

[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Stockton-on-Tees Borough.

Contributors

Stockton-on-Tees (Durham, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1941

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/c44t9n9w>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

**wellcome
collection**

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



STOCKTON-ON-TEES CORPORATION

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE
YEAR 1941

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL :

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

To the Town Council of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1941, which, while mainly statistical in character, reflects, nevertheless, the manner in which the health of the Borough has reacted to the various factors known to influence it. These factors which may be environmental, hereditary, social and economic are the agencies which ultimately determine the issue of health and ill-health and provide the pre-disposing causes which allow the actual disease processes to come into operation.

The functions of the Health Services are, therefore, twofold; in the first place, to ameliorate, as far as possible, the effect of adverse conditions, that is by remedial measures and, secondly, by determining with increasing accuracy the nature of the predisposing as well as the actual causative factors of disease to prevent, as far as possible, its development.

In addition, however, to the known and suspected causes of departure from health, the war has introduced many new and incalculable factors. The constant nervous tension under which we live, the dispersal of family life, the general lowering of physical standards of living, the drafting of women into industry, are only a few of the factors which are no doubt having a profound, if as yet intangible, effect on the physical and mental welfare of the population.

It is a tribute to the resilience and adaptability of the human organism that, so far, the general health of the people has not deteriorated to any considerable extent. There are signs, however, that there is no room whatever for complacency. This is shown by the increased incidence of and mortality from tuberculosis, by what appears to be an upward tendency, throughout the country as a whole, of the infantile mortality rate, and by the great increase in juvenile delinquency which may be regarded as a direct expression of disordered family life resultant upon the war.

However, if there is no room for complacency there appears to be no reason, also, for gloom. The morale of the people is high and appears to be unshakeable. Nutritional

standards have, generally speaking, not suffered materially, and one effect of food rationing (combined with increased earning capacity on the part of the poor) has been a levelling up and down of dietary standards, which may even, on the whole, have been beneficial to certain sections of the community.

The birth rate, by a coincidence, during 1941, was 18.77 per thousand, exactly the same as for the preceding year and compares favourably with that for the country as a whole.

The death rate of 13.96 per thousand, though slightly lower than the rate for the previous year, is still higher than the rate for any other year since 1930. This need not be regarded, however, as an indication of increased ill-health but rather as an expression of an abnormal age constitution of the population, that is to say, that there is nowadays within the population a higher proportion of elderly people.

The infantile mortality rate of 75 per thousand shows a slight reduction on the rate for 1940, but represents, nevertheless, a higher rate than has been experienced locally during recent years. It will be seen, however, from the body of the Report that the quinquennial average rates for the past 25 years point to a definite downward tendency in infantile mortality. Whether this will be maintained in view of war conditions is at present a matter of speculation. There is a great need for further research into the causes and control of prematurity which was responsible for 36% of the deaths of infants under the age of one month.

The maternal mortality rate at 2.34 per thousand compares favourably with that of other Urban communities.

It is pleasing to record that the Municipal Midwifery Service was fully extended during the year under review, and the work done represents an average of 78 cases per midwife.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the loyal help and devotion to duty of the staff of the Health Department in spite of war time difficulties and the insistent claims, in many instances, of Civil Defence work.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
11 Finkle Street,
Stockton-on-Tees.

22nd September, 1942.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

The civil population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of the year 1941 is 65,290. This is a reduction of 600 on the figure for 1940.

Live Births :—

	1941	1940
Males 651		
Females 575		
1226	Rate ... 18.77	18.77

Still-births :—

Number 46	Rate per 1000	
	total births	37.52 37.35

Deaths :—

Males 500		
Females 412		
912	Rate ... 13.96	14.34

Infantile Mortality.

No. of deaths under one year 93	Rate per 1000	
	live births	75 77

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. of deaths 3	Rate per 1000	
	total births	2.34 2.33

The birthrate, 18.77 per 1000 live births, was exactly the same as for the year 1940, but it still considerably above the rate for the country as a whole, and that for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London, which were 14.2 and 14.7 per 1000 respectively.

