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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.
INTERIM REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1943.



Health Department,
 Latham House,
 Cross Lane,
 Newton-le-Willows.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my interim Annual Report on the Public Health Services during 1943.

Certain vital statistics are again omitted on the instruction of the Ministry of Health for security reasons but it is expected that full details will be published for all the war years after the cessation of hostilities.

The District has remained free from serious disease during the year and, on the whole, the general health is good. It would appear, however, from statements made by general practitioners, that there is a definite increase in minor illness and there is little doubt that the population is showing the effects of continued war strain.

The Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, and Hospital staffs have maintained a good standard of efficiency throughout the year and the relief from the more urgent Civil Defence responsibilities due to the relative absence of air-raids has been very welcome.

The opening of a Wartime Nursery called for a good deal of additional administrative work for the Maternity and Child Welfare staff during the equipping and staffing of the Nursery.

Close co-operation between the Nursery and Clinic staffs has been established and is being maintained with benefit to the welfare of children in the District.

On the instruction of the Ministry of Health, the Health Visitor during 1943 devoted a greater proportion of her time to the Council's Immunisation Scheme. It has not been possible to accede to the further suggestion of the Ministry of Health that the Health Visitor should devote more time to combatting the incidence of louse infestation in young children. There is a limit to the amount of work one Health Visitor can do in a District of this size, but reference to procedures already operative is made later in the Report.

The Council readily adopted the new scales of salaries for nurses laid down in the First and Second Reports of the Nurses Salaries Committee immediately on publication and these higher salaries have been paid since the 1st April, 1943. The other conditions of employment recommended in the Rushcliffe Report will be inaugurated as soon as conditions permit.

Infectious Diseases:

The incidence of notifiable diseases was again low except for measles which accounted for 552 of the 707 cases of infectious disease notified.

As predicted in my Report for 1942 the expected measles epidemic materialised between December 1942 and March 1943. The monthly notifications during this period were:

1942	November	13
1942	December	120
1943	January	271
1943	February	213
1943	March	51
1943	April	8

The District was completely free from measles during the last five months of the year.

Scarlet fever cases were fewer and all extremely mild in type but whooping cough showed a sharp rise towards the end of 1943 and can be expected to continue prevalent in early 1944.

Diphtheria, twenty cases, showed a further decline and was the lowest incidence for ten years. All the cases were of a mild kind and there were no deaths. The highest incidence again occurred in the 5 to 10 years age group (45%).

Three contact carriers were discovered and isolated in hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

During the year, 205 children under 5 years and 39 children over 5 years of age were immunised under the Council's Scheme at the Welfare Centre. The names of 289 children who have now passed their fifteenth birthday and are therefore beyond the age limit of the Scheme were removed from the register.

This alteration accounts for the slight fall in the percentage of children immunised as set out on page 7.

Again the transfer of pre-school children to the school age groups on attaining the age of five years accounts for the fall in the percentage of immunised children under five years and the consequent increase in the percentage immunised in the 5 to 15 years age groups.

The total of all immunised children between the ages of one and fifteen years for 1943 is 73.3% as against 74.4% in 1942.

One child immunised under the Council's Scheme developed mild diphtheria. Seven children reported to have been immunised privately developed mild diphtheria; one had not been immunised for seven years. Proof of immunisation by private practitioners was not forthcoming in all these cases and the statements of some of the parents may be open to doubt.

Isolation Hospital:

The number of cases of infectious disease admitted to the Isolation Hospital showed a further decrease on the low figures for 1942, particularly so for local cases. The admissions were Newton-le-Willows U.D. 84, Haydock U.D. 54, Warrington R.D. 64, H. M. Forces 11; total 213.

Only two deaths occurred in the Hospital, both being due to tuberculous meningitis.

The staff has been just adequate as a result of the low number of admissions which enabled two wards to be kept closed most of the year. However, many difficulties have to be met in wartime and I am grateful to the Matron, Mrs. Crockett, for the effective way in which all problems have been met and dealt with so that the Hospital could continue to function smoothly and efficiently.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

Attendances at the Child Welfare Centre remain high and the condition of the children of the District as a whole is good.

It became necessary towards the end of the year for administrative reasons to arrange for the sale of milk foods etc., at times other than during Clinic sessions but the fear that this alteration would affect attendances was unfounded.

