ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending the 31st December 1943.

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

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1943.

SECTION A. :-

(1) Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area.	28,073 acres.
Population	13,026.
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,725.
Rateable Value	£50,243.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£192.

The chief industries are:- Agriculture, Coalmining, Brick-making, Sanitary Pipemaking and Stone Quarrying. No particular industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on health during the year.

(2) Vital Statistics.

		Total	Male	Female.
Live Births	Legitimate	242	111	131
	Illegitimate	14	10	4
		256	121	135.

Birth Rate - 19.66 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Birth Rate, 1943 - 16.5 per 1000 population.

		Total	Male.	Female.
Still Births	Legitimate	4	1	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		4	1	3

Still Birth Rate - 15.38 per 1000 (live & still) Births.

or Still Birth Rate - 0.30 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Still Birth Rate - 0.51 per 1000 population.

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female.
	147	65	82

Death Rate - 11.28 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Death Rate 1943 - 12.1 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total Live & Still Births. Ashby Rural D.	England & Wales 1943
(a) From Sepsis	0	Nil.	0.84.
(b) Other Maternal Causes	1	3.84	1.45.

Death of Infants under 1 year-

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	15	8	7
Illegitimate	4	2	2
	19	10	9

Infantile Mortality Rate - 74.21 per 1000 Live Births.

England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate 1943 - 49 per 1000 Live Births.

Death Rate Legitimate Infants - 61.5 per 1000 legitimate Live Births.

Death Rate Illegitimate Infants - 285 per 1000 illegitimate Live Births.

Deaths occuring from the following diseases:-

Cancer (all ages)	17
Whooping Cough	0
Measles	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	2

Causes of Death during 1943.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis.(Respiratory System)	6	0	6
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases.	0	1	1
Influenza	0	2	2
Cancer (Mouth M) (Uterus F)	1	1	2
Cancer (Stomach & Duodenum)	1	0	1
Cancer (Breast)	0	2	2
Cancer (All other sites)	5	7	12
Diabetes	0	1	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	9	12	21
Heart Disease	13	21	34
Bronchitis	6	6	12
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1
Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	5	6
Other Maternal Causes	0	1	1
Premature Birth	1	4	5
Congenital Malformation	4	2	6
Suicide	1	2	3
Road Traffic Accident	0	1	1
Other Violent Causes	4	1	5
All other causes	8	7	15
	65	82	147

Chief Causes of Death in 1943 were:- Heart Disease 34, Cerebral Haemorrhage 21, Cancer 17, Bronchitis 12, Tuberculoses 8 (all forms)

SECTION B :-

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals:-

1. (a) Fever - Hospitals are provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee. The nearest to your district is Markfield with 54 beds.

(b) Smallpox - Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston and Snarestone - Snarestone Smallpox Hospital (23 beds) is situated in your district.

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

2. Maternity - Leicester Royal Infirmary provided institutional treatment for Maternity Cases. Ashby Cottage Hospital Maternity Wing has been much used by residents from your area, also Fairhaven Nursing Home, Shelbrook, Ashby-de-la-Zouch is available for Maternity Cases.

3. Children.- Children are admitted to Leicester Royal and Loughborough Infirmaries.

4. Other - Delicate and illnourished children from 3 to 5 years are admitted to the Childrens' 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 to Hospital by Motor Ambulances provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee.

(b) Non-Infectious Diseases and Civil Accidents . The St.John's Ambulance Brigade at Coalville provides an ambulance for civilian cases.

(c) The Collieries in the district provide Ambulances for their accident cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

These are provided by the County Council - no clinics are actually held in your district. Infant Welfare Centres are held weekly at the Baptist School Room, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and at The Health Centre, Coalville.

At the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, School and Dental Clinics are held. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held here weekly, also an Orthopaedic Centre.

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 supervised by the County Nursing Association.

Midwifery is undertaken by most of the District Nurses.

There is no provision for nursing such diseases as Measles or Whooping Cough in the home.

Infectious Diseases are not attended by the District Nurses.

SECTION C :-

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) Water Supply:-

(a) The Public Water Supply to Measham, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe from a deep well at Acresford has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

(b) The Public Water Supply to the Parishes of Heather, Ravenstone, Swannington, Coleorton, Osgathorpe and Worthington from the two Boreholes at Heather is also satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Some of the outlying farms and three agricultural parishes are supplied from wells.

