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Contributors

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H O L M F I R T H U R B A N
D I S T R I C T.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1939.



Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

In presenting my annual report for the year 1939 I have complied with the instructions laid down in Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health dated 19th July, 1940.

This has been the first full year of the new district and I have only compared the vital statistics of the area with those of the composite area for 1938 and disregarded the preceding years.

There have been no changes in the general provisions of health services for the area. The legislation in force in the area has remained the same.

There have been no marked changes or developments in the sanitary circumstances of the area during the year. For details see Sanitary Inspectors' reports. The water supply owing to the use of Holme Styes Reservoir was satisfactory in quantity for the first time for some years. As regards quality the other reservoirs are not always free from contamination as is only natural with small open reservoirs receiving a certain amount of surface water. It would be for the public good if all the water from these reservoirs could be purified before going into the mains.

The Council received the Ministry of Health's sanction to pay £5 or half the cost of conversion (whichever is the least) to all owners who convert privy middens or tub closets to the water carriage system. This to date back to the date of the amalgamation. Unfortunately this sanction was suspended by the Ministry of Health in October, 1939 until after the war.

Much of the work of the public health officials has been diverted during the year to Air Raid Precautions, organising Casualty Services, Decontamination Services, and preparing for the reception of evacuees. As most of these schemes were changed many times the nett result of their efforts at the end of 1939 was not commensurate with the work and time put into them.

Very little action was taken with regard to housing in 1939, though the Council completed the erection of fifty-two houses at Scar End, Brockholes and twenty-five at Holmfirth, sixteen of these being at Fieldhouse, three at Cliffe, and six at Netherthong.

APPENDIX I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.. . . .	17,565 acres.
Population (estimated mid.1939).. . . .	10,840
Number of inhabited houses 1938.. . . .	5,987
Rateable Value.	£87,188
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.. . . .	£334

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS.	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	Birth rate per <u>1,000 pop'n.</u>
Holmfirth	209	106	103	11.09
	207	105	102	legitimate
	2	1	1	illegitimate
STILL BIRTHS				Rate per 1,000 total <u>births (live & still).</u>
Holmfirth	11	8	3	50
DEATHS.				Crude death rate per <u>1,000. population.</u>
Holmfirth	259	112	147	13.70
				Adjusted death rate 13.97

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 births.</u>
<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes.</u>	0	0
From Puerperal Sepsis.	0	0
From other Puerperal causes.	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.</u>	<u>Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.</u>
Holmfirth.. . . .	43.06	43.47	nil

HOLMFIRTH (composite figures for whole year).

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	33

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLMFIRTH U.D.C.,

I herewith furnish statement of Sanitary Work done, coming under my notice and supervision during 1939.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

Number of inspections made during 1939.....655
" " cowsheds registered..... 78

Nuisances.

Number of inspections during 1939.....732
" reported during 1939.....170
" in hand at close of 1938..... 2
" needing abatement.....172
" abated during 1939.....172
" outstanding at the end of 1939.....nil
" of notices served informal..... 27
" of notices complied with - informal..... 27
" of notices served statutory.....143
" of notices complied with statutory.....143

Sewerage and Drainage.

Development during 1939.

Number of lineal yards of 6 inch sewer laid..... 25

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Pail Closets in district at the close of 1939.... 56
" " Privies with covered middens " " "894
" " " converted into Pail closets..... 0
" " additional Pail Closets..... 0
" " Pail Closets converted into Water Closets..... 6
" " Privies converted into Water Closets..... 53
" " additional Water Closets provided to old property 6
" " " " " " new " 53
" " Water Closets in district at end of 1938..... 1869

Scavenging.

This work is carried out by the Council's workmen under my supervision and I trust to your satisfaction.

The approximate weight of refuse disposed of is as follows:-

To tips.....2932 tons.
To farmers.....1022 tons.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

SAM BRAY

Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLMFIRTH U.D.C.

I beg to place before you my Annual Report in which is given a brief review of the work of my department and the sanitary conditions in the Honley and New Mill Areas of your District.

Summary of Inspections.

Dwelling Houses	104
Inspection for Nuisances	639
Farm and Cowsheds	343
Meat and other Foods	342
Slaughter Houses	312
Workshops	18
Bakehouses	26
Factories	41
Smoke Observations	4
Houses or schools	
disinfected	35
Informal notices served	138
" "	
complied with	131
Statutory notices	nil

Scavenging.

14 ashpits have been closed and replaced by 50 dustbins. The refuse being disposed of by means of destructors and tipping and carried out by the Council's two motor wagons.

Sanitary Conveniences.

