

**[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashbourne U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Ashbourne (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1944

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/dgwzrh99>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

## ASHBOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH  
A-4 SEP 1945  
C.R. 37

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for  
the Year ended 31st December, 1944

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

Gentlemen,

The area of the District is 1075 acres of land and water and the number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944 was 1554. No new houses have been erected during the year either by the Council or by private enterprise.

The rateable value of the district is £32,401, and the sum produced by a 1d rate is £131. 0s. 2d. The population is estimated at 4,869.

#### Vital Statistics

The number of live births in 1944 was 97, of whom 55 were males and 42 females; six of the births were illegitimate, 5 were males and 1 female as compared with a total of 12 in 1943, the number thus returning, approximately, to the lower total of 1942, in which year there were only 5 illegitimate births. The number of still births was also less than in 1943, viz: 3, and all of them were illegitimate. The total number of births was less than in 1943 by 3, and than the total of 1942 by 2. In those years the totals were the highest on record, viz: 100 in 1943 and 99 in 1942. In the last year before the war (1939) the total number of births was only 58.

The birth rate for 1944 is 19.92 as compared with 20.12 in 1943 and 19.68 in 1942. The birth rate for the year 1944 is the second highest on record for the Urban District of Ashbourne. The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales is 17.6 for 1944.

The number of deaths in 1944 in the Urban District of Ashbourne was 57 of which 33 were males and 24 females. This compares unfavourably with 47 in 1943, 56 in 1942, 52 in 1941 but is more favourable than in the three preceding years in each of which the total was over 70. The age of those who die still continues high. More than half of the 57 had reached the age of 70; 13 were over 80, and of these 13, eight were over 85 and one had reached the age of 90.

The death rate for 1944 is 11.7, considerably above the phenomenal rate for 1943 and also higher than in 1942 and 1941, but lower than in years before this. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1944 was about the same as in the Ashbourne Urban District, viz: 11.6.

Infantile Mortality The number of deaths of infants under one year of age in 1944 was one male as compared with 2 deaths in 1943 and 5 in 1942, representing an infantile death rate of 10 as compared with 46 for the whole of England and Wales.

The commonest single cause of death in the Urban District was, as usual, Heart Disease - there being 7 deaths of males and 4 of females, a total of 11 as compared with 9 in 1943. There were, in addition, 6 deaths from intracranial vascular lesions such as cerebral hemorrhage, 5 of the 6 occurring in women, an indication, probably, of the extra strain on the nervous and circulatory systems to which women have been subjected during war conditions. The death rate for these circulatory conditions in 1944 is 3.5.

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases consisted of two deaths from Bronchitis and one from Pneumonia, the first/

/first death from pneumonia in the district in 3 years. There was one death from Tuberculosis, half the number that has occurred in the last few years.

There were only 3 deaths from cancer in 1944. There is further indication that the mortality from cancer is diminishing in the district as there were 6 deaths in 1943, 4 in 1942, 4 in 1941 and 11 in 1940. There were 2 deaths from influenza, one less than in 1943, and no deaths from Zymotic disease, diarrhoea or appendicitis.

#### Infectious Diseases

There was a big drop in the number of notifications from 240 in 1943 to 55 in 1944. Though measles and whooping cough still persisted, the number of cases was much less, kept up by the fact that there were still a number of children who had never had the diseases and by the presence of evacuees from the South of England. In the whole year there were 16 new cases of measles and 14 of whooping cough whose age was generally under 5.

There were more cases of Scarlet Fever than usual, the number of new cases being 16, and containing a larger proportion of adults than usual. The chief outbreak occurred in March and April and appears to have originated in a worker of 17 who was going daily to Derby to his work. At that time there were a number of dances and entertainments attended by soldiers from Osmaston, and it was possible to trace a connection in most of the instances between the cases and the entertainments. A fair proportion of the cases in this little outbreak were adults - 7 out of 10, a fact which tended to increase the probability of the cause and method of the outbreak. All the cases of Scarlet Fever were sent to Belper Isolation Hospital with the exception of one military case who was removed to the Borough Isolation Hospital at Derby.

There have been again no cases of Diphtheria in the District since the adoption of Immunisation in 1941. The Immunisation Clinic is still held at my surgery every Saturday at 2 o'clock, at which children belonging to the Urban District are immunised at the public expense. As there is a little slackness being shown to apply for this most valuable safeguard against a dangerous and dreaded disease, may I suggest that the Council take some measures to bring the notice of those who have young children to the value of the proceeding and beg that they will remember that there is no danger or discomfort attached to it.

There were only 4 cases of Pneumonia notified in 1944 as against 16 in 1943. With the exception of 4 cases of Erysipelas there were no other infectious diseases notified.

There were 10 cases of Tuberculosis notified, 4 of the lungs and 4 of the glands of the neck and 2 in other parts of the body. One of the pulmonary cases - a girl of 17 - died during the year.

#### Water Supply

An increased yield of water has been obtained from the two 24" boreholes at Roodsley Pumping Station as a result of lowering and overhauling the pumps. Approximately 9,500 gallons per hour can be obtained from the boreholes with the pumping level at 165 feet.

The average daily consumption of water is, at the present time, about 150,000 gallons.

The rainfall during the year was 33.71 inches as compared with 27.47 inches for 1943.

No extensions to water mains have been carried out during the year. The Council supply the Air Ministry with water to their Darley Moor site.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal

The new bacteria beds installed in 1942 are working satisfactorily and producing a good effluent.

No additions, extensions or improvements have been carried out in sewerage or sewage disposal during the year 1944

The sewage from the Ashbourne Aerodrome is treated at the works and paid for by the Air Ministry.

Legislation

No local acts, special orders, adoption/ or byclaws relating to Public Health came into force during the year.

Public Cleansing

The Council continue to collect house refuse weekly from all properties in their district, and this is disposed of in a Meldrum Refuse Destructor.

House refuse is sorted for materials such as tins, rags, bones, bottles and rubber which is still required for salvage. Tins are baled in a hydraulic press.

Meat Inspection

Two slaughterhouses are now in use by the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of animals required in the Area. All carcasses are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and condemnation notes issued for food which is of unsatisfactory quality for human consumption.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST A. SADLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 16th, 1945

