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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
AND OTHER RECORDS  
FOR 1941.

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM  
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART TIME):

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

R. CAILE, M.B., B.S.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

G. W. RAGG, Cert. R.S.I., Cert.San.Insp.Exam.Bd. (London)  
Certs. in Hygiene, etc.

MATRON OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

MISS E. SCORER, S.R.N.

CLERK:

W. E. CHAPMAN (Health Department).

DURHAM.

December, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my twelfth annual report being that for the year 1941.

In present circumstances any comparison of vital statistics with those of previous years would not give a true picture of the state of the public health. It will be noted, however, that whilst the Death Rate shews a definite decline the Birth Rate is the lowest recorded for the past ten years and that the two rates shew an unhappy approximation.

The Infant Mortality Rate is higher but not more than can be explained by the effects of the times and notwithstanding is proof of the excellent results of the national effort to secure proper diet for expectant mothers and infants.

Total deaths from Cancer and Tuberculosis were both at a level that should dispel any immediate cause for apprehension.

The incidence of Infectious Disease was extremely low and a matter for considerable satisfaction.

House building was naturally at a standstill during the year and many undesirable housing conditions are unavoidably appearing. I am happy to know, however, that the Housing Committee are making every effort to develop comprehensive plans for rehousing against the time when hostilities cease.

I take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the helpful collaboration of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ragg, whose interest in the public health is as keen as ever.

Finally I offer my sincere thanks to the Committee for their continued confidence and to my fellow officials for many kindnesses.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. K. YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OTHER RECORDS

for 1941.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1940 :—17,840  
1941 :—17,380

Number of inhabited houses end of 1940 :—4,804.  
1941 :—4,795.

Rateable value :—(1940), £118,434.(1941,) £120,510.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate :—(1940) £461 18s. 8d.  
(1941) £468 0s. 0d.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed men in the City at the end of 1940 was 150, being 5·5% of Insured men employed.

At the end of 1941 the estimated number of unemployed was 75 being 2½% of insured men employed.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

## BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate .....	211	113	98	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) 12·54.
Illegitimate .....	7	4	3	

## Stillbirths :—

Legitimate .....	5	1	4	Rate per 1,000 total births 22·42.
Illegitimate .....	nil	nil	nil	

## DEATHS.

	208	110	98	Death-rate per 1,000 population) 11·96.
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DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES. ... Nil.

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births .....	59
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births .....	61
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births .....	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....	2

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
	13	1	3	7	5	17	36	126

## BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY OVER TEN YEARS.

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Birth Rate	15.1	15.0	16.5	14.5	14.0	14.9	14.7	15.3	14.1	12.5
Death Rate	11.9	11.7	11.4	11.7	12.0	12.9	11.7	10.8	14.8	12.0
Infant Mortality	71	80	72	56	92	50	28	37	44	59

## TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1941 OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	14.2	0.51	12.9	5.1	59
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ... ..	14.7	0.58	14.9	7.5	71
148 Smaller Towns, (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931) ... ..	16.4	0.60	13.0	4.6	56
London ... ..	8.9	0.33	16.3	6.8	68
Administrative County of Durham ... ..	17.2	...	13.6	...	70
Durham City ... ..	12.54	0.29	11.96	9.1	59

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1941.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.....	208	110	98
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	1	—	1
Measles.....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	1	—	1
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	1	—	1
Influenza .....	3	—	3
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	6	3	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	5	1	4
Syphilis.....	1	1	—
Acute Polio-myelitis .....	1	—	1
Cancer—Malignant Disease .....	25	14	11
Diabetes .....	1	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	25	14	11
Heart Disease.....	44	22	22
Aneurysm .....	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	9	5	4
Bronchitis.....	11	8	3
Pneumonia .....	12	4	8
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	5	5	—
Peptic Ulcers .....	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) .....	2	1	1
Appendicitis .....	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ....	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases.....	4	1	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	2	2	—
Puerperal Sepsis.....	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes.....	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malfor- mations, etc.....	5	4	1
Road Traffic Accidents .....	4	4	—
Suicide .....	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes .....	7	5	2
All Other Causes.....	32	16	16



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	16	16	1
Diphtheria .....	33	33	1
Enteric Fever.....	4	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	3	—	—
Pneumonia .....	10	—	12
Erysipelas.....	5	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	98	—	—
Measles .....	161	—	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND  
DIPHThERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	3	—	2	7	4	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	3	—	13	5	6	5	1	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1 — 5 .....	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
5 — 10 .....	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 .....	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 — 25 .....	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	1
25 — 35 .....	—	3	—	2	1	—	—	—
35 — 45 .....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 — 55 .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
55 — 65 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and Upwards ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	3	7	2	5	2	4	2	3

## HOUSE DRAINAGE DURING THE YEAR.

Drains were examined, tested and found satisfactory on the following premises by the Sanitary Inspector:—

The Durham County Motor Co., Garage, 28, North Road ;  
Neville's Cross Hotel ; 49, Crossgate ; 67, New Elvet ; 21,  
Young Street ; 3, Silver Street ; 23, Tenter Terrace ; Fire  
Station, The Sands ; 21, Tenter Terrace ; R.O.C. Station,  
General Post Office Buildings, ; St. Godric's School.

A total of 224 yards of new drains and 13 inspection chambers.

The following drains were tested by means of smoke and several defects were found which have since been remedied.

7, Church Street.  
23, Tenter Terrace.

## SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The following conversion was effected during the year:—

21, Young Street—slop closet abolished and fresh water closet substituted, October, 1941.

## SHOPS.

Sixty-two shops were inspected during the year in order to ascertain whether the appropriate notices were being posted, also as to whether they complied with the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT,  
1901, AND THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
FACTORIES with mechanical power ... ..	55	5	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power ... ..	37	4	—
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises ...	5	—	—
Total ... ..	97	9	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	3	3
Sanitary Conveniences (defective) ... ..	3	3
Other offences ... ..	3	3
Total ... ..	9	9

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1941.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions ... ..	10	—	10
Structural Defects ... ..	308	—	308
Overcrowding ... ..	1	—	1
Lodging-houses ... ..	2	—	2
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	12	—	12
Cowsheds ... ..	26	—	26
Bakehouses ... ..	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses ... ..	18	—	18
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	14	—	14
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	17	—	17
Waterclosets ... ..	126	—	126
Defective Yard Paving ... ..	1	—	1
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps ... ..	2	—	2
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
Other Faults ... ..	98	—	98
Water Supply ... ..	1	—	1
Pigsties ... ..	2	—	2
Animals Improperly Kept ... ..	2	—	2
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	7	—	7
Other Nuisances:—			
Lack of proper Dust Bins ... ..	35	—	35
Rat Infestation ... ..	9	—	9
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>691</b>

II.—WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	... ..	nil
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	... ..	nil
Seizures of Unwholesome Food (as follows)	... ..	24
26 lbs. Tinned Milk.		
250 lbs Tinned Foods.		
612 Eggs.		
9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese.		
40 Frozen Rabbits.		
56 lbs. Filleted Catfish.		
1 lb. Bacon.		
30 lbs. Frozen Eggs.		
9 cwt. Potatoes.		
79 lbs. Beef Sausage.		
145 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Pressed Beef.		

Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Food found Adulterated	...	...	...	nil

### III.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stowed or destroyed	...	...	...	73
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	51
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	...	...	...	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	...	...	...	nil

### IV.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	...	...	...	nil
Number of such Houses occupied during year	...	...	...	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	...	...	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	...	...	...	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	...	...	...	nil
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	...	...	5486
Total number of Ash-closets in District	...	...	...	60
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	...	...	...	26

G. W. RAGG,  
Sanitary Inspector.

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.				
a. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects				
...	...	...	...	187
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose				
...	...	...	...	374
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—				
(a) By Owners				
...	...	...	...	187
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				
...	...	...	...	1

## HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	115
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	115
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	408
(4) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	1
(5) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	18
(6) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	77

## HOUSE INSPECTION.

The procedure adopted during the year was as follows:—

Owners of property where systematic inspections have taken place and defects found have been written to.

These houses have been inspected again for the purpose of ascertaining whether the notices by letter had received attention and in default thereof would have been reported to the Committee to consider the service of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Owing to delay and difficulty in obtaining building materials and the procedure which must of necessity be carried out in the service of Section 9, notices (obviously not at all necessary in every instance) it was decided to deal with all properties in the manner stated above.

It is one of the deplorable concomitants of the war that progress in this beneficent work has been arrested. There is a considerable scarcity of houses suitable for the occupation of working class people in the district owing principally to the marriage of young people who are unable to obtain dwellings of their own and still living with their parents. The cessation of building has also suspended the effective abatement of overcrowding. The Ministry of Health is generally speaking unprepared for the time being to approve of the erection of more houses, unless satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which render the work important in the national interest.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 14 Cowkeepers, 21 Dairies and Purveyors of Milk, 31 shops supplying milk in bottles and 29 Registered Purveyors with premises outside the area.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Periodic inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies are made by the Sanitary Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 9 slaughterhouses in the district, three of which are in a dilapidated condition and could be demolished by taking action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Owing to the centralization of slaughtering these Slaughterhouses are at present not being used.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

## YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1941.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination, viz. :—

Almond Oil	...	...	1	Glycerine Substitute	...	1
Aspirin Tablets	...	...	1	Glycerine, Lemon & Honey	...	2
Baking Powder	...	...	2	Ground Cassia	...	1
Barley	...	...	1	Ground Nutmegs	...	1
Boracic Acid Powder	...	...	2	Ground Rice	...	1
Chemical Food	...	...	2	Health Salts	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	2	Mixed Peel	...	1
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	1	New Milk	...	22
Coffee	...	...	2	Milk, Pasteurised	...	4
Confection of Senna	...	...	1	Milk, Sterilised	...	7
Compound Powder of Liquorice	...	...	1	Purified Cream of Tartar	...	1
Compound Bismuth Lozenges (BP)	...	...	2	Rice	...	1
Egg Substitute Powder	...	...	1	Sugar	...	1
Epsom Salts	...	...	1	Syrup of Figs	...	1
Eucalyptus Oil	...	...	1	Tannic Acid Lozenges	...	1
Gregory Powder	...	...	3	Tincture of Iodine	...	1
				Tinned Crayfish	...	1
				White Pepper	...	2

Total number of Samples taken 74.

Of the 74 samples taken, 3 samples of New Milk and one of Pasteurised Milk were below standard necessitating proceedings being taken in 2 instances. In the case relating to the Pasteurised Milk sample, the vendors were fined £5 and 10/6d. costs. The case relating to the sample of New Milk which contained added water resulted in the vendor being fined £2 and £1 1s. 0d. costs.

One sample of cocoa was found to contain a certain percentage of shell.



