

[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Swadlincote U.D.C.

Contributors

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SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR 1940.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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

INCORPORATING THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

John Mullin, M.S.I.A.,
(Commenced August 1st, 1940.)

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

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report for the year ending 31st December 1940; owing to the war the report is again curtailed. The health of the district remains good on the whole, and does not appear to have been adversely affected by war conditions. There is at present no unemployment and this should have a beneficial effect.

Both the birth and death rates show an increase. The birth rate is the highest since 1930 and is above the rate for England and Wales.

I regret to have to record an increase in the Infantile Mortality Rate, this is due in part to the severe weather in the early part of the year.

During the year much additional work was placed upon my department due to Evacuation, and the Evacuation Hostel which was opened during the year has proved of great value for the treatment of scabies, impetigo, bed wetting etc.,

The principle statistics have been included for comparative purposes.

I am,
Yours obediently,

S. T. Cochrane,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Swadlincote.

October 1941.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area of District in Acres (inclusive of water)	3,754.
Population (Census 1931)	20,604.
Population (Estimated to middle of 1940)	20,270.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)	5,533.
Rateable Value.	£83,222.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£330.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>1940.</u>			<u>1939.</u>		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.	165.	150.	315.	178.	113.	291.
Illegitimate.	5.	5.	10.	6.	5.	11.
			<u>325.</u>			<u>302.</u>
Live Birth Rate.			16.03.			14.7.
Live Birth Rate. (England and Wales) (per 1,000 civilian population)			14.6.			15.0.

DEATH RATES. (per 1,000 estimated population)

	<u>1940.</u>			<u>1939.</u>
	M.	F.	Total.	Total.
Deaths at all ages.	136.	103.	239.	208.
Death Rate.			11.79.	10.12.
Comparable Death Rate.			13.08.	11.4.
Death Rate (England and Wales)			14.3.	12.1.
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.			91.18.	66.2.
Death Rate Diarrhoeal Diseases. (Children under 2 years)			.20.	.00.
Pthisis Death Rate.			.15.	.097.
Respiratory Diseases Death Rate.			1.83.	.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were no serious epidemics of infectious diseases during the year. A diphtheria immunisation campaign was started towards the end of 1940 and I have to record my appreciation of the assistance given by the County Medical Officer of Health who undertook to carry out the immunisation of the school children, also that of the Sanitary Inspector who did valuable work in organising the campaign, and carrying out the considerable amount of clerical and other work involved.

As no children had completed their immunising treatment by the end of the year, no figures are given in this report.

3.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the report on the work of my department for the year ending December 31st., 1940.

The year was one of great activity owing to the many additional duties due to the war which interfered with normal work, essential duties were however, well maintained.

HOUSING.

It is a matter for regret that work under the Housing Act has had to be temporarily suspended as much remains to be done in the district to bring our standard of housing up to modern requirements. In view of the shortage of labour and materials notices under the Public Health and Housing Acts are only being served for urgent repairs and it has been necessary on occasion to assist property owners and builders to obtain material required for such repairs. The housing shortage has been made more serious by war-time movements of the population and it has been difficult to deal with cases of overcrowding.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| (a) By the Local Authority. | 44. |
| (b) By private enterprise. | 19. |

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

Total number of inspections and reinspections of dwelling houses for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	540.
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Number of Notices served.

- | | |
|---------------|------|
| (a) Informal. | 314. |
| (b) Formal. | 104. |

Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding.

Number of inspections.	43.
Number of notices served.	11.
Number of cases of overcrowding abated during the year.	8.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Dwelling houses.

Roofs repaired.	41.
Houses repointed.	13.
Chimneys repaired.	8.
Spouting repaired or renewed.	42.
Ceilings replastered.	8.
Walls replastered.	11.
Floors repaired or relayed.	11.
Window frames repaired or new frames provided.	13.
Doors and door frames repaired.	5.
Fireplaces repaired or rebuilt.	10.
Washing coppers provided or repaired.	7.
New sinks provided.	10.
Domestic water supplies repaired or improved.	83.
New wash-houses provided.	2.
Wash-houses repaired.	7.
Yard paving repaired.	13.
Dampness remedied.	19.
Staircases repaired.	9.

Meat and Food Inspection.

As all Butchers meat is now slaughtered outside the district none of the slaughter-houses are in use. Fifty-five pigs were inspected after slaughter under licences issued by the Food Executive Officer. Inspections of shops and market-stalls from which foods are sold was continued.

4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. meat and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. other foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Food Manufacturing Premises.

Registration under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. has proved of value in obtaining improvements in the structure of the premises and in the hygienic handling of the foods. The methods of handling are still below the standard I would like to see, and constant inspection is necessary to secure a reasonable standard.

Milk and Dairies.

Inspection of the cowsheds and dairies was maintained, fifty-eight visits being made. Most of the milk supplied to the school children is pasteurised.

Infectious Diseases.

Visits were made upon receipt of every notification of infectious disease and where the home conditions would not permit satisfactory isolation of the patient, arrangements for removal to hospital were made.

Sixty-nine visits were necessary and sixty-one houses were disinfected.

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.

Inspection of Shops continued.Closing Hours.

The provisions of the Shops Act, 1928, relating to hours of closing, were on the whole observed, although warnings were given in several cases.

Drainage Works.

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

Length of 6" drain land.	202 yds.
Length of 4" drain land.	391 "
No. of inspections of choked and defective drains.	180.
No. of notices served.	50.
No. of notices complied with.	44.

Dustbins.

No. of inspections.	203.
No. of notices served.	153.
No. new bins provided.	123.

Evacuation.

Owing to the difficulty of finding billets for mothers with several children nine communal billets were equipped. These houses were requisitioned by the Council and were furnished at short notice. Much hard work was entailed and I would like to express my thanks to those members of the Evacuation Committee and others who gave valuable assistance. Supervision of these billets and of the childrens' hostel has since taken up much of my time, and I think there can be few duties which provide the difficulties and problems met with when dealing with evacuation.

Communal billets provide, in my opinion, the only satisfactory solution of the problem of billeting mothers with several children and when comparisons are made over a period of the relative costs of this type of billet and the cost of billeting on private house-holders the communal billet is found less costly as well as more satisfactory. It is noticed that it is almost invariably the evacuee housed in a communal billet who stays longest in a reception area.

No information has been included on Civil Defence duties or of duties undertaken as Enforcement Officer to the Food Control Committee.

Total number of inspections made for all purposes during the year was 2096.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Council for their confidence and the Clerk for his co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John Mullin,

Sanitary Inspector.