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SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR 1939.



INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

S. T. COCHRANE, M.D., D.P.H.

INCORPORATING THE

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

ERIC A. AUSTERBERRY, M. S. I. A.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

(Also Medical Officer to Derbyshire County Council Public Assistance Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and Public Vaccinator)

SAMUEL T. COCHRANE, M.D., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

(Including Inspector of Meat and Foods and Inspector under the Food and Drugs and Shops Acts) :

ERIC A. AUSTERBERRY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certs. in Meat Inspection and in Sanitary Science of the R.S.I., Medallist of Institution of Sanitary Engineers. 1st. Class Special Certificate of Civilian A.R.P. School.

HEALTH VISITORS :

Misses STEVENS, FIELD, and CORTON.

(Employed by the Derbyshire County Council).

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Chairman : Councillor J.W.Warren, J.P.,

Vice-Chairman : Councillor B. Martin.

Councillors, J. Allitt, J. Beard, G. W. Boss, B. Brealey, W. Brealey, E.C. Clamp, G. Clamp, G. J. Davies, H.T. Forman, J.P., J. W. Freeman, H. Gregson, W.L. Insley, F. Parker, A. Plummer, F. R. Searancke, R. A. Warren.

3.

SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you the following report upon the health and sanitary condition of your District, for the year ending December 31st, 1940. On the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report is an interim one.

It is intended that full reports for the war years will be published at the end of the war. The delay in presentation of the report is due to the fact that certain statistics supplied by the Registrar General were not received until October 1940.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

S. T. Cochrane,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY :

Area of District in Acres (inclusive of water )	..	..	..	3,754.
Population (Census 1931 )	..	..	..	20,604.
Population (Estimated to middle of 1938 )	..	..	..	20,480.
Population (Estimated to middle of 1939 )	..	..	..	20,550.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939 )	..	..	..	5,470.
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£81,607.
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	£305.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	1939.			1938.
	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate	178	113	291	312.
Illegitimate	6	5	11	13.
	184	118	302	325.
Live birth Rate	14.7.			15.9.
Live birth Rate (England and Wales)	15.0.			15.1.

STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate	7	4	11	13.
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
	7.	4.	11.	13.
Rate per 1,000 total births ..	35.0.			38.5.

DEATHS.

	1939.			1938
	M.	F.	Total	
Deaths at all ages	115	93	208	227.
Death Rate	11.4.			11.1.
Death Rate (England and Wales) ..	12.1.			11.6.
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth.				
From Sepsis	Nil.			Nil.
From other causes	Nil.			1.
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births :				
Legitimate	66.2.			54.5.
Illegitimate	Nil.			Nil.
All Infants per 1,000 live births.	66.2.			54.5.
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	31.			29.
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil.			Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.			Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil.			1.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population at the middle of 1939 is 20,550, an increase of 70 over the previous year's estimate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The number of cases of the commoner infectious diseases shows a considerable reduction on the previous years, as the following table indicates :

<u>Disease.</u>	1939.	1938.	1937.
Scarlet Fever.	15.	35.	82.
Diphtheria	20.	83	23.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid Fever)	-	-	-

The cases were evenly distributed over the Urban District.

No exceptional measures were considered necessary because of the war. It will be observed that the birth rate has fallen and is now below that of England and Wales, also the death rate has increased slightly but is still below the rate for England and Wales.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL

REPORT 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the report upon the work of my Department for the year ending December 31st., 1939.

In response to the request of the Ministry of Health, the contents of the report have been kept down to a minimum.

Like almost everyone, my work in 1939 was a strange contrast from the activity of a normal year. The outbreak of war in September suspended for a time many of my public health activities and it was only towards the end of the year that anything approaching normality was restored. The commencement of hostilities, however, meant merely an intensification of the work on various aspects of Civil Defence, which as an officer of the Council I had been concerned with, not only from the commencement of the year, but in 1939 also.

H O U S I N G .

In July, a Ministry of Health Inquiry was held into the decision of the Council to require the clearance of 143 houses in various parts of the Urban District which were considered unfit for habitation.

Somewhat earlier than this, commencement was made on the housing scheme of 108 houses and 16 bungalows on the site across " The Meadows " in Newhall, which were intended to rehouse the majority of the families living in these houses.

