

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

**Contributors**

Horbury (West Riding of Yorkshire). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1944

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/eb23umug>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

HEALTH  
E24NOV1945  
C.R. 43



URBAN DISTRICT OF HORBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

---

Together with that of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1944.

---

HEALTH  
INSURANCE  
CO.

THE HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

NO. 1

ARTICLE I. NAME AND CHARACTER OF THE COMPANY

SECTION 1. Name of the Company

SECTION 2. Character of the Company

SECTION 3. Capital and Assets

SECTION 4. Officers

SECTION 5. Powers and Duties of Officers

SECTION 6. Policyholders

SECTION 7. Dividends

SECTION 8. Termination

SECTION 9. Miscellaneous

SECTION 10. Final Provisions

SECTION 11. Short Title

SECTION 12. Repeal

SECTION 13. Severability

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL of HORBURY

Chairmen of the Council

Councillor Francis J. Baines, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor H.V. Bennett.

Members.

Councillor G.H. Audsley  
Councillor F.J. Baines, J.P.  
Councillor H.V. Bennett  
Councillor H.S. Crooke  
Councillor W.W. Hartley, J.P.  
Councillor R.V. Hoyle  
Councillor G. Marsden  
Councillor H. Rowley  
Councillor G. Senior  
Councillor J. Totley  
Councillor F. Wilson, J.P.

---

Representative on the Wakefield and District Joint Small-pox Isolation  
Hospital Committee.

Councillor G. Marsden.

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent  
of the Addingford Isolation Hospital.

Hugh L. Neil, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Superintendent of Scavenging.

John H. Horsfall, C.R.S.I.

Nurse-in-Charge Addingford Isolation Hospital.

Miss B. Colbridge.

Health Visitor and School Nurse.

Miss Dyson.

District Nurse.

Nurse Brook.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Rateable Value of General Rate £36,845.  
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £153. 10. 5d.  
Birth-Rate (Live Births) 21.0 per 1000 of the Population  
Birth-Rate (Live and Still Births) 21.5 per 1000 of the Population  
Death-Rate (Uncorrected) 9.78 " " " " "  
Death-Rate (Corrected) 12.7 " " " " "  
Infantile Death-Rate 24.2 per 1000 Births Registered.  
Zymotic Death-Rate Nil per 1000 of the Population  
Death-Rate from Tubercular Diseases .13 " " " " "  
Rainfall for 1944 31.25 inches.



## URBAN DISTRICT of HORBURY

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT upon the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1944.

With existing War conditions, depleted staffs, together with increased duties thrown upon local authorities and their officers, and at the direction of the Minister of Health, it is again necessary to condense this report to a brief summary of subjects of current interest and the recording of vital statistics.

VITAL STATISTICS for 1944.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	150	73	77
Illegitimate	7	3	4

Birth-rate 21.0 per 1000  
of the population.

<u>STILL-BIRTHS.</u>	4	3	1
----------------------	---	---	---

Birth-rate (live & still-births)  
21.5 per 1000 of the population.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	95	48	47
----------------	----	----	----

Death-rate 12.7 per 1000  
of the population.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER  
1 YEAR OF AGE.

Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Death-rate 24.2  
per 1000 births registered.

Deaths from Puerperal causes	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea	0

#### BIRTHS.

The number of births registered to residents of the district was 157 (76 Males and 81 Females) which gives an ANNUAL BIRTH-RATE of 21.0 per 1000 of the population.

#### Still-Births.

The number of still-births registered was 4 (3 Males and 1 Female) giving a rate of .53 per 1000 of the population.

#### DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 73 (34 Males and 39 Females) which is equivalent to an ANNUAL DEATH-RATE (uncorrected) of 9.78 per 1000 of the population.

The number of deaths of Horbury residents in institutions and places outside the district was 25 (15 Males and 10 Females) while the number of deaths of persons in Horbury, who were non-resident and transferable away from the district was 3 (1 Male and 2 Females). This leaves the nett total deaths of Horbury residents at 96 (48 Males and 47 Females) giving a corrected ANNUAL DEATH-RATE of 12.7 per 1000 of the population.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths registered of children under 1 year of age was 4 (2 Males and 2 Females)

This gives an INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE of 24.2 per 1000 births registered.

The Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales for 1944 were as follows:-

Live Births	17.6	per 1000 of the population
Still Births	0.50	" " " " "
Deaths (all causes)	11.6	" " " " "
Deaths (under 1 year of age)	46.0	per 1000 Births registered.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Hugh L. Neil, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health and  
Superintendent of the Addington  
Isolation Hospital (part-time).

