ANNUAL REPORT

. . . OF . . .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

. . . OF THE . . .

Pocklington Rural District Council

FOR 1938.

W. & C. FORTH, PRINTERS, DEAN'S LANE, POCKLINGTON

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of POCKLINGTON.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Pocklington, I beg to submit to you the following Report for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

SECTION A.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CHARACTER AND GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The Pocklington Rural District is situated in the East Riding of Yorkshire, having York to the West and Great Driffield and Beverley to the East. It comprises 31 parishes, the total area of which is 101,521 acres, or 158 square miles. The total population at the census of 1931 was 12,723 ; estimated at midsummer 1938, 12,725. The number of inhabited houses is 3,510 and the number of families or separate occupiers is 3,510. The assessable value is £37,717, the sum represented by a penny rate on that amount being £157 3s. 1d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is almost entirely agricultural, and the chief occupations are in connection with that industry.

The 31 parishes comprising the District also form the area of the Pocklington Guardians Committee. The ordinary cases of illness amongst the poor are treated in the Workhouse, cases requiring hospital treatment being sent to the Hull Royal Infirmary or York County Hospital.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1938.

		Total.	M.	F.
Births.	Births — Legitimate	141	77	64
	Births — Illegitimate	5	3	2
Deaths.	Deaths	155	85	70

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth ...	From Sepsis	0
	From other causes	0

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—

Legitimate...4 Illegitimate...0 Total...4

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)...	0
„ „ Diarrhœa (Gastro Enteritis) under 2 years of age ...	1
„ „ Cancer (all ages): M 13, F 10	23

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

The number of cases notified during the year was 60 as compared with 62 in the previous year.

Disease.			Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria			10	10	—
Scarlet Fever			27	27	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)			0	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever			0	—	—
Pneumonia			12	—	11
Erysipelas			2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica			0	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis			0	—	—
Poliomyelitis			1	—	—
Tuberculosis— (a) Pulmonary	M	2...	—	—	—
	F	2...	—	—	—
	Total	4...	4	—	3
(b) Non-Pulmonary	M	2...	—	—	—
	F	1...	—	—	—
	Total	3...	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			1	—	—

Analysis of total cases of Infectious Disease. Cases notified 60.

No.	Years.
0	under 1
7	1 to 3
1	3 – 4
2	4 – 5
17	5 – 10
5	10 – 15
6	15 – 20
5	20 – 30
3	30 – 40
4	40 – 50
10	50 & over
60	

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 3 and the number notified was 7. The cases of Tuberculosis are usually always notified, but if not it is generally where a case is rapidly moved for sanitorium treatment, cases notified in previous years, or where a resident of the District dies outside the District.

Analysis of deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

No.	Years.
0	under 1
0	1 to 3
0	3 – 10
0	10 – 20
1	20 – 35
0	35 – 40
2	40 – 50
11	50 & upwards (pneumonia)
14	

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The only special cases of sickness were due to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever of which there were 27 cases.

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

General Provision of Health Services in the District.

One qualified Sanitary Inspector is employed by the Council as a whole time officer, whose salary is contributed to under the Public Health Act. No other officers, health visitors or nurses are employed by the Council.

A health visitor periodically visits the District from the County Council.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General.

In ordinary cases of sickness the nursing is done by the other members of the family unless the services of a trained nurse are requisitioned.

The East Riding Nursing Association sends nurses to working class patients who are subscribers, but these nurses are generally employed as monthly nurses, although their help is frequently given for cases of illness.

Infectious Diseases.

The milder forms of infectious disease are nursed by the other members of the family or by getting a reliable help if possible. This applies to Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, &c. In the more serious diseases such as Scarlet, Diphtheria, Enteric, &c., most cases are removed, whenever possible, to the Isolation Hospital at Driffield. Unless this is done it is practically impossible to do anything approaching proper isolation in the patient's dwellinghouse.

There are no definite arrangements whereby nursing is supplied either by the County or Local Authority, the only private Association being the East Riding Association.

All cases of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia are notified to the County Medical Officer of Health.

There are no voluntary workers and no local arrangements are made for general nursing.

Midwives.

The East Riding County Council have midwives in certain areas in the District where it is considered necessary, and they are paid by the Council and employed as whole time officers.

Laboratory Work.

Medical men in the District can have bacteriological examinations made by the Clinical Research Association free of charge in cases of Diphtheria, Enteric, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The Council supply diphtheria antitoxin to any practitioners in the District who require it for either general or prophylactic use.

During the year 105 bacteriological examinations were made.

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

Tuberculosis.

