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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For 1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B.CH.B., D.P.H.
(On Active Service from September, 1939).

Temporary Medical Officer of Health :

A. P. FRY, M.C., M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. E. SMALE, C.R., SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitor :

ALICE O'NEILL, C.M.B., S.R.N.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1940.

Area, 2,503 acres.

Population, 6,912 (estimated mid-year 1940); 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses, 2,200.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £209.

Rateable Value, £50,335.

General Rate, 14/5 in the £.

Birth Rate, 16.2.

Death Rate, 12.6 (corrected Death Rate, 11.7).

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births, 44.6.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea, 3.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4.

Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases, 1.

Tuberculosis Death Rate : Pulmonary, 0.578.

,, ,, ,, Non-Pulmonary, 0.144.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
REPORT FOR 1940.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1940. In form it is similar to that for 1939.

The general health has remained good and there has been no increase in infectious diseases except for an epidemic of measles.

During 1940 A.R.P. work has taken up a considerable amount of the time of Local Government officers; where the Council officials are few in number, as in Tettenhall, the proportion of their time devoted to A.R.P. has necessarily been high. Also, since I am freed from my duties for the County Council for only one half-day a week for A.R.P. work in the Tettenhall Urban and Seisdon Rural Districts a considerable amount of the work has devolved on Mr. Smale in connection with the A.R.P. Casualty Services. I am much indebted to Mr. Smale for all that he has done and also to him and to Mr. Lockley for work in the Control Room during Air Raids. During the latter part of the year Mr. Smale has also had the additional duty of Billeting Officer; all this extra work has prevented him from giving so much time to his own work and the number of inspections of food stuffs, etc., has necessarily been smaller.

The analysis of milk samples taken from retailers in the district shows that of undesignated milk 43% and of designated milk 25% are unsatisfactory. Whether the samples taken were from milk produced in the district or whether it was produced elsewhere and retailed here we have no information since the samples are taken by the County Council. The County Council gives the names of the producers of unsatisfactory milk to the County Farm Institute who communicate with the farmers concerned. Only in cases where no improvement in the cleanliness of the milk results is the District Council notified. No such notifications have been received here during the year. With the percentage of unsatisfactory milk so high, I consider that it is advisable that all milk purchased in the district should be boiled.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population figure is given as 6,912, an increase of 177 over 1939.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, which for England and Wales is 14.6, is 16.2 for Tettenhall against 16.3 in the previous year.

The Death Rate at 12.6 (corrected Death Rate 11.7) shows a rise from the corrected Death Rate of 1939 at 9.3. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1940 is 14.3.

The Infant Mortality rate at 44 per 1,000 live births shows a sharp rise from the 18.3 for the year 1939; wide fluctuations of this figure are inevitable in a small population, each single death sends the death rate up 9 units. The rate for England and Wales is 55.

The Maternal Mortality was again nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES JOINT HOSPITAL.

The South Staffs. Joint Hospital Board was unable during the year to acquire premises for a hospital for infectious diseases. Meanwhile, cases of infectious disease from Tettenhall continue to be admitted to the Wolverhampton Borough Hospital under the arrangement whereby 4 beds are reserved for them; this number has again proved adequate.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year there were 28 notifications.

DIPHTHERIA.—One case was notified and admitted to hospital. This was a female adult and the patient recovered although the Registrar-General credits the district with one male death from Diphtheria, obviously a mistake.

The case was in hospital for 38 days at a cost of £10 6s. 6d.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 7 cases, 3 of which were admitted to hospital at an average cost of £5 15s. 6d. with an average stay in hospital of 21 days.

ERYSIPELAS.—No cases notified.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Two new cases were notified and there were 4 deaths (2 males and 2 females).

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Five new cases were notified with 1 death (a male).

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—One case notified and treated in hospital.

PNEUMONIA.—There were 13 cases notified and 3 deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—No cases notified.

DYSENTERY.—Although 1 case was notified, a post mortem revealed that death was not due to dysentery.

PARATYPHOID FEVER.—One case was reported. The source of infection was traced to infected cream manufactured in another district. The necessary steps to prevent any further spread of infection from the infected food were taken by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the food was manufactured. Although other cases were notified in surrounding districts no further case was notified in this area. The patient was nursed at home.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—Measles and Whooping Cough were made compulsorily notifiable infectious diseases by the Minister of Health by regulations issued in February, 1940, although provisional Regulations had been in operation since October, 1939. During the year 44 cases of Measles and 8 cases of Whooping Cough were notified by Medical Practitioners. The majority of cases occurred among children of school age and attendances in the Infants' Departments at the schools were chiefly affected.

