NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the District during the year 1944.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	57,547 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population..	28,730.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944)	8,714.
Rateable value	£159,153.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£624.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	478	253	225)	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 18.16.
	(Illegitimate	44	22	22)	
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	21	13	8)	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. 47.44.
	(Illegitimate	5	5	-)	
Deaths		301	160	141	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 10.47.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	-	-
Total	-	-

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births	30.65.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	27.19.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	68.18.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	52.
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	1.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1944.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

		M.	F.	Total.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	2	2
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	3	10
7.	Other Tubercular Diseases	-	4	4
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	1
9.	Influenza	-	-	-
10.	Measles	-	-	-
11.	Ac. Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12.	Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13.	Cancer of B: cav: & oesoph (M). uterus (F).	3	4	7
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	8	3	11
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	6	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites	18	10	28
17.	Diabetes	-	2	2
18.	Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	14	16	30
19.	Heart Diseases	46	40	86
20.	Other Circulatory Diseases	10	4	14
21.	Bronchitis	8	6	14
22.	Pneumonia	2	5	7
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	5
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	-	3
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1
26.	Appendicitis	-	-	-
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	2	3	5
28.	Nephritis	5	5	10
29.	Puer: & post-abort: sepsis	-	-	-
30.	Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
31.	Premature Birth	3	5	8
32.	Congenital Debility and Malformations	5	1	6
33.	Suicide	3	-	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
35.	Other Violent Causes	6	1	7
36.	All Other Causes	10	18	28
		160	141	301

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Towards the end of the year the Tarporley Cleansing Centre was closed down owing to the termination of the services of the whole-time Civil Defence Trained Nurse attached to the Tarporley First Aid Post. Adequate arrangements to deal with patients suffering from Scabies residing in Tarporley and District were then made at the Northwich and Winsford Cleansing Centres through the Joint M.O.H. Committee.

In May, 1944, the Council decided to provide a transport service to enable Rural patients being discharged from the Davenham Isolation Hospital to get back to their homes without having to risk exposure in public transport.

In the absence of a Rural Ambulance Service, full use of the recently instituted Northwich Urban Ambulance Service was made during the year by Rural residents and 34 out of a total of 84 removals were Rural residents.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - During the course of the year 23 samples of water were submitted to the Laboratories for chemical and bacteriological examination with the following results:-

Site.	Analyst's Report.
Borehole Supply (unchlorinated) Tarporley Supply (Liverpool Corporation) Chester Lane, Brook Cottages (Winsford U.D. chlorinated supply) Davenham Isolation Hospital (Middlewich U.D. chlorinated supply) Wimboldsley School (Winsford U.D. chlorinated supply) Crabtree Green Supply (before chlorination) Waterworks House, Cotebrook (Northwich U.D. supply) Gresty's Well, Utkinton Lower House Farm, Little Budworth Little Budworth (Booth's Smithy)	"Wholesome and potable bacteriological quality".
Gresty's Well, Utkinton	"High degree of organic purity".
Gresty's Well, Utkinton Eaton Village School Gresty's Well, Utkinton	"Border-line bacteriological quality".
Cotebrook School Hollin's Cottage, Utkinton Hollin's Farm, Cotebrook Utkinton Hall Well Bottom Well, Utkinton Utkinton Well (John Street) Top Well, Utkinton Utkinton School Eaton Village Well	"Water of potentially unwholesome quality".

My 1943 report gave figures of population receiving a direct piped service into their homes and those served by stand-pipes, etc. There are no changes in these figures to record during 1944.

The steps taken by the Council to remedy the shortcomings of the Utkinton, Cotebrook and Eaton supplies recorded above are detailed in the following report which has been furnished by Mr. J. Birtwistle, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor:-

"The water supply to the district from the Council's Borehole at Eddisbury has steadily increased since the Joint Minor Water Scheme was completed when the demand on this station only amounted to 300,000 gallons per day as compared with over 850,000 gallons per day at the present time.

