Darlington RDC

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1944

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARLINGTON

Gentlemen,

I have the privilege of presenting to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health upon the Vital Statistics of the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Darlington Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1944

The report for this year has been delayed chiefly because of pressure of work in the department. You will note that the report contains slightly more information than previous reports during the war years, but this is at the express wish of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of Rural District in acres.....45,064
Resident Population.....9,216
Number of Inhabited Houses.....2,613
Sum represented by a penny rate.....£324, 8s. 3d.
Rateable Value at 1st April 1944.....£77,859

The chief industries are Agriculture, Lime Burning, and General Quarrying. Many of the population are engaged in Works in the Borough of Darlington, and the Urban District of Shildon.

It is now possible to disclose that during the war years, there has been established a large munition works at Aycliffe, a large aerodrome at Goosepool, Middleton St. George, and from time to time troops have been quartered in many of the large residences in the area. The first has tended to absorb a considerable amount of labour both male and female from the North end of the district, while all have tended to temporarily increase the population in the adjacent villages.

In spite of the great demands made upon all services during the war years, I am pleased to report that the Health of the population has not been affected.

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SECTION A STATISTICS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of Rural District in acres.....45,064
Resident Population.....3,216
Number of Inhabited Houses.....2,613
Sum represented by a penny rate.....£34, 8s. 3d.
Rateable Value at 1st April 1944.....£77,859

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STATISTICS
BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE

The number of Live Births in the District was 196.

The sex legitimacy classification is drawn thus:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	99	73	172
Illegitimate	13	11	24

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 12.26 as compared with a rate of 16.75 last year. The rate for England and Wales is 17.6.

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

The rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 0.54 as compared with 0.3. last year, and a rate of 0.5 for England and Wales.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one death from Maternal Causes. It is the first to occur under this heading for several years. The rate is 0.21.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age were as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	-	2	2

The infantile Mortality Rate is 45. This shows a decrease of 6.8 on last year's rate. The rate for England and Wales is 46.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE

During 1944 there were 111 deaths registered, 60 male and 51 female. The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 12.04, which compares with a death rate of 12.07 for 1943 and a rate of 11.6 for England and Wales.

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TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Diphtheria	1	-
Tuberculosis of Reppiratory System	1	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	1
Influenza	-	1
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	1	-
Cancer (all forms)	6	8
Diabetes	-	1
Intracranial Vascular lesions	8	9
Heart Disease	18	12
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	-
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia	3	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1	-
Appendicitis	-	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	1
Nephritis	5	-
Maternal Causes	-	1
Premature Birth	1	3
Congenital Malformation, Infantile Diseases	2	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-
Other Violent Causes	1	-
All Other Causes	5	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Age	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Acute Pneumon	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0			1								1	
1.				1								
3.	2	1	1		3							
5.	1	2	2	6	2	2	1			1	1	
10.		3		1		1					1	
15	1	1				5					6	2
25 and over		1			3	1	1	1			1	2
Totals	4	8	4	8	8	9	2	1	.	1	10	4

Civilian Cases Removed to Isolation Holpital

Scarlet Fever 6 Diphtheria 14

Number of the above cases of Diphtheria, (who had been immunised and those not immunised)

Age Group	Immunised	Not Immunised
0 - 5	2	1
5 - 15	3	4
over 15	-	7

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the yea was 70. Of this total 19 were of the 5 - 15 age groups and 51 in 0 - 5 age group. The percentage of immunised children in the area is 89 per cent, in the 5 - 15 group, and 54 per cent in the 0 - 5 group.

Tuberculosis

There were two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year. Both occurred in adult females. Four deaths occurred, three from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Two adult cases were removed from the register during the year as 'Recovered'; one female pulmonary and one female non-pulmonary.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH MEMORANDUM 266/T

New legislation was introduced during the year which provides Maintenance (Discretionary) and Special Allowances for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis who are incapacitated from work due to this cause. The Tuberculosis Service is administered by the County Council, and all cases eligible for these allowances were duly dealt with by them.

Venereal Diseases

This service is administered by the County Council.

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services for the year

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health:-
C.A. O'Neill, F.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.

Sanitary Inspector:-
W.J. Pallister, Cert. R. San. Inst. M.Inst. M & Cy. E.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances

WATER

1. The Water Supply to parts of the area has been unsatisfactory in quality and quantity in the following:-
   Village of Houghton le Side
   Hamlet of Houghton Bank
   Village of Great Stainton
   Walworth Castle District
   Hamlet of Walworth Gate

2. Samples of Bacteriological and chemical analysis of piped water supplies have not been taken during the past year owing to a shortage of staff. However, as the larger part of the district comes within the statutory area of supply of the Tees Valley Water Board and the Durham County Water Board, it is assumed that these public bodies are satisfied as to the purity of their water.

3. There are no waters within the area of the Rural District which are known to have plumbo-solvent action.

4. The proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from public water mains being as follows:-
   (a) Direct to the houses: 89% of the houses, and 78% of the Population
   (b) By means of stand-pipe 8% of the houses, and 7% of the Population.

PROPOSED SCHEMES

No further developments took place in the proposals to provide a piped water supply to the village of Great Stainton, Houghton le Side, and part of Bishopton. (See Medical Officer of Health Reports 1937 and 1938).

SEWAGE DISPOSAL
General

During the year there was one complaint of an unsatisfactory effluent from the Council's Sewage Disposal Works. This occurred at Sadberge and was immediately dealt with by a general over-haul. However, the condition of several of the Coun Works is unsatisfactory and it is hoped that in the post War years several new Works will be built and others reconditioned. No samples of effluent from the works have been taken during the year

A complaint was received that the effluent from Carlbury Hall, Piercebridge was causing a pollution to an adjacent small st The Military Authorities were approached on the subject, and it was agreed that the works should be over-hauled and the tank emptied As the troops had now left the Hall, it was also agreed that in the event of their re-occupation, certain improvements would be carried out to ensure that the effluent from the works would not be a nuisance.

