

COUNTY BOROUGH OF LIMERICK.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1934.

H. G. ROCHE-KELLY, M.B., D.P.H.,
Acting M. S. O. H.

LIMERICK:
George McKern & Sons, Ltd., Printers.
1935.

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VITAL STATISTICS.

Public Health Department,

Athenaeum Buildings,

Limerick, October, 1935.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors, and City Manager,
of the County Borough of Limerick.

A Chairde,

In the absence of Dr. T. W. Moran, M.S.O.H., I beg to
submit Report on the health of the population and on the sanitary
condition of the city for the year 1934.

I wish to also to express my thanks to the staff of the
Public Health and allied Departments for their assistance during
the year and in the compilation of this Report.

Mise, le meas,

H. G. ROCHE-KELLY,

Acting M.S.O.H.

I. Population—39,448 (Census of 1926).
II. BIRTHS—There were 1,120 births registered during the
year, which shows an increase compared with 1,075 for 1933.

III. DEATHS—There were 527 deaths during the year, compared
with 706 during the previous year.

DEATH RATE for the TWELVE PRINCIPAL TOWNS, YEAR 1934.

Limerick County Borough	13.4	Dundalk Urban District	14.9
City of Dublin	13.6	Drogheda Urban District	14.6
Dun Laoghaire Borough	15.4	Wexford Urban District	15.5
Cork County Borough	14.8	Sligo Urban District	14.3
Waterford County Borough	13.8	Tralace Urban District	11.7
Galway Urban District	15.5	Kilkenny Urban District	15.3

INFANTILE MORTALITY—The number of deaths of infants
under one year of age was 75, which is equivalent to a rate of 77
per 1,000 births. This shows a considerable reduction as compared
with 126 for the previous year.

CANCER—There were 51 deaths attributed to this disease,
which shows a slight increase as compared with 45 for the previous
year.

PHTHISIS DEATH RATE—The number of deaths due to
Pulmonary Tuberculosis is recorded as 38, compared with 45 for
1933.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—There were no deaths from puer-
peral conditions during the year, while there were six recorded for
the previous year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—The infectious disease rate shows a
considerable decrease from 2.2 per 1,000 of the population last
year to 0.9 per 1,000 during the present year.

The following table shows the number of deaths attributed to
the Principal Epidemic Diseases since 1932:—

	1932	1933	1934	Typhoid Fever	Typhus	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 yrs.	Total
	2	2	4	2	—	—	1	5	2	22	—	16	48
	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	15	37	—	32	87
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	16	36

There were five deaths, due to Influenza, during the year. The number for last year was 33.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The numbers of notifications of infectious disease received during this year and the previous year are as follows:—

	1934	1933
Typhoid Fever	17	13
Diphtheria	235	445
Scarlet Fever	69	233
Erysipelas	16	10
Pneumonia, Influenzal	5	12
Pneumonia, other forms	39	31
Puerperal Sepsis	1	4

DIPHTHERIA.—There was a decrease of 210 cases as compared with the previous year, and of 108 as compared with 1932.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.—The immunisation of children against diphtheria was carried on throughout the year. During the last quarter of the year this work was assigned to Dr. J. Lyddy on a whole-time basis, with the assistance of a special Nurse, with the object of completing the immunisation of all available primary school children in the city at an early date. It was expected that this programme would be completed early in 1935, during which year a further fall in the incidence of the disease may be expected.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

During the year 1934, there was a total of 1,472 children inspected—925 were inspected by routine inspection, and 547 were special inspections. Of the 925 children examined by routine examination, 301 were found to suffer from one or more defects.

NAME		No.		1472	
Cleanliness and Condition	}	Skin Head Body	Teeth	BOYS—Routine Examination	347
				Special Examination	235
Tonsils Adenoids Submaxillary and Cervical Glands	}	Nutrition		GIRLS—Routine Examination	578
				Special Examination	312
External Eye Disease Vision R. L.	}	Hearing			
				BOYS—Routine Examination	347
Ear Disease	}	Mental Condition		Special Examination	235
				GIRLS—Routine Examination	578
Speech	}	Heart and Circulation		Special Examination	312
Lungs	}	Nervous System		BOYS—Routine Examination	347
				Special Examination	235
Tuberculosis	}	Rickets Hernia Deformities, Spinal Disease, etc.		GIRLS—Routine Examination	578
				Special Examination	312
Infectious or Contagious Disease	}	Other Diseases or Defect			
				BOYS—Routine Examination	347
	}			Special Examination	235
				GIRLS—Routine Examination	578
	}			Special Examination	312

The following is a summary of the defects found, tabulated according to the Schedule of the Medical Treatment of Children Order:—

The numbers of children who received treatment under the Scheme are as follows:—

External Eye Disease	43
Defective Vision	200
Re-test for Defective Vision	30
Tonsils and Adenoids	119
Dental Treatment	403

The figures in this Report for the second half of the year were considerably reduced, owing to the absence of the School Medical Officer on sick leave, during which period no routine examinations were carried out in the schools.