Number of samples taken for analysis:- 16

	Results.			
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory.	
	Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
From Wells.	10	6	3	9
From Pipe Supply	2	2	-	-

Number of Wells closed 7. Number of Wells cleansed etc. 4

No.of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water 56.

No.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...

Particulars of the quality of existing supplies:-

Piped supplies excellent.

Wells in Agricultural Parishes fairly good.

Particulars of any stortage which may have occured during the year and steps taken to remedy same:-

Several wells went dry in late summer of 1943 and there is still a serious shortage on some of the dairy farms.

Particulars of any extension of public water supplies:- ... Nil...

Particulars of any action taken to supplement water supply for emergency use:-

Some existing wells have been earmarked for emergency use.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Number of cesspools constructed during the year.... 2....

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

Total number in district on December 31st 1943....208....

Particulars of any extension during the year:-

(a) Sewerage:-Nil, but approximately 70 yards of 9" steel sewer had to be relaid owing to mining subsidence.

(b) Sewage Disposal:- The existing sewage works are all working satisfactorily and the effluents consistently good.

(c) Particulars of any scheme which is at present under consideration:-

Sewerage schemes are under consideration for the following parishes:- Appleby Magna, Snarestone, Newton Burgoland, Swepstone, Coleorton, Osgathorpe and Worthington. These form part of the Council's Post-War Reconstruction Programme.

(3) Closet Accommodation:-

Total number in district on 31st December 1943.

(1) Privies... 1196... (2) Pail Closets...1085... (3) W.C's...1601...

No. of closets converted to the water carriage system during year

(a) Privies...24... (b) Pail Closets...4...

No.of privies converted to pail closets during the year...6...

(4) Public Cleansing.

House refuse is removed and disposed of by direct labour with three Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicles each with a 350 gallon night soil tank. Dry refuse is taken to Tips and wet refuse to Agricultural Land.

Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools are cleansed by manual labour. There are no mechanical aids.

Very great difficulties have been experienced in the collection of house refuse during the year. This was caused by shortage of labour, illness amongst the permanent employees and mechanical breakdowns of Refuse Collecting Vehicles. This added to the time spent in the collection of Salvage resulted in delays.

(5) Salvage.

Salvage is being collected by the Local Authority and by voluntary organisations in the District and is collected by the Council's men and vehicles when they can be released from Public Cleansing.

The classes of salvage material are:- Waste Paper, Rubber, Metals, Rags, Fibre, Bones, Batteries and Jam Jars. This certainly affects ordinary refuse collecting but every effort is made to maintain weekly night soil collections and refuse bins fortnightly whenever possible.

(6) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total no. of complaints received.....141.....

Total no. of defects or nuisances discovered.....154.....

	Inspections.	Revisits.
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	541	1292
Tents, Vans, etc.	-	-
Slaughter Houses.	12	2
Food Premises.	58	9
Dairies & Cowsheds.	412	217
Offensive Trades.	-	-
Animal Keeping	2	3
Workshops, etc.	6	4
Shops.	18	-
Other Premises.	119	53
TOTAL	1168	1580

NOTICES.

Preliminary	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January	79	30
Issued during year	72	512
Complied with during year	120	496
Statutory action necessary	-	-
Outstanding 31st December	31	46

Statutory.	Housing	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January	7	11
Issued during year	8	27
Complied with during year	9	19
Outstanding 31st December, 1943	6	19

No summonses were issued and no convictions obtained.

(7) Shops.

No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934.

(8) Regulated Buildings.

There are no Common Lodging Houses and no Living Vans.
There are no Offensive Trades.

(9) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One case of bed bugs was dealt with during the year.

No. of Council Houses Infested .....0.....

No. of other dwelling houses found infested..1.....

No. of houses disinfested..... .....1.....

Method employed - Zaldecide Fluid.

No Tenants were removed to Council Houses during 1943 from houses subject to demolition orders.

(10) 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.
203	412	19	142	135	26

Dairymen and 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.	-	83	83	-
Structural Alterations	16	45	40	21.
Utensils	-	3	3	-
Other	3	11	9	5

Milk Sampling.

Class.	Total no.of samples taken for bacteriological examination.	No.Satisfactory	No.Unsatisfactory.
Designated "Tuberculin Tested"	1	1	-
"Accredited"	10	10	-
"Pasteurised"	-	-	-
Ordinary	60	52	8

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1941

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

There are 61 Accredited Producers in this district who have received licences from the Leicestershire County Council.

Licensed Pasteurising Plants.....Nil.....

