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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1943.



Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer
of Maternity and Child Welfare Service:
J. M. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing and Transport Superintendent:
T. E. BIRTWISLE, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C.

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ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Castleford Urban District Council.

I have the honour of presenting to you, this my third Annual Report for the year 1943. Once again I have been asked by the Ministry of Health to omit complete tables of local populations as well as quotations supplied by the Registrar General, which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be constructed.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area..... 4,394 Acres.
Rateable Value..... £183,678.
Penny Rate..... £685.

There has been a further decrease in the population of Castleford according to the Registrar General's returns.

BIRTHS.

Live Birth Rate - 19.75 per 1,000 Civilian Population (Legit 18.64)
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales - 16.5 per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Live Birth Rate for smaller towns with a population between 25,000 and 50,000 - 19.4 per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Still Birth Rate - 0.51 per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales - 0.51. per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Still Birth Rate for smaller towns with a population between 25,000 and 50,000 - 0.61 per 1,000 Civilian Population.

DEATHS.

Crude Death Rate - 12.35 per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Death Rate for England and Wales - 12.1 per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Death Rate for towns with a population between 25,000 and 50,000 - 12.7. per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Death Rate from Puerperal Infections and Post Abortional Sepsis - Nil.
Death Rate for England and Wales from Puerperal Infections and Post Abortional Sepsis - 0.73 per 1,000 Total Births.
Death Rate from other Maternal Causes - 1.24 per 1,000 Total Births. (Live and Still)
Death Rate for England and Wales from other Maternal Causes 1.45 per 1,000 Total Births. (Live and Still).

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

For all infants - 65.22 per 1,000 Live Births.
For England and Wales - 49 per 1,000 Live Births.
For Legitimate Infants - 65.04 per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.
For Illegitimate Infants - 68.18 per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1943, GIVEN PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

Heart Disease - 2.68. Other Circulatory Diseases - 0.45.
Bronchitis - 1.19. Pneumonia - 0.68. Other Respiratory
Diseases - 0.18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions - 1.06.
Cancer (all forms) - 1.36. Convulsions, Malformations - 0.35.
Premature Birth - 0.27. Suicide 0.15. Accidents and other
Violent Causes - 0.28. From all other causes - 0.99.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

All these Services including the Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing, Hospitals (Infectious Disease and General), Midwifery, and the Maternity Home are in active operation and running smoothly.

The strength of the personnel at the First Aid Posts remains the same as last year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Castleford Maternity Home.

To facilitate the smooth working of the Ante-Natal Clinics the number of sessions was augmented to two per week, these being held on Monday and Wednesday of each week commencing at 10.30.a.m. This came into operation on 1st April, 1943 and was found to make for smoother working. In the wards the number of patients passing through the hands of the nursing staff remains almost the same as last year, and every credit is due to Miss Petty and her staff for the admirable way in which they carried out their respective duties. As mentioned in my last report the number of beds at our disposal falls far short of the number which could be utilised and as a result of this bed shortage 102 bookings had to be refused in 1943.

Admissions during the year 1943 were :-

Castleford Cases	168
W.R.C.C.	65
Pontefract Cases	25
Methley Cases.	10

Total	268
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Medical Aid was summoned in respect of 116 Mothers, 7 babies and 23 Ante-Natal Mothers. As a result of complications 20 Maternity Home patients were transferred to the Leeds Maternity Home, 2 to the Killingbeck Isolation Hospital, 1 to Rothwell Isolation Hospital and 1 to the Storthes Hall Mental Institution. By arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health, two patients were admitted to Walton Hall and one to Hazelwood Castle Emergency Maternity Homes before delivery owing to lack of accommodation at our home. Cases sent to other institutions and not previously admitted to our home numbered 63. Payment was provided for through the medium of the Leeds Workpeoples Hospital Fund in respect of 25 patients sent to the Leeds Maternity Home, such payment being arranged direct through the Leeds Maternity Home.

Clinics.

