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Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield



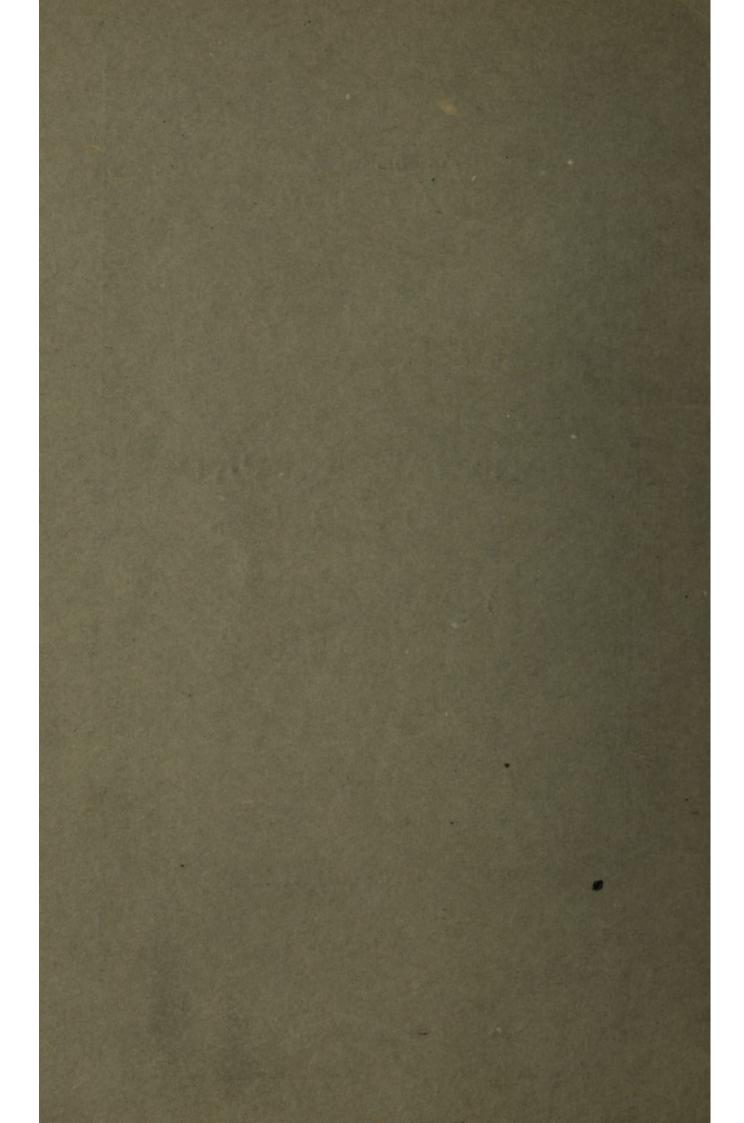
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1941

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.



Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1941

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer—G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician to Ante-Natal Clinic— C. H. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Consultant Bacteriologist—G. CARY LYNCH, M.D., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon-E. A. HAIGH, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Sanitary Inspector—W. THORPE, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute, and Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant—B. FRANCE, (Serving in H. M. Forces).

Health Visitors-

MISS E. L. SAYER, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert.R.S.I. MISS F. M. GILLEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert.R.S.I.

Ince-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

್ಯಾಂತ್ರಾ

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee,

Sir, Mrs. Winstanley, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present an Interim Report on the health of the District for the year 1941, compiled in the abbreviated form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

The belated appearance of the Report is due to the unavoidable delay in the transmission of the Vital Statistics from the County Public Health Department.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and cooperation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2,320. acres.

Population (Census 1931): 21,763.

Estimated mid-1941 (Registrar General): 19,390.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931): 4,630.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1941, according to Rate Books: 5,237.

Rateable Value: £63,326 (Reduced).

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £263/17/2.

Ince is essentially an industrial area, the principal industry being coal mining. In addition, wagon works, railway work and cotton spinning mills give employment to both sexes.

