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# Urban District of Rothwell.

## Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


(A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B.)

1942



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# Rothwell Urban District Council.

## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

### STATISTICAL MEMORANDA FOR 1942.

Area in Acres .. .. .	10,695
Resident Population (Mid-Year 1942) .. .. .	23,340
Number of Inhabited Houses in District at end of 1942 .. .. .	
Rateable Value to General Rate on 1st April, 1942 .. .. .	£103,473
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£392
<b>BIRTHS (LIVE).</b>	
Legitimate—165 Males, 169 Females } .. .. .	349
Illegitimate—8 Males, 0 Females } .. .. .	
<b>STILLBIRTHS.</b>	
Legitimate —4 Males, 5 Females } .. .. .	11
Illegitimate—2 Males, 0 Females } .. .. .	
<b>DEATHS</b> .. 122 Males, 121 Females .. .. .	243
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (Mid-1942) .. .. .	14.34
Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .	30.55
Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	9.98
	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births
<b>DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.</b>	
Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	0 .. 0.0
Other Puerperal Causes .. .. .	1 .. 2.66
Total .. .. .	1 .. 2.66
<b>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.</b>	
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .. .. .	37.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births .. .. .	38.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births .. .. .	0.0

### RECORD OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS, 1942.

Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	Over 65 years.	Total.
13	6	2	10	16	64	132	243

No unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

**STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. . .	Medical Officer of Health. Medical Superintendent of the Rothwell Isolation Hospital. Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Services.
T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector, Certified Smoke Inspector.	Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.
R. A. NAYLOR, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Assoc. Inst. Hygiene	Additional Sanitary Inspector.
T. MARSHALL, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.	Additional Sanitary Inspector. (January to September, 1942).
Miss M. CAMERON, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	Superintendent Health Visitor.
Miss E. ABRAM, Certified Midwife . .	Health Visitor.
Miss K. HALSTEAD, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	Health Visitor.
Miss M. PRESTON, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	Health Visitor. (January to October, 1942).
Miss E. M. ROBERTS, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	Health Visitor. (January to May, 1942).
Miss M. WHITTINGHAM . . . .	Clerk.
Miss I. M. BIRBECK . . . .	Clerk (M. and C.W. Dept.).
H. T. HODGSON . . . .	Junior Clerk (joined H.M. Forces, 24th April, 1942).
Miss D. SALMON . . . .	Junior Typist

# Rothwell Urban District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1942.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration this, my first, Annual Report, for the twelve months ended December 31st, 1942.

Exigencies of time and material compel brevity in this as in preceding War time reports, but I will endeavour, as briefly as possible, to indicate the more important trends in the health and circumstances of the area.

The incidence of Infectious Disease has been relatively slight, some increase in Scarlet Fever cases occurred, but these were, almost without exception, of a mild type and did not result in death or invalidism in any case.

An increase in the prevalence of Scabies led to this condition being made notifiable, and to arrangements for its treatment being completed.

In the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, perhaps the outstanding feature has been the increased demand for Institutional accommodation for confinements. This was impossible to meet until late on in the year, when an arrangement was made with the West Riding County Council whereby certain cases were to be admitted to their emergency Maternity Home at Walton Hall, and this is expected to prove a great boon in the future.

The year was marked by a strenuous effort to raise the number of children immunised against Diphtheria, and the campaign fortunately was crowned with a considerable degree of success.

At the instance of the Ministries of Labour and Health, two War-time Nurseries were established in the Area, with a third in prospect.

Housing was, of necessity, at a standstill and all that could be done was to keep the major defects under control as far as possible.

The details with regard to Cleansing, Salvage and Disinfestation are dealt with in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The Birth Rate still stands at the low figure of 14.34, although this shows a slight improvement on the 1941 figure of 13.97. The death rate, fortunately, has declined to 9.98, which is the third lowest ever recorded in this area.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

As will be seen from the following tables, the average attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics were well maintained, in spite of the increasing difficulties of travel and the rapidly growing number of mothers in employment.

One must comment on the progressive decline of attenders after the first birthday has been reached. Although perhaps the first year of a child's life is the most important from the point of view of physical well-being, it would, one feels, be desirable that at least an annual check up be made of every child, at or about each birthday. Too often one finds that after long absences, children are brought to the Clinics only because they have developed some defect which might have been rectified, or prevented, had the child been seen earlier.

It is gratifying to have to record that the standard of nutrition throughout the child population of the area is uniformly high, and it is evident that the provisions of the Ministry of Food are achieving success in the outstandingly important province of child health.

**War-time Nurseries.**—War-time Nurseries have been established at Rothwell and at Stourton. These are open for twelve hours daily and are to accommodate a maximum of 40 children each, from the ages of six months to five years. It is hoped to establish a third War-time Nursery at Mickletown in the near future.

**TABLE 1.**  
**CLINIC ATTENDANCES IN AGE GROUPS SHOWING**  
**AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AT FIVE CLINICS.**

Clinic	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Total	Average Weekly Attendance
Rothwell ..	1,873	1,005	1,007	3,885	79.28
Lofthouse ..	1,040	339	552	1,931	39.40
Stourton ..	792	296	210	1,298	26.48
Oulton .. ..	973	416	411	1,800	36.73
Methley .. ..	969	480	542	1,991	38.28
Total ..	5,647	2,536	2,722	10,905	220.20

**TABLE 1a.**  
**INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN IN CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING 1942.**

Clinic	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Total
Rothwell .. .. .	117	93	227	437
Lofthouse .. .. .	54	48	104	206
Stourton .. .. .	38	39	65	142
Oulton .. .. .	38	38	80	156
Methley .. .. .	53	47	102	202
Total .. .. .	300	265	578	1,143

**TABLE 1b.**  
**NEW CLINIC ENTRANTS DURING 1942.**

Clinic.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	Total.
Rothwell .. .. .	136	3	11	150
Lofthouse .. .. .	56	2	2	60
Stourton .. .. .	45	4	4	53
Oulton .. .. .	52	3	4	59
Methley .. .. .	58	5	5	68
Total .. .. .	347	17	26	390

