ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1939.

Public Health Staff.

(1) Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Thomas Forsyth, M.B.Ch.B.(Glas) D.P.H.(Camb)

(2) Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector (Full time) - John P.Cook, Cert.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the sanitary state of your district for the year 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	28,073 acres.
Resident Population.R.G's estimate.	(a) 13,740 (b) 13,710
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,725.
Rateable Value	£47,673.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£184-3-11.

The chief industries in the area are (1) Agriculture, (2) Coalmining, (3) Brickmaking, (4) Stoneware and Pipe-making and (5) Stone Quarrying.

No particular industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on health during the year.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births	Legitimate	188	101	87
	Illegitimate	8	6	2
		196	107	89

Birth Rate = 14.26 per 1000 population.
England & Wales Birth Rate 1939 = 15 per 1000 population.

Still Births		Total.	Male.	Female.
	Legitimate	2	1	1
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		2	1	1

Still Birth Rate = 10.1 per 1000 (live & still) Births.
or Still Birth Rate = 0.14 per 1000 population.
England & Wales Still Birth Rate = 0.59 per 1000 population.

Deaths.

Total.	Male.	Female.
156	92	64

Death Rate = 11.3 per 1000 population.
England and Wales Death Rate 1939 = 12.1 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

(a) Puerperal Sepsis .....0.
(b) Other Puerperal Causes.....1.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	10	8	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	10	8	2

Infantile Mortality Rate = 51 per 1000 live births.
England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate = 50 per 1000 live births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants = 53.1 per 1000 legitimate live births.
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants = nil per 1000 Illegitimate live births.

Deaths occurred from the following diseases during 1939.

Cancer (all ages)	22
Measles (all ages)	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diphtheria (all ages)	0
Diarrhoea etc. under 2 years	0

Causes of Death in 1939.

Diseases.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Whooping Cough	1	0	1
Influenza	4	2	6
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	2	5
Cancer	13	9	22
Diabetes	1	3	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	9	7	16
Heart Disease	15	17	32
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	3	5
Bronchitis	3	4	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1
Peptic Ulcer	0	2	2
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	0	1
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	2	3	5
Other Puerperal Diseases	0	1	1
Congenital Debility ,Premature Birth	4	1	5
Senility	3	1	4
Other Voilence	9	3	12
Other Defined Diseases	15	3	18
Diarrhoea over 2 yrars	0	1	1
	92	64	156

Chief causes of death in 1939 were:-
(1) Heart Disease 32, (2) Cancer 22, (3) Cerebral Haemorrhage 16,

(4) Bronchitis 7, (5) Influenza 6, (6) Tuberculosis 5,(7) Pneumonia 5

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations are provided for in the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

Hospitals.

(1) Fever. Hospitals are provided by the Combined Leicestershire Hospitals Committee at Markfield, Hinckley, Blaby and Melton.
(2) Smallpox. Smallpox Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston (15 beds) and Snarestone (23 beds)
(3) Tuberculosis. The County Sanatorium at Markfield is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis. The County Sanatorium contains 126 beds.
(4) Maternity. The Ashby Cottage Hospital Maternity Wing is much used for midwifery cases from your district. The Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and the Leicester Royal Infirmary is available for cases requiring Institutional Treatment.
(5) Children. Children are admitted to Ashby Cottage Hospital and also to Leicester Royal Infirmary.
(6) Other. Delicate and illnourished children from 3 to 5 years are admitted to the Children's Convalescent Home at Woodhouse Eaves.

Treatment Centres and Clinics:-

There are none actually held in your district. An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. At the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville an Antenatal Clinic, an Orthopaedic Clinic and a Tuberculosis Dispersary are regularly held.
A School and Dental Clinic is also conducted here.
Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed by ambulances maintained for the purpose by the Combined Leicestershire Hospital Committee.
Accidents in the Collieries are removed by ambulances provided solely for this purpose by the Leicestershire Coal Owners Association.
An ambulance provided by the St.John's Ambulance Association is available for the transport of Civilian Cases and is stationed at Coalville.

Nursing in the Homes.

General District Nurses are provided in many of the parishes or combined parishes by local voluntary effort, supervised by the Leicestershire County Council. Most of the District Nurses undertake midwifery.
Infectious Diseases are not attended by District Nurses. There is no provision for nursing such diseases as Measles or Whooping Cough in the homes.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Number of samples taken for analysis 13

	Results.			
	Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.	
	Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological.
From Wells.	-	-	9	10
From Piped Supply	3	3	-	-

Number of wells closed .... 140 by substituting piped supply.