John H. Horsfall, Cert.  
Royal Sanitary Institute for  
Sanitary Inspectors. Diploma  
of the Royal Sanitary Institute  
as Inspector of Meat and Other  
Foods.

Sanitary Inspector; Inspector of  
Housing; Meat and Other Foods;  
Factory and Workshops; Petroleum, etc.  
Superintendent of Scavenging.



AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

## (a) Infectious Diseases.

Horse Ambulance used solely for the conveyance of common Infectious Diseases, notified in the district, to the Council's Isolation Hospital at Addingsford, Horbury.

## (b) General.

A modern Motor Ambulance is provided by the Horbury Urban District Council used exclusively for the removal of accident, surgical and maternity cases to such institutions and places as may be necessary, no charge being made for its use to permanent residents of the district, providing a medical certificate is produced stating that the person to be removed is a stretcher case.

The service is also available by arrangement to the residents of the adjoining districts in the Rural Area at a fixed scale of charges.

During the year 1944 the Motor Ambulance has been called upon to make 201 journeys in conveying cases to and from various institutions etc. as follows:-

Leeds General Infirmary	3
Clayton Hospital, Wakefield	154
County Hospital, Wakefield	15
County Hospital, Dewsbury	4
Dewsbury Infirmary	17
Bradford Infirmary	1
Other places	7

NURSING IN THE HOMES.

There is no established Institution in our Urban Area from which the services of professional nurses can be obtained. When these services are required it is necessary to arrange for nurses to be sent out from Private Nursing Homes established in the neighbouring large towns.

The Horbury District Nursing Association, a voluntary society upheld wholly by private subscriptions, operates in close co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health and Private Practitioners in the district. This Association retains the whole-time services of a fully trained Queens Nurse who, upon request, makes daily visits to homes in cases of sickness and invalidity and to do dressings etc. after surgical operations, etc.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The centre for the district for the treatment of Venereal Disease is at the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre Consultation and Treatment, which is much appreciated by the Mothers, is held weekly in rooms attached to the House of Mercy, Northgate, Horbury, when the Medical Officer of Health, Child Welfare Nurse and a willing staff of voluntary helpers are in attendance. It is hoped that during 1945 this centre will be transferred back to the former meeting place in the Wesleyan Schools, School Lane, Horbury.



SCHOOL CLINIC.

The examination and treatment of the children in the Elementary Day Schools in the district is carried out in the schools by the Medical and Dental Staffs of the County Medical Officer's Department.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The treatment of Tuberculosis is carried out by the Medical Staff of the West Riding County Council the treatment centre for this area being at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Almshouse Lane, Wakefield.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.Infectious Diseases.

The Addington Isolation Hospital, Horbury, used only for the treatment of cases of common Infectious Diseases notified in the Urban District of Horbury - 26 beds for 3 diseases, viz. Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever can be treated concurrently.

Small-pox.

The Carr Gate Small-pox Isolation Hospital, Wakefield, and other institutions as arranged by the West Riding County Council.

Tuberculosis.

At the various sanatoria etc. under the control of the West Riding County Council.

Children.

The Childrens Hospital, Bradford.

General.

The General Hospitals taking in patients for treatment from this district are The General Infirmary, Leeds; The Royal Infirmary, Bradford; The Eye and Ear Hospital, Bradford; The General Infirmary, Dewsbury; The Clayton Hospital, Wakefield and the County Hospitals at Wakefield and Staincliffe, Dewsbury.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

In the examination of Sputums, Swabs etc. together with the bacteriological examination of Milk, Water, etc., the staff of the County Laboratory have rendered excellent service which is much valued and appreciated, credit being due for the expedient manner in which the specimens and samples sent there are dealt with.

MORTUARY.

The Urban District Council maintain a well equipped Mortuary and Post Mortem Room upon their premises at the rear of the Town Hall. The Council have, by arrangement, allowed the use of the Mortuary to adjoining districts in the Rural area for post-mortem examinations etc.



WATER SUPPLY.

The Urban District of Horbury is well served with a plentiful supply of good drinking water which is obtained from the Dewsbury, Batley and Wakefield Corporations, a constant supply being laid on to all houses and premises in the district. The supply from all the sources mentioned is quite satisfactory both in quality and quantity, and is controlled by bacteriological and chemical analysis monthly, the results of which have been satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
(Other than Tuberculosis).

	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified</u>	<u>Admitted to</u> <u>Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	59	58	0
Diphtheria	4	4	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Measles	26	0	0
Whooping Cough	31	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0

When complete isolation cannot be maintained in the homes of the patients notified they are removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital, Addingford, for treatment.