Although the death-rate of 13.96 is slightly lower than the rate for the previous year, it is still higher than the rate for any year since 1930, the highest rate during the 10 year period 1930-1939 being 12.76 in 1932 and the lowest 11.26 in 1936.

The infantile mortality rate shows a slight reduction on the rate for 1940, 77 to 75 per 1000 live births. With the exception of 1940, however, it is the highest rate recorded in the Borough since 1933. The five-yearly average rates from 1916-1940, compared with those for the country as a whole, are as follows:—

Stockton-on-Tees ...	111	94	85	73	63
England and Wales ...	90	76	68	62	55

Notes on Causes of Death.—The principal causes of death during the year, with associated causes grouped together, compared with corresponding figures for 1940, are as follows:

	1941	1940
1. Heart and Circulatory diseases ...	225	204
2. Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases ...	115	158
3. Cancer	84	99
4. Violence	76	60
5. Diseases of nervous system ...	71	79
6. Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	68	57
7. Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	57	56
	696	713
Percentage of total deaths ...	76	75

Since 1937 when the number of deaths from cancer was 85, this disease has been the cause of an increasing number of deaths each year, and it is pleasing to note that for the year 1941 the number of deaths dropped sharply to 84. Further comments on this disease will be found later in the report.

The deaths from pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases show a considerable reduction on last year's figure, but the deaths from these diseases in 1940 were the highest recorded since 1929. From 1929 to 1939 a steady reduction in the number of deaths has been noted.

It would not appear from these statistics that war conditions have seriously affected the death rate from any particular group of diseases, except perhaps tuberculosis and infantile deaths in the premature birth and congenital debility groups.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—The Borough is supplied with water by the Tees Valley Water Board. This supply has its source in upland gathering grounds near which it is impounded in extensive reservoirs. The supply is constant and abundant, and bacteriologically satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.—The crude sewage of the Borough is discharged into the River Tees without treatment.

Closet Accommodation.—No house in the Borough within a reasonable distance of a sewer is now without a water closet.

Slaughter Houses.—Of the twenty-two private slaughter houses in the Borough, only the two largest and best equipped

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—At the end of the year 1941 there were 96 retail purveyors of milk and 23 cowkeepers on the Register. Of the retail purveyors 12 are producers also, and 14 distribute milk in the Borough from premises outside the boundary. Regular inspections are made of these premises.

Bacteriological Examination.—Forty-four samples of milk were taken during the year, and sent for bacteriological examination. The sources of the supplies from which these samples were taken were as follows:—

From producers in the Borough	...	...	31
From producers outside the Borough	...	...	4
Pasteurised milk	...	...	6
School milk	...	...	3

It would appear from the results of the examination of these samples that the standard of cleanliness, which before the war was very high in the Borough, has deteriorated. At least half of the samples taken from farms in the Borough immediately after milking contained bacillus coli and had total bacterial counts of from 300,000 to over 500,000 per c.c. The samples of school milk, which consisted of mixed milk from various sources were also unsatisfactory. The samples of pasteurised milk showed a consistently low count, and were free from bacillus coli.

The lowered standard of cleanliness is attributed to difficulties of milking under blackout conditions and to labour difficulties resulting in the use of unskilled personnel.

Tubercle bacilli in Milk.—All samples sent for bacteriological examination are examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli. A positive result was received on two occasions during the year. In each case the cows on the affected farm were clinically examined by the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Inspector, and samples of milk were taken from small groups for examination. No affected animal was traced, but as the milk was certified to be free from the organism it is assumed that the affected animal had in each case been sent for slaughter in the interval between the taking of the original sample and the examination by the Veterinary Inspector, usually a month or more.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.—One Pasteuriser's Licence and three dealers Licences, two to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk, and one to sell "Accredited" milk were granted for the year 1941.

