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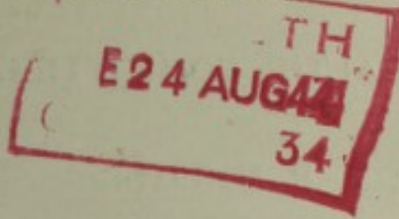
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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH.



Annual Report

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health.

1943

FARNWORTH :

J. WHATMOUGH, PRINTER, ELLESMERE STREET

1944

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: COUNCILLOR M. P. McGRATH.

Vice-Chairman: ALDERMAN J. HEATHCOTE.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman W. McManus, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson

Alderman A. Jones, J.P.

Councillor A. Hindley

„ R. H. Rowlands, C.C.

„ R. H. Urmson, J.P.

„ A. H. R. Willis

„ J. Dean

„ P. Helme

„ S. Bowling

„ H. H. Bradshaw

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman: COUNCILLOR R. H. ROWLANDS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR ALMOND

Members :

THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN W. McMANUS, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson

Alderman J. Heathcote

Alderman A. Jones, J.P.

Councillor S. Beck

„ S. Bowling

Councillor M. P. McGrath

„ P. Smith

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooper

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Wilcockson

Mrs. Stevenson

Mrs. Jones

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

- Medical Officer of Health . Alexander G. Glass, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
Retired July 12th.
R. Sydney Davidson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H. Commenced duties July 13th.
- Ante-natal Clinic ... R. Newton, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
M.R.C.O.G.
- Ophthalmic Surgeon.....John Morrison, M.B. Ch.B. (also School Oculist).
- Aural SurgeonG. Gordon Mowat, B.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (also
School Aurist)
- Dental SurgeonG. C. Royley, L.D.S. (also School Dental
Officer)
- Chief Sanitary Inspector * H. T. Ogden, M.S.I.A.
- Sanitary Inspector A. H. S. Lewis, M.S.I.A.
- Health Visitors :.....Miss A. Pendlebury, A.R.S.I. Certs M.C.W.
(also School Nurses) and C.M.B.
Mrs. F Cunliffe, S.R.N.
Miss P. Law, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)
Miss H. E. S. Holmes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
(R.S.I.)
- Clerks.....T. Shaw (part time)
Miss J. Harrison (part time)

*Died Apr. 28th, 1944

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members
of the Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough together with the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the year 1943.

My predecessor, Dr. A. G. Glass, retired in mid-July, so that he is responsible for the work of the Health Department for the first half of the year.

The health of the Borough remains good. There has been a rise in the number of births from 347 in 1938 to 467 during the year under review, while, for the same period of years, the deaths have averaged 351 per year. It must be gratifying to the Council to realise that more use has been made of the Council's Maternity Scheme whereby expectant mothers in certain circumstances may have the advantages of a hospital confinement. The numbers availing themselves of this scheme have risen from 47 to 126 during six years.

I have been fortunate in the co-operation and loyalty afforded me by my staff, and for the encouragement which the members of the Health Committee have extended to me. I am grateful to them for their valuable help.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population = Census, 193128,717
 Estimated, 1943 (middle) ...25,810.

Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS :

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	447	222	225
Illegitimate	20	10	10
Total ...	<u>467</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>235</u>
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	18.0		
Still Births	26	12	14
Rate per 1,000 Total Births...	52.7		

DEATHS :

	355	179	176
Death-rate per 1,000 population	13.7		

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate	36	20	16
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Infant Mortality Rate ...	81.0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	...	..50	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)...	2		

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1943.

Cancer	50
Diarrhœa under 2 years	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	14
Other forms of tuberculosis	4
Appendicitis	2
Diabetes	4
Heart disease	77
Other circulatory diseases...	5
Bronchitis	44
Pneumonia (all forms)	8
Influenza	13
Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Whooping cough	5
Diphtheria	1
Other respiratory diseases	2
Other digestive diseases	7

Nephritis	8
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	33
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	18
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5
Road traffic accidents	5
Suicide	1
Other deaths from violence	4
Puerperal sepsis	1
All other causes	41
Total	...355

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Smallpox.

