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Contributors

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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1947.

21st July 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stevenage Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report for the year 1947 with corresponding statistics on various subjects for the preceding years 1946, 1945 1944, 1943, 1942, 1941 and 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	...	...	4,576
Residential Population - (Registrar General's Figure)			6,330
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	1,839
Rateable Value	...	...	£41,181
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	£162.5.8.

VITAL STATISTICS.BIRTHS.Legitimate:-

Male	.....	62
Female	.....	50

Illegitimate :-

Male	.....	3
Female	.....	2
		<u>Total</u> <u>117.</u>

BIRTH RATE.

1947	.....	13.48
1946	.....	16.94
1945	.....	14.54
1944	.....	16.75
1943	.....	15.85
1942	.....	11.06
1941	.....	11.77
1940	.....	11.99

DEATHS.

Male	.....	37		
Female	.....	39	Total	76

DEATH RATE.

1947	.....	12.05
1946	.....	12.74
1945	.....	10.90
1944	.....	12.07
1943	.....	12.62
1942	.....	9.86
1941	.....	11.36
1940	.....	10.12

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Legitimate	-	Male	.....	2	
		Female	.....	1	
Illegitimate	-	Male	.....	0	
		Female	.....	0	Total 3

INFANT MORTALITY RATE
(per 1000 births)

1947	.....	25.6
1946	.....	9.0
1945	.....	21.7
1944	.....	54.0
1943	.....	38.8
1942	.....	54.5
1941	.....	23.2
1940	.....	51.9

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	-	Male	.....	3	
		Female	.....	0	
Illegitimate	-	Male	.....	0	
		Female	.....	0	Total 3

STILL BIRTH RATE.

1947	.....	0.47
1946	.....	0.64
1945	.....	0.15
1944	.....	0.00
1943	.....	0.15
1942	.....	0.29
1941	.....	0.27
1940	.....	0.31

For purposes of comparison, the rate of the smaller towns of England and Wales are given :-

Birth Rate	.....	22.2
Death Rate	.....	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate	.....	36.0
Still Birth Rate	.....	0.54

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

Code No.	DISEASE	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
1.	Typhoid and Parat: Fevers								
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever						1		
3.	Scarlet Fever								
4.	Whooping Cough	1							
5.	Diphtheria								
6.	Tub. of Resp. Sys.	1		1			2		2
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis							1	
8.	Syphilitic Diseases					1	1	1	1
9.	Influenza	1			1	1			
10.	Measles								
11.	Ac. Poliomyel. and Polio-Enceph								
12.	Ac. Inf Enceph								
13.	Cancer of Buc: Cav: and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F)		2		2	2	2		2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum		1			2	2	1	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	3	1	3	1	2	2	2	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	9	9	13	10	10	2	7	3
17.	Diabetes				1			1	
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	11	8	5	9	3	5	13	9
19.	Heart Disease	26	19	20	22	22	21	27	21
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	6	3	2	6	2	3	1
21.	Bronchitis	2	2	2		7	3	4	1
22.	Pneumonia	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	1		2	1	1	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	2	2		1		1	
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years		1			1			
26.	Appendicitis	1				1			1
27.	Other Digve. Diseases	1	2	3	1	4	3	2	3
28.	Nephritis	2	3	3	5			1	1
29.	Puer: and Post-Abort Sepses								
30.	Other maternal diseases								
31.	Premature Birth				2		1	1	1
32.	Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Dis.	2		2	2	2	3	1	3
33.	Suicide		1		4	1	3		
34.	Road Traffic Accident		4	1			1	3	1
35.	Other violent causes		1		2	1	3		1
36.	All other causes	5	14	8	13	10	6	11	6
TOTAL		76	79	69	80	82	66	83	65

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified :-

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Whooping Cough	9	1	-	4	16	-	12	1
Scarlet Fever	9	6	3	11	3	5	7	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Para Typhoid	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	1	2	4	2	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Chicken Pox	82	5	19	9	-	5	50	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Shame Dysentery	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	83	133	19	17	25	6	144	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	2
Erysipelas	2	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebra Spinal Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Glandular Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	192	159	48	56	45	24	219	12

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS - Table of new cases and Mortality for the year.

Age Period.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total No. of cases on the Register 27	8	6	9	4				

The Scarlet Fever Cases were treated at the Letchworth Isolation Hospital.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Doctors, Nurses and School Teachers have all co-operated to make a success of the scheme and the children have been immunised chiefly at their respective school and a few at the Doctors' Surgeries. During the year 64 children were immunised under the age of 5.

TYPHUS.

A specially trained squad has been organised to combat this disease in case of emergency, which is part of a scheme for North Herts.

SCABIES.

No cases of Scabies were reported during the year.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

During the year children were examined at the various schools by the School Medical Officer. On the whole they were found in good physique, health and in most cases their clothing was good.

