[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Royal Tunbridge Wells Borough.

Contributors

Tunbridge Wells (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1941

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/gzdt9j7v

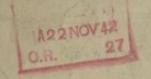
License and attribution

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.





BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS. -:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:

citation, ander Device to Care, increased in the care, of the care ANNUAL REPORT

Deductions alternated page of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1941.

a bus danes and proper to a constant of the co

Public Health Offices, Town Hall, Punbridge Wells. 1 8 0 9 8 16th November, 1942 . To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to submit a report upon the Health and the sanitary environment of the inhabitants of the Borough in 1941. In accordance with directions laid down in Circular 2604 issued by the Ministry of Health in March, 1942, full data have been prepared as usual for preservation. Population figures and all tables based upon these are not published at this juncture. The following points are note-worthy during the year under review. Ante-Natal Clinics, under Dr. Morison's care, increased in popularity and in usefulness. During the latter part of the year it became necessary to hold the Clinics on two afternoons weekly, instead of one. The Immunisation of children against Diphtheria progressed steadily, so that by the end of the year thirty per cent of all young persons in the Borough, from birth to fifteen years, were protected. This percentage continues to increase. The importance of this protection cannot be over estimated. Much has been done, but more remains to be done. Eighty to one hundred per cent of our young people must be protected before communal safety is reached in time of epidemics. The response of parents owes nothing to local apprehension, as Diphtheria affected only seventeen persons in 1941, and no case proved fatal. The response is gratifying as indicating intelligent appreciation of the advantages of protection against this treacherous disease, which causes so much nation-wide havoc amongst young people. Amongst infectious diseases, Measles and Whooping Cough, and a small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in a Nursery Institution occurred. There were no fatalities, save from whooping Cough with its complication Pneumonia, of which four children died. Measles was widespread, but occurred in the summer months when lung complications are less likely to occur. I take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to the Chairmen and Members of the Committees with which I have been associated in my work, for their encouragement and assistance; and to my loyal and hard-working staff I tender my warmest thanks for their help. I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant. F.C.LINCON. Medical Officer of Health. 4 7 9 9 - 2 -

STATISTICS.

STATIST	163.			
General Statistics:				
Area in acres	1.20		6,034	
Mean annual temperature, 1941			48.4	°F.
Total Rainfall, 1941			29.98 inc	hes.
Total Bright Sunshine, 1941		1,556 hou	rs 42 min	utes.
Extracts from Vital Statistics for th	e Year:			
	Total:	Males:	Females	<u>:</u>
Live Births (Legitimate (Illegitimate	450 409 41	238 220 18	212 189 23	
Total including Temporary War Residents	465	239	226	
Stillbirths	7	5	2	
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of total (1	ive and s	till) bir	ths - 15.	3
Deaths	666	277	389	
Deaths from puerperal causes:-	Rat Tot	e per 1,00 al Births	00	
Puerperal Sepsis 0 Other puerperal causes. 1		0.0		
Total 1		2.4		
Death Rate of Infants under one year All infants per 1,000 live birth Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate infants per 1,000 :	hs gitimate	live birth	ns	55.6 56.2 48.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) Deaths from Measles (all ages) Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Deaths from Diarrhoea etc., (under 2		age)	:::	106 0 4 3
INFANT MORPALI	fY, 1941.	plin arte		
Nett deaths from stated causes at	various a	ges under	1 year of	age:
Cause of death 1 1-2 2-3 3-4 week. w'ks w'ks w'ks				Total under 1 year
Enteritis Congenital Deb- ility & Mal- formations, in-	- 1	1		2
cluding Prema- ture Birth 9 - 1 -	10 1	U 1 4 1 1 1 1		11
Injury at Birth	-best 2	7 (02) 5 (0	- 00-	Long and
Other Defined Diseases 5	5 3	1	- 1	10

TOTALS ... 14 - 1 - 15 5 2 - 1 23

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1941.