**TABLE 1c.**  
**No. OF CHILDREN (BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS) IN AREA 31st DECEMBER, 1942, WITH PROPORTION OF CLINIC ATTENDERS.**

Age.	No. of Children in Rothwell Area.	No. of Children in Clinic Attendance.	Percentage of Children in Clinic Attendance.
Under 1 year .. .. .	308	300	97·40
1-2 years .. .. .	314	265	84·39
2-5 years .. .. .	1,215	578	47·57

**TABLE 2.**  
**RECORD OF SUNRAY WORK DURING 1942.**

No. of Sessions	No. of Treatments given	No. of individual Children treated.				No. of Mothers treated	Total	Average Attendance per Session
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	School Children			
102	1,953*	14	41	77	14	4	150	19.1

\*Including 225 treatments given to the 14 school children (2.2 per session) in accordance with arrangement with the West Riding County Council.

**TABLE 3.**  
**RECORD OF HOME VISITATION.**

First Visits (under one year) .. .. .	347
Re-visits (under one year) .. .. .	2,455
One to two years .. .. .	2,916
Two to five years .. .. .	9,701
Ante-Natal first visits .. .. .	97
Ante-Natal Re-visits .. .. .	107
<b>TOTAL HOME VISITS .. .. .</b>	<b>15,623</b>

**TOTAL CLINIC SESSIONS HELD DURING 1942 :—**

Infant Welfare .. .. .	248
Ultra Violet Ray .. .. .	102
Ante-Natal .. .. .	67
Dental Sessions .. .. .	1
Consultative Ante-Natal Sessions .. .. .	2
	<b>420</b>

**TABLE 4.**  
**PARTICULARS OF INFANT FEEDING DURING 1942.**

Number of Infants Breast Fed for 6 months or longer .. .. .	149†
Number of Infants found to be artificially fed at first visit (two weeks old) .. .. .	88
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at second visit (6 weeks old) .. .. .	58
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at third visit (12 weeks old) .. .. .	24
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at fourth visit (16 weeks old) .. .. .	8
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at fifth visit (20 weeks old) .. .. .	2

†The above figure of 149 is equivalent to 42.7 per cent. of the Notified Births, as compared with a corresponding figure of 37.30 in 1940.

Methods of Feeding (Artificial).	Reasons for Discontinuation of Breast Feeding.
Cows' milk .. .. . 27	Mothers working .. .. 11
Dried Milk .. .. . 140	Maternal Debility .. .. 55
Other Proprietary Foods .. 13	Mastitis .. .. . 8
	Illness of Infant .. .. 1
	Inability of Infant to suck.. 5
	Infant removed to Hospital 1
	Death of Mother .. .. 1
	Advised by Medical Attendant 88
	No apparent reason .. 10
<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>

The low percentage of breast feeding, as shown in the above Table, is to be deplored, but undoubtedly the strain and worry of war-time conditions is a factor which contributes largely to this end.

### RESCUE SERVICES.

Hospital treatment for all emergency maternity cases.

Hospital treatment for cases in which housing conditions are undesirable.

Hospital provision (free) for all cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Ambulance free in all above cases.

Consultation at home with Specialist in cases of abnormalities, arising ante-natal, post-natal, or during labour.

Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic with Specialist in attendance.

Child Welfare, ante-natal and post-natal Services (under our own control) with Medical and Health Visiting Staff.

Immunisation (Diphtheria) Clinic.

Provision (free) for X-ray examination of maternity cases of dubious diagnosis.

Home consultation with Ophthalmic Specialist in emergency cases.

Hospital provision for cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Orthopaedic hospital provision for children under five.

Provision of dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers.

Provision of dental treatment for children under five.

Grants of free milk to nursing and expectant mothers.

**Assisted Scheme.**—Grants of dried milks and Cod Liver Oil at reduced terms in accordance with income.

Provision of Sunray treatment for debilitated children under five and for expectant Mothers.

Home Helps.

**Convalescent Home Provision for Debilitated Mothers and their Infants and for Children under Five.**—These services were not available during 1942, as the Homes have been closed owing to the War.

**Health Visitors.**—Some changes were made in the Health Visiting Staff during 1942, two Health Visitors leaving during the course of the year, one of whom was not replaced until 1943.

**Child Life Protection.**—At the end of 1942, there were three foster-mothers who were nursing children for reward in this area.

**Dental Treatment for Children under Five and for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.**—Under arrangement with the West Riding County Council Dental Service, the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority of this district provides dental treatment for children under five years, and likewise for expectant and nursing mothers when such treatment is deemed necessary.

**Ophthalmic Service.**—Provision is made for home consultation with Ophthalmic Specialist in emergency cases and hospital treatment is available for all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

**Orthopædic Provision.**—Orthopædic hospital provision is available for children under five.

**Contributory Payments towards Bus Fares.**—In the case of women attending the Ante-Natal Clinic, contributory payments are made by the Authority towards the cost of bus fares.

**Nursing Homes.**—No Nursing Homes have been registered in this district and no action has been found necessary.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

#### Stillbirths and Neo-Natal Deaths.

The following table (No. 5) demonstrates the fact that a proportion of infantile deaths are due to developmental conditions over which no control is possible—an irreducible minimum of infantile mortality.

**TABLE 5**  
**DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.**

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.		1-2 weeks.		2-3 weeks.		3-4 weeks.		1-3 mths.		3-6 mths.		6-9 mths.		9-12 mths.		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.		
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth .. ..	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Congenital Syphilis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiac Failure.																	
Marasmus .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intussusception ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Massive intra cranial hæmorrhage accidentally caused by forceps at birth..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Intra cranial hæmorrhage.																	
Breech Delivery	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

The following small tables deal with the comparison of still-births and neo-natal deaths, during the past four years:—

TABLE 6a.

