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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1954

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.

District Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional Medical
Officer for North Herts. Area):

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.R.H.
Divisional Health Office,
12 Brand Street,
Hitchin.

(Telephone: Hitchin 1757)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

HORACE FODEN, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector: (Commenced 16th August, 1954.)

ROBERT V. LAMEY, Certs.S.I.E.J.B., M.S.I.A.,
Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate
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NORMAN M. PRIESTLAND, A.C.I.S., D.P.A.(Lond.) - Clerk of the Council.



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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 1/1954.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	....	....	5,895
Home Population - Mid 1954 (Registrar General's Estimate) - Constructed for revised boundary	....	....	14,100
Number of inhabited houses at 31.3.55.			5,406
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955)	....		£106,402
£m represented by a penny rate 1955-6			£506

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Totals M. F.</u>			<u>Stevenage Urban District</u>	<u>Comparable rate for England & Wales.</u>
Legitimate	399	203	196		
Illegitimate	11	5	6		
	---	---	---		
All	410	208	202		
	---	---	---		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				.29.1.	.15.2.

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Totals M. F.</u>				
Legitimate	13	9	4		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
	---	---	---		
All	13	9	4		
	---	---	---		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				.30.7.	.24.0.

DEATHS.

	<u>Totals M. F.</u>				
	26	52	44		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				.6.8.	.11.3.

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	.12.2.	.25.5.
Rate for Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	.10.0.	
Rate for Illegitimate " " " illegitimate births	.90.9.	

Actual number of such deaths:

(a) Under 4 weeks and (b) Under 1 year.

Legitimate	4	4
Illegitimate	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	.....	.....
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	.....	.....
Deaths from Measles	.....	.....
Deaths from Whooping Cough	.....	.....
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases		1

Comment on Vital Statistics.

With the live-births for the year now more than four times the local number of registered deaths Stevenage is seen to have become a very young town. At 6.8 the local death rate is far below the national rate of 11.3, reflecting the much younger than average age distribution of new population, and the Registrar General again supplies a comparability factor of 1.26 which produces a 'standardised' death rate of only 8.6.

The estimated mid-year population for 1954 of 14,100 is already out of date by reason of the rate of inward migration.

The local still-birth rate is seen to approximate to the national figure while the local infant mortality for the year (12.2) is half the record low rate for England and Wales (25.5).

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1945-54:-

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Inf. Mort. Rate</u>
1954	29.1	6.8	12
1953	24.8	7.7	29
1952	20.8	7.7	6
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

SECTION B.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Town is supplied with water from a temporary station operated at Whitehall which consists of a 36" diameter borehole 340 feet deep in the chalk, with a 120h.p submersible pump, 90 feet below the surface.

The water is conveyed through a 24" diameter rising main, some 4 miles in length from Whitehall to Stevenage Pinn Green Reservoir which has a capacity of 2 million gallons.

From this reservoir a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to 4,391 houses (approximate population 14,055) while 15 houses (approximate population 45) are supplied by private wells.

44 samples of water taken by your Sanitary Inspector were submitted to the Luton Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and 94 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>Highly satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Whitehall: Chlorinated water.	44	43	1

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>No. of samples</u>	<u>Highly satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Whitehall: Raw Water	26	26	
Whitehall: Chlorinated Water	43	41	2
Pinn Green Reservoir, (Chlorinated Water) Stevenage	25	25	

Chemical Analyses.

6 samples were taken and found correct.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections for all purposes 1088, divided as follows:-

Defects under the Housing Acts	400
Defects under the Factories Act	30
Prevention of Infectious Diseases including disinfection & Disinfestation	20
Sanitary conditions of schools, public halls, cinemas and public houses	17
Inspections under the Milk & Dairies Order (including farms)	35
Inspection of slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, vans and food stores	58
Meat & Food Inspections	46
Miscellaneous Food Inspections	15
Prevention of nuisances	53
Inspection of drainage etc. - houses	2
Inspection of Town's Water Supply & Water suppl.	44
Inspection of Private Wells & Water Samples	4
Inspection re Insect Infestation	5
(i) Ice-cream	44
(ii) Dried Egg	7
(iii) Restaurant kitchens	46
(iv) Preparation Rooms	49
Inspections re smoke observations	5
Inspections re Shops Act	6
Inspections re Moveable Dwellings	162
Inspections re Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act	6
Inspection - Suspected Food Poisoning	6

Miscellaneous.

Inspections re storage of petroleum	25
Inspections re Employment Agencies	2
National Assistance Act - Disposal of Dead Bodies	1

Sewage Disposal.

The Stevenage sewage disposal works at present deal with most of the foul water drainage, but with the growth of the New Town alternative means of disposal have had to be found and some of the newly developed areas already drain to the Ryemead Sewage Disposal works near Hertford and it is anticipated that all Sewage from the town will be treated at these works when their construction is finally completed.

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 controlled tipping.

Smoke Observations.

