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**HORWICH URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For Year ended 31st December, 1944.

HORWICH :
FLETCHER, PRINTER, LONGWORTH ROAD.





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DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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HORWICH :
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Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) and Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and Artificial Light Clinics :

J. S. Sewell, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., (M.R. San. I.).

Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector—C. Coop, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary and Meat Inspector—

F. G. V. Rumsey, M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors :

Miss A. Alderson, C.M.B. State Registered Nurse.

Miss H. Bateson, C.M.B. "Health Visitor's Certificate).

Clerks :

Mrs. E. Bosworth.

Miss E. Farnworth.

HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year Ending 31st, December, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Horwich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 37th Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1944.

The Minister has considered the desirability of the Reports being curtailed during the period of the war, and he is satisfied that while an entire discontinuance of annual reports during this period would not be in the interests of local government, the Report might without disadvantage be materially shortened. Many items which usually appear may be omitted entirely, and those which should be retained may be dealt with as briefly as possible. Except in the case of items for which full particulars are required, the Report should be limited to a record of important alterations, improvements or developments which have taken place during the year.

The variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions. The death rate recorded hereafter will therefore be uncorrected.

Accordingly the present Report, as last year, will be considerably shortened as compared with previous years. Full details, however, have been kept of all activities, and members requiring further information can obtain it upon application to the Department.

A perusal of the figures in the body of the Report will show that the general health of the inhabitants has been maintained in spite of war conditions.

I am greatly indebted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Health Visitors, and my other fellow officials and their staffs for their co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. Sewell

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres), 3254.

Population, Census 1931, 15680. Estimated 1944, 14730.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944),
according to Rate Books, 4950.

Rateable Value, £76,389.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £301.

Social Conditions:—No change.

Vital Statistics.—

The population of the Urban District of Horwich for mid 1944 as estimated by the Registrar General is 14730. The rates are calculated on 14730.

	Total.	Males	Females.
Births (legitimate)	251	116	135
Births (illegitimate)	5	3	2
Total.....	256	119	137

Birth Rate 17·3 per 1,000.

Still Births (legitimate).....	8	4	4
Still Births (illegitimate)	0	0	0
Total.....	8	4	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births, 30.

Deaths	175	105	70
--------------	-----	-----	----

Crude Death Rate 11·8 per 1,000.

Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis nil.

Deaths from other Maternal causes 1

Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 3·78.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	42
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...				39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...				200
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	..	...	...	29
Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	1.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	6
Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	0.4

The following table gives the number of deaths from the various diseases during the year 1944 :

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	105	70
<hr/>		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
Influenza	0	0
Measles	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	2	0

Cancer of Uterus	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus... ..	2	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	1
Cancer of Breast	0	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	14	7
Diabetes	1	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	14	7
Heart Disease	32	13
Other diseases of Circulatory System	1	1
Bronchitis	5	6
Pneumonia... ..	4	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases...	2	5
Nephritis	6	4
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	0	0
Other Maternal Causes ...	0	1
Premature Birth	0	2
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	0	5
Suicide	1	0
Road Traffic accidents ...	0	0
Other violent causes ...	1	3
All other causes ...	11	8
<hr/>		
Deaths of infants under 1 year	5	6
Legitimate... ..	5	5
Illegitimate	0	1
<hr/>		
Total Live Births	119	137
Legitimate... ..	116	135
Illegitimate	3	2
<hr/>		
Total Stillbirths	4	4
Legitimate... ..	4	4
Illegitimate	0	0
Population... ..		14,730.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1944.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Births :				
Live	17.6 †	20.3	20.9	15.0
Still	0.50 †	0.64	0.61	0.42
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.6 †	13.7	12.4	15.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid }	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—
Measles... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	46**	52	44	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Notifications :				
Typhoid fever... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Scarlet fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57
Whooping Cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles... ..	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Notifications .				
Puerperal fever	10.34	13.13	9.25	{ 3.61 14.14 †
Puerperal pyrexia				
Maternal Mortality				
Abortion with Sepsis... ..	0.31			
Abortion without Sepsis	0.09			
Puerperal Infection	0.28			
Others	1.25			
Mortality per million women aged 15-45				
Abortion with Sepsis	25			
Abortion without Sepsis.. ...	7			

† Including Puerperal Fever.

