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URBAN DISTRICT OF NESTON.

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R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1939.

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NESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1939.

My appointment with the Council commenced in September, 1939, and the major part of the present Report therefore covers a period when my distinguished predecessor, Dr. J.B. Yeoman, was still in office.

This is my first Annual Report to the Council and it is the first which has been issued since the North-West Cheshire Combined Public Health District was divided. Normally it would include details of all matters which influence the health of the District's residents, but in view of the increasing pressure of work in Public Health Departments owing mainly to the operation of the Government's Civil Defence and Evacuation Schemes, the Ministry of Health have directed that Annual Reports are for the present to be restricted to essential matters only.

Vital statistics for the year may be regarded as very satisfactory. A high birth rate and a low infantile mortality rate are both gratifying features of the report. Diphtheria and scarlet fever were rather prevalent and attention is called in the Report to the high proportion of cases of scarlet fever which have been treated in hospital. The Council's scheme for free diphtheria immunisation is expected in the course of time to reduce the incidence of diphtheria in this District.

Duties in relation to Civil Defence and the many other emergency measures occupied a considerable part of the time of the Public Health Staff during the closing months of the year,



and in consequence the normal work of the Department was curtailed to some extent.

I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council for their support and to the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HATTON

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres).....	8,497
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1939).....	8,606
Number of inhabited houses.....	2,428
Rateable value.....	£68,758
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£260

The area is residential and agricultural.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Live ) Legitimate	141	82	59	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population..... 16.85
Births) Illegitimate	4	3	1	

Stillbirths                      1              -              1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births..... 6.89

Birth Rate for England and Wales..... 15.0

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths	117	60	57

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population..... 13.29

Death Rate for England and Wales..... 12.1

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
Puerperal sepsis.....	Nil	-
Other puerperal causes....	Nil	-
Total.....	Nil	-

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births..... 40.5

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..... 41.7

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..... -

Infant mortality rate for England and Wales..... 50.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	13
" " Measles (all ages).....	-
" " Whooping cough (all ages).....	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	-

Deaths at various ages during 1939:-

Age	Number of deaths
Under 1 year .. . . .	6
1 year and under 2 .. . . .	1
2 years and under 5 . . . . .	2
5 " " " 15 . . . . .	4
15 " " " 25 . . . . .	1
25 " " " 35 . . . . .	3
35 " " " 45 . . . . .	5
45 " " " 55 . . . . .	10
55 " " " 65 . . . . .	14
65 " " " 75 . . . . .	38
75 " " upwards . . . . .	33
Total .. . . .	117

#### Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Congenital debility & malformation, premature birth.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Meningitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other causes.....	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
Total.....	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	6



CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers....	-	-	-
2. Measles.....	-	-	-
3. Scarlet fever.....	-	1	1
4. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.....	4	-	4
6. Influenza.....	3	2	5
7. Encephalitis Lethargica.....	-	-	-
8. Cerebro-spinal fever.....	-	-	-
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	-	-	-
11. Syphilis.....	-	-	-
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis.....	-	-	-
13. Cancer, malignant disease.....	5	8	13
14. Diabetes.....	1	1	2
15. Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.....	1	3	4
16. Heart Disease.....	14	22	36
17. Aneurism.....	-	-	-
18. Other Circulatory Diseases.....	11	4	15
19. Bronchitis.....	2	1	3
20. Pneumonia (all forms).....	5	1	6
21. Other Respiratory Diseases.....	-	1	1
22. Peptic Ulcer.....	-	-	-
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)...	-	-	-
24. Appendicitis.....	-	1	1
25. Cirrhosis of Liver.....	-	-	-
26. Other Diseases of the Liver, etc..	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases.....	1	3	4
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	-	1	1
29. Puerperal Sepsis.....	-	-	-
30. Other Puerperal causes.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc...	1	-	1
32. Senility.....	-	-	-
33. Suicide.....	-	-	-
34. Other Violence.....	3	3	6
35. Other Defined Diseases.....	6	4	10
36. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown.....	1	-	1
37. Diarrhoea (2 years and over).....	-	-	-
38. Polio-encephalitis.....	1	-	1
Totals	60	57	117

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health: J. Hatton, M.D., D.P.H.  
Sanitary Inspector: A.E. Prince, A.R.San.I.,  
M.R.I.P.H.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Hoylake and Wirral.

