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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Members of the

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DENBY DALE

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1945.

The report has again been curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but the main facts necessary for the keeping of records are included.

The health of the district generally has been good.

With respect to infectious disease - there was an epidemic of measles in the early months of the year. The number of cases notified being 235. None of the cases proved fatal.

The public are beginning to realize the value of immunization against Diphtheria and are taking advantage of the free service of the County Authority. Apart from the cases of private practitioners I have immunized 47 cases, namely - 43 under 5 years and 4 over 5 years.

The Death Rate was 12.6. The actual deaths being 60 males and 58 females. This compares favourably with the death rate of 11.4 for all England and Wales and 13.5 for 126 County Boroughs including London.

The Birth Rate was 16.6. This compares favourably with the birth rate of 16.1 for all England and Wales and with 19.1 for 126 County Boroughs including London.

The portion of the report relating to the Sanitary Circumstances of the area has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector. My sincere thanks are due to him for his help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOUGLAS BELL, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. - STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,165 acres
Maximum elevation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,650 ft.
Minimum elevation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	283 ft.
Population - Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,209
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,154
Number of above houses which rank as working class	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,852
Number of new houses completed in 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36,804
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£140. 19. 4

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total M. F.</u>			
Live Births (Legitimate)	155	81	74	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid 1945 - 16.6
(Illegitimate)				
Still Births	4	4		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 25.8
Deaths	188	60	58	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population - 12.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):- None

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>
No.29 Puerperal sepsis	0	0
No.30 Other puerperal causes	0	0
Total	0	0

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	Male 6	Female 2	51.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	51.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	14
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	3
" " Cardiac Diseases	...	...	...	...	45
" " Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
" " Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3
" " Other circulatory causes	...	...	...	...	3

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. - For infectious cases a motor ambulance is maintained by the Joint Isolation Hospital committee.

For accident, sickness and maternity cases, ambulances are provided by the Huddersfield & District Hospitals Contributory Scheme.

All contributory patients are conveyed to any hospital or institution within the area of the scheme free of charge.

Non-contributory patients have these facilities at a fixed charge of 12/6 payable by the user. (The Council have an agreement to make good any unpaid charges to the Contributory Scheme.)

Patients whether contributory or not are conveyed to any hospital in the country at a fixed charge of 1/- per patient mile, provided that in the case of a contributor the first 11 miles is free of charge.

Road accident cases are conveyed free of charge to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITALS. Infectious diseases are treated at the Penistone Joint Isolation Hospital which is situate a short distance outside the area. The Hospital is controlled by a Joint Committee of representatives of the constituent authorities. For Smallpox there is a separate small hospital in the same neighbourhood controlled by the same committee. No change or extension of these premises has taken place during the year.

General and accident cases are received by the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. There is no local Cottage Hospital and there are no local Maternity Homes.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table 1. Shows notifications received of Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis.)

Disease.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	-	-
Scarlet Fever	18	18	0
Diphtheria	0	-	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	-	-
Measles	235	0	0
Pneumonia	15	-	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	23	-	0

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. The area is supplied from two sources, namely:-

- (1) Dewsbury & Heckmondwike Waterworks Board
- (2) Huddersfield Corporation Waterworks.

Distribution is carried out by the Council and the supply is available throughout the district with the exception of a small number of isolated premises. Treatment of the water is carried out by the supplying authorities, namely by chlorination and in the case of supply No.2, by filtration also.

No treatment of the water is carried out by the Council.

The special information required by Circular 28/46 from the Ministry of Health is set out hereunder.

QUALITY - generally this has been good except for some adverse conditions revealed by sampling during the period June to August.

QUANTITY - this has been adequate with respect to the water delivered to the local undertakings. Occasional shortage in a high level area has been due to a distribution difficulty.

EXAMINATION OF RAW WATER - Under the circumstances this is not practicable. Regular Bacteriological examination has been carried out of the Treated Water at points in the distribution system. No chemical analyses have been made.

