

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Darlington R.D.C.

Contributors

Darlington (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1939

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1939

12th APRIL, 1941.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LSL

GENTLEMEN,

Due to the increasing pressure of work on the Public Health Department of local authorities, and the need for strict economy in paper, the Minister of Health deems that interim reports should only be made for the year 1939. This, my ninth annual report, is not, therefore, published to each member of the Council, and only deals with matters that have affected the public health during the year. Preservation of all records will therefore be filed and full report given at the termination of the war.

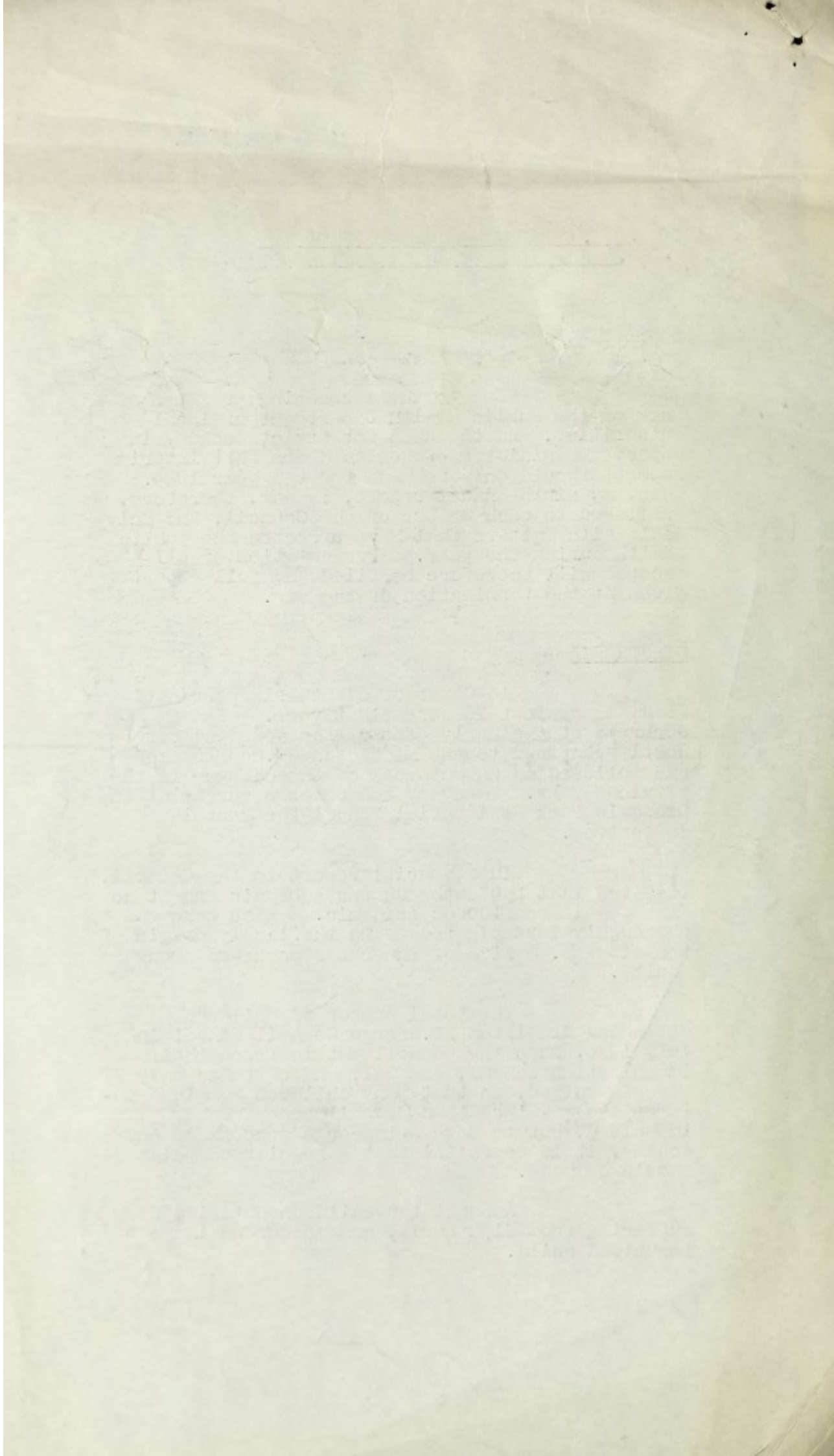
DIPHTHERIA

14 Cases of diphtheria were notified, as against 26 cases last year. These occurred at the early part of the year and were mostly confined to the Middleton St. George area and followed on an outbreak of the disease in the previous year. Many of the cases occurred at the Dinsdale Park Residential School for mental defectives.

In a special report to the Council, I stated that the outbreak was sporadic and at no time was it considered epidemic. Each case was thoroughly investigated as to the likely origin of the disease. Five of the cases occurred among adults.

The total number of children attending Middleton St. George Council School in July 1936, when the Council put in force their immunisation scheme, was 241, and of these only 77 were immunised, so that many children remained unimmunised. Since then 32 children have been immunised, but to make a thorough success of any scheme, it is essential that a regular campaign should be made.

Amongst the children notified as suffering from diphtheria, none occurred in an immunised child.



Steps were taken by the County Authorities to have all the children residing at the Dinsdale Park mentally Defective School ~~to be~~ immunised.

EVACUATION

On the outbreak of war 1,196 children and mothers with children were evacuated into this district and were distributed in the villages throughout the area. Apart from an outbreak of scabies and impetigo, the health of these children was very satisfactory, and from a health point of view, children greatly benefitted by the change.