PROVISION OF SCHOOL MEALS—Approximately 1,250 necessitous school children were supplied with a meal, consisting of a half pint of milk and a 4 oz. currant yeast bun, under the School Meals Scheme. The milk and buns are supplied to twelve schools by contractors to the Corporation, and the meals are served at the schools or at depots selected by the Corporation.

TUBERCULOSIS REPORT FOR YEAR 1934.

The number of notifications received during the year was 46.

The number of attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensary was 900, and the number of new patients examined was 179. There were 977 visits paid by Nurses to the homes of tuberculous persons.

The following tables show the numbers of patients treated in Hospitals and Sanatoria:—

Thirteen patients remained in Sanatoria at the beginning of the year, and the following were admitted during the year:—

	Males		Females		Total
	Insured	Non-Insured	Insured	Non-Insured	
	5	5	6	7	11
					12
Total	10	10	13	17	23

The following were discharged from Sanatoria:—

	Males		Females		Total
	Insured	Non-Insured	Insured	Non-Insured	
	6	6	7	11	13
					17
Total	12	12	18	23	30

Eight persons remained over in the City Home and Hospital at the beginning of the year, and the following were admitted during the year:—

	Males		Females		Total
	Insured	Non-Insured	Insured	Non-Insured	
	18	12	8	28	26
					40
Total	36	36	36	66	66

The following patients either died or were discharged from the City Home and Hospital:—

	Males		Females		Total
	Insured	Non-Insured	Insured	Non-Insured	
	11	13	7	26	18
					39
Total	24	24	33	57	57

There was one case undergoing treatment at the beginning of the year at St. Mary's Hospital, Cappagh—six cases were admitted and three discharged. There was also one patient suffering from tuberculosis of the spine undergoing treatment at the Countess of Wicklow Memorial Hospital, Co. Wicklow, at the beginning of the year and remaining over at the end of the year.

There were twenty surgical cases treated at St. John's Hospital and Barrington's Hospital, of whom six remained over at the beginning of the year, and all of these cases were discharged during the year. There were also three cases of Lupus treated at St. Anne's Hospital, Dublin, all of whom were discharged during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

"During the year Clinics were held regularly on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at Bedford Row Hospital. The figures of attendances are given below, and show a considerable increase over those of the previous year.

Complete records of all infants and children attending the Clinic are kept, and instructions for infant feeding and special treatment when required are given by the Medical Officer.

New-born infants are inspected in their homes by the Health Visitor and referred to the Clinic when necessary. Antenatal cases are also dealt with at the Clinic.

The general health of infants in the city shows considerable improvement; and this is reflected in the much reduced infantile death rate for the year under review.

Much good work has been done during the year by the Health Visitors, and the whole-hearted co-operation of the members of the Child Welfare Committee and of the Hospital Authorities was much appreciated.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC, JAN. 1st to DEC. 31st, 1934.

Number of Clinics held	99
Total number of attendances of Infants and Children	2,771
Individual Cases	663
Antenatal Attendances	610
Cases	124

ULTRA-VIOLET RAY :-

Attendances	118
Cases	28

(Signed)—H. G. ROCHE-KELLY, M.B., D.P.H."

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

Thirty-four Midwives notified their intention to practise, and were registered in accordance with the provisions of the Midwives (Ireland) Act, 1918. There were 26 inspected and a total of 38 visits paid.

There was only one case of Puerperal Sepsis notified during the year.

The following are the names of the Midwives who were registered :-

Dunbar-Hennessy, Anne, 7 Shelbourne Terrace.
O'Halloran, Susan, 10 Little Barrington Street.
Killington, Annie, 77 Pennywell.
Kelly Margaret, 10 Wolfe Tone Street.
Nolan, Susan, 7 Lower Mallow Street.
Laffan, Elizabeth, 1 New Road, Singland.
Peterson, Kathleen, "St. Anne's," Elm Park.
Cleary, Eily, 27 William Street.
Burrowes, Mary E., 5 Lower Mallow Street.
O'Flynn, Kate, 29 Patrick Street.
Conway, Margaret, City Home and Hospital.

Laycock, Mary, 9 Shelbourne Road.
Hazelbeck, Helen Mary, 77 Wolfe Tone Street.
Kennedy, Bridget, 16 Charlotte Quay.
Sexton, Mary, 8 Rossa Villas.
Walsh, Mary, 42 Cecil Street.
Frazer, Catherine, Thomond Home, Thomondgate.
Reddan, Mary, 4 Upper William Street.
McInerney, Bridget, 76 Henry Street.
Gallagher, Mary A., 4 Mount Vincent View.
Gilligan, Hanora, Rose Cottage, Island Road.
Shanahan, Mary F., 27 O'Curry Street.
Allen, Nora, 7 Bedford Row.
Walsh, Catherine, Bedford Row Hospital.
Saunton, Elizabeth, Bedford Row Hospital.
Adam, Julia, 17 Crescent Avenue.
McMahon, Mary, 48 Thomas Street.
Laffan, Christina, Bedford Row Hospital.
McInerney, Annie, 10 Carey's Road.
Daly-Kelly, Theresa, 9 Edward Street.
Cullen, Anne Jane, 3 St. John's Square.
Barry, Ann Matilda, 11 St. Francis Place.
McInerney, Margaret, 10 Convent Street.
Burns, Christina, 2 St. Mary's Terrace, Island Road.