CANCER.—There were 15 deaths from this disease (an increase of 5 on last year), 7 males and 8 females.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The parents of 71 new entrants to the elementary schools consented to have their children immunised and the necessary injections were given.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The school clinic and the Infant Welfare Centre have continued to be held at the Parish Hall, Upper Street, every Thursday.

WATER SUPPLY.

No complaints have been received during the year about the quality of the water. The Water Engineer, Wolverhampton Corporation, reports that the supply of water during the year was satisfactory as to the quantity and quality. Regular analyses and bacteriological examinations of water from the several sources of supply were made during the year and in no case was B-Coli-Faecalis found.

SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to your Surveyor for the following report :

Tinacre Hill and Windmill Lane Areas.

The revised scheme for Windmill Lane area only, which was submitted to the Ministry of Health last year, was the subject of an Enquiry in April, 1940, a strong case being made for the scheme to be carried out by the Medical Officer and Surveyor. After the enquiry the Council were informed by the Ministry that they were unable to approve the scheme because of the restriction of borrowing imposed by the Treasury.

Blackbrook Sewage Farm.

These works have been maintained in good order during the past 12 months, and every effort has been made to keep the effluent up to a high standard.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Smoke Nuisances.

During the year 6 smoke observations were made on the one large chimney stack in the district. No excessive emissions of smoke was observed. In October, the Local Authority were instructed by a Home Security Circular to encourage the emission of more smoke for Defence purposes. This appeared to be a retrograde step in the light of the strenuous efforts to secure abatement of smoke nuisances for the benefit of the public health but it was realised that Defence needs must necessarily come before anything else. The hotels, schools and factories were visited and asked to make efforts to increase the amount of smoke emitted from their chimneys.

Shops.

117 Inspections of the shops in the district were made during the year. The following contraventions of the Shops Acts, 1934, were found:—

STATUTE	CONTRAVENTION.	ACTION TAKEN
1.—Shop Acts, 1934. S.10 (1) (a).	"Suitable and sufficient means of ventilation not provided and maintained."	Letter sent and necessary work carried out.
2.—Ditto.	Ditto.	Notice served and subsequently complied with.
3.—Ditto.	Ditto.	Letter sent and necessary work carried out.
4.—Ditto.	Ditto.	Notice served and subsequently complied with.
5.—Ditto.	Ditto.	Notice served and subsequently complied with.

Other contraventions detected were 1 under the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936, 3 under the Shops Act, 1912, relating to the posting of notices of the weekly half-day closing, 1 under the Shops Act, 1912, regarding the sale of prohibited articles on the weekly half-day closing, and 1 contravention under the Shops Regulations, 1939, with regard to the keeping of proper records of employment of young persons. Warning letters only were necessary for securing observance of the statutes. No action was found necessary under the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

During the year the general closing hours of shops in the district were changed under the Defence Regulations to meet with "black-out" conditions.

Closet Accommodation.

Only 8 waste water closets were converted during the year, leaving approximately 214 of these objectionable and insanitary closets still to be converted. When times become normal again a vigorous attack will have to be made on this type of convenience. There are 34 privies in the sparsely populated and unsewered area. Five privy middens were abolished and pail closets and dustbins provided in lieu thereof. The number of cesspools in the area remains the same as last year—119.

Public Cleansing.

There are now no ashpits in existence in the area, the 2 remaining at the end of 1939 having been abolished and dust bins substituted.

The number of sanitary dustbins is 3,054; these are emptied weekly.

Housing.

The position with regard to action under the Housing Acts 1925-1936 remains the same as last year:—

Demolished	...	...	...	...	26
Vacant but not demolished	...	...	...	...	9
Undertakings to repair carried out	...	...	...	...	19
Still occupied	...	...	...	...	3

Overcrowding.

