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BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.

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REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(P. C. MCKINLAY, M.D.)  
FOR THE YEAR 1941.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Beverley.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my third Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.

The past year has again been a very busy one for all Departments of the Health Services, and my thanks are due to the members of the Staff for the way they have maintained the high standard of work, despite the increased pressure. I very much appreciate the interest taken in the work of the Department by the members of the Council, and the help and advice so willingly given by the other officials of the Corporation.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. C. McKINLAY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1941

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### **Officers of the Public Health Department of the Council.**

There have been no changes in the staff of the Health Department during 1941.

### **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

#### **LABORATORY FACILITIES**

69 swabs of the nose and throat, 32 specimens of sputum, 3 specimens of cerebro-spinal fluid, and 29 other specimens were sent to the laboratories at Pocklington and Hull Royal Infirmary.

#### **AMBULANCE.**

During the year, the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John allotted an American ambulance to Beverley for civilian use, and a Sub-Committee was appointed, representing members of the Council and other organisations interested in the care and transport

of the sick and injured. The Sub-Committee proposed, and the Council approved, that the Ambulance should be available free of charge to residents within the Borough of Beverley, and that any charge should be met by the Corporation out of the rates, thus providing an additional Health Service for the people of Beverley. The scheme has been very kindly and efficiently administered by the Superintendent of Police, and the ambulance has been staffed by a rota of voluntary drivers, drawn from the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Organisations, assisted by members of the Civil Defence Casualty Services and other interested friends, under the direction of Miss Joyce Goodall and Miss Winifred Plimpton. The Police have also, on occasion, provided drivers in a sudden emergency, and have also provided garage accommodation for the ambulance. The ambulance began service on 21st February, 1941, and by the end of the year had made 76 journeys, totalling 2,495 miles. The cost to date to the Corporation has been nil, and the ambulance has very ably fulfilled a long-felt need in the health facilities of the Borough. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many people who have so willingly given of their time, often under very trying conditions of black-out and bad weather, to make this service such a success.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The work of the Child Welfare Centre, held every Wednesday afternoon, continues to increase. 455 children attended for the first time, compared with 301 during the previous year, and the total number attending was 676, compared with 476. Children under five years of age can also have advice and treatment for minor ailments at the school children's clinics on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

The Health Visitors paid 279 first visits, compared with 301 in 1940, and a total of 3,598 visits to children up to the age of five. The slight decrease in the number of first visits is largely due to the increased attendance at the Clinic, and, in particular, to the large amount of time which has had to be spent in the treatment of minor ailments.

The amount of dried milk supplied at cost price to mothers attending the Centre was 1,315 lbs.

### ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

The very large increase in attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic, due partly to the presence of evacuated expectant mothers and of wives of Service personnel in the town, made it necessary to increase the number of clinics, and these are now held every Friday afternoon, instead of fortnightly, as hitherto. 100 new cases attended, and the total attendances were 258.

The Dental Surgeon conducted five sessions for 21 women, and it is satisfactory to record that expectant mothers are increasingly willing to have dental treatment during pregnancy, thus lessening the risk to the health both of the mother and of the baby.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were twenty cases of Diphtheria during the year, and of these, five had been immunised, and in them the disease was of an extremely mild type. 309 children below the age of five were immunised at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and 916 children between five and fourteen years of age were immunised either at school or at the School Clinic, making a total of 1,225 children immunised during 1941.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia .....	18	12	17 (5 non-resident)
Diphtheria .....	20	20	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	6	5	1
Ophthalmia .....	2	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas .....	4	2	Nil
Pemphigus .....	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia .	5	2	1
Scarlet Fever .....	41	25	Nil
Measles .....	293	2	1
Whooping Cough ...	66	4	Nil
Dysentery .....	6	3	Nil
Para Typhoid .....	2	2	Nil

## **Tuberculosis.**

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941.

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis.* There were 11 male and 8 female new cases, with 6 male and 1 female deaths, during 1941. There were 3 male and 4 female non-pulmonary cases, with no male and 1 female death, during the same period.

## **Sanitary Inspector's Report.**

The work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department largely increased during 1941. From small beginnings in 1940, the organisation of the collection and disposal of salvaged materials increased, until in 1941 it became a large, extremely important and a profitable business. The materials collected included paper, scrap metal, bones, glass and waste food. Owing to several Salvage Drives organised during the year, almost constant advertising, the granting of a bonus to the workmen, and to a compulsory Order which made it an offence to destroy certain waste materials, the tonnage of salvaged articles increased from 135 tons in 1940 (April to December) to 212 tons in 1941. Although of not such great importance as the tonnage, it is interesting to note that in addition a profit of approximately £310 was made.

Repairs to dwelling houses were carried out during the year under great difficulties owing to shortage of labour and materials. Only the most urgent repairs have been insisted upon, and there have been long delays in getting even the most necessary works put in hand. The problem is still more acute in 1942.

In September, the Senior and additional Sanitary Inspectors were charged with the duties of Meat Inspection and the inspection of slaughterhouses and slaughtering within the Borough. Much valuable work has been carried out in this direction.

### 1. WATER.

31 samples of water were submitted for analysis during the year. These samples showed the water supplied to the public to be satisfactory after filtration and chlorination. The water is still carefully watched to ensure the presence of the correct amount of free

chlorine, and the necessary adjustments are made immediately the amount of free chlorine falls below, or rises above, the standard laid down in Government Regulations.

## 2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The position with regard to Sanitary Accommodation in the town at the end of the year was:—

Type of Convenience.	Number.	Percentage.
Water Closets .....	3662	... 83·57
Privies .....	209	... 4·77
Pail Closets .....	511	... 11·66

## 3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year, 4,116 loads of refuse have been collected from private dwelling houses and business premises in the town, corresponding to a weight of 4,137 tons. The total cost of refuse collection and disposal, including salvage, was £1,982. All the refuse in the town, other than that salvaged, was disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Paper, scrap metal, glass, bones and waste food were collected as salvage during the year. To December, 1941, a total of 212 tons were salvaged and sold for £841. Total costs were £532.

## 4. INSPECTION OF THE AREA UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

147 nuisances from various causes have been abated during the year. 333 visits for housing defects have been made to 122 houses, and 46 Informal Notices have been served. 116 houses have been made fit by informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts. One Formal Notice was served under the Public Health Act and was complied with.

The housing programme is still in abeyance due to the War, no Demolition Orders, Clearance Orders, or Closing Orders being made during the year. Houses which would otherwise have been demolished are now having to be maintained in a reasonable condition by having essential work carried out.

Owing to the inflow of evacuees and wives and families of Service men, overcrowding became a serious problem in 1941. When raiding became less frequent,



and after many visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors, the problem was rendered less acute, but at the end of the year was still quite serious.

#### 5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1,206 beasts, 151 calves, 6,366 sheep and 1,171 pigs were slaughtered at the Government slaughterhouse in Wood Lane during the year. This has been visited daily by the Meat Inspectors for the purpose of meat inspection.

#### 6. FACTORIES.

Inspections of certain factories were made during the year, and Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, were granted.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births:—			
Legitimate .....	257	139	118
Illegitimate .....	20	7	13
Stillbirths:—			
Legitimate .....	11	4	7
Illegitimate .....	1	1	—
Deaths .....	196	106	90
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....			13·1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....			18·5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) .....			41·5
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births .....			64·9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....			54·5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....			200·0
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....			5●
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....			1●
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)...			Nil
Death Rate, England and Wales .....			12·9
Birth Rate, England and Wales .....			14·2
Infant Mortality, England and Wales .....			59·0