

**[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Alton U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
ALTON, HANTS.

2nd September, 1948.

To  
The Chairman and Members,  
ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Public Health Report for the Alton Urban District for the year 1947 for your information.

The Health Services of the town have been maintained at a very satisfactory level and all questions concerning health have received prompt attention.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases has been low and the Vital Statistical figures for the year under report compare most favourably with those for the Country as a whole. The town remained very healthy throughout the year.

The post of Medical Officer of Health was held by myself during the year.

My grateful thanks are due to Mr. G.H. Webb and Mr. W.C. Berryman for their valuable co-operation and for supplying me with much of the information embodied in this report. I am also much indebted to the entire Public Health Staff for the very efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties.

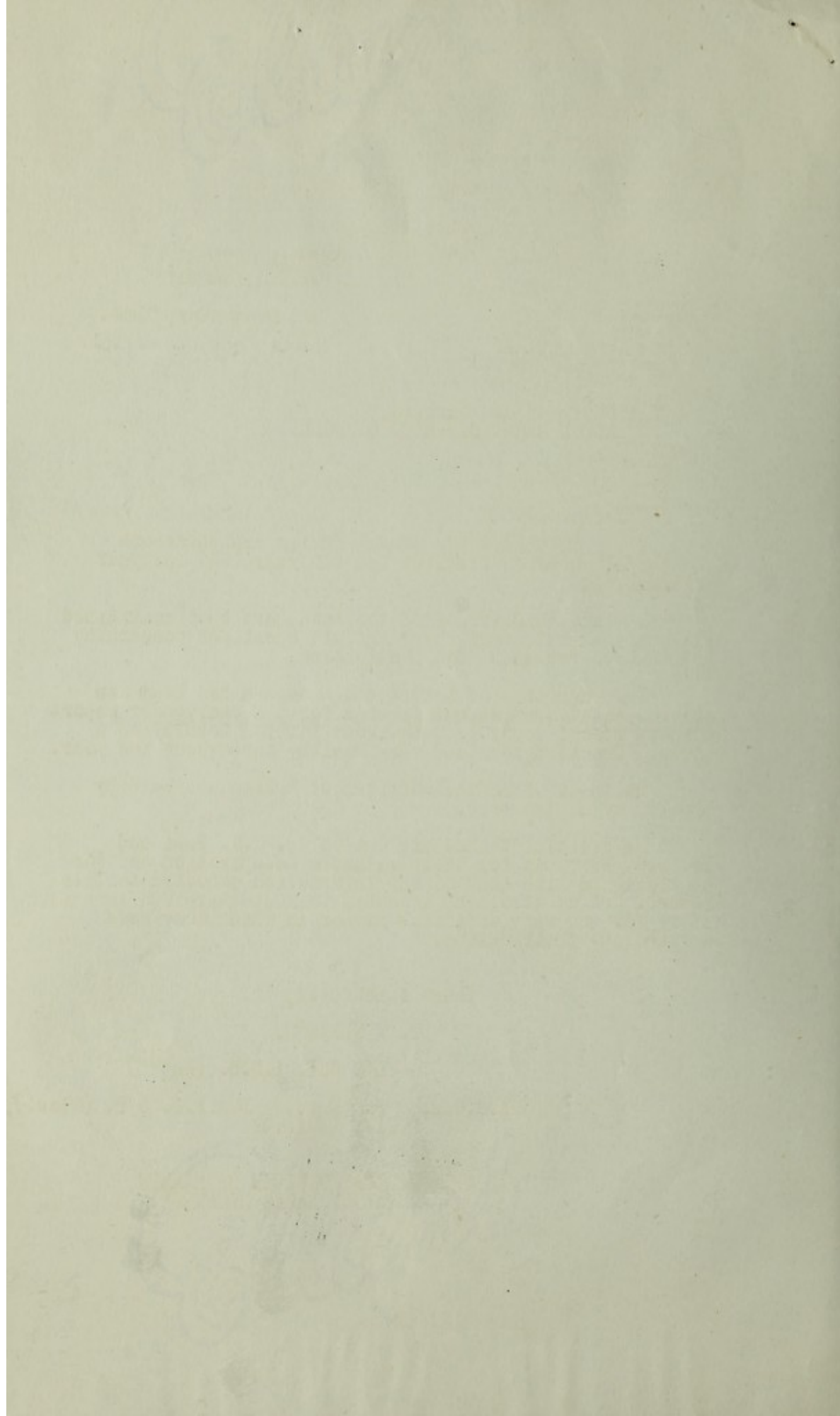
Yours faithfully,

T.D. MURLISON.

Lt. Col. I.M.S. (Ret<sup>d</sup>.)

L.R.C.S. & P. (Edin.), L.R.F.S. & P. (Glas.),  
D.P.H. (Edin.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
ALTON URBAN DISTRICT.



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT.

POPULATION 8,387.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES 2,194.