COMMUNAL FEEDING.

A large percentage of the school children have their mid-day meals regularly at two centres.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.

- (A) Medical. The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer holding a Diploma in Public Health. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Councils of Baldock and Letchworth.
- (B) Sanitary. The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, HOSPITAL FACILITIES ETC.

Samples of water, milk, etc., are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service Luton, The Public Health Emergency Hospital Hertford, and Rideal, Rideal and Scivier, London, for bacteriological examination.

INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRE.

Good work has been accomplished at this Centre and on the whole most of the children who attended were free from head lice etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, WATER SUPPLIES.

The Town is supplied by 2 water works pumping plants both electrically operated from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to all houses with the exception of approximately 50 houses which are situated on the outskirts of the district.

76 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination which gave the following results:-

59 satisfactory
17 unsatisfactory.

1 sample was taken for chemical examination which proved satisfactory.

For a period the Town's water supply at each Pumping Station was seriously contaminated at the source and the cause of this was attributed to surface contamination which generally occurred after heavy storms. Every effort was adopted to trace the cause of same without any success. Since this occurrence the Water has been heavily chlorinated and on a recommendation from the Ministry of Health, the Council is now considering a scheme of providing a plant for super-chlorination and dechlorination.

As this is the last report I shall make I am deeply concerned regarding your water supply. Contamination can come from other sources apart from surface contamination. I refer to fissures in the chalk sub-soil and I advise all drinking water should be boiled as it is difficult to really discover where this contamination comes from and possibly the real solution would be to sink a new borehole some distance away from the present sites and even then the ~~pumping~~ ^{purity} of the water supply cannot be guaranteed as polluted water can travel for some distance.

WELLS - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

4 samples of water were taken from wells for bacteriological examination, which were under suspicion of contamination and the results of the analyses showed all of them to be unsatisfactory.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Town is provided with a foul sewer 24" diameter leading to bacterial treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works and a 36" surface water sewer discharging into a water-course, both of which give satisfactory results.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

House refuse collection and the disposal of same and the cleansing of the Town is supervised and carried out by the Surveyor.

The refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping.

During the year, 29 tons were salvaged which realised £135.

MORTUARY.

A Mortuary was erected in 1936 and is fitted for holding post-mortem examinations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of inspections for all purposes, 962,
divided as follows:-

For defects under the Housing Acts	192
For defects under the Factories Act	58
For the prevention of Infectious Diseases	65
As to Sanitary conditions of Schools, Public Halls and Cinemas	16
Inspection under the Milk and Dairies Order	30
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, Vans, Food Stores etc.	58
For the prevention of nuisances	43
Inspection of Drainage etc.	48
Inspection of private wells and water samples	6
Inspection of the Towns Water Supply and Water Samples	84
Inspections re. Rats and Mice Destruction	35
Inspections re. Condemned Food	47
Inspections re. Shops Act 1934	74
Inspections re. Food and Drugs Act	46

Miscellaneous:-

Inspection re. Storage of Petroleum	21
Inspection re. Employment Agencies	4
Inspections re. Living and Social Conditions of Applicants for Council Houses	95
Inspections of Ambulance Depot	40

HOUSING.

House to house inspection was carried out at a
number of houses.

28 Council houses and 1 private house were erected
during the year

OVERCROWDING ACT. Under this Act which includes *sitting rooms,*
kitchens & living rooms ~~and~~ bedrooms, there were 18 cases
of overcrowding, but if taken only from a point of bedroom
sleeping accommodation there were 40 cases.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing
dwelling houses viz:-

Re. drainage	10
Sanitary improvements, including drainage	30
Other work for the abatement of nuisances	55

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

5 houses were treated for vermin which were
eradicated by spraying with a liquid vermin mixture
named "Zaldecide".

An inspection of furniture, bedding etc. was carried
out this being done by the local authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply (Special Designations Order) 1936.

13 samples of milk were taken for Bacteriological examination which gave the following results:-

<u>Description.</u>	<u>No. of Samples.</u>	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>
Tuberculin Tested	3	1	2
Pasteurised	8	7	1
Ungraded	2	1	1

Meat and other Foods.

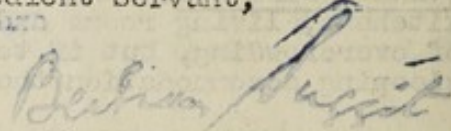
There are 5 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, which are kept up to a fair standard. Occasional slaughterings licensed by the Food Control Committee are carried out. Centralised slaughtering still takes place at the Letchworth Abattair from where the meat is transported by road and delivered separately to each butcher in Stevenage.

Foods suspected to be unfit for human consumption in shops, stores, etc., have to be certified by your Inspector before replacements can be made.

Bakehouses, manufacturers of preserved food and tradesmen's vans, etc., are inspected with a view to keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

In conclusion I would express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.