In cases where Infectious Diseases are allowed to be nursed in the homes of the patients complete isolation is insisted upon and advice given as to the precautions to be taken.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

The number of children residing in the Urban District at December 31st 1944 who had completed the full course of Immunisation was - under 5 years of age - 368 or 66.9%, between 5 and 15 years of age - 554 or 67.1%.

TUBERCULOSIS.

2 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified and added to the register during 1944 (both respiratory).

The total deaths from Tubercular Diseases during 1944 was 1 which is 1.05% of the total deaths registered from all causes and a Tubercular Death-rate of .13 per 1000 of the population.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the Chairmen and Members of the Council for their kindly consideration and support and to the Sanitary Inspector and other Officials for their ready co-operation and able assistance to me during the year under review.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

*A. L. Reed*

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
HORBURY.

30th June, 1945.



URBAN DISTRICT OF HORBURYANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

To the Chairman & Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit for your consideration my **THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT** upon the work carried out under my supervision by your Sanitary Department during the year 1944.

In spite of the abnormal conditions brought about by the War, all essential duties relating to conditions and other influences likely to be prejudicial to the public health and well being of the residents of the district have received attention, including strict supervision and careful inspection of the food supplies coming into the district, milk production and distribution and the collection and disposal of house refuse etc.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTORIAL WORK.

During the year 1240 visits and inspections have been made to various premises for the investigation of complaints, the suppression of nuisances, remedying of defects, and work in progress in connection with abatement of same.

In addition, much of my time has been devoted to administrative work in connection with A.R.P. Decontamination Service, Food Treatment Service, Rodent Disinfestation and the salvaging of Waste Materials needed for the National Effort.

438 letters and other communications have been sent out by the Department during 1944, whilst 15 informal notices were served upon the owners and occupiers of premises calling for the abatement of nuisances and defects etc., whilst in numerous other instances nuisances and defects were remedied by my calling personally upon owners and occupiers and bringing the defects to their notice.

Number of Nuisances and Defects on the Books at end of 1943.	0
Number of Nuisances etc. reported during 1944.	55
	<u>55</u>
Number of Nuisances etc. remedied during 1944.	55
	<u>55</u>
Number of Nuisances etc. on the Books at the end of 1944.	0

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Practically the whole of the sanitary conveniences in connection with the residential and business premises in the district are on the water carriage system with the exception of the small number of 15 privies and 20 pail closets which, at the present time, are inconvertible owing to the fact that they are situated in the outlying parts of the district where sufficient sewers are not available.

The total number of water closets in use in the district is approximately 2350.



PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse is carried out by direct labour of the Sanitary Department under my direction and supervision with the Council's own motor vehicles.

In addition to carrying out the work of collection and disposal of refuse, the vehicles and staff have carried out the collection of kitchen waste from 100 communal bins in the district and also the salvaging of other waste materials urgently needed for War purposes and further have been engaged for 745 hours during the year on haulage work for other departments of the Council thereby bringing about a saving in hired team labour and in no way impairing the efficiency of the cleansing work.

The approximate number of receptacles for which the Department is responsible for cleansing is 2,030 Dust Bins, 17 Dry Ashes Places, 15 Privies, 20 Pail Closets and 8 Cesspools.

The whole of the Townships refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Addington with the exception of small quantities from Pail Closets etc. which is deposited upon farm land for manurial purposes.

No complaints have been received of any nuisance being caused from this method of disposal which has proved not only satisfactory but economical.

It is important, however, that strict supervision should be maintained in this form of disposal.

The net costs incurred in the collection and disposal of refuse in the district for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1944, was £1,800 which includes Wages, Tools, Petrol, Oil, Disinfectants etc.

The cost per load during 1944 was approximately 37<sup>2</sup>/<sub>100</sub>d. per house per week.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The following waste materials have been salvaged by the staff of the Cleansing Department and returned to industry:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	70	11	2	462	4	3
Ferrous Scrap	3	8	-	7	2	8
Non-ferrous Scrap	-	3	3	3	4	4
Kitchen Waste	78	11	3	117	17	9
Old Tins	20	17	3	7	6	3
Rags and Bagging	1	10	-	14	4	5
Bones	1	1	1	5	1	5
	176	4	-	£617	1	1



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 1944 the following samples were purchased in the district by the County Inspectors and submitted for analysis in accordance with the provisions of the above Act:-

Milk

<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Adulterated</u>
27	0

In addition I have taken informal samples periodically for test of dirt content.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON HOUSING CONDITION.