	Causes of death:		Males:	Females:
	Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers			1 #
	Cerebro-spinal favor		-	1
	Whooping Cough		2	2
	Diphtheria		-	-
	Tuberculosis of respiratory system		10	2
	Other forms of tuberculosis		-	5
	Syphilitic diseases		4	-
	Influenza		5	14
	Measles Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis		DIST.	-
	Acute inf: encephalitis	:::		ī
	Cancer of b:cav: a oesoph: (H), uterus (F)		9	7
	Cancer of stomach and duodenum		5	7
	Cancer of breast		- "	14
	Cancer of all other sites		29	35
	Diabetes		27	6
	Intra-cran: vasc: lesions		69	43 104
	Other diseases of circulatory system	111	12	8
	Bronchitis		25	11
	Pneumonia		14	23
	Other Respiratory Diseases		-	6
	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum		5	a Linder
	Diarrho a under 2 years		3	monto-in.
	Appendicitis Other digestive diseases		9	12
	Nephritis		3	11
	Puerperal & post-abort: sepsis		-	-
30.	Other maternal causes		-	1
	Premature birth		6	5
32.	Cong-nital malformations, birth injuries,			-
77	infantile diseases		2	5 3
	Road traffic accidents		6	-
	Other violent causes		5	11
	All other causes		26	53
		-	-	
	POTAL - ALL CAUSE	S -	277	389

m An Inward Transfer.

METEOROLOGICAL NOIBS: Records have been fully kept, but are not published with this Report. 1556 hours 42 minutes of bright sunshine were recorded, being slightly below the 27 years' average. Rainfall - 29.98 inches - was slightly below the average.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF: Miss Joan Watson was appointed to the Clerical Staff to replace Dennis A. Barmby, who entered H.M.Forces on the 6th November, 1941. Mr. George H. Woodlands, Pemporary Assistant Sanitary Inspector resigned his appointment on the 27th December, 1941.

LABORATORY FACILITIES: The services of the Public Health Laboratory were made full use of during 1941, 862 specimens being examined as compared with 849 in 1940. In addition to these, 329 specimens were sent to the County Laboratories for various examinations.

22 samples of milk were forwarded for bacteriological test at the County Laboratories under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936; those which failed to satisfy the prescribed standard were investigated, and tests repeated.

Twelve samples of water were collected from the springs, reservoirs and mains supplying the Borough with drinking water, and sent to the County Laboratories for bacteriological analysis. Chlorination has kept the water supply uniformly pure, as these tests have shown. Chlorination of the main supply at Pembury continued throughout the year, and at Saint's Hill from 10th January, 1941 onwards.

BOROUGH FEVER HOSPITAL: The number of patients admitted to the Hospital during 1941 was 141, as compared with 192 in 1940, (102 of these patients were from the Borough itself, 16 from Southborough, 18 from East Sussex and 5 from various districts). Staff, both nursing and domestic, was in short supply, but those who remained showed exceptional adaptability in turning their hands to all duties.

THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND DISTRICT MATERNITY HOME: 267 confinements took place in the Home during 1941. Of these, 109 mothers were residents of Tunbridge Wells: this represents 24 per cent of the total Tunbridge Wells births for the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Infant Welfare Centre at 11, Crescent Road, was transferred on the 22nd March, 1941, to the First Floor of Nos. 9 and 10, Calverley Torrace, Tunbridge Wells, which had been vacated by the removal of the Public Health Offices to the New Town Hall. The Branch Centre, held in the Congregational Church, Rusthall High Street, continued in use throughout the year. The total number of attendances at the Centres during 1941 was 11,836, and medical consultations numbered 3,725 as compared with 3,723 in 1940.

	Attendances at Tunbridge Wells & Rusthall Centres:	Consultations with Medical Staff:
Infants under one year	. 3,182	1,823
Children 1 - 5 years	. 3,163	1,902
Mothers (excluding those attending Ante-Natal & Post-Natal Clinic)	. 5,491	Seel States and bires
TOTALS	. 11,836.	3,725

There was a considerable increase at Dr. Morison's Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic:-

	Primips:	Multips:	Total:	
Individual Expectant Mothers.	. 84	131	215.	
Consultations	. 363	596	959.	

In addition to the above, 21 attendances for post-natal examinations were made by 15 mothers.

Dental Treatment.

116 children made 141 attendances, and 132 mothers made 177 attendances to receive the following dental treatment:-

Teeth extracted - Permanent 182, Temporary 199.
Teeth filled - " 98, " 80.
Other operations- " 36, " 9.
Administrations
of General
Anaesthetics - 60.

