

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

Contributors

Doncaster (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1939

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a9z9dewj>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



DONCASTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL
REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1939

of the

Medical Officer of Health

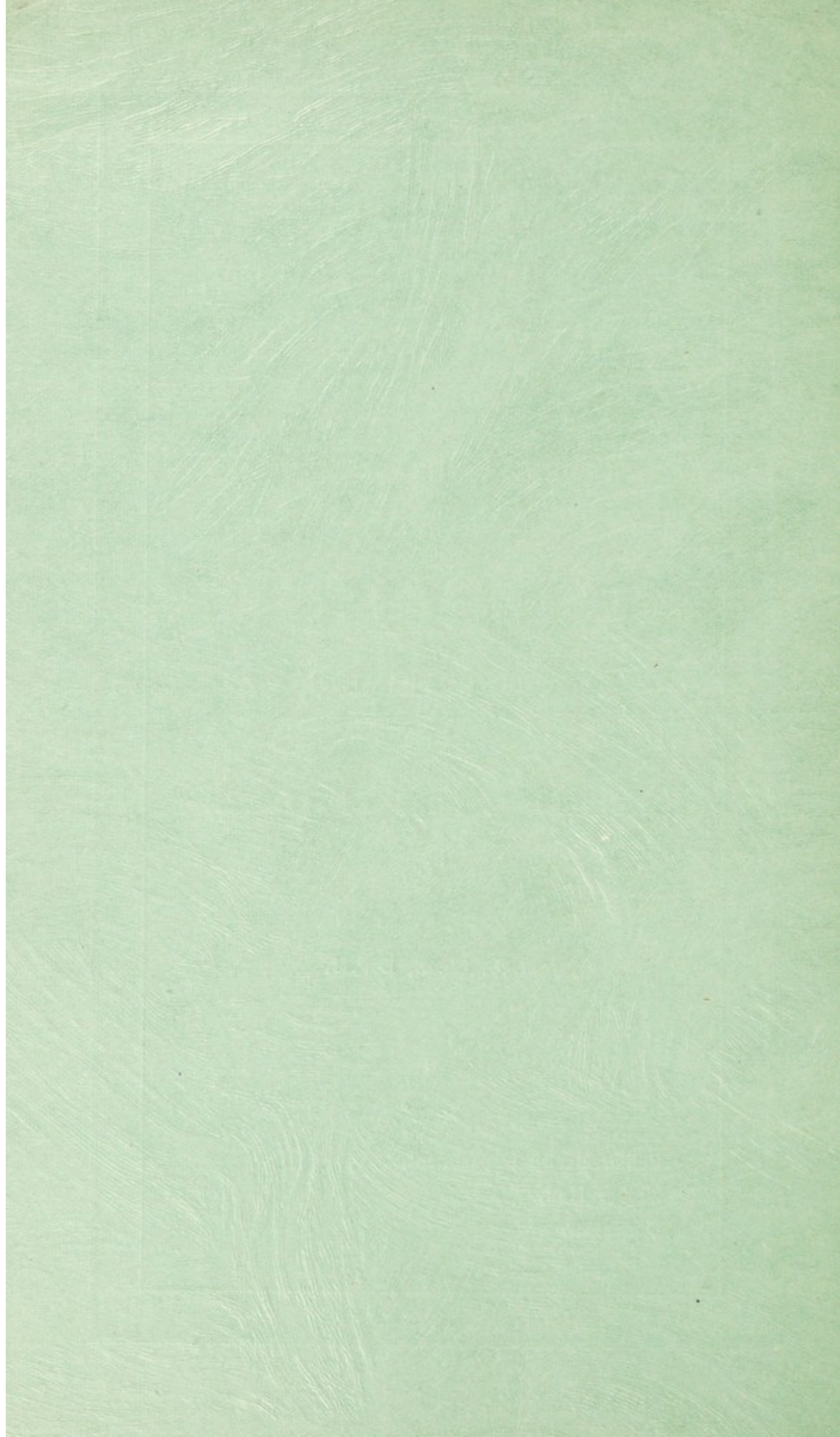
by

A. PENMAN

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Public Health Department,
Nether Hall,
Doncaster.



DONCASTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL
REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1939

of the

Medical Officer of Health


by

A. PENMAN

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Public Health Department,
Nether Hall,
Doncaster.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29163377>

DONCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Nether Hall,
Doncaster.

November, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Doncaster Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The routine work of the Public Health Department was interrupted by the priority given to air raid precautions, which curtailed the volume of work generally directed to the improvement of housing and sanitary conditions.

Despite the abnormal conditions brought about by war the health of the population has remained good in comparison with former years and with the country as a whole. The public services have been adequate enough to cope with the needs of the evacuated population received into the district. So far there has been little increase in notifiable infectious diseases due to the movements of population beyond some few cases of cerebro-spinal fever in the spring months of 1940.

A rise in the infantile mortality and in the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis was recorded, but it is too early to say whether these had any relation to war-time conditions.