It was again found necessary to reorganise and increase the number of Ante-Natal Clinics at three of the four centres. At Sagar Street four clinics were held per month instead of three, and at Airedale and Whitwood three instead of two. These changes came into operation at the Sagar Street and at the Airedale Centres on the 1st April, 1943., and at the Whitwood centre on 1st June, 1943. Glass Houghton clinic carried on as hitherto with two clinics per month. The Ante-Natal clinics last approximately up to two hours and are now held as follows: Sagar Street - the first four Tuesdays of the month commencing at 10.30.a.m. Airedale - The first, second, and fourth Thursdays of the month at 1.30.p.m. Whitwood - The first, second and fourth Wednesdays at 10.30.a.m. Glass Houghton - The Second, and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 2.30.p.m. The Infant Welfare Sessions have not been altered and were carried on as previously.

I must again thank the Health Visitors for their Co-operation and the tactful way in which they carried out their respective duties. Mrs. Wrightson obtained her Health Visitors Certificate on the 24th March, 1943.

Church Street War Time Nursery.

Stores and Furniture for this Nursery began to arrive from the Ministry in November, and the Matron, Mrs. Greaves took up her appointment on the 6th December, 1943.

Head Lice

The Health Visitors report that the incidence of Head Lice is low in Castleford and where necessary every means is being adopted to disseminate practical information on the treatment of this condition. The West Riding School nurses must be thanked for their co-operation in this matter.

Child Life Protection and Adopted Children.

We have only one Foster Child on our books and this child is in a good home.

There are now 20 adopted children in Castleford and these are visited regularly by the Health Visitors.

Details of the M & C.W. Services were returned to the Ministry on the prescribed forms.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1943 one major and several minor campaigns were held to promote and intensify Diphtheria Immunisation in Castleford. These were supported by a direct appeal to responsible people in the town, by means of posters and boardings and by Cine Shows. At the end of 1943, over 80% of the schoolchildren had accepted immunisation, and we are reaching saturation point so far as they are concerned, but the position in the case of the under fives is less satisfactory. Covering the same period only 45% of these had been immunised in spite of all the efforts that had been made by the Health Visitors and Doctors to persuade the parents of these children of the benefits to be derived from early immunisation. Dr. Shuttleworth found it necessary to resign her appointment as School Immunisation Doctor on 7th May, 1943 and was succeeded by Dr. Hunter.

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The following table shows the number of children immunised against Diphtheria.

	<u>Sagar Street.</u>	<u>In Schools.</u>
Complete Immunisations carried out in 1943.	591	1726
Incomplete immunisations carried out in 1943.	36	266
	<u>aged 0 - 5</u>	<u>aged 5 - 15</u>
Immunisations carried out by Private Practitioners.	34	38

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

These will be treated in the Sanitary Inspectors Report.

SCABIES.

As in the previous year treatment was carried out by the Full Time Personnel at the Wesley Street, Wellington Street and the Red Hill First Aid Posts under the general supervision of the Health Visitors and the school nurses until March, 1943, when Miss Eaglen was appointed Scabies Nurse to assist in the clinical work and to investigate contacts and to urge treatment where necessary. It will be noted that the number of treatments given at the centres is now much more equalised, and no one centre is bearing an undue burden. This fact is largely due to the efforts of Nurse Eaglen, who has worked very hard and has shown a keen interest in her work and thanks are due to her. The incidence of Scabies has been considerably reduced since she took charge and the number of complicated cases are now considerably less than hitherto. Much praise is also due to the workers at the First Aid Posts who have helped us so much in our endeavour to stamp out the disease in Castleford.

The numbers of cases of Scabies treated at the various clinics during the year was as follows:-

	<u>Wesley Street</u>	<u>Wellington Street</u>	<u>Red Hill</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Cases which attended for two or more treatments.	571	386	413	1370
Cases which had only one treatment.	87	58	47	192

During the past year three patients have been removed to hospital. These were mainly older people where living conditions were such that they failed to respond to treatment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases in the various age groups, the numbers of cases removed to Hospital for treatment and the number of deaths.