** Per 1,000 related births.

† Rates per 1,000 Total Population.

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

1. *Nursing in the Home.*—(a) *General.*—No change.
(b).—*Infectious Diseases.*—No change.
2. *Midwives.*—No change.
3. *Laboratory Facilities.*—No change.
4. *Legislation in Force.*—No change.
5. *Hospitals.*—No change. During the year 44 Maternity cases were admitted to Townley's hospital.
6. *Maternity and Nursing Homes.*—The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts and Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927.
7. The Council have now adopted the County Council scheme for the care of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children.
8. *Ambulance facilities.*—These are adequate. 596 cases have been dealt with during the year. Total mileage is 7002.
9. *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*—No change.

During the year no children of school age were referred by the School Medical Officer for Artificial Light Treatment. 20 children between the ages of 0—5 received 251 exposures.

10. *Maternal Mortality.*—Medical Officers of the County Council investigate cases of puerperal fever and maternal deaths. Dr. J. Scott, of Bolton, acts as Consultant in cases of Puerperal Sepsis and Puerperal Pyrexia, also as Consultant at the Ante-natal Clinics. Cases are also referred to the Ante-natal Clinic at Townley's Hospital where X-ray photographs can be taken.

Close co-operation is maintained with the midwives and doctors in the town and notes of the findings at the Centre are sent to them. The Midwives bring or send their cases to the clinic for examination. 62.54 per cent of expectant mothers attended the ante-natal clinic during the year.

11. *Health Visiting of Children, 1 to 5 years.*—This is included under the duties of the two Health Visitors.

12. *Child Life Protection.*—Under the Acts the two Health Visitors have been appointed the executive officers. Two foster children have been supervised by our Health Visitor. One of these has since been adopted and the second sent to the National Children's Home, Cheshire. Two other children were supervised with a view to adoption. The Council have adopted the County Scheme for the care of illegitimate children.

13. *Orthopaedic Treatment.*—The County Council hold a monthly Clinic for the prevention, treatment, and after care of crippling conditions. The County nurses follow up the cases during the interval and see that the treatment advised is carried out. 14 Cases were referred.

The Horwich Council have an arrangement with the County Council to attend children from 0-5 years of age sent to them. This arrangement includes, if necessary, treatment in Biddulph Hospital.

14. *Ophthalmic Treatment.*—The Council have made arrangements with the County Council's Ophthalmic Clinic for the treatment of cases of eye defect discovered in children under 5 years of age. 10 Cases were referred.

15. *Dental Treatment.*—A similar arrangement with the County Council as for Orthopaedic and Ophthalmic. 7 Cases were referred.

16. *Head Lice* :—Health Visitors have given careful attention to the suggestions contained in Circular 2831 including the use of Lethane Oil.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The sources are Moorland and Pumping Station. The supply is constant and there is a filtration scheme in operation. There are a few houses on the hillside which rely on a well or spring. The bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water have proved to be satisfactory. An additional supply of water has been obtained from a disused mine at Montcliffe. This raw water on analysis was found not quite satisfactory and is therefore being chlorinated.

Rivers and Streams.—No pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No important extensions made during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—There are 4449 Fresh Water Closets, 998 Waste Water Closets, 56 Pail Closets and 12 Privy Middens now existing in the district. During the year, 21 waste water closets and 1 privy closet have been converted to fresh water closets.

Public Cleansing.—During the year, 2340 privies, ashpits and pails, and 187,480 dustbins have been emptied by the Council's workmen, making approximately 3,857 tons of refuse removed.

Collection and Disposal.—Dry refuse is collected from dustbins into dustless low loading refuse removal motor vehicles. Refuse is conveyed to Red Moss Tip and disposed of by means of Controlled Tipping.

Salvage.—A scheme is in operation for the salvaging of clean waste paper, metals, bones, rags, kitchen waste, etc. The amount of salvaged material sold during the year totalled 229 tons.