Laboratory Facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

There has been no change in these services during the year.

Legislation in Force.

New Building Byelaws were adopted and came into operation during 1939.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The central area of the District is supplied by the Council's waterworks and the added areas are supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. Both supplies are controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examination.

Samples of water analysed for the West Cheshire Water Board have been consistently satisfactory, and with two exceptions the reports on the Council's water have been satisfactory also.

The samples mentioned in the Annual Report for 1938, which indicated pollution of the supply, were obtained from the wells at the Council's waterworks, and the report did not refer to any analysis of water supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board.



Drainage and Sewerage.

There are throughout the area a number of cesspools and so-called septic tanks and unremitting attention is necessary to prevent gross pollution of ditches and watercourses by the effluent from these receptacles. An extension of the sewerage facilities is necessary to deal effectively with these private plants.

Rivers and Streams.

A stream in the Willaston area is polluted by the effluent from an inefficient sewage disposal plant.

Closet Accommodation.

There has been no change in the position during 1939.

Public Cleansing.

The practice of direct labour in relation to the removal of household refuse was extended during the year under review to include the parts of the Urban District formerly within the Wirral Rural District Council. Much cause for complaint has been removed with the abandonment of the contract system. Disposal is by tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	14	4	-
Factories without mechanical power	16	8	-
* Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	5	4	-
* Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total	35	16	-

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)	4	4	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (Insufficient)	-	-	-	-
(Unsuitable)	8	8	-	-
(or defective)	-	-	-	-
(Not separate)	-	-	-	-
(for sexes)	-	-	-	-
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 Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	2	2	-	-
Total	16	16	-	-



		NOTICES SERVED		RESULTS OF SERVICE OF NOTICES		PROSECUTIONS	
		STATUTORY	INFORMAL	COMPLIED WITH	OUTSTANDING	INSTITUTED	PENDING
Dwellinghouses:-							
Inspected on Complaints	299	7	54	57	4	-	-
Re Infectious Disease	156	-	10	8	2	-	-
Housing Acts on Complaints, etc.	318	-	48	46	2	-	-
House to House Inspection	56	-	20	17	3	-	-
Overcrowding	12	-	2	2	-	-	-
Tents, Vans and Sheds	119	-	1	1	-	-	-
Factories and Workshops Acts:-							
Underground Bakehouses	4	1	1	2	-	-	-
Other Bakehouses	16	-	5	5	-	-	-
Laundries	3	-	1	1	-	-	-
Outworkers	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workplaces	20	-	8	8	-	-	-
Other Workplaces	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theatres and Cinemas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cowsheds	105	-	11	11	-	-	-
Dairies and Milkshops	17	-	3	3	-	-	-
Milk Samples	3	-	2	2	-	-	-
Premises used for Preparation of food	120	-	12	11	1	-	-
Fried Fish and Chips Shops	6	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ice Cream Premises	8	-	3	3	-	-	-
Water Samples	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughter House	248	-	2	2	-	-	-
Pigs, Fowls and other Animals	11	-	4	4	-	-	-
Stables	3	-	2	2	-	-	-
Schools	5	-	1	1	-	-	-
Sewers, Ventilators, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Street Gullies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Back Passages	3	-	1	1	-	-	-
Drains Inspected	10	2	8	10	-	-	-
Excavations made	18	-	10	10	-	-	-
Smoke tested	12	-	5	5	-	-	-
Water tested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	54	-	20	14	6	-	-
Refuse Collection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refuse Disposal	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	10	-	8	8	-	-	-
Cats and Mice Destruction Act	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke Observations	48	-	2	2	-	-	-
Smoke Complaints visited	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shops Acts - Inspections	13	-	3	3	-	-	-
Pools, Ditches, etc.	44	-	6	5	1	-	-
Privy middens, etc.	54	1	4	5	-	-	-
Public Conveniences	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
Licensed Premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashpits and Bins	39	3	2	5	-	-	-
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1861	14	261	256	19	-	-

### Shops and Offices.

Inspection of 13 premises were made during the year.

