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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For 1941.

WHITENHEAD BROTHERS (WOLVERHAMPTON) LTD

**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. (till August, 1941).
M. G. WICKS, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.SAN.I. (from August, 1941).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1941.

Area : 2,503 acres.

Population : 7,288 (estimated mid-year, 1941): 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses : 2,201.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £209.

Rateable Value : £50,366.

General Rate : 14/- in the £.

Birth Rate : 15.3.

Death Rate : 12.2.

Infantile death rate per 1,000 births : 34.

Total deaths from diarrhoea : Nil.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis : 2.

Deaths from other Tuberculous diseases : 1.

Tuberculosis death rate : Pulmonary, 0.274.

,, ,, ,, Non-Pulmonary, 0.138.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1941.

*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 1941.

Vital Statistics show little change from the previous year and there is no evidence from them that war conditions have caused any deterioration of good health in the District. It may be of interest to report that, of the 89 deaths recorded, 43 occurred in people over 70 years of age; of these 1 was over ninety and 21 over eighty. The expectation of life in a new-born child in Tettenhall is 60.6 years.

The year has been notable for the progress made in two directions for dealing with infectious disease. Firstly, in preventive work, by the great increase in the number of children immunised against diphtheria; secondly, in treatment, by the opening of the hospitals operating under the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board. Details are given later in this Report.

Miss O'Neill retired on the 31st July, 1941. Originally appointed Health Visitor at Tettenhall in 1916, she served under the District Council until 1934. From then until her retirement she worked as Health Visitor here under the Staffordshire County Council. Her work was always conscientiously and well done. I am indebted to her for the clerical work which she undertook in furnishing the weekly return of births and deaths for the Registrar General. May she have good health and happiness in her retirement. Miss M. G. Wicks was appointed by the County Council to succeed her as Health Visitor.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population figure of 7,288 given for mid-year 1941 shows an increase of 376 over 1940.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, which for England and Wales is 14.2, is 15.3 for Tettenhall against 16.2 in the previous year.

The Death Rate at 12.2 shows a small fall from the Death Rate of 1940 at 12.6. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 12.9.

The Infant Mortality Rate at 34 per 1,000 live births shows a fall from the figure of 44 for 1940. The Rate for England and Wales is 59.

The Maternal Mortality was again nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES JOINT HOSPITAL.

In 1941 The West Midlands Joint Hospital Board obtained the use of the Hospital at Moxley, formerly the Small-pox Hospital. It was opened for the admission of infectious cases on 1st October, 1941; at the same time the Board took over control of the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Kingswinford, Bilston and Wombourne.

This resulted in a considerable increase in the hospital accommodation available for cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever occurring in the districts served by the Board. Great benefit will be experienced by certain of these districts which, hitherto, have rarely been able to secure hospital treatment for cases of infectious disease. It seems likely to be of less benefit to the Tettenhall Urban District than to these other Districts since the Council has had an agreement for many years with Wolverhampton Borough to reserve accommodation for them for four patients at the Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital and this has proved adequate for our needs. Formal notice to terminate this agreement on the 31st March, 1942 was given to the County Borough of Wolverhampton.

The new arrangement will enable the District to secure admission to hospital of more than four patients at any one time if necessary.

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

During the year there were 35 notifications.

DIPHTHERIA.—Three cases were notified and all were admitted to hospital. The total number days in hospital of the 3 cases was 135 days and the total cost £45 1s. 6d., an average of 45 days in hospital and £15 0s. 6d. per case treated.

SCARLET FEVER.—Thirteen cases were notified, 7 of which were admitted to hospital, at an average cost of £8 6s. 3d. per case, with an average stay in hospital of 25 days per case.

ERYSIPELAS.—Two cases were notified although the Registrar-General figures give only 1 notified. Neither case was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths from the disease.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Three new cases were notified and there were 2 deaths (1 male and 1 female).

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Only one new case notified. There was 1 death (a female).

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No cases notified.

PNEUMONIA.—There were 15 cases notified and 5 deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—No cases notified.

PARATYPHOID FEVER.—Two cases of the "B" type of this disease were notified and in both cases the source of the infection was traced to infected cream in confectionery retailed in Wolverhampton but manufactured in Birmingham. Precautions to prevent the spread of the infection were taken in the two districts mentioned and no further cases were reported in this area although many cases were notified in other midland areas. Both patients were treated at home and both recovered.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—65 cases of measles and 42 cases of whooping cough were notified by medical practitioners during the year. Of the measles cases 62 were in infants and children; 23 being under school age. Of the remaining 39, 16 attended Tettenhall Church of England Schools, 5 Tettenhall Wood Church of England Schools and 18 attended private and other schools, both in the district and in Wolverhampton.