Meat Inspection.—The carcasses of all animals killed in the Borough are inspected before leaving the slaughter houses.

The following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected during the year:—

No. of Animals	No. killed	No. inspected	Percentage Inspected
Cattle ...	3,656	3,656	100%
Sheep ...	20,067	20,067	100%
Pigs ...	2,056	2,056	100%
Calves ...	1,135	1,135	100%
Total ...	26,914	26,914	100%

The following table shows the meat condemned as unfit for food during the year:—

Carcase and organs of beast	...	...	41
" " " " sheep	...	...	32
" " " " pig	...	...	3
Part carcase or organ of beast	...	...	1091
" " " " " sheep	...	...	288
" " " " " pig	...	...	258

Other Foods.—The following is a list of the various foodstuffs submitted for inspection during the year and condemned as unfit for food:—

493 tins fruit, 155 tins peas, 63 tins fish, 10 st. cod, 11 tins paste, 15 tins carrots, 20 bags carrots, 16 stone bacon, 10 tins soup, 50 tins beans, 217 tins milk, 224 tins meat, 103 tins tomatoes, 118 boxes tomatoes, 15 cwt. orange waste, 1034 lbs. frozen meat, 269 bags sprouts, 84 lbs. corned beef, 3 tins vegetables, 2 cwt. potatoes, 55 doz. fish cakes, 24 lbs. cheese, 4 jellies, 220 doz. eggs, 8 ozs. pepper, $\frac{1}{4}$ st. ground rice, $\frac{3}{4}$ st. beans, $\frac{3}{4}$ st. lentils, $\frac{1}{4}$ st. salt, $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. biscuits, 4 ozs. yeast, 21 jars jam, 1 bottle salad cream, 1 tin spinach, 38 chickens, 55 bags cauliflowers, 9 st. sugar, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. tea, 49 lbs. split peas, 25 stone apples, 20 bags dried peas.

Action taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.—Forty-five samples were taken during the year and sent to the Public Analyst for analysis. These consist of:—

New Milk	...	...	...	...	41
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	...	1
Chopped ham	...	...	...	...	1
Fruit cake	...	...	...	...	1

Fourteen of the samples of milk were certified to be below standard. Two were slightly deficient in fat content, and four deficient in non-fatty solids, but in three of these cases the freezing point was that of genuine milk. Another sample had a fat deficiency of 20%. Proceedings were taken against the vendor in this case, and a conviction was made.

One group of five samples were all taken from the same source. The first sample had a fat deficiency of 13.402% and as a result another sample was taken from the producer in course of delivery, and this had a fat deficiency of 33%. A further sample was taken by County Council officials at the farm immediately after milking, and the fat deficiency was 20%. The farm was visited by officials of the County Agricultural Department, who advised on the feeding of the cattle. Two further samples were taken at intervals, and the last of these was certified to be of genuine quality.

Another sample taken from a dairyman in the Borough was certified to contain added water to the extent of 16%. Two further samples were, therefore, taken the following day from the producer in course of delivery, and these also contained 16% added water. As the producer's premises were outside the Borough the County Council officials were requested to take a sample at the farm. Three samples were taken and two were certified to be of genuine quality, while one was slightly deficient in fat. The circumstances under which the local samples were taken were sufficient to rule out any question of the adulteration having taken place while the milk was in the hands of the retailer, and proceedings were, therefore, taken against the producer, who was fined.

The remaining samples of milk and the samples of the other commodities were certified to be of genuine quality.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases received during the year was 2592, compared with 784 for the year 1940.

The following table shows the number of notifications of each disease received, compared with the corresponding figure for the previous year:—

	1941	1940
Scarlet Fever	74	138
Diphtheria	132	89
Paratyphoid	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	7
Pneumonia	97	163
Cerebro Spinal Fever	23	10
Erysipelas	19	51
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	8
Poliomyelitis	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Whooping Cough	367	191
Measles	1864	124
	2592	784

As will be seen the large increase in the number of notifications is due to an epidemic of measles and, to a smaller extent, of whooping cough.

