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BOROUGH OF CHORLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
1940 & 1941.

CHORLEY :
ALFRED HILL, PRINTER, LIVESEY STREET.
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BOROUGH OF CHORLEY.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

1940.

Mayor :

*Councillor T. HAMER, J.P.

Aldermen :

Alderman J. FEARNHEAD.

" R. GENT.

" A. GILLETT.

" †Mrs. GILLETT, J.P.

" †T. W. HALL.

" R. MARSDEN.

" J. SHARPLES.

" A. TAYLOR.

Councillors :

Councillor E. BALL.

" Mrs. A. BAXENDALE.

" F. BRINDLE.

" S. COOKSON.

" Mrs. E. M. EDWARDS.

" R. EVANS, J.P.

" G. B. FLETCHER.

" J. GREEN.

" J. W. HARTLEY, J.P.

" T. HEATON.

" Miss M. A. HIBBERT, J.P.

" J. B. HINDLE.

" E. HOWARTH.

" F. KNOWLES.

" J. ROGERSON.

" R. SMITH.

" W. SUMNER.

" J. J. THORNLEY.

" A. V. TOOTELL.

" E. Warburton.

" E. WILDMAN.

" C. WILLIAMS.

" A. WILSON.

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" W. SUMNER.

" J. J. THORNLEY.

" A. V. TOOTELL.

" E. Warburton.

" E. WILDMAN.

" C. WILLIAMS.

" A. WILSON.

* Chairman of Sanitary Committee.

† Chairman of Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

‡ Chairman of Housing and Town Planning Committee.

Town Clerk : GEORGE JACKSON.

Co-opted Members of Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

1940 — Mrs. BURGESS, Mrs. STONE, Mrs. CRELLIN.

1941 — Mrs. BURGESS, Mrs. STONE, Mrs. ASHTON.

BOROUGH OF CHORLEY.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

ERIC C. DOWNER, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.M.

(until November, 1940).

JOHN F. RUSSELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(February—April, 1941. Died).

ROBERT C. GUBBINS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From August, 1941).

*Obstetric Surgeon and Consultant Medical Officer to
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic:

K. V. BAILEY, M.C., M.D., M.R.C.P., M.C.O.G.

*Medical Officer to Routine Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics:

ISOBEL T. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.O.G.

*Obstetric Consultant for Emergencies:

WILLIAM SIMPSON, M.D., M.C.O.G.

†Medical Officer, Orthopædic Clinic:

R. OLLERENSHAW, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Until March, 1940).

F. C. DWYER, F.R.C.S. (From September 3rd, 1941).

†Oculist and Laryngologist:

W. SYKES, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

†Dental Anæsthetist:

DORIS H. DERBYSHIRE, M.B., Ch.B.

†Dental Surgeon:

T. F. HEALEY, L.D.S.

Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector, Superintendent of Refuse Removal, Shops Acts, Inspector under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, etc.:

R. P. B. LUND, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. (Meat & Foods) R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors:

H. WARD, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. (Smoke, Meat & Foods) R.S.I.

F. MYERS, Cert. R.S.I. (Called up to H.M. Forces, 5/3/40).

Health Visitors:

Miss A. A. WALSH, S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I.

Miss G. WOODS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerks:

Miss H. PATTERSON (until February, 1940).

Miss H. M. QUINTON (from May 13th, 1940).

Mr. R. HEAPS (Called up to H.M. Forces, October, 1941).

Mr. A. ROBINSON.

* Part-time Officers.

† Part-time Officers employed by the Education Committee, and whose services are available for Maternity and Child Welfare cases.

Public Health Department,
2/4, St. Thomas's Square,
Chorley.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report on the Health Services of the Borough of Chorley.

The Ministry of Health requests that only interim reports of a much abbreviated nature, containing material confined to urgent and essential matters affecting Public Health, should be issued. Accordingly, I have not only abbreviated the reports, but have combined the Reports for 1940 and 1941, and where matters are essentially unchanged, have referred readers to the 1938-1939 Reports.

The combination of war-time conditions and the Borough's lack of a Medical Officer of Health for six months prior to my advent in August of 1941 will indicate to the Members of the Council the difficulty I would have in finding time to report separately and more fully on the two years.

