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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 1962

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED WEEKLY



CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 1, 1914

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL

SIR:

Very respectfully,
Yours truly,
[Signature]

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS 1962

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.

Deputy:

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

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

I. C. Prowse, A.R.S.H. (resigned January 1962)

D. W. Bowes, M.A.P.H.I. (commenced March 1962)

Offices:

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road, Hitchin.

Tel: 50411.

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

1962

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 1/63.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,895
Home Population - Mid 1962							
(Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,710
Number of habitable houses at 31.12.62	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,045
Rateable Value at 31.12.62	...	...	...	...	...	...	£814,888
Estimated product of a Penny Rate							
(1962/63)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,430

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR
THE YEAR 1962

	<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	1,229	646	583	
Illegitimate	48	24	24	
	<u>1,277</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>607</u>	
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	27.3 18.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	3.8%

<u>STEVENAGE</u>	<u>Comparable</u>
<u>URBAN</u>	<u>Rate for</u>
<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>England &</u>
	<u>Wales</u>

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	16	11	5
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	17	12	5

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births 13.1 18.1

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1,294	682	612

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
190	101	89

Rate per 1,000 population 4.1 11.9

INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 week	17	7	10
At 1 - 4 weeks	1	-	1
At 4 - 52 weeks	7	2	5
	25	9	16

	<u>STEVENAGE</u> <u>URBAN</u> <u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>Comparable</u> <u>Rate for</u> <u>England &</u> <u>Wales</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000		
total live births	19.6	20.7
Legitimate infant deaths per		
1,000 legitimate live births... ..	18.7	
Illegitimate infant deaths per		
1,000 illegitimate live births	41.7	
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under		
4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)...	14.1	15.1
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>		
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000		
total live births)	13.3	
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (stillbirths		
and deaths under 1 week combined		
per 1,000 total live and still births)	26.3	
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	None	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0.0	0.35

Comment on Vital Statistics

The total of live births for the past year (1,277) gives a rate of 27.3 per 1,000, more than one and a half times the national rate.

The stillbirth and infant mortality rates are again seen to compare favourably with the national rates. Of the 25 infant deaths under 1 year 17 occurred before the end of the first week from birth.

The local death rate for the year (4.1) against the national rate (11.9) clearly indicates the low proportion of elderly residents in a new town; application of the supplied comparability factor of 2.41 gives a "standardised" death rate of 9.9.

The estimated mid-year population for 1962 of 46,710 gives an annual increase of 3,100 but continued inward migration again makes such a figure out of date.

Deaths from cancer (all sites) gives the favourable figure of 31, of which 11 (9 males and 2 females) were from cancer of lung or bronchus. Local deaths from motor vehicle accidents numbered 10 (8 males and 2 females) while all other accidents numbered 5 (1 male and 4 females).

There were no local deaths ascribed to any acute infectious disease and from tuberculosis one single (male) death was recorded.

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1953 - 1962:-

		<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mort. Rate</u>
1962	...	27.3	4.1	19.6
1961	...	25.9	4.6	25.7
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	12.0
1953	...	24.8	7.7	29.0

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The local sanitary authority services were unchanged during the year.

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 AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1962 notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 753, Scarlet fever 28, Dysentery 8, Food Poisoning 7, Whooping cough 1, Puerperal pyrexia 4 and Acute poliomyelitis (paralytic) 2.

Measles and Scarlet fever were both most prevalent in the last quarter.

A small outbreak of Dysentery connected with one infant school in the second quarter was fully investigated and brought under control.

Poliomyelitis - The two cases locally notified, aged 3 and 6 years, were widely separated in time and location. The six year old boy, with a good vaccination history, made a complete recovery; the three year old child, whose vaccination history recorded defaulting after one dose, made an incomplete recovery and is under orthopaedic treatment for residual paralysis of the left lower limb. In both cases type I Virus was isolated from the patients.

