# ALSAGER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939.

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

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present my annual Report for 1939.

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## A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|---|
| AREA | 2241 acres. |
| Registrar General's estimate of the Resident population in 1939. | 3020 |
| Comparability factor | 0.89 |
| Census (1931). | 2852 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the Rate Books. | 944 |
| Rateable Value. | £17,276 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate. | £66 . 7 . 7. |

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

There are no industries of any importance carried on within the area, which is chiefly agricultural.

Occupations include workers in pottery, farmers, railway workers and miners and it is a residential district for the Potteries and Crewe.

The houses are scattered. There are no slum areas or clearance areas. Under the Housing Act 1936, the survey taken has revealed that overcrowding is non-existant.

### VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

| | TOTAL | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births | 22 | 13 | 9 |
| Legitimate | 21 | 13 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Birth Rate 7.3 per 1000 inhabitants.

| DEATHS. | TOTAL | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Transferable deaths from outside the area. Returns for 1st 3 quarters. | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Within the area. | 29 | 13 | 16 |

Total deaths 39.

Death Rate. per 1000 inhabitants 12.01.

| | |
|---|---|
| Deaths from puerperal sepsis. | 0 |
| Other puerperal causes. | 0 |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year. | 2 |
| Deaths from measles, whooping cough or infantile Diarrhrea (under 2 years) | 0 |

AGES AT DEATH

| | |
|---|---|
| Under 1 year | 2 |
| 30 - 40 | 2 |
| 40 - 50 | 1 |
| 50 - 60 | 7 |
| 60 - 70 | 10 |
| 70 - 80 | 12 |
| Over 80 | 4 |
| Over 90 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 39 |

CAUSES OF DEATH

| | |
|---|---|
| Prematurity | 1 |
| Heart Disease | 14 |
| Senility | 3 |
| Lung Disease | 1 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 5 |
| Influenza | 1 |
| Cancer | 4 |
| Diabetes | 1 |
| Accident | 1 |
| Broncho Pneumonia | 2 |
| Cerebral Tumour | 1 |
| Enlarged Prostate | 2 |
| Kidney Disease | 1 |
| Pernicious Anaemia | 1 |
| Osteo Myelitis | 1 |
| | 39 |

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers for the Authority.

1. Medical Officer of Health.
2. Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (combined office)

These are both part-time officers and have held office for 18 years and 32 years respectively.

There is a part-time temporary District Medical Officer (Public Assistance).

There is no Public Vaccinator resident in the area.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The usual arrangements are in force. The Pathological Department of the Royal Infirmary, Chester is available for all forms of bacteriological examination.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There is no Ambulance kept in the District but a motor Ambulance can be obtained without delay from neighbouring Authorities, such as the Urban District of Sandbach, the Urban District of Kidsgrove, the Boroughs of Crewe or Newcastle or the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

The Nursing Fund have an arrangement with the Sandbach motor ambulance whereas for the sum of £2 per annum, they supply vouchers up to that amount for the conveyance of poor patients at a cheaper rate.

(c) Nursing in the home.

There has been no change in the arrangements in the area for general nursing. The salary of the part-time District Nurse is maintained by public subscriptions to the Alsager Sick Nursing Fund, which is affiliated with the County Association and is administered by a Committee of your Council.

There are no arrangements for nursing infectious diseases and none are required as the patients are removed to Congleton Isolation Hospital, unless private isolation can be provided.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are as mentioned in previous reports.

The Infant Welfare Centre, held at Alsager every two weeks has been well attended and has proved a useful addition to the Health Services of the Area.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

Subsidized by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council.

1. Fever. The West Heath Sanatorium, near Congleton. Accomodation for infectious diseases is sufficient and arrangements quite satisfactory.

2. Small-pox. The Infirmary, Arclid. (not opened at present).

3. Tuberculosis. (1) The Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, near Market Drayton.
(2) The Convalescent Colony at Wrenbury Hall.

4. Orthopaedic. An orthopaedic centre is held at Crewe every Monday to deal with these cases at which an orthopaedic specialist attends at intervals. He will arrange for special treatment when necessary. This is provided by the County Council.

Hospital treatment at the North Staffs. Royal Infirmary and the Cripples Aid Society Hospital is also available.

