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Contributors

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Urban District of Ilfracombe.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1941.





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Urban District of Ilfracombe.

Public Health Committee :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. H. ROULSTONE.

COUNCILLORS :

J. ARMSTRONG.

Mrs. H. FARNDELL.

E. G. BAUGH.

J. H. GILBERT.

H. BRYANT.

W. E. TREBBLE.

R. FAIRCHILD.

J. D. WALLER and

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

(Councillor H. E. KNILL, J.P.)

Public Health Staff :

Part-Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital—

D. C. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Whole-Time Officers :

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

Junior Assistant : R. F. M. SAUNDERS.

Matron, Isolation Hospital : Miss G. CARRICK, S.R.N., S.F.N.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ILFRACOMBE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

MRS. FARNDELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Sixteenth Annual Report which deals with the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council during the year ended 31st December, 1941.

The Report is constructed on the lines indicated in the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health and is an Interim one.

The work at the Isolation Hospital was carried out in a most satisfactory manner by the Matron, Miss G. Carrick who had to contend with considerable difficulties in the way of getting suitable staff.

I desire to acknowledge the very valuable and willing help given by Miss Dean, Commandant, and members of the Red Cross Detachment in connection with the Immunisation Scheme, Scabies Centre and in other ways.

Owing to the very large amount of work thrown on the department in consequence of war conditions the amount of ordinary work has had to be curtailed but all essential duties have received attention.

Your Obedient Servant,

June, 1942.

D. C. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Statistical Memoranda, 1941.

Area (excluding Foreshore)	5,627 acres
Rateable Value (1st April, 1941)	£85,370
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£339 1s. 10d.
Rainfall during 1941	791.3 m.m.
Bright Sunshine during 1941	1599.6 hours

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	9.4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	45.5
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	12.8
<i>Corrected Death Rate</i>	8.8
Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.29 per 1,000.
Cancer Death Rate	1.49 per 1,000.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	—
Other Maternal Causes	1	7.6

INFANT MORTALITY.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	35.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	21.6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Detailed particulars of these services were given in the Annual Report for the year 1932; there has been no material change during the past year.

Water Supply.

Five routine samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. In each case the report showed the sample to be “of a satisfactory degree of purity.”

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Cases Notified.														Cases admitted to I. Hospital	Deaths.											Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total	Under 1		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Group)	...			2	1	5	5						13														
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1	3	2	3	4	5	5	4	1		44	35													
Parotiphoid	...					1	1	2	1				5	4													
Anterior-Poliomyelitis	...							1					1	1													
Pneumonia	...				1	2		1	1	1	3		8												1	1	
Erysipelas	...										1	1	2														
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	1					1						2	1													
Measles	...	4	10	5	5	9	37	2	4	2	1	1	80														
Whooping Cough	...	7	9	8	7	13	36	3	1	2			86												2	1	3

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Council authorised a scheme of free immunisation against diphtheria, public notice having been given of this, applications were received through the schools and directly through the Health Office. The following numbers of children were dealt with ;

Children under 5 years of age	70
Children age 5 to 15 years	1218

For assistance in carrying out this work I have to thank the local medical practitioners, the assistant School Medical Officer, the Commandant and Members of the Red Cross Detachment, the School Nurses and the Teachers.

Scabies.

Owing to present day conditions a number of cases of scabies occurred in the town, it became necessary for the Local Authority to undertake treatment of these and a cleansing station was established which was staffed voluntarily by members of the Red Cross Detachment.

A total of 87 cases was treated during the year.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
25 to 35 years	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
55 to 65 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	9	4	2	2	1	—	1

Disinfection of Rooms and Articles. 90 rooms were disinfected as follows :—Scarlet Fever, 34 rooms; Diphtheria 12 rooms; Scabies, 20 rooms; Tuberculosis, 3 rooms; Typhoid 5 rooms; Vermin, 8 rooms; Other diseases, 8 rooms.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Complaints. 64 complaints were received and investigated, the necessary action being taken to obtain the abatement of any nuisances which came within the scope of the Public Health Acts.

Notices Served.

Statutory (under Local Acts) ...	...	...	...	2
Informal do.	...	...	...	32
Verbal do.	...	...	...	27
Notices re infectious disease ...	...	...	...	66
Total				127

Letters and Circulars sent.