Provision has been made for the reception of smallpox cases at the Ainsworth Hospital under the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

(2) Other Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious disease other than smallpox are accommodated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Bolton Corporation.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance service serves the districts of Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever, which authorities also bear the cost, and there is a scale of charges in operation whereby, for a small payment, the ambulance is available not only for accidents but for those cases requiring hospital treatment.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS.

Swabs (for diphtheria)	33 (8 positive)
Blood (for enteric fever)	1 (negative)

MIDWIVES.

The Lancashire County Council is the supervising authority under the Midwives Acts. At present there are four midwives serving this district.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The School Clinic, which is situated in Albert Road, is used during the afternoons of the week, with the exception of Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, for Maternity and Child Welfare Services, with an Ante-Natal Clinic on Thursday afternoon.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General.

This is carried out by the District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary body supported by free-will contributions. It is affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and is in receipt of an annual subscription of twenty guineas from the Borough Council.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

Arrangements have been made with the District Nursing Association for the services of a trained nurse in cases of puerperal pyrexia and the notifiable forms of pneumonia. The Council reimburse the Nursing Association at the rate of 1/- to 1/6 per visit.

The Health Visitors and School Nurses, who have access to most houses in the Borough are ever ready to advise parents in the management and nursing of sick persons.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

1. HEALTH VISITING.

The Council employs four nurses, who hold the joint posts of health visitors and school nurses.

Number of visits paid during the year :—

Visits :—First visits	...	...	...	465
Revisits, under 1 year	...	...	...	1939
" 1-5 years	...	...	...	2761
Expectant Mothers :—				
First visits	...	...	...	149
Revisits	...	...	...	158
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	134
Infant Life Protection	...	...	...	19
Special visits	...	...	...	215
				—
			Total	...5840

2. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

This clinic is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and the increasing numbers show that the clinic is being recognised among the mothers in the town as a valuable asset in maintaining the health and progress of children.

During the year 471 consultations were given by the Medical Officer.

Particulars of attendances are shown below :—

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the clinic during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	352
(ii) Over 1 year of age	...	...	24

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the clinic during the year, and who, at the end of the year were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	335
(ii) Over 1 year of age	...	...	875

Total number of attendances ... 7161

Average attendance per session ... 47

Expectant Mothers : Number ... 338

Attendances ... 2195

The usual well known brands of milk are stocked at the clinic and are available for sale to mothers.

The sales of dried milk amounted to 16,632 lbs.

3. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year 31 sessions were held, with the Gynæcologist in attendance.

307 expectant mothers came for consultation and examination, and they made 736 attendances. Of the 307 cases, 120 attended on one occasion only, 67 came twice, 58 three times, 27 four times, 19 five times, 9 six times, 5 seven times, 2 eight times. 163 were expectant for the first time (primiparæ). The ages of the primiparæ are shown in the following table :—

Under 20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Over 40
10	69	45	33	6	—

All abnormal conditions found on examination were given appropriate treatment.

4. MATERNITY CASES.

By the end of the year 277 of the patients had been confined. The following table gives particulars regarding the confinements :—

	Primiparæ.	Multiparæ.
No. confined	155	122
Confinement at home	75	69
" " Townleys Hospital	66	39
" " St. Mary's Hospitals	10	13
" " other Institutions	1	1
Removed from district before confinement	3	—
Vertex presentation	145	114
Breech presentation	7	4
B.B.A.	1	3
Other	1	1
Labour normal	128	111
Labour normal but prolonged	7	1
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	—	1
Forceps delivery	13	4
Cæsarian section	4	4
Induction pre-eclamptic toxæmia	—	1
Adherent placenta	2	—
Ruptured perineum	6	3
Condition of mother satisfactory	149	121
Pyelitis	1	—
T.B. bacillus found in sputum	1	—
Thrombo phlebitis	1	—
Recto-vaginal fistula (from previous confinement)	—	1
Condition of child :		
Alive and well	141	114
Still-born	7	3
Spina bifida	1	—
Hare-lip	—	1
Died within 1 month	5	4

Five post-natal cases attended the clinic during the year.

Arrangements exist with Townleys Hospital, whereby a woman can be admitted for her confinement. Payment is made according to her means. 103 cases were admitted to Townleys during the year.