(1) BIRTHS :-

(a) Live Births	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	74	69	143
Illegitimate	6	7	13.
			<u>156.</u>
Rate per 1,000 Population			18.60
Rate per 1,000 Population (England & Wales) -			20.50
(b) Still Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	1	1.
(c) Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still) -			18.37
(d) " " " Legitimate Births			13.79
(e) " " " Illegitimate Births			71.43
(f) " " " Population			.357
(g) " " " (England & Wales)			.50

(11) DEATHS :-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) All causes	67	52	119
Rate per 1,000 Population			14.19
" " " (England & Wales)			12.00
(b) Maternal Mortality.			
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			Nil.
" " other Puerperal Causes			"
Rate per 1,000 Births			"
(c) Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 Year.			
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	-	2	2
Rate per 1,000 Live Births			70.51
" " " (England & Wales)			41.00
" " 1,000 Legitimate - Infant			
Mortality			12.93
" " 1,000 Illegitimate Infant			153.85
Mortality			
(d) Deaths from :-			
Cancer (all ages)	13		
Measles " "	Nil		
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil		
Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs.)	1		
(e) Causes of Death	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis (Respiratory	1	2	3
System)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>



	Males.	Females.	Total.
Forward:-			
7. Tuberculosis (Other forms)	1	2	3
8. Syphilis	3	1	4
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer (Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus)	-	-	-
14. Cancer (Stomach)	-	1	1
15. Cancer (Breast)	-	3	3
16. Cancer (All other sites)	8	1	9
17. Diabetes	-	1	1
18. Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions	5	8	13
19. Heart Disease	13	15	28
20. Other Diseases (Circulatory System)	4	1	5
21. Bronchitis	1	2	3
22. Pneumonia	4	2	6
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	-	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	-	1	1
26. Appendicitis	1	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	-	2
28. Nephritis	4	1	5
29. Puerperal or Post abortion Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	1	1	2
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury & Infant Diseases	3	2	5
33. Suicide	2	3	5
34. Road traffic accidents	-	-	-
35. Other Violent Causes	5	4	9
36. All other causes	8	3	11
	<u>67.</u>	<u>52.</u>	<u>119.</u>

Mortality was again greatest in the highest age groups.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES :-

The total number of Notifications during the year, other than Tuberculosis, was 75. Whooping Cough and Measles accounted for 39 and 27 Notifications respectively. No case of Diphtheria and only two of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported during the year. A total of 10 cases of Tuberculosis, i.e. 9 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary were reported and registered and 1 death was reported during the year. There was a total of 76 cases both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register on the 31st December 1947. A total of 4 cases of Scabies were treated as out-patients at the Isolation Hospital.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:-

A total of 185 Immunisations were carried out during the year, i.e. 78 Primary, consisting of two injections and 107 Reinforcing or Booster Injections. There was no case of Diphtheria in the town during the year.

#### LICE INFESTATIONS :-

This continues to remain a serious problem in this town. The reason for this, in my opinion, is a complete lack of vigilance and much indifference on the part of certain families. The problem involves mainly the child population of the town especially that of school-attending age. The complete disregard to cleanliness and indifference displayed by some mothers towards their children is very



largely responsible for the continuation of infections in the schools and in consequence infestation of better cared for children is the result. The Local Authority has established a Cleansing Station in the town and all children found to be verminous in the schools and in their homes are directed in writing to attend this Centre for cleansing. The response to these invitations is satisfactory on the whole, but there are certain families who completely disregard these facilities offered to them. During the year a total of 51 children were cleansed and in certain instances it was found necessary to cleanse more than once. A total of 133 Statutory Notices were issued to parents.

#### WATER SUPPLY :-

The supply from the town's own works is sufficient for all requirements and no restriction in supplying the public with wholesome water has been necessary during the year. A scheme to link up the 3" water mains at Wilson Road and Windmill Lane and the laying of a 6" main linking up the water works with the Holybourne main at Anstey have been completed. The effect of the latter work has been to increase water pressure very considerably throughout the area served by the main.

The Scheme for a piped water supply to Beech has been completed and is now with the Ministry of Health awaiting approval.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses of water is regularly undertaken during the course of the year and in all instances has been found to be entirely satisfactory.

The water supplied to the Public is hard but pure and has no plumbo-solvent action. All water is regularly chlorinated at source and an ample supply to the public is maintained at all times. There are no water stand-pipes in the town.

#### SEWERAGE :-

The Sewage Works, though heavily overloaded produces a fair effluent. Sewage has to be treated on the land, especially after heavy rainfall. Extension of the works is imperative. The Council have received a preliminary report from their Consulting Engineers on the Alternate Double Filtration Process of treatment of sewage and have asked their Consulting Engineers to prepare a comprehensive scheme for their approval which after receipt will be submitted to the Ministry of Health.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING :-

Collection of house refuse and salvage and the scavenging and cleansing of roads and footpaths continue to be carried out regularly.

#### RODENT CONTROL :-

During the year under review a total of 1,376 surveys were carried out and 200 poison baits laid.

#### DISINFECTIONS :-

During the year a total of 7 disinfections were carried out, i.e. Scarlet Fever (4), Infantile Paralysis (1) and Pulmonary Tuberculosis (2).



## HOUSING :-

- (1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses.
- (i) a. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects 14.  
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose 14.
- (ii) a. Number of dwellinghouses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations Nil.  
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil.
- (iii) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil.
- (iv) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 14.
- (11) Number of Defective Dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 7.
- (111) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936.  
Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices -  
(a) By Owners 7.  
(b) By Council in default of Owners Nil.
- Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-  
(a) Under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936 Nil.  
(b) Under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 Nil.  
(c) Under Part iv of the Housing Act 1936 Nil.

During the year 70 re-inspections of works and repairs to houses have been made.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :-

### (a) MILK SUPPLY :-

Regular inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies has been maintained. No formal action has been found necessary during the year.

### (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :-

All animals slaughtered at the two Ministry Slaughterhouses were inspected and no complaints have been received regarding the conduct of the Slaughterhouses. Full co-operation has existed between officials and the slaughtermen. Approximately 230 inspections were carried out during the year.

Bakeries and Food Shops have been kept under close supervision and all unfit food found has been condemned and destroyed.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES :-

Provision of Health Services in the Area have been the same as in previous years and their existence has been of incalculable value to the General Public.