155.30.6/44.M.O.H.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

(SHOWN IN AGE GROUPS)

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

NOTIFIED DISEASES	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria.	45	-	-	1	5	3	11	5	9	6	3	2	-	44	-
Erysipelas.	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	2	3	2	-
Pneumonia.	47	4	1	4	1	4	7	2	2	11	4	6	1	-	27
Scarlet Fever.	187	-	6	13	14	23	89	27	6	5	4	-	-	179	-
Whooping Cough.	116	14	16	19	22	18	23	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal.	5	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Measles.	910	57	108	120	147	159	297	18	-	4	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	-	-	5	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL.	1335	78	132	159	189	207	428	56	23	33	16	10	4	235	35

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following tables give particulars regarding Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year 1943.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Totals.</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M. & F.</u>
Number of cases on the register 1st Jan'y, 1943.	142	82	53	65	342
Number of Cases notified for 1st time during 1943.	24	32	11	8	75
Totals.	166	114	64	73	417
Number of cases removed from register during 1943.	61	28	11	38	138
Number of cases remaining on register 31st December 1943.	105	86	53	35	279

	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Notifications. 75	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
At all ages.	24	32	11	8	21	15	1	4
Under 1 year.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	1	2	3	-	1	-	1
5 - 15	1	2	4	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	5	7	-	2	2	4	-	3
25 - 35	3	6	2	-	3	4	-	-
35 - 45	8	11	-	1	6	3	-	-
45 - 55	4	3	1	-	5	1	1	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
65 and over	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	-

Comparison between numbers on Tuberculosis Register in 1942 and 1943.

	1942.	Non-Pulmonary.	1943.	Non-Pulmonary.
Number of cases on register 1st January.	193	115	224	118
New Cases Notified during year.	83	12	56	19
Totals.	276	127	280	137
Number of cases removed from register during year.				
(a) Died.	42	8	39	4
(b) Cured or Transferred.	10	1	50	45
Number of cases left on register at the end of the year.	224	118	191	88

It will be seen that the number of new cases notified during the year are down in the case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis but show an increase in the cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis and that there is a decrease in the number of deaths.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment for this condition can be obtained at the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield; the Leeds Venereal Diseases Clinic and at other adjacent clinics.

Conclusion.

Once again owing to the present War-Time Emergency actual figures have had to be cut down to a minimum but all relevant facts are being filed away for the day when they can be disclosed.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. Paterson,

Medical Officer of Health.

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HEALTH
A 24 JUN 1944
C.R. 37

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

Sanitary, Cleansing and Transport Department.

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1943.

Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing and Transport Superintendent:
T.E.BIRTWISLE, M.B.E.
F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANNUAL REPORT

Sanitary, Cleaning and Transport Department

YEAR ENDING 1st DECEMBER, 1941

Sanitary Inspector, Cleaning and Transport Superintendent:
T.E. BIRKBECK, M.B.E.
P.R. 2nd Lt., P.S.I.A., M.I.T.C.

URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector,
Year ended 31st. December, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to place before you my thirty-first Annual Report, consisting of a short statement on the sanitary circumstances of the area, and the activities of the Department under my control, during the year 1943.

It was inevitable that shortage of materials and labour should have effect on the work as regards both output and cost; this notwithstanding however it has been found possible to maintain the various services with a reasonable standard of efficiency.

With a restricted technical staff, we have perforce confined our efforts to the bare essentials of sanitary administration, and this it would seem will have to continue for the duration of the war.

When peace comes, the qualified staff will need to be augmented if the arrears of work, now steadily accumulating, are to be overtaken. This will doubtless commend itself to the Council as being in the interests of public health and amenity.

Housing.

Our most crying need at the present time is housing accommodation, and in this matter, the district is similarly placed to many other districts throughout the country.

Premises scheduled for demolition must in the nature of things deteriorate still further, yet in the present scarcity not a house can be spared.

Indeed having regard to the overcrowding known to exist in the district, every available building capable of conversion ought to be brought into use as a war time measure.

Particulars of action are given below.