In addition to the arrangements with Townleys Hospital, the Council has made financial arrangements with St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, for the reception of difficult cases of labour. 23 such cases were admitted during the year.

There was one maternal death during 1943. See page 12, Puerperal Pyrexia.

5. CONVALESCENT HOMES.

Post-natal cases requiring convalescence may be sent to the Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby.

The Child Welfare Department have a cot for its use at the North of England Children's Sanatorium, Southport.

6. HOME HELPS.

It is difficult in war-time to maintain an efficient staff for Home Helps, and only one case was attended during the year.

7. EMERGENCY UNIT.

In the case of confinement taking place at home, arrangements have been made with St. Mary's Hospitals for an emergency unit to be provided if the patient is so gravely ill that removal to a hospital would be dangerous. There were no cases requiring this service during 1943.

8. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year there were only two cases on the register. They were visited regularly.

9. DENTAL TREATMENT.

For expectant and nursing mothers.

No. of mothers referred by M.O.H.	...	47
„ „ „ treated	... ..	31
„ „ attendances	... ..	118
„ „ permanent fillings	... ..	55
„ „ „ extractions	... ..	75
„ „ scalings and polishings	... ..	7
„ „ dentures	... ..	4
Other treatment to permanent teeth	... ..	2

For pre-school children.

No. of children referred by M.O.H.	...	26
„ „ „ treated	... ..	19
„ „ attendances	... ..	41
„ „ fillings in temporary teeth	... ..	13
„ „ temporary extractions	... ..	27
„ „ cases given advice	... ..	6
Other treatment to temporary teeth	... ..	2

10. MINOR AILMENTS.

109 pre-school children attended the clinic during the year, making in all 659 attendances.

11. THROAT, NOSE AND EAR DEFECTS.

Dr. G. Gordon Mowat, Aural Surgeon to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee, held 19 sessions during the year. 39 pre-school children were examined and treated.

10 pre-school children had operative treatment at Bolton Royal Infirmary.

12 ORTHOPÆDICS.

At the Lancashire County Council Orthopædic Clinic, Kearsley, 28 pre-school children attended during the year, making 68 attendances. Through the Clinic 19 surgical appliances i.e., boots, irons etc., were supplied. In-patient hospital treatment was afforded to three pre-school children, one at Biddulph Orthopædic Hospital (Lancashire C.C.), and two at Children's Orthopædic Hospital, Marple.

13. EYE DEFECTS.

The School Oculist examined during the year 60 pre-school children. In 24 cases suitable glasses were prescribed, and for the remainder other treatment was advised.

14. WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The Park Street War-time Nursery, which was opened in May 1942, with accommodation for 43 children, has proved its need. In May of the year under review the Bridgewater Street Nursery was completed and opened as a Day and Night Nursery, with accommodation for 50 children. Both Nurseries have waiting lists for entrants.

On the 8th October, the North Western Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare held a well-attended meeting in the Farnworth Town Hall, following a visit to these War-time Nurseries.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year 17 cases of diphtheria (including 2 cases from Townleys Hospital belonging to outside districts), were notified, against an average of 22 for the previous 5 years. There was one death.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council, free of charge, to general practitioners for patients residing within the Borough. A supply has been available in 8,000 and 10,000 units for therapeutic use, and in 1,000 units for prophylactic use. During the year, antitoxin to the amount of 114,000 units was issued.

ACTIVE IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The immunisation clinic has been held weekly during the year, and the Table given hereunder shows the immunisations done since 1936 in the various age-groups.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Persons inoculated each year from 1936—1943.

Age at date of inoculation.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
0	—	—	—	11	10	31	62	56
1	70	30	88	48	32	61	161	145
2	45	13	41	23	16	40	93	52
3	50	7	47	11	6	47	95	30
4	53	14	56	16	6	37	65	34
5	74	6	61	7	11	43	90	24
6	74	6	44	7	8	27	92	22
7	41	8	39	5	2	32	109	14
8	58	8	40	5	3	34	108	18
9	40	9	35	3	1	31	87	11
10	29	3	48	4	4	40	133	19
11	21	7	53	2	4	63	100	13
12	15	4	47	4	1	65	104	10
13	9	—	35	1	3	38	74	11
14	2	1	13	1	—	4	9	6
15 & over	1	—	12	—	—	1	1	—
Total each yr.	582	116	659	148	107	594	1383	465