That the essential health services of the Borough have continued to function as efficiently as they do, having regard to the extra duties that have had to be undertaken, is a tribute to the zeal of the Staff of the Public Health Department—Health Visitors, School Nurses, Consultant Staff, Sanitary Staff, and Clerical Staff—for whose loyal co-operation and help I am indeed grateful.

I also desire—as a newcomer to the Council's staff—to express my gratitude, not only to the Town Clerk and other Senior Officials, for their tolerance and willing assistance on the many occasions that I have worried them, but also to the members of the Council for their uniformly sympathetic and helpful attitude. In particular, I desire to acknowledge the help afforded me by the Chairman of the Sanitary and Child Welfare Committees—Councillor S. Cookson and Alderman Mrs. Gillett—and I feel I should fail in my duty if I neglected to pay tribute to the comfort and assistance given to me by the late Mayor, Alderman T. Hamer, whose demise I felt as a keen personal loss, in spite of the short period of our acquaintance.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant.

ROBERT C. GUBBINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

N.B.—The usual statistics have been supplied by the Registrar-General and filed for future reference, but—in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health—only certain items are herein presented, avoiding data that would assist in the compilation of local populations, etc.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Area in acres	4,292	4,292	4,292
Rateable Value of Borough		£157,634	£158,719
Product of 1d. Rate		£605	£613
Birth Rate	17.15	16.3	17.3
Birth Rate — England and Wales ...	15.00	14.6	14.2
Death Rate	15.62	15.7	12.3
Death Rate — England and Wales	12.1	14.3	12.9
Still Birth Rate ..		48.0	57.0
Still Birth Rate — England and Wales		0.55	0.51
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	77.0	65.0	41.0
Infant Mortality Rate — England and Wales	50.0	55.0	59.0
Maternal Mortality Rate (all births per 1,000)		3.86	3.53
Maternal Mortality Rate — England and Wales		2.16	2.23
Causes of Infant Deaths :—		1940.	1941.
Whooping Cough		— ...	2
Pneumonia		7 ...	3
Congenital Debility		23 ...	14
Accidental		3 ...	—
Other Diseases		10 ...	3

The vital statistics of the area compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

The death-rate for 1940 reflects the increase for the whole country, and for 1941 reflects the national decline in this rate. The birth-rate for 1940 corresponds to the national decrease, but locally it increases again for the following year.

The Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births) shows a gratifying decline from 77 in 1939 to 65 in 1940 and 41 in 1941. This is in contrast to the rate for England and Wales (see table).

The presence of a large proportion of the population in H.M. Armed Forces and the movement of large numbers of people in connection with war production has created considerable difficulty in the maintenance of accurate statistical records, such as will compare with those of pre-war years.

The following changes were made by the Registrar-General in 1939 :—

- (1) Deaths of those serving in H.M. Armed Forces are not included in local statistics.
- (2) In the case of a person dying who, temporarily on account of the war, resides away from home, as in the case of a person dying in an Institution, the death is assigned to the area of temporary residence and not transferred as hitherto.
- (3) Births continue to be transferred to the area of the mother's usual residence for the purpose of calculating birth rates.

In calculating infant and maternal mortality rates, however, a second series of birth statistics is employed, in which all births are assigned to the area in which the mother is temporarily resident, as a result of the war.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

1.—(i) Particulars of Staff are given at the beginning of this Report.

(ii) Developments or changes in

(a) Laboratory Facilities :—No change from 1938 Report till October, 1941, when the facilities offered by the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratories were utilised in place of those of the Clinical Research Association, of London.

(b) Ambulances :—No change from 1938 Report.

(c) Nursing in the Home:—No change from 1938 Report. Number of visits paid by the three Nurses of the Chorley & District Nursing Association :—

1940.	1941.
11,695	11,228.

(d) Hospitals :—No change from 1938 Report.

(e) Clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinics — dealt with under section 2.

Orthopaedic Clinics — held monthly by Mr. Dwyer.