Scarlet Fever.—The considerably reduced number of scarlet fever cases notified during the year were of a mild type, and no deaths were registered as being due to the disease for the fourth successive year.

Diphtheria.—There was an increased prevalence of diphtheria during the year, the number of cases notified being above the average for the past few years. The case rate per 1,000 of population was 2.02 compared with 1.25 and 1.53 the rates for England and Wales and the 126 Great Towns respectively. Four deaths were registered from the disease, the same number as in the years 1939 and 1940.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.—A scheme for the immunisation of children in the Borough against diphtheria came into operation in February. All the schools in the Borough were visited and special clinics were held for pre-school children. At the end of the year 1312 pre-school and 7294 school children, a total of 8606, had been immunised. The percentage of the total children in these groups who have been immunised were pre-school 28, school children 66, total 55. These figures have been added to considerably during the current year, and it is hoped that the progress made in this direction will be reflected in the future incidence of diphtheria in the Borough.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—There was a considerable increase in the incidence of Cerebro-Spinal Fever during the year, 23 cases being notified as against 10 in 1940, and 1 in 1939. There were 6 deaths from the disease, an increase of 4 on last year's figure.

Measles.—Although there was a widespread epidemic of measles during the year the majority of the cases were of a mild type. Ten complicated cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. There were five deaths from the disease during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases of infectious disease which occurred in the Borough during the year and were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment totalled 246. A further 94 cases, from the area of outside authorities with whom the Corporation has agreements and 31 cases occurring among military and R.A.F. personnel, were also admitted. The average daily number of patients under treatment in the hospital was 37.

The following table shows the number of cases of the various diseases admitted during the year:—

DISEASE	Stockton Borough	Billingham U.D.C.	Stockton R.D.C.	Other Districts	Services	TOTAL
Diphtheria	128	58	6	—	13	205
Scarlet Fever	73	17	1	—	1	92
Meningitis	20	6	—	1	4	31
Chicken-Pox	1	2	—	—	3	6
Whooping Cough and Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	4
Whooping Cough, Measles and Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	3
Measles & Pneumonia ...	5	—	—	—	—	5
Measles & Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	—	—	—	—	3
Measles	2	2	—	—	1	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	5	6
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	1
Scabies	2	—	—	—	—	2
Mumps	—	—	—	—	2	2
Vincent's Angina ...	—	—	—	—	2	2
Whooping Cough & Gastro-Enteritis ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	246	85	7	2	31	371

The following deaths occurred in the Hospital:—

Diphtheria	...	...	8	Dysentery	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	9	Measles and Cerebro-			
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	1	Spinal Meningitis	...	...	1
Whooping Cough and				Measles and			
Pneumonia	...	...	2	Pneumonia	...	...	2

The Isolation Hospital was equipped and approved by The General Nursing Council as a training school for Nurses during the year and probationer nurses are now receiving the necessary lectures and training. An ultra-violet ray lamp and two electric sterilizers were also added to the equipment of the Hospital during the year.

Bacteriological Examinations.—The following specimens were forwarded from the Hospital for bacteriological examination during the year:—

Diphtheria swabs	...	...	818	Positive	...	343
(Vincent's Angina 3)				Negative	...	469
				No growth	...	6
Hæmolytic Streptococci	...	...	24	Positive	...	7
				Negative	...	17
Fæces and specimens	...	...	14			
Urine and specimens	...	...	1			
Cerebro spinal fluid	...	...	8			
Ear swabs	...	...	2			
Eye swabs	...	...	1			
Cervical smear	...	...	1			

The following specimens were sent by private medical practitioners in the Borough under the Durham County Council scheme for free bacteriological examination in cases of infectious disease:—

Diphtheria	...	...	2	Negative.		
Tuberculosis	...	...	73	Positive	...	4
				Negative	...	69

CANCER.