Approximate number immunised at 31st December, 1943, in the following age-groups :

Under 5	5—14	15 & over	Total
913	2,669	472	4,054

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 66 cases of scarlet fever notified, and of these 29 were treated at hospital, and the remainder at home. There were no deaths. The average for the previous 5 years was 93 cases.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 25 cases notified during the year. The average number during the previous five years was 36. There was one death of a notified case.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

During the year 9 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, 4 of which were resident in Farnworth, the remainder being notified from

Townleys Hospital and belonging to outside districts. There was one death of a Farnworth resident following a miscarriage in a patient suffering from thyrotoxic adenoma and severe anæmia.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Three cases were notified during the year, but only one of these was resident in Farnworth, the remaining two being notified from Townleys Hospital and belonging to outside districts.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Disease.	No.
Scarlet fever.	66
Diphtheria.	17
Acute primary pneumonia.	22
Acute influenzal pneumonia.	3
Puerperal pyrexia.	9
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	3
Cerebro spinal fever.	4
Erysipelas.	8
Measles.	66
Whooping Cough.	169
Malaria.	1

Cases removed to hospital :—

Scarlet fever	29
Diphtheria	11
Cerebro spinal fever	1

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified :—

Respiratory	24
Non-respiratory	7

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

SCABIES.

This disease is still prevalent among school children, and, in some cases, in adults. They were treated at the clinic, and the table below gives particulars of attendances.

No. of pre-school children treated ...	18
" " " " " attendances	65
" " school children treated ...	65
" " " " " attendances...	802
" " adults treated	8
" " " attendances	21

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A constant water supply is provided by the Bolton Corporation directly to all dwellings in the Borough, and the supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works, and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1943 :—

Number of privy middens	...	...	...	4
„ closets attached to these middens	...	...	...	12
„ pail closets	...	...	...	5
„ fresh water closets	...	...	...	8867
„ waste water closets	...	...	...	281
„ dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	Nil
„ movable ashbins for refuse	...	...	...	8456
„ houses on water carriage system	...	...	...	8263

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

There is a weekly collection of all household refuse in Farnworth, and at the same time a collection of salvage for war purposes. The refuse is taken to a tip situated away from all dwelling houses, where controlled tipping is in operation. This work is carried out by three covered motor vehicles, and the staff of the Cleansing Department under the Borough Surveyor.

Sanitary Inspections during 1943 (including Housing).

No. of premises visited, 1213.

Defects or nuisances : No. discovered 666, No. abated 623.

No. of notices served : Informal 218, Statutory 83.

There were no legal proceedings.

Shops and Offices —

	Inspections	Defects and Contraven- tions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	8	—	—
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc	—	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action taken.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of In- spections	Notices	Prosecu- tions
1. Factories with mechanical power	24	2	—
Factories without mechanical power	13	2	—
Other premises	—	—	—
2. No. of defects found	4		

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year :—

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)

(1) Council houses ... ..	... Nil.
(2) Other houses ... ..	... Nil.

(b) Insecticides.

(1) Council houses ... ..	... 9
(2) Other houses ... ..	... 11

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 9 dairy farms in the district with approximately 250 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects, and to ensure that the provisions of The Milk and Dairies Orders are carried out. They are all provided with dairies which have no communication with other buildings.

A large modern pasteurising plant is situated in the district, and receives careful supervision and frequent inspection.

EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

28 samples were examined during the year, 8 of which were bacteriologically unsatisfactory. Tubercle bacilli were found in four samples, three of which were samples of bulk milk before pasteurisation.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected at regular intervals. During the year the following food was condemned and surrendered: 1,128 lbs. beef, 228 lbs. bacon, 16 lbs. ham, 3 lbs. fish, 30 lbs. sausage, 3 lbs. cheese, 17½ lbs. butter, 102 lbs. chocolate, 10 eggs, 1326 tins of various foods.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council are the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Inspector in collaboration with the local Sanitary Inspector.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other articles	...	...	...	...	...	12

Proceedings were taken in respect of three unsatisfactory samples of milk, which resulted in a fine of £15, and £12-10-6 costs.