	1940.	1941.
Attendances (children under 5 years)	246	179
No. of Individual children attended	31	27
Cases admitted to hospital	2	3
Children provided with surgical appliances ...	11	8

Artificial Sunlight Clinics. (Three sessions weekly).

	1940.	1941.
No. of children received treatment (Chorley)	25 ...	17
(County).	8 ...	1
No. of attendances	504 ...	364

Dental Clinic. (Six sessions weekly).

No. of children (under 5 yrs.) received treatment	63 ...	45
No. of children requiring general anæsthetic ...	19 ...	13

Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Clinics. One session monthly.

No. of Children (under 5 yrs.) received consultations	23 ...	16
No. of Children prescribed spectacles	10 ...	4
No. of children admitted to hospital for treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids	4 ...	12

Minor Ailments Clinic — held daily.

Provided by School Medical Service.

No. of children (under 5 yrs.) received treatment	35 ...	19
Consultations at Treatment Clinic	40 ...	21

2.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

I report more fully on matters under this heading and include extracts from various sub-sections of previous Reports, in order to consolidate and bring up to date the present position.

(1) Midwifery and Maternity Services.**A.—Domiciliary Services.****(a) Midwives.**

The Lancashire County Council, being the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, introduced, in 1937, a scheme for the establishment of a domiciliary service of salaried midwives. Three such are now practising in Chorley, and their particulars are :—

Miss A. A. Bennett,
Olive Mount, Russell Square West, Chorley.
Tel. No. Chorley 2654.

Mrs. J. E. Dickinson,
34, Weldbank Lane, Chorley.
Tel. No. Chorley 2689.

Miss A. Christie,
5, Westminster Road, Chorley.
Tel. No. Chorley 2659.

Fees for the services of these midwives have been fixed according to a sliding income scale by the County Council.

The number of cases undertaken by these midwives were :—

	1940.	1941.
Miss A. A. Bennett	96	85
Mrs. J. E. Dickinson	82	77
Miss A. Christie	57	73

One midwife is in private practice in the Borough.

(b) Doctors.

The "General Practitioner Scheme" for ante-and post-natal supervision (see 1936-7-8 Reports) has fallen into disuetude.

(c) Specialist Surgery — see B (d) below.

B.—Ante-natal Service.

(a) Routine Ante-natal Clinics.

Weekly Ante-natal Clinics are held, the Corporation providing the part-time services of an experienced obstetrician in the

person of Dr. Isobel T. Walsh, of Preston. The clinic is available, free of charge, to all expectant mothers in the Borough, who are either referred there by the general practitioners in the area, or attend on their own initiative. The clinics are attended by the Health Visitors, who "follow up" cases and undertake social and educational work in connection therewith.

(b) Consultant Ante-natal Clinics.

The Corporation provide the services of a Consultant Obstetrician in Dr. K. V. Bailey, of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, who attends monthly for consultation on difficult or complicated cases referred to him from the weekly routine clinics or directly from the local general practitioners. By arrangement with the Lancashire County Council, who contribute towards the expenses, patients from outside the Borough may attend this clinic.

A summary of the work of this clinic is given below.

	Attendances				No. of Patients					
	Ante-natal		Post-natal		Ante-natal			Post-natal		
					Chorley		County	Chorley		County
	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1940	1941	1941
Routine Clinic (Dr. Walsh) ..	626	802	84	21	194	233	38	78	18	3
Consultant Clinic (Dr. Bailey) ...	114	104	50	60	25	24	—	—	—	—
Total (Individual Patients) ...	740	906	84	21	225	244	59	77	18	3

(c) **Post-natal Clinics.**

Owing to the increasingly large number of cases attending for Ante-natal examination, and the numerous calls upon the services of the medical staff not "called up" for military service, it has been found necessary to dispense with post-natal clinics — as such. Some post-natal supervision is given at the Ante-natal clinics.

(d) **Surgical Provision.**

For difficult labour cases and ante- and post-natal cases requiring surgical interference, the Corporation provide the services of two Obstetric Consultants — Dr. K. V. Bailey, of Manchester, and Dr. Simpson, of Preston. General practitioners may request their services either at the homes of the patients or at the Chorley & District Hospital. Dr. Bailey undertakes the routine and more predictable emergency surgery, whilst Dr. Simpson is called upon for those emergencies that arise when the former's services are difficult to obtain.

