

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Alton U.D.C.

Contributors

Alton (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xfy3qtx9>

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>

Council Offices,
ALTON. HANTS.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1944.

The health of the town continued good and the number of cases of infectious disease remained low.

Water Supply from the town's own works is sufficient for all needs and no restriction of supplies has been necessary. The water coming from the chalk is hard, but pure and has no plumbo-solvent action. All water is chlorinated at the source and a constant supply is maintained. Alton and Holybourne have a piped supply to the majority of houses, only a few outlying farms and cottages being dependent on wells and rainwater. Beech still has no piped supply and owing to the drying up of some wells this year, more houses have been dependent on rainwater and carted supplies. It is calculated that 75% of the houses in the district have a piped supply and there are no standpipes.

Sewage Works. Though heavily overloaded a fair effluent is produced but in times of storm etc. excess sewage has to be treated on the land.

Deaths for the year were 105 - males 58, females 47 - an increase of 12 over last year; these occurred in the aged part of the population as in the table appended :-

AGES	1943.	1944.
70 - 80 Years	22	37.
Over 80 Years	16	20.
TOTAL :-	38	57.

The deaths of 6 infants under 1 year were reported, of these 4 were due to prematurity and one each to gastritis and Mongolism.

Births. A total of 91 (boys 44, girls 47) with 5 boys and 2 girls illegitimate shows a fall and at fourteen less than the number of deaths is insufficient to maintain the population at the existing figure.

Infectious Diseases. The total of notifications is only 105 compared with 134 in 1942 and 231 in 1943 and is notable for the total absence of measles in the town, the small number notified coming entirely from an institution in the town.

The two cases of Diphtheria were adults who had not been immunised. Scarlet fever with 13 notifications is about the usual number for the town, but whooping cough with 63 is higher than usual. Pulmonary Tuberculosis with 6 remains unchanged.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. This has been continued but the number at 155 shows a falling off. This is partly due to the comb out at the schools in 1942, when practically all children who had evaded immunisation in the pre-school period were immunised and those who had not been immunised within five years were given a continuation dose. Many parents, who have failed to bring their

(OVER)

children for immunisation in the pre-school period, agree to this being carried out at school, but I would stress the importance of immunisation as soon as possible after the first birthday, as diphtheria is most fatal in children under 5.

Scabies. Scattered cases still occur with more serious outbreaks now and then, the usual means of infection being a visit by an unrecognised case. It should be borne in mind that in some people the disease remains almost quiescent and causes little trouble to the effected person, but is still very contagious and may cause a considerable outbreak if he visits an uninfected household. As it is unlikely that the disease will cease after hostilities, permanent means of treatment are being considered.

Welfare & Infestation by Lice etc. Progress in cleansing heads etc. continues; further success has resulted from the examination of the rest of the family and their treatment when needed. This applies particularly to the persistent offenders where the child has been cleansed, but shortly relapsed.

Some notes by the Sanitary Inspector are appended.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

R.J. MILLSON. M.B., B.C. (Cantab)
D.P.H., R.C.P.S., B.A.

Medical Officer of Health,
Alton Urban District Council.

18th June, 1945.

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 1944.

I beg to submit my annual report of the work of this Department as prescribed by Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926 :-

1. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

- (i) Water. No important extension of the water supply system has been made during the year.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses have been made of water samples taken both from the Well at Windmill Hill and also from services in various houses in different parts of the District.

Chlorination of the Supply. The chlorination and dechlorination of the water supply to the Town has been carried out regularly throughout the year.

2. Rivers and Streams. Following complaints of pollution of the River Key, careful and detailed sampling was carried out in the Urban Area, but nothing conclusive was found to account for the complaint. As a general rule the Thames Conservancy Board's Inspectors take all necessary action to check pollution of rivers and streams in this area.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation. The position regarding closet accommodation remains the same.

- (ii) Public Cleansing. One collection of house refuse and one of salvage is made in the whole of the district each alternate week.

The town is divided into three districts in each of which a man is regularly employed to scavenge and clean the streets.

All footpaths and alleyways in the Town are kept clean and disinfected once each week.

- (iii) Shops. No action has been necessary during the year under the Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences in shops.

- (iv) Camping Sites. During the year one site in the area was used for camping.

- (v) Smoke Abatement. No action has been taken under this section during the year.

- (vi) Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the District.

- (vii) Eradication of Bad Bugs. Action was necessary in two cases under this heading during the year. There has been no recurrence.

4. Schools. The usual inspections of the sanitary accommodation and water supply of the schools in the District have been made during the year.

Rat Destruction. Help and advice have been given to persons requiring the same and every effort has been made to supplement action taken by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture and the County Agricultural War Executive Committee. A Rodent Officer was appointed by the Council in November and is engaged upon a detailed survey of the district as required by the Ministry of Food.

(OVER)

Disinfections. As a result of orders received from you fifteen disinfections have been carried out on various properties during the year after :-

Scarlet Fever	13 Cases
Diphtheria	2 "

In fifteen cases bedding was steam disinfected.

1. Housing.

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :-

(1) (a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	10.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	10.
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	-
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	-
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	10.
2.	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7.
3.	Proceedings under Section 9.10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	
	No. of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice (By Council in default of Owners)	3.
	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	Nil.
	Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil.
	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil.
	Proceedings under Part IV of the Housing Act 1936	Nil.

During the year 47 re-inspections of works and repairs to houses have been made.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. Regular inspection of cowsheds and dairies is carried out by this Department.

(b) Meat and Other Foods. The two Ministry of Food slaughterhouses are regularly visited and condemnation certificates issued where meat is found to be unfit for human consumption.

During the year 130 inspections have been carried out during slaughtering hours. A close watch is also kept upon food in shops and any unfit food found is condemned and destroyed.

No complaints with regard to the conduct of slaughterhouses have been received during the year 1944.

Bakehouses have been inspected and shops and stalls where meat and other food is prepared for sale have been kept under observation.