The two cases of overcrowding remaining at the end of 1939 were abated during the year. The position was not seriously affected by the influx of 453 evacuees during October, in spite of the fact that the billeting standard of the Ministry of Health is higher than the overcrowding standard of the Housing Acts.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The number of producers, wholesale purveyors and retailers of milk in the district is almost the same as last year. Inspections of premises totalled 154 and the sanitary condition of the cowsheds generally was good considering the shortage of farm workers and the farmers' efforts in the "Grow more Food" campaign.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The coming into operation of the Food and Drugs (Adulterations) Act, 1938, on the 1st October, 1939, gave Local Authorities greater powers in respect of the control and sanitary condition of slaughterhouses. The following action under the Statute was taken with regard to the private slaughterhouses within the area.

"Registered" Slaughterhouses.

Of the three premises (formerly "registered"), two were licensed subject to structural alterations and improvements being carried out, if the premises are used

again. (The Ministry of Food took over control of Livestock industry as from the 15th January, 1940, with subsequent centralised slaughtering). A licence in respect of the third "registered" slaughterhouse was refused because of the insanitary conditions of the premises.

" Licensed " Slaughterhouses.

The licences in respect of the two formerly " licensed " premises were renewed, subject to the carrying out of structural works, if the premises are again used. One of the latter after structural alteration is used as a Meat Depot for the butchers in the Urban District and the surrounding Rural districts. A total of 70 visits were paid to this depot, butchers' shops and other premises for the purpose of meat inspection, whilst 106 visits were paid to slaughterhouses principally to see that illicit slaughtering was not being carried on.

The meat supply has been of good quality on the whole and few complaints of diseased or unsound conditions have been received.

In addition, 24 inspections of food preparation premises were made.

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANUFACTURE OR SALE OF (a) ICE CREAM and (b) PRESERVED FOOD, Etc.

Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act provides for the registration of food preparation premises whether for manufacture or sale only, and the following tables give a summary of the position:—

Ice Cream Premises.

PREMISES	APPLICATIONS			Number on Register 31/12/40.
	Received	Granted	Refused	
(a) For Manufacture ...	1	—	1	—
(b) For Sale ...	11	11	—	11

The premises in respect of which application was received for the manufacture of ice cream were not registered owing to their unsatisfactory structural condition. The applicant undertook to carry out improvements in accordance with specifications, before using the premises during the next season.

Preserved, Etc., Food Premises.

APPLICATIONS			Number on Register 31/12/40.
Received	Granted	Refused	
6	5	1	5

In two cases where premises were subsequently registered, structural improvements were carried out to specifications.

(c) Adulteration, Etc.**FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.**

The County Authority is responsible for all inspections, samples and action taken.

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Jenkins, Senior District Inspector, for the following report:

Of 52 samples taken 40 were milk (of which 4 were found adulterated) and 12 were of general foods, none of which were adulterated. Three of the retailers of adulterated samples were cautioned whilst legal proceedings were instituted against the fourth retailer who was convicted and fined.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

The County Authority are responsible for the sampling of milk and only cases which require action under the Local Authority's powers under the Milk and Dairies Orders are reported to the Local Authority.

Of 14 samples of undesignated milk submitted for examination, 6 were found unsatisfactory from the cleanliness point of view and 2 contained tubercle bacilli. Of 4 samples of Accredited milk, 1 only was not up to the required standard. All the samples submitted were "street" samples, i.e., taken during the course of retail.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936-38.

There was a decrease of 1 in the licences in force for the production or sale of designated milk in the district, giving a total of 17 licences in force at the end of the year.

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.

A total of 1861 inspections were made during the year, an appreciable decrease as compared with last year due to causes explained in the earlier part of the report. Public Health, housing and overcrowding accounted for 1,051 inspections and 810 visits were paid to food and various types of premises, as routine work.

Number of notices served—196.

(139 informal and 57 formal) in respect of 342 premises.

Improvements carried out to dwelling houses and other premises totalled 530 for the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1941.

GENERAL EXAMINATION REPORT

The following is a summary of the examination results for the year 1911. The examination was held on the 15th and 16th of the month. The results are as follows:

Number of candidates: 100

Number of successful candidates: 50

Number of candidates who failed: 50

Number of candidates who were absent: 10

Number of candidates who were disqualified: 5

Number of candidates who were re-examined: 10

Number of candidates who were promoted: 10

Number of candidates who were recommended for promotion: 10

Number of candidates who were recommended for discharge: 10

Number of candidates who were recommended for transfer: 10

Number of candidates who were recommended for retirement: 10

Number of candidates who were recommended for other service: 10

Number of candidates who were recommended for other service: 10

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