The services of these consultants were utilised as follows :—

	1940.	1941.
Dr. Bailey	18	6
Dr. Andison (for Dr. Simpson) ...	8	16

(2) **Institutional Provisions.**

Available
Maternity Beds.

Chorley & District Hospital	17
Eaves Lane Hospital	6

(3) **Health Visitors.**

The Corporation continues to provide the services of two whole-time Health Visitors. Their duties, originally and primarily devoted to visits to new-born infants and the instruction of the parents, and the following-up of such welfare work at Infant Welfare Clinics, have been very much increased by war-time conditions,

and now consist of such additional duties as the supervision of the distribution of cod liver oil and fruit juices ; of the distribution of clothing coupons to expectant mothers, and extra routine work concerned with the control of such conditions as scabies, in conjunction with the School Nurses. The increasing attendances at Ante-natal clinics also involves them in an increased call on their normal duties, which consist of attendance at these clinics.

Their annual reports are summarised thus :—

	1940.	1941.
First visits to babies	457	519
Visits to still-births	22	28
Re-visits, 0-1 year	1766	1292
Re-visits, 1-5 years	2431	1890
Special visits to infants	111	115
Visits to expectant mothers	41	34
No access	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total visits	4828	3878
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	740	906
Attendances at Infant Welfare Centres	5692	4635
Extra-routine visits (Scabies, etc). Particulars not available	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	6432	5541
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Readers are referred to the Annual Report of 1937 for further explanation of Health Visitors' work.

(4) **Child Life Protection.**

There were no foster parents registered in 1940 or 1941.

(5) **Clinics available for Infants and Young Children.**

See list at beginning of Report.

Infant Welfare Centres.

These continue to function as hitherto. Attendances have been as follows :—

Year.	Name of Centre.	Meetings held.	Total attendances.	No. of individual babies who attended.			M.O.'s consultations.
				0-1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	1-5 yrs.	
1940 ...	St. George's St. ...	97 ...	2118	1205 ...	223	133 ...	None
	Eaves Lane	48 ...	1495	874 ...	149	61 ...	available.
1941 ..	St. George's St. ..	92 ..	1758	880 ...	215	98 ...	77 } from
	Eaves Lane	46 ...	1533	464 ...	144	60 ...	96 } Oct. 1941

The diminution of attendances during 1941 is probably largely due to the prolonged absence of a Medical Officer.

SECTION 3.

1.— (i) **Water** — No change. The same remarks apply as in the 1938 Report. 78 yards of main were added in 1940, and 1,200 yards in 1941.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

No improvements or extensions during 1940 or 1941. The contemplated large improvement scheme has been “held up” by the advent of war. For fuller information see 1938 Report.

2.—**Rivers and Streams.**

No action in regard to pollution has been taken during the last two years.

3.— (i) **Closet Accommodation.**

	1940.		1941.
No. of Privy Middens	19	...	18
Closets attached to Privy Middens	24	...	23
No. of Pail Closets	79	...	78
No. of Waste Water Closets	804	...	798
No. of Fresh Water Closets	9401	...	9408
No. of Houses on Water Carriage Systems	9375	...	9382
Conversions of :—			
Privy Closets to Pails	3	...	Nil
Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	1	...	Nil
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	6	...	Nil

The privy middens and pail closets are located amongst the farms and outlying property near the Borough Boundary.

(ii) **Public Cleansing.**

(a) Disposal of Refuse.

Condemned meat and offal has been disposed of by removal to Gallagher's (Offal Merchants), of Wigan, during 1940 and 1941.

The two years have seen increased work and difficulties for the Staff of the Sanitary Department. This has been due partly to the shortage of "labour" and partly to the initiation and extension of salvage schemes, which include the collection of waste paper, metal, bones, etc.

In 1941 the salvage of waste food for the feeding of pigs was undertaken, involving the twice weekly collection of the contents of approximately 200 bins, which is then retailed to local farms and pigkeepers. Between 13 and 14 tons of waste food is thus dealt with each month.

