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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1942.

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

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

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,
June, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my thirteenth Annual Report being that for the year 1942.

The Report is abbreviated according to the direction of the Ministry to meet the present conditions.

Vital statistics shewed no marked change and in general one can regard the health of the district, during the past year, as having been satisfactory and encouraging.

The Birth Rate is unfortunately low as with many expedited marriages one might have reasonably expected some considerable increase in the rate. This further emphasises the seriousness of the approximation of the Death and Birth Rates.

Deaths from Tuberculosis are less, and this, in my opinion, is some indication of the success achieved by those responsible for the National diet. Deaths from Cancer have increased, and I am personally concerned with the earlier age at which this dread disease is now manifesting itself. Notifications of Infectious Diseases were exceptionally low, except for Measles, which was epidemic, but, fortunately, of a mild type with few complications and responsible for only one death.

Consequent upon the continued stoppage of building, the housing problem becomes more perplexing. The tenementing of larger houses is unfortunately increasing, and I, myself, can only see one way of ending this evil, and that is by bringing all places of habitation under license by the Local Authority. This would cause all variations in living conditions to have the previous approval of the Council.

Your Sanitary Inspector, having resigned his Office, is associated with this Report for the last time and I take this opportunity of expressing my high appreciation of his work. Mr. Ragg has always applied himself with diligence and earnestness, and, in particular, the progress made in the housing problem reflects much credit on his personal endeavours. He has my best wishes for his health and happiness during his retirement.

Finally, to the Committee I offer my thanks for their continued confidence, and to my fellow Officials for so much co-operation so kindly and generously given.

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 1942.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

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

Do. do. 1942 :—16,960

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

1942 :—4,793.

Rateable value :—(1941), £120,510. (1942), £121,306.

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

(1942) £470 0s. 0d.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed men in the City at the end of 1941 was 75, being 2½% of Insured men employed.

At the end of 1942 the estimated number of unemployed was practically the same as for 1941.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Mr. R. B. Hindmarsh, O.B.E., County Public Assistance Officer has kindly supplied me with the following details of the average number of persons and cases chargeable in the City Area during 1942. 1941 figures are given for comparison.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Persons.</i>		<i>cases.</i>
1941	...	416	...	863
1942	...	234	...	499

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	204	109	95	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) 12·91.
Illegitimate	15	8	7	

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	10	7	3	Rate per 1,000 total births 57.
Illegitimate	3	2	1	

DEATHS.

223	125	98	Death-rate per 1,000 population) 13·15.
-----	-----	----	---

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES. ... Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	60
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births	54
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births	133
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	30
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
223	13	—	4	7	10	14	59	116

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

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Birth Rate	15·0	16·5	14·5	14·0	14·9	14·7	15·3	14·1	12·5	12·9
Death Rate	11·7	11·4	11·7	12·0	12·9	11·7	10·8	14·8	12·0	13·2
Infant Mortality	80	72	56	92	50	28	37	44	59	60

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1942
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM
CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	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 ...	15·8	0·54	11·6	5·2	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17·3	0·66	13·3	7·5	59
148 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	18·4	0·62	12·1	4·8	46
London	14·0	0·48	13·9	8·6	60
Administrative County of Durham	17·8	0·73	11·9	7·0	59
Durham City	12·9	0·77	13·2	9·1	60

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1942.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.....	223	125	98
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Measles.....	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Influenza	1	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	5	3	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	4	2	2
Syphilis.....	1	1	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	1	—
Cancer—Malignant Disease	30	17	13
Diabetes	5	—	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	23	14	9
Heart Disease.....	51	26	25
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	8	7	1
Bronchitis.....	15	10	5
Pneumonia	6	5	1
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	1	—
Peptic Ulcers	3	2	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	2	2	—
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases.....	3	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	10	5	5
Puerperal Sepsis.....	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes.....	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malfor- mations, etc.....	3	2	1
Road Traffic Accidents	5	2	3
Suicide	4	4	—
Other Violent Causes	10	7	3
All Other Causes.....	28	11	17

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	20	—
Diphtheria	15	15	1
Enteric Fever.....	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	—	—
Pneumonia	12	—	6
Erysipelas.....	4	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	34	—	1
Measles	255	—	1

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	1	6	6	1	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	1	4	5	—	4	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5 — 10	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
15 — 20	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	2	—	3	2	—	1	1	1
25 — 35	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 — 45	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	10	8	6	2	3	2	2	2

HOUSE DRAINAGE DURING THE YEAR.

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

30, New Elvet ; The Barracks War Nursery ; Framwellgate War Nursery ; Mr. J. O. Luke, Bridge Street (Bakery) ; "Grove House," Gilesgate ; and 12, Leazes Place.

A total of 234 yards of new drains and 16 inspection chambers.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912—1938.

In the administration of the above Acts 269 premises are liable to inspection, all 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. A large number of shops are being closed at an earlier hour than the statutory closing hours owing to the lighting restrictions. There are 46 unoccupied premises.

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	45	5	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power	21	3	—
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises ...	—	—	—
Total	66	8	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	4	4
Sanitary Conveniences (defective)	2	2
Other offences	2	2
Total	8	8

Three notices were received regarding outworkers employed in the Borough. The premises were visited and found to be satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1942.

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	362	—	362
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Lodging-houses	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	—	—	—
Cowsheds	26	—	26
Bakehouses	2	—	2
Slaughter-houses	18	—	18
Ashpits and Privies	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	24	—	24
Waterclosets	74	—	74
Defective Yard Paving	3	—	3
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps	—	—	—
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
Other Faults	94	—	94
Water Supply	12	—	12
Pigsties	—	—	—
Animals Improperly Kept	5	—	5
Offensive Trades	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	2	—	2
Other Nuisances:—			
Lack of proper Dust Bins	34	—	34
Rat Infestation	17	—	17
Insufficient Closet Accom- modation	2	—	2
Defective Cellar Flaps	1	—	1
TOTALS	686	—	686

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)—				

704 pounds, 4 ounces, Tinned Meat.

