SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

YEAR 1944.

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.R. San. I.

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

(also Inspector under the Shops Acts)

JOHN MULLIN, M. R. San. I.

Certificate of Royal San. Institute, and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Examination Board. Royal Sanitary Institute Meat & Food Inspectors Certificate. Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Clerical Assistant - Miss M. L. Cooke

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman, Councillor F. H. Parker, J.P.
Vice-Chairman, Councillor R. A. Warren.

Councillors, J. W. Allitt, G. W. Boss, J. Beard, W. Brealey J.P., G. Clamp, E. C. Clamp, H. T. Forman, J.P. W. L. Insley, R. W. Kenny, B. Martin, A. Plummer, H. M. Robinson, G. Smith, G. A. Sherlock, F. R. Searancke, and J. W. Warren.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

WELFARE CLINIC, ALEXANDRA ROAD,

SWADLINCOTE.

MINOR AILMENTS.

Daily, 9.0a.m. to 10.0 a.m. (except 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays in month) Doctor attends every 2nd, 4th, 5th Saturday in month 9. 0a.m. to 12 noon.

INFANT WELFARE.

Mondays - 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Mondays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Tuesdays, 9.a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays in each month.
9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Attends Wednesdays by appointment.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

by appointment Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

OCULIST

attends 2nd and 4th Thursdays by appointment.

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

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1944. Once again I have to report an increase in the Birth Rate, which has now risen to 21.04% per 1,000 population, this is the highest rate recorded since 1925.

The increase in births has intensified the shortage of maternity beds, the majority of mothers have their babies at home , and with so many families living in rooms this often causes difficulties and I hope in the future a maternity home will be provided in a position convenient for the district.

Every effort was made to increase the percentage of children immunised against diphtheria, but although the results do not compare unfavourably with other districts they are not as good as they should be, and we are not continuing the progress made during 1942/3.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. T. COCHRANE,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swaziland Native Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1944. Once again I have to report an increase in the birth rate, which has now risen to 41.04 per 1,000 population, this is the highest rate recorded since 1929.

The increase in births has intensified the shortage of maternity beds. The majority of mothers have their babies at home, and with so many families living in room this often causes difficulties and I hope in the future a maternity home will be provided in a position convenient for the district.

Every effort was made to increase the percentage of children immunised against diphtheria, but although the results do not compare unfavourably with other districts they are not as good as they should be, and we are not concluding the programme made during 1942.

I am,

Your faithfully,

M. T. GOODMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Mbabane, Bech.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area of District in Acres (inclusive of water)	3,754
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944)	5,538
Rateable Value	£85,983
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£330
Population (Census 1931)	20,604
" (Estimated to middle of 1939)	20,550
" Registrar General's estimate 1944	19,390

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate	387	196	191	) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 21.04
	(Illegitimate	21	11	10	)
STILLBIRTHS		18	12	6	) Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21.9
DEATHS.		223	119	104	) Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	0.0
Other puerperal causes	2	4.6
Total	2	4.6

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	68.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	69.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	47.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24
" " Measles (all ages)	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Swadlincote and Ashby Joint Water Board. The supply is satisfactory in quality, but the quantity available is not sufficient to meet the needs of the area supplied, and a scheme for sinking a new borehole to augment the supply is now in progress.

A bulk supply of water is available from the South Staffordshire Water Company and the maximum possible quantity is taken from this source. The Stanton and Newhall Ward has a constant supply of this water, but day and night restrictions had to be imposed over the rest of the district for the greater part of the year.

I am informed by the Clerk to the Joint Water Board that one bacteriological examination of the raw water was made during 1944, and found satisfactory. Water going into supply is treated and bacteriological examination made every two weeks; these samples were all satisfactory. The following reports are on check samples from a domestic supply in the Council's area;-

Bacteriological Examination.

Plate Counts:- Number of colonies in agar after 48 hrs. incubation at 37°C = nil per ml.
Number of colonies in agar after 72 hrs. incubation at 20°C = 1 per ml.

Presumptive Coliform Count. Probable number of coliform bacilli present = nil per 100 ml.

Differential Coliform Test. Probable number of faecal B.Coli = nil per 100 ml.

Bacteriologically the sample of water is satisfactory for drinking purposes.