**DETAILS OF STILL-BIRTHS  
FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.**

Year.	No. of Live Births.	No. of Still-births.	Proportion of Still-births per 100 Live Births.
1939	330	12	3.6
1940	344	7	2.0
1941	334	18	5.4
1942	349	11	3.15

TABLE 6b.

**DETAILS OF NEO-NATAL  
DEATHS FOR THE PAST  
FOUR YEARS.**

Year.	No. of Live Births.	No. of Neo-Natal Deaths.	Proportion of Neo-Natal Deaths per 100 Live Births.
1939	330	14	4.2
1940	344	15	4.3
1941	334	9	2.1
1942	349	13	3.7

Your attention is directed to a table referring in detail to mortality in children under five years of age, the particulars being classified in age groups.

TABLE 7.

**DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS. IN AGE GROUPS**

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 yr.		1-2 years.		2-3 years.		3-4 years.		4-5 years.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth ..	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Pneumonia .. ..	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	4
Congenital Syphilis ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cardiac Failure.												
Marasmus .. ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Intussusception ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Massive intra cranial hæmorrhage accidentally caused by forceps at birth .. ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Intra cranial hæmorrhage Breech Delivery.. ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumococcal Meningitis..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Accident .. ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

Table 8 shows the number of children medically examined during 1942 and Table 9, dealing with defective children in Clinic attendance reveals that the number of defects discovered during routine examination of Clinic attenders is gratifyingly small, and would indicate that there is little wrong with the infant health of the Area.

**TABLE 8.**  
**CHILDREN MEDICALLY EXAMINED DURING 1942.**

Birth to 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	Total.
1,251	467	599	2,317

**TABLE 9.**  
**PARTICULARS OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN IN CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING 1942.**

Age.	No. of Children in Clinic Attendance	No. of Children found to be Defective.	Percentage of Children in Clinic attendance found to be defective.
Under one year ..	300	23	7·6
One to two years..	265	14	5·2
Two to five years	578	25	4·3
Total—Birth to five years .. ..	1,143	62	5·4

#### ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND MATERNAL WELFARE.

I have already referred to the insistent demand for Institutional accommodation for maternity cases. Leeds Maternity Hospital, owing to pressure on its accommodation, now only admits abnormal and emergency cases. This leaves a large class of mothers who, by reason of their domestic circumstances, are unfavourably placed with regard to confinement at home. During the year, the position became acute, and on approach being made to the County Council, it was found possible to arrange admission for certain classes of normal obstetric cases to Walton Hall Emergency Home. This scheme is, I am glad to say, working admirably.

Attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinics is showing a definite and progressive increase. The Ministry of Health suggests certain minimal attendances as being desirable, and compliance with that suggestion has been attempted. If the average attendance is maintained or increased, it will be necessary, before long, to extend the number of Ante-Natal sessions held, in order to avoid undue waiting on the part of the mothers.

**TABLE 10.**  
**DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS**  
**DURING 1942.**

Clinic.	Total No. of Expectant Mothers Attending.		Primiparae	Multiparae.	No. of Sessions held.	Average attendance per session.	Gross total of Attendances.	Percentage of notified births in Clinic attendance.
	New Cases	Old Cases						
Rothwell	236‡	48	94	140	53	22.73	1,205	89.9*
Methley	25	3	11	14	12	6.25	75	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>67</b>		<b>1,280</b>	

\* Inclusive of 51 cases carried over from 1941.

‡ Inclusive of 2 cases not pregnant

NOTE.—During 1942, the actual number of new cases in Ante-Natal Clinic attendance was 261—equivalent to 74.47 per cent. of the notified births.

**TABLE 10a.**  
**PERIOD OF PREGNANCY AT WHICH FIRST ATTENDANCE**  
**(1942) TOOK PLACE.**

1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month	6th month	7th month	8th month	9th month	Not Pregnant	Total.
0	8	30	57	70	54	27	13	0	2	261

NOTE.—Where women reside a mile or more from the Clinic, transport expenses are paid by the Authority.

A glance at Table 11 shows the large proportion of Heart Disease encountered, comprising, as it does, about twenty-five per cent. of all detected abnormalities. Admittedly, some of the conditions were relatively slight, but almost all, slight or severe, were, in my opinion, rheumatic in origin, and constitute a grave comment on the prevalence of this disease, which contributes so largely to morbidity amongst the whole population. If, as many believe, the incidence of Rheumatism is affected by bad housing, it is perhaps reasonable to hope that the expected post war improvement in this direction will contribute materially to the combating of this disease.

**TABLE 11.**  
**DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL DETECTED DURING ANTE-NATAL  
CLINIC EXAMINATIONS.**

Heart Disease (various forms)	14	Bronchitis .. .. .	1
Hypertension .. .. .	13	Chorea .. .. .	1
Breech, External Version to Vertex .. .. .	6	Phlebitis .. .. .	1
Pyelitis .. .. .	4	Hæmorrhoids .. .. .	1
Varicose Veins .. .. .	4	Transverse lie, External Version to Vertex .. .. .	1
Vaginal Discharge .. .. .	2	Tendency to Miscarry .. .. .	1
Cystitis .. .. .	2	Placenta Praevia, Antepartum Hæmorrhage .. .. .	1
Hydramnios .. .. .	1	Breech with extended legs, referred to Hospital .. .. .	1
Contracted Pelvis .. .. .	2		
Cystocele .. .. .	1		
		Total .. .. .	<u>*57</u>

\*Equivalent to 18.2 per cent. of 312 Expectant Mothers attending.