Unemployment is practically non-existent in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births	Legitimate	190	177	367
Live Births	Illegitimate	4	7	11
	TOTAL	.194	184	378
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Still Births		2	8	10
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Deaths of Infants	Legitimate	18	14	32
under 1 year of ag	ge Illegitimate	2	1	3
	TOTAL.	20	15	35
	DEATHS	131	140	271
Birth Rate per 1,0	000 of the estir	nated pop	oulation mid-1941	19.4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births	25
No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Child From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births. due to Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to other puerperal causes	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age-	
All Infants per 1,000 live births)2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 8	36
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 27	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	36
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	il
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) N	il

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE A. ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death	Total at all periods up to 1 year	Under 1 month				
Premature Birth	2	2	_	-	-	
Bronchitis and Pneumoni	a 18	2	7	4	2	3
Congenital Deformity	. 2		2	-	-	_
Gastro Enteritis	3	1	1	1	-	-
Convulsions	. 1	1	_	-	-	-
Icterus Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-
Asphyxia	. 3	3	_	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	_
Weakness at Birth	3	3	_	-	_	_
	35	14	11	5	2	3

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1941 as compared with the previous year.

TABLE B.

Cause of Death		No.	of Deaths 1941	No. of Deaths 1940
Enteric Fever			0	1
Measles			0	0
Whooping Cough			2	0
Diphtheria			0	1
Scarlet Fever		***	0	0
Influenza			1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica			0	1
Phthisis			1+	16
Other Tubercular Diseases			4	3
Cancer			36	29
Heart Disease			57	59
Bronchitis			26	40
Pneumonia			30	40
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)			0	. 1
Puerperal Sepsis			0	0
Other Diseases of Parturiti	on		0	1
Suicide			2	4
Accidents			16	16
Other Diseases			83	88
			271	301

2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of Wigan Royal Infirmary, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1941 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 57 Throat Swabs, 1 Cerebro-spinal Fluid, 1 sample of Blood for Widal Reaction, 1 Eye Swab (Ophthalmia), 5 Samples of Milk, 1 Sputum, and 1 Urine.

8 Water Samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory and to Liverpool University Public Health Laboratory.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Infectious Cases were removed to Hospital in the motor ambulance of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board during the year 1941.

During the same year Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by either the motor ambulances belonging to the Wigan Borough Police, or by the motor ambulance belonging jointly to the Urban Districts of Ince, Hindley and Abram.

The arrangements made with the neighbouring authorities of Wigan, Hindley, and Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the use of their Infectious and Non-Infectious Ambulances, ensured that the ambulance facilities for the area were adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is carried out in the area by the two Nurses employed by the Ince-in-Makerfield District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

The District Nurses do not nurse cases of infectious disease, nor do they act as midwives nor maternity nurses.

No contribution is made by the Local Authority towards their upkeep, which depends upon a Provident Scheme of regular weekly contributions by the householders of the District.

The Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, for the area, is the Lancashire County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, Ince Green Lane, on alternate Monday afternoons at 1-45 p.m., and is conducted by Mr. C. H. Walsh, M.B., F.R.C.O.G.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 2-0-4-0 p.m.

As part of the School Medical Service, Minor Ailment Clinics are held daily and Dental Clinics on Tuesday morning from 9-30 a.m. to 12-0 noon and Wednesday afternoon from 1-30—4-0 p.m. These clinics are held at the Central Clinic, Ince Green Lane, which is combined for the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services.

Orthopædic defects among pre-school and school children are dealt with under the Lancashire County Council Scheme. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends on the first and third Mondays in each month, at the School Clinic, Library Street, Wigan, and the Orthopædic Nurse attends each Monday morning.

Children requiring Artificial Light treatment attend at the Wigan Infirmary.

All Clinics are functioning normally during the war period.