Food poisoning - Apart from one family group of three, where no agent or vehicle was identified, cases notified were single and unconnected. In one adult Salmonella Typhi-murium was isolated but no source of infection traced; in another isolated Staphylococcus Type 53 was a possible agent.

One other family group of three had a family infection (Salmonella Cerro and Salmonella Reading combined) but the illness records suggested the transmission was not food-born.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

During the early Spring months the Bradford outbreak had considerable impact in North Herts, with follow-up of remote contacts, a general increased acceptance of primary vaccination, and the special protection of health service personnel likely to make the first contact with any introduction of that disease into the area. Public concern and alarm also lead to a great volume of work connected with certificates for persons proceeding abroad.

IMMUNISATION

The standard use of a TRIPLE antigen - against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus - continues available for infants from both welfare centres and practitioners, with a generally high rate of acceptance and remarkable freedom from complaints of reaction. A "booster" dose against diphtheria and tetanus - omitting the whooping cough fraction - is offered at the time of infant school entry and widely accepted.

Against anterior poliomyelitis, in the early summer the Ministry of Health offer of one dose of ORAL (SABIN) vaccine was made available to all children of primary school age previously vaccinated with SALK vaccine, issued in schools on a lump of sugar. Since then the ORAL vaccine, in 3 doses at 4 - 6 weeks interval, has been almost generally adopted for infant immunisation in North Herts, to give a probably more lasting and permanent type of immunity than the previous injections of SALK vaccine. Essentially an attenuated living vaccine given by mouth has replaced a killed virus given by injection.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the Year 1962

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	5	1	2	-	-	1	-

Comment:

For the year new notifications of 10 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory cases were again fairly low. On a considerably larger population the respiratory total is identical with that for the previous year, half of which is formed by a group of middle aged persons which continue to be picked up largely by the continued regular local availability of mass radiography.

In addition inward transfers to the local register from other districts numbered 24 respiratory cases.

The one single death credited to the district was from a non-respiratory form of disease.

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.

June 1963.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1962

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

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending
31st December, 1962.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

i) Water Supply

The Lee Valley Water Company are the water undertakers for
the area.

The water supply is regularly sampled by your officers, and
during the year, I submitted 140 samples to the Public Health
Laboratory Service at Luton for bacteriological examination - all
proved satisfactory. 13 chemical samples taken by the Water
Authority also proved satisfactory. In addition, sampling of raw
water supplies is regularly undertaken by the Water Authority for
bacteriological examination and chemical analysis.

An adequate supply of water throughout the area is being
maintained. Only five houses in the Urban District obtain their
water from private wells.

SWIMMING POOL - On the 13th October, 1962, the Council opened their new
Swimming Pool at St. George's Way. It comprises of a main pool 110 ft.
long x 42 ft. wide and a training pool 42 ft. x 15 ft. The purification
system includes a horizontal pressure filter, with sand and quartz
media, through which the whole of the water passes every 4 hours. The
capacity of the pool is approx. 220,000 gallons of water, which is
heated and aerated during circulation, and chlorinated by the break
point system.

The Swimming Bath waters are regularly sampled for bacteriological
examination and chemical analysis by my Department.

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 being transported to a tip outside the Urban District boundaries. The use of the tip at Holwell, near Hitchin, has been discontinued, and refuse is now transported approximately 11 miles to a tip at Cole Green, Welwyn Garden City.

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

iv) Rodent Control

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

Total inspections	.....	.....	.....	3,159
No. of infested properties found	.....	.....	.....	830
No. of infested properties treated	.....	.....	.....	815
Complaints received	.....	.....	.....	479

The infestations were classified as follows:-

Major infestation - Rats	.....	.....	66
Minor infestation - Rats	.....	.....	730
Major infestation - Mice	.....	.....	6
Minor infestation - Mice	.....	.....	22

A 5-cwt. motor van has now been purchased by the Council for the use of the Rodent Operator, and this has enabled him to deal adequately with the increasing number of complaints that have been made.