**TABLE 11a.**  
**CONFINEMENT HISTORY OF THE CASES IN ANTE-NATAL  
CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING 1942.**

Normal Deliveries .. .. .	174	Premature Delivery .. .. .	1
Instrumental Deliveries .. .. .	4	Disproportion (Trial Labour)	1
Instrumental Deliveries associ- ated with ruptured Perineum	4	Trial Labour .. .. .	1
Persistent Breech .. .. .	3	Post Partum Hæmorrhage .. .. .	1
Cæsarean Section .. .. .	3	Ante Partum Hæmorrhage .. .. .	1
Stillbirths .. .. .	4	Maternal Death (Cardiac failure after Cæsarean Section in Hospital) .. .. .	1
Miscarriages .. .. .	5	Uterine Inertia (Delivered in Hospital .. .. .	1
Abortions .. .. .	2	Twin Pregnancies .. .. .	2
Hydramnios and Anencephalic foetus and ruptured Perineum, delivered at 24 weeks .. .. .	1	Triplet Pregnancy .. .. .	1
		Due for delivery in 1943 .. .. .	102

**TABLE 12.**  
**CASES ADMITTED TO LEEDS MATERNITY HOSPITAL DURING  
1942.**

No. of Emergency Cases .. .. .	9
No. of Advance Bookings .. .. .	16

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—Three cases were recorded; all made good recoveries.

**Maternal Mortality Rate.**—During 1942, one maternal death occurred in this area. The District Mortality Rate for the year was, therefore, 2.66 per 1,000 births, the average Maternal Mortality Rate in this district for the five years' period 1938 to 1942 inclusive, being 2.17.

No record of the activities of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department would be complete without a word of acknowledgment to Miss Cameron, the Superintendent Health Visitor, and her staff. Miss Cameron has brought to the work an untiring zeal, a freshness of approach and a flexibility of outlook which has not only contributed very largely to whatever success has been achieved, but has made the work itself, for me personally, a mental tonic and a source of inspiration throughout the year.

To the staff of Health Visitors I would say "Thank you" for their unflagging co-operation and support and would take this opportunity of expressing my regret at Miss Roberts's illness, which caused her absence from duty from June onwards.

**Voluntary Helpers.**—A word of acknowledgment must also be given to the Voluntary Helpers, whose generous assistance is so much appreciated by staff and mothers alike at the Clinics.

### HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—The invaluable help of Dr. Potts, the County Medical Officer of Health, and his staff, have continued to be available for bacteriological examination of specimens and other similar work. On several occasions, the help of a Pathologist has been of the utmost assistance in investigation of obscure conditions admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and in all cases I have found the utmost readiness to give all possible help. On behalf of the Rothwell Urban District Council, I would like to express sincere thanks for the help so freely afforded.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—(a) For Infectious Disease. (b) Non-Infectious Disease and Accidents. An approved scale of charges is in operation for the latter.

On several occasions when the Council's ambulance has been already engaged, it has been found possible, with the consent of the County Council's Civil Defence Controller, to make use of one of the Civil Defence Ambulances, and this has been found of the utmost value. It is a matter of considerable doubt whether one ambulance is sufficient to serve the diverse and growing needs of an area as extensive as this, and one can foresee the possibility of future extension of this valuable service.

**Nursing Provision.**—Voluntary Nursing Association, with staff of three Nurses, who, by arrangement, nurse in the home, on request, cases of Infectious Disease of a type not eligible for treatment in the Rothwell Isolation Hospital.

**Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinic used Solely for Diagnosis or Consultation :—**

- (a) Five Welfare Clinics ; one, the Central Clinic, at Rothwell, and one each at Stourton, Lofthouse, Methley and Oulton.

- (b) Ante-Natal Clinic held weekly at the Central Clinic, and monthly at the Methley Clinic.
- (c) Post-Natal Clinic held weekly at the Central Clinic.
- (d) Staff of five Health Visitors, one being the Supervisory Head.
- (e) Panel of Home Helps.
- (f) Scabies Clinic.—The growing prevalence of Scabies led to the establishment of a Clinic for the treatment of this condition. The Clinic is held at the Rothwell First Aid Post, and has done and is doing valuable work in the eradication of this annoying infestation. Incidentally, towards the end of the year, it became apparent that the incidence of Scabies was beginning to decline and it is greatly to be hoped that this improvement will be progressively maintained.

**Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.**—The Council maintains its own Hospital for the isolation and treatment of Infectious Disease.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply for the district has been obtained in the following amounts from the under-mentioned Local Authorities during the year :—

Leeds Corporation ..	..	220,177,000 gallons.
Morley Corporation ..	..	25,050,000 „
Wakefield Corporation ..	..	28,529,000 „
Total ..		273,756,000 „

Of this quantity, 138,811,000 gallons were used for Trade purposes and the balance of 134,945,000 gallons was allocated to domestic purposes and leakage respectively.

The average daily consumption per head for domestic purposes was 15·72 gallons and, for trade purposes 16·17 gallons.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—No changes have been made in the drainage and sewerage systems in this area during the year.

**Rivers and Streams.**—No action necessary during the year.

**Closet Accommodation.**—During the year under review, one waste water closet was abolished and replaced by a washdown water closet. Seven ashpits were also abolished and 23 galvanised dustbins provided in their stead.

**Public Cleansing.**—I would refer you to the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**Shops and Offices.**—No statutory action has been found necessary, but routine inspection is carried out.

**Camping Sites.**—See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**Smoke Abatement.**—All action has been suspended for the duration of the War.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**—No Public Baths in this area.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority. The property and effects of Slum Clearance tenants are disinfested before transfer to new houses, whilst educational and co-operative measures are taken by the Health and Housing Departments to prevent infestation or re-infestation.

**Schools.**—No action necessary in connection with the sanitary condition and water supply of schools.

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**—Normal routine work has been carried out during the year with regard to milk, inspection of farms and dairies, meat and other foods. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### HOUSING.

There has, of course, been no action in regard to Clearance Areas or Unfit Houses during the currency of the year, but ten houses which were vacated prior to 1942 were demolished during that year.

Details of housing inspection and repairs required to be done during 1942 will be found in the table in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The following table is self-explanatory.