"The Crabtree Green supply after showing signs of slight pollution (B.Coli) has now received an "all clear" report. The chief trouble was found to be due to a long disused well commencing to function again to a very slight extent, but this has now been bye-passed

"Chlorination of both the Eddisbury and Crabtree Green supplies is maintained on the basis of a minimum dose of about .3 part per million and this can be increased at any time if necessary.

"The new main to the Wimboldsley area has brought about the desired improvement and the farms are now able to cool their milk.

"The work of laying the new mains to supply the villages of Cotebrook and Eaton is drawing to completion and, although the work has been extended longer than expected, due to shortage of labour, it will soon be possible to supplant the existing bad supply from the village and other wells, etc. at Eaton. The unsatisfactory supplies at the Schools and at the houses supplied by the Arderne Estate will soon be put out of service.

"Another extension to John Street, Utkinton, has given great satisfaction to the people in that locality, but it has created much disappointment to the other properties and the Schools in the Quarrybank area, because it cannot, due to lack of head, be extended to this high level area. The School Managers have been advised to sterilize a sufficient daily supply for the requirements of the school children. There is urgent need in this area for the development of the Joint Major Water Scheme which is designed to afford a supply to all this high level area and thus it is satisfactory to report that the application for the approval of the Ministry of Health to the carrying out of this scheme is, by the decision of the Northwich Urban and Rural Councils, to be presented to the Ministry of Health at once. This scheme will not only provide for the part of Utkinton last referred to, but, also the remainder of the Parish of Utkinton, the whole of the Parish of Rushton, the Oulton Lowe area of Little Budworth and the high level area not at present supplied from Tarporley. It will also provide for the substitution of the Liverpool supply to Tarporley and thereby the removal of the necessity for the electric booster installed two years ago.

"Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - The question of providing a section of the proposed Delamere Sewerage Scheme to protect the Eddisbury Borehole against possible pollution has received the approval of the Council and application for the Ministry's approval thereto has been made. The scheme makes provision for the existing properties in the neighbourhood to be connected to sewers so as to convey the sewage to a safe point of discharge as required by Planning Scheme proposals.

"The sewerage problems in connection with several of the selected twenty-six new housing sites will, where main sewerage is not available, involve independent outfalls, but in all such cases the sewage will be dealt with by means of mechanical sprinklers and filters, as required by the Council's resolution which applies to all private disposal schemes.

"The Weaverham sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, plans of which were previously prepared, require additional provision and possibly a new site, having regard to the Council's recent decision to incorporate the Parish of Acton, but it is urgently required that this scheme be pushed forward as soon as staff and other difficulties can be overcome. The emptying of private cesspools in the Weaverham-Northwich Road area still continues, but arrangements have been made for a temporary relief drain to be laid to prevent the flooding of the subsoil in one section and this is likely to give some relief until the new sewerage scheme can be carried out.

"Closet conversion schemes designed to place the whole of the sewered area on the complete water carriage system are proposed to be carried out in the Weaverham, Cuddington and Rudheath (part). In Cuddington and Rudheath the sewerage systems are adequate for this purpose, but, in the Weaverham area, improvement of the outfall works is required."

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and cleansing of pail closets has been maintained. The direct labour system is to be commended and many of the outlying parishes are looking to the Council for extension of this service to those areas.

Salvage of Materials for War Purposes.
Sale of Salvage Materials:-

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	Total.
£753	£910	£2,242	£2,210	£1,582	£7,697

Throughout the year, the Council has maintained its position in relation to other districts within its salvage area. The principal sales of salvage materials were:-

Paper	155 tons.	Textiles(Rags & Sacking)	19 tons.
Iron	34½ "	Bones	4½ "
Broken Cullet	19½ "	Rubber	5½ "

In the National Book Recovery Drive held in April, the area yielded 104,993 books against the target figure of 60,000