Chemical Analysis.

		parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter (dried at 180° C.)		26.7
Free and Saline Ammonia		00
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.0012
Nitrogen as Nitrites		faint trace
Nitrogen as Nitrates		0.3
Chlorine (present as Chloride)		2.1
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 80° Fahr.		0.017
Hardness	Temporary	8.1
	Permanent	9.5
	Total	17.6
Metals	Iron less than	.005

The chemical analysis affords no evidence of the occurrence of pollution.

The water has no plumbo solvent action, and no action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination. All dwelling houses in the district have a piped supply direct to the house, except six houses in outlying areas which are served by wells.

Of the 5,532 houses with piped supply, 183 houses share a tap in a wash-house used in common, usually by two or three families.

SCABIES.

The arrangements for treatment of scabies mentioned in my report for 1943 continued to be necessary, and I have to thank local medical practitioners for their co-operation in referring cases for treatment by the Council's staff. It was necessary to use the powers given under the Scabies Order 1941 to compel treatment of nine persons. Difficult cases were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector whose tactful handling of this problem deserves mention. The number of persons treated was 553, in addition 117 cases were treated for three other Authorities. 97 cases required further treatment after the usual two applications of benzyl benzoate.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Every effort was made to increase the number of immunised children but the progress made during 1942/3 has not been maintained. The figures given below show the total number of children dealt with since immunisation commenced in 1941 and the position at the end of 1944. 415 evacuees were treated during their stay in this district and on their return the Medical Officer of Health of the home town notified that they had been immunised.

	under five years	aged five to fifteen years.
Children immunised during 1941	354	1,712
" " " 1942	518	385
" " " 1943	293	335
" " " 1944	202	36
Total	1,367	2,468
Estimated percentages of children immunised at 31st December, 1944:-	44.6%	70.9%

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The arrangements for treatment of scabies mentioned in my report for 1943 continued to be necessary, and I have to thank local medical practitioners for their co-operation in referring cases for treatment by the Council's staff. It was necessary to use the powers given under the Sanitary Order 1941 to compel treatment of nine persons. Difficult cases were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector where tactful handling of this problem desirves mention. The number of persons treated was 555, in addition 117 cases were treated for three other authorities. 97 cases required further treatment after the usual two applications of benzyl benzoate.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

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	Under five years	Aged five to fifteen years.
Children immunised during 1941	554	1,212
" " " 1942	518	385
" " " 1943	295	336
" " " 1944	202	56
Total	1,569	2,468

Estimated percentages of children immunised at 31st December, 1944:- 46.4% 70.8%

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING YEAR 1944.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	68	23	-
Diphtheria	5	3	-
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1	1	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Acute Polio-Myelitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	28	-	10
Measles	18	-	-
Whooping Cough	33	-	1

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT VARYING AGES

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	3	1	38	17	4	3	-	-	-	68
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	5
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	-	1	-	4	-	1	3	4	9	3	28
Whooping Cough	3	4	8	3	5	8	1	-	1	-	-	-	33
Measles	-	-	5	4	3	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	18
Erysipelas	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of cases notified during 1944.-	3	-	1	3
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1944	22	17	23	19

Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases on Register at 31st December, 1944 = 81

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING YEAR 1944.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	68	23	-
Diphtheria	5	3	-
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1	1	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Acute Polio-Myelitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	28	-	10
Measles	18	-	-
Whooping Cough	38	-	1

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT WHITBY, 1944.

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	Total
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	3	1	38	17	4	3	-	-	-	68
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	5
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	-	1	-	4	-	1	3	4	9	3	28
Whooping Cough	3	4	8	3	5	8	1	-	1	-	-	-	33
Measles	1	-	5	4	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	18
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of cases notified during 1944 -	5	-	1	3
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1944	29	14	20	19
Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases on register at 31st December, 1944 = 81				

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages M.	All ages F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 population
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	.05
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	2	6	.3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	1	1	.05
Syphilitic disease	2	1	3	.15
Influenza	-	1	1	.05
Measles	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-	-	-	-	-
encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	-	1	1	.05
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	3	3	.15
Cancer of breast	-	3	3	.15
Cancer of all other sites	7	10	17	.87
Diabetes	1	-	1	.05
Intracranial vascular lesions	13	10	23	1.1
Heart Disease	31	29	60	3.09
Other disease of circulatory system	5	3	8	.41
Bronchitis	6	5	11	.57
Pneumonia	8	2	10	.51
Other respiratory disease	4	2	6	.3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-	1	.05
Diarrhoea under two years	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
Other digestive diseases	2	-	2	.10
Nephritis	4	1	5	.25
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	-	-	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	2	2	.10
Premature birth	5	6	11	.57
Congenital Malformations, birth injury, infant disease	3	5	8	.41
Suicide	2	-	2	.10
Road Traffic accidents	1	-	1	.05
Other violent causes	5	2	7	.36
All other causes	15	14	29	1.5