The attendance of expectant mothers again showed an increase on the previous year and a greater number of mothers were confined in institutions than ever before.

In spite of increased supervision and hospital confinements, stillbirths and deaths attributed to prematurity showed a sharp rise over the figures for the first three war years.

There is a strong assumption that this is an indication of the prolonged strain of wartime life on the mothers of the District.

The issue of iron-containing tablets to expectant mothers during the last three months of pregnancy was continued with benefit and in addition the issue of calcium tablets was begun during the year.

In a number of cases where the position of the child was abnormal the necessary correction was carried out during ante-natal attendance.

Promotion of Cleanliness:

Although additional work in this connection has not been practicable, certain procedures which have been in operation for some considerable time were continued and implemented.

Lethane oil and Anascabex, for lousy heads and scabies respectively, are available at the Welfare Centre for issue as required. The Health Visitor when visiting takes the opportunity to enquire about all children in the household and advises accordingly.

Appropriate leaflets published by the Central Council for Health Education are distributed as necessary.

From observations at the Welfare Centre and during routine visiting, there does not appear to be any marked increase in verminous conditions in the pre-school children of the District.

Wartime Nursery:

A standard type pre-fabricated nursery building was erected off Patterson Street during the year by the Council's Housing and Works Department, and was opened for the reception of children on the 30th August. The Nursery is open day and night from Monday to Saturday noon.

By the end of the year there were 24 names on the register of which four remained in the Nursery day and night.

Whilst being central enough for the convenience of working mothers, the Nursery is pleasantly situated in well laid grounds. The children are all extremely happy and have shown marked benefit from their life in the Nursery.

The Matron, Mrs. Kendal, and staff maintain a high standard of efficiency and the older children are fortunate in being in the charge of Mrs. Booth, a certificated teacher with unusual ability for nursery education under most enjoyable conditions.

In conclusion I have to thank the Health Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, the officers and staffs of the Departments, Hospital and Nursery, and the ladies of the Voluntary Committee, for their co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

S. K. APPLETON.

Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS. (Subject to amendment by information received from Registrar General at later date).

Birth rate 16.91 per 1,000 population
Infant death rate 72.04 per 1,000 births
Maternal death rate 2.88 per 1,000 births
Death rate 11.50 per 1,000 population

Principal causes of death

Cancer 32
Heart Disease 57
Bronchitis 24
Cerebral haemorrhage..... 21

Infectious diseases

Cases notified Rem. to hospl.

Scarlet fever	46 x	40 x
Diphtheria	40 +	36 +
Measles	552	4
Whooping Cough	48	-
Pneumonia	33	-
Cerebrospinal fever	2 ∅	1 ∅
Erysipelas	4	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	3
	<u>732</u>	<u>87</u>

x 1 case was rediagnosed in Hospital.
+ 17 cases were found not to be Diphtheria
and 3 were carriers.
∅ 1 case rediagnosed in Hospital.

Tuberculosis - new cases notified Pulmonary - 22
Non pulmonary - 14

General.

There was little change in the number of houses, rateable value, and other statistics relating to the district.

2. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff. There was no change in the personnel of the department during the year.

Ambulances. There was no change in the year.

Laboratory facilities, Clinics, Hospitals serving district and Cleansing services.

There have been no change in these matters during the year.

3. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There has been no important change during the year. Sixteen bacteriological and one chemical examination of the water supply were made and all reports but one were satisfactory. A repeat sample upon the unsatisfactory report was satisfactory. The water continues to be supplied from the deep wells and is chlorinated: all dwellings are supplied by mains directly to the houses except in two instances and the supply is constant. Complaints are becoming more frequent of cases where supplies are restricted in quantity by the obstruction of service pipes by a sandy sediment.

4. HOUSING.

The activities of the department in this connection have been restricted by control of labour and materials and the Sanitary Inspectors have again been obliged to confine requirements mainly to the abatement of nuisances and dangerous conditions. There have been no new houses built in the course of the year.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the district and all butcher's meat is supplied from Central Depots. Regular observation is kept and special visits are made where necessary to food premises, market stalls, dairies, cowsheds, and vehicles. Samples of milk supplied to schools are taken on behalf of the County Council and seven such samples were taken in 1943. Five samples of milk have also been examined bacteriologically and for Tubercle bacilli. Two samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory; none was positive for Tubercle bacilli. Unsatisfactory reports were referred to the vendors and the Health Authorities for the areas of production.

