

**[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Mirfield U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Mirfield (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1940

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/fc9g8hxd>

**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>

LIBRARY



C. R.  
MIN OF HEALTH  
EN 1 SEP 41

77

MIRFIELD  
URBAN  
DISTRICT



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the . .  
YEAR . .  
1940 . .

CHADWICK, PRINTER, MIRFIELD.






MIRFIELD  
URBAN  
DISTRICT

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the . . .  
YEAR . . .  
1940 . . .



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29802106>



# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1940

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF MIRFIELD URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith the ANNUAL REPORT on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of Mirfield Urban District for the year 1940.

This Report is in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health, the keynote of which is "brevitas."

During the year in question, the post of Medical Officer of Health was held by Dr. J. A. Smith, until his resignation took effect in September, and subsequently by Dr. G. H. Pearce, of Batley, who has continued to act in the capacity of Temporary M.O.H. until my appointment to this office in July, 1941. Under these circumstances, I am obviously unable to write from first-hand knowledge on this occasion.

A similar state of affairs exists in regard to the Sanitary Inspector's Report. I have to record with the greatest regret the death of Mr. W. E. Sharp, who held this post in 1940. The Report now presented to the Council embodies some of the late Sanitary Inspector's preliminary notes, and has been compiled by Mr. G. O. Lee, Clerical Assistant in the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. GRANT NICOL,

Medical Officer of Health.

**VITAL STATISTICS—**

Area (in Acres)—3,394.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate—11,520.

Based on Ration Books issued—11,479.

Number of inhabited houses (per Rating Office)—4,000 approximately.

Number of families or separate occupiers also given as 4,000 approximately.

Rateable Value—£53,574. Product of a Penny Rate £223.

**Births—**

	Male		Female		TOTAL
Live Births	74	...	58	...	132
Birth Rate (based on Registrar-General's figures) per 1,000 population—	11.46.				

Still-Births—1 Male; 4 Females; Total 5

Rate per 1,000 total Births—36.5.

(Note—The Registrar-General presents this figure as Still-Births per 1,000 civilian population, and for Mirfield, this works out at 0.43).

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Deaths—	...	86	78
			164

Death Rate (corrected to enable a true comparison to be made with other areas)—13.52.

**Maternal Mortality—**

I have pleasure in recording the fact that there was no Maternal Death.

**Infant Mortality —**

6 Infants under 1 year of age died during the year; 3 being Males and 3 Females.

The Infant Mortality Rate is calculated on figures supplied for this purpose by the Registrar-General, and is based on 133 live births, while the Birth Rate is based on 132 live births. The figure for Mirfield is 45.11 per 1,000 live births.

**Deaths from Enteritis—Under 2 years of age—Nil.**

For comparison with other districts, and with England and Wales, and also with 1939 locally, a summary is set out below—

Rates per 1,000 civilian population.

	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns (25-50,000)	1939	Mirfield 1940
Live Births ...	14.6	15.7	10.19	11.46
Still-Births ...	0.55	0.55	—	0.43
Deaths (all causes) ...	14.3	12.8	13.82	13.52
Maternal Mortality...	2.16	—	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality ...	55	54	58	45
Deaths from Enteritis } under 2 years of age }	4.6	4.4	Nil	Nil



The causes of Deaths and the number(s) under each head were as follows—

Diphtheria ... ..	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	4
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	1
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	4
Influenza ... ..	1
Cancer (Stomach and Duodenum) ... ..	5
Cancer (other sites) ... ..	4
Diabetes ... ..	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	26
Heart Diseases ... ..	42
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ... ..	2
Bronchitis ... ..	20
Pneumonia ... ..	6
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	2
Appendicitis ... ..	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	5
Nephritis ... ..	7
Premature Birth ... ..	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries ... ..	3
Road Traffic Accidents... ..	1
Other Violent Causes ... ..	3
All Other Causes ... ..	21

### Social Conditions.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Local Labour Exchange for the following information—

“Unemployment during 1940 was negligible, and in the last half of the year was actually nil. Local Industries have been working both to capacity and overtime, and labour has been brought to the district from elsewhere. In certain cases, men have been sent to the Training Centres to fit them for new duties.”