**TABLE 13.**  
**HOUSING ACTIVITIES DURING 1942.**

No. of Houses Inspected.			No. of Visits made.		
Under Housing Act.	Under Public Health Act (Minor defects)	Total	Under Housing Act.	Under Public Health Act.	Total
178	327	505	249	428	677

Informal Notices.		Statutory Notices.	
No. issued.	No. completed.	No. issued.	No. completed.
96	94	18	18

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

A glance at the table appended will show that there has been no marked prevalence of Infectious Disease during the year. Scarlet Fever continues to be mild in type, although it is reasonable to add

the warning note that this mildness has previously been experienced in cycles of several years, only to be succeeded by a more malignant type of illness, and it is desirable not to be lulled into a sense of false security by the present relatively trivial nature of the disease.

**Diphtheria.**—Diphtheria continues to be unimportant numerically, only 12 positive cases being recorded during the year, with no death. It is permissible I think, to attribute the low incidence of this disease to the high rate of immunisation amongst the child population.

The year was marked by a low incidence of measles. This disease, as is well known, is subject to cycles of two years, and may be expected to be more prevalent in 1943. No death was attributable to this condition nor to Whooping Cough during the year.

**TABLE 14.**  
**CASES OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS**  
**(EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).**

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Total.
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
*Scarlet Fever ..	0	0	7	3	3	35	16	3	3	0	0	0	70
†Diphtheria ..	0	0	1	2	0	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	12
Para Typhoid Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Pneumonia ..	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	8	2	21
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum ..	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Erysipelas ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	2	14
Cerebro-Spinal													
Fever ..	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
Pemphigus													
Neonatorum ..	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dysentery ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles ..	5	11	22	29	26	68	14	3	3	0	0	0	181
Whooping Cough ..	10	7	11	8	17	22	3	2	0	0	0	0	80
TOTALS ..	20	19	42	43	46	132	38	11	14	11	12	5	393

† 12 cases of suspected Diphtheria also notified, but proved "Negative."

\* 69 Civilians, and 1 member of H.M. Forces.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

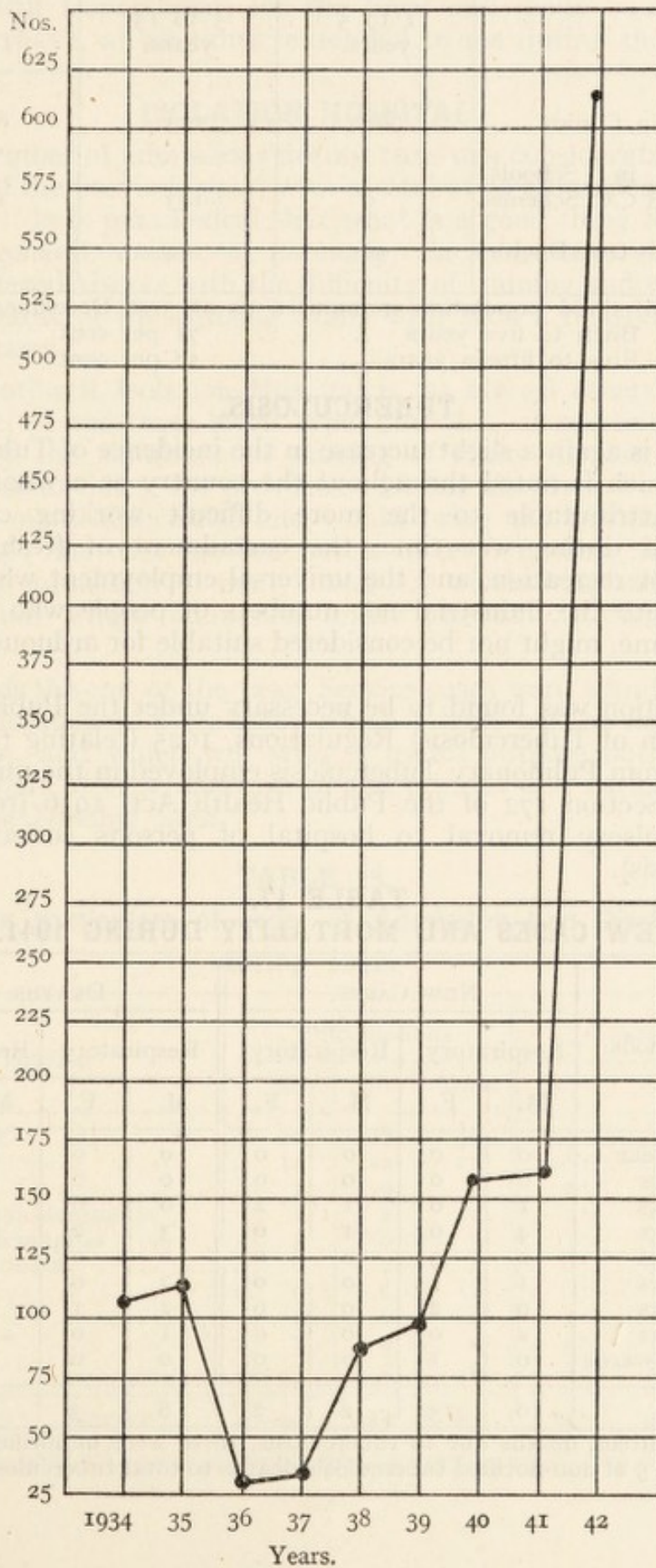
This important preventive measure was carried out during the year with the utmost insistence, with the gratifying result which can be appreciated by a glance at the accompanying graph. However satisfactory these results may seem, it is necessary to add that there still remains a solid core of recalcitrants who, either through ignorance, neglect, or apathy, refuse to bestow on their children the priceless gift of safety from death or crippling disability from this dread disease. In the absence of any compulsory powers, one can only hope, by persistent personal approach, to overcome such prejudice and indifference, and ultimately to attain the desired goal of a one hundred per cent. immunised child population.

TABLE 15.

GRAPH OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED IN INFANT

WELFARE CENTRES, from 1934 to 1942.

1 yr. to 5 yrs.



