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Contributors

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**URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL
OF
GAINSBOROUGH**

ANNUAL REPORT


of the

Medical Officer of Health

with that of the

Sanitary Inspector

**For the Year
1939**



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ANNUAL REPORT
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. A. HACKETT, M.B., Ch.B., (Edin. Univ.)
(part time).

Sanitary Inspector :

WILLIAM W. JACKSON,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector :

L. SEARSON.

Assistant Meat Inspector :

J. SMITHSON.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1939, in an abridged form.

I am pleased to be able to report that the general health of the District has been satisfactory during the year. No severe epidemics occurred, in spite of the fact that billeting of evacuees was carried out on a fairly large scale. The war has thrown extra strain on the staff but the duties have been carried out in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Jackson has shown great keenness and has been a great help to me, and I wish to welcome him to the District.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. HACKETT.

M.B., Ch.B.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Urban District.....	approx. 2,400 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) Resident Population mid 1939.....	16,850
(b) Average population approximate to the	
Calculation of Death Rates	17,080
Number of inhabited houses (end 1939).....	4,932
Rateable Value	£88,265
Sum represented by 1d. Rate.....	£367

The chief industries of the area are Engineering, Timber, Milling and Malting and Oil Cake Manufacture. There has been a great diminution of unemployment owing to re-armament and general trade revival.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female	Birth rate
Live Births	233	109	124	12.9
Legitimate	213	99	114	
Illegitimate	20	10	10	

Still Births				
Legitimate	10	6	4	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births.....				41.1

Deaths. 1939. All causes.	Total	Male	Female	Death rate
	251	118	133	13.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES (Headings 29 and 30)

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	nil
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes	nil
Total	nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	68.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	70.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births.....	50
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	29
" " Measles (all ages)	nil
" " Whooping Cough	nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	2	5	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	4	8
Other Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Cancer	14	15	29
Diabetes	3	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	16	13	29
Heart Disease	33	39	72
Other Circulatory Disease	3	8	11
Bronchitis	3	5	8
Pneumonia.....	3	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	4
Peptic Ulcer	2	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Disease of Liver	1	2	3
Nephritis (acute and chronic)	3	3	6
Premature Birth, etc.	6	5	11
Senility.....	—	7	7
Suicide	1	—	1
Other Violence	10	3	13
Other defined Diseases	9	15	24
Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	1	1	2

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

Births	Total	Male	Female	Rate
1939	233	109	124	12.9
1938	217	115	102	12.8
1937	235	114	121	13.8
1936	249	112	137	14.3
1935	233	117	116	13.2
Deaths	Total	Male	Female	Rate
1939	251	118	133	13.7
1938	246	134	112	13.8
1937	249	135	114	13.7
1936	244	135	109	13.2
1935	236	130	106	13.4

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality
England and Wales ..	15.0	12.1	50
126 Great Towns	14.8	12.0	53
148 Smaller Towns ..	15.6	11.2	40
London	12.3	11.9	48
Gainsborough	12.9	13.7	68.6

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	10	5	15
Illegitimate	—	1	1

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

Pneumonia all forms	3
Premature Birth	7
Overlaying	1
Marasmus	1
Atelectasis	2
Congenital Heart Disease	1
Injury at Birth	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There have been no special developments or changes in these services, excepting the opening of the new block at the Isolation Hospital. This block is up-to-date in every respect and is a credit to those responsible for its erection.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION D.

During the Autumn and Winter many children have been billeted in the area. Apart from the fact that many of these children were affected with Impetigo and other contagious skin diseases, no ill effects were observed on the general health of the district.

The number of New Houses erected during the year was as follows :—

(1) By the Local Authority	36
(2) By Private Enterprise	5

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, ETC.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There have been no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. In the Autumn and early Winter, German Measles was prevalent and a few cases of Measles also occurred.

13 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, mostly mild in type. There were only two cases of Diphtheria. Twenty eight cases of Pneumonia were notified, 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 6 of Erysipelas, 1 of Whooping Cough, 1 of Measles, 1 of Paratyphoid, B. This case was of a very mild type and the origin of it was not discovered.

No artificial immunization against Diphtheria was carried out during the year.

TABLE I.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE, 1939.

Disease	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	13	9	—
Diphtheria	2	1	—
Pneumonia.....	28	?	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	?	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	1	1	—
Erysipelas	6	?	—
Whooping Cough	1	?	—
Measles	1	?	—

TABLE II.
DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

	North	South	Market	Central
Scarlet Fever	5	—	3	5
Diphtheria	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia.....	9	9	7	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	1
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	—

TABLE III.

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Pnen- monia	Enteric
0-1	—	—	—	—	1	—
1-2	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3	1	—	—	—	—	—
3-4	1	—	—	—	—	—
4-5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	7	1	—	—	3	1
10-15	1	1	—	—	1	—
15-20	1	—	—	1	—	—
20-35	2	—	2	—	3	—
35 up	—	—	—	5	20	—

CANCER.

