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Contributors

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1944

The Chairman and Members of the Alsager Urban District.

Mr Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1944.

A. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area 2241 Acres

Registrar General's estimate of the resident population in 1944	...	Not yet available
Estimated population in 1944, from Food Office Records	...	5, 250
Number of houses inhabited (end of 1944) according to the Rate Books	...	1,328
Rateable Value	...	£29,465
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£110

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births	66	33	33
Legitimate	62	36	26
Illegitimate	4	2	2
Still Births	0		

DEATHS

Within the area	33	15	18
Transferable from) outside	10	4	6
TOTAL DEATHS ...	43		

Deaths from puerperal causes	...	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	3
Deaths from measles or) whooping cough)	...	0
Deaths from infantile) diarrhoea - under 2 years)	...	0

Ages at Death

Under 1 year	...	5	50 to 60 years	...	4
1 - 10 years	...	1	60 - 70	...	8
10 - 20	...	0	70 - 80	...	13
20 - 30	...	0	Over 80	...	9
30 - 40	...	3	" 90	...	1
40 - 50	...	1	TOTAL DEATHS	...	43

/Causes

Causes of death (including transforable deaths)

Carcinoma	...	9
Diseases of the Lungs	...	3
Diseases of the Heart	...	10
Diseases of the Kidneys	...	1
Prematurity	...	2
Senility	...	4
Pernicious Anaemia	...	1
Pneumonia	...	1
Arterio Sclerosis	...	1
Corobral Haemorrhage	...	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	1
Corebral Tumour	...	1
Congenital Defects	...	1
Accidents	...	2
Hypostatic Pneumonia	...	2
Perforated Duodenal Uloor	...	1
Total	...	<u>43</u>

5 Inquests were held during the year.

B. General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.-

- (1) Medical Officer of Health
- (2) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (combined Offices)

The above have held office for 23 and 37 years respectively.

The Medical Officer of Health is pa rt-time and the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector is a full time official.

There is a temporary part-time 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.

Tuberculosis

The undermentioned specimens of sputum received from persons resident within the area were examined in the Laboratory of the Chester Royal Infirmary during the year, with the results shown.-

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Nogative</u>	<u>Total</u>
2	39	41

2.(b) Ambulance Facilities

The Civil Defence Ambulance is kept in the district. It may be used for accident or urgent cases by arrangement with the Medical Officer of Health or the A.R.P. Officer.

A motor ambulance can also be obtained without undue delay from the neighbouring authorities, such as the Urban District of

Kidsgrove, the Boroughs of Crewe or Newcastle, or the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

(c) Nursing in the Home

A part-time District Nurse is employed, whose salary is maintained by Public subscription to the Alsager Sick Nursing Fund. This Society is affiliated with the County Association and is administered by a Committee of your Council, of which Mr J.B. Harwood is the Secretary.

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. No special arrangement is made for whooping cough and measles, which have to be looked after at home except in complicated cases of these diseases which may be admitted to the West Heath Sanatorium.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

These are as mentioned in previous reports

A School Clinic and a Treatment Centre for Scabies has been provided at the Lawton Road Building Estate.

The Infant Welfare Centre, held at Alsager every two weeks, has been doing useful work and is well attended.

VENEREAL cases can obtain treatment as follows.-

North Stafford Royal Infirmary

Males	-	Monday and Friday	6.30 p.m. - 8.0 p.m.
		Tuesday to Thursday	9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.
Females	-	Monday and Friday	5.0 p.m. - 6 p.m.
		Tuesday to Thursday	9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.
		Saturdays	10.0. a.m. - 12 noon

Municipal Treatment Centre, Wellesley Street, Hanley

Both Sexes	-	Monday and Thursday	2.30 p.m. - 7.0 p.m.
		Tuesday and Friday	10.30 a.m. - 1.0 p.m.
		Wednesday	2.30 p.m. - 5.0 p.m.

CREWE

8, Hardman Street, Crewe. Telephone 2019

Doctors' Clinics

Males and Females	-	Tuesday	9.30 - 11.30 a.m.
		Friday	5.0 - 7.0 p.m.

Intermediate Treatment

<u>Males</u>	-	Monday, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday and Saturday	9.0 - 11.30 a.m.
		Monday, Tues, Thurs, and Friday	5.0 - 7.0 p.m.
<u>Females</u>	-	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday	2.0 - 4.0 and 5.0 - 7.0 p.m.
		Tuesday	9.0 - 11.30 a.m.
		Saturday	9.0 - 11.30 a.m.

