ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1941

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 health of the District for the year ending 31st December 1941.

SECTION A:-

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	28,073.Acres.
Resident Population R.G's estimate	13,950
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,725
Rateable Value	£4,941
Sum represented by a penny rate	£195-16-8

The chief industries in the Area are:-

(1) Agriculture, (2) Coalmining (3) Brickmaking (4) Stone-ware and Pipe-making and Stone Quarrying. No particular industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health during the year.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births.	Legitimate	225	118	107
	Illegitimate	9	3	6
		234	121	113

Birth Rate = 16.7 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Birth Rate 1941 = 14.2 per 1000 population.

		Total.	Male	Female.
Still Births.	Legitimate	5	2	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		5	2	3

Still Birth Rate = 20.9 per 1000 (live & still) Births

or Still Birth Rate = 0.35 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Still Birth Rate 1941 = 0.51 per 1000 population.

DEATHS.

Total	Male	Female.
148	77	71

Death Rate = 10.6 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Death Rate 1941 = 12.6 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

(a) From Puerperal Sepsis.....0.
(b) From other Maternal Causes..0.

Death of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	7	3	4

Infantile Mortality Rate = 29.1 per 1000 Live Births.
England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate 1941 = 59 per 1000 Live Births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants.= 30.3 per 1000 legitimate live births.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants = Nil.

Deaths occurring from the following diseases:-

Cancer (all ages)	24
Measles(all ages)	0
Whooping Cough(All ages)	1
Diphtheria(all ages)	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	0

Causes of Death during 1941.

Diseases	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	4	7
Influenza	1	1	2
Ac. Inf. Encepl.	1	0	1
Cancer (Buccal Cavity M. Uterus F)	2	2	4
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	3	6
Cancer of Breast	0	3	3
Cancer of all other Sites	10	1	11
Diabetes	0	1	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	8	7	15
Heart Disease	15	19	34
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1	3
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
Nephritis	6	3	9
Premature Birth	2	0	2
Suicide	2	0	2
Road Traffic Act	2	0	2
Other Violent Causes	4	1	5
All other Causes	1	13	14
	77	71	148

Chief causes of death in 1941 were:-
Heart Disease 34, Cerebral Haemorrhage 15, Cancer 24, Nephritis 9, Tuberculosis 7, Bronchitis 11 and Pneumonia 7.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals:-

1. (a) Fever - Hospitals provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee, nearest to your district is Markfield Isolation Hospital (54 beds).

   (b) Smallpox - Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston and Snarestone. Snarestone Smallpox Hospital is situated in your district.

   (c) Tuberculosis - The County Sanatorium at Markfield -126 beds is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of all types of Tuberculosis.

2. Maternity - Provision is made for cases requiring institutional treatment in the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and Leicester Royal Infirmary.
   The Maternity Wing of the Ashby Cottage Hospital is much used for Midwifery Cases.
   The Fairhaven Nursing and Maternity Hospital, Shelbrook, Ashby-de-la-Zouch is also available.
   From the surrounding parishes the Coalville Maternity Home, London Road, Coalville is also much used.

3. Children - Children are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary and Loughborough Infirmary. Operative treatment for enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids is carried out at Ashby Cottage Hospital by the visiting surgeon Mr.Holford F.R.C.S.(Ed) during the months of April to September (inclusive).

4. Other - Delicate and illnourished children 3 - 5 years of age are received at the Children's Convalescent Home at Woodhouse Eaves.

Laboratory Facilities:-

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

Ambulance Facilities:-

(a) Infectious Diseases are removed by Ambulance provided by the Leicestershire Combined Isolations Committee.
(b) Non-Infectious Diseases and Civilian Accidents are removed by ambulance supplied by St.John's Ambulance Brigade,Coalville.
(c) Ambulances are provided by the Mine Owners Association for accidents in Collieries.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

These are provided by the County Council. There are no clinics in your district. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held weekly in the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville. At the Health Centre, School and Dental Clinics are held. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly and a Tuberculosis Dispensary weekly.
Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

General District Nurses are provided in most of the Parishes, or combination of Parishes by local effort and supervised by the County Nursing Association. Midwifery is undertaken by most of the District Nurses. Infectious diseases are not attended by the District Nurses. There is no provision for nursing such diseases as measles in the home.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) Water Supply:-

The public water supply from a deep well at Acresford, to the parishes of Measham, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe has been satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year.

The public water supply from the two boreholes at Heather, supplying the parishes of Heather, Ravenstone, Swannington, Coleorton, Worthington and Osgathorpe has been ample in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

Three parishes - Packington, Appleby Magna and Bardon Hill, together with some of the outlying farms are supplied by wells.