The general standard of housing in the district in spite of the prolonged War conditions, is remarkably good, cases of overcrowding being relatively small but the urgent need for more new houses is great.

The Urban District Council are already the owners of some 452 houses on their various sites or approximately 18% of the total houses in the district.

As the result of the shortage of labour, materials etc., brought about by war conditions, work in connection with the inspection and re-conditioning of dwellings under the Housing Act and Inspection of District Regulations has practically been brought to a stand still whilst the erection of new dwellings is entirely suspended.

Preparations are however being made for the resumption of house building under the government schemes as soon as conditions permit.

FACTORIES.

39 Mechanical Factories and 29 Non-Mechanical Factories are on the Register in the district including Bakehouses all of which have been regularly visited during the year and generally were found to be maintained in a cleanly and satisfactory condition including sanitary arrangements.

Great improvements have been made in many of the factories by the provision of dining rooms for the employees and equipment for the preparation, cooking and the service of meals in the factories.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 6 Private Slaughter-houses on the Register in the district, viz., 4 Licenced, 1 Registered and 1 Licenced for a limited period.

With the Government Control of Meat and Slaughter of Live Stock, as a result of the War, centralized slaughter of live stock intended for human consumption operates in the area and is carried out at the Wakefield City Abattoir, from which centre the meat supplies are allocated to all the surrounding districts in the Wakefield Area.

With the operation of government control all the private slaughter houses in our district are now out of use.



MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

In spite of the difficult conditions prevailing particular attention has been given during the year to this essential and important branch of Public Health work and much time has been devoted to the examination and inspection of the meat allocation brought into the district and to all other foods both at the allocation centre, retail food shops, and other food stores and food preparing and making up premises.

In all the premises the sanitary conditions and standard of cleanliness maintained has been satisfactory.

In no case was it found necessary to make any seizures of diseased or unsound food but the following, which upon examination were found to be unsound and unwholesome and unfit for human consumption were, upon the conditions being brought to the notice of the owners, surrendered to me and destroyed or disposed of for commercial purposes or animal feeding.

225 lbs of Fresh Beef, Fish, Tinned Meats etc.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS ETC.

Practically the whole of the milk supply for the district is produced locally either in the Urban District or the adjoining Rural areas, none whatever being brought in by rail.

Despite the difficulties arising from war conditions no shortage whatever has yet been experienced the supply being plentiful and of good quality.

No. of Persons Registered as Cow-keepers	7
No. of Registered Cow-sheds	13
No. of Accredited Producers	2
No. of Registered Retail Purveyors	24
No. of Licenced Retail Purveyors of Pateurised Milk	2

28 inspections have been made during the year to the premises of Registered Cow-keepers and Retail Purveyors of Milk when the general sanitary conditions and cleanliness of the premises and utensils were found to be satisfactory.

Informal samples have been taken during the year periodically from retail purveyors during delivery and tested for dirt content.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 27 premises in the Urban District licenced either for the sale and storage of Petroleum Spirit or the storage only of Petroleum Spirit or Mixtures in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum Consolidation Act, 1928, viz., 25 for the sale and storage of Petroleum Spirit and 2 for the storage of Cellulose Paint.

25 of the licenced premises store the spirit in underground steel tanks fitted with pumps whilst on the remaining premises the spirit or mixtures are kept in steel drums stored in specially constructed fire-proof above ground stores.

All the licenced premises have been visited at regular periods during the year and no contraventions of the Regulations or Conditions specified on the Licences have been observed.



DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES.

The disinfection of all premises after cases of Infectious Disease is carried out after the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital or after recovery if nursed in the home the method used being with Formaldehyde vapour and spraying.

Premises are also disinfected after deaths from other diseases and causes upon written request being made.

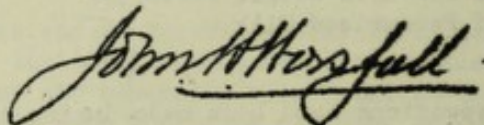
Arrangements are also made for the Disinfestation of verminous premises with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas upon application being received from the owners or occupiers together with a written undertaking that they are prepared to bear the cost of carrying out such work.

No. of Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	63
No. of Houses Disinfected after Deaths from other diseases or causes.	4
No. of Verminous Houses Disinfested	8

Where cases of Infectious Disease are notified, the dwellings of the patients are inspected, the sanitary conditions ascertained, defects and nuisances if any noted and steps taken to have the same remedied.

This is my Final Report prior to my retirement after 42 years service as a responsible Local Government Official and, in conclusion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the careful consideration given to matters referred to them and to the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and other Officials for their able assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,



Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,  
Town Hall,  
Horbury.

30th June, 1945.

