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NORTHALLERTON

# Urban District Council

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1938

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HUGH G. HANAN, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.)

Medical Officer of Health.

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# Northallerton Urban District Council.

Chairman : W. WATSON, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman : A. E. SKELTON, Esq.

Clerk : S. F. ESLAND, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

E. O. HILLYARD, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., M.R.San.I.

Medical Officer of Health : H. G. HANAN, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1938.

May, 1939.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

The following report is arranged under the same headings as previously and contains the usual extracts from statistics.

### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District (in acres) .. .. .	3,653
Population (1921 census) .. .. .	4,791
Population (1931 census) .. .. .	4,787
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938 .. .. .	4,970
Number of inhabited houses, 1921 .. .. .	1,101
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 .. .. .	1,215
Number of inhabited houses, 1938 .. .. .	1,535
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921 .. .. .	1,101
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931 .. .. .	1,217
Rateable value of district .. .. .	£28,457
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£105 0s. 0d.

### Physical Features.

The following abbreviated description of the physical features of the district was included in previous annual reports.

"Northallerton, the County Town of the North Riding, is a market town situated in the Vale of York. The old portion consisting mainly of one long wide street, with narrow side streets and yards.

The Market Place, or main street, which has ample space along its entire length between the roadway and footpaths, makes the town an ideal place for parking cars when attending market, or doing shopping generally, and is largely patronised on this account. The houses are mostly built of old red brick.



During recent years new houses have been built in all parts of the town. Those in the Vicarscroft, and Malpas Road, sponsored by the Urban District Council. In other areas, notably Crosby Road, Quaker Lane, and many places in the adjoining Rural District, by private enterprise.

The area immediately surrounding the town is open agricultural land of good quality, for the most part flat or gently undulating. It is intersected by well-made roads in every direction. Railway level crossings still exist on three roads entering the town. The soil is mainly alluvial, with patches of sand, gravel and clay. The permanent pasture land is of good quality and the grazing excellent.

The L.N.E.R. main line serves the town, the Passenger Station being situated just outside the Urban Boundary. Northallerton is an important Railway Junction—main branches from Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton, Leeds, Harrogate and Ripon, and Wensleydale, converge on the main line at this point.

The occupations of the inhabitants are the usual businesses found in similar county towns. The L. & N.E. Railway, Dried Milk Factory and Saw Mill give employment. Many residents are Local Government officers in the County Council employ. There is no industry having a bad effect upon the health of the community in the town itself."

**Unemployment.** The closure of the Linoleum Factory in 1938 caused approximately 250 men to lose their employment. Not all these men were residents of the town. A few of the more highly skilled men obtained work elsewhere. Of the remainder, about 75% were quickly absorbed in local contract works.

At the close of the year numbers had adjusted themselves to about the average total of 200 unemployed per 10,000 population.

## 2. EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

### Live Births.

		Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate.
1925	{ Legitimate	72	29	43	15.72
	{ Illegitimate	4	1	3	
1930	{ Legitimate	50	28	22	10.82
	{ Illegitimate	4	2	2	
1935	{ Legitimate	93	44	49	19.31
	{ Illegitimate	3	1	2	
1937	{ Legitimate	77	37	40	16.97
	{ Illegitimate	7	5	2	
1938	{ Legitimate	81	50	31	17.1
	{ Illegitimate	4	2	2	

The rate for the country as a whole for 1938 is 15.1 per 1,000 population.

		Total.	M.	F.
1938	.. Still Births	4	2	2
Equivalent to rate of 0.8 per 1,000.		General rate over the whole country 0.6 per 1,000 population.		

#### Deaths.

Year.		Total.	M.	F.	Death Rate.
1925	.. ..	53	24	29	10.96
1930	.. ..	36	17	19	7.21
1935	.. ..	66	34	32	13.27
1937	.. ..	54	28	26	10.93
1938	.. ..	50	33	17	10.06

1938 the rate for England and Wales is 11.6 per 1,000 of population.

Excluding the deaths of infants under one year of age the average age at death is 63 years. 21 individuals attained the age of 70 years, and of these 6 were between 80 and 90 and 4 over 90.

#### Causes of Death, 1939.

Heart and Circulatory Diseases	..	16
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc.	.. ..	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	.. ..	4
Cancer	.. ..	5
Senility	.. ..	1
Digestive Diseases	.. ..	2
Tuberculosis	.. ..	4
Congenital Causes	.. ..	4
Violence	.. ..	1
Nephritis	.. ..	1
Scarlet Fever	.. ..	—
Diphtheria	.. ..	1
Influenza	.. ..	2
Whooping Cough	.. ..	—
Diabetes	.. ..	—
Other defined causes	.. ..	8

#### Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth or Pregnancy.