Number of samples taken for analysis:-.....7..

	Results.			
	Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.	
	Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological.
From Wells.	3	3	3	3
From Pipe Supply.	1	1	0	0

Number of wells closed...3... Number of wells cleansed etc...2...

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water...121..

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...

The piped water supplies are satisfactory in quantity and quality.
The water supply from wells in agricultural parished fairly good.
No shortage occurred during the year.
No extension of water supplies was made during 1941.
Some existing wells have been earmarked to supplement water supply for emergency use.

(2) Drainage & Sewerage:-

Number of cesspools constructed during year....0....

Number of cesspools abolished during year.....0....

Total number in district on December 31st,1941..205...

No extension of sewerage or sewage disposals during the year.

No scheme of extension of Drainage or Sewerage is under consideration at present.

(3) Closet Accommodation:-

Total number in the district on December 31st,1941.

(1) Privies...1270...(2) Pail Closets...1074...(3) W.C's...1538...

Number of closets converted to water carriage system during year:-

(a) Privies..31... (b) Pail Closets...35...

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year...26...

(4) Public Cleansing:-

House refuse is removed and disposed of by direct labour by the Council's Workmen. The Council have three Karrier Bantam Motor Vehicles, each with a 350 gallon steel night soil tank. Dry house refuse is carried to suitable tips. Night soil and wet refuse is carried to agricultural land and ploughed in. Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools are cleansed by manual labour.
Difficulty has been experienced with regard to labour shortage and extra salvage work. There are also about 350 official evacuees together with a considerable number of unofficial evacuees.

(5) Salvage.

Salvage is collected by the Local Authority and voluntary organisations. The Local Authority collect fortnightly.
The classes of salvage collected are waste paper, rubber, scrap metal, tins, bones, rags, fibre, bottles and jars.
Considerable time is occupied in collecting salvage which could be otherwise devoted to ordinary refuse collection.
Night soil is collected weekly. Dustbins are emptied at two or three week intervals.

(6) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of complaints received.....78.....

Total number of defects or nuisances detected.... ....73.....

	Inspections.	Revisits.
Dwelling Houses(all purposes)	379	556
Tents, Vans, etc.	9	12
Slaughter Houses	39	-
Food Premises	75	-
Dairies and Cowsheds	139	21
Offensive Trades	-	-
Animal Keeping	-	-
Workshops,etc	23	5
Shops	16	-
Other Premises	18	-
Total	698	594

Notices.

Preliminary	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January 1941	14	1
Issued during year	52	302
Complied with during year	40	292
Statutory action necessary	0	3
Outstanding 31st December 1941	26	11

Statutory.	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January 1941	14	0
Issued during year	7	0
Complied with during year	15	0
Outstanding 31st December 1941	6	0

Summary Action.

No.of Summonses Issued.	No.of Convictions obtained
3	3

Each of these cases was taken against Cowkeepers who had failed to register.

(7) Shops:-

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

(8) Camping Sites:-

Nil.

(9) Regulated Buildings:-

Common Lodging Houses.....Nil.
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.....Nil.
Offensive Trades.. .....Nil.

(10) Eradication of Bed Bugs:-

No complaints were received during the year.
There was no rehousing in Council Houses in 1941.

(11) Schools:-

No schools were disinfected during the year.

(12) Swimming Baths and Pools:-

There are none in the district.

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 Dec.31st.
177	139	-	75	63	12

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 Dec.31st.
2	2	-	-	-	-

Total Contraventions.

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on Dec.31st.
Cleansing.	-	26	26	-
Structural Alterations.	-	25	24	1
Utensils.	-	2	2	-
Other.	-	22	18	4

Milk Sampling.

Class.	Total No.of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Designated.	10	9	1
Ordinary	42	29	13

All producers are notified of the results of reports. Where unsatisfactory the producer is warned and instructions given in the required steps to be taken to produce a clean milk.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1936 to 1941.

No. of Licences issued in respect of								
"Tuberculin Tested"			"Accredited"			"Pastuerised"		
Bottling	Distribution. Dealers	Distribution. Supplementary	Bottling.	Distribution. Dealers	Distribution. Supplementary.	Pasteurising plants.	Retail Distribution. Dealers.	Retail Distribution. Supplementary.
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

There are 59 Accredited Producers in the district who have received Licences from the Leicestershire County Council.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Regional Slaughter Houses in the Area.....Nil....
Number of Animals slaughtered in "do" .....Nil....
Number of Animals examined in "do" .....Nil....
Number of Animals slaughtered elsewhere .....9.....
Number of Animals examined elsewhere .....9.....
Number of inspections of meat at time of slaughter.....9.....
Number of Knacker Yards in Area .....1.....
Number of visits to Knacker's Yard .....7.....