The conversion of closets to the water carriage system during the year has been very satisfactory and is as follows:- Tub-closets 8, Privy Middens 32 and 77 W.Cs. have been installed in new houses. The suspension of the grant towards the cost of conversions has naturally stopped this work but I am confident that rapid progress will result when the grant is again available.

Smoke Observations.

A number of observations have been made and with one exception were found to be satisfactory. The case referred to has since carried out certain work which may obviate the nuisance complained of.

Cows and Cowsheds.

The general cleanliness of the cows and cowsheds were good and there has been one addition to the list of Accredited dealers in the Honley Area.

There have been strict inspections made of all meat killed in the districts and diseased meat and offals found unfit for food were surrendered and destroyed. The total weight of meat destroyed was 492 lbs.

In conclusion, I should like to extend my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee and all Officials of the Council for their valuable assistance in all matters which may improve the sanitary conditions in the district.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

IRVIN HAIGH
Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There was a wide spread Influenza epidemic during the first few months of the year. Whooping cough was also prevalent during Spring. An order came into force on the 23rd October, 1939 making cases of Whooping Cough and Measles compulsorily notifiable throughout the country under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1939.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Ninety cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease were notified to me during 1939 compared with fifty-eight in 1938. These were comprised as follows:-

Scarlet Fever 35; Pneumonia 21; Diphtheria 15; Erysipelas 15; Puerperal Pyrexia 2; Whooping Cough (after October 23rd) 2.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. These were distributed evenly throughout the year, four cases occurred in one family and two cases each in two other families; twenty-three cases were in school children. All were isolated in hospital and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

Although twenty-two cases of sore throat were notified to me as diphtheria and removed to hospital, only fifteen of these proved to be true Diphtheria on bacteriological examination. Two of these cases, a child of nine and a child of two and a half died. These three children had not been immunised against diphtheria. Of the fifteen cases, five were in adults and two in children under school age. Of the eight school children, four attended the Scholes Council School and four the Hepworth Council School. Only one of these cases that contracted diphtheria had been immunised. During the year I immunised one hundred and seventy-one children against diphtheria; 108 of these being from the Scholes, Hepworth and New Mill Schools, 14 were from Honley Schools, two from the Holme Council School and 47 from schools in the area of the old Holmfirth district.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-one cases of Primary Pneumonia were notified during the year, amongst which there were only three deaths. In the previous year there were 9 deaths out of 27 cases, and whether the marked improvement in the death rate from pneumonia was due to the efficacy of the new sulphonamide group of drugs remains to be seen, but the results so far are very promising.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year; both mild cases. One was treated at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital and the other was isolated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Meltham.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum.

No case of Ophthalmic Neonatorum occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis.

7 fresh cases of pulmonary and 12 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis have been notified during the year. There have been 7 deaths from this disease; 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the Year, 1939.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	Over 65 years.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	35	0	0	4	6	2	17	3	2	0	1	0	0	35	0
Diphtheria.	15	0	0	1	0	1	2	6	3	2	0	0	0	15	2
Pneumonia.	21	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	8	5	0	3
Erysipelas.	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	9	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Whooping Cough.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.....	90	0	0	5	6	4	24	10	6	6	5	17	7	52	5

Hospital for the Treatment of Infectious Diseases
The Ccine and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Meltham.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 to 5 years.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 to 10 years.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
10 to 15 years.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 to 20 years.	..	2	1	3	..	3	..	..
20 to 25 years.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 to 35 years.	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	1
35 to 45 years.	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
45 to 55 years.	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
55 to 65 years.	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..
Over 65 years.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
TOTALS.....	3	4	4	8	1	4	0	2

APPENDIX II.

Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	No. of births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	No. of Deaths.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000.	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 births.
1938	235	12.45	264	13.99	13	55.31
1939	209	11.09	259	13.70	9	43.06

Births.

Two hundred and nine births have been registered during the year, of which 106 were males and 103 females. Two of these births were illegitimate, one male and one female. The birth rate is 11.09 per 1,000 persons compared with a birth rate of 15 for the whole of England and Wales. There were 11 still births, of which 8 were males and 10 females, registered during the year. All legitimate. This gives a still birth rate per 1,000 persons of 0.58 compared with a still birth rate of 0.59 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

There were nine deaths amongst infants under 1 year of age, of which 7 were males and 2 females. All of these were legitimate. The causes of death were: Prematurity or congenital causes or difficult labour 4 cases, bronchial pneumonia 2, scalds, whooping cough and eczema 1 each. The infant mortality rate is 43.06 compared with an infant mortality rate of 50 for England and Wales.

Deaths.