Relating to Milk Supply ...	...	...	...	45
" Food ...	...	...	...	25
" Petroleum Act ...	...	...	...	30
Total				100

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight ...	...	...	...	5
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Damp walls remedied ...	...	...	...	7
External plastering repaired ...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired ...	...	...	...	2
Yards drained and repaired ...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	3
Dustbins provided ...	...	...	...	9
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	4
Drains cleared ...	...	...	...	28
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Waste pipes cleared...	...	...	...	2
Soil pipes repaired ...	...	...	...	1
Factory ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	3
do. walls cleansed	...	...	...	6
do. floors cleansed	...	...	...	1
do. water closets cleansed	...	...	...	9
Shop walls cleansed...	...	...	...	3
do. water closets cleansed ...	...	...	...	4

Factories & Workshops Act, 1901.

Factories Act, 1937.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspection (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecuted Occupiers (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	49	1	0
Factories without mechanical power ...	89	0	0
Other Premises under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	7	0	0
Total	145	1	0

2. **Defects found.**

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	8	8	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient	Nil	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	—	—	—
Other offences... .. (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Power) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	5	5	—	—
Total	16	16	Nil	Nil

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of infestation was reported during the year.

Housing.

Housing Statistics.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	62
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	325
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	0
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	36

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers		34
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a) By owners		0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	34
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were rendered after service of formal notices :		
	(a) By owners		2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—OVERCROWDING.

In view of the large number of evacuees received in the district, it was impossible to consider overcrowding.

Camping Grounds. Very little use was made of camping grounds during the year, only a few sites were in use.

15 visits of inspection were made, conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Beaches and Pleasure Grounds. Regular arrangements are in operation for clearing refuse and litter from the beaches and pleasure grounds during the year, no serious nuisance occurred.



Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Work carried out in connection with the milk supply during 1941 included :—

- 48 inspections of farms.
- 69 inspections of cowsheds.
- 104 inspections of dairies.
- 163 inspections of dairymen's vehicles.
- 54 samples of milk obtained.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Premises within the Urban District :

Cowkeepers on Register (31st December, 1941)	...	45
Registered as Producer Retailers	...	27
Registered as Producer Wholesalers	...	28
Registered as Producer Retailers and Wholesalers		7
Retailers with dairy only—non-producers	...	29

Persons who sell milk within the Urban District but whose premises are situated outside the district :

Registered as Producer Retailers	...	18
Registered as Producer Wholesalers	...	46
Registered as Producer Retailers and Wholesalers		5

In addition to the above, 37 persons who retail cream only in the Ilfracombe Market are registered.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The Methylene Blue Reduction Test is used for all samples.

37 samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist, 23 of these passed and 14 failed.

Tuberculosis Examination of Milk samples.

2 samples were taken from bulk supplies of milk and forwarded to the County Bacteriologist to be examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli by means of guinea pig inoculation. Both samples gave negative results.

Meat and Other Foods.

During 1941, the following inspections were made in connection with the supervision of the food supply:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	324
Food Purveyors' Shops	...	...	646
Markets	...	...	51
Bakehouses	...	...	26
Food Hawkers' Vehicles	...	...	57
Meat Carriers' Vehicles	...	...	91
Preserved Meat Dealers' Premises			46
Ice Cream Dealers' Premises			38
Cafés and Hotels	...	...	26
Other Food Premises	...	...	56

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	892	376	161	10,138	580
Number inspected	892	376	161	10,138	580
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	2	2	31	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	187	47	2	690	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	20.96	15.16	2.48	7.21	2.59
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	4	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	34	0	0	53
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	2.69	10.11	0	0	9.14

Animals inspected and found to show evidence of disease or unsoundness

TABLE I.—*Cases in which whole carcase and organs destroyed.*

Disease or Condition		Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep or Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis ..		6	4	—	—	—
Decomposition ..		—	—	—	1	—
Emaciation ..		—	—	—	9	—
Enteritis ..		—	—	1	—	—
Moribund ..		—	—	—	7	—
Oedema ..		—	2	—	4	—
Pyrexia ..		—	—	—	3	—
Septicaemia ..		—	—	—	1	—
Septic Pleurisy ..		—	—	—	3	—
Septic Pneumonia ..		—	—	1	2	—
Suffocation ..		—	—	—	2	—
Swine Fever ..		—	—	—	—	2
Traumatism ..		—	—	—	1	—
Total ..		6	6	2	33	2

Unsound Food.