Number of wells cleansed... ....2.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water 706

Number of Parishes with piped water supply:-

(a) From Public Mains.... .....12 (b) From Private Reservoirs....2.

Number of Parishes without a piped water supply ....3.

All the piped supplies are of excellent quality. The wells in the agricultural parishes are fairly good. No serious shortage occurred during 1939.

The Eastern Regional Waterworks, where water is obtained from two Boreholes at Heather, was completed in July 1939 and supplies were immediately taken into the houses in the following parishes:- Heather, Ravenstone, Swannington, Coleorton, Worthington and Osgathorpe.

The Western Regional Waterworks obtains its water from a deep well at Acresford and supplies Measham, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Number of cesspools constructed during the year ....12.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year .... 5.

Total number in district on 31st December.... ....898.

There was no extension of Sewerage or Sewage Disposal Works during the year. Extensions are under consideration at Bosworth Road, Measham and at Acresford.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number in District on 31st December 1939.

(a) Privies....1357 (b) Pail Closets....1137 (c) W.C's.....1422.

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year.

(a) Privies.....109 (b) Pails.....51.

Number of privies (middens) converted to Pail Closets during year...11.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse is removed by direct labour of the Council's Workmen. The Council have two Karrier Bantam Refuse Removal Vehicles, each with a moveable 350 gallon steel tank for removing night soil Dry refuse is carried to suitable tips.
Earth Closets, Ashpits, and Cesspools are emptied by the Council's Workmen. The dry refuse is removed to suitable tips and the wet refuse to agricultural land where it is ploughed in.

No extension was made during the year but at the end of the year the Council decided to bring in, on April 1st,1940 a scavenging scheme for the following parishes:- Appleby Magna, Swepstone, Packington and Normanton-le-Heath.

Smoke Abatement.

Number of Factories and Works Chimneys in the district.....12.
No action was necessary during the year.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Total number of complaints received.... ....45.
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered....44.

Nature of Inspections:-

	Inspections.	Revisits.
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	1137(706 re water connections)	1470(813 re water connections)
Tents,Vans etc.	8	13
Slaughter Houses	91	21
Food Premises	99	4
Dairies & Cowsheds	134	15
Offensive Trades	-	-
Animal Keeping	-	-
Workshops,etc	34	2
Shops	-	-
Other Premises	-	-
Total	1503	1525

Notices.

Preliminary.	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January	52	18
Issued during the year	45	399
Complied with during the year	81	409
Statutory Action necessary	20	2
Outstanding 31st December	16	8

Statutory	Housing	Other
Outstanding	119	1
Issued during year	20	2
Complied with during year	113	3
Outstanding 31st December	26	0

Summary Action.

No.of Summonses issued.	No..of Convictions obtained.
2	2

The Informal Notices includes verbal notices, out of 399, 255 are written or verbal instructions in connection with laying on of piped water supplies to houses.

Shops.

No action was taken under Provisions of the Shops Act,1934.

Camping Sites.

Nil.

Regulated Buildings.

There are no Living Vans and no Common Lodging Houses.
There are no offensive trades.
A few canal boats pass through the district to load coal.
No inspections were made of these.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council Houses infested ....Nil.
Number of other dwelling houses found infested .... 3.
Number of houses disinfested .... 3.

Methods employed for disinfestation:-
Syringing with Zaldicide. Fumigation with Cimex.
Work carried out by Local Authority.

Schools.

(a) Sanitary Conditions:-
Very good in parishes where sewers are laid Where there is no water carriage system pails are used.
(b) Water Supply:- Piped supply, or wells where piped supply is not present.
(c) No schools were disinfected during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

There are none in the area.

SECTION D.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.
Cowkeepers.

No on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions. Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st Dec.
210	93	7	11	18	0

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

No.on Register.	No of Inspections.	No.of Contraventions. Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st Dec.
1.	2	-	-	-	-

Total Contraventions.

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st.December.
Cleansing	0	3	3	0
Structural Alterations	7	4	11	0
Utensils.	0	4	4	0
Other	0	4	4	0

Milk Sampling.

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during 1939.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

Under these orders one licence was issued to a retail producer of Pasteurised Milk.

There are 63 Accredited Producers in the district.

Meat and Other Foods.

No. of Public Abattoirs in the district .... Nil.

