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Contributors

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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1944.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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 ending 31st December 1944.

SECTION A.

(1) Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area	28,073 acres.
Resident Population (R.G's estimate)	12,930
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,729
Rateable Value	£49,761.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£205.

The chief industries in the area are:- (1) Agriculture, (2) Coalmining, (3) Brickmaking, (4) Stone-ware and Pipe making and (5) 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	223	114	109
	Illegitimate	15	9	6
		238	123	115

Birth Rate = 18.4 per 1000 population.
England & Wales Birth Rate 1944 = 17.6 per 1000 population.

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

Still Birth Rate = 28.5 per 1000 (live & still) Births.
or Still Birth Rate = 0.54 per 1000 population.
England & Wales Still Birth Rate 1944 = 0.50 per 1000 population.

DEATHS.

Total.	Male.	Female.
150	75	75

Death Rate = 11.6 per 1000 population.
England & Wales Death Rate 1944 = 11.6 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

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

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	10	3	7
Illegitimate	1	1	0
	11	4	7

Infantile Mortality Rate-= 46 per 1000 live births.
England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate 1944 = 46 per 1000 live births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants = 44.8 per 1000 Legitimate live births.
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants = 66.6 per 1000 Illegitimate live births.

Deaths occurring during 1944 from the following diseases:-

Cancer (all ages)	20.
Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Measles (all ages)	0
Diphtheria (all ages)	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Causes of Death during 1944.

Diseases.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	0	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0	4	4
Influenza	1	2	3
Cancer (Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus M) (Uterus F.)	3	1	4
Cancer (Stomach & Duodenum)	6	2	8
Cancer all other sites	2	6	8
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	6	9	15
Heart Disease	21	20	41
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2	4
Bronchitis	5	6	11
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	2	2
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	0	2
Other Digestive Diseases	0	2	2
Nephritis	3	1	4
Other Maternal Causes	0	1	1
Premature Birth	1	1	2
Congenital Malformation etc.	1	3	4
Suicide	3	0	3
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
Other Violent Causes	9	1	10
All other causes	5	10	15
	75	75	150

Chief causes of death in 1944 were:-
(1) Heart Disease 41, (2) Cancer 20, (3) Cerebral Haemorrhage 15, (4) Bronchitis 11, (5) Tuberculosis 4 (6) Influenza 3, (7) Pnuemonia 2.

DEATHS.

Total.	Male.	Female.
150	[illegible]	[illegible]

Death Rate = 11.8 per 1000 population.
Annual & Below Death Rate 1944 = 11.6 p. 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

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

Deaths of Infant under one year of age.

Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.
Male.	10	0	10
Female.	1	1	2
Total.	11	1	12

Infantile Mortality Rate = 1000 Live Births.
Still Birth Rate [illegible] per 1000 Live Births.

Death Rate of Legitimate [illegible] per 1000 Live Births.
Death Rate of Illegitimate [illegible] per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births.

Causes of Death [illegible] Registrar General's Returns.

[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	0
[illegible]	0
[illegible]	0
[illegible]	0
[illegible]	2

Causes of Death during June 1944.

Cause.	Male.	Female.	Total.
[illegible]	1	0	1
[illegible]	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	2	2
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6
[illegible]	[illegible]	3	18
[illegible]	[illegible]	20	21
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11
[illegible]	1	1	2
[illegible]	0	2	2
[illegible]	1	0	1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	2	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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. The following examinations were carried out during 1944:-

Milk Examinations (Bacteriological)	249
Sputa for Tubercule Bacilli	29
Sewage and Water Analyses	21
Swabs for Diphtheria	11
Phosphatase Test	4
Urine (General & Bacteriological)	3
Films for Gonococci	2
Blood for Wasserman test	2
Urine for Tubercle Bacilli	1
Miscellaneous	2
Total	324.

Hospitals.

A. (1) Fever:- Hospitals are provided by the Combined Leicestershire Hospitals Committee and are situated at Markfield, Hinckley, Blaby and Melton.