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total weight in lbs.
Number Killed	-	-	-	-	9	-
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	9	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					1	3 lbs.
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis						
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspectdd affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Stalls:-

Number of Inspections... .....Nil.....

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc:-

Number of Inspections .....66.....

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

Number of Inspections.....16.....

55 lbs of Pork was condemned as unfit for sale.

SECTION E. HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).... 302
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 556

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses(included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932...59
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 240

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

(4) Number of dwelling houses (Exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. .... 59.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or other Officers 24

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 7
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:-
(a) By Owners 15
(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 served requiring defects to be remedied.... 6
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices . ....
(a) By Owners 5
(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 5

(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 room having been rendered fit.... .... Nil.

4. Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)(1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of year....Nil.
(2) Number of Families dwelling therein ....Nil.
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ....Nil.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 5

(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 5

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... .42

(d) Number of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding...Nil.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during year 1941.

Diseases.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	23	12	0
Paratyphoid B.	1	1	0
Diphtheria	35	35	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	28	0	7 (all forms)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	29	0	0
Measles	286	0	0

Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Age periods	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ac.Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para-typhoid
Under 1 yr.	0	0	1	0	0
1 - 2	1	0	2	0	0
2 - 3	1	0	0	0	0
3 - 4	2	1	1	0	0
4 - 5	2	1	2	0	0
5 - 10	10	18	2	0	0
10 - 15	2	2	1	0	1
15 - 20	1	7	3	0	0
20 - 35	3	6	4	0	0
35 - 45	1	0	6	1	0
45 - 65	0	0	3	2	0
65 and over	0	0	3	0	0
Totals.	23	35	28	3	1

No action was taken under the Public Health Act 1925, section 66 or under section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936 for the prevention of blindness or for treatment of persons suffering from any Disease or Injury of the Eyes.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 25	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
25 - 35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 45	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
45 - 55	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
55 - 65	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8		1		7		0	
	9				7			

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.

The chief features with regard to Infectious Diseases during the year were:-

Scarlet Fever - 23 Cases were notified throughout the year. The disease was mild in type. No deaths occurred.

Ashby Rural District Case Rate = 1.6 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Case Rate = 1.47 per 1000 population.

Ten parishes were affected. The highest incidence being at Donisthorpe with 5 cases.

Diphtheria.- 35 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. No deaths occurred during the year.

Ashby Rural District Case Rate = 2.5 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Case Rate = 1.25 per 1000 population.

Nine of these cases occurred in recently evacuated children.

A Hostel had been prepared at The Beeches, Ravenstone at the end of 1940. Into this Hostel evacuee children who were unclean or had suspicious rashes of the body or otherwise unsuitable for billeting in civilian homes were collected from the evacuees drafts arriving. In January 1941 three cases of diphtheria broke out. The cases were transferred to Hospital and after a period of quarantine this Hostel was closed down for a fortnight and the other children with rashes (scabies and impetigo) were transferred to Heather Hall Hostel,which was then ready for opening. In the first few weeks five children developed diphtheria.
An accompanied child with her parents, billeted at Coleorton developed diphtheria.

The parishes affected were Measham with 11 cases, 8 of the cases being in young adults over 15 years of age and was centred among the workers in a boot factory, where a carrier was the cause of the spread.
Coleorton 8 cases, Heather Hostel 5, Ravenstone Hostel 3, Appleby Magna 4, Oakthorpe 2 and Donisthorpe and Newton Burgoland 1 each.
A scheme of immunisation against Diphtheria was commenced in the spring of this year by means of sessions held at all the schools in the district,and at 31st December 1941 231 children aged 1 - 4 inclusive and 1,287 children 5 - 14 inclusive had completed the treatment, while another 157 children have received one injection.

One case of Parathphoid was notified at Newton Burgoland. Recovery was complete.

Measles.- 286 cases were notified during the year, spread over the area. No deaths occurred .

Ashby Rural District Case Rate = 20.43 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Case Rate = 10.33 " " "

Whooping Cough - 29 cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

Ashby Rural District Case Rate = 2.07 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Case Rate = 4.39 " " "

Acute Pneumonia - 28 cases of acute pneumonia were notified. 7 deaths occurred from pneumonia (all forms)

Erysipelas - 3 cases were notified during the year. No deaths occurred.

Puerperal Pyrexia - One case was notified. No death occurred.

I wish to express my thanks to 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 obediant Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.