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Contributors

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KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 1940

Dr. D. F. Dobson, M.B. D.P.H.
Medical Officer
of Health.

Report of Medical Officer of Health
for Year ended December 31st 1940.

To the Chairman & Members of the Knaresborough
Urban District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the
instructions of the Ministry of Health, this
Annual Report is brief and confined to changes in
the conditions affecting the health of the Town
and to any special occurrence of disease.

I am Ladies, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. F. Dobson. (M.B.DP.H.)

Medical Officer of Health.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population is 7,596. There are also in the Town a number of evacuated persons and workers who have come to the district.

The number of people living in Knaresborough is estimated at 8,500.

EVACUATED PERSONS.

Most of the unaccompanied children returned to their homes during the year, a small number remain.

A fluctuating number of parents and children are billeted in the Town usually about 230.

Reception has been accompanied by a considerable amount of over-crowding and by the use of many houses which are not in every respect fit for human habitation.

Every effort has been made to abate over-crowding without resort to compulsory orders and much work has been done to improve the houses in question.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious disease has been very prevalent during the year. A considerable measles epidemic, 216 cases, occurred in the early months, the type was mild and only one death occurred. An epidemic of acute poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) followed. This was part of a larger epidemic

occurring in the surrounding area, there were 16 cases varying in severity, there were no deaths but paralysis remained in a number of cases.

Scarlet fever 27 cases, diphtheria 17 cases, were also prevalent during the year, it should be noted that some of the diphtheria cases were discovered bacteriologically and had no serious illness.

There were no signs of any increase in tuberculosis.

Scabies has increased very greatly in the area, but has been treated very successfully at the West Riding Clinic and has been kept under control.

No organised immunisation against diphtheria took place during the year.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

No great change occurred in the Medical arrangement, considerable improvements were however made in the First Aid Post and a Mortuary for 20 cases was provided.

Two Hostels, provided by the Ministry of Health were kept in being. One for skin diseases and one for minor illnesses, these were largely used as billets at first, but it became clear later that it would be necessary to reserve them for their original purposes.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The alterations to the Sewage Works were carried out in 1940, while not increasing the capacity of the works these measures will ensure greater purity of the outflow.

It is regretted that it was not possible to take any measures to deal with the difficulty in the sewage disposal of the Scotton Banks Estate, this must be regarded as a dangerous area in the Town.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births numbered 130, giving a birth rate of 17.1 per 100 of the population.


Deaths numbered 116, giving a death rate, corrected for the Area Factor, of 17.3 per 100 of the population.

These figures vary greatly from the average of the area but no comment would be valuable at the moment.

Apart from the occurrence of infectious disease the health of the district may be said to be satisfactory and the sanitary condition of the Town to be good.

D. F. Dobson.

Medical Officer of Health.



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