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URBAN DISTRICT OF NESTON

REPORT

of the

Acting Medical Officer of Health

J. B. YEOMAN,
M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.Ph.

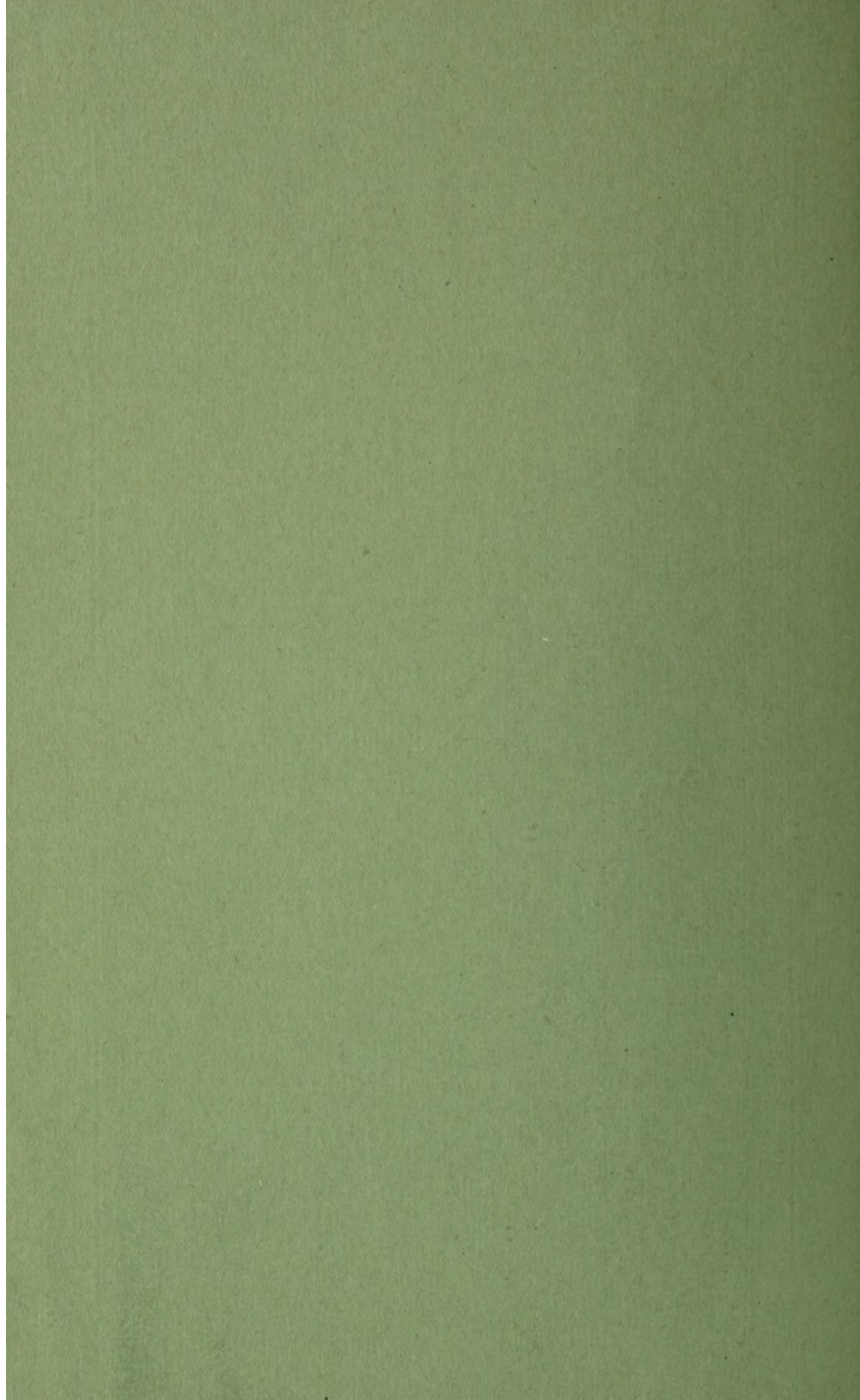
Barrister-at-Law

For the Year 1943.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. HATTON, M.D., D.Ph.

(on active service)



To comply with wartime requirements this report for 1943 is meagre and a mere unclothed skeleton by comparison with the detailed treatment, item by item, in statistical tables, commentaries and suggestions, which were demanded by the Ministry in pre-war days. However, it serves the purpose of obviating any rupture in the sequence of Annual Reports.