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit
in consequence of informal action of Local Authority
or their officers.....32
(This does not include drainage, &c., works.)

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring defects
to be remedied..... 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects
were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners..... 2
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.. Nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 11, Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of representations etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation....Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....Nil
- (3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....Nil
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily as unfit..... 6
- (c) Number of dwelling-houses converted to business premises.....Nil
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners:-
 - (a) To render houses fit for human habitation.....Nil
 - (b) As to usage other than human habitation.....Nil

The following is a summary of the action taken under the Housing Acts, 1930-36, and the position at the 31st. March, 1944:-

Part I of the Act. Clearance Areas -

No. of unfit dwelling-houses demolished..... 68
No. of persons displaced.....243

Part II of the Act. Individual Unfit Houses -

No. of dwelling-houses demolished:
Formal action.....103
Informal action..... 32
No. of dwelling-houses closed..... 27
Parts of buildings closed..... 7
No. of persons displaced from above.....630
No. of houses made fit:
Formal action.....158
Informal action.....987

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Particulars as to milk purveyors and producers, dairies, etc., are given below:-

No. of Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk on the register..... 5
No. of retail Purveyors of milk on the register 24
Total number of cowsheds in the District..... 7
Total number of Milk Cows.....118
Total number of Dairy and Cowshed inspections.. 62
No. of "Accredited" Producers..... Nil

There were two licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1941, to sell milk as pasteurised, one of which was a supplementary licence.

Pasteurisation Plant.

The pasteurising plant of the Castleford Co-operative Society continues to operate and give satisfaction.

The output is approximately 3,500 gallons per day.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

No. of samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test.....	34
No. of samples satisfying the Methylene Blue Test.....	26
No. of samples taken of Pasteurised Milk.....	8
No. which satisfied the Prescribed Test.....	6
No. of samples taken of Sterilised Milk.....	5
No. which were satisfactory.....	5
No. of samples submitted for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli including the above mentioned samples of Ordinary and Pasteurised Milk.....	61
No. of samples found to contain Tubercle Bacilli.....	1 (Ordinary Milk)

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Sampling.

Total number of samples taken:-

Informal.....	56
Formal.....	24
Total.....	130

Description	Number	Description	Number
Milk: Informal	56	Cocoa Formal	6
Butter " Formal	23	Baking Powder "	3
Margarine "	5	Vinegar "	3
Lard "	5	Coffee "	3
Sugar "	3	Egg Substitute "	1
Tea "	5	Oatmeal "	1
Flour "	4	Sausages "	1
Jam "	2	Yeast "	1
Rice "	2	Semolina "	1
Rice Pudding Powder	1	Aspirin Tablets "	1
Meat Roll Formal	1	Mustard "	1

Formal Samples:

The following were found to be adulterated:-

Sample No.	Description	Action taken
312	Rice Pudding Powder	Ministry of Food notified.
382	Milk	See below.
383	Milk	See below.
386	Milk	See below.
387	Milk	See below.
390	Milk	See below.
395	Milk	See below.

Referring to the six samples of milk 382-395, these were taken in November in consequence of adulteration disclosed by informal sampling, and were all found to contain added water, ranging from 7.0% to 16.7%.

In every case the milk was deficient in non-fatty solids, and below the standard required by the Sale of Milk Regulations.

The presence of added water was confirmed by the freezing point test, and was further supported by the results of "appeal to cow" sampling.

Informations were laid in respect of each of the six samples under Section 3, Food and Drugs, 1938, the Milk not being of the nature, quality, and substance demanded by the purchaser, under Section 6, for attaching a label calculated to mislead, and under Section 85 for giving to the purchaser a false warranty in writing, making a total of 18 charges.

The complaints were heard at the Castleford Police Court, and a penalty of £21 including costs was imposed.

One sample of meat roll, one cocoa, and two of vinegar were classified as doubtful.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughtering was continued at the Government controlled slaughter-house, and inspection of all animals and carcasses carried out by a qualified member of the staff.

The number of slaughtermen licensed was 12.