The following food samples were submitted for analysis under the Food & Drugs Act, and all were reported upon as "Genuine", although one was slightly deficient in fat but not such as to be an offence: further samples from the same vendor were satisfactory.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bacon	2	-	2
Cheese	2	-	2
Margarine	1	-	1
Lard	3	-	3
Butter	2	-	2
Milk	7	16	16
<i>Cambridge, Ch. Rich of Kingston Tablets</i>	1	-	1
<i>Cham. Salt</i>	1	-	1
Total	12	16	28

The following foods were specially examined by
the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:-

Examined and found fit for food:-

	T	C	Q	approx. weight Lbs.
7 Pigs	13	-	-	24
118 Cans Chopped Ham			1	8
4 Cans Plums				10
1 Can Pork Luncheon Meat				6
1 Can Peaches				1
153 Cans Salmon	1	1		13
112 lbs. Rolled Oats	1	-		-
27 lbs. Butter				27
2 lbs. Margarine				2
38 Cans Condensed Milk			1	6
47 Cans Pilchards				18
Total	1	2	3	3

Examined and found unfit for food:-

	T	C	Q	Lbs.
3 Cans Beef Brisket				11
1/2 lb. Water Biscuits				1/2
4 Cans Household Milk				3
19 Cans Salmon				19
16 Cans Other Fish				8
2 Cans Rabbit				4
169 Cans Evaporated Milk	1	1		14
1 Can Vegetables				1
16 Cans Pork Luncheon Meat			2	8 1/2
88 Cans Chopped Ham	3		2	14
27 lbs. Beef				27
9 Cans Corned Beef			2	-
18 Cans Stewed Steak				18
68 Cans Fruit	1		2	-
10 Cans Peas				10
300 lbs. Rice	2		2	20
2 Cans Carrots				12 1/2
12 Cans Pork Sausage Meat				18
3 Cans Greengages				6
89 lbs. Haricot Beans			3	5 1/2
7 1/2 lbs. Chocolate				7 1/2
8 Cans Beans in Tomato				8
1 Can Beans with Pork				1
5 Cans Beans in Brine				5
336 lbs. Ham and Bacon	3		-	-
2 Cans Pork Roll				6
172 lbs. Cheese	1		2	4
21 lbs. Flour				21
462 lbs. Wet Fish	4		-	14
16 Cans Soup				16
68 lbs. Sausages			2	12
24 lbs. Tea				24
3 Cans Prepared Meals				4 1/2
290 lbs. Onions	2		2	10
112 lbs. Rolled Oats	1		-	-
14 lbs. Sultanias				14
3 Jars Jam				3
2 Jars Pickles				15
1 Can Ulster Roll				2
2 Cans Beef Loaf				1 1/2
Pif Offals				24
86 Bundles Sage				21
Total	1	6	2	23 1/2

Total approximate weight specially examined
2 tons 9 cwt. 1 qr. 26 1/2 lbs.

Food Treatment and Decontamination.

The Scheme for dealing with food affected by enemy action was maintained.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES - CONTROL.

Enquiries were made upon notification and disinfections carried out where necessary. The number of cases notified appears earlier in this report.

Primary visits by Inspectors	142
Secondary visits	50
Disinfections - Rooms I.D.	50
" Others	4
Miscellaneous Disinfections:	
	articles
Infectious Disease	1419
Civil Def. Services	42
Other L.As. I.D.	516
" " C.D. Services	30
Library Books	101
Miscellaneous	235
Total	2343

Disinfection of rooms and bedding is carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. Beddings is always disinfected in cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, cerebro-spinal fever, etc., and rooms are treated where requested.

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

The following table shows the number of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years, immunised under the Council's Scheme during the year:-

Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No.	121	159	124	147	156	159	220	199	209	216	197	268	219	245
	551 (46.8%)				2088 (69.5%)									
	2639 (61.6%)													

The addition of 500 children immunised by private practitioners gives the following approximate total percentages for the District:-

1 - 5 years	58%	}	1 - 15 years 73.32%
5 - 15 "	81.8%		

Pathological Specimens.