During the year 254 deaths were registered in the district. Thirty-four of these deaths were of persons belonging to other districts and were transferred out of the district for burial. Thirty-nine deaths also occurred amongst persons outside the district belonging to the district and these were transferred back into the district for burial. This gives a nett total of 259 deaths for the district. One hundred and twelve of these were male and 147 females. The crude death rate is 13.70 per 1,000 persons, the adjusted death rate is 13.97 compared with a death rate of 12.1 for England and Wales.

Places of Death. Fifty-eight of the nett total of 259 deaths occurred in Public Institutions.

Ages of Death. Of the nett total of 259 deaths, 4 were of persons over the age of 90 years; 137 were of persons over the age of 65 years; and 81 in persons aged between 45 and 65 years.

Causes of Death. The chief causes of death were:- Heart disease 91, other circulatory diseases 16, cancer 33, cerebral haemorrhage 19, nephritis and violence 11 each, influenza 9, tuberculosis 7.

Maternal Mortality.

There were again no deaths from puerperal causes during the year. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, compared with a maternal mortality rate of 2.82 for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1939.

The Registrar General's list of causes of death is as stated below:

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Measles	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Diphtheria... ..	2	0
Influenza	5	4
Encephalitis Lethargica.. ..	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	1	4
Other Tuberculosis	0	2
Syphillis	0	0
Gen.Paralysis of Insane, etc.	0	0
Cancer	12	21
Diabetes.	1	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	10	9
Heart Disease	29	62
Aneurysm.	0	0
Other Circulatory	10	6
Bronchitis... ..	2	4
Pneumonia	2	1
Other Respiratory	4	1
Peptic Ulcer.	0	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years).. ..	1	0
Appendicitis.	0	2
Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	1	0
Other Liver Diseases.	0	0
Other Digestive.. ..	0	2
Nephritis... ..	5	6
Puerperal Sepsis.	0	0
Other Puerperal.. ..	0	0
Congenital Causes, etc... ..	2	2
Senility.. ..	2	3
Suicide	3	0
Other Violence... ..	9	2
Other Defined Causes.	10	10
Ill-defined Causes... ..	0	0
All Causes.	112	147

I have the honour to be,

Mr.Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

T. S. DAVY, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

CHAPTER I

OF THE
EARLY HISTORY OF THE
CITY

THE CITY OF BOSTON
WAS FIRST SETTLED
BY THE ENGLISH IN
1630

AND WAS AT FIRST
CALLED
BOSTON

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

TABLE C.

Holmfirth

Sanitary District.

YEAR 1939.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of inspections made in 1939 for Nuisances only 1371 (Not including Housing Inspections)
 Nuisances found in 1939 308) Total needing abatement 320
 Nuisances in hand, end of 1938 12) Abated during 1939 313
 Outstanding end of 1939 7
 Notices served, Informal 165) Complied with 168
 " " Statutory 143) " " 143
 Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings Nil

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Conditions.	Legal Proceedings (if any)	Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?
Common Lodging Houses	<u>Nil</u>					
Houses let in Lodgings	<u>Nil</u>					
Canal Boats	<u>Nil</u>					
Knackers' Yards	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Nil</u>	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	<u>1</u>					
Offensive Trades (Please specify kind)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Tallow chandler. Good</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>No</u>

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Particulars of any sewer extensions during 1939 25 yds. 6" earthenware sewers laid at Bank End, Underbank
 Details of any portion of district still requiring:-
 (a) Sewering outlying portions of district (b) Improvement of defective sewers Nil
 No. of houses not connected to sewers 482 approx
Sewage Disposal Works.
 Particulars of any extensions made during 1939 Nil
 Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works? No
 Any complaint from West Riding Rivers Board? No

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with open middens Nil No. of Pail or Tub Closets 218
 " " with covered middens 1337 No. of water closets 3852 Waste-water closets 21
 " " reconstructed during 1939 - (a) as w.c.'s 85 (b) Other Nil
 " Closets, other than Privies, reconstructed during 1939 as w.c.'s 14 tubs
 " additional Closets provided for old property in 1939 as (a) w.c.'s 8 (b) Other Nil
 " Closets constructed in 1939 for new houses (a) w.c.'s 130 (b) Other Nil

Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of privies, waste-water closets and pails to w.c. system.
 If so, what? The local authority with council sanction have paid £5.00 each cost of conversion which ever in the parish covered all conversions of privies or tub closets since the inauguration. This was suspended in Oct. 1939 until after the war

SCAVENGING.

Is public scavenging in operation throughout the whole district? Yes
 If not, is it in operation in any part of the area? If so, please specify part or parts
 How is refuse disposed of?
 1. Destruction 45% If tipping is in operation, Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse £3207.
 2. Tipping 50% is it on the controlled system?
 3. Farmers 5% Partly

Particulars of any extension or improvement in the service during the year Nil

WATER SUPPLY.

