

**[Report 1948] / Medical Officer of Health, Alton U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT.COUNCIL OFFICES,  
ALTON.

1st September, 1949.

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 1948.

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

The incidence of Infectious Diseases with the exception  
of Measles has been low and the statistical figures for the  
year under report compare most favourably with those for the  
Country as a whole. The town remained very healthy through-  
out the year.

The post of Medical Officer of Health was held by me  
throughout the year.

My grateful thanks are due to Mr. G.H. Wobb and  
Mr. W.C. Berryman for their valuable help and co-operation.  
I am also much indebted to the entire Public Health Staff  
for the efficient manner in which they have carried out their  
duties.

Yours faithfully,

T.D. MURISON.

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 1948.

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT.

AREA	4,085 Acres.
RATEABLE VALUE	£59,422.
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£269.
POPULATION	8,020.
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	2,282.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1) BIRTHS :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Live Births.</u>			
Legitimate	69	74	143
Illegitimate	5	2	7
			<u>150.</u>
Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			18.70
Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)			17.9
<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			<u>3.</u>
Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & still)			19.60
Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & still)			
England & Wales			.42

(11) DEATHS :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>All causes.</u>	53	56	109
Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			13.59
Rate per 1,000 estimated average population (England & Wales)			10.8
<u>Maternal Mortality.</u>			
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			Nil.
Other Puerperal causes			Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) England & Wales			0.00
<u>Infant Mortality. (Deaths under 1 Year).</u>			
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			<u>5.</u>



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1901-1902

1902-1903

1903-1904

1904-1905

1905-1906

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(1) The Board of Directors has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the Auditor General of the Province of Ontario, dated the 1st day of March, 1906, in relation to the accounts of the Board of Directors for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1905.

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1906

1907

1908

1909

1910

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age	33.33
(England & Wales)	34.00

Deaths from :-

Cancer (all ages)	20.
Measles "	Nil.
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil.

Causes of Death :-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	1	-	1
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	-	1
7. " (Non-respiratory)	-	-	-
8. Syphilis	2	-	2
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio- encephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer (Buccal cavity & Oesophagus)	-	3	3
14. Cancer (stomach)	3	1	4
15. Cancer (breast)	-	1	1
16. Cancer (all other sites)	8	4	12
17. Diabetes	-	1	1
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	2	9	11
19. Heart Disease	19	11	30
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	3	7
21. Bronchitis	3	1	4
22. Pneumonia	1	3	4
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	-	2
24. Ulcer (Stomach & Duodenum)	1	-	1
25. Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	-	2	2
28. Nephritis	-	4	4
29. Puerperal or Post-abortion Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	-	-
32. Congenital malformations, Birth Injury & Infantile Disease	2	3	5
33. Suicide	-	2	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	1	1
35. Other violent causes	1	-	1
36. All other causes	3	6	9
	53.	56.	109.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :-

The total number of Notifications for Infectious Diseases during the year, excluding Tuberculosis, was 192. Measles and Whooping Cough accounts for 130 and 33 Notifications respectively. No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. A total of 10 cases of Tuberculosis, i.e. Pulmonary (9) and non-pulmonary (1) were notified during the year. There was a total of 50 cases, both Pulmonary and non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, on the Register at the 31st December 1948.

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#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION :-

A total of 404 Immunisations were carried out during the year, i.e. 96 Primary and 308 Re-inforcing or Booster Injections. There was no case of Diphtheria in the town during the year.

#### LICE INFESTATION :-

This continues to remain a serious problem in the town. My remarks in this respect as stated in the Annual Public Health Report for 1947 apply with equal force for 1948.

#### WATER SUPPLY :-

The water supply of the town has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality during the year. Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of water entering the supply and also of that after treatment by Chlorination were regularly undertaken and found to be satisfactory in all cases. The water supplied is not liable to plumbo-solvent action. A very large percentage of houses in the area are served with a direct mains supply. Those houses served by standpipes are gradually being reduced and served direct by mains as materials become available. The scheme for the supply of water to Beech is still under consideration by the Ministry of Health. A local enquiry has been held and further details and amendments are being prepared for submission.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS :-

Inspectors of the Conservancy Board have made inspections of the Outfall Works and have also taken samples of the effluent.

#### SEWERAGE :-

The Sewage Works, though heavily overloaded produces a fair effluent. A scheme of treatment of sewage by the Alternate Double Filtration Process has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health. Their observations are awaited.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING :-

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

#### SCHOOLS :-

Inspections of the Sanitary Accommodation and Water Supply of Schools have been regularly made during the year.