There were 29 deaths from Cancer, 14 males and 15 females.

The site of the disease was as follows :

Gasteointestinal	17
Breast	3
Genitourinary	3
Liver	1
Pancreas	1
Thorax	1
Thyroid	1
Pharyrex	1
Extremities	1

AGE INCIDENCE.

Years	
45-55	3
55-65	7
65 up	19

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1939.

TABLE I.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1		1						
5							1	1
15	3	2	1	1				
25	3	2				1		
35	1	1				1		
45	4	1				1		
55	1				3	1		
65 up	1	1			1			
Totals	13	8	1	1	4	4	1	1

TABLE II.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

NEW CASES.

North	South	Market	Central
10	2	3	8

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1939

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH
COMMITTEE.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my first annual report for the year 1939.

Owing to the rather trying times through which we are now passing, and the need for economy in printing, I have had to delete much matter which would, I think, have proved interesting in view of the difficulties which have been dealt with by the Staff as a whole.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1937

The number of workshops on the register, including bakehouses, is 112.

86 visits have been paid to workshops and workplaces during the year, and in all cases were kept satisfactory.

The number of bakehouses on the register is 11, and these have been visited on 13 occasions, and kept in a satisfactory manner.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the past year, 5 Informal Notices have been served, and 143 inspections were made of various premises. The number on the register is 297. The 5 informal notices were complied with.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

There are 27 premises on the register of Preserved food premises, 9 premises on the Register of Ice-cream premises, and 4 on the register of Wholesale Margarine premises. 151 visits were paid to these premises.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES and MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Cowkeepers in the District is 8, the number of Cowsheds 16, and the approximate number of Milch Cows 90.

50 visits have been paid to these premises, and in three instances it was necessary to draw the attention of the Cowkeepers to the unsatisfactory condition of the sheds.

On the register of Dairies are 23 Purveyors and 4 Dairymen, 11 Purveyors and 2 Dairymen residing outside the Urban District. 3 Dairymen retail "Accredited" Milk, and the other "Pasteurised." 21 small shops retail bottled milk, brought into the town by the bottlers. 68 visits were paid these premises.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES and MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 12 Slaughterhouses on the Register, 5 are registered and 7 are licensed, 5 of the latter being annual.

The slaughterhouses are visited daily, and the Inspector was given every opportunity to see that they are kept clean and free from nuisances.

In one case, proceedings were taken against the occupier of a slaughterhouse who failed to keep his premises clean.

The magistrates imposed a fine.

The number of visits paid to Slaughterhouses, Butchers Shops and Stalls was 5,186, and the number of Carcasses examined was:— Beast, 1,233; Pigs, 4,482; Sheep, 4,121; and Calves 76, making a grand total of 9,912 carcasses.

Other Foodstuffs condemned during the year were:—

- 941 lbs of Chilled and Preserved Meats, and Rabbits.
- 161½ lbs. of Cheese.
- 1 box of crabs.
- 1 bag of Mussels.
- 9 lbs. of Cod Fillets.
- 23 tins Canned Fruits.

The following table of Carcases inspected is compiled from the Ministry of Health's Circular, 1738.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.....	835	398	76	4121	4482
Number inspected	835	398	76	4121	4482
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole Carcases con- demned	—	—	—	1	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	75	22	—	21	261
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.74	5.52	—	.53	.059
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole Carcases con- demned	—	5	1	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	34	97	—	1	224
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.07	25.88	1.31	.024	.05

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The number of Trades on the Register is 5. There are now 3 Tripe Boilers, 1 Dealer in Hides, Fats, Bones, etc., and 1 Dealer in Beast, Sheep and Pigs Runners.

103 visits were paid to these premises during the year, and on the whole they have been kept clean and free from nuisances, and conducted satisfactorily. The Hide and Skin Company's premises have been satisfactorily carried on despite transport difficulties.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection and disposal of the Town's Refuse during the past year has been satisfactorily carried out.

CONTROLLED TIPPING OF REFUSE.

During the annual repairs to the Destructor we had to resort to tipping as in the previous year of the Destructor site, but owing to the unsuitable nature of covering material this was not entirely successful, and resulted in a nuisance from smell and a plague of crickets in surrounding property.

During the month of October, land was offered for Controlled Tipping, and this was accepted. The land was off Lea Road, and three men were detailed off to control the tipping, sort out anything of value and level down. We had plenty of covering material on the site, the refuse being covered to a depth of nine inches. This has been a huge success and further offers of land for raising have been received.

The amount of refuse dealt with at the Destructor was 3,300 Tons, at the Tip 493 Tons, and on the Controlled Tip 1,502 Tons. These are estimated weights, and for the financial year ending March 31st, 1940.