v) Open Air Market

The Council operate a Friday and Saturday Open Air Market in the New Town Centre. No open food, other than fruit or vegetables, is permitted to be sold from the stalls; meat, fish, shell fish, fried

fish, ice cream and refreshments may be obtained from five mobile shops, which all satisfy the requirements 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 available to 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

49 licences for the storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Mixtures have been issued during the year. 2 new petroleum stores and 4 underground installations 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	...	375
Drainage defects	...	202
Factories including canteens	...	205
Food Premises	...	989
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	...	238
Knackers Yard	...	16
Moveable Dwellings	...	272
Mobile Vans	...	187
Public Health & Housing Act Inspections (including revisits)	...	1,763
School kitchens	...	44
Slaughterhouses	...	923
Miscellaneous visits	...	1,871

SECTION E

i) Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises

All food premises, which are, in the main, of modern construction, satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the hygienic standards maintained by the staffs is generally good.

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

Bakehouses	...	...	8
Bakers	...	...	17
Butchers	...	...	28
Cafes	...	...	16
Canteens (including Schools)..			62
Confectioners	...	...	25
Fishmongers	...	...	9
Greengrocers	...	...	28
Grocers	...	...	40
Guest Houses	...	...	7
Hotels	...	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	...	36

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	...	...	64
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 26 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 and other foods 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 slaughterhouse, 3-tons 7-cwts. 0-qrs. 15-lbs. 5½-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	...	196	--
Water	...	140	--
Ice Cream	...	189	--

vii) Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

There is one private Slaughterhouse in the town, and 12 persons are licensed by the Council to act as Slaughtermen.

The numbers of animals slaughtered continue to rise over previous years, as shown below:-

1958	...	7,403
1959	...	15,648
1960	...	18,051
1961	...	21,257
<u>1962</u>	...	<u>23,058</u>

There has again been a significant increase in the number of cattle slaughtered - 1,849 this year, as against 1,571 for 1961.

The following breakdown of the totals above, showing the various numbers of the different types of animals slaughtered over the last five years (overleaf), will perhaps more clearly indicate the considerable amount of time spent in maintaining 100% meat inspection, and much of this work still regrettably has to be performed after normal office hours and on Saturdays and Sundays. The Council are, I know, justifiably proud of the fact that they have, since the re-introduction of private slaughtering in 1954, always maintained 100% meat inspection of all animals slaughtered within the town.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1958	616	70	4,982	1,735
1959	606	109	12,730	2,203
1960	1,286	268	13,769	2,728
1961	1,571	478	17,528	1,680
1962	1,849	251	19,177	1,781

During the year, 6-tons 9-cwt. 1-qr. 14-lbs. of meat and offal were condemned at the Slaughterhouse.

Details of the carcasses inspected and condemned during 1962 are given on the table overleaf.

General

I should like to say how much I appreciate the friendliness and co-operation shown me by my fellow officers during the year, and give special thanks to my own staff for their loyal service and valuable assistance.

Your obedient Servant,

R. V. LAMEY

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June 1963.

vii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection (Cont'd.)MEAT INSPECTIONCarcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	1,849	251	19,177	1,871	Nil
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	1,849	251	19,177	1,871	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI</u> <u>Whole carcasses condemned</u>	1	-	1	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	347	1	4,067	851	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	18.82	0.395	21.20	45.5	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u> <u>Whole carcasses condemned</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	15	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.16	Nil	Nil	0.90	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1962 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	7	28	2	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	103	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	31	131	-	-
Total	118	262	2	-

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICES OF HEALTH IN
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1922 FOR THE HEALTH DISTRICT OF
STEWART IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTER

FACTORIES ACT, 1922

(PART I)

INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVEALING AS TO HEALTH
(INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS)

Factories	Number on Register	Inspected- Iona	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are in force enforced by Local Authorities	7	28	2	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	102	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	27	122	-	-
Total	114	252	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.)	4	4	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12	12	-	1	-

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.	23	1	-	-	-	-
Leather Goods	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24	1	-	-	-	-