(c) Hospitals Subsidised by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council.

- (1) Fever The West Heath Sanatorium, Nr Congleton. Here accommodation has been sufficient and arrangements quite satisfactory.
- (2) Smallpox There is a building for the accommodation of this at Arclid (not open at present).
- (3) Tuberculosis The Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, Nr Market Drayton.
- (4) Orthopaedic An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at the Crewe Memorial Hospital to deal with these cases, at which an Orthopaedic Specialist attends at intervals.

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

- (5) Mental Disease The County Mental Hospital at Macclesfield.
- (6) There is no special 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 Linden Grange Maternity Hospital, Crewe.

- (7) North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary provides all other forms of treatment and is subscribed to by voluntary contributors and a general contributory scheme from residents in the district.

Midwifery Services

A Maternity Nurse, appointed by the County Council, provides domiciliary service in the district, under the County Council Scheme (Midwives Act 1936).

She resides within the district of Alsager.

Mortuary

The premises at the rear of Prospect House have been adapted for mortuary purposes by your Council.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

- (1) a. The quality of the water has been quite satisfactory.
- b. To meet the shortage of water anticipated in my previous report, arrangements were made to obtain water in bulk from a neighbouring authority, but the use of two pumps working simultaneously when required, has, up to the present, met all demands.

(2) Analysis

- a. There is a piped supply. A recent analysis has been made and copy thereof is attached, from which it will be seen that the quality is of a highly satisfactory nature.

(3) Plumbo-solvent action

See Analyst's report attached.

(4) Contamination

None.

(5) Practically all the dwelling houses are supplied direct from the public water mains.

No houses are supplied by stand-pipes.

Houses without a piped supply have their own wells (in all approximately 6).

Sewage Disposal Works

Except for minor defects all the works have been kept in a satisfactory working condition.

Refuse Dump

This is semi-controlled as previously reported and no complaints were received during the year.

Farms and Dairies

No serious cases of neglect were found upon inspection.

Sanitary Inspections

- (a) Total number of inspections made ... 341 (including housing
- (b) " " of Notices served ... 152 and water)

Informal notices resulted in defects being remedied.

D. HOUSING

Housing Statistics

Cases of overcrowding

0

Total number of houses inspected for defects under the Public-Health and Housing Acts

42

Number of informal notices served

23

" " formal " "

1

" " defects remedied (31 plus 5 forward from 1943)

26

" " " carried forward

3

" " houses found not reasonably fit for habitation

0

" " " " unfit for habitation

0

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Shop premises and premises where food is produced, were found to be clean and well looked after: attention was called to minor defects only.

Many minor cases of food unfit for human consumption were reported and appropriately dealt with.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

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

F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 29 cases of notifiable disease, under the Public Health Act (including tuberculosis) during the year, as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	12
Diphtheria	4
Erysipelas	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	5
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	6
	<u>29</u>

Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, there were 8 cases of measles and 22 cases of whooping cough, notified during the year.

The cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria were all removed (with the exception of one of scarlet fever, which was isolated at home,) to Congleton Isolation Hospital. They all recovered.

Tuberculosis

~~The undermentioned specimens of sputum received by the County Laboratory from persons resident in the area, were examined, with the results shown:-~~

~~Positive ... 2 Negative ... 39 TOTAL ... 41.~~

New Cases and Mortality during 1944

New Cases ... 13

Deaths 1

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	4	3	3	1	-	-	-

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Your Council has adopted the provision of facilities for immunisation against Diphtheria and organisms of the Typhoid Group (Circular 2230 from the Ministry of Health).

The Scheme is entirely voluntary: the issue of the vaccine is free and the expense of administration rests with your Council.

Number of children completely immunised against Diphtheria during the year 1944.-

61
(which includes 1 adult of 17)

Record cards are kept of all cases.

Cancer

The prevalence of Cancer is slightly above normal. There were 9 deaths from it during 1944.

Arrangements made under the Scabies Order 1941

A Scabies Clinic was started last year at the School Clinic on the Lawton Road Building Estate.

Treatments are carried out by Sister Bevington, the School Nurse, and facilities are provided by your Council.

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

A Motor Ambulance is provided for the conveyance of patients to and from the Sanatorium.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Henry P.Harpur, M.D.