Figures relating to meat inspection are given below.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excl'g Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	1165	299	278	4559	86
No. inspected	1165	299	278	4559	86
All diseases except <u>Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	2	3	Nil	4	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	26	17	Nil	1	2
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	9	15	2	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	99	88	Nil	Nil	2

Other foodstuffs surrendered as being unfit for human consumption included the following:-

Beef	67 lbs	Corned Mutton	49 tins
Veal	40 lbs	Corned Beef	567 tins (6 lbs)
Ham	14 lbs	Corned Beef	766 tins (12 ozs)
Bacon	55 lbs	Beans	87 tins
Pikelets	504	Peas	70 tins
Fish Cakes	753	Steak	16 tins
Fish Fillets	64 stones	Fish Roll	16 tins
Onions	389 stones	Milk	318 tins
Beans	1091 lbs	Fish	56 tins
Flour	74/5 tons	Fruit	144 tins
Breakfast Oats	11/5 tons	Soup	32 tins
Pork & Sausage Meats	176 tins	Tomatoes	25 tins

Food found to be unfit for human consumption was removed and converted for use in industrial processes.

River Pollution.

From observations made there did not appear to be cause for action by this Department in respect of discharge from factories or other premises.

Water Supply.

The results of sampling are shewn below.

Public Supply

No.	Date	Sample taken at	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water.	Remarks
2	10.5.43	Redhill Reservoir	None	Satisfactory
3	10.5.43	Town Hall	None	Satisfactory

The following samples were taken from a well as part of an investigation carried out in respect of emergency supplies:-

No.	Date	Sample taken at	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water.	Remarks
1	10.5.43	Jagers Farm	.180 plus	Unsatisfactory
4	10.5.43	Jagers Farm (chlorinated)	None	Satisfactory

Public Swimming Baths

No.	Date	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water.	pH. Value	Free Chlorine
5	27.10.43	None	6.9	None

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspection of factories was carried out so far as was found possible with depleted staff. Insufficiency of sanitary accommodation was found at two factories and satisfactory arrangements were subsequently made.

Various alterations were required with reference to means of escape in case of fire.

Air Pollution.

Sootfall.

The total sootfall for the year as shewn by the analysis of deposit passing through our soot gauges was found to be as follows:-

At Cambridge Street - 287.06 tons per sq. mile.
At Redhill - 183.91 tons per sq. mile.

Sulphur Estimation.

At Barnes Road - 1.808 milligrammes of SO₃ per day.
(Maternity Home)

Owing to outside interference, observations at the Town Hall were discontinued as being unreliable.

In sootfall and sulphur content there was a drop in air pollution as compared with the previous year, and fuel restrictions may have been to some extent responsible for this.

Serious difficulty arose in respect of discharge of black smoke from a factory situate in a thickly populated part of the town. To meet the requirements of H.M. Forces, together with increased calls for civilian purposes, the steam raising plant was being worked to full capacity, and the provision of additional plant was practically precluded owing to war time conditions.

Application was made by the firm concerned to the appropriate Government Department for licence to instal mechanical stoking apparatus, it being considered that this would be effective in abating the nuisance. After some considerable delay, and intervention by this Department, the permit was issued, and at the time of writing, manufacture of the apparatus is in progress.

A position similar to the one above mentioned, arose in connection with another factory during the year previous, and which was mentioned in my last Annual Report. The necessary permit was issued in due course, and the apparatus installed, as a result of which I am pleased to say, the nuisance from black smoke was effectively abated.

Disinfection and Defestation.

Disinfection after infectious disease was done by the usual spraying and fumigation.

The furniture and effects of 3 families were subjected to fumigation before removal to Council owned houses. Fumigation in respect of vermin was done at 48 houses.

Arrangements are in operation at the Depot for the defestation of bedding and clothing of persons treated under the Scabies Order; the clothing, etc. is collected from the Clinics in bins, and defestation is done by steam.

At the request of the Housing Committee, 86 houses were examined for the presence of vermin, before change of tenancy was effected.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sanitary Alterations.