The Chief Sanitary Inspectors in Hoylake and Wirral and the Inspector in Neston, provide the matters which are concerned with environmental hygiene. Without the aid of these officials and the valuable assistance which they freely proffered to me, my task in the resumption of duty would have been much more onerous than it proved.

To each of these Officers I tender my thanks.

J. B. YEOMAN,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	8,497
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1943)	9,275
(A decrease of 370 on the previous year.)	
Number of inhabited houses	2,574
Rateable value	£70,985
Sum represented by a penny rate	£280

The area is residential and agricultural.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1943.

	Total	Males	Female
Live Births (Legitimate)	164	91	73
(Illegitimate)	6	1	5
	170	92	78
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			18.3

Still Births	2	2	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			11.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales			16.5

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	109	59	50
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			11.7
Death Rate for England and Wales			12.1

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

Puerperal sepsis	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—
Total	Nil	—

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	Nil	—	—
All infants per 1,000 live births			41.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			42.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales			49.0

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	18
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diarrhoea (under two years)	—

Deaths at various ages during 1943 :—

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	5
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	1
5 years and under 15	—
15 years and under 25....	3
25 years and under 35	2
35 years and under 45	4
45 years and under 55	8
55 years and under 65	13
65 years and under 75	41
75 years and upwards	32
Total ...	109

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 and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Congenital Malformation	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	—	—	—	—	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 causes of death.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System....	2	—	2
7.—Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	2	2
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M), uterus (F)	—	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	2	7
15. Cancer of breast	—	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	4	10
17. Diabetes	1	—	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	5	10	15
19. Heart disease	20	18	38
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1	2
21. Bronchitis	2	—	2
22. Pneumonia	—	—	—
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	—	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	3	3	6
28. Nephritis	1	—	1
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	1	2	3
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	2	1	3
33. Suicide	1	—	1
34. Road traffic accidents	2	—	2
35. Other violent causes	1	—	1
36. All other causes	3	5	8
TOTALS ...	59	50	109

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

J. Hatton, M.D., D.P.H. (on active service)..

Acting Medical Officer of Health :

J. B. Yeoman, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.P.H., Barrister-at-law.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. E. Prince, D.P.A. (L'pool), A.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health is also Acting 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.

There has been no change since the previous Report.

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 the reports on the Council's water have been satisfactory also.

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.

Swimming Baths.

Water from the privately-owned swimming bath and paddling pool at Parkgate was subjected to chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. In each case the sample is reported to be considered suitable for swimming bath purposes.

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 1943.

Public Cleansing.

During the year the supervision of the removal and disposal of refuse was transferred to the Public Health Department. In present circumstances, however, no departure has been made from the system formerly in operation.

Disposal is by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

1. Inspection for purposes of provision as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	23	8	—
Factories without mechanical power	62	15	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers premises.)	3	1	—
Electrical Station should be reckoned as factories			
TOTAL ...	88	24	—

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	5	5	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2.)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3.)....	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4.)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S. 6.)	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences ... { Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(S. 7.) { Unsuitable or defective	10	10	—	—
{ Not separate	3	3	—	—
{ for sexes	3	3	—	—
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).				
TOTAL ...	24	24	—	—

Number and Nature of Inspections made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Out-standing	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling Houses:—							
Inspected on complaints	306	3	42	42	3	—	—
Re Infectious Disease	109	—	10	10	—	—	—
Housing Acts on Complaints	83	—	62	54	8	—	—
House to House Inspection	92	—	26	22	4	—	—
Overcrowding	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	14	—	3	3	—	—	—
TOTAL carried forward ...	612	3	133	131	15	—	—

Number and Nature of Inspections made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Out-standing	Instituted	Pending
Brought forward	612	3	133	131	15	—	—
Factories & Workshops Acts:							
Underground Bakehouses	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other Bakehouses	10	—	4	4	—	—	—
Laundries	8	—	1	1	—	—	—
Outworkers	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workplaces	67	—	18	17	1	—	—
Other Workplaces	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Theatres and Cinemas	5	—	2	1	1	—	—
Cowsheds	201	—	38	37	1	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	75	—	6	6	—	—	—
Milk Samples	6	—	1	1	—	—	—
Premises used for preparation of food	148	—	29	25	4	—	—
Fried Fish and Chip Shops....	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Samples	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs, Fowl and other Animals	42	—	19	18	1	—	—
Stables	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
Schools	63	—	2	1	1	—	—
Sewers, Ventilators, etc.	9	—	2	2	—	—	—
Street Gullies	14	—	1	1	—	—	—
Back Passages	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drains Inspected	14	—	7	7	—	—	—
Excavations made	7	2	2	4	—	—	—
Smoke Tested	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Tested	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Buildings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	53	—	12	12	—	—	—
Refuse Collection	125	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal	92	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	16	—	13	13	—	—	—
Rats & Mice Destruction Act	125	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke complaints visited	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts—Inspections	85	—	14	13	1	—	—
Pools, Ditches, etc.	12	—	3	3	—	—	—
Privy Middens, etc.	37	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Bins	147	—	62	62	—	—	—
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1995	5	381	361	25	—	—