An investigation shewed that the outbreak of scabies and impetigo did not originate among the evacuee children but revealed that there had been an outbreak in a tenement house in the village before evacuation took place. Altogether nine evacuee children were affected, and eight of these were removed to hospital for treatment and the other was taken back home. All precautions were taken as to disinfection of clothing and blankets, and by the end of the year, the district was free from the disease.

A clinic was opened by the County Council at one of the schools in the district and frequent examinations of the children were made.

MEASLES

An outbreak of measles occurred when 71 cases were notified.

Apart from this, I cannot say that the health of your district has in any way been affected differently to previous years and cannot say that any matters arising out of the war have affected the health of the district.

WATER SUPPLY

The supply of water from the well at Heighington became very low and water was to haul to the village. The linking up of this village to the Durham County Water Board's area of supply will remedy any future failure of this supply.

At the same time a supply will be furnished to the village of Redworth which is at present supplied from a well, the water from which is not very satisfactory.

The village of Aycliffe is now supplied in bulk through the Tees Valley Water Board's mains. This ample supply now replaces the supply from the bore-hole which supplied the village and failed during the previous year.

It is fortunate that these supplies to the villages were available, as the evacuation scheme put a further strain on the old supplies.

The scheme for the supply of water from the new bore-hole at the village of Great Stainton, has had to be abandoned until after the war. As the supply from the well is unsatisfactory as regards quality, I am recommending the installation of a small chlorinating plant until the new scheme can be proceeded with.

T.L.Wormald, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

The village of Agville is now supplied in bulk through the Tees Valley Water Board's mains. This supply has replaced the supply from the bore-hole which supplied the village and failed during the previous year.

It is fortunate that these supplies to the villages were available, as the evacuation scheme had a further strain on the old supplies.

The scheme for the supply of water from the new bore-hole at the village of Great Stainton, has had to be abandoned until after the war, as the supply from the well is insufficient to supply the village. It is recommended that the installation of a small reticulating plant until the new scheme can be proceeded with.

T. J. Oswald, M.B., B.S., B.H., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

17th. November, 1941.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Vital Statistics and Sanitation of your district for year ended 31st. December, 1940.

Owing to the need for strict economy in paper the Annual Report for the year 1940 as in that of 1939 has been curtailed. The Minister of Health considers that many items may be omitted and that items retained be dealt with as briefly as possible.

I desire to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. T.L. Worsfold your late Medical Officer of Health, whose untimely death is very much regretted.

From a review of the records of the Medical Officer I cannot say to any great extent that the health of your district has been adversely affected during the year 1940 in comparison with previous years or as a result of war-time conditions.

MEASLES.

There was an outbreak of measles in the first half of the year. The districts Aycliffe and Hurnworth were mainly affected though there were cases notified from practically every parish in your area. Fortunately the epidemic was of a mild nature and there were no deaths or serious complications arising from it.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were only 6 cases notified as against 14 last year. 4 of these occurred in children of school age, none of whom had been immunised. There was one case of diphtheria in an evacuee child. The child was removed to hospital and made an uneventful recovery.

EVACUEES.

The health of the remaining evacuee children of whom there were 194 in your area at the end of the year under review has continued good. The outbreak of scabies which occurred last year had completely cleared up at the beginning of 1940 and no fresh cases were reported. It is a matter for regret that so many of these children have left the district as I understand they benefitted greatly by their sojourn in the country.

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MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is pleasing to note that there were no deaths from maternal causes during the year. Unfortunately however the infantile mortality rate continues high, altogether there were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age and in consequence the rate for your area is higher than that of the average for the country.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of Rural District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	45,064
Resident Population mid-1940	...	...	...	...	...	9,480 ✓
Average Population approximate to the calculation of death rate	...	...	...	...	...	9,480
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1940)...	...	...	...	...	...	2,630 X
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£49,861.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£207.15.1.

The chief industry is agriculture and other industries are lime burning and gravel quarrying. Many of the population are engaged in works in the Borough of Darlington and the Urban District of Shildon.

DEATHS.

122 were registered. 68 male. 54 female. This gives a death rate of 13.03 as compared with the rate for England and Wales of 14.3.

BIRTHS.

Total 151. 88 male. 63 female.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live births - legitimate	143	82	61
illegitimate	8	6	2
Still Births	8	4	4

Birth Rate 15.92. Birth Rate for England and Wales 14.6.

Death of infants under 1 year of age numbered 10 - Legitimate 8 males, 1 female. Illegitimate 1 female. Infantile Mortality Rate 73.77, the rate for England and Wales being 55.00.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

212 cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever 7	Whooping cough 9
Diphtheria 6	Measles 184
Pneumonia 2	Puerperal Pyrexia 4



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WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year the well and pipe lines at Heighington were handed over to the Durham County Water Board and this village is now in the undertaking of that Board for water supply.

The water mains at Heighington have been linked up with the Durham County Water Board's mains and in such linking up a supply of water has been made available in the village of Redworth.

Unfortunately the war has prevented through scarcity of labour and material the laying of house connections to houses in the latter village, but there is satisfaction in being assured of a wholesome supply to this village which depends on a public well of doubt ful purity.

At Great Stainton the Council have had to abandon their plans for a supply of water from the borehole sunk just previous to the war but in the meantime to ensure a pure supply from the public well a Chlorination Plant has been installed.

PUBLIC SCAVENGING.

The village of School Aycliffe has, due to building of new houses in connection with the Mental Colony, been added to the places publicly scavenged.

To conserve petrol and to allow for the collection of salvage, some of the villages with weekly collections have been put on to fortnightly collections.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No works have been carried out during the year on these services.

C. J. Orrell

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