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages		Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 population
	M.	F.		
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal fever	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	2	.05
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	2	6	.3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	1	1	.05
Syphilitic diseases	2	1	3	.15
Influenza	-	1	1	.05
Measles	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	-	1	1	.05
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	3	3	.15
Cancer of breast	-	3	3	.15
Cancer of all other sites	7	10	17	.87
Diabetes	1	1	2	.05
Intracranial vascular lesions	15	10	25	1.2
Heart Disease	51	29	80	3.09
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	3	8	.42
Bronchitis	4	8	11	.57
Pneumonia	8	2	10	.51
Other respiratory disease	-	2	2	.3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-	1	.05
Diarrhoea under two years	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
Other digestive diseases	2	-	2	.10
Nephritis	4	1	5	.26
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	-	-	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	2	2	.10
Premature birth	5	6	11	.57
Congenital malformations, birth injury, infant diseases	3	5	8	.42
Suicide	2	-	2	.10
Road Traffic accidents	1	-	1	.05
Other violent causes	5	2	7	.36
All other causes	15	14	29	1.5

Public Health Department,
Swadlincote.

September, 1945.

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

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this report on my work during the year 1944. The shortage of building labour made it difficult to get housing repairs carried out and the lack of maintenance during the war, has led to extensive disrepair.

This has reduced a standard of housing which was already too low and I look forward to the time when it will again be possible to use the provisions of the Housing Act to improve the general standard by the clearance or reconditioning of all unfit houses, but I appreciate the provision of new houses to meet the acute shortage must come first.

Particular attention was given to food premises and milk and dairies work and I think there has been some improvement in the standard of cleanliness.

Duties under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act have taken a great deal of time, but I think the results have fully justified this.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MULLIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Swadlincote.

September, 1949.

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Swadlincote District Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

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This has reduced a shortage of housing which was already too low and I look forward to the time when it will again be possible to use the provision of the Housing Act to deal with the general shortage by the clearance or reconditioning of all unfit houses, but I appreciate the provision of new houses to meet the more urgent requirement.

Particular attention was given to foodstuffs and milk and dairies work and I think there has been some improvement in the standard of cleanliness.

Duties under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act have taken a great deal of time, but I think the results have justified this.

I am,

Your faithfully,

JOHN MULLIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING AND SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

HOUSING.

Housing Act 1936, section 9			
No. of inspections		16	
" " reinspections		43	
Overcrowding - no. of inspections		64	
Applications for Council houses		120	
Council houses		173	
Public Health Act 1936	Inspections	349	
	Reinspections	511	
Rent & Mortgage Restrictions Acts.		11	1287

GENERAL

Provision of Ashbins	187	
Drainage	211	
Drain testing	53	
Smoke nuisances	59	
Factories	72	
Vermin	131	
Schools	24	
Scabies	206	
Shops	62	
Animals, keeping of	94	
Water supplies	41	
Evacuation	65	
Infectious Diseases.	194	
Food Premises	477	
Rats & Mice Destruction Acts	2,948	
Miscellaneous	193	5,017
	Total	6,304

No. of Notices served.

	Informal	Formal
Housing Act 1936 - section 9	16	-
Public Health Act 1936	456	62
Shops Acts 1912 - 1936	13	-
Rats & Mice Destruction Act 1919	14	3
Milk and Dairies Regulations	26	-
Food & Drugs Act 1938	21	-
Total	546	65

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING AND SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

HOUSING.

Housing Act 1936 - section 9		
No. of inspections		16
" " reinspections		45
Overcrowding - no. of inspections		64
Applications for Council houses		120
Council houses		173
Public Health Act 1936	Inspections	549
	Reinspections	511
Rent & Mortgage Restrictions Acts.		11 1267

GENERAL.

Provision of Rabbits	187
Drainage	211
Drain testing	53
Smoke nuisances	59
Rodents	72
Vermin	131
Schools	24
Sanitas	306
Shops	62
Animals, keeping of	94
Water supplies	41
Excavation	65
Infectious Diseases.	194
Food Premises	477
Rats & Mice Destruction Acts	2,968
Miscellaneous	1,93 5,017
Total	6,304

No. of Notices served.