The following specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination:-

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Diphtheria	77	145	222
Typhoid & Para-typhoid	-	3	3
Tuberculosis spinal fluid	2	1	3
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	1	2
	80	150	230

7. VERMIN CONTROL.

All complaints of vermin are investigated and advice is given to tenants and landlords. The following special visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors:-

Verminous Premises	69
Rat Infestations	55
Premises treated	17
Rooms treated	46
Articles specially treated	16

8. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The 1943 totals are followed by the 1942 and 1941 figures for comparison.

<u>Attendances</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>
Ante-natal	768	526	471
Post-natal	4	4	2
Child Welfare Clinic ...	<u>7721</u>	<u>6418</u>	<u>5168</u>
Total	<u>8493</u>	<u>6948</u>	<u>5641</u>

Confinements in Institutions

Council's Scheme... ..	51	48	60
Private	68	11	29
Public Assistance	<u>9</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>15</u>
Total cases	128	<u>118</u>	<u>104</u>
Total births	129		

Health Visitor's visits

First visits	360	298	339
Other visits	3214	3210	2274
Expectant mothers	113	201	217
Infant life protection ...	23	31	31
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ..	21	-	10
Re Immunisation	417	460	-
Miscellaneous	<u>37</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>4189</u>	<u>4293</u>	<u>2875</u>

Cod liver oil and fruit juices under the National Scheme were issued through the Clinic as in 1942.

Two Mid-summer trips to Southport and two Christmas parties for mothers and children were organised by the Voluntary Committee.

Fewer mothers and children have been referred to the Lancashire County Council Clinic owing to the restrictions of war conditions.

Milk.

National Dried Milk Scheme	128 pkts. supplemented by Council.
Proprietary Dried Milk (Ostermilk, L.Brand, Cow & Gate, Trufood, Vitasac, Hemolac, M.O.Food).	11,000 pkts. sold.

Virol, malt, glucose, vitamin preparations and supplementary foods have also been supplied.

9. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Patients admitted to Hospital during 1943.

Disease	Newton	Haydock	Wigton Rural	H.M. Forces	Total	Deaths
Diphtheria	16	12	3	-	31	-
Suspected diphtheria	17	3	1	1	22	-
Diphtheria carriers	3	1	1	-	5	-
Scarlet Fever	38	33	48	-	119	-
Suspected Sc. Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Mening.	-	1	1	-	2	-
Suspected " "	1	-	2	-	3	-
Tuberculous " "	-	-	2	-	2	2
Measles	4	1	2	-	7	-
Erysipelas	2	1	2	-	5	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	-	2	-
Chicken Pox	-	1	-	-	1	-
Mumps	-	-	-	1	1	-
German Measles	-	-	-	9	9	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	84	54	64	11	213	2

In dealing with the above cases the ambulance travelled 2371 miles in the year.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

General Ambulance.

Journeys in 1943 554
 No. patients carried 1364
 No. miles in 1943 - Daimler 1487 }
 - Humber 10537 } - 12024

11. SANITARY INSPECTORS.

The following tables indicate the nature and number of visits made, defects noted and remedied, and notices served:-

Total number of visits made - 1900.

Analysis of visits made

Dwellinghouse - Housing Act	1
Dwellinghouse - Public Health Acts	92
Re-inspections- Public Health Acts	471
- Housing Act	3
Tents, Vans, Sheds.	37
Piggeries	8
Courts, passages	6
House drainage	191
Rat Infestations	55
Milk Sampling	16
Ditches, Watercourses	3
Ashpits and Bins	51
Cesspools, Septic Tanks	8
Tips	45
Keeping of Animals	6
Slaughterhouses	4
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	11
Meat Inspection	1
Other Food Premises and Stalls	125
Food Poisoning	4
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	33
Factories	5
Water Sampling	21
Food & Drugs Act	24
Offensive Accumulations	2
Places of Entertainment	5
Schools	14
Verminous Premises	69

Infectious Disease - Primary Visits	...	142
- Secondary Visits	...	50
Appointments - Owners	...	21
- Contractors	...	18
- Officials	...	15
- Miscellaneous	...	3
Shops Acts	...	11
Salvage	...	143
Food Inspection	...	79
Bakehouses	...	4
Public Conveniences	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	1
Lodging House	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	99

Complaints received and investigated ... 172

Sanitary Improvements

Downspouts disconnected from drains	...	9
Drainage - Repairs and improvements	...	5
Disused Ashpits abolished	...	1

In the following table of defects specified in notices and the table of notices served, the figures under columns "Complied" and "No. of defects - remedied" includes compliance, and remedy of defects upon notices which were outstanding at the end of 1942.