Yours faithfully,

A. PENMAN

Medical Officer of Health

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

1. **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**
A. Penman, M.D., Ch.B. (University of Edinburgh), D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (Edinburgh and Glasgow). Appointed May 1st,
1935. (House telephone—Doncaster 55162).
2. **CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING
SUPERINTENDENT.**
A. Reynolds, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspectors of
Meat and Other Foods. Officer designated under the Housing
Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and Public Health (Meat)
Regulations, 1924. Appointed August, 1924. (House
telephone—Barnby Dun 67).
3. **SENIOR ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.**
E. N. Pearson, Cert. S.I.B., M.I.H., M.S.I.A., Certificate
for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, Royal Sanitary
Institute, Certificate for Meat and Other Foods Inspection,
Liverpool University, Certificate in Sanitary Science, Liver-
pool University. Appointed November, 1932.
4. **JUNIOR ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.**
E. K. Smith, Cert. S.I.B., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat
and Other Foods. Appointed April, 1932.
5. **SENIOR CLERK.**
L. Hay, Cert. S.I.B. Appointed August, 1936.
6. **JUNIOR CLERK.**
R. Baddiley. Appointed March, 1938.
7. **ASSISTANT AND DISINFECTING INSPECTOR.**
G. Stephenson. Appointed September, 1938.

Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 are Officers whose salaries are subject to
Exchequer Grants.

OFFICES OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Nether Hall, Doncaster

Telephone numbers—Doncaster 3427, 3428, 3429 (three lines)

**PUBLIC CLEANSING DEPOT OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Kirk Sandall, near Doncaster

Telephone number—Barnby Dun 58

SECTION A.

STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	73,755
Registrar-General's Estimate of the resident population (mid-year, 1939) ...	...	...	...	...	*50,280
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939), according to Rate Books ...	...	...	...	...	12,610
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	£248,359
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	...	£960

*For certain statistical purposes the Registrar-General supplied a Modified Estimate of population, viz. 50,290.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS—

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate ...	448	490	938	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population — 19.21
Illegitimate ...	15	13	28	
	<hr/> 463	<hr/> 503	<hr/> 966	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

STILL BIRTHS—

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate ...	32	26	58	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 57.56
Illegitimate ...	1	0	1	
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 59	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

DEATHS—

	M.	F.	Total	Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population, 8.59
	230	202	432	

Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population 12.1

Standardised Death Rate for Doncaster Rural District per
1,000 of the resident population ... 11.5
(Comparability Factor — 1.34)

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

CAUSE	Doncaster Rural District		England and Wales
	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	1	0.97	0.74
(b) Other puerperal causes	2	1.95	2.08
TOTAL ...	3	2.92	2.82

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

					M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	20	31	51
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
					—	—	—
					22	32	54
					—	—	—

Death Rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births:

(a) Doncaster Rural District	...	...	56
(b) England and Wales	...	...	50

Death Rate of legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 54.25

Death Rate of illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 107.14

Deaths from Cancer	...	...	48
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	4
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	...	...	9
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	4
„ „ Influenza (all ages)	...	...	20
„ „ Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	17
„ „ Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	26
„ „ Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	3

DEATH RATES

Cause of Death	Death Rate per 1,000 population Doncaster R.D.	Death Rate per 1,000 population England & Wales
All causes	8.59	12.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.	0.
Smallpox	0.	0.
Measles	0.	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.08	0.03
Diphtheria	0.18	0.05
Influenza	0.40	0.21
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	0.58	0.636
Cancer	0.95	1.669

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's Estimate of the population for mid-year, 1939, is 50,280, which is 650 more than the corresponding figure for the previous year. The natural increase in the population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, was 534.

At the time this report is being written, war-time conditions, notably military service, reception of evacuees, billeting of troops, etc., have considerably altered the normal population figures.

BIRTHS

Year	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Rate per 1,000	27.0	23.1	21.7	20.1	19.1	17.6	18.4	18.2	18.8	19.2

The live births numbered 966, 463 males and 503 females, being 33 more than in the previous year, and giving a birth rate of 19.2 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales for 1939 was 15.0.

There were 59 still births; a still birth rate of 1.17 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0.59 for England and Wales. The still birth rate continues to be relatively high.

DEATHS

The number of deaths exceeded that of the previous year by 34 and this increase is mainly accounted for by the greater number of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation (— 20), from influenza (— 15), and from tuberculosis (— 9). There were small decreases in deaths from other diseases, notably puerperal sepsis and other puerperal diseases (— 6).

STANDARDISED DEATH RATES, 1930—1939

Year	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Rate per 1,000	9.77	9.1	8.71	8.61	10.6	10.6	11.71	11.71	10.73	11.52

During 1939 there were 432 deaths among usual residents, 230 males and 202 females, compared with 398 for the previous year and giving a Recorded Death Rate of 8.59 per 1,000 of the population. When the Comparability Factor is applied the Standardised Death Rate for the Rural District is 11.52. The corresponding Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.1.