	Informal	Formal
Housing Act 1936 - section 9	16	-
Public Health Act 1936 -	456	86
Shops Acts 1912 - 1936	13	-
Rats & Mice Destruction Act 1919	14	3
Milk and Dairies Regulations	36	-
Food & Drugs Act 1938	21	-
Total	546	85

WORKS COMPLETED - nuisances abated etc.,

	No. of houses.
Defective privies and pail closets	29
Defective w.cs.	89
Additional w.cs. provided	6
Ashbins provided	63
Drains cleared, repaired or reconstructed	139
Yard Paving	2
Roofs, gutters and downspouts.	87
New sinks provided	19
Ventilation improved	12
Windows repaired	19
Dampness remedied	95
Water supply	23
Overcrowding abated	6
Dirty houses	12
Keeping of animals	48
Smoke nuisance	6
Urinals	11
Miscellaneous	17
	683

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

278 complaints were received during the year, all received prompt attention and any necessary action taken.

Proceedings were taken against one property owner to abate a nuisance caused by dampness and disrepair at a dwelling house.

An abatement order was made with 12/6d costs and the work was then carried out.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR 2871 - Certificates of Essentiality.

Five Certificates of Essentiality were issued to enable property owners to obtain licences for essential work. The total cost of the works was £2,200. One partly built house was completed under these arrangements.

RE-OCCUPATION OF CONDEMNED HOUSES.

Owing to the serious housing shortage, all the unoccupied condemned houses were inspected, and four, which were considered suitable, reconditioned at a cost of £398. On completion of the works the houses were reoccupied under licence by four families who were living in rooms under overcrowded conditions. The reconditioning of two other condemned cottages was not proceeded with owing to the cost being excessive.

RENT AND MORTGAGE RESTRICTIONS ACTS.

Eleven complaints of rent overcharges were investigated and the particulars obtained given to the Clerk's Department for appropriate action. One tenant applied for a Certificate of the Sanitary Authority that his house was not in a reasonable state of repair. The Certificate was granted, and the necessary repairs were carried out by the owner.

APPLICATION FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

One hundred and twenty applications for tenancy of Council houses were registered during 1944. This brings the estimated total of "live" applications on the waiting list at December 31st, 1944 to six hundred.

DISINFESTATION.

There was an increase in the number of houses found to be verminous particularly houses infested by fleas, and I think this is partly due to the employment of women in industry preventing the same care of the home. Judging by complaints received and the quantity of insect powder distributed, quite a large propertion of houses are infested by cockroaches.

After the appointment of a rodent operator, I trained him in disinfestation, this made it possible to tackle the problem more effectively. In my experience, disinfestation by the householder or property owner, is seldom effective and I think it better for the local authority to do the work.

A proprietary fumigator containing sulphur and lethane proved effective with bed bugs provided care was taken to ensure a sufficient concentration and period of exposure to the gas. Houses infested with fleas were treated with naphthalene. Sixty-one houses were treated for infestation by bugs, fleas, cockroaches or crickets. The Council's refuse tips had to be frequently treated because of cricket infestation and houses nearby were infested. This trouble would be minimised if controlled tipping was carried out properly.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Seventy-two inspections of factories were made and attention drawn to any defects noted.

All the factories have been inspected under section 34 of the Act and all except one certified that they have satisfactory means of escape in case of fire.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twelve observations of factory chimneys were made and the owners notified of any excessive smoke emission. Owing to present conditions no statutory action was taken.

RENT AND WATER ACT INSPECTIONS ETC.

Eleven complaints of rent overcharges were investigated and the particulars obtained given to the Clerk's Department for appropriate action. One tenant applied for a Certificate of the Sanitary Authority that his house was not in a reasonable state of repair. The Certificate was granted, and the necessary repairs were carried out by the owner.

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FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Seventy-two inspections of factories were made and attention drawn to any defects noted.

All the factories have been designated under section 84 of the Act and all except one certified that they have satisfactory means of escape in case of fire.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twelve observations of factory chimneys were made and the owners notified of any excessive smoke emission. Owing to present conditions no statutory action was taken.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION.

All livestock continued to be slaughtered at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Burton-on-Trent. Transport and handling of meat under wartime arrangements has not been too satisfactory, carcases have arrived at the local meat allocation centre dirty owing to general lack of cleanliness in handling and to transport in unsuitable lorries, and the matter was taken up with the persons responsible for transport.