IMPROVEMENTS

Plans and particulars of a small sewage works to deal with the sewage from Heighington Station were received and approved and this work has been commenced.

Extensions and improvements to the sewage disposal works attached to the Mental Home at School Aycliffe are under considerati by the County Council

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During the year 2 earth closets and 7 privy middens were converted into water closets under Section 47 of the Public Health

Act, 1936. The owners of the property concerned to all these conversions received a grant of £5.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Scavenging is in force in the following districts:-

Low Coniscliffe	Aycliffe	Middleton One Row
Merrybent	Coatham Munderville	Neasham
High Coniscliffe	Brafferton	Low Dinsdale
Piercebridge	Sadberge	Goosepool
Summerhouse	Little Stainton	Low Middleton
Killerby	Great Burdon	Sockburn
Heighington	Whessoe	Hurworth
Redworth	Middleton St. George	Hurworth Place
School Aycliffe	Great Stainton	Blackwell

This work is carried out by diredt labour, the Council owning

(1) Morris 30 cwt. vehicle (first registered March 1935.
(2) Vulcan 2 ton vehicle (first registered January 1933.

and employing a driver and three attendants to each vehicle.

Wet Scavenging (i.e. Cess Pool emptying) is carried out in the following Parishes where the Council are responsib for the maintenance, repair, and emptying of certain cess pools.

Piercebridge	Great Burdon	Beacon Hill.
Aycliffe	Middleton St. George.	
Whessoe	Sadberge	

In all cases this work is done by direct labour, and the sludge from the cess pools is spread onto the land.

SALVAGE.

At the request of the Ministry of Supply, a scheme for recoverable materials was put into operation during the war years, This year the following materials have been salvaged, and sold.

	Quantity.			Price.		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	S.	d.
Scrap Metal.....	5	7	1	18.	4.	3
Tins.....	7	11	0	12	8	3
Bones.....	2.	11	1½	11	13	4
Textiles.....	8	0	0½	60	13	1
Waste Paper.....	31	12	0½	205	19	5
Rubber.....	1	0	0	3	0	0
Total..	56	7	3½	£312	4	4

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year.

	Number of Informal Written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				
Dwelling houses and schools-				
Foul Conditions.....	3	-	3	
Structural Defects.....	6	-	2	
Overcrowding.....	1	-	1	
Lodging- Houses.....	-	-	-	
Dairies and Milkshops.....	5	-	5	
Cowsheds.....	7	-	7	
Bakehouses.....	-	-	-	
Slaughter-houses.....	-	-	-	
Ashpits and Privies.....	1	-	1	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	2	-	1	
Water closets.....	2	-	2	
Defective Yard Paving.....	2	-	-	
House Drainage-				
Defective Traps.....	-	-	-	
No Disconnection from Sewers.....	-	-	-	
Other Faults.....	6	-	4	
Water Supply.....	2	-	1	
Pigsties.....	-	-	-	
Animals Improperly Kept.....	1	-	1	
Offensive Trades.....	-	-	-	
Smoke Nuisances.....	-	-	-	
Other Nuisances-				
Nuisance from private Sewage Disposal Plant...	-	-	-	
Pollution of ditches.....	2	-	2	
TOTALS.....	40	-	30	

II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS	No.	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis.....	2	Private
Samples of Water Condemned as unfit for use.....	-	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food.		38 tins salmon, 15 tins meat, 4 A.Ration 20 tins Beans, 4586 tins milk, surrendered from Buffet Depots in District. 8 small pigs, weight 8 stone in all-suspected swine fever contacts- buried by police at farm
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food.	-	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis.....	-	
Samples of Food and Drugs found Adulterated.....	-	

III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed.....	28
Houses disinfected after infectious disease.....	28
Schools do. do.	-
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things..	-
Convictions for do. do.	-

IV. GENERAL	No.	Remarks
Number of New Houses erected during the year..	4	Agricultural Cottages for the Council
Number of such Houses occupied during the year.....	4	
Ash-pit privies converted into Ash-closets.....	-	
Ash-pit privies converted into Water Closets.....	8	
Ash-closets converted into Water Closets.....	3	
Total number of water closets in District..	1209	Includes 4 new ones
Total number of Ash-closets in District.....	690	
Total number of Ashpit-privies in District.....	668	

(a) HOUSING STATISTICS

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

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 10

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 20

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..... -

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose -

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... -

(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..... 10

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without services of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 64

(b) DISINFESTATION

Three cases if infestation of vermin were notified during the year.

(c) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
Milk Supply

Owing to the shortage of staff arising from the present emergency, it has not been possible to carry out the usual routine inspections of cowsheds and dairies in the district.

The total number of Registered Premises is 247. This includes 46 producers of Accredited milk and 2 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk. One Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested milk and one Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised milk were issued.

60 cowsheds and dairies were inspected. Of these, 6 were for an application to be registered under the Milk (Special Designation) Order.

(d) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No Licences were issued in respect of slaughter houses during the year as none of the slaughter houses are in use under the Government scheme for centralising slaughter houses. The central slaughter house for Darlington area is in Park Lane, Darlington, and no complaints have been received in connection with this scheme.

I wish, in conclusion to acknowledge the great assistance given at all times by the late Mr. Pallister, Surveyor, his assistant Mr. Hurworth, and also my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and Mr. Pattinson, the Clerk for their co-operation and approval of suggestions made in endeavouring to maintain a satisfactory state of health in the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health

Council Offices,
53 Coniscliffe Road,
Darlington.
December, 1945.