**TABLE 16.**  
**IMMUNISATION RECORDS, 1942.**

	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	Total.
Immunised in Clinics ..	668	173	841
Immunised in Schools under W.R.C.C. Scheme	0	143	143
Immunised by Own Doctors	50	44	94

Percentage of Child population immunised as at 31st December, 1942 :—  
 Birth to five years .. .. 71 per cent.  
 Five to fifteen years .. .. 58 per cent.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

There is again a slight increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis, a trend which is noted throughout the country as a whole, and is possibly attributable to the more difficult working conditions experienced during war time, the curtailment of fresh air and facilities for recreation, and the universal employment which tends to bring into the industrial net numbers of people who, perhaps, in peace time, might not be considered suitable for arduous employment.

No action was found to be necessary 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 hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

**TABLE 17.**  
**NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941.**

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 years ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15 years ..	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1
15-25 years ..	4	6	1	0	3	2	0	2
25-35 years ..	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-45 years ..	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
45-55 years ..	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
55-65 years ..	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals ..	10	13	2	2	8	3	0	4

Of the fifteen deaths due to tuberculosis, three were unnotified, giving a ratio of 1 in 5 of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths.

It is impossible to close this section without expressing my thanks to Mr. Wilson, the Senior Sanitary Inspector and to the staff of the Health Department, for the loyal and ready co-operation which they have, at all times, extended to me during the current year.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of admissions during 1942 was considerably higher than that of the previous year, with a total of 92 admissions against 51 in 1941. It is paradoxical that what is a good thing for public health in general, means, of necessity, slack times for hospitals, and one is faced always with the difficulty of training and maintaining the interest of the Nursing Staffs with such a relatively small intake of cases.

The Rothwell Isolation Hospital is, as are all others of comparable age, of the three-block type, and this, of necessity, limits considerably the simultaneous nursing of many diverse diseases. In more normal times, the provision of a cubicle block would overcome very many difficulties and would bring the practice of the Hospital into line with modern trends in fever nursing, and make possible the admission of many cases for whom hospitalisation is desirable, but whose admission under present circumstances is impossible.

Towards the end of the year, Service cases were admitted with increasing frequency, a tendency which I hope will be maintained during 1943, and which will serve a useful purpose both from a National point of view and also to add interest and variety to the work of the Nursing Staff.

**TABLE 18.**  
**Showing particulars of cases of Admission and Discharge during 1942.**

Disease	Admissions			Discharges		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	22	28	50	15	21	36
Diphtheria .. .. .	11	12	23*	10	11	21
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	0	1	2	0	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	1	1	2	1	0	1
Suspected Meningitis .. .. .	3	0	3	3	0	3
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	0	2	2	0	2	2
Impetigo .. .. .	0	2	2	0	2	2
Pemphigus .. .. .	2	0	2	2	0	2
Dysentery .. .. .	1	0	1	1	0	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	1	0	1	1	0	1
<b>TOTALS .. .. .</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>71</b>

\*Of the above 23 cases of Diphtheria, 12 were proved "Negative."

In addition to the above, five military cases were admitted to Hospital from outside the Rothwell Urban area. These consisted of:—

- 2 cases Mumps (Male).
- 1 case Chicken Pox (Male).
- 1 case Scarlet Fever (Female).
- 1 case Vincent's Angina (Male).

**Mortality Rate.**—One death was recorded during the year 1942 debited to Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, thus giving a general Hospital Death Rate of 1.3 per 100 patients discharged.

I should like to add a word of appreciation to Matron for the conscientious manner in which she has carried out her duties, in spite of the staffing difficulties which are at present universal in all Institutions, and which have cropped up with distressing frequency throughout the year.

In conclusion, I should like to convey to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and more particularly, the Chairman and Members of the Isolation Hospital, Health, and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, my thanks for the ever willing support and co-operation which they have given me throughout the year.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Rothwell, 1943.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent,

### for the year 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Rothwell Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to append, for your information, my Eleventh Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1942, relative to the work of the Health and Cleansing Department.

This report will, of necessity, be brief, as have been its war-time predecessors.

In spite of war-time restrictions which, as time goes on, become stricter and more irksome, I am glad to be able to report to you that the work of the Department has in no way suffered though the type may have varied somewhat, and although materials which are required in the repair of houses are scarce and the supply varies from time to time, no appeal or Certificate from this Department to say that the work for which the material is required is urgent, has failed to have its effect.

In my last report, I was able to tell you that the staffing had been increased by an additional Sanitary Inspector and a female Clerk, which brought the staff up to three Inspectors in addition to myself, and two clerical staff, but, during the year under review, the second additional Inspector left to take up another post and in April of the same year the junior Inspector was called to His Majesty's Service, with the result that the staff at the end of the year consisted of myself, Mr. Naylor my deputy, and two clerical staff. The effect of this will eventually be felt, although the figures for 1942 have not suffered materially.

There has been no air raid disturbance or blitz on this area in the year under review and therefore the extra Civil Defence services which are controlled from this office, such as Billeting and Mortuaries, have not required an undue amount of attention to maintain them in their state of preparedness.

**Housing.**—Although it is now accepted that constructive housing work, that is the scheduling, representation and demolition of worn out and unfit houses is held over until after the war, the

ordinary work of repair has been maintained, and the figures compare very favourably with those of previous years, in view of the fact that the staff was, during the latter part of the year, depleted.

The statement below gives details under the formal headings of the work carried out in this branch :—

No. of dwelling-houses inspected under the Housing Acts ..	178
Total number of inspections made under Public Health and Housing Acts .. .. .	505
No. of Preliminary Notices served .. .. .	96
No. of Ashpits converted .. .. .	7
No. of Dustbins provided in lieu of Ashpits .. .. .	23
No. of Notices complied with during 1942 .. .. .	94
No. of Legal Notices (Housing) served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	9
No. of the above Notices complied with .. .. .	9
No. of Legal Notices (Public Health) served .. .. .	16
No. of above Notices complied with .. .. .	16

**Nuisances.**—During 1942, 455 nuisances were found or reported and of these 452 were dealt with during the currency of the year. The majority of these are dealt with by the Cleansing Department Staff and consist mainly of blockages in traps, drains and sewers, but seven informal and seven Statutory Notices were served in connection with those which did not come within the purview of this Department's assistance. At the end of the year, three were still outstanding.

**Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures.**—The encampments previously referred to at the Bowling Green Hotel, Rothwell, and the Angel Inn, Rothwell Haigh, were dealt with by the Council during 1942. The Caravan Occupiers at the Bowling Green were requested to remove and, on failing to do this, action was taken through the Police Courts which resulted in the clearing of the ground. A similar action was contemplated at the Angel Inn, Rothwell Haigh, but our success in the Bowling Green case was sufficient to encourage the other caravan dwellers to leave the ground.

At the end of 1942, the only caravans in this district were contained on the Feast Ground, Rothwell. Apart from the fact that caravans contravened the Public Health Act by staying on an unlicensed ground, no other nuisance or defect was found in connection therewith.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—The Department is still able to maintain a fairly regular Refuse Removal Service, approximating very closely to the seven day bin emptying and twenty-one day ashpit emptying, which was our standard pre-War. This is something of which we are entitled to be proud, when the amount of salvage which has been collected separately during the year in addition to the ordinary household refuse is so extensive.

In January of 1942 we obtained a new Karrier Bantam Refuse Collector which has undoubtedly been instrumental in maintaining the service referred to above.

The total staff employed is still the same as pre-War, with the addition of two men who are employed full time in the Salvage Depot, but when it is noted that a number of the men now employed to replace men who have gone into essential industries are aged, it will be appreciated that numerical strength is not always a fair comparison.

**Salvage.**—As I commented in last year's Report, this Council was placed sixth in the Yorkshire Waste Paper Competition and as there were 180 Competitors I think that we can feel satisfied with the results.

There has been some fluctuation in the different types of salvage collected as compared with the previous year, and there has also been an increase in some of the controlled prices. The total value of the salvage sold has increased by over £600, which figure in itself is an indication of the success of our efforts.

The salvage of food scraps is one section which I think deserves special comment. In 1941 our total salvage in this section was 7 tons 6 cwts., which was not, in the opinion of the Ministry of Supply, sufficient, and we therefore re-organised the collection scheme and introduced, during the first half of the year, Food Scrap Bins in almost every street in the area. The result of the provision of bins and the wide publicity given to the scheme was very gratifying, and from a total weight in January, 1942, of 17 cwts., our collection increased month by month until, in December, 1942, a total collection of 19 tons 9 cwts. was recorded for the month. The collection for the year was 137 tons, and in view of the fact that large parts of this area are rural in character, the residents following the usual rural customs of keeping pigs and poultry, and therefore using their own food scraps and those of their neighbours, I feel that the total available food scraps are being collected.

Under direction of the Ministry, the Food Scraps collected have to be taken and sold to Leeds Corporation for processing, but it is possible to re-purchase the processed pig food and bring it back into this district for sale to pig keepers, who are glad to have this addition to their rationed foods. The fact that we have, in this way, a load for each return journey helps to justify the travelling and, at the same time, reduces the costs. During the course of the year 113 tons 11 cwts. of processed pig food was brought back for use in this district.

The Department has been fortunate during the currency of this year in obtaining speedy removal of the salvage accumulated and with the exception of temporary railway hold-ups, due to aerial activity, we have been able to clear our Depots as required. This has been an undoubted help in the organisation.

In December, 1941, the Council decided to make an acknowledgment to the workmen in the Department for their efforts in salvage collection and to stimulate further endeavour, by the payment of a bonus pro rata to the amount of salvage collected. From the commencement of the scheme to the end of the year a total sum of £216 5s. 11d. was disbursed amongst the men of the Cleansing Department.

**TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT AND VALUE OF MATERIALS SALVAGED.**

Material.	Weight.				Income.		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Baled Papers .. ..	130	18	0	1	776	5	10
Unbaled Paper .. ..		13	1	14	6	1	8
Unbaled Tins .. ..	51	19	0	0	68	16	9
Scrap Iron .. ..	7	4	0	0	14	8	0
Textiles .. ..	10	15	1	11	163	18	1
Non-ferrous metals ..		3	3	12	5	11	5
Rubber .. ..	11	9	1	0	27	18	5
Food scraps .. ..	137	2	1	0	205	13	6
Bottles and Jars ..	2,858	dozen	and	5	73	12	9
Scrap Glass .. ..	3	8	1	0	4	5	4
Bones .. ..	5	6	0	0	16	4	3
Miscellaneous .. ..	—				2	10	0
Total .. ..					£1,368	6	0

**Sanitary Conveniences.**—The difficulties in obtaining labour and materials has held up the operation of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year it was however, found possible to convert one waste Water Closet to a wash down Water Closet and to abolish seven ashpits and replace them with 23 metal dustbins. In the provision of dustbins we have been especially fortunate, and are able to supply the needs of all property owners in this district to replace bins which have become defective and form the subject of Informal Notices. Pre-war, we included a note with the Notice intimating that we could, if desired, supply dustbins. This, under war conditions, is not necessary, as the owners now apply to us to see if we can let them have bins as these, ordinarily, are unprocurable.

By order of the Ministry, the standard type of bin has been reduced from 27/8 lbs. galvanised to 16/18 japanned, but this is a war-time exigency which we have to tolerate.

**Milk and Dairies.**—The list appended gives the details of the registrations under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders and has altered very little from last year. Routine milk sampling is now

the purview of the County Council, but we have, towards the close of the year, instituted a system of milk sampling for Resazurin test, to give an indication as to the keeping qualities of the milk. The amount of milk lost throughout the country through early souring became so colossal that special steps had to be taken in this matter, and, during the year, two appeals were made to cow keepers to do all that was in their power to produce milk of the best possible keeping quality. Visits were made to all milk producing premises in substantiation of these appeals.