Earth closets, privies and cesspools.—Contents emptied into vehicle specially adapted for the purpose. Contents removed and disposed of on farm land. All earth closets, privies and cesspools after emptying are cleansed and purified with a disinfectant.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.—The following is a classified statement of the number of inspections and re-inspections made during 1944 :

Houses and other premises	...	...	2091
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, etc..			26
Shops	...	...	50
Waterworks	...	...	5
Refuse Collection, Salvage, etc.	...		216
Factories with mechanical power	...		19
Factories without mechanical power...			10
Infectious Diseases	...	...	63
Market	...	...	66
Food	...	...	67

Factories and Workshops.—During the year Factories and Workshops in the district have been visited and the defects found have been remedied. There was no outwork found to be carried on in unwholesome premises.

During the year 1209 defects or nuisances were discovered and of this number 995 were abated. In addition 185 defects or nuisances were abated on notices served during 1943. The defects outstanding at end of 1944 number 214.

The following is a summary of the abated nuisances and the necessary actions to remedy them :

Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
House roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Repairs to windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Defective spouting and rain water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
New dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	298
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
House walls re-plastered...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
House doors and floors repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Repairs to drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	274
Yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
General repairs (fireranges, etc.)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115

Shops and Offices.—No change.

Camping Sites.—There are no camping sites in the district.

Smoke Abatement.—The emission of grit from a factory chimney has shewn considerable improvement.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—During the year ten privately owned houses were found to be bug infested. Mouldings and wooden skirtings were removed and the houses fumigated with Zaldecide. Before tenants are removed to Council houses their belongings are inspected. All houses visited are examined and general cleanliness insisted upon.

*Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by
Byelaws and Regulations.*—

Bakehouses :—29 in number ; condition satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses:—Total 2 ; 2 licensed.

Supervision is also maintained over Fish and Chip Shops and other premises where Food is prepared. These premises have been registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Attention.—Abolition of waste water closets.

Schools :—Continue in a sanitary condition. Co-operation is closely maintained with the School Medical Officer, School Attendance Officer and the teaching staff.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.—There are no premises on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Rodent Control:—Under Directions of the Ministry of Food an extensive campaign is being carried out to exterminate rats and mice in the district. A Rodent Operator has been engaged. During the year the sewers, land and other properties have been systematically treated with good results.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year - nil.

The general housing standard is fair, but much repair work will be necessary in the immediate future. The majority of houses are of the cottage type without modern conveniences. The principal types of defects are roofs, woodwork, and dampness of walls. Difficulty is experienced in obtaining material and labour for repairs.

There is an increase in the number of families living in rooms, which includes a large number of young married couples living with relatives.

In order to alleviate the shortage of houses, the Council have a scheme in hand to build approximately 100 permanent houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—There are 24 cowkeepers within the district and approximately 402 cows.

There are 33 dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers).

The Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries examines the cows clinically every quarter. Samples of milk are taken to be examined for tubercle bacilli.

Inspection of the farms, dairies and milkshops is carried out in order to fulfil the requirements of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Meat and other Foods.—There are 2 licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

During 1944 the following meat and other foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :

Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Coffee Beans	...	...	...	...	...	224 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	70 lbs.
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	190 lbs.
Tinned Beans	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Tinned Fruits	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Tinned Jams	...	...	...	...	...	144 lbs.
Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	98 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Tinned Soup and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
						844 lbs.

Adulteration, etc.—No action taken.

Nutrition.—The importance of proper nutrition is stressed at the Maternity and Child Welfare clinics.

Shell-Fish.—There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

24 cases of Scarlet Fever and 12 cases of Diphtheria notified. No deaths. These two diseases were chiefly spread by carriers and missed mild cases. The Diphtheria cases were of a mild type especially amongst the immunised.

81 cases of Measles, 56 cases of Chicken-pox and 10 cases of Whooping Cough were notified. No deaths. There was one non-notified fatal case of Cerebro-spinal Fever.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Public Hall and is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During 1944 the extensive drive to obtain immunisation against Diphtheria of as many children as possible was continued. Again co-operation and great help were obtained from the Council, school teachers, school attendance officer, Health Visitors and the press. During the year 175 pre-school children and 13 school children were completely immunised. These figures added to those of previous years give a percentage of 91·0 for pre-school, 76·0 for school children, and 81·71 for all children up to 15 years. The percentages might be higher if we had a record of the number of children coming into the district who had already been completely immunised. Children under 8 years of age were given two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxin. Those over 8 were given three doses of Toxin Antitoxin Floccules. A few children have received a third injection of A.P.T. on reaching school age. No serious reactions have occurred.

