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Contributors

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year ended 31st December, 1951.

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June, 1952.

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

I beg to present the above report prepared in accordance with the directions
of Ministry of Health Circular 42/1951.

SECTION A.LOCAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	4,576
Residential Population - Mid 1951 (Registrar General's Estimate)			6,659
Number of inhabited houses	...		2,205
Rateable Value	...	...	£47,693
Sum represented by a penny rate			£181



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR
THE YEAR 1951.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Totals.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Local rate</u>	<u>Comparable rate for England & Wales.</u>
Legitimate	121	68	53		
Illegitimate	5	4	1		
All	126	72	54		

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .18.9 .15.5

DEATHS:

	<u>69</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	.10.4			.12.5	

STILLBIRTHS:

Legitimate	3	1	2		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
All	3	1	2		

Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births .23.. .23..

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:

Rate for All infants per 1,000 live births	.16..		.30..
Rate for Legitimate " " 1,000 legitimate births	...8.		
" " Illegitimate " " 1,000 illegitimate births	...200		

Actual number of such deaths (a) under 4 weeks and (b) total under 1 year

Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	1
All	-	2

Deaths from Puerperal causes	-
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	18
Deaths from Measles	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	-

Comment on Vital Statistics.

The estimated local population for mid 1951 shows an increase of 182, considerable immigration in the second half of the year not therefore being shown for that point in time. For the year 1951 the local death rate (10.4) was markedly lower than for most previous years and reflects the recent increase among the younger age groups of the population. The chief causes of death were: Heart and Other Circulatory Diseases 30, Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System 8, and Cancer (all sites) 18. Again no local death is recorded from Motor Vehicle Accidents.

The infant mortality (16) again compares favourably with the figure for England and Wales while the marked rise in the local birth rate follows increases among young families entering the New Town.

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1942 - 51:-

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Inf. Mort. Rate.</u>
1951	18.4	10.4	16
1950	14.0	10.5	-
1949	16.9	13.1	18
1948	16.2	10.4	29
1947	18.5	12.1	26
1946	16.9	12.7	9
1945	14.5	10.9	22
1944	16.8	12.1	54
1943	15.9	12.6	39
1942	11.1	9.9	55

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

No important change occurred during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The Town is supplied by 2 water pumping plants, both electrically operated, from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to 2161 houses (approximate population 6524), and by standpipes to 4 houses (approximate population 10), while 40 houses (approximate population 125) are supplied by private wells.

82 samples of water taken by your Sanitary Inspector were submitted to the Luton Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and 111 samples by Messrs. Rideal, Rideal & Sciver, London, for bacteriological examination.

Summary of samples submitted for bacteriological examination to the Luton Public Health Laboratory.

<u>Description.</u>	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Town Supply: Raw Water	35	32	3
Town Supply: Chlorinated Water	47	45	2

Summary of samples taken for bacteriological examination by Messrs. Rideal, Rideal & Sciver, London, on behalf of the Stevenage Development Corporation.

<u>Description.</u>	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Town Supply: Raw Water	28	22	6
Town Supply: Chlorinated Water	53	52	1
New Mains: Chlorinated Water	30	19	11

New Mains: The unsatisfactory samples of chlorinated water were taken from new mains not in service. All of the mains were subsequently re-chlorinated and produced satisfactory results before being put into service.

General Remarks. The geological position of Stevenage lies on the edge of a basin and therefore the water supply will always be liable to surface contamination. During recent years the water supply has intermittently been contaminated, and to counteract this, a plant was installed in April (1949) for the water to be super-chlorinated at the inlet to the reservoir with de-chlorination at the outlet.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections for all purposes 1069, divided as follows:-

Defects under the Housing Acts	395
Defects under the Factories Act	16
Prevention of Infectious Diseases including disinfection & disinfection	17
Sanitary conditions of school, public halls & cinemas & public houses	14
Inspections under the Milk & Dairies Order (including farms)	55
Inspection of slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, vans and food stores	111
Meat & Food inspections	8
Miscellaneous food inspections	29
Prevention of nuisances	49
Inspection of drainage etc.	11
Inspection of the Town's Water Supply & Water Samples	82
Inspection re Insect Infestation	6
Inspection under the Food & Drugs Act -	
(i) Ice Cream	60
(ii) Dried Egg	6
(iii) Restaurant Kitchens	74
(iv) Preparation Rooms	10
Inspections re smoke observations	6
Inspections re Shops Act	2
Inspections re Moveable Dwellings	69
Inspections re Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act	4
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Inspections re storage of petroleum	25
Inspections re living & social conditions of applicants for Council Houses	2
Inspections re Employment Agencies	2
Inspections re: Civil Defence	18

Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

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

Refuse Collection and Disposal of Salvage.

