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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

WHITSTABLE.

May, 1944. *Kent*

To the Chairman and Members of the
WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Councillor Mrs. Phillips and Gentlemen,

I have to present to you my fourteenth Annual Report as
Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Whitstable.

Area of Urban District	8,283 acres.
" " " (before 1934)	794 "
Population at Census 1931	10,820
" (estimated mid-1939)	15,620
" (" mid-1943)	12,710
Number of Houses 1931	3,466
" " Inhabited houses 1931	3,105
" " Houses, 1943	5,858
" " Inhabited houses 1943 (estimated)	5,064
" " Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	3,327
Rateable Value 1942	£136,707
Sum represented by a penny rate 1942	£473*
Rateable Value 1943	£138,347
Sum represented by a penny rate 1943	£472*

*Based on Rating & Valuation Act 1925 calculation.

AREA. - The area of the Urban District is 8,283 acres,
made up as follows:-

Old	(Central Ward	78 acres
Urban	(East Ward	422 "
Area	(West Ward	294 "
	Swalecliffe	927 "
	Whitstable-cum-Seasalter	4,350 "
	Dunkirk (part)	936 "
	Graveney (part)	886 "
	Hernhill (part)	390 "
	TOTAL.		8,283 "

POPULATION. The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid-1943 is 12,710. For last year it was 12,410, an increase of 300. My own estimate for the population at mid-1943 according to food rationing statistics was 12,930.

- 9 - VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Total for 1942.
<u>Live Births.</u>	224	117	107	(206)
Legitimate.	208	109	97	(194)
Illegitimate.	18	8	10	(12)
<u>Still Births.</u>	2	1	1	(1)
Legitimate.	2	1	1	(1)

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population is:-

Live Births	...	17.6	Rate for 1942. (16.5)
Still Births	...	0.15	(0.08)

The Birth Rate is still on the upward trend, the highest since 1920.

DEATHS.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Total for 1942.
	222	108	114	(220)

The death rate per 1,000 population is:-

Crude death rate	...	17.4	Rate for 1942. (17.7)
(No comparability factor available for 1943)			

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1943:-

	Males	Females		Males	Females
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	5	Bronchitis	3	8
Other forms of T.B.	-	-	Pneumonia	2	1
Syphilitic Diseases	-	1	Other respiratory diseases	1	1
Influenza	7	3	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1
(Cancer of buc.cav.)			Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
(and Oesophagus (M))	2	5	Appendicitis	-	-
(Uterus (F))			Other digestive diseases	1	4
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	5	Nephritis	5	7
Cancer of Breast	-	2	Fuerpural & post-abort: sepsis	-	-
Cancer of all other sites	7	7			

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1943 (continued)

	Males	Females		Males	Females
Diabetes	-	1	Other Maternal Causes	-	1
Intra-cran:vascular lesions	12	19	Premature births	2	1
Heart Disease	41	33	Congenital malformations	1	2
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	-	Suicide	-	-
			Road Traffic accident	1	-
			Other violent causes	4	-
			All other causes	7	6

ALL CAUSES MALES 108 FEMALES 114

Year	Notifiable Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Cancer	Heart and Circulatory	All Causes
1934	4	8	15	2	35	74	196
1935	2	7	11	-	34	82	186
1936	1	8	12	-	32	71	197
1937	1	10	9	8	30	75	195
1938	1	10	11	4	35	97	312
1939	1	8	11	13	54	110	269
1940	1	10	17	6	30	80	248
1941	1	7	19	8	46	62	237
1942	1	5	12	2	34	107	220
1943	-	7	16	10	33	106	222

The transferred deaths were:-

Inward ... 42 Outward ... 12

The age distribution of total deaths was:-

Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 and upwards
7	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	45	162

Of the deaths over 65, 26 were between the ages of 65 and 70, 85 between 70 and 80, 45 between 80 and 90, and 6 over 90.