REGISTRATION OF MATERNITY HOMES ACT, 1934.

Under the above Act, seven Certificates were issued during the year.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

The Report of Mr. J. J. Dundon, Chief Veterinary Officer, gives full details of the work done by this Department. In this connection the need for a public Abattoir is paramount, as under the present system of private slaughter houses the task of ensuring proper conditions in the meat supply of the city is one of enormous difficulty.

Closer inspection of cow sheds and of shops dealing with food supplies in general is greatly to be desired, but has not been found possible up to the present owing to the heavy work thrown on the Veterinary Staff in the inspection of carcasses at the bacon factories and meat inspection generally.

1.—PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

	Inspected	Completely Condemned	Partially Condemned	Tubercular
Cattle	3,001	41	997	760—25.3 p.c.
Calves	624	4	2	—
Sheep	2,489	—	3	—
Pigs	1,396	5	106	—
Number of Visits by Inspectors to Slaughter Houses				2,523
Weight of Meat and Offal condemned				61,329 lbs.

II.—BACON AND PORK FACTORIES.

Number of Pigs Inspected	192,974
Weight at 150 per pig dead weight	28,946,000 lbs.
Weight of pork and offal condemned	308,889 lbs.
Percentage of total weight condemned	1.07 per cent.
Number of carcasses completely condemned	172
Percentage of carcasses completely condemned (about one per thousand)	0.09 per cent.
Number of pigs heads (cured) inspected	7,687
Number of pigs heads (cured) condemned	206
Number of pigs heads (cured) condemned	2,246 lbs.

III.—MILK AND DAIRIES INSPECTION.

Number of Inspections of cow sheds	42
Number of Inspections of milk shops	434
Number of samples of graded milk tested bacteriologically	125
Number of samples of commercial milk tested bacteriologically	37
There were five prosecutions under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order (1908) all of which were successful.	

HOUSING.

Continuous progress was made during the year on the housing scheme at the Island Field site, where it is proposed to accommodate 380 families from slum clearance areas in the Lady's Lane and Palmerstown districts.

While this scheme marks a considerable advance in the housing of the Working Classes in Limerick, it will still leave numerous families throughout the city living under housing conditions which can only be described as appalling. A very large number of new houses will still be required before this state of affairs can be remedied; and it is obvious that houses, and still more houses, will be the prime need of the city for Public Health purposes for several years to come.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the city was sufficient and satisfactory during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Particulars of Samples taken for analysis in the year ended 31st December, 1934:—

Particulars of Samples	No. of Samples	No. certified as adulterated or in respect of which any offence against the Act was committed	No. of Prosecutions	No. of Convictions obtained	Total amount of Penalties imposed
New Milk	76	—	—	—	—

The following is a table showing a record of the sanitary work performed during the year and during the three previous years:—

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

WORK DONE					YEARS				
1934	1933	1932	1931		1934	1933	1932	1931	
Orders or notices to abate Nuisances, make connecting	1934	1933	1932	1931	1934	1933	1932	1931	
Drains or perforin other sanitary work served	714	707	652	588	714	707	652	588	
Prosecutions for Neglect of Orders or Notices	34	4	22	71	34	4	22	71	
Convictions	44	2	22	58	44	2	22	58	
Fines imposed by order of Justices	£9 14 7	£0 7 0	£3 18 3	£7 10 6	£9 14 7	£0 7 0	£3 18 3	£7 10 6	
Houses, Yards and Premises inspected by S. S. Officers	5053	3617	3951	5252	5053	3617	3951	5252	
Houses, Rooms, or Premises linewashed	156	99	32	150	156	99	32	150	
Dwellings disinfected	415	685	520	109	415	685	520	109	
Articles of Clothing disinfected therein	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Clothing and Bedding destroyed to value of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Orders or Notices complied with	328	425	369	423	328	425	369	423	
Reports sent to Sanitary Authority	314	270	318	294	314	270	318	294	
Reports received from Medical Officers of Health	15	13	31	193	15	13	31	193	
Drains Constructed	77	37	31	35	77	37	31	35	
Water Closets constructed	94	65	41	39	94	65	41	39	

GENERAL.

The health of the city during the year may be regarded as satisfactory. In particular, the incidence of diphtheria and the Infantile Mortality rate showed a marked improvement. It should be pointed out, however, that a maintenance of the improvement as regards the latter will depend largely on the provision of further facilities for Child Welfare work, and on a further improvement of the housing conditions in the city, both of which are urgently required.

H. G. ROCHE-KELLY,
Acting M.S.O.H.