PROPORTIONAL MORTALITY FROM VARIOUS CAUSES

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percentage of Total Deaths
1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	106	24.54
2. Cancer	48	11.11
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis and Influenza) ...	34	7.87
4. Deaths from Violence	31	7.18
5. Deaths of Infants from Congenital Causes	31	7.18
6. All forms of Tuberculosis	28	6.48
7. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	25	5.79
8. Influenza	20	4.63
9. Diseases of the Digestive Organs ...	18	4.17
10. Zymotic Diseases	17	3.94
11. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	14	3.24
12. Senility	9	2.08
13. Puerperal Sepsis and Other Puerperal Causes	3	0.69

MATERNAL DEATHS

Year	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
No. of Maternal Deaths	5	7	5	7	6	3	8	5	9	3

There was one death from puerperal sepsis and two from other puerperal causes. The Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births was therefore 2.92, compared with 2.82 for England and Wales. There was a welcome decrease in this rate, which equalled that of 1935 as the lowest during the past ten years.

In my last report I made reference in detail to the arrangements of the West Riding County Council for dealing with expectant and parturient mothers. Since then a full-time

obstetrician and gynaecologist for the Doncaster area has been appointed by the West Riding County Council in conjunction with the County Borough of Doncaster, a procedure which is in accordance with the recommendations of the report of the Departmental Committee on the Subject of Maternal Mortality.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

There was an increase in the rate of infant mortality, which at 56 was 8 per 1,000 births higher than the rate for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 50 per 1,000 live births. The increase in the number of infant deaths was due mainly to the higher numbers dying from convulsions and from respiratory illnesses (bronchitis and pneumonia). Thirty-seven died within the first four weeks of life and in twenty-seven of these the cause of death was a congenital one capable only of prevention by ante-natal care, when prevention was at all practicable.

The relatively high infant mortality, especially from congenital causes, and the high still birth rate of the District call for increased ante-natal care of both mother and child.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1930—1939

Year	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Rate per 1,000 live births ...	71	81	65	75	59	59	61	55	48	56

INFANT DEATHS, 1939

Cause of Death	Total		Under 4 wks		4 wks to 3 mths		3 mths to 6 mths		6 mths to 9 mths		9 mths to 12 mths	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Prematurity ...	3	11	3	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital defects ...	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital debility and Marasmus ...	4	5	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions ...	7	4	4	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Icterus ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes ...	1	4	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
All Causes ...	21	33	15	22	3	3	2	3	—	3	2	1

SECTION B.

(ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There has been no change in the laboratory facilities reported in previous years, which have proved adequate and afford an excellent service.

(ii) (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES FOR NOMINAL CIVIL PURPOSES.

As reported on page 18 of the Report for 1938.

(ii) (c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

As reported in the Report for 1938—page 19.

(ii) (d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1. Infant Consultation and Ante-Natal Clinics.

As reported on page 20 of the Report for 1938.

2. Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

As reported on page 21 of the Report for 1938.

3. Venereal Diseases.

As reported on page 21 of the Report for 1938.

(ii) (e) HOSPITALS.

The accommodation available at the various hospitals mentioned in pages 25 and 26 of the Annual Report for 1936 has been greatly modified to meet war-time conditions. The extent of this modification will no doubt be described in the Annual Report for 1939 of the County Medical Officer under "Emergency Hospital Services for the West Riding of Yorkshire."

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLIES.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

These are substantially the same as detailed on page 22 of the Annual Report for 1938, with the following amendments:

- (a) The Brodsworth Estate Supply to the village of Hampole has been abolished and replaced by the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board mains.

- (b) A small private supply at Barnsley Road, Brodsworth, namely that of Messrs. Shepard Bros., has been replaced by the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board mains.
- (c) A small private supply on the Jarratt Estate at Cantley still functions and provides water to about 30 houses.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

The public supplies were sampled for bacteriological analyses as frequently as their relative importance and nature of the sources necessitated, and the results are set out in the accompanying table. The analyses proved these waters to be constantly good.

WATER SUPPLY—BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES

Date	Public Supply or Private (Wells, etc.)	Source	Results	
			No. of B. coli per 100 mil's	Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory
11/ 1/39	Doncaster and Tickhill J.W.B. (Public)	Borehole No. 3	None	Satisfactory
7/ 2/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 1	do.	do.
21/ 2/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 2	do.	do.
14/ 3/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 3	do.	do.
30/ 3/39	do. ...	Barnby Dun	do.	do.
30/ 3/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 3	do.	do.
13/ 4/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 1	do.	do.
1/ 5/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 3	do.	do.
1/ 5/39	do. ...	Barnby Dun	do.	do.
22/ 5/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 2	do.	do.
20/ 6/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 2	do.	do.
2/10/39	do. ...	Barnby Dun	do.	do.
2/10/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 3	do.	do.
27/10/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 1	do.	do.
15/11/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 1	do.	do.
15/11/39	do. ...	Barnby Dun	do.	do.
8/12/39	do. ...	Barnby Dun	do.	do.
8/12/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 1	do.	do.
30/12/39	do. ...	Borehole No. 3	do.	do.
30/ 1/39	Doncaster Corporation (Public)	Armthorpe	do.	do.
9/ 3/39	do. ...	Sprotborough	do.	do.
13/ 4/39	do. ...	Warnsworth	do.	do.
1/ 5/39	do. ...	Warnsworth	do.	do.
2/10/39	do. ...	Sprotborough	do.	do.
2/10/39	do. ...	Armthorpe	do.	do.
15/11/39	do. ...	Warnsworth	1	do.
8/12/39	do. ...	Warnsworth	None	do.
8/12/39	do. ...	Sprotborough	do.	do.
30/12/39	do. ...	Sprotborough	1	do.
13/ 4/39	Hooton Pagnell Estate Supply (Public)	Hooton Pagnell	None	do.
27/10/39	do. ...	Hooton Pagnell	do.	do.
30/ 3/39	Clayton with Frickley Estate Supply (Public)	Clayton	do.	do.
1/ 5/39	Alverley Hall Supply (Public)	Alverley	do.	do.
22/ 5/39	Yorkshire Main Swimming Baths, Edlington	Edlington	do.	do.
20/ 6/39	do. ...	Edlington	do.	do.