Weight of Unsound Meat and Offals destroyed during 1941 :

		Tuberculosis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total
Beef ...	...	4,257	759	5,016
Beef Offals ...	...	2,140	3,514	5,654
Pork ...	...	760	203	963
Pork Offals ...	...	20	52	72
Mutton ...	...	0	1,793	1,793
Mutton Offals ...	...	0	1,103	1,103
Total ...	...	7,177	7,424	14,601

Other Unsound Foods Destroyed.

Cherries	..	2 tins	Mixed Pickles	..	10 bottles
Grape fruit	..	1 tin	Olives	..	1 bottle
Golden Syrup	..	1 tin	Preserved Ginger	..	1 jar
Marmalade	..	6 jars	Walnuts	..	1 bottle
Mince Meat	..	3 jars	Ham	..	2 tins
Mirabelles	..	4 tins	Pork	...	1 tin
Mixed Jam	..	12 jars	Steak	..	19 tins
Oranges	..	2 tins	Suet	..	1 pkt.
Pears	..	5 "	Tongue	..	1 tin
Pineapples	..	76 "	Irish Stew	..	4 tins
Plums	..	5 "	Meat Extract	..	3 bottles
Raspberries	..	7 "	Meat Paste	..	5 tins
Tomatoes	..	1 tin	Sauces	..	10 bottles
Asparagus	..	1 tin	Soups	..	9 tins
Beans	..	8 tins	Anchovies	..	5 "
Beetroot	..	1 tin	Herrings	..	1 tin
Rice	..	1 pkt.	Pilchards	..	4 tins
Wheat	..	2 pkts.	Salmon	..	4 "
Flour	...	4 pkts.	Sardines	..	1 tin
Cordials	..	2 bottles	Sausage	..	36 lbs.
Milk	..	36 tins	Rabbits	..	48
Gherkins	..	1 bottle			

The total weight of the above amounted to 5 cwts., 3 qrs., 10 lbs.

Shops Act, 1934. 275 inspections were made in accordance with this Act, insanitary conditions were found on eight premises, the person responsible was notified and all insanitary conditions have been remedied.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

16 formal samples of milk were obtained and submitted for analysis, in all cases the report showed the sample to be genuine milk. In consequence of a complaint that milk was suspected to have been manufactured from milk powder an informal sample of this was obtained and forwarded to the Public Analyst who reported there was no evidence that the milk had been made from dried milk and water. The average composition of the 17 samples was :—

Non-fatty milk solids	..	8'87 per cent.
Milk-fat		3'92 per cent.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of house and trade refuse is carried out by a contractor working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Modern vehicles of rear loading type and fitted with movable rubber floors are in use and have proved efficient. 1,520 loads of house refuse and 98 loads of trade refuse were collected during the year.

Salvage work has been continued throughout the year and from the beginning of April a separate staff were engaged in this work, the following table gives the amount of material salvaged together with its value.

				Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper, Cardboard and Books				88	18	3	0	421	11	0
Iron	...	...	...	35	0	1	0	74	12	1
Tins	...	...	...	16	14	1	0	16	14	3
Aluminium	...	...	...		2	0	23	7	1	3
Brass	...	...	...		5	2	4	4	9	5
Copper	...	...	...			3	13	1	9	4
Lead	...	...	...		8	2	14	4	16	3
Zinc	...	...	...			1	3		2	7
Other metals	...	...	...		1	0	5		15	3
Textiles	...	...	...	4	5	1	20	51	12	7
Records	...	...	...			1	4		1	6
Rubber	...	...	...			1	13		3	0
Hair	...	...	...				10		1	3
Chamois	...	...	...			1	16		2	9
Bones	...	...	...	3	0	0	17	8	19	3
Bottles	4175	...	...	1	15	1	0	14	9	6
Jars	8946	...	...	3	13	1	0	18	12	9
				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				154	7	0	2	£625	14	0

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

9 licences were issued for the storage of a total of 17,400 gallons of petroleum-spirit.

One licence to store 40 gallons of petroleum mixture was granted.

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority was £6 15s. 0d.

47 inspections were made under the Act.