Source of supply no fresh sources since last year By whom distributed L.A.
 No. of dwelling houses on public supply 5143 Any extension of supply during the year? No
 Has supply been satisfactory? Yes (a) In quality on the whole Yes (b) In quantity Yes
 No. of examinations made during the year (a) chemical 1 Result Satisfactory (b) bacteriological 13 Result Satisfactory
 Have any supplies been restricted or closed, if so, where? No Un satisfactory 7

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Milk samples taken by officers of local authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938 Nil
 No. found adulterated No. of Prosecutions
 No. of samples of ordinary milk taken by officers of local authority for:- (a) Methylene blue test (b) Presence of tuberculosis
 Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation test? 3
 Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1939 No
 No. of cowkeepers in district 335 No. registered 137 Total No. of cowsheds 447 Total No. of milk cows 1277 approx
 Total No. of cowsheds inspected during the year 333 Total No. of cowshed inspections 998
 No. of wholesale traders registered No. of retail milk sellers registered Have any retailers been removed from the register? 5
 Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk good work
no hand in number of cowsheds

MILK SUPPLY (Cont'd).

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

	No. Licences in force in area for:-	Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically:-			(d) No. of Licences in force for bottling "Tuberculin Tested" or "Accredited" milk, other than at place of production ...
		No. satis- factory.	No. unsatis- factory.	Total.	
(a) Production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	1				...
(b) " " "Accredited" Milk	13	17	4	21	...
(c) In respect of Pasteurising plants					...

MEAT INSPECTION.

Any public abattoir in district? no
 Total No. of private slaughterhouses 18 made up of 5 registered and 13 licensed.
 No. unsatisfactory either as regards structure, position or in other respects 1
 No. of times each slaughterhouse inspected 97 Total inspections 937
 No. of seizures of unsound food 8 Total weight 8.67 No. of Prosecutions 1

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Meat Marking: Is scheme in force under above? no If so, give particulars of action under same

OTHER FOODS.

No. of samples (other than milk) taken by officers of
 L.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs
 (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 1
 No. found adulterated 1 No. of Prosecutions 1
 No. of Bakehouses in district 16 Total inspections 93
 Are any of bakehouses underground, if so, how many? no
 SCHOOLS. Statutory Medical Inspection is carried out by the
 County Education Authority in most of the Districts, but that
 does not relieve the M.O.H. of his duties in regard to
 sanitation and the prevention of infectious outbreaks in
 connection with Schools.
 No. of Schools in District 16 No. visited by M.O.H. 15
 Action taken 1
 Schools closed by M.O.H. 1
 General Sanitary Conditions Good

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No. of smoke observations each of 30 minutes duration
 taken during 1939 27
 No. of above showing excessive emission of black smoke 5
 No. of cautions issued 5
 No. of statutory notices issued 1
 No. of prosecutions 1
 SHOPS ACT, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3).
 No. of visits paid under the above Act during 1939 73
 Unsatisfactory conditions found 3 Remedied 3
 TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, etc. No. in District 1
 Is this class of dwelling showing signs of increase? no
 Have Council made byelaws under Section 268(4), Public Health
 Act, 1936? no

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Are there in the district:-
 Any public swimming baths or pools? no Any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public? 2
 If so, give brief particulars of each and state what action is taken to ensure satisfactory condition of the water.
water is chlorinated & filtered at both establishments. One now gets Council supply which previously used
 Any samples of bath waters examined in 1939, apart from samples submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory?
 If so, please give particulars 8 7 satisfactory 1 unsatisfactory

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS in force in District.

Please give list of Byelaws and Regulations in force
 and date of adoption in each case
no change from 1938
 INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.
 Diseases specially prevalent in 1939
 State months
 Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?
 Any influences threatening the health of the District?

MORTUARIES. What accommodation -

(a) for accidents 1
 (b) for infectious cases other than at hospital 1
 (c) for other cases as above
 (d) for post mortem examinations 2
 Any suggestions by M.O.H. no
 SANITARY STAFF.
 What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H? £255
 Name of Sanitary Annual Salary for
 Inspector. salary as Other appointments such other
 Sanitary held. appoint-
Sam Bray Inspector. £260 1
Ivin Haigh £250
 Any Assistants? no Is Staff sufficient? yes
 Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos and Circulars distributed
 by Ministry of Health? yes

SPECIAL REPORTS AND INVESTIGATIONS ON ANY SUBJECTS (Please attach copy).

SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS as to Sanitary requirements of District, suggestions of M.O.H., and extended notes on any of the
 foregoing entries. Any suggestions as to need for County Clinics or Dispensaries, or as to existing Clinics or
 Dispensaries.