In the following table the deaths from cancer are classified according to the sex, age, and site affected. The number of deaths shown is two less—one male and one female—than the figure given in the Registrar General's Return of Deaths. This is due to the more complete information which he obtains in respect of certain deaths.

SITE	MALES						FEMALES					
	25	35	45	55	65	Total	25	35	45	55	65	Total
	35	45	55	65	Over		35	45	55	65	Over	
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum	—	3	6	3	17	29	—	1	—	2	9	12
Respiratory Organs	—	2	6	3	—	11	—	—	1	1	—	2
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	2	7
Other female Genital Organs	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Male genito-urinary organs	—	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Sites	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	—	5	13	9	27	54	2	3	2	6	15	28

The number of deaths is considerably less than last year when 99 people died from the disease. The death-rate per 1000 of the population is 1.28, the lowest rate recorded since 1937. The average death rates from the disease in the Borough for the last three quinquennial periods were 1936-40 1.33; 1931-35 1.39; 1926-30 1.16.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the beginning of the year 1941, there were 1253 names on the register of notifications of Tuberculosis. 632 of these cases were suffering from pulmonary and 621 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. During the year cases were added to and removed from the register as follows:—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Tl.
Added to Register	96	33	129
Removed from Register—			
Recovered	29	24	53
Died	51	10	61
Removed or not traceable	27	54	81
Not tuberculosis	3	1	4
Total removals	110	89	199
Leaving on the Register at end of year	611	571	1182

The Registrar General's Annual Return gives the number of deaths from the disease during the year as 68—61 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary.

Both the number of notifications of new cases and the number of deaths registered as due to the disease, show an increase on the figures for 1940, which were 109 and 57 respectively.

The incidence rates and death-rates per 1000 of the population for both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis for the five-year periods 1926-30 and 1931-35 and for the years 1936 to 1941, are given in the following tables:—

Incidence Rates per 1000 of population.

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1926-30	1.17	0.69	1.86
1931-35	1.00	0.51	1.51
1936	0.97	0.58	1.55
1937	0.97	0.31	1.28
1938	0.86	0.56	1.42
1939	1.26	0.41	1.67
1940	1.19	0.45	1.64
1941	1.47	0.50	1.97

Death-rates per 1000 of population.

1926-30	0.88	0.36	1.24
1931-35	0.74	0.20	0.94
1936	0.64	0.11	0.75
1937	0.52	0.21	0.73
1938	0.60	0.15	0.75
1939	0.67	0.12	0.79
1940	0.74	0.12	0.86
1941	0.93	0.10	1.03
2	0.55	0.13	0.68
3	0.82	0.12	0.94
4	0.63	0.11	0.74

Since the outbreak of the war the incidence rate for pulmonary tuberculosis has shown a consistent increase over pre-war annual rates. This is probably due to a large extent to the medical examination of large numbers of young men and women for the Services and for work on munitions. Methods of diagnosis by X-rays have also been considerably improved and it is probable that new cases are being detected at an earlier stage than formerly.

The death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis has, unfortunately, risen each year since the outbreak of war and it must be assumed that war-time conditions have influenced this rate. Overcrowding, stuffy atmospheres due to living and sleeping in blacked-out rooms, shortage of many essential

foodstuffs, overwork, lack of sufficient holidays, and the general worry and strain of war conditions, have probably all added to the risk of infection and militated against the successful treatment of the disease.

Both the incidence rate and the death-rate from tuberculosis of the non-pulmonary types have remained fairly stationary for a number of years, in fact the death-rate shows a slight tendency to fall.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The number of births notified in the Borough during the year was 1247—1203 live births and 44 stillbirths; 1190 of these births were notified by midwives and 57 by doctors.

The number of attendances at the Child Welfare Centres was 22,857, an increase of 1302 on last year's figure.