(2) Smallpox:- Smallpox Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston (15 beds) and Snarestone (23 beds) Snarestone Smallpox Hospital is situated in your district.

B. (1) Tuberculosis:- The County Sanatorium at Markfield is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis.

(2) Maternity:- The Maternity wing of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Cottage Hospital is much used for midwifery cases from your district.
The Fairhaven Nursing Home, Shellbrook, Ashby-de la-Zouch is also conveniently situated for midwifery cases from your district.
The Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and the Leicester Royal Infirmary are available for cases requiring institutional treatment.

(3) Children:- Children are admitted to Ashby Cottage Hospital and also to Leicester Royal Infirmary.

(4) Other:- Delicate and ill nourished children 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 Clinic is held weekly at the Baptist School Room, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. At the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville an Antenatal Clinic and a Tuberculosis Dispersary are held regularly.
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 Hospitals Committee.

Colliery Accidents are transported by ambulances provided and maintained for this purpose by the Leicestershire Coal Owners Association.

An ambulance provided by the St.John's Ambulance Association is available for Civilian Cases and is stationed at Coalville.

A van converted into an ambulance on loan to Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban Council by Messrs Meredith & Drew Ltd., is available for Civilian Cases in the parishes adjacent to Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District.

Nursing in the Homes.

General District Nurses are provided in most of the parishes or combined parishes by local voluntary effort under the supervision of Leicestershire County Nursing Association. Many 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 DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

Number of samples taken for analysis.....19.

	Results.			
	Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.	
	Chemical	Bacteriological.	Chemical	Bacteriological.
From Wells.	1	1	3	13
From Pipe Supply.	2	2	-	-

Number of wells closed.....5. Number of wells cleansed etc....1.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water 60.

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.

Particulars of the quality of existing supplies:-

Piped supplies are of good quality. Wells in the agricultural parishes fairly good. No shortage occurred but a few wells on isolated farms went dry.

Three short extensions of the Public Water Supplies were made during 1944.

(1) To a farm. (2) To a Pipe Yard. (3) To a Colliery.

No action was taken to supplement water supply for emergency use.

The Public Water Supply is obtained from two sources:-

(1) Eastern Regional Waterworks where water is obtained from two Boreholes at Heather and piped to the following parishes:- Heather, Ravenstone, Swannington, Coleorton, Worthington and Osgathorpe.

(2) The Western Regional Waterworks obtains its water from a deep well at Acresford and supplies the parishes of Measham, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe.

I wish to call the Council's attention to the need of piped water supplies to the parishes of Appleby Magna, Normanton-le-Heath and Packington.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

Number of Cesspools constructed during the year.....0.

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

Total number in District on 31st December 1944.....208.

There was no extension of sewerage or sewage disposal works during the year.

Sewerage schemes are under consideration for the following villages:- Appleby Magna, Snarestone, Newton Burgoland, Swepstone, Coleorton, Worthington, Heather, Osgathorpe, Packington and Normanton-le-Heath.

These form part of the Council's Post-war Reconstruction Programme.

Closet Accommodation:-

Total number in district on 31st December 1944.

(1) Privies.....1156. (2) Pail Closets....1090. (3) W.C's..1636.

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

(a) Privies.....18. (b) Pail Closets.....17.

No. of Privies converted to Pail Closets during the year....21.

Public Cleansing.

Public Cleansing is carried under control of the Sanitary Inspector. House refuse is removed by direct labour of the Councils' Workmen. The Council have three Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicles, each with a 350 gallon night soil tank.
Earth closets, ashpits and cesspools are emptied by the Councils' workmen. The dry refuse is removed to suitable tips and the wet refuse to agricultural land where it is ploughed in.
Great difficulty was experienced during the year in the collection of house refuse caused chiefly by shortage of labour, illness amongst the employees and mechanical breakdowns in the vehicles.
Collection of salvage has also thrown more strain on the sanitary services.

Salvage.

