

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Golborne U.D.C.

Contributors

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GOLBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILINTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Lowton.
Nr. Warrington.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the suggestion of the Minister of Health, I wish to submit to you a brief interim report on the Public Health of the district during my first year of office.

It is the intention of the Minister that a comprehensive report covering the period from January, 1939 to the end of the year in which peace is restored, be issued in due course.

In 1939, Dr. A.T. Elder was in charge of the district in a temporary capacity until I took office on October 1st. I am indebted to Dr. Elder for the help I received from him when I commenced duty.

There were two legislative changes in the year affecting the Health Department.

- (1) The Food and Drugs Act, 1938 became operative.
- (2) Regulations under the Public Health Act, 1936 by which Measles and Whooping Cough were made compulsorily notifiable diseases.

During the period under review no important effects of the War on the health of the community were apparent.

The effect on the work of the Department was mainly twofold:-

- (1) The delay in the progress and completion of the Lowton and Culcheth Sewerage Scheme and subsequent conversion of the objectionable privy middens to fresh water closets.
- (2) The demands on the time and energies of the Department made by Civil Defence measures.

In spite of these, however, essential matters affecting the health and welfare of the district continued to receive attention.

The Department is proud to accept the extra strain which the exigencies of this historic period put upon us.

The following statistics will be of interest:-

Area in acres	-	7548
Population: Census 1931	-	13,748
Registrar General's estimate, 1938	-	14,040
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	-	3140
End of year 1939 according to Rate Books	-	3997
Rateable Value	-	£58,618
Last year	-	£57,030
Sum represented by the penny rate	-	£208 gross.
	Last year	- £196

Deaths notified - 181.
Deaths of residents outside the district and included in
the above figure - 53.

Births notified - 184. 66 of these took place in
Maternity Homes.
Still Births - 13.

<u>Infectious Diseases Notified.</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever - 25	21
Diphtheria - 53	53
Acute Pneumonia - 9	1
Puerperal Pyrexia - 1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever - 2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica - 1	0
Dysentery - 2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum - 4	1
Whooping Cough - 6	0
<u>103</u>	<u>81</u>

Number of houses disinfected - 125
Method - Formic Aldehyde.

Hospital Accommodation - Astley Sanatorium - Joint Hospital
Board of which this Council is a constituent authority. The
accommodation is sufficient.

Cost of Hospital treatment for infectious diseases per patient
year ending 31st March, 1939 - 2/7.35 per day.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

Number of specimens examined:-

Diphtheria - 138. 19 were positive.
Other diseases - none.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Supplies are readily available.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A scheme is under consideration.

Ambulance facilities are the same as in the year 1938.

Tuberculosis - Number of cases notified.

Respiratory	- 6
Non-respiratory	- 7
	<u>13</u>

Deaths from Notifiable Diseases.

Diphtheria	- 2
Pneumonia	- 6
Cerebro Spinal Fever	- 1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	- 10
	<u>19</u>

Housing.

New houses built	-	88
" " " by Local Authority	-	60
" " " by other bodies or persons	-	28
" " " with State assistance by Local Authority	-	40
Houses found unfit for habitation	-	1
Houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation	-	63
Houses rendered fit	-	62
Houses demolished as unfit for habitation	-	83

Inspection of Food.

Visits to slaughter houses and other places where food is prepared or stored	-	270
Defects found and remedied	-	22
Licensed slaughter houses	-	4
Registered slaughter houses	-	1
Meat and organs condemned	-	1950 lbs.

Milk.

Producers on register	-	44
Purveyors other than producers	-	21
Supplementary licences issued for retail pasturised milk	-	3
Samples taken for tubercle bacilli	-	18
Positive	-	1

Water Supply.

Excessive deposits of lime considered.	-	1
Samples of well water examined	-	1
Satisfactory	-	1
Number of houses supplied from wells	-	3

Premises Inspected.

Premises visited	-	1,801
Defects discovered	-	561
Abated	-	551

Maternity & Child Welfare.

Births notified.

Live births	-	171
Still births	-	13
		<u>184</u>
By midwives	-	182
By doctors	-	2
Number of Health Visitors	-	1
Visits to children under one year of age	-	2,093
Visits to children between the ages of 1-5 years	-	1,685
Total visits	-	<u>3,778</u>
Number of Child Welfare Centres	-	3
Ante-Natal Clinics provided by the Council	-	0

Milk and food supplied to expectant and nursing
mothers and young children.

By the Council - 913 gallons of liquid milk.
By voluntary assistance - 498 pounds of dried milk.

Number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum - 4
Admitted to hospital - 1
Vision impaired - 0
Number of persons who are receiving
children for reward - 1

In conclusion, may I express my appreciation for the
co-operation and assistance given to me by the Council and staff.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

H.S. DAVIES, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond)

Medical Officer of Health.