Grants totalling £11.10.0d., towards the cost of dentures for expectant and nursing mothers were made in five cases during the year.

Health Visiting.

The following home visits were paid by the Nursing Staff during the year:-

(a)	To expectant mothers			••	First Total	Visits Visits	228 521.
(b)	To Infants under 1 year	of age				Visits Visits	
(c)	To Children between the	ages of	1 and 5	yrs.	Total	Visits	2951.
(d)	Where Infants have died				Total	Visits	13.
(e)	Found no one at home						657.

Assistance in Necessitous Cases:

Food and Drugs (dried milks, cod liver oil and malt etc.) to the value of £20. 16s. ld., were issued free of cost.

Child Life Protection:

On December 31st, 1941, there were within the Borough 156 children under the care of 32 registered foster mothers, as compared with 106 children boarded-out with 30 foster mothers at the end of 1940. (Note: These figures include St. Christopher's Nursery College with 100 - 120 children). 230 visits of inspection were paid during the year.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES: 12 Homes with 117 beds were registered at the commencement of the year, as compared with 14 Homes providing 152 beds at the end of 1941. All were visited by me during the year, the new ones receiving special attention.

WATER SUPPLY: This has been fully described in previous reports. No alterations in arrangements for supply were made.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE: There were no alterations during the year under review.

SWINMING BATHS: (a) Indoor. In constant use; the chlorinating plant continued to give satisfactory results.

(b) Outdoor. Tests showed insufficient chlorination, - remedied on representation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA - EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR, MR. H. T. TAYLOR:

"The following Table gives a general summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Houses inspected under the Housing Act	99.
Premises inspected other than those under Housing Act	262.
Houses visited re Dustbins	23.
Complaints investigated	109.
Visits to Slaughterhouses	1356.
" other food premises (excluding bakehouses, etc	300.
II II Delechannes	68.
" Kitchens	26.
0 0 5 4 4	143.
	93.
	7.
U U	200.
Medianical factories	220.
Woll-mechanical factories	
workpraces (offices ecc.)	104.
Common Louging houses	3.
Stables	5.
Streams	10.
re keeping of animals	32.
Rat and sice intestation	129.
Shops act	19.
Overgrowding	31.
Smoke Mulsances	72.
" verminous nouses	14.
" to Air Raid Shelters	42.
Interviews respecting properties	202.
Secondary visits re works in progress and to be executed	1865.
Visits respecting cases of infectious disease	50.
Rooms disinfected by Sanitary Inspectors	114.
Loads of bedding disinfected	21.
Other visits	489.
Smoke test to drains - houses	22.
Water test to drains - times applied	35.
Chomical Tost to drains	10.

Continued -

00	oncinued -	
FO DO FO SE SE	nformal notices served - 103, respecting 169 houses. ormal notices complied with - 14. ofects remedied	9206. 110. 6. notice arded. s of 1th to 10/ ions of nt book ion to
	The state of the s	
	TABLE NO. 2. HOUSING.	0.00000
ir	The following information is required by the Minister of Hean connection with the Housing Act and overcrowding:-	lth
1.	. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or	
	Housing Acts)	361.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2760.
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	99. 762.
	so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
	(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the proceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	299.
2.		
	formal notices:- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	219.
3.	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the	
	Housing Act, 1936. (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4.
	(2) Number repaired by owner after formal notice	4.

•	(b) Proc	edings under Public Health Acts:	
		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
	(2) R	emedied by owners	2
		endings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing 1936:	
		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
		Mumber of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
	(d) No ac	tion was taken under Section 12 of the Act.	
4.	Housing A	Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.	
	((i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (ii) Number of families dwelling therein	4 4
	(1	iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	31
	(b) Numbe	er of new cases of overcrowding reported during the	1
	(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	1 7
	TAE	BLE No.3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF F	00D.
	Milk Supr	oly.	
	Licence	s in force at the end of the year:-	
		ers' Licences - Tuberculin Pested Wilk	2
		- Pasteurised Milk	1
	Paste	euriser's Licences	16
	Milmoer	of Dairy Farms in the Borough	10
	- 11	Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
		" " Licensed for production of Accredited Milk	3
	11	" Visits to Cowsheds	93 143
	Meat and	Other Foods:	
	Number	of Slaughterhouses in the Borough	4
	11	" Government Controlled Slaughterhouses	3
	11	" visits to Slaughterhouses " visits to other food premises (excluding	1356
		bakehouses) home killed carcases examined at time of slaughter	300
		nome killed carcases examined at time of stadgment	
	MOOG 00	ondemned and destroyed - 44 tons. 0 cwts. 2 q rs. 162	IDS.