Water Supply—Bacteriological Analyses (Continued).

Date	Public Supply or Private (Wells, etc.)	Source	Results	
			No. of B. coli per 100 mil's	Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory
21/ 8/39	Yorkshire Main Swimming Baths, Edlington	Edlington	None	Satisfactory
11/ 1/39	Private Supply (Well)	Blaxton	do.	do.
11/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	do.	do.
11/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	13	Unsatisfactory
11/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	None	Satisfactory
11/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	do.	do.
30/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	do.	do.
30/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	25	Unsatisfactory
30/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	11	do.
30/ 1/39	do.	Blaxton	None	Satisfactory
16/ 2/39	do.	Blaxton	do.	do.
16/ 2/39	do.	Blaxton	120	Unsatisfactory
9/ 3/39	do.	Blaxton	None	Satisfactory
9/ 3/39	do.	Blaxton	do.	do.
9/ 3/39	do.	Blaxton	do.	do.
13/ 4/39	do.	Blaxton	do.	do.
27/10/39	do.	Blaxton	16	do.
30/ 1/39	do.	Armthorpe	1	do.
16/ 1/39	do.	Armthorpe	None	do.
30/ 3/39	do.	Bawtry	do.	do.
30/12/39	do.	Bawtry	do.	do.
30/12/39	do.	Bawtry	90	Unsatisfactory
29/ 6/39	do.	Braithwell	160	do.
29/ 6/39	do.	Braithwell	180	do.
29/ 6/39	do.	Braithwell	5	Satisfactory
16/ 2/39	do.	Cantley	None	do.
9/ 3/39	do.	Hampole	do.	do.
28/ 9/39	do.	Hampole	13	do.
15/11/39	do.	Norton	160	Unsatisfactory
29/ 6/39	do.	Wadworth	180	do.
20/ 6/39	do.	Wadworth	180	do.
20/ 6/39	do.	Wadworth	180	do.

The work of replacing the Brodsworth Estate Supply to Old Brodsworth and the Manvers Main Colliery Supply to Adwick-on-Deane village has been postponed owing to the war.

The Doncaster and Tickhill supply has now been chlorinated on the instructions of the Ministry of Health and an up-to-date apparatus for the injection of gaseous chlorine installed. In addition portable chlorinating apparatus has been acquired for dealing with pollution due to local damage to the mains by enemy action. The concentration of chlorine in the water is that recommended by the Ministry's inspectors.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Of the 31 samples from wells taken for bacteriological analyses, 11 proved to be unsatisfactory. The majority of these wells were in rural parishes—16 being from the parish of Blaxton, which, along with Awkley, was being surveyed for the purpose of obtaining information as to the desirability of extending the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board's mains.

These analyses were carried out by the County Council Laboratory at Wakefield, the results being assessed on the standards prescribed by a report of the Ministry of Health on the bacteriological examination of water supplies, dated January 1939.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Of the 12,610 inhabited houses, 2,700 are not connected to a sewer. These are mainly in unsewered rural parts, but nearly 1,000 of them are connected to cesspools.

The villages of Barmborough, Norton and Wadworth require re-sewering, while extensions are necessary at Braithwell and Old Sprotborough.

Important sewerage schemes, namely those proposed to deal with the sewage of Norton, Campsall and Sprotborough Park and Old Village, have been postponed owing to the war, and an extension of the sewer to serve the requirements of a housing estate at Barnsley Road, Scawsby, likewise has been postponed.

Flooding at Sprotborough Park, due to surface water, recurred recently and the nuisance was, as usual, aggravated by overflowing of one or two cesspools in the vicinity. The Council have instructed the Surveyor to prepare a scheme for surface draining in this vicinity for submission to the property owners involved.

Complaints were received from the West Riding Rivers Board during the year re sewage disposal in the parish of Barmborough. The Consulting Engineers to the Council were at that moment preparing a scheme for dealing with sewerage and sewage disposal in the parish. More recently the Rivers Board applied to the Ministry of Health for authority to proceed with this scheme in spite of the war-time restriction on schemes involving large expenditure. The matter is still being considered by the Ministry.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Number of privies with open middens	...	...	}	745
Number of privies with covered middens	...	...
Number of pail or tub closets	...	...	...	882
Number of water closets	...	...	...	10,917
Number of waste water closets	...	...	...	4
Number of privies reconstructed during 1939 as water closets	...	...	...	16
Number of privies reconstructed during 1939 as other closets	...	...	...	24
Number of closets other than privies reconstructed as w.c.'s				21
Number of closets constructed in 1939 for new houses, w.c.'s				197
Number of closets constructed in 1939 for new houses, others				1

REPORT UPON PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

This is the first complete year's working of the direct labour Public Cleansing Scheme. The results have fully justified the Council's decision to abandon the contract system, as is evidenced by the absence of complaints, the regularity and methods of collections, satisfaction of the ratepayers, and improved working conditions of the staff, for the small extra cost involved.