		From other accidents or diseases
		From Sepsis. of pregnancy and parturition.
1938	.. ..	Nil

During the last 17 years, in which time over 1,100 Confinements have been attended, there have been 2 Maternal deaths, neither of which was due to sepsis. This is very creditable. Practically all these cases were attended in their own homes.



**Deaths of Infants**  
under one year of age.

			Male.	Female.
Legitimate	..	..	3	0
Illegitimate	..	..	0	0
			—	—
Total	..		3	0
			—	—

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births Registered is 37.

Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1938 is 53.

**The Deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough (all ages) and  
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).**

Nil.

**3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN  
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1938.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria .. ..	7	6	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	10	9	—
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1	1	—
Pneumonia and Broncho Pneumonia ..	6	2	1
Other diseases generally notifiable ..	1	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. ..	1	1	1
	—	—	—
Total ..	26	19	3
	—	—	—

The infectious cases (not including tuberculosis) notified during the past 10 years number :—1929—21, 1930—15, 1931—16, 1932—24, 1933—22, 1934—96, 1935—34, 1936—26, 1937—26, 1938—26.

### Tuberculosis.

The following are the particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from this disease during 1938 :—

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5	..	..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	..	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	..	..	2	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	6	2	1	3	3	1	—	—

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum**—One mild case notified during 1938.

### Scarlet Fever.

The following is the analysis under age groups of Scarlet Fever cases for the year under review :—

Age.			Age.		
Under 1 year	..	—	10—15 years	..	—
1—2 years	..	—	15—20 „	..	2
2—3 „	..	—	20—35 „	..	3
3—4 „	..	4	35—40 „	..	—
4—5 „	..	—	40 and over	..	—
5—6 „	..	—			
6—7 „	..	—			
7—8 „	..	1	Total	..	10
8—9 „	..	—			



#### 4. NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, Etc., AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

Considering the population, Northallerton Urban District is well provided with hospitals and motor ambulance for the transport of the sick and injured. In this respect it caters not only for Northallerton but for the surrounding districts.

The accommodation and arrangements are practically the same as stated in previous annual reports.

**Nursing in the home.** (a) For general home nursing there is a visiting district nurse, under the management of a voluntary committee of ladies associated with the Queen's Nurses. This has been in existence for 38 years. The funds are derived from voluntary contributors, supplemented by small annual subscriptions and fees from the patients. A grant is received annually from the County Council. This provides for the services of the district nurses in the Urban and Rural districts for School Nursing and Health Visiting work. The Local Authority gives an annual subscription of One Guinea towards expenses.

The District Nurses are supervised by the North Riding County Nursing Association.

(b) No provision is made for nursing infectious cases in the patients' own home free of charge, and no such provision is necessary here.

**Midwives.** The District Nurse acts as midwife for the town, and certified midwives practising in the district also attend to such cases by arrangement when required. The County Authority gives grants in respect of Maternity services.

**Treatment Centres.** A Tuberculosis Dispensary is provided by the County Council under the supervision of Dr. J. J. Thomson, the Tuberculosis Officer, and is held at the Rutson Hospital each Wednesday at 2 p.m. A School Eye Clinic also provided by the County Council is held at the Rutson Hospital under the Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dr. J. Higham. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held in the Zion Schoolroom at stated intervals, due notice being given.

School children requiring surgical treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids are admitted to the Rutson Hospital by arrangement with the County Council, under the care of the Nose and Throat Surgeon, Mr. W. O. Lodge, F.R.C.S.E.

**Child Welfare.** A Child Welfare Clinic, serving the town and surrounding district, has been established, and is held in Zion Schoolroom, every alternate Tuesday afternoon.



The Clinic is under the management of a Committee of ladies, who are responsible to the Medical Officer of Health. These ladies, with the District Nurses, assist the local Medical Practitioners in the carrying out of the work. Financial aid is granted by the County Council.

The Clinic is exceedingly useful, as it permits medical supervision of children of pre-school age. During the year, 24 sessions were held. 79 children were registered, with an average attendance of 83 children per session.

There is no provision in this area for the public treatment of Venereal disease. A dispensary for this purpose is not necessary here, as the amount of such disease is so small as not to warrant the establishment of such a centre. Cases from the area attend the dispensaries at Stockton, Darlington or York.

#### **Hospital and Ambulance Facilities.**

**The Rutson Hospital.** A Cottage Hospital situated in the town was modernised in 1932 by the addition of two new wards, each of ten beds, two open sun wards, each of three beds, and two private wards, a total of twenty-eight beds.