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1943 (continued)

Deaths from all causes show little variation from last year's figures. The only points I wish to remark upon are the increase of deaths from influenza, the continued high rate of deaths due to heart disease, and the relatively few suicides during war years. There have, in fact, been only two deaths from this cause since war began.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis but one from other maternal causes, giving a maternal mortality rate of 4.4 per 1000 live births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year were as follows:-

	Total.	Males.	Females.	(Totals for 1942)
Legitimate	7	3	4	(7)
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(-)

Infantile Mortality Rates are as follows:-

	(Rates for 1942)
All infants per 1000 live births, 31.2	(33.9)
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births 33.9	(36.0)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births 0.00	(0.00)

The infantile mortality rate which began rising in 1941-2 has shown no tendency to continue rising during 1943, and stands at 31.2 per 1000 live births in comparison with the figure of 49 for the rest of the country.

The ages at and causes of deaths under one year was as follows:-

18 days/intercranial haemorrhage
6 " / "
2 " / "
2 days/prematurity
21 hours/ "
1 hour / "
4 days/spina bifida

There were no deaths of children under two years from diarrhoea and enteritis.

TABLE OF BIRTH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR
CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1943.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	WHITSTABLE	England & Wales	126 County Boro's & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin- istr- ative County
BIRTHS.	Rates	per 1000	Civilian population		
Live	17.6	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8
Still	0.15	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45
DEATHS.					
All Causes	17.4	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.78	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
NOTIFICATIONS:-					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09
Scarlet Fever	1.80	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80
Whooping Cough	1.80	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68
Diphtheria	0.39	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74
Erysipelas	0.55	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-	-
Measles	2.51	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17
Pneumonia	1.57	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27
	Rates per 1000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 yr of age	31.2	49	58	46	58
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	0.00	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4

Rates per 1000 Total Births (Live & Still)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Maternal Mortality:- (Excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection	0.00	0.39)			
Other	0.07	1.45)	NOT	AVAILABLE	

NOTIFICATIONS:-

Puerperal Fever)	0.00	11.68	15.11	9.26	(3.05
" Pyrexia)					(15.23

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff engaged on Public Health work consists of myself, Medical Officer of Health, part-time; Mr. C.R.A. Martin, Chief Sanitary Inspector; Messrs C.A. Tilley and P.K. Marsh, General Assistants.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements remain as described in previous reports.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These have continued during the year under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, full details of which are to be found in his report. The task of conveying patients from Thanet districts to the Isolation Hospital at Herne Bay undertaken in the stress of conditions in 1940, has had to be discontinued owing to increased wear and tear of vehicles. Civil Defence ambulances and personnel have assisted in the work.

NURSING HOMES.

One Nursing Home has discontinued in the year, a home used entirely for maternity cases, which has made rather a problem the finding of accommodation for expectant mothers.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The accommodation at the Joint Isolation Hospital has been taxed severely a few times during the year, and on one occasion it was impossible to secure Isolation Hospital accommodation in any part of the area of East Kent for cases of scarlet fever.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

After serious flooding of the sewers early in the year a number of samples of the public water supply were taken for bacteriological examination to ascertain if there had been any pollution of the mains, but all were reported on satisfactorily. Routine samples were taken for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and all reported pure. The water supply of the district is both sufficient and satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

I have already referred to the serious flooding which occurred in January, 1943, and both the Chief Sanitary Inspector and myself have reported to the Council on the dangers of allowing such a state of affairs to continue. I believe the problem has been examined by the Council and their consulting engineers to some extent, and I look forward to the preparation of measures to deal with it at the cessation of hostilities. Apart from the danger to public health, there appears to be little prospect of extensive building development in any part of the district without a complete overhaul of the sewerage system.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS & RE-INSPECTIONS.....	3865
INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.....	185
" " SLAUGHTER HOUSES.....	9
" " SHOPS.....	130
" " WORKSHOPS.....	114
" " BAKEHOUSES.....	25
" " DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.....	127
" " VAN DWELLINGS, etc.....	248
" " AIR RAID SHELTERS.....	911
VISITS TO INFECTED HOUSES.....	175
" " WORKS IN PROGRESS.....	386
MISCELLANEOUS VISITS.....	140
TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED.....	156

INSPECTIONS OF WORKSHOPS, FACTORIES, Etc.