House refuse collection, 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 22 tons 3 cwt of materials were salvaged which realised £333.18.9.

Smoke Observations.

6 smoke observations were taken and during each period no nuisances occurred.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

17 premises are licensed for petroleum, carbide of calcium etc. and the regulations are satisfactorily complied with.

SECTION D.Housing.

Routine house-to-house inspections were carried out at 236 houses, viz. 109 private and 127 Council houses.

During the year 240 houses were erected, viz. 28 by the Stevenage Urban District Council and 212 by the Stevenage Development Corporation.

Overcrowding Act, 1936.

During the year no houses were found overcrowded.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing dwelling houses viz:-

Premises re-drained	2
Sanitary improvements including drainage	94
Other work for the abatement of nuisances	40

4 formal notices were served and the rest of the work was carried out by persuasive methods.

Vermineous Premises.

5 houses were treated for vermin which were eradicated by spraying with a liquid vermin mixture named Zaldecide while inspection of furniture bedding, etc., was carried out by the Local Council.

SECTION E.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT
OF THE YEAR, 1951, FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	6	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	47	35	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises).	4	4	-	-
TOTAL	69	45	-	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	6	-	4	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK.

Number of Outworkers 1. i.e. Wearing Apparel. (Sections 110 & 111).

Inspection and Supervision of Food etc.

MILK.

There are only 7 registered producers of milk in the district from which one is for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk and from the other 6 the milk is collected and pasteurised before distribution.

In addition there are 3 registered retailers from whom milk is produced outside the Stevenage district, 1 being licensed for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk, 2 for Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and Pasteurised Milk.

64 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 (Pasteurised)	6	6	-
Tuberculin Tested	20	17	3
Pasteurised	29	23	6

ICE-CREAM.

At present there are no manufacturers of ice-cream in Stevenage.

69 samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination from retailers, restaurants, etc., and the following summary shows the provisional grading:-

	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>
1951	60	26 (43.33%)	21 (35%)	8 (13.33%)	5 (8.33%)
1950	69	42 (60.87%)	17 (24.63%)	6 (8.69%)	4 (5.79%)
1949	43	13 (30.23%)	12 (27.90%)	8 (18.60%)	10 (23.25%)
1948	25	3 (12%)	12 (48%)	2 (8%)	8 (32%)

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 4 licensed private slaughterhouses (including one knackers' slaughterhouse) in the District which are kept up to a fair standard. Only occasional slaughterings licensed by the Local Food Officer are carried out, amounting in all to 6 pigs of which the carcasses were inspected.

Foods surrendered as unfit for human consumption in shops, stores, etc. have to be certified before replacements can be made. During the year the following amount of food was condemned as unsound and unfit:-

Meat	-	170 lbs
Ham	-	6½ lbs
Fish	-	91 lbs
Tinned Ham	-	182 lbs
Other Tinned Food	-	190 lbs
Sweets	-	44 lbs
Flour	-	190 lbs
Total		873½ lbs

Bakehouses, restaurant kitchens, preparation rooms, manufacturers of preserved food and tradesmens vans etc. are inspected with a view to keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

FOOD POISONING.

There was no record, either formal or informal, of any such occurrence in your district during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Total notifications of infectious disease (after correction) were for the year: measles 25, whooping cough 18, acute pneumonia 2, scarlet fever 2, and puerperal pyrexia 1.

Measles and whooping cough were each moderately prevalent in the second quarter. The incidence of both these diseases, together with the 2 notified cases of scarlet fever, fell mainly on children of infant school age.

Diphtheria. For yet another year no case of diphtheria was notified in the district. Despite its continued absence, from the district the offer of protection to infants by immunisation continued to be accepted by a large majority of parents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases & Deaths during the year 1951.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1								
1 - 5	1							
5 - 15				1				
15 - 25	1	4						
25 - 35						1		
35 - 45	1							
45 - 55	1							
55 - 65					1			
and over								
Totals	4	4	-	1	1	1	-	-
Deaths allocated by the Registrar- General after final transfers.					-	1	-	-

Notified new cases and deaths continue fairly low.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help from your chief officers and particularly would I acknowledge the invaluable help received from your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. Foden, who has been responsible for compiling the Sanitary sections of this Report.

Yours obedient Servant,

VICTOR R. WALKER,

District Medical Officer of Health.