I understand more than 700 pigs were slaughtered for domestic pig keepers during the year, only eighteen of these were inspected because notice of slaughter cannot be required unless part of the carcase is to be sold for human consumption. The question was taken up with the local Food Executive Officer and the Ministry of Food but it was not possible to obtain an informal agreement for notice of slaughter to be given so that the carcases could be inspected.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foods were condemned:-

3 cwts. 64 lbs sugar	62 lbs meat,	780 oranges.
287 tins assorted canned goods	14 lbs fish cakes	50½st. fish
1 box kippers (14 lbs)	7 lbs cheese	12 lbs jam.
1 box haddocks (14 lbs)	2 cwt sausage	74 lbs bacon
268 lbs sausage	rusk	96 lbs toffee
31 pkts. cereals	28 lbs biscuits	

One cow carcase was emergency slaughtered at a farm and found to be affected with generalised tuberculosis.

Under arrangements made by the Ministry of Food, foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption are salvaged for industrial use or animal feeding wherever practicable.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

	No. of inspections.
Bakehouses	47
Butchers shops	55
Dairies and cowsheds	186
Cooked Meat Shops	71
Fried Fish Shops	26
Slaughterhouses	11
Shops etc.,	81
	477

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938, - Registration of premises.

	No. Registered.
Manufacture of sausages - cooked meats etc.,	18
No. of inspections	71

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

No. of producers	29
" " retailers (in district 29, outside district 17)	46
" " inspections of dairies and cowsheds	186
" " informal notices served.	26.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF MILK.

Sampling of ungraded milks was continued with the object of improving the keeping quality of milk retailed in the district and to check whether the Milk and Dairies Regulations were being observed.

Results of samples:-

	Passed	Failed
Methylene Blue Test	37	20
Bacillus Coli	30	11

Twenty-two samples were sent to the County Laboratory for biological testing for tuberculosis; all were reported free from tubercle bacilli.

PASTEURISATION OF MILK.

There are no heat treatment plants in the district, but three supplementary licences were issued for the sale of pasteurised milk. Forty samples were taken to check the efficiency of the pasteurising process, thirty-six satisfied the phosphatase test and four failed.

NATIONAL MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

One hundred and ninety samples of milk were taken under this Scheme for resazurin testing at the Ministry of Agriculture Laboratory at Derby, sampling ceased at the end of August because the Ministry decided to stop giving Sanitary Inspectors the results of the samples.

It is difficult to understand the reason for the decision since the reports were always treated as confidential and in any case farmers are ready to tell me their results.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Ninety-four visits of advice and inquiry were made to cases of infectious disease. Eighty-two houses were disinfected and bedding from seven houses removed for steam disinfection.

SCABIES.

Two hundred and six visits were made to cases of scabies to make inquiries as to the possibility of other cases in the family and to ensure completion of treatment.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

No. of producers	29
" " retailers in district 29, outside district	46
(47)	
" " inspection of dairies and cowsheds	186.
" " informal notices served.	26.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF MILK.

Sampling of ungraded milk was continued with the object of improving the keeping quality of milk retailed in the district and to check whether the milk and Dairies Regulations were being observed.

Results of samples:-

	Passed	Failed
Methylene Blue Test	87	20
Reducing Test	30	11

Twenty-two samples were sent to the County Laboratory for biological testing for tuberculosis; all were reported free from tubercle bacilli.

PASTEURIZATION OF MILK.

There are no heat treatment plants in the district, but three supplementary licences were issued for the sale of pasteurized milk. Forty samples were taken to check the efficiency of the pasteurizing process; thirty-six satisfied the phosphatase test and four failed.

MATERNITY MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

One hundred and ninety samples of milk were taken under this scheme for examination, testing at the Ministry of Agriculture Laboratory of Dairy Bacteriology, sampling ceased at the end of August because the Ministry decided to stop giving Sanitary Inspectors the results of the samples.

It is difficult to understand the reason for the decision since the reports were always treated as confidential and in any case farmers are ready to mail us their results.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ninety-four visits of advice and inquiry were made to cases of infectious disease. Eighty-two houses were disinfected and bedding from seven houses removed for steam disinfection.

SCABIES.

Two hundred and six visits were made to cases of scabies to supplement as to the possibility of other cases in the family and to ensure completion of treatment.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 - Infestation Order 1943.