### Housing—

Last year, the M.O.H. reported that 24 houses awaited completion, and this was effected in the year under review, completing the Greenside Estate. In October work ceased under the Building Programme, and a review of the situation was made as below—

The Council began with 27 Clearance Areas, comprising 178 houses, and 153 individually unfit houses, making 331 houses in all.

Of these, 12 Clearance Areas, involving 109 houses, and 59 individual houses were demolished, 80 back-to-back houses were made through, and 22 houses were closed.

This leaves 15 Clearance Areas (69 houses) awaiting demolition, and of the individual houses, 22 require demolition and 20 require being made through.



The result of the foregoing was that 537 persons were displaced from Clearance Areas, and 406 persons from individual houses, making a total of 943 persons.

And for their accommodation, the Council has during the course of its Slum Clearance Scheme caused to be built 255 houses, on four sites.

### **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

It is the wish of the Ministry that reference be made to important changes in these provisions, rather than a recital of long-standing arrangements which are recorded in previous Reports.

As far as my information goes, there has been no such change in any of the normal peace-time provisions; those that have been made under the heading of A.R.P. are apparently adequate for the expected needs of this District, but on the grounds of general discretion as to the site and extent of Civil Defence Services, further comment is inadvisable.

### **Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.**

From the numerical point of view, the principle feature in the prevalence of Infectious Diseases during 1940 was the occurrence of 237 cases of Measles, commencing in April of that year and continuing till the middle of August. From the point of actual severity, the chief place must be given to Diphtheria, with 22 cases notified during the year (13 in the month of December); I regret to state that they were two deaths in this series, one in August and one in December. There were 13 cases of Scarlet, which was of a mild form. There were also 4 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, with one death (this death does not figure in the list forwarded by the Registrar-General).

The actual numbers of notifications of the various infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) that were received are as below—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	13
Diphtheria	...	...	22
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	237
Whooping Cough	...	...	2

There was no case of Puerperal Pyrexia in either this or the preceding year, which is a matter for congratulation. All the cases of Scarlet Fever and of Diphtheria were removed to Hospital, as were 3 of the cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

### **Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

This is effected under the *aegis* of the West Riding County Council, and is carried out at the Schools and Welfare Centres, and also by private medical practitioners; no charge is made to the parents. It is particularly important that children should be inoculated early in life, say between one year and 18 months of age. I certainly hope that full advantage will be taken of this scheme; at the time of



writing (July, 1941) the County M.O.H. has just instituted a special "drive" in this direction, and it only remains for the parents to support it. It is perhaps not inopportune to quote what I am informed is a Yorkshire adage: "If tha dost owt for nowt, do it for thysen," but in this case read "thy children" for "thysen"

The records show that during the year the number of children immunised were as follows—

School Children	...	198 (Inoculations given by M.O.H.)
Do.	...	3 (Inoculations given by private practitioners)
Pre-School Children	...	9 (Inoculations given by private practitioners)

**Tuberculosis** — New cases during 1940.

AGE—GROUPS			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M
Under 1 Year	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 Years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	„	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	„	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	„	...	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
20—25	„	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	„	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	„	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	3	4	1	2	—	2	—	—

The deaths refer only to deaths occurring during 1940, in cases notified in that year. The total number of deaths from all causes of Tuberculosis during the year was 5, of which 4 were pulmonary, and 1 was non-pulmonary.

Of the 7 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis ("consumption"), 4 occurred in adolescents, and 2 in young adults; for a truer comparison between 1940 and past years, I would state that from the register the total fresh notifications in the 10 years 1931—1940 numbered 59; of these, there were 3 male pulmonary cases aged 15-20, and 6, aged 20-25; for females, the corresponding figures were 5 and 4 cases. From this, it would appear that 1940 compares very unfavourably as regards the incidence of pulmonary tubercule amongst the 15-25 year age group, particularly in the case of females.