The Karrier "Colt" and "Bantam" were responsible for the collection of the refuse, with the exception of the "peak" periods of cleaning times, holidays and bad weather, when we had to engage additional transport.

The Colt is rapidly becoming worn out, and maintenance costs are consequently mounting. It will be advisable to replace this vehicle at the earliest opportune moment.

The figures on the opposite page are for the financial year, ending March 31st, 1940.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Total cost of Collection and Disposal of the Town's Refuse is as follows:—

	£	s	d
Household Refuse Collection	2308	3	2
Revenue	419	4	3
	<hr/>		
	1888	18	11
Disposal	1796	13	0
Revenue	168	19	5
	<hr/>		
	1627	13	7
	<hr/>		
	£3516	12	6

Pop.	No. of Weekly Collections		Method of Collection	COLLECTION COSTS						DISPOSAL COSTS							
	House	Trade		Total Cost	Total Tons (Est.)	Cost per Ton (Est.)	Cost per House	Cost per 1000 Houses	Cost per Head of Population	Cost per 1000 Population	Total Cost	Total Tons (Est.)	Cost per Ton (Est.)	Cost per House	Cost per 1000 Houses	Cost per Head of Population	
17,000	1	1	2 Motors Horses as required	£1,889	5,295	7/2 ¹ / ₈ d.	7/6.69d.	£380	2/2.65d.	£111	£1,628	5,295	6/1 ¹ / ₈ d.	6.6.125d.	£326	1/11d.	£96

Rate Represented for Collection and Disposal 9.58d.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year, 28 cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Foxby Hill Isolation Hospital. 11 cases were from the Urban District, 15 from the Rural District, and 2 were Non-Civilians.

No deaths took place at the Hospital during the year.

15 visits have been paid to premises, and 33 rooms and 514 articles of bedding and clothing have been disinfected. Under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1 room and 36 articles of clothing and bedding were disinfected, whilst 47 articles were destroyed (including 7 Tuberculosis cases).

Ambulance.

The Morris Ambulance has been used as required in connection with the Isolation Hospital and the Frank Otter Sanatorium.

Disinfectants.

The usual amount of disinfectants were issued during the summer months to Householders.

FRANK OTTER SANATORIUM.

The number of patients in the Sanatorium at the beginning of the year was.....	8
Number of patients admitted	9
Number of patients discharged	7
Patients died	5
Number of patients in at the end of year	5

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Slum Clearance.

In the early part of the year, the Ropery Road Housing Estate was completed, and tenants were rehoused from the Areas contained in the third, fourth and fifth years' programme. Most of the tenants took advantage of removing to new houses. The bedding in all cases was put through the steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital, and furniture was sprayed with an insecticide.

In consequence of demolition orders, 36 houses have been demolished during the year.

Reconditioning of Property.

The reconditioning of property has been steadily carried out during the year, until the outbreak of war.

Overcrowding.

No new cases of overcrowding have been reported to the Department. 5 cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, and these were in Slum Clearance Areas. The number of persons involved was 35. There are still 13 cases of overcrowding and it is hoped that most of these will be relieved during the coming year.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The number of new houses erected during the year was 41, 36 by the Local Authority and 5 by Private Enterprise.

249 visits were paid to new buildings etc., in the course of erection.

WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Little change in this direction is noted, as only 9 pail closets remain at outlying premises. Trough closets are fast disappearing due to Slum Clearance.

TOWN AMBULANCE.

The Ford Ambulance continues to give satisfactory service in and around the District. The driver has been congratulated on many occasions of a smart turn-out during night calls to road accidents.

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Letters, Preliminary Notices, etc.	837
Statutory Notices	34

In connection with these, 631 repairs and nuisances were remedied.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Inspections and Re-inspections	2207
Slaughterhouses, etc.	5186
Bakehouses	13
Workshops and Factories	86
Shops Act	143
Food and Drugs Act	151
Cowsheds and Dairies	118
Offensive Trades	103
Marine Stores	25
Common Lodging House	38
Infectious Diseases	15
New Buildings	249
Miscellaneous	1488
Visits re Insect Pests	9
Visits re Verminous Houses	57

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. S. Algar, the Water Engineer, for the following abridged report.

The water supply continues to be satisfactory both as regard quality and quantity.

Owing to large Military Camp being erected on the Corringham Road district, the pressure on that service had to be increased.

Routine water analysis continues, and the results are reassuring.

DRAINAGE and SEWAGE.

There is nothing of note to report as regards the drainage and sewage of the Town, which continues to function as usual.

In conclusion of this Report, I am happy to record the good feeling existing between the various tradesmen of the town and the Health Department in its various activities.

My thanks are due to the Health Committee for their unstinted co-operation, and to Mr. Smithson and the Cleansing Staff who have co-operated to make the work of the Department go well, and to my assistant, Mr. Searson, who has given me invaluable help at all times.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. W. JACKSON.