Another important feature is that the Council, owning their own fleet of vehicles and a well-equipped Public Cleansing Depot, have always been in the position to carry out, without delay, instructions issued by the various Government Departments and in many instances to anticipate and to put into effect such orders before instructions were received, particularly relating to salvage of war materials. It has also been possible to render valuable assistance to many units of H.M. Forces.

Work is undertaken in the following 25 parishes: Adwick-on-Dearne, Armthorpe, Askern, Austerfield, Barmborough, Barnby Dun-with-Kirk Sandall, Bawtry, Braithwell, Brodsworth, Burghwallis, Cantley, Conisborough Parks, Denaby, Edlington, Hooton Pagnell, High Melton, Loversall, Marr, Norton, Owston, Rossington, Sprotborough, Stainton, Wadworth and Warmsworth.

The methods of disposal are fully described on page 34 of the Annual Report for 1938 and have operated satisfactorily during the year.

Cesspool emptying is carried out in the parishes of Armthorpe, Austerfield, Barmborough, Burghwallis, Cantley, Edlington, Norton, Owston, Sprotborough, Rossington and Wadworth.

One additional motor vacuum cesspool emptier and one new Karrier Bantam refuse collector were purchased during the year, making a fleet of eight refuse vehicles and two cesspool emptiers.

The total cost of Public Cleansing services, including street sweeping, amounted to £9,951.

(Signed) A. REYNOLDS

Cleansing Superintendent.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Twenty-eight visits were paid to factories and workshops. One formal notice was served concerning defective sanitary conveniences, and the same was remedied.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

STATEMENT made to the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and of Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, in relation to inspections, notices, etc.

A. REYNOLDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Total Number of Inspections, 1939	...	...	...	5,976
Nuisances reported during 1939	...	...	...	453
Nuisances in hand, 1938	...	...	...	23
Total Number of Nuisances needing abatement	...	...	...	476
Abated during 1939	...	...	...	461
Outstanding at the end of 1939	...	...	...	15
The total inspections above relate to:				
Nuisances	...	...	...	315
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	2
Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	40
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	9
Shops Act	...	...	...	114
Schools	...	...	...	3
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	28
Drainage:				
Housing	...	...	...	48
Public Health	...	...	...	324
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	1,033
Water Supplies:				
Samples Taken	...	...	...	75
Supplies Investigated	...	...	...	134
Milk and Dairies:				
Producers' Premises	...	...	...	310
Retailers' Premises	...	...	...	140
Samples (ungraded)	...	...	...	31
Meat and Food:				
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	520
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	191
Stalls and Vans	...	...	...	48
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	45
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	16
Infectious Diseases:				
Disinfection	...	...	...	294
Investigations	...	...	...	133
Infestation:				
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	34
Other Vermin	...	...	...	10
Housing:				
Section 9	...	...	...	459
Section 11	...	...	...	289
Overcrowding	...	...	...	351
Re-housing	...	...	...	17

Conversions	...	...	...	...	64
Pigs on Allotments	...	...	...	...	29
Air Raid Precautions	...	...	...	...	29
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	6
Agricultural Cottages	...	...	...	...	4
Rats	...	...	...	...	2
Evacuation	...	...	...	...	3
Army Billets	...	...	...	...	6
Swimming Pool samples	...	...	...	...	3

STATUTORY NOTICES

Statutory Notices were served relating to the following:

Housing Act, 1936, Sect. 9	...	...	...	30
Housing Act, 1936, Sect. 11	...	...	...	4
Housing Act, 1936, Sect. 155	...	...	...	1
Housing Act, 1936, Sect. 168	...	...	...	4

INFORMAL NOTICES

453 preliminary notices have been served relating to:

Drainage and Conversions	...	...	...	47
Nuisances and Miscellaneous	...	...	...	15
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	248
Dustbins and Pail Closets	...	...	...	79
Minor Housing Repairs	...	...	...	56
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	7
Shops	...	...	...	1

Of these, 438 have been complied with.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Houses disinfected	...	...	...	243
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	689
School Notices sent	...	...	...	317

SHOPS ACT, 1934. Sections 10 and 13 (c)

No. of visits paid under the above Act during 1939	...	114
Unsatisfactory conditions found	...	7
Remedied	...	5

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

There were 28 structures of this class in the District in 1939, when the numbers were showing signs of decrease. More recently war conditions have led to an increase.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No. of Smoke Observations, each of 30 minutes duration, taken during 1939	...	...	...	...	7
No. of above showing excessive emission of black smoke					2
No. of cautions issued	...	...	...	...	2
No. of statutory notices issued	...	...	...	...	none
No. of prosecutions	...	...	...	...	none

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Public Swimming Baths or Pools	...	...	...	...	none
Privately-owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public	...	...	...	...	1

Owned by the Yorkshire Main Colliery Co., Edlington, and situated at Edlington. Chloride of lime added twice per day by hand. Three samples of bath water were reported as satisfactory. The baths were closed part of the summer season.