Salvage is systematically collected by the Local Authority and private collections are also made by various organisations for charitable purposes.
During the year the undermentioned materials have been collected and sold:-

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.		£.	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	22	18	1		value	159.	0.	10.
Cardboard	17	19	0		"	114.	9.	6.
Bones	1	11	-		"	7.	4.	4.
Rags and bagging	2	12	3		"	23.	12.	0.
Rubber	1	17	-		"	3.	14.	0.
Iron	4	1	6		"	3.	7.	9.
Aluminium			1	20			15.	0
Totals	51	0	3	20		£312.	3.	5.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Total number of Complaints received.....116.

Total number of Defects and Nuisances discovered.....115 (in addition to above 116)

Inspections made:-

	1st.Inspections.	Revisits.
Air Raid Shelters	3	-
Animal Keeping	2	4
Bakehouses	28	3
Dairies & Cowsheds	483	164
Drainage Works	108	43
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	459	880
Food Premises	90	2
Offensive Trades	-	-
Rats and Mice Destruction	71	24
Refuse Collection and Disposal	120	98
Schools	-	-
Shops	-	-
Slaughter Houses & Meat Inspections.	63	-
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	2	11
Verminous Premises & Scabies	2	2
Water Supplies	54	50
Workshops etc	9	2
Other Inspections	69	22
Total	1563	1305

Notices.

Premiminary.	Housing	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January	31	46
Issued during year	98	518
Complied with during year	72	536
Statutory action necessary	3	55
Outstanding 31st December	57	28

Statutory	Housing	Other.
Outstanding on 1st Jaunary	6	19
Issued during year	3	55
Complied with during year	4	31
Outstanding 31st December	5	43

Summary Action.

No. of Summonses Issued	No. of Convictions obtained.
0	0

Shops.

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

Camping Sites.

Nil.

Regulated Buildings.

Regulated Buildings.	No. in district.	No of Inspections.	Action Taken,	General Conditions.
Common Lodging Houses	0	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc.	2	2	-	-
Canal Boats	0	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	0	-	-	-

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No of Council Houses infested..... .....Nil.

Number of other dwelling houses found infested.....2.

Number of Houses disinfested.....2.

Methods employed for disinfestation - Spraying with Zaldicide.

Schools.

No schools were disinfected during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

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.
206	483	26	81	93	14

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	5	-	-	-	-

Total Contraventions.

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st Dec.
Cleansing	0	70	69	1
Structural Alterations.	21	8	18	11
Utensils	0	4	4	0
Other	5	16	19	2

Milk Sampling.

Class.		Total no.of samples taken for bacterio-logical examination.	No.Sat-infact-ory.	No. Unsat-isfactory.
Designated	"Tuberculin Tested"	2	2	-
	"Accredited"	-	-	-
	"Pasteurised".	-	-	-
Ordinary		83	73	10
Sterilised		-	-	-
Heat Treated		-	-	-

When samples are unsatisfactory the producer is immediately notified and given instructions regarding what steps are to be taken to ensure the production of clean milk. The methods are carefully watched and checked by further samples.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1941.

No. of Licences issued in respect of								
"Tuberculin Tested"			"Accredited"			"Pasteurised"		
	Distribution.			Distribution.			Retail Distribution	
Bottl-ing	Dealers	Supple-mentary.	Bottling	Dealers.	Supple-mentary.	Pasteur-ising plant	Dealers	Supple mentary.
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

There are 64 Accredited producers in the district who have received licences from the Leicestershire County Council.

Licensed Pasteurising Plants.

Make & Type (Holder or H.T.S.T.)	Capacity (Galls.per hour)	Temperature Control.
-	-	Hand - Automatic -

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

Number of Authorities issued by Ministry of Food under Regulation 55G:- (1)"Heat Treatment".....Nil. (2) "Sterilisation".....Nil.

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.....Not known .
Number of Animals examined elsewhere.....32.
Number of Inspections of meat at time of slaughter.....32.
Number of Knacker Yards in area.....1.
Number of Visits to Knacker Yard.....10.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Of the carcases inspected none showed signs of Tuberculosis or any other disease. No carcase or part was condemned.

Meat Stalls:-
Number of Inspections.....Nil.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc:-
Number of Inspections.....84.