No action was required under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations dealing with the employment in the Milk Trade of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

This matter is dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

### **Slaughter-Houses.**

All slaughtering is now carried out at a Central Abattoir in Spenborough. Supervision is maintained over the unused local private premises, to ensure that no nuisance exists.

### **Milk Supply.**

There are 26 farms producing milk in the area. Supervision of the Cowsheds and Dairy premises is carried out by the Mirfield U.D.C., and sampling is effected by the West Riding C.C., which Authority also grants the licenses for Accredited and Tuberculin Tested Milks. There is one producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and four who hold licenses for Accredited Milk in this Area; the Mirfield U.D.C. issued two Supplementary Licenses for Pasteurised Milk produced outside this area, but retailed in the District, and one Supplementary License for Accredited Milk.



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
FROM THE  
**Sanitary Inspector's & Cleansing Superintendent's**  
**DEPARTMENT.**

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF MIRFIELD U.D.C.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

The following Report is presented for your consideration; the section on Sanitation relates to the Calendar Year 1940; the section on Public Cleansing and Salvage relates to the Financial Year ending 31st, March, 1940.

The general form of the Report follows that of the previous years, the only departure being the introduction of a special statement on Salvage.

Reference to the special features of the year's working is made where necessary under the various headings.

It is my privilege and sad duty to write this brief preface to what would have been the Twelfth Annual Report of your late Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Sharp. By his untimely death, Mirfield has lost a most able and conscientious officer, who had done much to improve the health of the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. GRANT NICOL.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### (1) Water.

The district receives the bulk of its supply from the Huddersfield Corporation. The supply is constant and direct to the houses.

In addition to the above there are 8 shallow wells, 4 springs and one private reservoir, supplying 57 houses. On this latter means of supply 51 houses are solely dependent and 6 houses are partly dependent.

### (2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Except in isolated cases the district is well provided with sewers. No other extension has been made during the year. The plans for the new sewage disposal scheme mentioned in the report for 1939 are being held in abeyance for the duration of the war.

### (3) Rivers and Streams.

The river Calder runs through the district and is in a polluted state when it enters the district. Any pollution from domestic sewage is very small and is from isolated houses only. The manufacturers treat their own trade waste and discharge their effluent into the river, which is under the supervision of the West Riding Rivers' Board.

### (4) Sanitary Administration.

Closet accommodation, December 31st, 1940.

Number of Privies	...	...	290
„ Privy Ashpits	...	...	167
„ Dry Ashpits	...	...	27
„ Dust Bins...	...	...	3602
„ Water Closets	...	...	3881
„ Waste Water Closets	...	...	57
„ Pail or Tub Closets	...	...	38
„ Privies Discontinued	...	...	8

Number of Water Closets provided during the year is as follows—

By conversion of Privies to Water Closets	...	...	8
By provision of extra closet accommodation to existing property where insufficient	...	...	10
By provision to new property	...	...	20
By conversion of waste water closets to W.C.'s	...	...	9
By conversion of tub closets to chemical closets	...	...	8
		TOTAL	45

	Privies	W.C.	Waste W.C.	Tub Closets	Bins
Eastthorpe Ward	42	1010	11	0	948
Hopton Ward	68	583	32	21	694
Battysford Ward	100	1148	14	10	948
Northorpe Ward	80	1033	0	2	1017
TOTAL	290	3774	57	33	3602

Number of Privies, Tipplers and Tub Closets converted or abolished during recent years--1931-59; 1932-58; 1933-47; 1934-83; 1935-52; 1936-72; 1937-42; 1938-79; 1939-54; 1940-20.