The Raywell Sanatorium is provided by the County Council. It is situated near Cottingham and has accommodation for 31 adults and 14 children. If there was not available accommodation at Raywell the County Council would make arrangements for a bed at some other Sanatorium such as Withernsea or Aysgarth.

Maternity.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but cases are admitted, for those who are very poor, to the Workhouse Infirmary. Generally they are single women.

Children.

Any cases requiring Hospital treatment are sent to either York County Hospital or the Hull Royal Infirmary, but there is no Hospital in the District. Cases amongst the very poor are sent to the Workhouse Infirmary.

An Orthopædic Hospital at Kirbymoorside is now available for cripple children, on application to the County Authorities.

Fever.

There is no Fever Hospital in the District, but the County provide an Isolation Hospital for the District at Driffield, which has accommodation for 62 beds.

Smallpox.

The County Authorities have a Smallpox Hospital at Shiptonthorpe which has 18 beds.

There is no institution in the District for unmarried mothers, but when they have no home they are admitted on request to the Workhouse Lying-in Ward before confinement. This institution is in Pocklington, which parish is now within the District.

Ambulance Facilities. For infectious Cases.

A motor Ambulance is provided from the Driffield Isolation Hospital by the County Authorities.

Non-infectious and Accident Cases.

No ambulance is provided by the Authorities ; a car would be hired and paid for through Public Assistance if the person was unable to provide it.

Clinics and Treatment Centres ; Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

A centre has been opened in the District by the County Council at Pocklington. Nurses to superintend these meetings are sent by the County Council, and they examine and weigh the infants and give advice to mothers regarding them. There are no day nurseries or school clinics in the District.

Tuberculosis.

Cases of Tuberculosis are, if the house accommodation be satisfactory, nursed at home ; if not, the case is removed to a Sanatorium, usually the Raywell Sanatorium, owned and maintained by the County Authority. If this is not available other Sanatoria would be used, such as Withernsea or Aysgarth. These institutions are all outside the District.

Venereal Diseases.

Arrangements have been made by the County Authorities whereby any one suffering from Venereal Disease can get free treatment either at the York County Hospital or the Hull Royal Infirmary. There is very little Venereal Disease in the District.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The whole of the District with the exception of Barmby Moor, Goodmanham and Market Weighton, Pocklington, Shiptonthorpe and Londesborough is supplied by the Regional Scheme from springs in the chalk wolds. The supply is pure and abundant and is adequately protected from every source of pollution.

Three of the parishes mentioned above are supplied by private companies or by estates while Barmby Moor and Shiptonthorpe are supplied by bores sunk by the Council 30 years ago. Should any shortage or grave defect arise the Regional Scheme is within striking distance of any of the supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The need for proper sewerage schemes in every village is still great. The water supply has led householders to instal baths and W.C's and the greater number of the villages are still served only by the joint highway drain, to which, as years went on, sewage connections were made for want of better facilities. Now these drains are unable to cope with the present day requirements and, like other Rural Councils throughout the country this Authority looks with hope to the Ministry for similar grants towards sewerage as those given towards the provision of water. It is needless to say that without such grant no real advance can be made.

Drainage and Sewerage ; Rivers and Streams.

No large extension of sewerage has taken place. A few short extensions, repairs and maintenance are only to be recorded.

The Privy, W.C. and Closet Accommodation in the District.

The most common form of closet accommodation in the villages is the privy. In the more populous parts these privies are giving way rapidly to the water carriage and in the parish of Pocklington with a population of 2,661 only a few remain, while at Market Weighton, a parish of 1,770, replacement is proceeding. In many of the villages water closets are being installed and drained to septic tanks. The privies number 1,520, pail closets 840 and water closets 1,120.

Arrangements for the removal of house refuse, and cleansing of earth closets and ashpits in the District.

In Market Weighton and Pocklington the scavenging is delegated to the Parish Councils. In five other parishes, Barmby Moor, Bishop Wilton, Shiptonthorpe, Wilberfoss and Sancton, a monthly house to house collection of refuse has been inaugurated. Suitable tips have been found and these are put under the care of the collector. In several other villages, ground such as an old chalk quarry is available for the deposit of refuse.

Similar systems will become necessary in nearly all villages as time goes on, and a general scheme of refuse collection and controlled disposal is foreshadowed.

Sanitary Administration.