### Camping Sites.

1. Number of sites in use in 1939..... 1
2. Number of Licences issued..... Nil
3. Estimated maximum number of  
campers resident at any one time..... 30

### Smoke Abatement.

48 smoke observations were made during the year and informal action was taken to reduce the emission of smoke from faulty chimneys.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

The water from the privately owned pool at Parkgate was examined and the Bacteriologist's report is as follows:-

Probable number of Coli Aerogenes	
organisms per 100 c.c.	= 50
Agar Count at 37° per c.c.	= 20
Agar Count at 22° per c.c.	= 50
No organisms of the Enteric Group isolated.	
B. Coli Faecal Type 1	Present
Streptococci	None found
Welchii	Present

Conclusion:- These findings indicate that the water is reasonably satisfactory for swimming bath purposes.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. No. of houses found to be infested (a) Council houses Nil.  
(b) Other houses 2
2. No. of houses disinfested (a) Council houses Nil.  
(b) Other houses 2
3. Method employed: spraying with a proprietary insecticide was found to be effective.

### Schools.

All the elementary schools in the area are supplied from the public water supply. With the exception of the Burton Church School all have water closets. During the year plans for the installation of a water carriage system at Burton were approved.

### Housing.

Some 56 inspections were made under the Housing Act. The concentration of activity in other directions necessarily curtailed any intensive work and reliance was made mainly upon the Public Health Act for the remedying of defects brought to notice.



Six houses whose condition had been under consideration for a long time were the subject of notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and were demolished.

#### Milk Supply.

There are 38 registered cowkeepers, 23 of whom are "accredited" producers.

Special designations: licenses were granted to

Bottle and sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Sell T.T. "Certified" Milk	3
"Accredited" Supplementary licenses	2
Pasteurised	1
	<hr/>
Total	7
	<hr/>

#### Meat and Other Foods.

229 visits were paid to the slaughterhouses, and all of the following carcasses were inspected:-

Beasts	318
Calves	518
Pigs	325
Sheep	1674
	<hr/>
Total	2835
	<hr/>

The total weight of meat condemned was 6 tons,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cwt., of which 5 tons, 7 cwt. was tuberculous.

#### Adulteration, etc.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

132 cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during the year. Details of these are given in the adjoining table.

50 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, all of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital and treated with diphtheria anti-toxin.

One case of meningococcal meningitis, a young infant, was reported, and the patient recovered after treatment in hospital.

Scarlet fever was more prevalent than has been the case in recent years, a total of 72 cases occurring during the year. Of these cases 65 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. While

the present mild form of the disease continues, isolation of such a high proportion of cases in hospital will be of little value in checking the spread of scarlet fever infection, and a more careful selection of the cases actually admitted will release many hospital beds for more important uses. As far as possible cases of scarlet fever should be isolated at home, and admissions to the Isolation Hospital should be limited to those cases which fall into the following categories:-

Unsuitable accommodation for isolation and treatment at home.

Severe type of illness or complications necessitating hospital treatment.

Lack of nursing facilities at home.

Cases in houses adjoining business or public premises, particularly those where milk is produced or handled.

Cases where the head of the home would lose wages if nursing at home were insisted upon.

9 cases of pneumonia were reported during the year, none of which presented any unusual features.

There were no cases of dysentery or malaria.

A scheme for the free immunisation of the public against diphtheria has been prepared and is under consideration by the Council.



Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1939.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified														Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	At ages - Years														
		Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over			
Scarlet fever.....	72	-	3	2	8	2	37	13	2	3	1	1	-	65	1	
Diphtheria.....	50	-	-	2	1	2	28	9	2	6	-	-	-	50	4	
Pneumonia.....	9	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	2	-	7	6	
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Totals	132	2	3	4	9	4	69	22	4	9	3	3	-	123	11	

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken during 1939 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 " 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 " 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 " 25	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 " 35	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 " 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 " 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 " 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	2	-	1	1	-	-



