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Contributors

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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1960

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS 1960

Medical Officer of Health and Divisional M.O.
for North Herts area:

V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Officer:

R. V. LAMEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

A. E. Flintoff, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

P. Hodges, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Offices:

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, 12 Brand Street, Hitchin.

Tel: 3757.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

10 High Street, Stevenage.

Tel: 436-7-8.

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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1960

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

I present the above report prepared in accordance with the
directions of Ministry of Health Circular 1/61.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,895
Home Population - Mid 1960 (Registrar General's Estimate)	38,430
Number of habitable houses at 31.12.60 ...	12,295
Rateable Value at 31.12.60	£686,109
Estimated product of a Penny Rate (1960/61)	£2,820

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR
THE YEAR 1960

	<u>STEVENAGE</u> <u>URBAN</u> <u>DISTRICT</u>			<u>Comparable</u> <u>Rate for</u> <u>England &</u> <u>Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>				
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	1,089	548	541	
Illegitimate	35	19	16	
	<u>1,124</u>	<u>567</u>	<u>557</u>	
Rate per 1,000 population	29.2	17.1		
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	3.1%			

STEVENAGE
URBAN
DISTRICT

Comparable
Rate for
England &
Wales

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	21	10	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	21	10	11

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births ... 18.3 19.7

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1,145	577	568

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
185	92	93

Rate per 1,000 population ... 4.8 11.5

INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 week	17	11	6
At 1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-
At 4 - 52 weeks	8	4	4
	25	15	10

	STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rate for England & Wales
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000		
total live births	22.2	21.7
Legitimate infant deaths per		
1,000 legitimate live births ...	21.1	
Illegitimate infant deaths per		
1,000 illegitimate live births ...	57.1	
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under</u>		
4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	15.1	15.6
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>		
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000		
total live births)	15.1	
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths</u>		
and deaths under 1 week combined		
per 1,000 total live and still		
births)	33.2	
<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>		
Number of deaths	None	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still		
births	0.0	0.39

Comment on Vital Statistics

With the total of live births for the year again five times the local figure of registered deaths Stevenage continues to be a very young town. At 4.8 the local death rate is still far below the National figure of 11.5, continuing to reflect the younger than average age distribution of new population; the Comparability Factor of 2.30 supplied by the Registrar General produces a 'standardised' death rate of 11.0.

The estimated mid-year population for 1960 of 38,430 (an annual increase of 4,440) is after 11 months out of date through continued inward migration.

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) number 43, of which 10 (all males) were from cancer of the lung and bronchus. From motor vehicle accidents deaths this year number only one, and all other accidents 2.

Again no single death is recorded from any form of infective or parasitic disease, nor from any form of tuberculosis.

The continued local absence of any food poisoning is remarkable. Contributory factors must be the local enforcement of good standards of hygiene in premises engaged in the preparation of food and the increased availability of trade and domestic refrigerated food storage.

The local stillbirth and infant mortality figures again indicate a favourable local family environment.

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1951 - 1960:-

		<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mort. Rate</u>
1960	...	29.2	4.8	22.2
1959	...	29.2	5.0	15.8
1958	...	30.1	5.2	13.2
1957	...	31.1	5.3	18.4
1956	...	30.8	5.4	17.7
1955	...	28.4	6.0	11.6
1954	...	29.1	6.8	12
1953	...	24.8	7.7	29
1952	...	20.8	7.7	6
1951	...	18.4	10.4	16

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The local sanitary authority services were unchanged during the year, but in the latter months the County Health Authority completed and commenced operation of the Principal Health Centre at Southgate, providing centralised Child Health and School services (medical, dental and psychological).

SECTIONS C to E

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA & INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious & Other Diseases

For the year 1960 notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 259, Whooping cough 43, Scarlet fever 34, Dysentery 13, Acute pneumonia 1 and Infective hepatitis 1.

Measles had a moderate prevalence in the second quarter and Whooping cough a mild prevalence in the second and third quarters.

Scarlet fever had a mild prevalence mainly in the first and fourth quarters, scattered over most of the town. Few cases were over infant school age and more than one third under 5 years, suggesting any spread of infection was mainly outside of school.

Dysentery had an incidence higher in the first quarter (9 cases out of 14) and in certain schools special hygiene precautions were successfully taken against possible spread within infant classes.

There was no single notification either of Anterior Poliomyelitis, Enteric illness or of Food Poisoning.

IMMUNISATION

The measures against whooping cough and diphtheria are increasingly accepted by parents, particularly since children can now have the combined triple vaccine (including tetanus toxoid). There has also been a steady increase in the acceptance of vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis among at least the younger of the priority age groups. Such facilities continue available equally from welfare centres and medical practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1960

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1 (3)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2 (5)	2 (4)	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	2 (14)	2 (9)	1	2	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	5 (4)	- (2)	-	- (2)	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1 (4)	3 (2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	12(30)*	9(18)*	1	2 (2)*	-	-	-	-

* Figures in brackets indicate inward transfers.