Dwellinghouses inspected	250
,, notices served	74
New houses built	46
Have Building By-Laws been adopted ?	No
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	58
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of Phthisis	all
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious diseases	2
Dwellinghouses found overcrowded	7
,, newly drained	0
,, redrained	7

Privies converted to W.C's	12
„ „ pail closets	8
Offensive trades inspected	0
Total number of nuisances found	40
„ „ abated	40

Water Supplies—

Houses newly supplied with water mains	43
New wells made	0
New bore wells made	0
Wells closed, water unsafe	Many gone out of use
Samples of water sent for examination	5
Water certificates granted for new houses in Rural Districts	0

Dairies and Cowsheds—

Number of dairies and cowsheds on register	560
Number of Cows	2,000
Visits to cowsheds and dairies	100
Defects found	6
„ remedied	6

Slaughter Houses—

Number on Register—registered 12, licensed 8	20
Visits to	200
Number of defects found	3
„ „ remedied	3

Common Lodging Houses—

Number on Register	2
Visits to	6
Number of defects found	0
„ „ remedied	0
Canal Boats inspected	0

Camping Sites—

There is some camping on a small scale in various parts of the District, the sites being in use only a few days.

No licence has been applied for.

The estimated maximum number of campers resident at one time is 60.

Shops Act, 1934—

There has been little action taken in regard to the Act. All premises inspected have been satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement—

There is no call for any action in the Rural Area.

Swimming Baths and Pools—

There is no public bath or any privately owned bath open to the public. There is one private swimming bath in connection with Pocklington School.

Bugs—

No case of infestation was brought to notice.

General inspection of the District.

The general inspection of premises, occupations, &c., coming under the control of the Council is on a much larger scale than indicated by the figures. Many surprise inspections and visits are made and unless any special incident arises therefrom are not recorded.

Factories Act.

The Factories chiefly consist of one man businesses and number 105. The general cleanliness is satisfactory. A great number of these are rooms or buildings attached to the cottage where the worker lives, and the domestic sanitary arrangements are in common. The sanitary conditions of the larger establishments are satisfactory.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the area on which Rag Flock is manufactured.

Schools.

These are inspected periodically. No case of insanitary conditions was reported during the year. Nearly every school is connected with the Regional or other water scheme.

SECTION D.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Total	58
(a) By the Local Authority	28
(b) By private enterprise	30

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under public Health or Housing Acts)	200
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	300
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	40
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	160
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	36 (Scheduled).
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	36

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	20

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners..... 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... 0

(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners..... 5

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 1

(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 34

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 34

(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..... 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 29

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 29

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 185

(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0

(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 4

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 25

(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....nil

(e).—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.....none

Housing Conditions, General.

Another year of improved housing conditions has to be recorded. Twenty-eight finished by the Council and occupied, and thirty by private enterprise.

Four cases of overcrowding were directly relieved.

Unhealthy Areas. There are no unhealthy areas.

By-laws. There are no by-laws in force relating to houses or to houses let in lodgings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. Frequent inspections are made of cowsheds and dairies.

Action regarding tubercular milk or cattle consists of reporting suspected cows to the Veterinary Officer of the County Council.

No licence has been granted in the District for the sale of milk under any special designation, and no refusal or revocation of registration has occurred.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Registrations under the Order at the end of the year numbered 560.

Each registration form sent out is accompanied by a leaflet which sets out at length the provisions of the Order.

Many improvements already have taken place and there is a general desire on the part of cowkeepers to meet the requirements. During the year several new floors were laid in cowsheds. Ventilation and lighting were improved and several new footpaths near sheds were made. The old method of milk distribution from cans is being gradually replaced throughout the whole District by bottled milk.

Meat. The inspection of meat is carried out systematically and at intervals.

Slaughterhouses, shops, stores and vehicles are more or less continuously under inspection.

There is no public slaughterhouse in the Council's District.

The class of animals slaughtered throughout the District is excellent, the trade catered for being constant and regular. There is no stall or vehicle from which second class meat is offered. Under the circumstances there is little condemnation of carcases.

The numbers of animals slaughtered are estimated as follow:

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
1,520.	200.	3,500.	1,320.

About one third of these are inspected. There is no central slaughtering and the distances between slaughterhouses vary up to 16 miles. There is no meat marking scheme in the District.

Systematic inspections are made from time to time of all butchers' shops, fish shops, bakeshops, common lodging houses, milk and meat purveyors, fellmongers' premises, &c.

Particulars of slaughterhouses—

	In Dec., 1933.
Registered	12
Licensed	8
Total	20

The Food and Drugs Acts are worked by the County Council.

In conclusion I have pleasure in presenting my report. The death rate is higher and the birth rate lower than last year. A large number of sanitary improvements has been made, and the number of cases of infectious disease is less. 58 new houses have been built. The water supply is copious and pure, the number of connections gradually is increasing, and conversions from privies to W.C's are being carried out throughout the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Alfa Fairweather MD

Medical Officer of Health.

FAIRCOTE, POCKLINGTON.