(b) Public Lavatories and Urinals.

There is no change from previous reports. The extension and modernisation of these is one of the urgent matters that should receive the Council's post-war attention.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.** (Incorporating extracts from Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report).

	1940.	1941.
Total No. of Sanitary Inspections by Inspectors	9792	5500
No. of premises showing defects or nuisances	848	1555
Informal notices served	848	1555
Informal notices complied with	745	532
	(72 from 1939)	
	(192 from 1940)	
Informal notices not complied with ...	195	1215
Statutory Notices served under :—		
(a) Housing Acts	10	—
(b) Public Health Acts	29	—
(c) Chorley Corporation Act	14	3
Statutory notices not complied with ...	7	—
No. of nuisances abated. (Details filed for post-war Report)	828	967

(iv) **Shops and Offices.**

Visits by Sanitary Inspectors under Shop Acts	378	216
Cases in which informal action taken under Shops Acts or Public Health Acts	—	17

Continued observations are maintained over closing hours.

(v) **Camping Sites.** No change from previous Reports.

(vi) **Smoke Abatement.**

Periodic observations are taken and legal proceedings were taken for chimney firing in two cases in 1941.

(vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

The bacteriological reports on samples of water taken from the two swimming baths in the Borough were satisfactory.

(viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.**

	1940.	1941.
No. of Council Houses found infested and subsequently disinfested	2	1
No. of other houses found infested and subsequently disinfested	30	8
No. of houses treated for cockroaches, beetles, etc.	55	62

The same methods were used as previously.

SECTION D.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

	1940.	1941.
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	1137	1360
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	1820	2060

(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	108	...	175
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	208	...	256
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1	...	—
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	740	...	1555

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

	1940.	1941.
No. of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	817	532

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year,

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

	1940.	1941.
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served, requiring repairs	10	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		

(a) By owners	7	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Act.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	43	...	3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners	41	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	...	3

No proceedings were taken under Sections 11, 12 or 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

4.—Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV — Overcrowding.

	1940.	1941.
Inspections made	30	..... 13

Owing to the influx of war-workers there is a considerable amount of overcrowding, but no legal action has been taken under the above Act.

When the congestion becomes severe someone nearly always brings the case to the notice of the Public Health Department, and informal action is taken to lessen the extent of overcrowding. Inspections in these cases mostly serve but to demonstrate the low standard set by statute, and it is to be hoped, in the interests of national welfare, that post-war legislation will raise these standards.

Erection of New Houses

41 houses in 1940 and 12 houses in 1941 were erected by private enterprise.

The members of the Council will doubtless appreciate the advent and enlargement of the "vicious circle" in regard to the disrepair of property and the increasing difficulty in obtaining man-power and/or material to remedy same.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk.

The inspection of cowsheds, dairies and the premises of retail purveyors was continued throughout 1940 and 1941.

Although rendered difficult by the additional war-time duties imposed upon a depleted Sanitary Staff, this work has been kept up as much as possible, in view of the importance attached by H.M. Government to the correct production and distribution of milk.

Education of milk producers in the modern methods of clean milk production is often a slow and thankless process, and there are still several premises which need improvement. There is also still too much milk being distributed in the town by the old unhygienic method of churn to jug or milk-can.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, three notices were served in 1940, and six in 1941, requiring the detention and isolation of suspected tubercular animals.

73 samples of milk in 1940, and 82 samples in 1941, were taken for analysis. (Also see (c) below.)

(b) (i) **Public Slaughter-house and Meat Inspection thereat.**

In January, 1940, the Ministry of Food took over the control of the Public Abattoir, and the responsibility for the killing and distribution of meat, the Borough Council continuing to be responsible for the maintenance of the premises and their Sanitary Inspectors for the inspection of the carcasses.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out by your Sanitary Staff :—

	1940		1941
Animals killed (cattle, sheep, pigs)	34,905	...	19,618
Carcases inspected	34,905	...	19,618
Condemned tuberculous carcasses, or parts thereof	74,657 lbs.	...	Figures not available.
Unsound meat (other than above)	37,351 lbs.	...	Figures not available.