Number of Plants for heating milk not licensed as Pasteurising Plants .....Nil.....

Meat and Other Foods.

There are no Regional Slaughter Houses in the area.

No.of Animals slaughtered elsewhere.....13.

No.of Animals examined elsewhere.....13.

No.of Inspections of meat at time of slaughter.13.

No.of Knacker Yards in the Area .....1.

No.of Visits to Knacker's Yard .....5.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.	Total weight in lbs.
Number killed(if known)						
Number inspected.					13	
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases condemned.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					4	15 lbs
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis						

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.	Total weight in lbs.
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Stalls.
No. of inspections.....Nil...

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.,
No.of inspections.....58....

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale
No.of inspections.....18....

Food inspected and condemned in addition to that mentioned above included 282 tins of pineapple, 5 hams, 45 tins of milk, eggs and other articles of food a total of 397 items.

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).....369..
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....673..

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 .....74...
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....226...

(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 (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....74...

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 .....99..

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. ....Nil....

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
(a) By Owners .....5....
(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 .....8....

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners .....4....

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...Nil...

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act 1936.

(1) No.of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...Nil...

(2) No.of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...Nil...

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of Housing Act,1936.

(1) No.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 1V - Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings 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 year..12.

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year...2.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .103.

(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..

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions:-

Owing to increase of surface coal workers and war workers some cases of overcrowding undoubtedly occur, but until house building resumes this cannot be adequately dealt with.

Any other sanitary conditions requiring notice.

Of the 295 houses previously inspected under the Housing Act, 1936, 186 have been recorded for action under section 11 after the war. Numerous housing sites have been inspected and these are now under consideration by various Government Departments.

The Council propose erecting 200 houses during the first year building resumes with an estimated number of 500 during the first five years.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during year 1943.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	7	4	0
Diphtheria	5	5	0
Acute Pneumonia	32	-	4(all forms)
Measles	208	-	0
Whooping Cough	116	-	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	1
Erysipelas	7	1	0

Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Age Period.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas.
Under 1 year.	0	0	2	0
1 - 2	0	0	2	0
2 - 3	1	0	0	0
3 - 4	1	0	1	0
4 - 5	1	0	1	0
5 - 10	1	3	3	0
10 - 15	1	0	3	0
15 - 20	1	2	4	0
20 - 35	1	0	6	1
35 - 45	0	0	2	0
45 - 65	0	0	5	4
65and over	0	0	4	2

No action was taken under section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925 or 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 to the Eyes.

Tuberculosis.
New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
15 - 25	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 - 35	2	2	1	0	2	0	1	0
35 - 45	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
45 - 55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 65	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and over	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	6	4	1	5	6	0	1	1
	10		6		6		2	

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 1943 were:-

An outbreak of Measles in the early part of the year which affected all parts of the district. 208 cases were notified. Ages from under 1 year up to 12 years were affected, with the heaviest incidence in the 4,5 and 6 year groups. No deaths occured.

An outbreak of Whooping Cough occured during the Summer months affecting all parts of the district.
116 cases were notified. The heaviest incidence was in the 3 - 6 age groups. No deaths occured.

Scarlet Fever. Seven sporadic cases occured during the year. All mild in character. No deaths occured.

Case rate - Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District = 0.52 per 1000 population.

Case rate - England & Wales = 3.01 per 1000 population.

Diphtheria. Five cases of diphtheria occured during the year. Two in young adults and Three in schoolchildren, two in the same family. None of the cases had been immunised. No deaths occured.

Case rate - Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District 1943= 0.38 per 1000 population.

Case rate - England & Wales 1943 = 0.88 per 1000 population.

A scheme of Immunisation against Diphtheria has been carried out in your district since May 1941, chiefly by sessions held in the Schools in the various parishes as there are no Welfare Centres held in your district.
The estimated percentage of children who have completed treatment at the end of December 1943 (including those performed privately) is:-

1 to 4 years (inclusive)	5 to 14 years(inclusive)
55%	82%

Acute Pneumonia. Thirty-two cases were notified during 1943. Four deaths occured from all types of pneumonia.

Erysipelas. Seven cases occured during the year. No deaths occured.

Puerperal Pyrexia.Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified in 1943. No deaths occured from Puerperal Sepsis. One death occured from "Other Maternal Causes".

Scabies. A small number of cases occured during 1943. These were chiefly treated by the General Medical Practitioners.

I wish to thank Mr.J.P.Cook, Surveyor & 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.