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.
Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Informal Notices Issued	Informal Notices Complied with	Statutory Notices Issued	Statutory Notices Complied with
1.Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	105	20	18	-	-
2.Dwelling Houses(overcrowding)	2	-	-	-	-
3.Moveable Dwellings	7	1	1	-	-
4.Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings	51	22	22	-	-
5.Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools	58	46	42	4	4
6.Ditches and Watercourses	12	2	2	-	-
7.Offensive Accumulations	7	6	6	-	-
8.Keeping of Animals	1	1	1	-	-
9.Provision of Ashbins	15	5	5	-	-
10.Supervision of Refuse Collection	437	79	79	-	-
11.Supervision of Refuse Tips	24	-	-	-	-
12.Slaughterhouses	17	-	-	-	-
13.Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared	172	2	2	-	-
14.Dairies and Cowsheds	135	30	27	1	1
15.Factories etc.	7	-	-	-	-
16.Protection and Sampling of Water Supplies	23	-	-	-	-
17.Canal Boats	10	-	-	-	-
18.Infectious Diseases, Investigations & Disinfections	96	-	-	-	-
19.Schools, Inspection and Disinfection	38	-	-	-	-
20.Disinfection of Premises	191	9	9	-	-
21.Deratisation of Premises	116	20	20	-	-
22.Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-
23.Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1,524	243	234	5	5

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	5	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	2	-	-
Other premises	-	-	-
Totals	7	-	-

Outworkers: There are no outworkers premises in this district.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

Two houses have been demolished voluntarily by the owners during the year. Reasonable standards have been maintained throughout the district by informal action. The Council has been represented on the Joint County Advisory Committee for dealing with Rural Housing and it is hoped that during 1945 a survey of the Rural District Council's housing position will be commenced. In order to accomplish this, the Sanitary Inspector's staff will, of necessity, have to be strengthened.

During the year the Council were empowered to erect 4 houses for occupation by Agricultural Workers.

SECTION E. - FOOD AND MEAT INSPECTION.

(a) Milk - 21 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year with the following results:-

(1) For the presence of Tubercle Bacilli - 7 samples were submitted but no positive reports were received.

(2) For Cleanliness Tests - Of the 14 samples submitted for these tests:-

5 samples of tuberculin-tested milk were satisfactory.
3 " " " " " " unsatisfactory.
1 " " ungraded milk was satisfactory.
2 " " " " were fairly satisfactory.
2 " " " " " unsatisfactory.
1 " " pasteurised milk was satisfactory.

Where the reports were unsatisfactory the producers concerned were informed and the Advisory Bacteriologist of the County School of Agriculture notified for his information and attention.

Under the provisions of Section 22 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, one milk retailer's licence was suspended as a result of a conviction at the local Petty Sessions.

It is interesting to record that during the year 4 licences were granted for the sale of "tuberculin-tested" milk and that one of the principal dairies in the District installed modern equipment for the heat treatment of milk and was licenced accordingly by the Council.

(b) Meat - 17 Slaughterhouse licences were issued under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. All slaughterhouses, however, are closed due to the operation of the undermentioned Ministry of Food Orders:-

S. R. & O. 41, 1940 - "Livestock Restriction of Slaughter" January 13th, 1940.

S. R. & O. 1856, 1940 - "Livestock Restriction of Slaughter" October 19th, 1940.

In approving the issue of these licences, the Council had in mind the restriction of slaughtering, and therefore refrained from asking for any repairs or renewals which in normal times they would consider necessary.

Under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act,1933, 43 slaughtermen in the Rural District hold licences to slaughter.

Diseases of Animals Act - 37 cases of suspected Anthrax were reported under the above, none of which were confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938, - No carcases were reported under this Order.

(c) 172 inspections were carried out at food preparation premises and shops. Only 2 cases called for action. During the course of inspection the following items were condemned:-

59 tins Milk	3 tins Steak
4 tins Salmon	2 tins Vegetables
20 tins Pork Loaf	3 tins Peas
3 tins Soup	12 jars Pickles
17 lbs. Butter	4 jars Piccalilli
6 tins Herrings	8 cwts Lentils
7 tins Pilchards	4 tins Baked Beans
4 tins Mackerel	8 tins Frozen Eggs
28 lbs. Honicose Sweets	1 tin Syrup
17 tins Jam	56 lbs. Figs
1 tin Tomatoes	1 tin Fruit
3 tins Sardines	1 tin Prem
16 lbs. Corned Beef	2 tins Crawfish
12 tins Apples	

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.
Infestation Order, 1943.