19th July, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.

Investigation against Diphtheria
Your Council has advised the provisions of facilities for
investigation against diphtheria and tetanus in the Typhoid Group
(Circular 2230 from the Ministry of Health).

The Serum is entirely voluntary; the issue of the vaccine
is free and the expense of administration rests with your Council.

Part of children completely vaccinated against Diphtheria
during the year 1925.

61
(which includes 2 adult of IV)
Second cards are kept of all cases.

The presence of diphtheria is slightly above normal, there were
100 cases in 1925.

Administrative work was done for Diphtheria, Tetanus
and Typhoid. A special clinic was started last year at the School District
of the Typhoid and Tetanus.

Treatments are carried out by District Station, the School
and local.

Investigation of cases of diphtheria, tetanus and typhoid
is provided for the management of diphtheria and
tetanus.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
Henry P. Harper, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health,
York City, 1925.

[Redacted]

[Faint, illegible text]

Copy of report received from,-
Messrs Melling & Ardern,
Analytical and Consulting Chemists.

The Cliff,
Higher Broughton,
Manchester, 7
23rd May, 1945.

Water Sample No. 1

A 'hard' water of high organic purity and of thoroughly sound bacteriological quality.

Sample No. 2

A heavily saline and 'hard' water of high organic purity, the yield of the ammoniacal nitrogen (free and saline ammonia) being without hygienic significance in the light of the other analytical indices. Moreover, the supply is of thoroughly sound bacteriological quality.

Sample No. 3

A 'hard' water of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity and of thoroughly sound bacteriological quality.

Plumbo-Solvency

	<u>No. 1</u>	<u>No. 2</u>	<u>No. 3</u>
Amount of lead removed from clean lead foil in 24 hours	0.05	0.04	0.06

As to plumbo-solvent action of these three supplies, under the stringent laboratory test, in which the water is allowed to remain in contact with the clean lead foil for twenty four hours in a closed circuit at room temperature, the samples were found to have a slight action, the uptake of lead varying from a minimum of 1/36th of a grain per gallon (No.2) to a maximum of 1/24th of a grain per gallon (No.3). It must not be assumed that successive charges of water (using the same lead foil, or lead pipes as the case may be) will, on contact, remove anything like the same proportion of lead as in the initial charge, a protective film or coating being formed. Moreover, in this connection, it must be borne in mind that before distribution, the supplies are filtered, 'softened' and chlorinated and consequently the question of plumbo-solvency effect, so far as the consumer is concerned, can only be determined by examination of samples of water drawn from service taps in different parts of the district supplied. It will be of interest to you to know that the absence of lead was established in the treated samples of water recently submitted, which samples were drawn from a tap in the Waterworks Building.

(Signed) Melling & Ardern.

Copy of report received from...

The Office
Higher Division
Manchester, I
23rd May, 1945

Mr. J. H. Melling & Arden,
10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4

Sample No. 1
A 'hard' water of high organic purity and of thoroughly sound bacteriological quality.

Sample No. 2
A heavily saline and 'hard' water of high organic purity, the yield of the ammoniacal nitrogen (free and saline ammonia) being without hygienic significance in the light of the other analytical indices. Moreover, the supply is of thoroughly sound bacteriological quality.

Sample No. 3
A 'hard' water of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity and of thoroughly sound bacteriological quality.

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Amount of lead removed from clean lead foil in 24 hours</u>
No. 1	0.00
No. 2	0.04
No. 3	0.08

As to the subsequent action of these three supplies, under the stringent laboratory test, to which the water is allowed to remain in contact with the clean lead foil for twenty-four hours in a closed circuit at room temperature, the supplies were found to have a slight action, the yields of lead varying from a minimum of 0.008 of a grain per gallon (No. 1) to a maximum of 0.08 of a grain per gallon (No. 3). It must not be supposed that successive changes of water (using the same lead foil, or lead pipes as the case may be) will, on contact, remove anything like the total proportion of lead as in the initial change, a protective film of oxide being formed. However, in this connection, it must be borne in mind that before distribution the supplies are filtered, and this filtration and subsequent treatment of the water drawn from the pipes of samples of water drawn from the same source, will be of some help to know that the amount of lead was established in the original samples of water recently admitted, which samples were drawn from a tap in the Waterworks Building.

(Signed) Melling & Arden.