A modern operating theatre and ante-room was provided, and a generous donor has presented an efficient X-Ray apparatus.

Children are received into the general wards of the Rutson Hospital.

**Ambulance Facilities.** There is at present one modern Motor Ambulance (capacity 2 stretcher cases) for the use of non-infectious cases. This ambulance is not limited to use in the town, but is also used for the movement of cases in the surrounding district up to a radius of about 7 miles.

The ambulance is the property of the British Red Cross Society, and is controlled by them. Although there is at present no definite agreement between the Council and the British Red Cross Society, the service has always been satisfactory and adequate.

The Joint Isolation Hospital Committee possesses a motor ambulance which adequately fulfils its purpose.

#### **Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.**

(1) **TUBERCULOSIS.** Adult cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis requiring sanatorium treatment are admitted to the Wensleydale Sanatorium, Aysgarth, Mowbray Grange Sanatorium, Bedale, and other Sanatoria. Children suffering from chest tuberculosis are treated at the County Council's Sanatorium for Children at Morris Grange. Children with surgical tuberculosis are admitted to the Yorkshire Cripples Hospital, Kirbymoorside.



A limited number of beds in open sun wards in the Rutson Hospital are available for patients from the North Riding suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, admission being by arrangement between the Rutson Hospital Committee and those who control the Tuberculosis scheme of the County Council.

(2) MATERNITY. Prospective mothers, married or unmarried, requiring hospital accommodation, when chargeable to the Public Assistance Committee, were formerly received into the maternity ward at the Union Infirmary, Northallerton, but arrangements were completed during 1932 for all such cases to be sent to the Richmond Union Infirmary. Cases of difficult or dangerous confinement and Puerperal septic cases, should one arise, are admitted to Hospital by arrangement of the County Council.

(3) UNION INFIRMARY. The Union Infirmary receives ordinary patients chargeable to the Public Assistance Committee from the Northallerton, Thirsk and Bedale areas.

(4) FEVER HOSPITALS. In 1931 the County Council, through their Medical Officer of Health, prepared a scheme for re-grouping the fever hospitals in the North Riding. This scheme was submitted to the Minister of Health and was approved in November, 1933.

It provided that on 1st April, 1938, the Northallerton Urban and Rural Councils were to be the providing Authorities, and that the existing Urban Hospital, Rural Hospital and Staff Cottage would accommodate cases of Infectious diseases other than Smallpox from the districts of Northallerton Urban and Rural, Helmsley, Bedale and Thirsk.

The administration of the Joint Hospital is in the hands of the Northallerton Rural District Hospital Committee, together with co-opted members from each area. An Advisory Committee consisting of members from all the interested Councils has been appointed to assist the administration. The members of this Committee are appointed on the basis of population.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases isolated in the Joint Hospital during the year.

	Urban Cases.		Rural and other Cases.	
In Hospital, 1st Jan., 1938.	Scarlet Fever	1	Scarlet Fever	11
	Diphtheria	4	Diphtheria	3
New cases admitted 1938.	Scarlet Fever	9	Scarlet Fever	90
	Diphtheria	6	Diphtheria	25
	Other cases	—	Other cases	2
	Total Cases . .		20	131

(5) **SMALLPOX.** The Urban District Council has made arrangements with the Middlesbrough Sanitary Authority for all Smallpox cases from this area to be admitted into the Middlesbrough Smallpox Hospital at a uniform fixed charge, to be taken there in the Middlesbrough Ambulance used for removal of Smallpox cases.

(6) **ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION.** No apparatus by superheated steam or other means for disinfecting unwashable goods is provided. The sanitary inspector visits premises requiring disinfection and uses a formalin spray. Formalin lamps, sulphur candles and disinfectants are supplied free of charge.

## **5. LABORATORY WORK.**

Where pathological or bacteriological examinations are required, the Council have given sanction for these to be carried out by institutions making a speciality of this work. Laboratory examination of throat swabs and other clinical tests are, in necessitous cases, provided free of charge.

## **6. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.**

### **House Scavenging.**

The Scavenging services are efficiently carried out by the Council's own employees, all classes of refuse being disposed of by crude tipping on land some distance outside the "built-up" area of the Town. At the close of 1938 there were 1,461 ashbins collected weekly, and refuse from 6 dry ashpits and 3 privy ashpits emptied twice per month, together with some 90 pail closets emptied weekly.

### **Nuisances.**

During the year a number of sanitary nuisances of minor character have been reported, and all have been dealt with satisfactorily by the responsible persons without the necessity for legal procedure.

### **Sewage and Sewage Disposal.**

Drainage from the three premises referred to in previous reports is discharged to the Willow Beck after settlement of crude solids; a few isolated premises are served by cesspools where connection to sewers is impracticable; all other cases are drained to sewers which discharge their contents to the sewage works for treatment and disposal.