PLUMBO-SOLVENT ACTION - no trouble has occurred from this matter. The almost universal use by the Council of galvanized wrought iron service pipes to the boundary of the consumer's premises, obviates much danger in the matter. Moreover the use of similar pipes on the consumer's premises to a great extent constitutes an additional safeguard. No analyses have been carried out recently for this particular purpose.

ACTION IN RESPECT OF ANY FORM OF CONTAMINATION - Samples are taken regularly from the Council's supplies and submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination. Particulars of these samples are contained in the accompanying Table to this report. The result of unsatisfactory samples was communicated to the respective supplying undertakers and in one case subsequent check sampling was carried out in conjunction with the Bacteriologist of the Authority.

Monthly sampling for Bacteriological examination has been carried out for observation purposes of the spring and wells formerly used as a public supply to the Rusby reservoir.

Bacteriological examination was also carried out of a private piped supply by request of the owners of such supply. Unsatisfactory conditions were found and subsequently 41 houses and several other premises, variously owned, were connected to the Public supply.

HOUSES CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC SUPPLY - The number of houses served is 3109 with an estimated population of 9128. Direct connection to the inside of the houses is general and there is no instance where the supply is by standpipe.

HOUSES NOT CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC SUPPLY - A revision of the figures previously given has revealed that there are now only 45 occupied houses not connected. These houses comprise 31 with piped supplies and 14 with wells.

In 14 of these cases the Public mains are adjacent to the premises but except in one instance the existing supplies are piped.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A number of the outlying parts of the area are unsewered or only partly sewerred. There are five main outfall works and a number of small filtration tanks which serve outlying areas.

A report detailing the existing conditions, prepared jointly by your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, received your consideration with respect to post war development of the area.

No complaints have been received during the year with respect to the effluent discharged from the outfall works.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious pollution from domestic sewage occurs in spite of the inadequacy of sewer facilities in some localities.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The Council make a small grant towards the cost of the conversion of privy closets to the water-carriage system. During the year 16 conversions have been carried out and 8 additional W.C.s have been provided.

A summary of the accommodation is appended:-

Closet system.	No. of Houses	No. of other Premises	No. of W.C.s	No. of Privies	No. of Pails
W.C.	1593	80	2089	-	-
W.C. and Privy.	93	6		-	-
Privy	1467	35		1405	-
Pail.	1	1	-	-	2

Many of the privies are old and insanitary and call for elimination. Absence of, or the non-availability of suitable sewers at 489 houses and 14 other premises with a total of 452 privies, renders the provision of W.C.s impracticable in such cases.

A detailed report showing the estimated cost and increased water supply cost of a conversion scheme was prepared and received your consideration with respect to post-war development in this direction.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Scavenging with the exception of the emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the Council. The work is carried out by the Council's own staff and motor vehicles and hired team labour.

Except for the first three months in the year a normal collection has been carried out. The acquisition of additional labour and the use of hired team from mid March enabled the previous unsatisfactory conditions to be overcome.

The disposal of the refuse is by tipping mainly on the uncontrolled system.

The cost of collection and disposal was - £2447.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Investigating complaints	66
Property under notice.....	24
Work in progress.....	93
Factories.....	5
Bakehouses.....	6
Cowsheds.....	227
Meat Shops.....	9
Provision shops.....	12
Food preparing premises.....	7
Slaughterhouses	) Inspecting pigs 112 slaughtered under Food Control Licences 88
Pigkeepers premises	
Taking water samples - Council's supplies	46
- Private supplies	4
Taking samples of milk.....	12
Taking samples of swimming bath water... ..	6
Disinfecting and enquiry after infectious cases....	18
School.....	1
Licensed premises re sanitary accommodation.....	2
Completing survey of sanitary conveniences.....	113
Overcrowded houses.....	2
Enquiries into applications for Building Licences..	52
Requisitioned houses inspected pending derequisition	19
Supervision of scavenging.....	46
Interviews with property owners.....	28
Supervising rat baiting of sewer manholes.....	22
Visits and revisits to rats infested premises.....	17
Petrol storage premises.....	32
Miscellaneous premises.....	58

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(For inspections under the Housing Acts, see Section D.)