SCHOOLS

No. of Schools in the District	...	...	...	...	30
No. visited by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	13

Action taken:

Inspection of scholars at Armthorpe and Skellow for diphtheria, swabbing in certain instances.

Schools closed by M.O.H.:

Warmsworth Church of England School, on account of influenza, from January 20th to January 30th.

General Sanitary Conditions:

Good. Warmsworth and Wadworth C. of E. Schools in bad repair and sanitary arrangements very poor.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

NO. OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

(a) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	200
(b) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	8
No. of inspections under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	451
No. of Informal Notices to repair	...	...	...	...	54
No. of Statutory Notices to repair	...	...	...	...	22
No. of houses repaired following notice	...	...	...	...	63

HOUSING—PROCEDURE FOR DEMOLITION

No. of inspections under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	289
No. of Demolition Orders served	9
No. of undertakings accepted:	
(a) Not to use for human habitation	9
(b) To recondition	1
No. of houses demolished under Orders previously served:	
(a) In Clearance Areas	1
(b) Individual Unfit Houses	2
No. of houses reconditioned following undertakings ...	1
No. of houses vacated following undertakings	3
No. of condemned moveable dwellings removed from district	2

SECTION E

MILK SUPPLIES

The total number of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders is:

Cowkeepers	230
Cowsheds	258
Producer-Retailers	55
Retail Purveyors	29

In addition, 22 purveyors with registered premises situate outside this area have supplementary licences to retail milk in the Rural District area.

No. of cowshed inspections	310
No. of milk premises and vehicles inspected	140

During the year the following works were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order:

New cowsheds	2
Sheds reconstructed	10
Dairies at Producers' premises	9
Dairies at Retailers' premises	2

No proceedings were taken and the dairying premises generally were found to be well kept.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and Amendment Order, 1938

Tuberculin Tested	1
Pasteurised Milk	1
Supplementary to sell Pasteurised	4

MEAT AND FOOD

1.—CATTLE

During the year 4 bullock carcasses and all organs, 4 cow carcasses and all organs were condemned for generalised tuberculosis. There were also 22 carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned for tuberculosis. In diseases other than tuberculosis 1 stirk and all organs and 3 calves and all organs were condemned. There were also 33 carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned for diseases other than tuberculosis.

The total weight being approximately 511½ stones.

2.—PIGS

3 whole pig carcasses and all organs were condemned for tuberculosis. There were also 55 carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned for tuberculosis. In diseases other than tuberculosis 3 whole pig carcasses and all organs were condemned. There were also 7 carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned for disease other than tuberculosis.

The total weight being approximately 94 stones.

3.—SHEEP AND LAMBS

There were 10 whole carcasses and organs condemned, and 10 carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.

The total weight being approximately 43 stones.

The total weight of all condemned meat for the year being 4 tons, 1 cwt. 7lb.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

329 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported during the year, compared with 389 in the previous year, viz.:

	1939	1938
Scarlet fever ...	88	191
Diphtheria ...	117	99
Pneumonia ...	43	51
*Measles ...	21	—
*Whooping cough ...	19	—
Erysipelas ...	14	17
Puerperal pyrexia ...	20	20
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	6	6
Cerebro-spinal meningitis ...	1	—
Paratyphoid B ...	—	4
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	1
	329	389

*Not notifiable during 1938

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939

(Other than Tuberculosis)

Age and Sex incidence

DISEASE			0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and over	Total	Removed to Hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	M	...	1	2	1	8	6	14	7	3	2	—	—	—	—	44	44	—
	F	...	—	1	—	3	6	27	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	44	43	—
Diphtheria	M	...	—	1	3	5	8	25	7	7	1	1	—	—	—	58	58	5
	F	...	—	1	1	3	3	27	14	8	1	—	—	1	—	59	59	4
Pneumonia	M	...	2	1	1	—	1	—	2	2	5	4	3	4	—	25	—	14
	F	...	—	1	3	—	1	2	2	—	1	—	3	1	4	18	—	3
Measles	M	...	—	2	—	4	3	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—
	F	...	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Whooping Cough	M	...	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1
	F	...	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	3
Erysipelas	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	1	—	7	—	—
	F	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	7	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	F		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	10	6	—	—	—	20	17	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	M		4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
	F		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	M		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			13	15	13	25	31	104	39	27	25	13	11	9	4	329	222	33