Private Slaughter Houses:-	In January 1939.	In Dec.1939.
No. Registered	21	21
No.Licensed	2	2

Number of visits to premises other than at times of slaughter...83
Number of inspections of meat at time of slaughter 51
Number of Knacker Yards in district 1
Number of visits to Knacker's Yard 9

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Total weight in lbs.
Number killed(if known)						-
Number Inspected All diseases except Tuberculosis	42	31	5	79	41	-
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only						-
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-	-	510 lbs
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Stalls:-

There are none in the district.

Meat Shops, Meat Stalls,etc:-

Number of Inspections ....65.

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.

Number of Inspections..... ....26.

Two contraventions were found and remedied.

SECTION E.

Housing.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)(a)Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects(under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....171.
(b)Number of inspections made for the purpose ....515.

(2)(a)Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.. .... 45.
(b)Number of inspections made for the purpose ....138.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... ....Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (excluding those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation..... 45.

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... .... 50.

(3) Action under Statutory powers during the year.
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... .... 20.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
(a) By Owners ....4.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were issued requiring defects to be remedied.... .....Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
(a) By Owners ....Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ....Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ....50.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act,1936.
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made... ... .Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or underground room having been rendered fit ....Nil.

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

A.(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year.
(2) Number of familied dwelling therein.
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.

B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year....7.

C.(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year....7.
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.... ....46.

D. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... .... Nil.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1939.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	61	43	0
Diphtheria	11	11	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	0
Pneumonia	26	0	5 all forms
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	1

Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Age Period.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph-theria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneu-monia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
Under 1year.	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 2	2	0	0	2	0
2 - 3	2	0	0	1	0
3 - 4	3	0	0	0	0
4 - 5	2	1	0	2	0
5 - 10	32	3	0	4	0
10 - 15	10	3	1	2	0
15 - 20	4	2	0	1	0
20 - 35	5	2	0	6	0
35 - 45	1	0	0	2	1
45 - 65	0	0	0	4	2
65 and over	0	0	0	3	0

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury of the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
15 - 25	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 - 35	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
35 - 45	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0
x 45 - 55	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 65	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and over	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	11		5		5		0	
	16 + 1 transfer.				5			

x One transfer.

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

Table showing incidence of Notifiable Diseases in each parish during 1939.

Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph-theria.	Enteric.	Pneu-monia	Erysip-elas.
Measham.	12	0	0	2	1
Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe	7) 2) 9	1	0	4) 3) 7	1
Appleby Magna	14	5	0	3	0
Swannington	1	0	0	4	0
Ravenstone	4	2	0	4	0
Coleorton	12	2	0	0	1
Bardon Hill	0	0	0	1	0
Swepstone	0	0	0	2	0
Chilcote.	0	0	0	0	0
Packington	0	0	0	1	0
Osgathorpe	3	0	0	0	0
Worthington	3	0	0	1	0
Staunton Harold	2	0	0	0	0
Heather	1	1	1	0	0
Snarestone.	0	0	0	1	0
Normanton-le-Heath	0	0	0	0	0
Stretton-en-le-Field	0	0	0	0	0

The chief features with regard to infectious diseases during 1939 were:-

Scarlet Fever. This disease was again prevalent throughout the year. Sixtyone cases were notified. The parishes affected were Appleby Magna 14 cases, Measham and Coleorton with 12 cases each and the parish of Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe 9 cases. The great majority of cases occurred in children of school age. This disease continues to be of a mild type. No deaths occurred.
No use was made of the "Dick" test.

Case Rate = 4.44 per 1000 population.
England and Wales Case Rate 1939 = 1.89 per 1000 population.

Diphtheria. Eleven cases of diphtheria were notified during 1939. Five parishes were affected - Appleby Magna with five cases being the most affected. The other parishes affected were Ravenstone and Coleorton with 2 cases each; Heather, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe with one case each. No deaths occurred.
Antitoxin for the treatment of diphtheria is provided under the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order 1910.
No use was made of the "Shick" test or artificial means of immunisation.

A small number of children are being immunised against diphtheria privately.

Case Rate = 0.80 per 1000 population.
England and Wales Case Rate 1939 = 1.14 per 1000 population.

Erysipelas. Three cases were notified during the year.
No deaths occurred.

Acute Pneumonia. Twentysix cases were notified during the year.
Five deaths occurred from Pneumonia (all forms)

Puerperal Pyrexia. Two cases were notified during 1939. One death occurred from other Puerperal Causes.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr.J.P.Cook, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his valuable help in compiling this report. Many of the figures are taken from his Annual Summary.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.