Works carried out during the year 1943 are summarised below:-

Privies abolished (redundant).....	6
Privies converted into water closets.....	2
Slop closets converted to water closets.....	4
Water closets abolished.....	Nil
Water closets (additional) provided to existing buildings.....	2
Drains and water closets reconstructed or repaired.....	69
Drains, water closets, etc., opened or cleansed.....	294
Ashpits (wet) abolished.....	6
Ashpits (dry) abolished.....	Nil
Ashbins provided in substitution for ashpits.....	Nil
Chemical closets (new).....	Nil
Ashbins provided to new buildings.....	Nil
Ashbins abolished.....	Nil

Statement of sanitary defects or nuisances found and results of action:-

Total number of inspections for nuisances...	1062
Defects or nuisances found.....	434 (premises)
Number carried over from 1942.....	237
Number abated during 1943.....	461
Number outstanding end of 1943.....	210
Notices issued:	
Informal notices 140 Complied with.....	167
Statutory notices 9 Complied with.....	9

Petroleum Storage.

There were issued during the year 30 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium; the quantity allowed to be stored under licence was 447,382 gallons of petroleum spirit and 2,912 lbs of carbide of calcium.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

"Directions" were issued by the Director of Infestation Control under The Infestation Order of 1943, for the making of a survey as to the extent to which the Urban District was subject to infestation by rats and mice.

To meet the "directions" and subsequent action it was found that the arrangements existing for the joint use of a rat-catcher were inadequate for the purpose and your Council decided to engage a full-time operator. This was done, and the action has been amply justified by results.

Public Cleansing, Transport and Salvage.

Work under this heading was maintained throughout the year, and again prominence was given to the national need for salvage of re-usable materials.

The Department engaged in the Yorkshire County Book Drive, having as its aim, 100,000 books. The aim was more than achieved, the final result being over 115,000 books.

Collection of foodwaste was continued with beneficial results to local pig-keepers, while efforts were made to increase the collection of bones by distributing special bins for the purpose.

Again I would call attention to the apathetic attitude of many of our people in this matter. Having regard to our population, the yield of materials should be much higher than is at present being obtained.

With reference to refuse disposal I am pleased to say that the filling up of the quarry at Healdfield will in the course of the next few months be completed. The work was commenced in 1940, and has gone steadily forward; its completion will mark the removal of a danger spot, and the provision in its place of a school playing field.

It was found necessary towards the end of the year to carry out extensive repairs at the refuse incinerator for the first time since its construction some nine years ago.

Owing to the mildness of the winter little was called for in the direction of snow removal and gritting.

Transport vehicles were maintained and used in the general service of the Council.

The motor ambulance service continued to function and was greatly appreciated by those requiring it.

Owing to the final financial figures not being at present available, I am unable to give the usual information as to costs, but arrangements have been made for a supplementary report to be issued when these figures are known.

Civil Defence.

The Department continued to maintain the following services:- General Decontamination, Food Decontamination and Ambulance.

Our own workmen continue to be the mainstay of the general decontamination service, and gave it loyal support throughout the year.

For food decontamination we have a personnel of 24 drawn chiefly from the food distributing trades. Training is being continued.

Conclusion.

In view of my impending retirement from office, under the provisions of the Superannuation Acts, I would take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the confidence the Council, as a whole, have placed in me during the space of over 30 years.

It was my hope to see certain projected improvements carried out for the benefit of the town and people of Castleford, but which had to be postponed owing to the need for every effort to be devoted to the prosecution of the war. They will doubtless be the concern of my successor.

Whatever I may have been able to accomplish during my years of service has been very largely due to the loyal assistance and co-operation it has been my privilege to receive from the staff of the Department, both indoor and outdoor, officers and workmen alike, and to these I tender my sincere thanks.

I also wish to thank the officers and staffs of other Departments for the many kindnesses and courtesies I have received at their hands.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

T.E.BIRTWISLE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Cleansing and Transport
Superintendent.

Sanitary Department,
Town Hall,
Castleford.
21st. June, 1944.

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