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URBAN DISTRICT OF NESTON

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

FOR THE YEAR

1940

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NESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1940.

In war time there are objections to the publication of Annual Reports of the usual size but the health of the Districts' Residents is as important as ever and this report has been prepared in the form of a summary of the essential details so that full continuity of statistical records can be resumed when Peace returns.

The War has created many new problems, and changes and depletion of staffs resulting from the calls of the Armed Services have added to the difficulties of Local Authorities. The re-distribution of population which preceded and followed the air attacks of 1940 has had far reaching effects and the organisation of the Emergency and the Civil Defence Services has brought with it many additional responsibilities.

With the beginning of air raids the War Emergency Services have been tried and despite many unforeseen circumstances they have acquitted themselves remarkably well. The voluntary Organisations and notably the British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Services, have all given invaluable help in the staffing and organisation of the various branches of Civil Defence which are the responsibility of the Public Health Department and great credit is due to the members of these bodies for the splendid effort which has been made.

Shelter life has not effected this District to any material extent and although its influence on the public health was watched with some anxiety throughout the country generally, events have shown that many of our misgivings were groundless.

Vital statistics for 1940 compare favourably with those of the preceding year. A high birth rate and a low infantile mortality rate has been maintained whilst a sharp fall in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever has been recorded. Measles and Whooping Cough are now notifiable and the former disease has been rather prevalent.

I wish to express my thanks to the 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-1940) ...	8,956
Number of inhabited houses	2,428
Rateable value	£68,149
Sum represented by a penny rate	£260

The area is residential and agricultural.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>		
Live Births - (Legitimate	151	76	75	Birth Rate per 1,000	
(Illegitimate	5	3	2	estimated resident	
				population	17.42
Still Births	4	-	4		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					25.
Birth Rate for England and Wales					14.6

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>		
Deaths	117	52	65		
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population					13.06
Death Rate for England and Wales					14.3

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

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

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	30.67
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	31.64
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales	55.

/Continued

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	1

Deaths at various ages during 1940:-

Age	Number of deaths
Under 1 year	5
1 year and under 2	1
2 years and under 5	3
5 years and under 15	2
15 years and under 25	4
25 years and under 35	1
35 years and under 45	4
45 years and under 55	9
55 years and under 65	22
65 years and under 75	30
75 years and upwards	36
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
Premature birth, congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
Total ..	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	5

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. Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	1
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	1	-	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	4	7
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	2	2	4
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	1	1
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M.); uterus (F.)	2	-	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	2	2
15. Cancer of breast	-	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites ..	5	2	7
17. Diabetes	-	1	1
18. Inter-cranial vascular lesions	7	9	16
19. Heart disease	14	22	36
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	-	2
21. Bronchitis	-	2	2
22. Pneumonia	2	2	4
23. Other respiratory diseases ..	-	1	1
24. Ulceration of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ..	1	-	1
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases ..	3	2	5
28. Nephritis	1	2	3
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature birth	-	1	1
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases	-	-	-
33. Suicide	-	-	-
34. Road traffic accidents	1	-	1
35. Other violent causes	1	3	4
36. All other causes	5	6	11
Totals	52	65	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, D.P.A. (L'pool)
M.R.I.P.H.H., A.D.San.I.

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

<u>Bye-laws:-</u>	<u>Date of Making</u>	<u>Date of Confirmation</u>
Building	1st May, 1939.	13th. Nov. 1939.
Nuisances	13th Mar. 1938.	1st. Jul. 1938.
Slaughterhouses	1st Jan. 1937.	23rd. Mar. 1937.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

The central area of the District is supplied by the Council's water-works 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 the reports on the Council's water have been satisfactory also.

The Council have under consideration recommendations for improving their undertaking and for extending and affording further protection to the sources of supply.

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 1940.