No. of persons registered as Retail Purveyors of Milk	76
No. of Cowkeepers .. .. .	33
No. of premises registered as Dairies .. .. .	34
No. of Accredited Milk Licences .. .. .	2
No. of Supplementary Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order .. .. .	6

**Meat and Food Inspection and Control.**—Centralised slaughtering still continues and we are, therefore, not concerned with meat inspection except the relatively small amount produced by private pig keepers, and in the twelve months of 1942, 108 visits were made to inspect the carcasses of 142 pigs.

The reduction in this type of work is made up by the amount of inspections and seizures which have to be made of tinned foods and other commodities at shops and stores. There is, in this area, a Ministry of Food Buffer Depot and from time to time visits have to be made to inspect food which has become defective. In all, a total weight of 2,365 lbs. of meat and food of various types, the majority being tinned foods, together with some seven dozen eggs, were condemned and removed. Wherever this can be done with safety, the food condemned is included in our food salvage scheme.

The scheme and arrangements for Food Decontamination have been maintained during the currency of 1942, although, fortunately the services of the Food Decontamination squad have not been required.

**Petroleum.**—During 1942, 34 Licences were issued to store 1,783,800 gallons of petroleum spirit in this area, the stores concerned all being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

**Disinfection and Disinfestation.**—The Department still maintains the service of disinfection and disinfestation, and although the work of disinfection is decreasing in view of the fact that it is not now customary to disinfect premises after the removal of Scarlet Fever cases to hospital, the amount of disinfestation has increased.

The table appended shows the details and types of disinfection and disinfestation carried out during the year.

35	Disinfections of houses after removal of cases of Infectious Disease.
9	Disinfections of houses after death of one of the inmates.
2	Disinfections of Empty Houses.
15	Disinfestations of clothing of Scabies cases (treated by Steam).
33	Disinfestations of houses for vermin.
2	Disinfections at a Public Institution.
—	
96	Total.

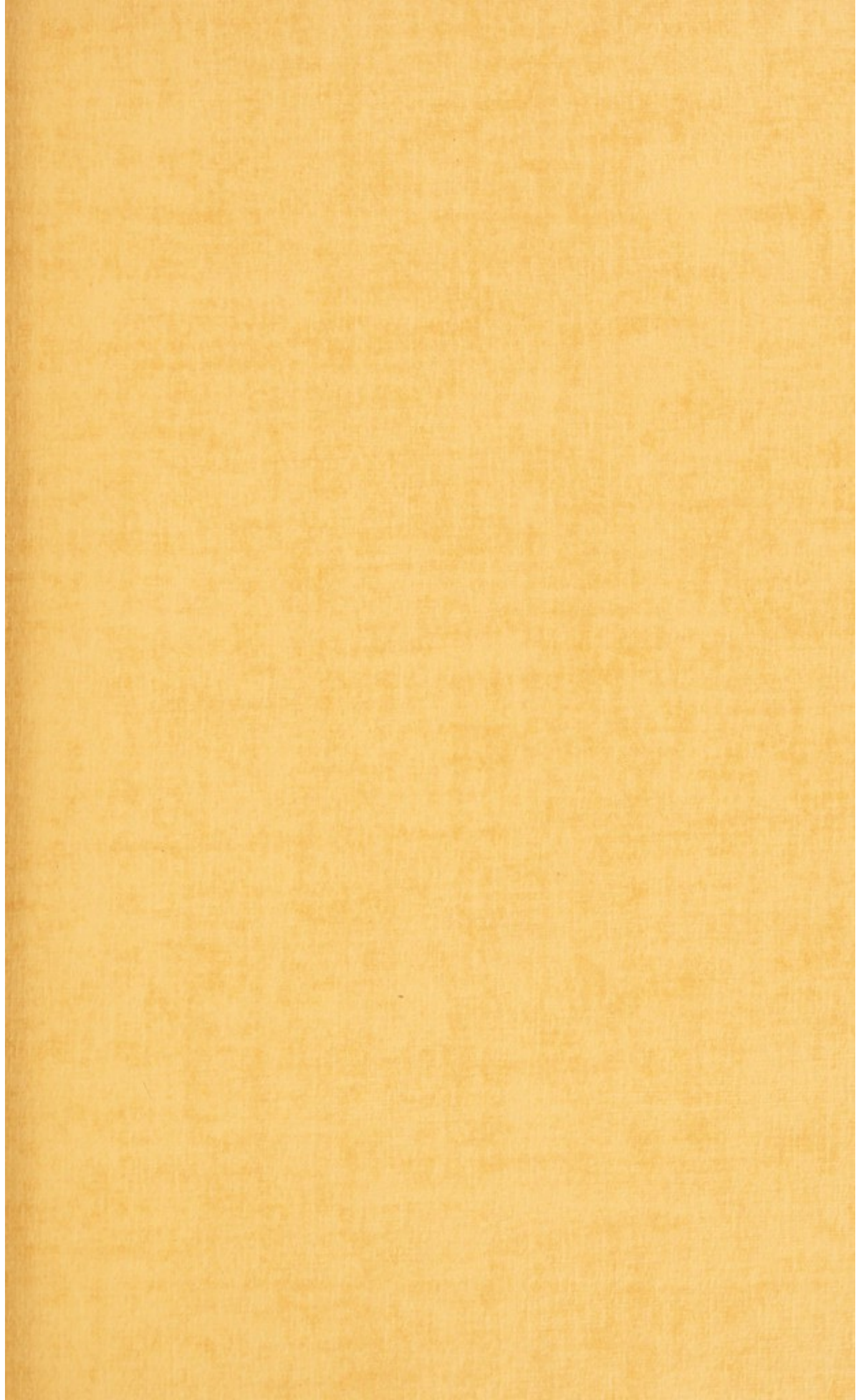
In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the help and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and the loyalty and co-operation of the staff which, together with the support of the Health Committee and the Council, is so instrumental in maintaining the Department efficiently.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. WILSON.

Rothwell, 1943.



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