Seven Child Welfare sessions are held each week at the six Child Welfare Centres, one session each week at five Centres and two sessions weekly at one Centre. The average attendances at each of the Centres, compared with the corresponding figures for 1940 are as follows:—

					1941	1940
No. 1	...	...	...	...	66.3	53.9
No. 2	...	...	...	...	65.8	67.2
No. 3	...	...	...	...	62.3	61.8
No. 4	...	...	...	...	79.2	65.4
No. 5	...	...	...	...	78.9	72.9
No. 6	...	...	...	...	48.8	50.2
Average for all Centres ...					66.8	62.6

During the year 975 infants under one year of age and 174 children between one and five years attended the Centres for the first time. The primary attendances of infants under one year of age represent 81% of the live births notified.

There are two Ante-Natal Centres in the Borough, at one of which one session is held each week, while at the other one session is held every two weeks.

During the year 1941 322 expectant mothers made 1178 attendances at the Ante-Natal Centres, a decrease of 19 and 249 respectively on last year's figures. The number of women attending the Centres represents 26.7% of the total births notified. In addition to these, however, 349 women who were admitted to the Robson Maternity Home during the year were under supervision by the staff of the Home from the time of booking.

The average attendances per session at the two Ante-Natal Centres during the year were as follows:—

	1941	1940
No. 1	20.2	21.9
No. 2	7.5	11.0
Average for the two Centres ...	15.9	18.5

Of the women attending the Centres 91 were first pregnancies, 53 of these had normal deliveries, 8 instrumental, 2 had stillbirths, and in one case cæsarian section was necessary, the remaining cases had not been delivered at the end of the year. The number of second or subsequent confinements was 223. Four of these had instrumental deliveries, one had a miscarriage, two were stillbirths, and in one case labour was induced. In 163 cases delivery was normal. There was one maternal death among the women attending the Ante-Natal Centre. The remaining cases had not been delivered at the end of the year.

The following defects were found at the Ante-Natal Centres during the year:—

Anæmia	56
Dental Sepsis	62
Albuminuria	8
Varicose Veins	28

The Health Visitors paid 11,966 home visits to infants and expectant mothers, a reduction of 844 on last year's figure. These visits were made as follows:—

To infants under 1 year	First visits ...	1091
	Total visits ...	3639
To children between 1 and 5 years	Total visits ...	8085
To expectant mothers	First visits ...	119
	Total visits ...	242

Dried milk supplied at the Centres totalled 8576 lbs. In addition cod liver oil and other vitamin preparations were supplied either at cost price or free of charge.

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

At the end of the year there were sixteen midwives practising in the Borough. This figure is made up as follows:—

Municipal domiciliary midwives	8
Domiciliary midwives in private practice ...	3
Midwives in Institutions:—	
Robson Maternity Home	4
Private Nursing Home	1

During the year 1941, 782 domiciliary cases were attended by midwives—608 as midwives and 174 at maternity nurses. In addition 421 cases were attended by Midwives in Institutions (337 in the Robson Maternity Home), 310 as midwives and 111 as maternity nurses. Medical aid was summoned by a midwife in emergency for 269 cases, 204 of which were domiciliary cases and 65 cases in Institutions.

Municipal Midwives.—The eight midwives employed by the Corporation attended 587 confinements, and there were 35 abortions during the year, an average of 78 cases per midwife. In 472 of these cases the midwives were acting as midwives while in 115 cases they were acting as maternity nurses. Of the cases attended 510 were normal and 77 instrumental deliveries.

ROBSON MATERNITY HOME.

The Robson Maternity Home provides 15 maternity beds, and 337 confinements were conducted there during the year. Of these cases 306 were delivered by the staff of the Home and 31 by doctors. In 65 cases medical assistance was sought by the Maternity Home staff in accordance with the Rules of the Central Midwives Board. The average duration of stay of cases in the Home was 12.3 days. Although no beds are specifically set aside at the Home for the treatment of ante-natal cases, 12 such cases were admitted during the year, the average duration of stay being 7.3 days.