Public Cleansing

The removal of household refuse is undertaken by the Surveyor's Department. 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	20	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	39	10	-
*Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	3	-	-
* Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total	62	12	-

2. Defects found (see next page)

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.)	3	3	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-
(Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(Unsuitable	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (or defective	6	5	-	-
(Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	1	1	-	-
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or Offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfers of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total	12	11	-	-

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE		NOTICES SERVED		RESULTS OF SERVICE OF NOTICES		PROSECUTIONS	
		STATUTORY	FORMAL	COMPLIED WITH	OUTSTANDING	INSTITUTED	PENDING
Dwellinghouses:-							
Inspected on Complaints	211	2	49	42	9	-	-
Re Infectious Disease	65	1	8	8	1	-	-
Housing Acts on Complaints, etc.	496	-	63	50	13	-	-
House to House Inspection	24	-	8	7	1	-	-
Overcrowding	6	-	1	1	-	-	-
Tents, Vans and Sheds	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
Factories and Workshops Acts:-							
Underground Bakehouses	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Bakehouses	20	-	6	6	-	-	-
Laundries	8	-	2	2	-	-	-
Outworkers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workplaces	30	-	5	4	1	-	-
Other Workplaces	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theatres and Cinemas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cowsheds	121	-	23	20	3	-	-
Dairies and Milkshops	18	-	2	2	-	-	-
Milk Samples	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premises used for Preparation of food	90	-	18	18	-	-	-
Fried Fish and Chips Shops	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ice Cream Premises	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Samples and Visits	46	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughter House	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs, Fowls and other Animals	17	-	10	8	2	-	-
Stables	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Schools	20	-	3	3	-	-	-
Sewers, Ventilators, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Street Gullies	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Back Passages	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
Drains Inspected	29	1	12	10	3	-	-
Excavations made	25	-	18	18	-	-	-
Smoke tested	10	-	2	2	-	-	-
Water tested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	32	8	15	17	6	-	-
Refuse Collection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refuse Disposal	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	34	-	20	20	-	-	-
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke Observations	4	-	4	4	-	-	-
Smoke Complaints visited	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shop Acts - Inspections	18	-	5	5	-	-	-
Pools, Ditches, etc.	34	-	14	13	1	-	-
Privy Middens, etc.	39	-	3	3	-	-	-
Public Conveniences	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licensed Premises	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashpits and Bins	18	-	13	13	-	-	-
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		1528	12	306	278 40	-	-

Shops and Offices

Inspection of 18 premises were made during the year

Camping Sites

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|-----|
| 1. | Number of sites in use in 1940 | .. .. . | Nil |
| 2. | Number of Licences issued | .. .. . | Nil |
| 3. | Estimated maximum number of campers resident | | |
| | at any one time | .. .. . | Nil |

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 | 1 |
| 2. | No. of houses disinfested | (a) Council houses | Nil |
| | | (b) Other houses | 1 |
| 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. All have water closets. During the year the installation of a water carriage system at Burton was completed.

Housing.

No 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.

Milk Supply

There are 38 registered cowkeepers, 24 of whom are "accredited" producers.

Special designations: Licenses were granted to:-

Bottle and sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Sell T.T. "Certified" Milk	4
"Accredited" Supplementary licenses	1
Pasteurised	2
Total	8

Meat and Other Foods

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

Beasts	20
Calves	12
Pigs	26
Sheep	76
Total	134

Under the Ministry of Food control of meat scheme private slaughtering ceased on 14th. January, 1940.

Adulteration, etc.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

180 cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during 1940. Details of these cases are given in the table.

No cases of malaria or dysentery occurred in the Urban District but one case of enteric fever and nine cases of meningococcal meningitis were reported resulting in one death from meningitis.

The incidence of scarlet fever was considerably lower during the year and there was a total of sixteen cases compared with 72 in 1939. There was also a decline in the notification of diphtheria and 39 cases were reported. All these patients were treated with diphtheria antitoxin and isolated in hospital, and with one exception they all recovered.

Measles and whooping cough are now notifiable diseases and measles was prevalent during the course of the whole year.

Fifteen cases of pneumonia were also reported, eight of these patients were removed to hospital and four died.

Details of the Council's scheme for free diphtheria immunisation have now been completed and the scheme will be introduced early in the new year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1940.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified At Ages - Years													Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	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	16	-	-	4	1	2	7	-	-	2	-	1	1	14	-
Diphtheria	39	-	-	-	-	3	23	8	-	-	-	1	1	39	1
Enteric Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	15	2	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	2	2	3	-	8	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever	9	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	2	3	-	-	1	9	1
Measles	98	4	7	7	10	9	52	1	2	5	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	180	6	7	12	14	15	88	10	5	16	3	4	-	71	6

TUBERCULOSIS

No action has been taken during 1940 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract.

New Cases and Mortality During 1940

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 to 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 to 25	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
25 to 35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
45 to 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 to 65	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	3	-	2	3	4	-	-