	Inspections.	Notices served.
WORKSHOPS.....	90	8
FACTORIES.....	24	—
TOTAL	<u>114</u>	<u>8</u>
NUMBER OF DEFECTS FOUND.....	8	
" " " REMEDIED.....	7	

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.
Scarlet Fever	23	28	26	48	9
Diphtheria	5	2	3	2	7
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	4
Erysipelas	7	7	1	4	10
Pneumonia	21	11	12	10	33
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	9	11	7	3	8
" (Other forms)	16	9	4	4	5
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis	-	1	-	1	4
Puerperal fever)	-	-	-	-	-
" Pyrexia)	-	2	-	1	-
Measles	32	248	15	5	5
Whooping Cough	23	8	37	5	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-	-

There was nothing outstanding in the infectious diseases during the year; two of the cases of diphtheria had been subjected to immunization, one of them being over school age; there was a case of "surgical" scarlet fever taken from the Whitstable Cottage Hospital, and no "return" cases. In pre-war years a fair amount of infectious disease was introduced into the district from outside, but during last year investigations showed no such immigration. There was an epidemic of whooping cough of a mild form, and I am afraid the number given in the above table does not by any means represent the total number of cases. This is due to the shortage of medical men in Whitstable, and the extreme pressure at which they are working, there being only one medical man per 3,300 of the population. This ratio may not be much in excess of other towns in the country, but the difference is that Whitstable has a very high proportion of old retired people who need a correspondingly greater number of visits from medical practitioners.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION. The First Aid Post, Cromwell Road North, was again used as a clinic for the immunization of school-children, and I personally carried out the treatment. Children under school age were treated at the Child Welfare Clinic by Dr. Barker. The following are details of the numbers so treated:-

Under 5.	5 and over but under 15.	Total
216 (513)	255 (1105)	471 (1618)

The figures in brackets are the total numbers immunized since the treatment was commenced.

Percentage of ~~child~~ population immunized:-
 (Estimated population of children under 5)
 (5 and over but under 15)

926
~~546~~
 1626.

AGE INCIDENCE, DISTRIBUTION, ETC., OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIED DURING 1943.

DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	15 - 25 years	25 - 45 years	45 - 65 years	Cases notified in Each Ward							Cases Removed to Hospital
								65 and upwards	East Ward	Central Ward	West Ward	Seasalter East	Seasalter West	Swalecliffe	
Scarlet Fever	23		5	13	2	5	1	1	6	10	4	1	1	3	15
Diphtheria	5			4	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	5
Erysipelae	7					2	1	4	2	2	5	1	1	2	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	9				5	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1
" (Other forms)	16		4	9	2	1	1	1	3	7	3	1	1	2	1
Pneumonia	21			5	2	1	1	8	4	6	5	1	2	4	1
Measles	32	12	12	17	1	1	1	1	4	15	3	2	3	4	1
Whooping Cough	23	12	12	11	1	1	1	1	7	7	6	2	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS 1943.

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		T O T A L
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Cases on Register at commencement of 1943	32	26	11	29	98
Cases notified during 1943	5	4	7	9	25
Cases restored to Register during 1943	2	1	-	1	4
Other additions	3	1	2	2	8
Cases removed from Register during 1943	3	7	4	3	17
Cases remaining on Register at end of 1943	39	25	16	38	118

11.

Percentage completed course of immunization, Under 5. 5 & over
 but under 15.
 67.9%.

Immunization treatment continues at the First Aid Post, also at the Clinic, and by local practitioners. The records are kept by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.
 New Cases & Mortality, 1943.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35-45 years	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55-65 years	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 years & up	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	6	4	6	9	2	5	-	-

There were three deaths from tuberculosis during the year which had not been previously notified.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, males, and non-pulmonary cases, principally in children, continue to show an increase on previous years, although there is no excessive incidence to comment upon.

C O N C L U S I O N. Shortage of staff, and difficulties which have characterized other War years, have made the going rather rough in 1943 . Once again I express my thanks to Mr. Martin and the members of his department for all the work that is being done, and especially to him for the help he has given me personally. I extend my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I am,
 Your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. ETHERIDGE, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
 Medical Officer of Health.

