1. Food &amp; Drugs Act, 1938, Section 9.

Sale of fish unfit for human consumption—Defendants convicted and fined £70 and £7 7s. 0d. costs.

## 2. Food &amp; Drugs Act, 1938, Section 9.

Sale of fish unfit for human consumption—Defendants convicted and fined £100 and £3 3s. 0d. costs.



### WATER SUPPLY.

The greater part of the Borough is supplied by the Slough Borough Council waterworks. This supply has been adequate in quantity, and monthly bacteriological analyses of the treated water have shown it to be of the highest standard of purity. Two bacteriological examinations of the raw water were carried out, both of which were satisfactory.

The western end of the Borough receives its supply from the Burnham waterworks. Four examinations of the raw water were carried out and were found to be satisfactory, and monthly bacteriological examinations of the treated water were made, all of which were highly satisfactory. Two chemical examinations were carried out, with satisfactory results.

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.*