No further developments have taken place in connection with the proposal made to treat sewage from part of the Rural District Area at the Urban Council's Sewage Disposal Works.



### **Bakehouses.**

There are now 7 bakehouses in use in the district, one retail bakehouse having ceased to be so used upon change of occupation during the year.

Bakehouses are visited from time to time and are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

No change has occurred in the number of occupation of slaughterhouses, three are registered and six licensed, and their condition and use continue to be satisfactory.

Slaughtermen's licences issued in 1938 number 20.

### **Offensive Trades.**

An offensive trade is carried on about one mile from the town in the open country. The premises have been used since 1917 for the purpose of manufacturing grease, manure, etc., from the carcasses of animals.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Inspection made for the purpose of the Housing Act, 1936, revealed the existence of bed bugs in 3 out of a block of 7 cottages in November. Since the close of the year the whole of this property has become the subject of operations under the Act whereby the greater part will be demolished.

### **Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

Certain changes of occupation have taken place in registered premises, and the details are now as follows :—

#### **COWKEEPERS.**

Wholesale traders	..	..	22
Retail purveyors	..	..	4
Retail and wholesale	..	..	3
Butter trade only	..	..	6
		—	35
Number of premises registered	..		35

### **7. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.**

The staff consists of one Medical Officer of Health (part time) and one Sanitary Inspector (whole time). The usual contributions are made to the salaries of the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector under the Public Health Acts. The area is so small it is not necessary to appoint assistant officers or specialised inspectors. The Inspector also acts as Surveyor and Water Inspector.

## 8. HOUSING.

### Housing Inspection.

Details of Housing Inspections and action relating to the conditions are found set out below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year 1938 :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	87
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	99
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..	10
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	6

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .	6
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#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

##### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners .. .. .	None
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	None

##### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	None
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- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) by owners .. .. .	None
(b) by Local Authorities in default of owners ..	None

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	1

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	None

**Housing Act, 1936, part IV., Overcrowding.**

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	22
ii. Number of families dwelling therein .. ..	22
iii. Number of persons dwelling therein .. ..	120
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	11
(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	11
ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	68
(d) Particulars of any cases in which houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority have taken steps to abate .. .. .	None
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which Medical Officer may consider desirable to report .. .. .	None

**Housing Act, 1936.**

Of the 44 houses built under this Act in 1935, 39 were occupied at the end of that year, the remainder have since been occupied.

The original programme (covering 4 years) submitted by the Council comprised 82 houses, and was supplemented during 1936 and 1938, bringing the total to 90 houses.





## 9. WATER SUPPLY.

As stated in previous reports the water supply is derived from water collected at the springs issuing from the hillside in Oakdale about eight miles from the town, after natural filtration through oolitic limestone; and also from water impounded in the upper reservoir which is derived from the upper reaches of a moorland beck. These are mixed as occasion requires. The former source of supply the is clearer and softer of the two. The whole catchment area is inspected from time to time, and the water is analysed when necessary, both for organic and bacterial impurities. There are no buildings or drains of any kind whatever on the catchment basin.

The sterilising plant supplied by Messrs. Bell Bros., Ltd., of Manchester, was put into operation on 3rd March, 1937.

In accordance with the Minister's recommendation samples are now taken at monthly intervals and form the subject of my regular reports to the Council at their Meetings throughout the year.

The construction of an additional service reservoir and duplication of the Main therefrom, was commenced in November and is now in progress.

The greater number of fire hydrants on the mains are of the "ball" type. These are being displaced by screw hydrants on the ground that they rule out possible pollution when it is necessary to empty the mains for any purpose. This work is well advanced and will be completed shortly.

## 10. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The scheme referred to in previous reports is now completed and fulfils a useful purpose.

## 11. MORTUARY.

Arrangements exist for the joint use of a part of the Rutson Hospital premises by the Urban and Rural District Councils for mortuary purposes.

## 12. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The responsibility for organising and administering the local casualty services has been assigned to the District Medical Officer of Health acting in co-ordination with the County Medical Officer.

In this area under the present arrangements there will be established one Mobile First Aid Post (for use in the town and surrounding districts) staffed by Women Volunteers. One First Aid Party (men), three Ambulances with trained drivers and attendants.

These volunteers have completed the essential part of their training. More are being trained as reserves and for service in Base Hospitals.

It is probable that one of the latter would be established at or near Northallerton in the event of war.

The Chairman, Members of the Council, the Clerk and the Surveyor, deserve my sincere thanks for all the support and help I have received at their hands.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH G. HANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.