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

Petroleum Act, 1926.

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

SECTION C.

Housing.

Article 31. of the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| (1) | The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation. | 16. |
| (2) | The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. | 70. |
| (3) | The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:- | |
| | (a) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or:- | (a) 76 |
| | (b) The making of demolition or closing orders. | (b) 16 92. |
| (4) | The number of notices served requiring the execution of works. | 6. |
| (5) | The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices. | 6. |
| (6) | The number of demolition or closing orders made. | 16. |
| (7) | The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930 (z) | nil. |
| (8) | The number of houses demolished. | 1. |

Survey.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. A housing survey of the district is in progress.

Routine house-to-house inspections were carried out at 278 houses, viz. 202 private and 76 Council Houses.

During the year 1213 houses were erected, viz. 48 by the Stevenage Urban District Council and 1162 by the Stevenage Development Corporation and 3 by private enterprise.

Sanitary improvements were carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts, viz:-

Sanitary improvements	
including drainage	43
Other work for the	
abatement of nuisances	127

20 formal and 80 informal notices were served upon owners of property.

Vermineous Premises.

3 houses were treated for vermin and in each case satisfactory results were obtained.

SECTION D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR, 1954, 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 prosecuted	Occupiers
(1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	6	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62	37	4	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	16	2	-	-
TOTAL	84	45	4	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found.

	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)	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK.

Number of Outworkers 2. 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 the milk is collected and pasteurised before distribution.

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

31 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination which gave the following results:-

Description.	No. of samples	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	31	31	-

ICE-CREAM.

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

44 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>
1954	44	39 (88.63%)	5 (11.36%)	Nil	Nil
1953	60	43 (71.66%)	10 (16.66%)	3 (5%)	4 (6.66%)
1952	62	28 (45.16%)	27 (43.54%)	7 (11.29%)	-

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

With the resumption of private slaughtering in July of this year, 2 premises in the town were licensed by the Council for private slaughtering.

A complete system of Meat Inspection was immediately instituted and every carcase is thoroughly inspected at the time of slaughter. Slaughtering often takes place outside normal office hours and in order to maintain this complete inspection it has been necessary for some overtime to be worked.

From 3rd July until 31st December 1954, 1,244 animals were slaughtered and inspected in the private slaughterhouses and as a result of this inspection 2,294 lbs (1 ton, 1 qrtr, 26 lbs.) of meat and offal were condemned as being unfit for human consumption. This condemned meat was disposed of in accordance with the requirements of Circular MF21/53.

The following table shows details of animals inspected and meat condemned for the six-monthly period ending 31st December 1954.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed.	278	3	880	83
Number Inspected.	278	3	880	83
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned for causes other than tuberculosis.	56	-	43	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	20.14	-	4.88	7.22
Whole carcasses condemned for tuberculosis.	2	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was affected with tuberculosis.	25	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	9.71	-	-	1.20

Unsound Food.

In addition to Meat condemned at the private slaughterhouses, the undermentioned foods have also been condemned during the year.

Meat (Imported)	101 lbs
Fish	70 lbs
Tinned Meat	213 lbs
Other tinned food	148½ lbs
	<u>532½ lbs</u>

SECTION E.

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

Total notifications of infectious disease during the year (after correction) were:-

Scarlet Fever	27
Measles	13
Whooping Cough	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Acute pneumonia	1
and Food Poisoning	1.

Scarlet Fever incidence was most prevalent in the early summer, only one case being over 10 years, with 6 under school age. No one particular school in the district was specially affected but steps were taken to exclude from any infant schools any proved carriers, sometimes nasal. Cases were reported of uniformly mild severity.

Measles and Whooping Cough are both shown of remarkably infrequent incidence during the year.

The one case of notified Food Poisoning was traced to a source outside the district.

Diphtheria was again absent from the district for yet another year. Despite its long continued absence the acceptance by parents of offered protection of infants by immunisation continues fairly good.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases & deaths during the year 1954.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2(1)	6(2)	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	11(11)	17(13)	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	9(5)	1(1)	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	2(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	24(17)	28(19)	-	1	-	1	-	-
Deaths allocated by the Registrar - General after final transfers					-	-	-	-

Foot note: Figures of new cases include inward transfers from other areas, the numbers of such being shown additionally in brackets.

New notifications in the expanding local population show this year some increase to 17 (7 male and 10 female) from the figure of 13 (9 male and 4 female) in 1953. Of new cases 5 (2 male and 3 female) were under 25 years; one new case of 'non-respiratory' tuberculosis is included in the totals.

The number of inward transfers to the local register is of interest, indicating that selection of New Town residence is frequently influenced by a search for a healthier environment for a notified adult case in a family. Such cases have usually passed the stage of active treatment and reached the classification "quiescent".

No local death from tuberculosis is recorded by the Registrar General after final transfers.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help from your chief officers and particularly would I acknowledge the most valuable 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.

June, 1955.