10½ pounds Sausage Meat.

121 pounds English Beef.

45½ pounds Pork Sausage.

59 tins Milk.

43¾ pounds Beef Sausage.

159 tins Fruit.

63 tins Peas.

59 tins Beans.
18 tins Tomatoes.
1 tin Carrots.
29 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds Cheese.
67 pounds Fish.
48 tins Fish.
302 Eggs.
30 pounds Frozen Eggs.
18 tins Paste.
4 pounds Margarine.
1 tin Vegetable Salad.
186 pounds Plums.
62 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds Apples.
48 pounds Cherries.
63 pounds Figs.
412 Fish Cakes.
240 Sandwich Rolls.
21 Bars Chocolate.
1 pound jar Pickles.
20 pounds Jam.
720 Cauliflowers.
1,882 Cabbages.
16 pounds Floor Sweepings (containing food spilt by accident).

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 stoved or destroyed	...	...	...	98
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	48
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	...	...	...	5494
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.	
<i>a.</i> Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	179
<i>b.</i> Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	362
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(<i>a</i>) By Owners	179
(<i>b</i>) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(<i>a</i>) By owners	3
(<i>b</i>) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(<i>a</i>) By owners	Nil
(<i>b</i>) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
The number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year were	6
The number of persons concerned in such cases were ...	27

HOUSING.

HOUSING ACT, 1926, PART II. INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of two houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART III. CLEARANCE AREAS AND PART IV:—

OVERCROWDING.

There were no further developments during the year, all projected schemes were necessarily in abeyance in connection with clearance areas and overcrowding.

Action under the Housing Acts is almost entirely suspended apart from the service of notices in the form of letters requiring urgent repairs, the completion of which are seriously delayed by the shortage of labour and material. The condition of much of the older property has deteriorated considerably during the past three years and housing programmes will have to be resumed by the Council as quickly as possible after the war. Other routine sanitary work was reasonably maintained during the year, despite the addition of Civil Defence duties which however more recently claimed less of our time.

DISINFESTATION.

Seventeen houses were disinfested on account of vermin, the usual methods for eradication were employed.

BILLETING OF EVACUEES.

Work in this direction commenced in July, 1940. During the continuous air raiding in different parts of the country in 1940 and 1941 billeting in the City Area reached its peak in February 1941, when 191 persons were billeted. Since that time most of these people have returned to their homes and at the end of the year the number was reduced to 68. There are 20 voluntary Billeting Officers willing to serve during an emergency.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 12 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. 31 dealers are registered for the sale of bottled milk only, in the closed

and unopened bottles in which it is delivered to the premises. This applies to the majority of small general dealers shops in which open milk could only be sold with serious risk of contamination. The premises registered have been visited during the year to ensure that the conditions under which the milk is sold are satisfactory and registrations amended where necessary.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 8 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. Since 1940 Government control has prohibited private slaughtering.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

No applications were received during 1942 for the renewal of slaughtermen's licences.

FOOD INSPECTION.

There is an increase in the amount of food found to be unsound. This is accounted for no doubt to some extent by the fact that the Sanitary Inspector is sent for more now than he was before the War commenced. Points values and replacements play their part. There is another factor, however, and that is the careless handling of food. Many tins are misshapen through their containers being thrown on to the ground ; packing is not done by the same expert hands, and boxes are nailed by those who are lacking in experience which results in puncture of the tins.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT REGULATIONS) 1942.

The Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order 1940 made by the Minister of Food under emergency powers, prohibits the private slaughtering of livestock for human consumption, the Minister being the sole purchaser of all fat stock for slaughter. The stock is slaughtered in selected slaughterhouses and the meat is distributed through the Wholesale Meat Supply Associations, acting as agents of the Minister to the retail trade. The selected slaughterhouse for this area is at Meadowfield and is owned by the Brandon and Byshottles Co-operative Society. The meat is transported to Durham and distributed to retailers, the allocation being based on the amount of the meat ration and the number of customers registered with each retailer. The local distribution is under the control of a Committee of the retail butchers. The distribution is kept under supervision of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations relating to the handling, covering and transport of meat. No

slaughtering therefore is allowed in the City except occasional slaughtering for home consumption under licence of the local office of the Ministry of Food. Licences were granted during the year for the slaughter of three pigs which were all inspected for fitness for human consumption and the owners advised accordingly.

CIVIL DEFENCE—FOOD DECONTAMINATION SERVICE.

During the year further attention was given to the scheme for the treatment of gas contaminated foodstuffs and eleven recruits are now enrolled from the food trades for this service. Most of the equipment for the squad is supplied by the County Council and is stored in the Sanitary Inspector's Office.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1942.

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.:—

New Milk	...	...	20	Cod Liver Oil	...	...	2
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	2	Aspirin (5 grn.)	...	...	2
Cooking Fat	...	...	1	Castor Oil	...	...	2
Margarine	...	...	2	Strawberry Jam	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	3	Butter	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	2	Household Milk	...	...	1
Wartime Baking Powder	...	...	1	Plum Jam	...	...	1
White Pepper	...	...	1	Antacid Powder	...	...	1
De Luxe Arrowroot	...	...	1				
Tea	...	...	3				—
Lard	...	...	2				50
Gooseberry Jam	...	...	1				—

Of the fifty samples taken only three samples of New Milk were reported to be below standard but the deficiencies did not warrant proceedings being taken.