Foodstuffs Dealt With During 1943.

Article	Tins	Weight lbs.
Meat Products—Tinned	45	143 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bacon	—	17
Fish—Tinned	36	28 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vegetables—Tinned	82	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit—Dried	—	31
Milk—Tinned	54	54
Butter	—	3
Cereals	—	190
Biscuits—Welfare	2	60
	219	637 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total weight ... 5 cwts. 2 qrs. 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.		

Shops and Offices.

Inspections of 48 premises were made during the year.

Camping Sites.

1. Number of sites in use in 1943	Nil
2. Number of Licenses issued	Nil
3. Estimated number of campers at one time	Nil

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with smoke nuisances.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No. of houses found to be infested :

(a) Council Houses	1
(b) Other Houses	Nil

No. of houses disinfested :

(a) Council Houses	1
(b) Other Houses	Nil

Method employed :—

The house was treated with a proprietary gaseous disinfectant. At the end of the year the house was free from bed-bugs.

Schools.

All the elementary schools in the area are supplied from the public water supply. All have water closets.

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, 25 of whom are "accredited" producers; and four producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Special designations : Licences were granted to :—

Sell T.T. "Certified" Milk	....	....	....	....	1
"Accredited" Supplementary Licenses	....	....	....	....	1
Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	2
Total					4

Meat and other Foods.

Inspection of meat and other foods was carried out during the year and 148 visits were paid for this purpose.

Adulteration, etc.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council. The following information is supplied by the Chief Inspector.

List of Samples in the Neston Urban District during the Year Ended 31st December, 1943.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Aspirins	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Curry Powder	1	—
Castor Oil	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Epsom Salts	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Milk	12	3*
Oatmeal	1	—
Sugar	1	—
Sponge Mixture	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
24		3

*Two samples were deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 4.1 percent. and 7.3 per cent. respectively, but as such samples were abnormal, no action followed.

One sample was 6.6 per cent. deficient in fat and the seller was cautioned.

SCABIES.

95 cases of Scabies were treated at the Out-Patients' Department of the Cottage Hospital. There appeared a greater readiness on the part of sufferers and contacts to accept the treatment available, and the ascertainment of a majority of the cases was by patients presenting themselves voluntarily for treatment.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

139 cases of infectious disease other than tuberculosis were notified during 1943. Details of these are given below.

		England and Wales	126 C.B.'s & Great Towns inc. London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census	London Ad- ministrative County	Neston
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population						
Typhoid Fever	....	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal Fever	....	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	.11
Scarlet Fever	....	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	1.73
Whooping Cough	....	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	1.40
Diphtheria	....	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	0.97
Erysipelas	....	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.32
Smallpox	....	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	....	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	10.35
Pneumonia	....	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	.11
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)						
Puerperal Fever	}	11.68	15.11	9.26	3.05	5.79
Puerperal Pyrexia					15.23	

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

The Council's scheme for free diphtheria immunisation made satisfactory progress though the response of parents of children under five years of age has been rather disappointing. Details of the children who have been treated at the Council's clinics are given below.

Return for Twelve months ending 31st December, 1943.

	Years of Age	
	Under 5	Between 5 and 15
Approximate estimated number of children in the district at 31st December, 1943 ...	750	1100
Number of children who received the full course of immunisation between 1st January and 31st December, 1943	141	32
Percentage of children immunised to child population	46%	95.4%

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1943.

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	16	—	—	1	—	—	10	1	2	1	1	—	—	5	—
Diphtheria	9	—	—	—	2	—	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	13	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—
Measles	96	2	5	8	10	13	40	15	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	1	1	2	3	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	139	3	6	11	15	15	59	18	3	4	2	1	2	19	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken during 1943 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 a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	—