Comment: New notifications of respiratory cases are seen to number 21 and non-respiratory cases 3, against identical figures of 21 and 3 for the year 1959. For a young local population there is seen a higher incidence in persons over 35 years, particularly males. No local death from any form of tuberculosis was recorded during this year.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help during the year from your chief officers; particularly I would acknowledge the most valuable assistance from your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. V. Lamey, who is responsible for the compilation of the Sanitary sections of this report.

Your obedient Servant,

V. R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.

October 1961.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help during the year from your Chief Officer; particularly I would acknowledge the most valuable assistance from your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. V. Lacey, who is responsible for the completion of the Sanitary sections of this report.

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER.

Sanitary Medical Officer of Health.

October 1907.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1960

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

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending
31st December, 1960.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

i) Water Supply

The water supply, formerly vested in the Stevenage Development Corporation, was, on the 1st April, 1960, taken over by the Lee Valley Water Company.

The water supply is regularly sampled by your officers, and during the year, I submitted 180 samples to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton for bacteriological examination - 177 samples proved satisfactory and 3 proved unsatisfactory; the unsatisfactory samples were all taken from one address and, upon investigation, a defective water softener was found, and following the repair of this softener, water samples again proved satisfactory. 13 chemical samples taken by the Water Authority also proved satisfactory.

An adequate supply of water throughout the area is being maintained.

ii) Sewage Disposal

All main foul water drainage from the town is now dealt with at the Ryemead Sewage Works at Hertford. Few properties remain connected to cesspools or septic tank installations, and these will further decrease as extensions of the main sewerage systems take place.

iii) Refuse Collection

The Public Cleansing Services are controlled by the Council's Surveyor. No tipping is carried out in the town; all refuse is transported some 11 miles away to a site at Holwell, near Hitchin.

The Council operates a Waste Paper and Trade Refuse Collection Service.

iv) Rodent Control

Complaints of rat and mice infestations show an increase of approximately 64% on 1959, and the Rodent Operator is now employed full-time in the department. This increase is largely due to the continuing growth of the town.

The infestations treated occurred generally, rather than in any specific areas.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out during the year are as follows:-

Total inspections	...	...	2,450.
No. of infested properties found			494.
No. of infested properties treated			494.
Complaints received	...	...	446.

The infestations were classified as follows:-

Major infestation - Rats	...	61.
Minor infestation - Rats	...	395.
Minor infestation - Mice	...	38.

v) Open Air Market

A market with 54 stalls was opened by the Council in the New Town Centre on the 16th October, 1959. No open food, other than fruit or vegetables, is permitted to be sold from the stalls;

fish, shell fish, ice cream and refreshments may be obtained from three mobile shops, each of which comply with the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Hot and cold water supplies, together with sinks, are provided for the washing of stallholders' equipment, and a new public convenience, with hot and cold washing facilities and hand drying equipment, is also provided for stallholders.

The market is administered by the Public Health Department.

vi) Knackers Yard

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the town. This is of model design and is maintained in a satisfactory condition. The premises are regularly inspected.

vii) Petroleum Installations

46 licences for the storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Mixtures have been issued during the year. Three new petroleum stores and one underground installation have been constructed in an approved manner, and air pressure tests on tanks and fuel lines have proved satisfactory.

viii)

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA
ANALYSIS OF VISITS

Disinfestation	...	165
Drainage defects	...	200
Factories including canteens	...	98
Food Premises	...	805
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	...	120
Knackers Yard	...	14
Moveable Dwellings	...	147
Mobile Vans	...	157
Public Health & Housing Act Inspections (including revisits)	...	1187
School kitchens	...	23
Slaughterhouses	...	1056
Miscellaneous visits	...	1194

SECTION E

i) Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises

New shops of all descriptions continue to open as the town expands and, during the year, 31 new food premises opened in the main and neighbourhood shopping centres, bringing the total number of food premises for the district as a whole to 237.

In order to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, negotiations take place with the owners of all new food premises at the time application is made for Planning and Byelaw approval, thus, from the outset, ensuring that the design and layout of the premises will comply with the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Self-service shops and Supermarkets continue to be prominent and prove popular with the shopping public. Open food is wrapped and ample refrigerated cabinets, both for display and storage, are provided. The number of complaints relating to unsound food are few.

Details of the food trades, including those contained in the supermarkets, are as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	8
Bakers	...	17
Butchers	...	27
Cafes	...	14
Canteens	...	49
Confectioners	...	24
Fishmongers	...	9
Greengrocers	...	27
Grocers	...	39
Guest Houses	...	6
Hotels	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	33

ii) Registration of Food Premises

(a) Food & Drugs Act, 1955

Premises registered under Section 16 of this Act are as follows:-

Sale of Ice Cream	...	53
Sale of Preserved Food etc.	...	31

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54

There are no registered dairies within the town. Licences have been granted to 16 dealers and 2 distributors, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

Regular visits were made to premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and the preparation or manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved food intended for sale. Those premises selling Ice Cream, but excluded from registration under the Food and Drugs Act, were also inspected.