REMOVAL OF NUISANCES.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF DEFECTS FOUND AT 83 PREMISES.

Drains choked.....	4
Drain defective.....	1
Sewer choked.....	1
Flooded cellars caused by choked subsoil drain.....	3
Sink waste pipe defective.....	1
Privy closets requiring conversion on to W.C. System.....	17
Privy closets requiring repair.....	2
Insufficient closet accommodation.....	9
Infestation by cockroaches.....	1
Houses requiring connection to public water supply.....	41
Factories " " " " " " "	2
Cowsheds not limewashed at appointed time.....	2
	<u>84</u>

Of these defects 78 were remedied and also 5 defects outstanding from previous years.

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED - Informal 10 complied with 8.
Statutory 0

SUMMONSES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS - None

SHOPS ACT, 1934, SECTIONS 10 and 13.

No defects have been found under the parts of the Act administered by the Sanitary Authority.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no sites in the area subject to the licensing provisions of the Public Health Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

This matter is still affected by wartime conditions. No special action has been called for.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one swimming bath in the area. This is owned by the local Miners' Welfare Fund Committee and is available for the public. It is a modern covered bath fitted with Chlorination and Filtration apparatus on the "turn-over" system.

Ohlroscope examination of the bath water is carried out daily by the superintendent. Samples in duplicate from the inlet and outlet parts of the bath were taken on 3 occasions by your Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological and Chemical examination.

Replacement of the chlorination and filtration apparatus with modern and adequate apparatus is called for when circumstances permit. The best possible use of the existing apparatus appears to be made.

PESTOLOGY. No cases of infestation by bed bugs have been found. Two cases of infestation by cockroaches have been dealt with by use of D.D.T. powder.

SCHOOLS. All the schools are in a good sanitary condition and are furnished with the Council's water supply. The privy system remains at two schools but in one case the sewerage arrangements are not suitable for the installation of the water-carriage system.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. (Form 572.)

The return of statistics in this form is still in abeyance.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The four part-time ratcatchers employed by the Council have sent in reports showing 606 rats were killed on 94 premises. These premises were mainly farms, piggeries and poultry runs. In addition about 30 rats were destroyed by poisoning at a refuse tip and a sewage works.

The baiting of sewer manholes commenced during the latter part of the previous year was completed in March. During the first treatment 434 manholes were baited and 32 poison "takes" were recorded. A second treatment of 60 manholes in the infested sections resulted in a further 8 poison "takes". The estimated number of rats destroyed in the sewers was 250.

SECTION D - HOUSING.INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

Two houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts. One of these houses was found to be unfit but reparable and repairs are proceeding. Repairs were completed at 1 house inspected previous to this year. Reinspection of defective houses has been made in 6 cases. Shortage of material and labour has of course precluded the repair of a large number of houses which were inspected and recorded previous to the outbreak of war.

Re-inspection of these houses will be necessary as soon as circumstances are favourable for repairs to be enforced.

OVERCROWDING. At the end of that year 12 houses were known to be overcrowded. Four new cases were recorded and 1 case has been abated, leaving 15 known cases at the end of this year. The taking up of residence with parents by married persons returning from the forces will certainly have the effect of increasing the number of overcrowded houses, and it is likely that the figure recorded has already been exceeded.

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES BY THE COUNCIL

The Council's programme covers the two immediate post-war years and the erection of 200 houses. Plans are in preparation for 108 houses in the first part of this programme, to be erected partly on existing sites and partly on sites in course of being acquired. With regard to the future, although no programme has yet been made, the probable needs of further development have been borne in mind during the preparation of the immediate schemes.