(ii) **Other Meat Inspection.**

125 carcasses in 1940 and 51 carcasses in 1941 were inspected at butchers' shops throughout the town.

(iii) **Shops, Stables, etc.**

A regular inspection is made of shops, market stalls, vehicles, and other premises used in the manufacture or preparation of foodstuffs, many of which — such as premises used in preparing ice cream, potted and preserved meats, etc. — have to be registered under either the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, the Chorley Corporation Act, or the Lancashire County Council Rivers Board & General Powers Act, 1938.

As a result of these inspections 11,269 lbs. of foodstuffs were condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption in 1940.

(c) **Adulteration of Foodstuffs, etc.**

Action under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Samples taken under this Act were :—

	1940	1941
Milk	73	82
Other Foodstuffs	41	56

Unsatisfactory Samples :—

Milk	2	5
Other Foodstuffs	2	—

In 1941, two of the five unsatisfactory samples of milk led to successful prosecutions.

- (d) The chemical and bacteriological analysis of samples of milk and other foodstuffs is undertaken at Preston by the County Analyst to the Lancashire County Council.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
DISEASES.

1940

Disease	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Totals Death
Scarlet Fever	47	34	28	28	137	108	—
Diphtheria	7	5	27	9	48	48	5
Enteric	—	—	4	1	5	5	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	4	—	1	9	2	—
Erysipelas	5	1	3	5	14	2	1
Pneumonia	20	8	3	10	41	—	—
Measles	3	275	420	8	706	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	5	1	1	34	41	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	3	2	—	—	5	5	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
Totals ...	95	331	486	96	1008	171	8

1941

Disease	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	34	28	12	14	88	76	—
Diphtheria	22	16	20	10	68	68	3
Enteric	—	1	1	—	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	2	4	6	13	—	—
Pneumonia	10	9	5	11	35	—	1
Measles... ..	11	4	6	4	25	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	19	10	3	12	44	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	3	3	4	12	12	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1	—	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Anterior Polio-melitis ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Infantile Paralysis ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Dysentary	—	—	4	—	4	—	1
Totals	101	73	59	64	297	161	9

The above tables show the quarterly incidence of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases occurring within the Borough during 1940 and 1941.

Briefly reviewed, the incidence of the more prevalent diseases is as follows :—

	1940	1941
1st Quarter	Epidemic Scarlet Fever ...	Scarlet Fever still +
2nd Quarter	„ Scarlet Fever and Measles	„ „ „ „
3rd Quarter	„ Measles, Diph- theria, Scarlet Fever still + .	No epidemics.
4th Quarter	Slight epidemic Whooping Cough	No epidemics.

I would comment on some of the infectious diseases individually.

Scarlet Fever.—A mild type prevailing throughout 18 months, most cases occurring in the first quarter of each year. It will be observed that there were no deaths and that 184 cases out of 225 were treated at the Isolation Hospital (Heath Charnock), the remainder being nursed at home, where such circumstances were approved by the medical attendant.

Measles.—Generally of a mild type, though one death occurred out of 706 cases in 1940, when an epidemic prevailed between May and September. There were only 25 cases in 1941, which is the sequence one expects.

Diphtheria.—There has been no marked resurgence of this disease, but it has maintained a fairly constant rate of incidence throughout both years. Although there was an increase of about 45% in the number of cases in 1941, it is pleasing to note that the number of deaths fell from 5 to 3. The increase in the third quarter of 1940 can hardly be termed an epidemic.

Whooping Cough.—An outbreak of this disease in November-December, 1940, continuing into the first months of 1941, accounts for 63 of the 75 cases in the two years. Although the direct mortality rate of this disease is not high, insufficient popular attention is drawn to its disabling effects upon young children.

PREVENTATIVE ACTION IN THE CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

- 1.—At the end of the year 1941 the Council passed the plans for an intensive diphtheria immunisation campaign. As this was undertaken in 1942 it will be reported upon in the annual report for that year. In support of the plans, the following facts were presented to the Council :—

During 1939, 1940 and 1941, 202 children under 16 years of age contracted diphtheria. There were 16 deaths. Only seven of these cases were from 1,334 totally or partially immunised children (discounting those who contracted the disease within 2—3 months of their final immunising injection), and there were no deaths amongst these seven.