5. Mental Disease. The County Mental Hospital at Parkside, Macclesfield.

6. There is no maternity Hospital for the District. Cases of

puerperal fever are received by the North Staffs. Royal Infirmary and provision for specialist and hospital services is made for them under the County Council Scheme. Provision may also be made by the County Council for certain maternity cases to be received into the Linden Grange Maternity Hospital, Crewe.

7. The North Staffs. Royal Infirmary provides all other forms of Hospital treatment and is subscribed to by voluntary contribution from the District.

Midwifery Services.

A maternity nurse has been appointed by the County Council to provide domicilary service in the District, in pursuance of the Midwives Act 1936.

She resides within the Urban District of Alsager.

MORTUARY.

Arrangements have been made, where post-mortem examinations have been ordered, for Messrs. Hilditch & Son of Sandbach to convey the bodies from Alsager to Arclid Mortuary by motor hearse at a charge of 25/- for each completed journey, any assistance required other than that of the driver to be an addition fee not exceeding 10/-.

The County Council and the Coroner have approved the arrangement and the charges.

Further arrangements have been made with the Guardians Committee for the taking of bodies to the Mortuary at Arclid in cases of fatal accidents occuring in the Alsager District.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER: A satisfactory supply of water has been maintained from the Audley Road Pumping Station. The No. 1 Pump is however not as efficient or productive as the No. 2 and it has had to be taken out and examined and although no fault was apparent the yield has been temporarily increased.

The filtration and softening plants are working satisfactorily. There is no reason to suspect that the quality of the water has been anything but satisfactory and an analysis early in 1940 confirms this.

The water supply to a few houses in Lawton Road, referred to in my previous report has been improved in one case; the remainder appear to have accepted the present conditions.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is satisfactory there were no important changes during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

These are efficient and frequent analysis have shown "a stable sewage".

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

No alteration has taken place.

THE REFUSE DUMP.

Regular supervision is exercised and covering up of the face

of the tip is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action taken or necessary.

FARMS AND DAIRIES.

Regular inspections have shown no cause for complaint.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Number of inspections made during the year | | | 346 |
| (b) Number of notices served during the year | | | 91 |
| Informal Notices | (dwelling houses) | 30 | |
| General Notices | (general nuisances) | 61 | |

(c) The results of the service of such notices was the abatement of the nuisances.

SCHOOLS.

No change has taken place since my last report, disinfecting by spraying has taken place.

D. HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year.

TOTAL 7.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. By the Local Authority. | 0. |
| 2. By other Authorities. | 0. |
| 3. By other bodies or persons. | 7. |

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 1a. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 20 |
| b. Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 64 |
| 2a. Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. | 7 |
| b Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 13 |
| 3. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 0 |
| 4. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 3 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 20

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year:-

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936. | 0 |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts | 0 |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936. | 0 |
| (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936. | 0 |

4. Housing Act 1936 Part IV Overcrowding.

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 0
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. 0
(c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. NONE

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The various Dairies, slaughterhouses, shops and other places where food is prepared and sold have been systematically inspected and any small defect or default discovered has been remedied by informal notice.

Carcasses were also inspected and in one case it was necessary to condemn the animal slaughtered.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

This may be carried out at the laboratory of the Royal Infirmary, Chester.

E PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable infectious Disease during the year 1939.

There were 19 cases of notifiable disease (including Tuberculosis) as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 9 |
| Diphtheria | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 4 |
| Typhoid (suspected) | 1 |
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) | 1 |
| Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary) | 1 |
| TOTAL | 19 |

The cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and suspected Typhoid were sent into West Heath Sanatorium.

No death occurred from any infectious disease.

The prevalence of Cancer is not abnormal. There were 4 deaths from it, which is below the average rate.

Disinfection of premises, which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the Local Authority. Bedding, clothing etc. are removed to the West Heath Sanatorium for disinfection.

A motor ambulance is provided from there for the conveyance of patients to and from the West Heath Sanatorium.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Blindness) Regulations 1925, or under section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 or section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Your Council have agreed to supply the necessary material to those who are unable to pay for it and the names of such are to be submitted to the Council.

26 children were immunised after the epidemic of 1938 and a record kept on special cards.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY P. HARPUR. M.D.

October 18th 1940.