HOUSES PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL. 1926 - 1939.

Six bedroomed type - 1	}	Total = 168.
Four " " 40		
Three " " 99		
Two " " 28		

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. Practically all the supply is produced within the area and is distributed by the producers. A quantity of milk is dispatched to neighbouring towns. The dairying premises generally are maintained in a satisfactory condition but the provision of proper milk rooms is still necessary in a number of cases.

The licensing authority with respect to milk produced under the Special Designations Order is the County Council. One licence for the production of "accredited" milk and one licence for the production of "tuberculin tested" milk have been granted during the year.

Sampling of "designated" milk is carried out by the County officials. Copies of the reports on these samples are supplied for information purposes and 28 of such reports have been received during this year.

Eleven samples of ordinary milk have been submitted to the County Laboratory for the Methylene Blue Test.

Six of these samples did not pass the test and the producers concerned were interviewed on the matter.

It must be observed however that no bacterial standard has yet been set for ordinary milk. Failure to pass the Methylene Blue Test is an indication that the sample falls below the standard set for "accredited" milk.

With respect to milk supplied wholesale to large distributive dairies outside the area, frequent tests of the keeping quality of such milk by the Resazurin method, is carried out at such dairies. It is not the practice for the local Sanitary Authority to be supplied with information with respect to unsatisfactory conditions.

Particulars of registered premises etc. are as follows:-

Cowkeepers entered in the Register	90
Cowkeepers producing milk for sale -	
Retail	45
Retail and wholesale	11
Wholesale	31
"Accredited" producers included in above figures	22
"Tuberculin Tested" producers	2
Cowsheds (in register 150) in use	140
Milch cows in the area (approx)	1180

MEAT SUPPLY

The meat supply is derived from Government controlled premises situate in the County Borough of Huddersfield.

Inspection of producers' pigs slaughtered for bacon curing purposes under Food Control Licences in the slaughterhouses or at the producer's premises, has been carried out whenever possible.

The number of pig carcasses inspected was 304. One whole carcass and parts and organs of 10 other carcasses affected with Tuberculosis were surrendered by the owners. (As there are no statutory powers to seize meat which is not intended for sale, persuasion has to be used in such cases.)

At retail shops the following unsound foodstuffs were dealt with by request of the vendors - mutton 14 lbs, bacon 28 lbs, butter 163 lbs, imported eggs 105, tins of various foodstuffs 30.

ADMINISTRATION OF FOODS The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 relating to this matter, are administered by the County Council. The following particulars have been supplied by the County Foods and Drugs Officer relating to action taken in this area:-

	Milk.	Other foods.
Number of samples taken	86	10
Number of samples unsatisfactory	9	0
Number of cautions	5	0
Number of prosecutions	1	0

APPENDICE

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE AREA.

- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 - part 3 (?)
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 - part 2 (?)
- Public Health Act, 1925 - part 2 (?)
- Public Streets Works Act, 1892 - the whole.
- (?) (except sections repealed by P.H. Act, 1936.)

DELEGATED POWERS UNDER ACTS.

- Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1929 (delegated 15/1/41.)
- Byelaws governing the construction and maintenance of Petrol Filling Stations (from an aesthetic point of view) (delegated 16/12/38.)

REGULATIONS. - Regulations governing the construction of dustbins for domestic refuse were adopted 6/6/39.

BYELAWS

- New Buildings and Streets. (1945)
- Tents, vans, sheds and similar structures (1930)
- Slaughterhouses. (1930). Nuisances. (1930)
- Means of escape in case of fire (factories) (1930)
- Smoke Abatement. (1935)

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936. (Safety provisions)

Twenty five licences have been issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and one licence for the storage of Carbide of Calcium. One store exempt from the licencing provisions is subject to a notification being sent to the Local Licensing Authority, annually.

(Your Sanitary Inspector was appointed as Petroleum Inspector in 1941.)