- 2.—The number of children immunised during the years are indicated in the following tables :—

	1940.	1941.
M. & C. W.	40	244
School	26	384

- 3.—Diphtheria anti-toxin (for immediate treatment) is obtainable by local practitioners at the Public Health Department, the Police Station, and the two First Aid Posts.

Whooping Cough.

In November, 1941, the Council agreed to provide free Whooping Cough vaccine for the children of the Borough (for both treatment and prophylactic purposes). This vaccine was to be administered via the local medical practitioners who were to be encouraged to use it freely. Although I hope to do so at some

future date, it has been impracticable to arrange for a mass immunisation of children (on diphtheria immunisation lines) owing to accumulation of war-time duties.

As mentioned above, this disease frequently results in chronic bronchitic conditions in children, and the Council's attention was drawn to the uneconomical proposition of maintaining several children in special schools when the cost of one year's maintenance would almost pay for the immunisation of the whole school population.

Disinfection of Premises, etc.

	1940.	1941.
Premises disinfected	180	234
Clothing, articles, bedding, etc., disinfected	799	2539

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality.

1940.

		New Cases.						Deaths.				
Age		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory			
Periods.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Years	0 ...	—	—	...	—	—	.....	—	—	...	—	—
	1 ...	—	—	...	3	2	.....	—	—	...	—	—
	5 ...	—	—	...	2	3	.....	—	—	...	—	—
	10 ...	—	—	...	1	1	.....	—	—	...	—	—
	15 ...	—	2	...	2	2	.....	—	4	...	—	—
	20 ...	—	5	...	—	1	.....	—	2	...	—	—
	25 ...	4	4	...	—	2	.....	1	1	...	—	—
	35 ...	2	2	...	—	—	.....	1	2	...	—	—
	45 ...	3	—	...	1	1	.....	2	—	...	—	—
	55 ...	—	1	...	—	1	.....	—	1	...	—	—
	65 & over	1	—	...	—	—	.....	—	—	...	—	—
Totals ...		10	14		9	13		4	10		—	—

1941.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years 0 ...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1 ...	—	—	...	2	3	...	—	1
5 ...	—	—	...	3	3	...	—	—
10 ...	—	—	...	1	2	...	—	—
15 ...	2	1	...	—	1	...	—	—
20 ...	—	4	...	—	3	...	—	—
25 ...	5	2	...	—	3	...	2	1
35 ...	6	2	...	—	1	...	1	3
45 ...	2	—	...	—	—	...	1	—
55 ...	1	—	...	1	—	...	1	—
65 & over	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
Totals ...	16	9	8	16	5	4	—	1

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the two years, compared with 1939 (26 pulmonary, 24 non-pulmonary) does not illustrate that nation-wide increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis (pulmonary especially) which has been reported from so many areas, and which has been attributed, doubtless correctly, to the effects of ill-ventilation resulting from "black-out" conditions, overcrowding, and the strain of war-work and war conditions upon individuals already slightly infected or in such poor health as to be prone to the infection.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(e) **Nutrition.**

No special propaganda has been undertaken, other than that at Clinics, to educate the public in the matter of nutrition. H.M. Government, through various media, has undertaken this work on a national scale and in a very thorough manner.

To assess what effect war-time conditions have upon the nutrition of the population is difficult, where there is a lack of staff and time for special investigation, but our war-time dieting is generally adequate, if not of that variety that is the "spice of life."

(c) Section

The second paragraph of the first section of the Act is intended to provide for the payment of compensation to persons who are injured or killed by the negligence of a motor vehicle. The compensation is to be paid to the person or persons who are entitled to it by the law of the State in which the injury or death occurred.

The third paragraph of the first section of the Act is intended to provide for the payment of compensation to persons who are injured or killed by the negligence of a motor vehicle. The compensation is to be paid to the person or persons who are entitled to it by the law of the State in which the injury or death occurred.