There was a marked decline in the number of cases of scarlet fever following the heavy incidence of the disease of the previous year. Askern (26), Armthorpe (22), Rossington (10), Edlington (6) and Barnby Dun-with-Kirk-Sandall (6) were the main centres of the infection. The disease was of a mild nature, but owing to the lack of facilities for isolation in the homes, all but one were removed to hospital. Diphtheria was the most serious problem during the year. The endemic level of this disease is usually high at any time, but a serious outbreak occurred at Armthorpe, involving 53 cases. Smaller outbreaks at Edlington and Askern involved 24 and 11 cases respectively. At Armthorpe the extensive infection followed the considerable outbreak of scarlet fever of the previous year. There had been no large-scale outbreak of diphtheria in this parish for some years and the response to the County Council's campaign for active immunisation had been poor, resulting in a large proportion of susceptibles in the population. Some serious cases occurred

during the spring, and, after remaining endemic during the summer, the disease flared up into epidemic proportions during the autumn and winter. Cases were removed to hospital quickly, contacts supervised, schools visited regularly and inspected for mild, unrecognised cases and for carriers. Fresh impetus was given to the campaign for active immunisation by a public lecture given to mothers, by the exhibition of posters and the opening of special clinics at schools. A large quantity of diphtheria antitoxin was distributed to practitioners in the affected areas. As a result of these measures the endemic level of the disease had returned to normal by March 1940. During the outbreak it was not found necessary to close any class or department of the schools. Measles and whooping cough were added to the list of notifiable infectious diseases by an Emergency Order in October 1939. The extension of Doncaster and Mexborough Joint Isolation Hospital has been postponed. Thus it will not be possible to admit serious cases of either of these diseases to any great extent. Experience has shown that in many of the mild cases of measles and whooping cough the parents do not take any precautions towards limiting the spread of the infection and it is common to find such children out of doors mixing with others in playgrounds and buses and places of entertainment. In the large scattered area of the Doncaster Rural District it is possible to trace the spread of measles from parish to parish. Only one case of cerebro-spinal meningitis was notified in 1939 but during the early months of 1940 the disease was more prevalent due to the movement of population and especially of troops. The movement of evacuees has not resulted in any perceptible increase of notifiable infectious diseases in this reception area.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years...	—	—	1	4	—	—	1	2
5 and under 15 years	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
15 and under 25 years	6	10	1	1	3	3	—	—
25 and under 35 years	4	6	—	—	4	1	—	—
35 and under 45 years	3	3	—	1	3	5	—	—
45 and under 55 years	3	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55 and under 65 years	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Over 65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	18	21	5	10	13	12	1	2

There were 54 new cases of tuberculosis notified compared with 74 for the previous year. On December 31st, 1939, the number of cases on the register was 278 (pulmonary: M. 103, F. 71; non-pulmonary: M. 55, F. 49) compared with 267 in 1938 and 291 in 1937.

28 deaths due to tuberculosis were recorded, giving a death rate per 1,000 of 0.58, compared with 0.38 for the previous year. The death rate per 1,000 in England and Wales from all forms of tuberculosis in 1939 was 0.636.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

For five months prior to the war, the development of Air Raid Precautions, initiated about 1937, was accelerated and given priority over all other work on instructions from the Government. In all branches of A.R.P., with the exception of the Auxiliary Fire Service, emergency mortuary provision and the casualty information bureau, the County Council is the scheme-making authority. Nevertheless the officers of County District Councils were co-opted to act as executive officers deputising in their respective districts for their counterparts of the County staff.

Four officers of the Public Health Department acted respectively as Casualty, Ambulance, Decontamination and Food Decontamination Officers under the County Scheme, maintaining a close liaison with the A.R.P. Sub-controller for the Don Valley Area.

During the period of accelerated preparations careful plans had been made in accordance with hundreds of memoranda and circulars from the Home Office, A.R.P. Controller and County Medical Officer. In July preparations had reached a stage when it was possible to hold combined exercises during the "black-out." Nevertheless, at the outbreak of war there remained much that did not exist except on paper. This particularly applied to adaptation of First Aid Posts, the provision of emergency ambulances, cars for mobilising First Aid Parties and transporting sitting casualties, and equipment for aid posts and parties. The history of how all these deficiencies have been made good, of the improvisations adopted until premises and equipment were available, of the training of personnel, will fill many chapters when it comes to be written. At the moment of writing the first aid services are in an advanced state of preparedness as far as present experience of air raids has indicated, but it is very likely that this young organisation will undergo great changes before the end of the war.

In the Doncaster Rural District we are fortunate in having strong St. John Ambulance Brigades associated with Rossington, Askern, Yorkshire Main and Markham Main Collieries. These form the backbone of the first aid services, the personnel of which are now in numbers running into four figures.

The First Aid Posts are situated in the centres of population, are well equipped and in charge of medical officers, who have given great assistance in the individual and collective training of the personnel. Each post has its nucleus of trained or assistant nurses reinforced by members of the nursing divisions of the St. John Ambulance Brigades.

Emergency ambulances of a standard pattern are now available in numbers adequate for anticipated requirements and can be reinforced by second-line and reserve vehicles at short notice, while the arrangements for mutual assistance from other parts of the Don Valley make it unlikely that there will be a shortage of ambulances. These emergency ambulances afford a reasonable degree of comfort and are being kept efficient by full-time personnel.