Then the war and instructions of the Ministry of Health suspended everything. We were, however, permitted to complete 44 houses already commenced, and after representations the Ministry agreed early this year to confirm clearance orders on a number of houses sufficient to occupy the houses to be finished.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1) By the Local Authority	.. .. .	1.
(2) By private enterprise	.. .. .	82.

Number of new houses in course of erection by Local

Authority at end of year 44.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :-

i. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 159.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 165.

ii. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 111.

iii. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation:-

(a) In clearance Areas. 62.

(b) Individual 62.

iv. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of thoses referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 97.

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices:-

i. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 75.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :-

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

i. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 9.

ii. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 12.

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

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

i	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	13
ii	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
(a)	By Owners.	9
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	0

(C) Proceedings under sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

i	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	0
ii	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	6
iii	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders.	15

(D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

i	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	0
ii	Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	0

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:-

(A)(i)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year:-	
(a)	Stanton and Newhall.	37
(b)	Swadlincote.	24
(c)	Church Gresley.	39
		<hr/> 100
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein.	114
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein.	821
(B)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	0
(C)(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	2
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases.	16

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary.

Dwelling Houses:-

Roofs repaired.	24
Houses repointed.	101
Chimneys repaired.	45
Spouting repaired or renewed.	60
Ceilings replastered.	35
Walls replastered.	93
Floors repaired or relayed.	59
Window frames repaired or new frames provided.	127
Doors and door frames repaired.	27
Fireplaces repaired or rebuilt.	44
Washing coppers provided or repaired.	13
New sinks provided.	14
Houses provided with separate internal supply of towns water.	27
New wash-houses provided.	4
Wash-houses repaired.	5
Yard paving repaired.	94
Dampness remedied.	83
Staircases repaired.	37
Foodstores repaired.	14

DRAINAGE.

Drains cleansed.	13
Drains relayed or repaired.	8
New drains provided.	4

All drainage work, whether for new or existing buildings, is subject to my supervision.

Wherever possible, every new length of drain was tested by an exacting smoke pressure test, and good workmanship was continued.

Length of 6" drain laid.	395 yards.
Length of 4" drain laid.	1730 "
Number of new water closets fixed.	128
Number of inspection chambers provided.	74
Number of Buildings drained to septic tanks.	2

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughterhouses:- The number of slaughterhouses in use at the end of the year was:-

Registered slaughterhouses.	10
Licensed.	13

All these premises were regularly inspected, the total number of inspections made being 1121.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:-

Inspections were made of all cowsheds and dairies in the Area, and the hygienic standard previously recorded was continued.

As in the previous year, four farms were licensed by the County Council for the production of Accredited Milk.

The present state of the register is as follows:-

Number of Cowkeepers.	29
Number of Dairies.	44
Number of Cows. (estimated.)	210
Number of Wholesale Producers.	5
Number of Retail Purveyors.	
(a) Within the District.	38
(b) Without the district.	25

The following is a short summary of the improvements effected:

Cowsheds provided with new floors and channels.	2
Cowsheds where lighting and ventilation improved.	1
Farms where dairies were built or improved.	1
The number of inspections made to cowsheds & dairies was,	57

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:-

At the end of the year the following licences had been granted:-

Bottling Licence.	1
Dealers' Licence.	1
Supplementary Licences.	9

School Milk:-

Many of the school children are supplied each morning with milk, the bulk of which is Pasteurised, a small quantity being Accredited.

Inspection of Shops.

Routine inspections were made of the shops in the district, to ensure that the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to hours of employment of young persons, and conditions of employment, were being observed.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year continued advantage was taken of the additional power given by the Public Health Act, 1936, to require the conversion of the insanitary types of conveniences into water closets.

Notices were served under Section 47 of the Act, and the conversions were done at the instance of the Council, who paid one-half of the cost involved.

14 trough closets were converted into water closets.
4 privy " " replaced by " "

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Water closet fittings repaired	..	..	..	..	37.
Water closet structures repaired	29.

DOMESTIC REFUSE.

New dustbins provided	179.
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OTHER NUISANCES.

Offensive accumulations removed	6.
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During the year 229 complaints were received and investigated.

MEAT INSPECTION.CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	157	634	87	1815	1843.
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	5	36	2	6	3
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	3.2.	5.2.	2.04.	0.3.	0.16.
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1.	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	22.	261.	-	-	107.
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	14.0.	41.3.	-	-	5.3.

The diseased meat was disposed of in the incinerator at the Council Depot.