The figures given below show that the appointment of a rodent operator has been fully justified, and I know the public have appreciated this service. No charge is made to private householders for rat destruction, but actual costs are recovered from all other premises. The difference between the number of buildings found to be infested and the number of complaints of infestation received show that routine inspection by a trained operator is essential. The methods of prebaiting and poisoning recommended by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Food were closely followed and proved very successful. A relatively large number of minor infestations were found, these were due mainly to pig and poultry keeping. It is difficult to entirely clear these small infestations since the two essentials to multiplication of rodents are present namely, food and shelter.

It was seldom found necessary to serve notices under the Rats & Mice Destruction Acts as most occupiers readily accepted the offer to treat their premises on an actual costs basis. The Council's refuse tips, destructor, and all brook courses received regular attention throughout the year.

There are twenty-nine farms in the district and infestation of farm rickyards frequently led to infestations at houses nearby. Under present arrangements County War Agricultural Committees are responsible for rat infestation at farms, but since it is useless to treat non-agricultural buildings unless the main infestation at the farm is treated at the same time, the farmers were approached and arrangements made to treat their premises, for this reason I think there should be one Authority responsible for pest destruction in Urban Areas. Traps were lent to all persons complaining of infestation by mice.

No. of premises inspected	2,948
" " " infested.	349
" " complaints of infestation	93
" " premises baited	448
" " points pre-baited	3,089
" " " poison baited	1,930
" " notices served a. formal	3
b. informal	14

Estimated number of rats killed during year = 5,083
(Including 760 in sewers)

Rat Infestation of Sewers.

It is estimated there are thirty-five miles of sewers in the area, and three sewer treatments were given during the year, the first treatment commenced in February; a second was carried out during July, and during September a retreatment of all manholes, from which bait had been taken during previous treatments.

Total figures for the three treatments are:-

No. of manholes baited	881
Total No. of prebait takes	207
" " " poison bait takes	184
Estimated No. of rats killed in sewers	760

Eleven sewers and twenty-three drains which were defective and causing surface infestations were repaired.

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No. of premises inspected	3,998
" " " infested.	540
" " complaints of infestation	93
" " premises baited	448
" " points pre-baited	5,089
" " " poison baited	1,930
" " notices served a. formal	3
b. informal	14

Estimated number of rats killed during year = 5,089
(Including 780 in sewers)

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SHOPS ACTS.

Three shops were found to be without satisfactory means of heating and informal action resulted in heating being provided.

Closing hours. Under war-time closing hours there were very few infringements, but seven small general shops were warned for keeping open after hours.

TENTS AND CARAVANS.

Owing to the housing shortage two caravans were occupied by miners directed to work in the district and the site was licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Informal action was taken against gypsies using caravans on Church Gresley Common on four occasions.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

The number of domestic pig and poultry keepers has enormously increased during the war and whilst appreciating the contribution to the food supply from this source I hope when conditions improve the Council will impose restrictions on pig and poultry keeping because of the very insanitary conditions under which they have been kept.

I have had many complaints of nuisance from pig keeping most of them only too well founded and it is rare to find pigs housed and kept as they should be.

WATER SUPPLY

Four bacteriological samples of water were taken from wells used by houses in outlying parts of the district. One was reported unsatisfactory and notice served requiring the laying on of a piped supply.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

The County Analyst has supplied the following particulars of samples taken in the Urban District.

Forty-one samples taken; 24 Milks and 17 Food and Drugs
Two samples of Milk were deficient in fat and the vendors were cautioned.
The samples other than milk were satisfactory.

CIVIL DEFENCE - Food Decontamination Service.

Training and practices of this service continued throughout the year and I would like to take this opportunity of mentioning the public spirit and enthusiasm shown by those food traders who formed the squads, and who so willingly gave up their Sunday mornings to prepare for an emergency which happily never arose.

BOOKS ACTS.

Three shops were found to be without satisfactory means of heating and informal notices resulted in heating being provided.

Closing hours. Under war-time closing hours there were very few infringements; but seven small general shops were warned for keeping open after hours.

TENTS AND CARAVANS.

During the housing shortage two caravans were occupied by miners directed to work in the district and the site was licensed under Section 280 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Informal notice was taken against Gypsies using caravans on Church Cleeley Common on four occasions.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

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CIVIL DEFENCE - Food Co-ordination Service.

Training and practices of this service continued throughout the year and I would like to take this opportunity of again stating the public spirit and enthusiasm shown by these food traders who formed the squads, and who so willingly gave up their Sunday mornings to prepare for an emergency which happily never arose.