EVACUATION

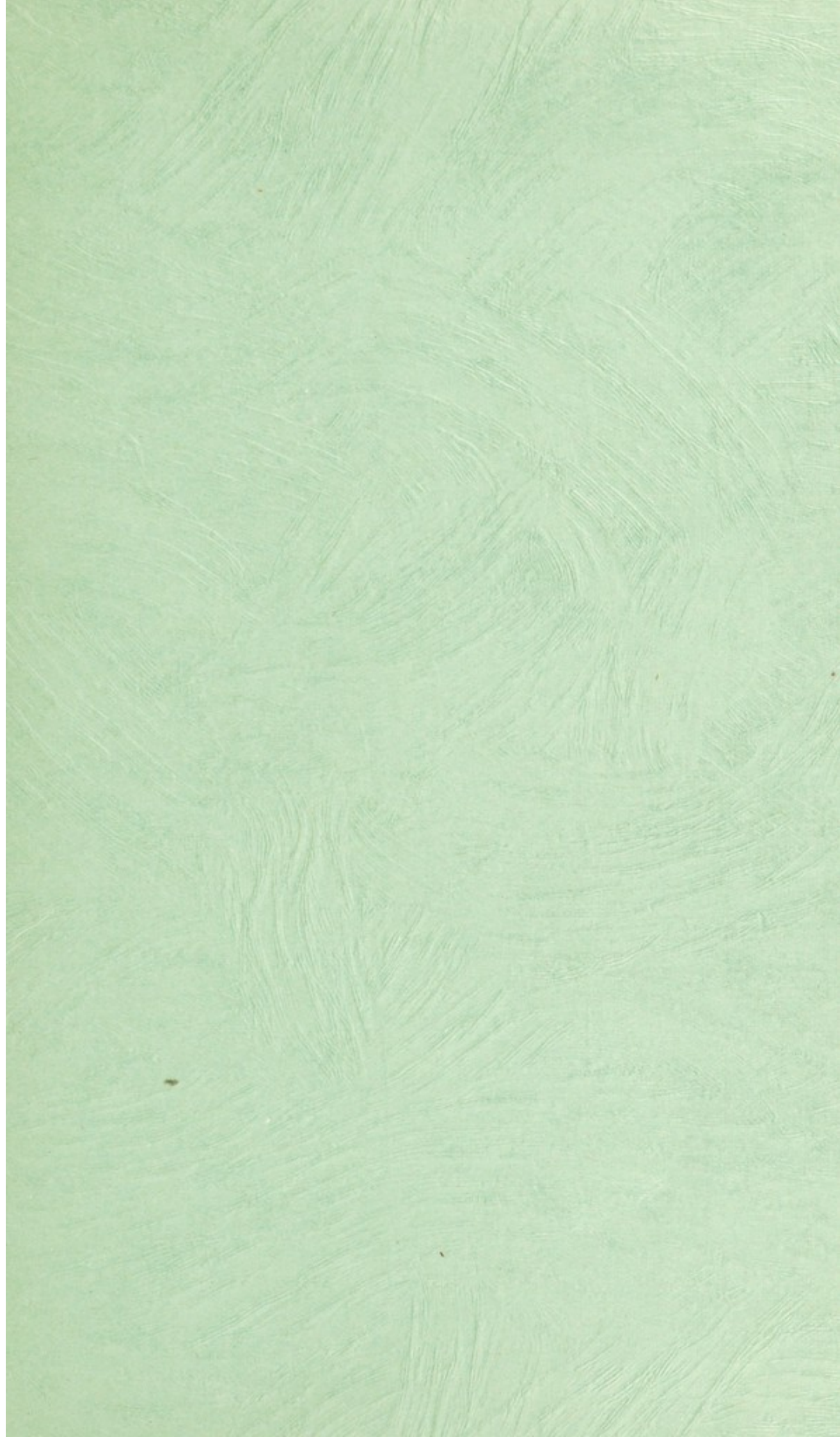
As a reception area Doncaster Rural District made preparations for the receiving of many thousands of evacuees. The evacuees were welcomed on arrival by members of the Women's Voluntary Service and transported to billeting centres, where they were fed and blankets distributed.

The arrangements made by the Chief Billeting Officer operated very well and the experience of the first evacuation led to further improvements. From the medical point of view the chief defect was the lack of medical inspection prior to despatch from the evacuation areas, which resulted in the spread of infectious skin diseases (e.g., impetigo, scabies and pediculosis), and the billeting of unsuitable children (bed-wetters, mentally defective, etc.) However, these matters were subsequently put right. Children were medically inspected before despatch and all evacuees received into hospitals for 48 hours before billeting. Hostels were established also for children suffering from these conditions. The spread of notifiable infectious diseases by this movement of population was not noticeably increased during the winter of 1939-40.

Valuable work was done by school and infant welfare clinics in the treatment of minor ailments, while the Government scheme for medical attention to unaccompanied children and hospital treatment of evacuees under the Emergency Hospital worked well in practice.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1939

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	230	202
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
2. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
6. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	14	6
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
9. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	13	13
10. Other Tuberculosis diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
11. Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
13. Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	22	26
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	16	9
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	40	43
17. Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
19. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	14	3
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
22. Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
23. Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
23(a). Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
24. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
25. Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
26. Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
29. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
30. Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11	20
32. Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	7
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
34. Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	26	5
35. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	20	14
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Special Causes (included under No. 35 above):							
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0



R. B. Crowther,
Printer,
10 Sunny Bar.