The Council, in common with adjoining Councils, agreed to act as Agents for the County Council to operate the above Act and Order in respect of non-agricultural land. The Chief Sanitary Inspector was appointed Rats Officer and the Council's Disinfector and General Labourer was instructed to carry out any necessary work in this connection.

SECTION F.
PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, other than Measles, was low and calls for no special comment.
Of the 2 cases of Diphtheria notified, one had received protective treatment under the Council's Scheme some two years previously. There were no deaths from Diphtheria during the year.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	49	48	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Pneumonia	14	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
Erysipelas	6	1	-
Measles	84	1	-
Whooping Cough	60	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	3	2

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	39	3	36
Typhoid Group	8	-	8
Haemolytic Streptococci	21	5	16
Paul Bunnell Test	1	-	1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.
The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1
5 - 15 "	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	2
15 - 25 "	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	7	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
35 - 45 "	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	1	2	-	-	3	2	-	-
55 - 65 "	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	9	2	12	7	3	-	4

Number of patients on register at 31st December,1943 - 257.
Number of patients on register at 31st December,1944 - 272.

79 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; nine being reported on as positive.

(3) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.
The arrangements made jointly in 1942 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities worked very satisfactorily during the year, and the year by year reductions in the number of cases attending for treatment is set out below:-

	1942.		1943.		1944.	
Cases of Scabies	755	total 780.	453	total 465.	399	total 411.
Cases of Pediculosis	25		12		12	
Number of Households involved	270		184		169	
Number of non-resident cases, e.g. Land Workers, etc.	-		42		2	
Number of cases from adjoining County Districts	29		109		87	

At the time of writing, mid-1945, it is apparent that the incidence of Scabies is still decreasing.

(4) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.
The Scheme which was commenced jointly in 1941 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1944 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Rural area was 5,619. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year were:-

under 5 years 38.04%.
between 5 - 15 years 80.7%.

Towards the end of the year the Council agreed that those children who received protective treatment under the Scheme in 1941, when they were 3 years and under, and who are in 1944 just about to start, or have already started, school, should receive a third reinforcement injection of 0.5c.c. A.P.T. The response on the part of the parents of such children was fairly satisfactory and 38.7% of them attended for this "booster" treatment.

Set out below is a table recording the progress of the Immunisation Scheme, the numbers dealt with in the various age groups, etc. since the Scheme was first started in 1941. This table takes the form of one recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1941 - 1944.				
	1941	1942	1943	1944	
0 -	1	1	-	-	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st Dec.1944:- 644.
1 -	42	104	115	114	
2 -	137	82	90	46	
3 -	153	63	30	10	
4 -	171	42	42	9	
5 -	232	79	32	11	Total inoculated aged 5 - 14 years on 31st Dec.1944:- 3,395.
6 -	256	81	30	10	
7 -	303	30	23	6	
8 -	323	54	11	2	
9 -	342	32	13	5	
10 -	342	28	7	3	
11 -	432	42	9	1	
12 -	326	32	9	-	
13 -	350	20	5	2	
14 -	330	6	4	-	
15 and over	69	2	-	-	Total aged 15 years and over:- 1,107.
Total each year	3,809	698	420	219	Grand total 1941 -1944:- 5,146.
Age not known	49	-	3	12	64.
Children known to have had treatment privately or elsewhere:-					409.
GRAND TOTAL					5,619.

Number of young children who received a "Booster" injection in 1944:- 107.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the District were disinfected at least once during the year and 169 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin. In particular the arrangements made for the disinfection of mattresses and bedding of Tuberculosis cases have been "tightened up" and full use of the steam disinfector at the Davenham Isolation Hospital has been made during the year.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

October, 1945. Medical Officer of Health.