3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The two sources of the Water Supply are the Council's own Deep Wells at Golborne, and the Rivington Reservoirs belonging to the Liverpool Corporation. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined 5 times bacteriologically and 3 times chemically during the year 1941 and found to be quite satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type: storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

At the Sewage Works, Bacterial Filter Beds are in use, and no outstanding development has taken place during the year.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1941).

Number of Privy Middens	98
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	155
Number of Pail Closets	35
Number of Freshwater Closets	5403
Number of Waste Water Closets	_
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	_
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	5200
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	5047

Under the General Conversion Scheme, the Local Authority pays half the cost of each conversion, with a maximum of £4 per conversion. No Conversions were made during 1941.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street scavenging and removal of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority.

Privy middens and ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and one horse-drawn vehicle and two S.D. Freighter motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips. There is no destructor in the district.

The removal of House Refuse is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector, but he is not responsible for the scavenging of the streets.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited	 670
Number of Nuisances discovered	 1292
Number of Nuisances abated	 1205
Number of Informal Notices served	 361
Number of Statutory Notices served	 20
Number of Legal Proceedings	 -

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act. 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action has been taken with regard to smoke abatement.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

28 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Solution D.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Premises in Pennington Lane have been converted for Tripe Boiling, and this trade is being carried on there without offence, with the permission of the Sanitary Authority, and under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Offensive Trades are dealt with by the Authority under local Byelaws, dated 1909.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

208 visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS.

12 Canal Boats were inspected during the year, and 1 infringement of the Acts was discovered.

There were no cases of overcrowding.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

The majority of the Schools are provided with separate W.C'.s, each with its own cistern and flushing provision, but in certain schools there still remain forms of automatic flushing. It is desirable in the interests of hygiene that these should be replaced by water closets of the independently flushed type. Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

4. Housing.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are old in type, and congested in certain areas.

Mining subsidence is responsible for much damage to structure, and old houses are continuously in need of repairs.

Since the outbreak of the war, reconditioning work has been reduced to a minimum, and clearance of property has been brought to a standstill.

Most of the worst cases of overcrowding in the district were relieved during the preceding year by the tenancy of houses on the Pennington Lane Housing Site.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a)	Total	(including numbers given separately under	(b)	
	(i)	By the Local Authority		_
	(ii)	By other Authorities		_
	(iii)	By other bodies and persons		-
(b)	With	State Assistance under the Housing Acts:		
	(i)	By the Local Authority		_
	(iii)	By other bodies and persons		_

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1941, 8 samples of milk were taken by the officers of the Lancashire County Council and submitted for examination, all being found satisfactory.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district have been regularly inspected, and at all times their condition has been found satisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

There are 19 Milk Purveyors (including 2 Cowkeepers) in the district. 12 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 3 Licences in respect of the sale of accredited Milk were granted during the year.

(b) MEAT.

There is no slaughter house in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

During 1941, cases of infectious disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Astley Sanatorium of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, by agreement.

49 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 50 in 1940, and of the 49 cases, 17 were removed to hospital for treatment. There were no fatal cases.

17 cases of Diphtheria of a mild type were notified during the year, compared with 16 in the previous year. Of the 17 cases, 10 were removed to hospital for treatment. There were no fatal cases.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Town Hall, and at the Higher and Lower Ince Police Stations, and are always available to the medical practitioners

Contacts of cases of Diphtheria have been excluded from school, and kept under close observation

As stated earlier in the Report, 57 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Central Clinic. During 1941, 46 pre-school and 565 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid (Parke, Davis & Co.). No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

3 cases of Paratyphoid B Fever were notified during the year, and removed to hospital for treatment. All the cases progressed satisfactorily.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1941.

Measles of a mild type was prevalent during the year.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1941. TABLE C.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1941.