**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.**

Total Number of Inspections	...	...	3163
Complaints Investigated	...	...	53
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	324
Canal Boats	...	...	19
Dwelling Houses—Housing Act:—			
Public Health Act	...	...	268
Infectious Diseases	...	...	43
Drains Inspected and Approved	...	...	10
Factories and Workshops	...	...	63
Property Under Notice	...	...	635
Works in Progress	...	...	325
Schools	...	...	10
Slaughther-Houses, Markets and Shops	...	...	680
Infectious Disease Contacts	...	...	0
Van Dwellings...	...	...	10
Offensive Trades	...	...	34
Bakehouses	...	...	16
Premises where Nuisances were found	...	...	91
Entertainment Houses	...	...	15
Refuse Tips	...	...	30
Smoke Observations	...	...	14
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	522

**NOTICES SERVED.**

Legal Notices Issued	...	...	1
Complied With	...	...	1
Letters or Informal Notice...	...	...	115
Owners seen Personally	...	...	10
Summonses taken out	...	...	0

**SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.**

Drains Reconstructed	...	...	9
Drains Connected to Main Sewers	...	...	3
Drains not Efficiently Trapped	...	...	0
Sink Pipes and Drains Repaired	...	...	30
Yard Drains Cleared	...	...	17
Drains Ventilated	...	...	3
Cellar Drains Cleared	...	...	0
Eaves and Fall Pipes Provided	...	...	26
Roofing	...	...	9
Water Closets Repaired	...	...	20
Defective Wallplaster Repaired	...	...	25
Waste Pipes to Disconnect...	...	...	23
Water in Cellars	...	...	11
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	1
Poultry, Pigeons and Animals	...	...	1
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	5
Wet Ashpits Abolished	...	...	4
Privies Abolished	...	...	8
Privies Converted	...	...	3
Dry Ashpits Abolished	...	...	0
Dust Bins Additional to New Property...	...	...	0



**Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effected** Continued.

Insufficient Ashes Accommodation and Closet			
Accommodation ...	...	...	45
Overcrowding Abated ...	...	...	23
Houses Requiring Cleansing	...	...	8
Additional Lighting and Ventilation to Houses	...	...	53
Dampness Remedied ...	...	...	24
Workshops and Bakehouses Limewashed	...	...	0
Street Gullies Cleansed ...	...	...	0
Number of Nuisances found in 1940	...	...	321
Number of Nuisances in hand from 1939	...	...	3
Total requiring Abatement	...	...	324
Total number Abated ...	...	...	304
In hand (end of 1940) ...	...	...	20

**SHOPS Act, 1934.**

A systematic inspection is being carried out in conjunction with the Shops Inspector of the West Riding County Council. During the year 67 visits have been paid to shops in the district,

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

During the first half of the year 14 smoke observations were taken and in one case an offence was found to have been committed. The firm involved was communicated with, further observations proving negative. Acting upon instructions from the Ministry of Home Security no observations were taken during the second half of the year.

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

Number of Council Houses found to be Infested	...	...	4
Number Disinfested	...	...	4
Other Houses found to be Infested	...	...	55
Number Disinfested	...	...	55

Vermicine and Sulphur are employed for the disinfestation of individual houses by the Local Authority.

In the persons removed from condemned houses the disinfestation was carried out by Yorkshire Fumigation Services Ltd., Rods Mills, Morley, by Hydrocyanic Acid Gas. All bedding is dealt with by steam disinfection.

## PREMISES & OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS & REGULATIONS.

All premises and occupations within the district which can be controlled by the Bye-laws are already so controlled. There are no lodging houses or under-ground sleeping rooms, and only occasionally do we get van-dwellings in the district.

### HOUSING.

Since the Minister of Health asks only for a general appreciation of the position shewing the extent to which housing matters have been affected by the changed conditions during the year under review, the usual detailed report is omitted.

As regards maintenance of existing houses, although difficulty is experienced through shortage of materials and labour and the rising prices, everything possible is being done to secure attention by informal action.

It will be seen from the report of the Medical Officer of Health that the Housing Programme was completed last year, by September all houses on the Greenside Estate being occupied.

#### Overcrowding:

(a)	(i)	Number of Dwelling-Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	48
	(ii)	Number of Families dwelling therein	... ..	48
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	269
(b)		Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	2
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	23
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	128
(d)		The arrangements for dealing with overcrowding are working satisfactorily		

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### (a) Milk Supply:

The number of Dairy Farms in the area at the end of the year was 26 compared to 28 for the previous year, and with herds comprising 377 cows, compared with 377 for the previous year.