iv) Disposal of Condemned Food

During the year, apart from meat condemned at the private slaughterhouses, 19-cwt. 2-qrs. 25-lbs. 5-ozs. of foodstuffs were condemned at various food premises in the town. All condemned food is stained with a naphthalene dye and removed from the food shops by the Council's Refuse Collection Service; strict control is exercised over its disposal.

v) Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

A regular check is made of the many Ice Cream vendors operating within the town. There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in Stevenage.

vi) Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:-

		<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Milk	...	174	--
Water	...	177	3
Ice Cream	...	231	--

vii) Slaughterhouses and Meat InspectionMEAT INSPECTIONCarcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horse
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	1286	268	13,769	2,728	Nil
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	1286	268	13,769	2,728	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI</u> <u>Whole carcasses condemned</u>	1	1	2	2	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	311	3	1,195	1,029	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	24.26	1.49	8.69	37.79	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u> <u>Whole carcasses condemned</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	65	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.31	Nil	Nil	2.42	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

vii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection (Cont'd.)

There is now only one private Slaughterhouse in the town, which is being re-constructed and enlarged, in accordance with plans approved by the Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Appointed Day for completion of these works being the 1st July, 1961. There are 16 persons licensed by the Council to act as Slaughtermen.

A considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered again occurred in 1960, when 18,051 animals were slaughtered, as against 15,648 in 1959 and 7,043 in 1958. There has also been a steep increase in the number of cattle slaughtered - 1,286 in 1960, as against 606 in 1959.

During the year, 3-tons 18-cwts. 25-lbs. of meat and offal were condemned at the Slaughterhouse. Condemned meat is stained and then collected by an approved processor, in accordance with the provisions of the Meat (Staining and Sterilising) Regulations, 1960.

The Slaughterhouse in Stevenage, whilst of modern design, is relatively small, and in order to maintain this throughput, it is necessary for slaughtering to continue late each evening, including Saturday and all day Sunday, and at least 500 hours overtime have been worked by your officers during the year.

I am pleased to report that a 100% meat inspection service has still been maintained, and I would particularly like to record my thanks to Mr. A. E. Flintoff, the Senior Additional Public Health Inspector, for the willing manner with which he has co-operated with me in this work.

I make no apologies for once again saying how much I regret that in spite of the representations made by Stevenage and other local authorities generally, no action has yet been taken to limit, by legislation, the hours at which slaughtering may take place.

General

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the staff for their loyal service, valuable assistance, and co-operation throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

R. V. LAMEY.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

October 1961.

There is now only one private slaughterhouse in the town, which is being re-constructed and enlarged. In accordance with plans approved by the Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the appointed day for completion of these works being the 1st July, 1951. There are 16 persons licensed by the Council to act as slaughtermen.

A considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered again occurred in 1950, when 18,057 animals were slaughtered, as against 12,648 in 1949 and 7,045 in 1948. There has also been a corresponding increase in the number of cattle slaughtered - 1,286 in 1950, as against 608 in 1949.

During the year, 2-ton, 15-cwt, 55-lbs. of meat and offal were condemned at the Slaughterhouse. Condensed meat is retained and then collected by an approved processor, in accordance with the provisions of the Meat (Inspection and Slaughter) Regulations, 1950.

The Slaughterhouse is designed, whilst of modern design, is relatively small, and in order to maintain this throughout, it is necessary for slaughtering to continue late each evening, including Saturday and all day Sunday, and at least 500 hours overtime have been worked by your officers during the year.

I am pleased to report that a 100% meat inspection service has still been maintained, and I would particularly like to record my thanks to Mr. A. E. Kinross, the Senior Additional Public Health Inspector, for the willing manner with which he has co-operated with me in this work.

I make no apologies for once again saying how much I regret that in spite of the representations made by Stevenson and other local authorities generally, no action has yet been taken to limit, by legislation, the hours at which slaughtering may take place.

General

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the staff for their loyal service, valuable assistance, and co-operation throughout the year.

Your obedient servant,

R. V. LANEY.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

October 1951.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1960 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD

FACTORIES ACT 1937

(PART I)

INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	10	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	68	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	25	20	-	-
Total	93	98	-	-

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1917 FOR THE GRAM DISTRICT OF
SEVENHILLS IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTER

FACTORIES ACT 1917

(PART I)

INSTRUCTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection done	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	10	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	68	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	25	20	-	-
Total	93	98	-	-

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.)	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	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	8	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc.	26	-	-	-	-	-
Plastic Bags	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	27	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars	Found	Referred	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which defects were found	Number of cases in which process-ions were instituted
of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-	-	-
residing (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
reasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-	-
(S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
adequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-	-
(S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
effective drainage of	-	-	-	-	-	-
water (S.5.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
factory conveniences (S.7.)	2	2	-	-	-	-
insufficient	2	2	-	-	-	-
unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-	-
not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	-
not offences against the	-	-	-	-	-	-
not including offences	-	-	-	-	-	-
relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	6	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of Out- workers in August last referred by Section 110 (1) (a)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of instances for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in premises unwholesome	Not- ices served	From scout posts
other apparel king etc.	25	-	-	-	-	-
elastic bags	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	26	-	-	-	-	-