21 cases of whooping cough occurred in children under school age and 21 occurred in school children, 3 of whom attended Tettenhall Church of England School and 5 attended Tettenhall Wood Church of England Schools. The remaining 13 attended other schools.

CANCER.—There were 17 deaths from this disease an increase of 2 on last year (9 males and 8 females).

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Early in 1941 the Ministry of Health recommended local authorities to have immunisation done for all children between 12 months and 15 years of age, and the Ministry offered supplies of the necessary serum free of charge. This advice was supplemented by broadcast appeals to parents.

A letter with an attached consent form for signatures was sent to all parents in Tettenhall, and was distributed by the teachers in the elementary schools and by the Health Visitor on her visits to the homes.

The response, mainly due to the broadcasts, was very good; many parents, who in previous years had refused to allow their children to be immunised in school, now gave their consent.

A total of 312 elementary school children had the injections, 74.3% of the children at school have been immunised.

Children under 5 years of age are more susceptible to diphtheria than the older children. Hitherto, very little has been done to protect these younger ones except for the few that have received the injections from private practitioners.

In 1941 at certain sessions of the Infant Welfare Centre Dr. Smith devoted his time to the immunisation of children between 12 months and 5 years of age: a total of 155 were done. The percentage of immunised children of this age of 51.6. If all parents could be induced to bring their children to the Infant Welfare Centre or to a private practitioner for this purpose when they reach the age of 12 months, there would be good hope of stamping out diphtheria.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The School Clinic, Antenatal Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre have continued to be held at the Parish Hall, Upper Street, every Thursday. The total number of attendances during the year of expectant mothers was 96 and of children 1,079.

THE POOL, UPPER GREEN.

During the hot weather of July, a large number of children came to paddle and bathe in the pool although there is a byelaw prohibiting bathing. An analysis of the water showed evidence of animal contamination. Investigation showed that this was of cattle and not human origin. Nevertheless, it rendered the water quite unfit for bathing purposes. The signboard forbidding bathing was re-erected.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district has again been satisfactory as regards quantity and quality and regular analyses of the different sources of supply, both chemical and bacteriological are made by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking with a view to maintaining a clean and safe supply.

SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to your Surveyor for the following report:

Blackbrook Sewage Farm.

The farm has been maintained in good order during the past 12 months. During the year the facilities for drying the

sludge were improved, two new drying beds being laid down. Samples of water from the Blackbrook have been submitted monthly to the County Analyst for analysis and report.

Wergs Sewage Pumping Station.

During the year, due to certain developments in the neighbourhood increasing the volume of sewage, a third pump has been installed at this station.

Cesspool Emptying.

An improvement has been made in the method of emptying cesspools. This has been effected by the provision of a small portable pump and hose and a specially designed tank fitted to a lorry. The result is that a considerable financial saving is made in the cost of emptying as well as ensuring a more hygienic method of removal.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Again the routine sanitary inspection work of the district has been somewhat curtailed. This is inevitable during a period of war, as additional duties arising as a result of the war have been undertaken by your Inspector. These include Billeting Officer, Gas Contamination Officer (Food Treatment) and Civil Defence duties connected with the Casualty Services.

Billeting alone accounted for 327 visits, excluding time spent in interviewing evacuees at the office and in trying to solve their problems many of which were well outside the jurisdiction of billeting. It has been found possible only to enforce the remedy of urgent sanitary defects in dwelling houses due to shortage of labour and difficulty of obtaining building materials. House-to-House inspection therefore, has had to be discontinued for the time being.

In spite of everything, the essential public health services have been maintained during the year and this is as it should be during a time of war.

Smoke Nuisances.

No smoke observations were carried out during the year.

Shops.

83 inspections of the shops in the district were made and no contraventions of the Acts and Regulations were found.

The general closing hours of shops were again varied by order of the Home Office to meet with "blackout" conditions.

Closet Accommodation.

The number of waste water closets in existence in the district remains almost the same as last year only one closet having been converted during 1941.

34 privies still remain whilst there are still 119 cesspools in the unsewered part of the area.

Public Cleansing.

There are approximately 3,055 dustbins in existence and these are now emptied fortnightly instead of weekly to allow for the regular collection of salvage at fortnightly intervals. Very little nuisance appears to have arisen from this change.

Housing.

There is no change whatever from the position detailed in the Report for 1940.

Overcrowding.