The number of infant deaths that occurred in the Home during the year was 16, of these 7 were stillbirths and 9 deaths within ten days of birth. One maternal death occurred, the cause of which was 1 (a) Cardiac dilatation, (b) Chronic myocarditis, (c) Enteritis; 2 Premature labour.

No cases of Pemphigus or Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred in the Home during the year.

WAR-TIME DAY NURSERY.

A large house situated on one of the main roads in the Borough was adapted as a War-Time Day Nursery to accommodate thirty children, and was opened on the 10th May, 1941. The Nursery is open daily, except Sundays, from 7 a.m. until 6.30 p.m. It was some time before a full complement of children was obtained, but now there is a waiting list for vacancies and the Nursery has for a long time been working to full capacity. Further nurseries are almost completed to meet the additional demands of the Borough.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year 93 deaths of infants under one year of age were registered, giving an infantile mortality rate of 75 per 1000 live births, compared with 95 and 77, the figures for 1940. 32 of the deaths occurred at ages between one week and one month, the neo-natal death rate for the year being 38 per 1000 live births, compared with a rate of 47 per 1000 for 1940. 36% of the deaths of infants under one month were due to premature birth. A table showing the causes of death is given in the appendix to this report.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Three deaths are classified by the Registrar General as due to puerperal causes, but actually four deaths from these causes occurred during the year, one from puerperal sepsis, and three from other maternal causes. One of these deaths occurred in the Maternity Home, one in the Isolation Hospital and two in the Stockton & Thornaby Hospital.

The maternal mortality rate based on the Registrar General's figures per 1000 total births, compared with the rate for 1940 is given below:—

			1941	1940
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0.78	0.77
Other puerperal causes	...	...	1.56	1.56
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	2.34	2.33
			<hr/>	<hr/>

APPENDIX.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality and Maternal Mortality in the Year 1941.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns inc. London	148 Smaller Towns Pop. 25000-50000 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Stockton on Tees
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—					
Live Births	14.2	14.7	16.4	8.9	18.77
Stillbirths	0.51	0.58	0.60	0.33	0.72
Deaths:—					
All causes	12.9	14.9	13.0	16.3	13.96
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.06
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.06
Influenza	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15	0.32
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.07
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—					
Deaths under 1 year of age	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8	7.5
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8	7.5
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—					
Maternal Mortality—					
Puerperal Infection	0.48				0.78
Others	1.75				1.56
Total	2.23		Not available		2.34

CAUSES OF DEATH IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES, 1941.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	912	500	412
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	6	5	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	4	1	3
5. Diphtheria	4	1	3
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	61	36	25
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	3	4
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	21	13	8
10. Measles	5	2	3
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity & œsophagus (Males)	6	6	—
do. Uterus (Females)	7	—	7
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	10	8	2
15. Cancer of the breast	10	—	10
16. Cancer of all other sites	51	41	10
17. Diabetes	4	2	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	71	30	41
19. Heart disease	199	103	96
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	26	15	11
21. Bronchitis	73	46	27
22. Pneumonia	33	20	13
23. Other respiratory diseases	9	3	6
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	9	8	1
25. Diarrhœa under 2 years	7	4	3
26. Appendicitis	7	4	3
27. Other digestive diseases	26	8	18
28. Nephritis	24	15	9
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1	—	1
30. Other maternal causes	2	—	2
31. Premature Births	22	8	14
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries infant diseases	35	20	15
33. Suicide	6	5	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	15	11	4
35. Other violent causes	55	34	21
36. All other causes	101	50	51

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1941.

Causes of Death	Total under 1 week	Total under 1 Month	Total under 12 Months
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	...	...	1
Convulsions	2	5	12
Bronchitis ... ..	...	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	10
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	1
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	2
Gastritis ... ..	...	2	2
Atelectasis	2	4	4
Congenital Malformations	1	3	3
Premature Birth... ..	17	19	19
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	3	5	16
Inanition ... ..	...	...	1
Violence ... ..	...	1	1
Other Causes	7	...	14
	32	47	93