The total number of inspections of cowsheds, etc., was 240, these being made in conjunction with the officers of the West Riding C.C. The general cleanliness of the cowsheds, cows and dairies continues to be on the whole satisfactory.



(b) **Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.**

The number of Slaughterhouses in the district is 10, on 1st January, 1940, all these were licensed under the Food and Drugs' Act, 1938, previously 7 being registered and 3 licensed.

At the beginning of the year slaughtering for this district was carried out at the Spenborough Abattoir under the Ministry of Food. Strict supervision continues to be exercised over the shops and slaughter-houses, 680 visits being paid in all.

**SURRENDERS & SEIZURES OF UNSOUND FOOD.**

**Meat:** 1 Pair of Bovine Lungs.

1 Pair of Bovine Buttocks.

**Other Foods:** 28 lbs. Smoked Bacon.

66 lbs. Rolled Bacon.

50 lbs. Lambs' Liver (5 x 10 lb Tins).

4 x 4 lb. Tins Steak and Kidney.

**SCAVENGING, 1940-41.**

Privies and Dry Ashpits are cleansed monthly and Tub Closets and Dust Bins weekly.

All Refuse was deposited on the Taylor Hall Lane Tip, comprising approximately 2,513 loads.

**COLLECTION & DISPOSAL COSTS.**

	£	s	d
Scavengers' Wages ... ..	1,426	18	2
Drivers' Wages ... ..	285	2	3½
Tipmans' Wages ... ..	138	6	4
Motor Fuel, Oil, Grease, Repairs, etc. ...	305	0	6
Rates ... ..	10	6	0
Clothing ... ..	24	13	8½
Sundries ... ..	10	3	6
Suspense Items ... ..	97	10	0
National Insurance ... ..	57	10	0
Motor Insurances and Licenses ...	82	19	2
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	316	3	6
<b>Gross Cost ...</b>	<b>£2,754</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>To Deduct :</i>	£	s	d
Refund of Licence Duty ...	22	10	0
Sundry Charges ... ..	36	2	0
Sundry Costs ... ..	20	0	0
Use of Lorry by Surveyor, etc. 41	0	0	0
	<b>119</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET COST ...</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



## SALVAGE, 1940-41.

It will be seen from the last Report that Mirfield began to take its part in the Nation's Salvage Effort at the end of 1939 by the collection of 6 loads of paper.

It is hoped that the results shown below will ensure continued support of the Council's Salvage Scheme.

### Income from Sale of Salvaged Materials.

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.		£	s	d
Paper ... ..	96	9	2	2	...	378	17	1
Tins ... ..	42	1	2	20	...	39	9	5
Scrap Metal ... ..	25	1	2	0	...	61	11	8
Cullet, Bottles, Jars, etc. ...	276 Sacks				...	17	4	6
Rags ... ..	117 Sacks				...	12	1	6
Bones ... ..	13	2	24		...	1	4	10
Other Metals ... ..	12	2	16		...	15	8	4
TOTAL						...	£525	17 4

Since July, 1940, a system of collection of Kitchen Waste by Pig Keepers has been in operation. The Pig Keepers collect the waste from 33 Communal Bins in different parts of the district approximately 110 gallons being collected monthly.

### Expenditure.

	£	s	d
Wages of Extra Tipman ... ..	109	13	8
„ Men to Brighthouse with Tins, etc.	22	8	0
„ Driver when solely on Salvage	64	5	8½
„ Mate when engaged as above ...	58	15	7
Hire of Lorry from Surveyor ... ..	136	11	6
Baling Press and Wire ... ..	31	9	2
Clothing ... ..	1	15	10½
<hr/>			
TOTAL COST ... ..	£424	19	6

NETT PROFIT, £100 17s. 10d.

### Extracts from Circulars, Letters, etc.

The basis suggested by the Ministry of Supply with regard to Waste Paper is "12 tons per thousand per annum"; it will be seen from the above figures that the annual average per thousand population for Mirfield is 7.58.

"The war situation demands intensified salvage effort.