Datasa	-00	Dood	nana	· mm · A ·
Details	OI	POOG	Cond	amned:-

	Tons	.cwts.	arg.	lbs.	Tons.	cwts.g	129.7	hs.	
Beef - home killed	24.	12.		12.		12.		14.	**
Beef Offals "	10.	16.	1.	42	10.	11.	3.	42	
Pork - home killed.	1.		0.		-	11.			H
	1.	1.	2.		1.			25.	
Pigs heads "Ox Livers "	3.	9.	2.		1.		1.	100000	
and the same of th	٥.	12.		27.	7.				H
Mutton "	1 002					5.		-	1
Other Offals "	-	16.		6.	10 7	5.	0.	8.	H
Imported Beef	-	5.		5.	. HO AND				
Pressed Beef and Brawn	-	1.	3.						
Bacon.	-	-	3.	10.					
Sausages and sausage meat	-	1.		17.	PETER			-	
Fish.	-	7.		15.	H A	11 tub	ercu	lous	3 .
Chickens.	7.0	3.	1.	27.					
Corned Beef.	-	-	2.						
Tomatoes.	-	5.	2.	0.					
Cheese.	-	-	-	6.					
Fish Cakes. (Number)	639								
Irish Ducks. "	11								
Pigeons. "	36								
	670								
Meat Pasties. "	48								
	113								
" " Fruit.	68								
" " Fish.	23								
	106								
The same of	and the same of th								

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

_GUES ROLLES MANAGER POLICE	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	2055	1303	9	11813	4026
Number inspected	2055	1303	9	11813	4026
All diseases except Tubercu- losis: Whole carcases condemned.	4	- 11	-	33	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	. 201	151	1	239	138
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	9.97	11.58	11.11	2.30	3.57
Tuberculosis Only:	3 40.80303		- TEST	-01 II	
Whole carcases condemned.	16	82	1	NACTORIAL STATE	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2 70	344	-	-	255
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.91	32.69	11.11	-	6.61.
	- 10 -		1		

TABLE NO. 4.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The following table gives the number and description of the samples analysed by the Public Analyst. All the samples were submitted by me as Sampling Officer.

Nature of Article.	Exam:	Examined.		Adulta Formal.	rated Inf.	Remarks.	
Hilk	43	-	43	3	-	3	2 Deficient in fat - 3 and 12½ per cent; 1
							contained 3 per cent. extraneous water. All 3 cautioned.
Various Articles.	-	67	67.	- "	3	3	l Deficient in White Precipitate. l Deficient in Armonia.
TOTALS.	43	67	110	3	3	6	l Doficient in Iodine."

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1195 cases of infectious disease were notified during 1941, compared with 177 in 1940.

Outbreaks of Measles (743), and Whooping Cough (285), accounted for over a thousand of the notifications. A mild type of Dysentery, due to the Sonne Bacillus occurred in a Children's Home receiving mainly London Children. No deaths occurred from the Sonne Dysentery outbreak, nor from Measles; but four children died of Whooping Cough and Pneumonia. The Measles outbreak fortunately occurred in the Summer months, when lung complications are loss likely to follow.