No. of children completely immunised during the year :

(1) pre-school children	175	Prophylactics used	A.P.T.
(2) school children	13	„	A.P.T. & T.A.F.
(3) adults... ..	nil	„	nil.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to the pathological laboratory of the University of Manchester for examination. During 1944, 11 swabs were examined for Diphtheria, 3 of which were positive. 2 examinations of Sputa were made for Tubercle Bacilli, and were reported negative.

No use has yet been made of the Schick and Dick tests.

No Vaccinations have been performed under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

Measles and Whooping Cough are now compulsorily notifiable. These diseases were previously notifiable under a local order.

There are no arrangements in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. Premises are disinfected with Formaldehyde and Sulphur. Infected articles and bedding are taken to Fall Birch Hospital for steam disinfection.

Scabies.—Home treatment of the disease is supervised by the Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors. Recent researches by Mellanby and others have shewn that the disinfection of bedding and clothes is not as important as was formerly supposed. It is our experience in Horwich that the important factor in treatment is to insist that every member of an infected household should obtain efficient treatment simultaneously or otherwise a neglected member will re-infect the whole household.

Venereal Diseases.—Propaganda leaflets and posters have been issued.

Prevention of Blindness.

The health visitors give careful attention to all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and carry out the treatment themselves.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified.	Treated at Home.	in Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Notifications :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sex.	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upw'ds.	Total
Males						1	1	3	3	1		9
Females					1			1				2

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males						1	1					2
Females		1										1

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males					1			1		1		3
Females							1	1				2

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males		1										1
Females												

There was one non-notified fatal case of tuberculosis.

No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, and under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The notification of Tuberculosis in this area is efficient. It is the general practice to refer all doubtful cases to the Tuberculosis Officers.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The ante-natal activities continue. There is now very little difficulty in inducing the mothers to take advantage of the facilities provided. 62·54% of all mothers attended the Clinic during the year. The following conditions found deserve notice :

Anæmia	...	...	...	...	1
Albuminuria and High Blood Pressure	...	...	...	...	10
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	1
Cæsarian Section	...	...	...	...	3
Dental decay	...	...	...	...	3
Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	2
Hernia...	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3
Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	4
Previous Abnormality	...	...	...	...	13
Primipara	...	...	...	...	51
Prolapse	...	...	...	...	1
Pelvic Malformations	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Insanity	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2
Varicose Veins	...	...	...	...	5

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in the Maternity and Child Welfare Department :

1. Number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors :
 - (a) To expectant mothers First visits 14
Total visits 30
 - (b) To children under 1 year of age ... First visits 259
Total visits 1990
 - (c) To children between the ages of 1 and
5 years... .. Total visits 1604
2. (a) Total number of attendances at the Centre during the year :
 - (i) By children under 1 year of age 3836
 - (ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 yrs. 633
- (b) Total number of children who attended at the Centre for the first time during the year :
 - (i) Children under 1 year of age 216
 - (ii) Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years 13

- (c) Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) Under 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | 163 |
| (ii) Over 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | 303 |
- (d) Percentage of total notified live births represented by the number in (b) (i) 86.74
3. Ante-natal clinics:
- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (a) Total number of attendances by expectant mothers during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 493 |
| (b) Total number of expectant mothers who attended at the clinic during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 162 |
| (c) Percentage of total notified births represented by the number in (b) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 62.54 |
4. Sunlight Clinic :
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Children between the ages of 0 and 5 given exposures | 20 |
| (b) Total number of exposures | 251 |
| (c) Total number of school children given exposures | — |
| (d) Total number of exposures given | — |

	Mothers.	Children.
5. Cases referred to Dental Clinic	4	3
" " Ophthalmic Clinic..	—	10
" " Orthopædic Clinic...	—	14