Places where food(other than meat)is kept
or prepared for sale.
Number of Inspections..... 6.

Food inspected and condemned is as follows:-

225 Eggs.
41½ lbs of mutton.
11¼ lbs bacon
2 large cartons Liquorish Allsorts.
2 cartons chocolates.
2 bags of sausage biscuit meal.
6 lbs port luncheon meat.
3 tins stewed steak.
2 tins pilchards.
1 tin sardines.

SECTION E. HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected during the year:-
(1) By the Local Authority.....4.
(2) By other Local Authorities.....0.
(3) By other bodies or persons.....0.

(1) Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects(under Public Health or Housing Acts)..459.
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose.....1292.

(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses(included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.....97.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....318.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurous 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.....97.

(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.....56.

(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 .....3.

(3)(continued)

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
(a)By Owners .....3.
(b)By Local Authority in default of owners..0.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..41.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
(a) By Owners.....15.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners....0.

(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....0.
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....2.

(d)Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act,1936:
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....0.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....0.

(4) <u>Housing Act,1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-</u>

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year.....0.
(2) Number of families dwelling therein.....0.
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.....0.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year .....3.

(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year....3.
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.....27.

(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.

(5) The Rural Housing Survey had not been commenced at the end of 1944.

In addition to the previous figures there have been 394 Inspections and Revisits to Council Houses concerned with complaints and decisions on the work required to carry out necessary repairs.

SECTION F. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1944.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	15	10	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Whooping Cough	9	0	0
Measles	1	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	28	0	2
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Polioencephatitis	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	0	1

Notification Rates per 1000 Civilian Population.

Disease.	Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District 1944.	England and Wales 1944.
Scarlet Fever	1.16 per 1000	2.40 per 1000
Diphtheria	0.15 " "	0.58 " "
Whooping Cough	0.6 " "	2.49 " "
Measles	0.07 " "	4.16 " "
Erysipelas	0.30 " "	0.29 " "
Acute Pneumonia	2.1 " "	0.97 " "

Table showing incidence of Notifiable Diseases in each parish during 1944.

Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph-theria.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Erysi-pelas.	Ac.Pneu-monia.
Measham	1	0	0	0	2	2
Oakthorpe	0	0	0	0	2	2
Donisthorpe	0	0	1	0	0	6
Appleby Magna	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swannington	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ravenstone	8	1	1	0	0	7
Coleorton	4	0	2	0	0	6
Bardon Hill	2	0	0	0	0	0
Swepstone	0	1	1	0	0	1
Chilcote	0	0	0	0	0	0
Packington	0	0	0	0	0	0
Osgathorpe	0	0	0	0	0	1
Worthington	0	0	0	0	0	2
Staunton Harold	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heather	0	0	4	0	0	0
Snarestone	0	0	0	0	0	1
Normanton-le-Heath	0	0	0	1	0	0
Stretton-en-le-Field.	0	0	0	0	0	0

The chief features with regard to Infectious Dsieases during 1944 was the comparative lightness of the incidence.

Scarlet Fever:-During 1944 fifteen cases in all were notified. This disease continues to be very mild in type and no deaths occurred. Ravenstone with 8 cases and Coleorton with 4 cases were the parishes chiefly affected.

Diphtheria:- Two cases in all were notified throughout 1944. One occurred in a female aged 19 years at Newton Burgoland and the other in a schoolgirl aged 9 years who had previously been immunised. Both cases recovered.
During the year 1944- 483 children completed the immunisation treatment against diphtheria, of these 197 were under 5 years of age and 286 over 5 and under 15 years of age.

Whooping Cough:- Nine cases were notified during 1944. No deaths occurred.

Measles:- One case occurred during December 1944.

Erysipelas:- Four cases of erysipelas occurred throughout the year.

Acute Pneumonia:- Twenty-eight cases were notified. Two deaths occurred from pneumonia of all forms.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

New Cases.		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
7	9	4	0
16		4	

All four deaths from Tuberculosis during 1944 occurred in females and all the deaths were from respiratory tuberculosis.

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 obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.