7
0
1
CO
E
00
EASES.
100
DIS
H
A
00
D
SUO
H
H
BUTTO
EA
E
121
INFE
田
H
TABLE
M
NOTIFI
124
H
H
0
12
田
0
CO
H
03
3
CASES
-
SIO
0
0
됐
124
AGES ELC.
02
100
2
-4

Deaths (inhab-itants only).	1 1 1 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Cases Admit- ted to Hospi- tal.	58 17 17 17 17 17 17
65 and over	וווווו ו שמוו
45- 65 yrs	2172 1 271111 1
35- 45 yrs	1110 4 101114 1
20- 35 yrs	2 N H N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N
15- 20 yrs	N411 1 HE0141 1
10- 15 yrs	&⊔14 1 15 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
10 yrs	19 19 19 19 19 19 19
4-5 yrs	177 - 177 - 1
3-4 yrs	WIIW I 1007 IV I
2-3 yrs	0W14 1 1004 1W1 1
1-2 yrs	4419 1 1883101 1
Under 1 year.	1114 1 156141 4
fied fes).	9000 e 900900 g
Tota Case Noti (All	61 111 40 62 745 72 12 12 12 12
Disease.	Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria. Erysipelas. Pheumonia. Puerperal Pyrexia. Gerebro Spinal Fever. Measles. Whooping Cough. Enterica Group. Sonne Dysentery. Relapsing Fever. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
	Total Cases Under 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5- 10- 15- 20- 35- 45- 65 Admit- Notified I yrs

Figures in brackets (Column 2) indicate the number occurring amongst outside cases in institutions in the Borough. NOTE:

* Only certain forms of Pneumonia are notifiable, but this figure includes deaths from all forms.

DIRTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1941.

During 1941 Immunisation and Schick Test Clinics were held at the Corporation Clinic Centre. The following Table is a synopsis of the work carried out at the Clinics:-

	Children under 5 years.	Children over 5 years.	Totals.
Proliminary Schick Tost: Negativo:	1 2	33 328	34 330
Immunising Injections: lst Injection 2nd Injection 3rd Injection 4th Injection (after Positive Final	394 390 328	1134 1104 247	1528 1494 575
Schick Test)	3	35	38
Nogative:	90 4	398 30	488 34
Number of children who received full course of injections and had negative final Schick Test during year	90	398	488
Number of children who received full course of injections during the year	381	1143	1524
Number of attendances during 1941	1311	4110	5421
Number of individual children attending during 1941	388 (72)	618 (217)	1006 (289)
Percentage of child population completely immunised at the end of 1941	26%	31%	29%

Comparative figures for 1940.

TUBERCULOSIS 1941.

The number of persons whose names were on the Register of Cases at the end of 1941 was 189 (116 Pulmonary and 73 Non-Pulmonary), compared with 160 at the end of the previous year.

	N-w Cases.				Deaths.			
A ge Periods.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary Male. Female.		Pulmonary Male Female:		Non-Pulmonary. Male. Female.	
0-1 1-5 5-10 10-15	7 02 1	1	- 3	1 2 2	0 -	-	1 1 1	ī -
15-20 20-25 25-35 35-45	156	2 3 2	-	1	1			1
45-55 55-65 65 and upwards	5 1 2	3	1	-	5 2			
TOTALS	22	13	5	6	10	2	12000	2

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Five-yearly Period.	No.of Pulmonary Deaths.	Pulmonary Death Rate.	No.of non- Pulmonary Deaths.	Total Deaths.	Tubercu- losis Death Rate.
1891-1895 1896-1900 1901-1905 1906-1910 1911-1915 1916-1920 1921-1925 1926-1930 1931-1935 1936-1940	174 131 167 154 133 144 112 106 66 61 12	1.21 0.86 0.98 0.87 0.75 0.87 0.65 0.61 0.38	103 91 61 48 46 64 32 21 19 13	277 222 228 202 179 208 144 127 85 74	1.93 1.45 1.34 1.13 1.00 1.27 0.84 6.73 0.49

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES: During the year under review, Chicken-Fox was prevalent in the early months. Other minor infections were small in amount.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION: 720 disinfectant baths were given to 182 persons during the year: this was due to an increase in Scabies; personal clothing was disinfected in the steam sack disinfector at the Cleansing Centre.

There is need for a large steam disinfector of Washington-Lyon or similar type, so that blankets, sheets, and especially mattresses may be adequately dealt with. Spraying these with "bacterol" chemical disinfectant is carried out in a cellar fitted up for the purpose. Bulk disinfection when needed is carried out in a Washington-Lyon Disinfector at Dislingbury Smallpox Hospital, some miles from the Town.

Disinfection of rocms, after the occurrence of infectious cases, was carried out on 120 occasions.