There does not appear to have been any serious overcrowding in the district during 1941, although evacuees both official and private were accommodated, as well as Civil Servants and other persons who have found lodgings in the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The following summary shows the number of registered producers and purveyors of milk on the 31st December, 1941:

Number of Registered Producers	...	...	...	11
„ „ „ Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ Retail Purveyors of—				
(a) loose and/or bottled milk				28
(b) bottled milk from shops				16
Number of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	11
„ „ Registered Dairy Premises	...	...	...	18
„ „ Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	39
„ „ Inspections of Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	43

The farmers in the district despite difficulties maintain their premises in a clean condition and in only one case was it necessary to serve official notice for insanitary conditions.

Notice requiring structural improvement of the cowsheds and dairy and involving the reconstruction of the drainage system at one farm was served in October but the notice had not been complied with by the end of the year.

No application for registration as purveyors of milk were received during the year and the numbers of producers, purveyors, etc. on the register at the end of the year shows very little change.

No statutory action (except as stated above) was found necessary under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938 and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The position with regard to the private slaughterhouses in the district remains the same as detailed in the report for 1940. Licences continue to be granted, every 6 months, under the same conditions as when the licences were first issued under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938.

The meat supply is still obtained from the Wolverhampton Abattoir and very few unsound or diseased conditions have been found.

A total of 42 visits were paid to premises for the purpose of meat inspection during the year and no illicit slaughtering in the slaughterhouses was detected.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of slaughtermen's licences in force on the 31st December, 1941 was 7 including 2 new licences issued during the year.

(c) Adulteration, Etc.

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

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Council is the responsible Authority.

FOODS AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

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

Samples of Food taken in Tettenhall during 1941.

Article	Number of Samples	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	46	34	12
General Foods	6	6	—
TOTAL	52	40	12

12 samples of milk were reported against, but of these 11 were from two sources of supply.

In one case, 3 samples were found to be 20.3%, 18.6% and 20% deficient in fat. 3 samples were taken from the cows, which were in Shropshire, and it was found that the milk was deficient in fat due to natural causes.

In the other case, 1 sample was 11.6% deficient in fat, 4 further samples were taken the following day, shortly after milking and all these were found to be deficient in fat, 11%, 7.6%, 8.3% and 4.6% due to natural causes.

The remaining sample reported adulterated was 12.7% deficient in fat and contained a very small percentage of added water. The milk was traced to a dairy and then again to the 2 farms concerned but as the adulteration was small and found to be due to carelessness, warnings were issued.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

The tables below give the details of samples of milk taken in the district during the year. There is an improvement in the cleanliness of the milk as evidenced by the fact that 35% (as compared with 43% of last year) were unsatisfactory. It is worthy of note that in none of the 17 samples of both designated and undesignated milk, was there found tubercle bacilli, also an improvement on last year.

Undesignated Samples.

Number Submitted	CLEANLINESS		BIOLOGICAL RESULTS	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Submitted	Positive
14	9	5	14	—

Designated Samples.

Number Submitted	CLEANLINESS		BIOLOGICAL RESULTS	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Submitted	Positive
3	2	1	3	—

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938.

The following tables gives details of licences issued under the above statutes and in force on December 31st, 1941 :

Grade of Milk	Producers	Dealers	Supple- mentary Licences	TOTAL
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	4	4
Accredited	3	1	3	7
Pasteurised	—	—	5	5
TOTAL				16

The licence to produce "Accredited" milk is issued by the Staffordshire County Council and permits of the retailing of accredited milk in the Tettenhall area, without further fee to the Urban District Council.

One licence to bottle "Accredited" milk was issued by the Local Authority to a dealer in this grade of milk.

No contraventions of the Orders have been detected during the year and details of inspections of registered premises will be found in a preceding paragraph.

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

Ice Cream Premises.

The position is the same as reported last year. There are 11 premises registered for the sale of ice cream only. The sale is conducted from refrigerator cabinets placed in the shops in 10 instances and from a pail as delivered from the manufacturers in the other case. 12 inspections of these premises were made and no contraventions found.

Preserved, Etc., Food Premises.

Five premises are registered for the manufacture of preserved or potted food, and these are maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.

The number of inspections of all types of premises during the year was 1,319. Of these 460 were dwelling houses and for other purposes under the Public Health Acts.

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Form of Notice	No. Served	Premises	Defects
Informal			
(a) General Sanitary Defects	66	96	235
(b) Others	—	—	—
TOTAL	66	96	235
Statutory			
(a) Sanitary Defects	28	52	100
(b) Others	—	—	—
TOTAL	28	52	100

A total of 272 improvements to dwelling houses were recorded during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. P. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1942.