Analysis of Defects specified in Notices.

Type of Defect	Public Health Act	
	Noted	Remedied
Choked drains	32	29
Defective, insuff. or unsuitable drainage	3	3
Defective sinks	6	6
Defective and/or insufficient waste pipe	8	8
Defective water pipe ' insuff. supply	9	9
Insufficient water supply	7	16
Defective water supply cisterns	3	3
Defective wash-house	1	1
Defective sash cords etc.	11	14
Defective window frames	5	10
Defective external eills	6	3
Absence of or insufficient ventilation	3	1
Defective floor paving	4	5
Damp floor paving	1	1
Defective floor boards and under-timbers	4	3
Wallplaster - damp	8	11
- defective	14	4
- damp and defective	5	7
Defective brickwork and pointing of walls and chimney stacks	19	26
Defective roof and chimney flashings	57	41
Defective ceiling plaster	8	9
Damp ceiling plaster	2	-
Damp and defective ceiling plaster	2	1
Defective and/or insufficient paving and drainage - yards and approaches	13	6
Defective yard walls and fences	6	4
Defective yard gates	4	12
Defective paving and drainage of passages	1	1
Defective closet - structures	19	12
- roofs	5	6
- cisterns	7	4
- basins and joints	13	19
Defective cesspools	1	-
Insanitary ashpits	2	-
Insanitary disused ashpits	-	1

Type of Defect	Public Health Act	
	Noted	Remedied
Defective dust bins	54	29
Absence of refuse store	1	-
Absence of/or defective and/or insufficient		
- gutters	50	22
- downspouts	5	6
Rainwater pipes ventilating drains	21	9
Waste water " " "	2	-
Defective and/or choked drain vent.sh shafts	9	5
Defective and/or choked flues	2	3
Defective fire-grates	9	8
Defective ovens and ranges	4	2
Defective washboilers (structures & grates)	4	6
Filthy yard surfaces	2	1
Dirty floors	-	1
Dirty walls and ceilings	1	1
Absence of/or def. staircase handrails	2	2
Absence of sufficient light in staircase	-	1
Absence of washing accommodation	5	-
Absence of suitable food store	1	1
Verminous conditions - rats, mice.	2	2
- bugs	1	2
- cockroaches	1	-
Bakehouse Limewashing	1	1
Cowsheds - limewashing	3	4
Miscellaneous	27	4
Totals	496	375

Notices Served

	No. Served	Premises affected	Complied		Defects	
			By C/W	By Coun.	Ntd.	Rd.
Public Health Acts Informals	230	230	170	-	496	375
" " " Statutory	30	30	13	-	42	11
Re Nuisances	6	6	-	-	18	-
Ashpits and Bins	3	3	1	-	3	1
Drainage	13	13	4	-	13	4
Downspouts venting drains	1	1	-	-	1	-
Defective closet accomm.	1	1	1	-	1	1
Insufficient water supply	5	5	5	-	5	5
Yard paving	1	1	-	-	1	-

The compliance with informal notices includes those cases in which statutory notices were necessary to secure such compliance, and compliance with informal notices by the Council in default means that the compliances were effected following relevant statutory notices.

Food Inspection & Sampling, Infectious Disease, and Vermin Control.

These matters are referred to earlier in the report.

Lethal Chamber. Times used 329
Cats destroyed 140
Dogs destroyed 240

Salvage.

The following materials have been dealt with in the year in association with the refuse collection and disposal service.

Miscellaneous	1 ton 8 cwt.
Waste paper	125 tons
Bottles and Jars	6 tons 6 cwt.
Rags	8 tons 11cwt. 2 qr.
Tins	53 tons 1cwt. 2 qr.
Scrap Iron	11 tons 3cwt. 3 qr.
Non Ferrous Metal	1 ton 10cwt.
Rubber	4 tons 14cwt. 3 qr.
Bones	2 tons 7 cwt.
Glass Cullet	19 tons 4 cwt. 2 qr.