								-	-							
DISEASES	Total Under Cases 1 all ages	Inder 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4 5	5—10	5—10 10—15	15—20	15—20 20—35	35-45	4565	and over	Total r De ths	Total cases Total removed De ths to Hospital	Total Deaths in cases Hospital removed persons to belong's Hospital todistrict
Smallpox		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:
Scarlet Fever	49	:	2	w	-	7	24	=		:	-		:		17	:
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	17	:	:	:	2		10	:	2	2	:	:	:	:	10	:
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	w	:	:		:	:	:	:	:,	2	:	-	:	:	w	:
Acute Primary and Influenza Pneumonia	. 34	w	2	2	ω	-	6	2	w	5	5	2	:	30	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	::
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	:	-	:	:	:		:		_	-	-	:	:	4	:
Encephalitis Lethargica	:	:	:	:	:			:	:	:	:		:	:	:	
Acute Poliomyelitis		:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Acute Polio Encephalitis.	:	:	:	:	:			:		:	:			:		:
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:		:	
Erysipelas	5	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	-	1	1	-	-		1	:
Measles (excluding German Measles)	220	19	21	34	37	32	76	:	-	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Whooping Cough	64	11 .	7	13	00	w	22	-			:.			2		
TOTALS	397	34	33	52	51	44	138	13	7	11	00	5	-	32	36	-

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1941, 118 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray, and it is usual, in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector belonging to Hindley U. D. Council was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to Hospital.

CANCER.

36 deaths (19 male and 17 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 29 in 1940.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Ince residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act 1920 is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and Ince cases attend at the County Dispensary in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

40 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1941, 28 being cases of Pulmonary, and 12 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 14 deaths from Pulmonary, and 4 from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE D.

TUBERCULOSIS.

		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age	Respir	atory	Non-Re	espiratory	Respir	ratory	Non-Re	spiratory	
Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-1									
1-5		1	2				1	1	
5—10				2					
10-15	1		1						
15-20	1	3	1	1		1	1		
20-25	2	5	1		1	3			
25—35	1	6	1	2	1	4		1	
35—45	3	1			1	1			
45—55	1	2		1		2			
55-65	1			13 4					
65 & up- wards									
TOTALS	10	18	6	6	3	11	2	2	
		8		12	1	4	-	4	

7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 2-0 — 4-0 p.m.

The babies are weighed and advice is given to the mothers about themselves and their infants, by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

The Ante Natal Clinic is conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.O.G., and is held fortnightly on Monday afternoon at 1-45 p.m.

During 1941, 174 Expectant Mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 544 attendances, and 4 Mothers attended for Post Natal advice.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 156 first visits, and a total number of 405 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, recommended by the Surgeon at the Ante Natal Clinics.

There are no Maternity Homes in the district, nor is there any institutional provision for dealing with unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children within the district.

Expectant and nursing mothers and young children can be admitted to Billinge Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and hospitals at Liverpool and Manchester. No arrangements have been made for the provision of emergency units or home helps.

The Nurses reported as follows on the Infant Welfare work-Number of First Visits to new Babies 361 Number of Supervision Visits—under one year 5970 Number of Supervision Visits-over one year and up to five years 5224 ___11194 Number of Children who attended at the Clinic for the first time during the year_ (a) Children under one year of age ... 281 (b) Children between the ages of one year and five years 289

In accordance with the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, arrangements were made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice, and bacteriological examinations, when requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Home Visitors from the attendant Midwives. Cases requiring hospital treatment would be removed to Astley Sanatorium. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1941.

Maternal Deaths are investigated by the staff of the County Medical Officer, with the co-operation of the District Medical Officer.

Orthopædic treatment for children under five years of age is carried out under the Lancashire County Scheme at the Wigan Clinic, in close co-operation with the similar treatment of school children under the School Medical Service. X-ray and Sunlight cases receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while operation cases are admitted to the Biddulph Grange Orthopædic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitors, while cases requiring hospital treatment would be sent to the Wigan Public Assistance Institution.

Cases occurring during 1941 are classified as follows—

—Ophthalmia Cases—

Number Treated Treated in Vision Vision Total
Notified at Home Hospital Unimpaired Impaired Blindness Deaths

1 1 0 1 0 0 0

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