#### FACTORIES :-

All Factories have been kept under regular observation during the year. It was necessary to serve one formal notice in respect of defective fire precautions.

#### RODENT CONTROL :-

During the year a total of 1,231 surveys of properties were carried out and 196 infestations dealt with as well as regular treatment of the Sewage Disposal Works. Tests and poison baiting of sewers were also undertaken.

#### DISINFECTIIONS :-

A total of 6 disinfections were carried out, i.e. Scarlet Fever (2), Tuberculosis (2) and Cancer (2). In all cases bedding was disinfected.





## HOUSING :-

- (1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses.
- (i) a. Number of houses inspected for defects 97.
  - b. Number of inspections for the purpose 97.
  - c. Number of inspections of Council Houses for repairs and cleanliness 349.
  - (ii) a. Number of Dwelling Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations Nil.
  - b. Number of Inspections made for the purpose Nil.
  - (iii) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2.
  - (iv) Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 33.
  - (11) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 23.
  - (111) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-
    - Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notice
      - (a) By Owners 7.
      - (b) By Council in default of owners 8.
  - Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-
    - (a) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936. Nil.
    - (b) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936. Nil.
    - (c) Proceedings under Part IV of the Housing Act 1936. Nil.

During the year 207 re-inspections of works and repairs to Houses, including Council property, have been made.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :-

- (a) MILK SUPPLY.  
Regular Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies have been made and formal action was necessary in one case during the year.
- (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.  
All animals slaughtered at the two Ministry Slaughterhouses were inspected. No complaints have been received in respect of the conduct of the Slaughterhouses. Full co-operation has been received both from the officials and the slaughtermen. The number of animals inspected before slaughter were - Cattle (907), Calves (831), Sheep (1,019), Pigs (71) and a minimum of 320 inspections were made during the year.

### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	907	-	831	1019	71
Number inspected	907	-	831	1019	71

1. The Commission of Inquiry has been established to investigate the causes of the disaster and to recommend measures for its prevention.

2. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- (a) The President of the Commission.
- (b) The Secretary of the Commission.
- (c) The members of the Commission.

3. The Commission shall have the right to call upon any person who may be able to furnish information or evidence in connection with the investigation.

4. The Commission shall have the right to examine any document or other material which may be relevant to the investigation.

5. The Commission shall have the right to summon any person who may be able to furnish information or evidence in connection with the investigation.

6. The Commission shall have the right to take any other steps which may be necessary for the purpose of the investigation.

7. The Commission shall submit a report to the Government on the results of its investigation.

8. The Government shall take such action as it may think fit in respect of the recommendations of the Commission.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



	Cattle excluding Cows	<del>X</del> Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	2	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	398	-	2	8	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	44.21	-	.48	.87	15.49
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	10	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	98	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.9	-	-	-	-

~~X~~ Cows were not separated from cattle.

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 :-

The provision of Health Services in the area remain the same as in the past. Their existence has been of incalculable value to the General Public. They include the services of Local Authority Officers such as Assistant County Medical Officers, Dental Surgeons, Inspectors of Food & Drugs, Health Visitors, District Nurse and Midwife.

The Local Authority has provided Laboratory Facilities for the Chemical & Bacteriological Analysis of all Food Stuffs, Milk and Water and also for the examination of all Clinical Material. An Ambulance Service is maintained both for the transportation of infectious cases and for cases of accident.

The Local Authority has provided Welfare Centres, Anti-natal and Orthopaedic Clinics and facilities exist for Nursing in the Home by the provision of a District Nurse and Midwife.

The Inwood Cottage Hospital and Isolation Hospital meet all requirements of the town.

The Local Authority have made provision for the treatment and care of maternity, small-pox, orthopaedic, puerperal and ophthalmia neonatorum cases which can be admitted to appropriate Institutions outside the area. Sanatoria for the reception and treatment of Tuberculosis exist at Chandlers Ford and Bishopstoke and to which cases from the area can be admitted.

Two Maternity and Nursing Homes maintained by private enterprise are situated in the area. These premises are registered and regularly inspected by Officers of the Local Authority. The regular inspection of "Boarded out" Children is carried out by Officers of the Local Authority and the submission of necessary returns in regard to new admissions is made to the Local Authority.

