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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For 1943

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:

M. G. WICKS, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.SAN.I.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1943.

Area: 2,503 acres.

Population: 6,800 (estimated mid-year 1943): 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses: 2,203.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £210.

Rateable Value: £50,463.

General Rate: 14/8.

Birth Rate: 19.2.

Death Rate: 11.2.

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births: 30.5.

Total Deaths from Diarrhœa: Nil.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 1.

Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases: Nil.

Tuberculosis Death Rate: Pulmonary, 0.147.

" " " Non-Pulmonary, 0.000

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
REPORT FOR 1943.**

**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 1943.

A sharp rise in the birth rate has resulted in the biggest natural increase in population of any year during the war in spite of a small rise in the death rate.

Of sickness and ill health in the population generally, no figures are available except those for the notifiable infectious diseases. The children are at least as well nourished as in previous years. A striking improvement has occurred in the condition of the teeth of the younger ones. Children on admission to school at 5 years now show much less dental decay than their predecessors. Most adults seem to have lost some weight but feel fit except for tiredness. Influenza, which became epidemic in England during the Autumn, was prevalent in Tettenhall but did not reach such serious proportions as to necessitate special measures of nursing assistance for the families affected.

The biennial visitation of measles was a severe one, 104 cases were notified; they occurred mostly in May and June. The last epidemic of measles was in July and August, 1941.

During the year, no case of diphtheria was notified. One would like to attribute this to the good result of increased immunisation. Though I think this is partly responsible for the entire absence of the disease during the year, yet I feel we were favoured with good luck because some neighbouring districts whose immunisation figures are not appreciably worse than those of Tettenhall, had a considerable number of cases, and also because in 1923 there were no notifications although immunisation was not practiced then.

Two deaths in connection with child birth are the first recorded for some years.

I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Council, for the courtesy and support which you have always extended to me. My thanks are due also to Mr. Hinckes and the other officials of the Council especially to Mr. Smale who, in addition to his own work as Sanitary Inspector and the other duties which he has undertaken during the war, has attended for me to all those matters of public health, arising day by day, that have required immediate attention.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population figure for mid-year 1943 at 6,800 shows a decrease of 128 on that of 1942.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population, which for England and Wales is 16.5, is 19.2 for Tettenhall against 17 for the previous year.

The Death Rate at 11.2 for 1943 is higher than the 10.2 rate for 1942. For England and Wales it is 12.1.

The Infant Mortality Rate at 30.3 per 1,000 live births shows a rise from the figure of 17 for 1942.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births is 14.49. There had been no deaths from puerperal causes in 1942.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS.

The West Midland Joint Hospital Board have found accommodation for the patients whose admission to hospital was necessary. There were only four cases, all suffering from Scarlet Fever.

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

During the year there were 155 notifications of infectious diseases, a considerable increase as compared with 1942, but due mainly to increases in measles and whooping cough.

Diphtheria.—There was no case of Diphtheria notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—Ten cases of Scarlet Fever were notified; three less than last year. Four were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

Erysipelas.—No case occurred.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Only two new cases were notified (both male) as against 6 for 1942, with only 1 death (a male), a reduction of 2 on the figures for the previous year.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—There were no new cases and no deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases reported.

Pneumonia.—Twelve cases were notified, with three deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Two cases were notified, both of which were admitted to hospital and died.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.—No cases were reported.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—There were 104 notifications of Measles and 27 of Whooping Cough.

Cancer.—There were 11 deaths (5 males and 6 females) from this disease as against 15 for 1942.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.—The response from parents to the advice to have their children immunised has continued to be good. During the year 191 children under 5 years of age and 116 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years had the injections. At the end of the year 89% of school children and 57.2% of those under school age had been immunised. The corresponding figures at the end of 1942 were 73% and 52.9%.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The use of the Hut at the back of the Council Offices was granted by the good offices of the Council to the Staffordshire County Council for one day a week for the purposes of a School Clinic, Ante-Natal Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre. Ante-Natal and School Clinics are held alternately every Thursday morning and the Infant Welfare Centre every Thursday afternoon. These premises are more convenient than the Parish Hall and the Medical Officer and Health Visitor are working under much better conditions.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to the district has been satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year, samples of water have continued to be submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking. Chlorination of the water is still carried out.

The Pool, Upper Green.

The cementing of the bottom of the Pool by the Council during the year has been a sanitary improvement. The water is clearer. The popularity of the pool with the children for paddling in the summer is as great as ever and they can now paddle without churning up a lot of mud.

CESSPOOLS, WINDMILL LANE.

The nuisance occasioned by the overflowing of cesspools in this area is minimised by the frequent emptying of them by the Council. The nuisance still exists, however, and will not be removed until a proper drainage system is installed.

SEWERAGE.

Blackbrook Sewage Farm.

The farm has been kept in good condition during the past year.

Samples of water from Blackbrook have been submitted monthly to the County Analyst for analysis and report.

Cesspool Emptying.

The improvement shown as a result of emptying the cesspools has been maintained during the year.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The details of inspection and visits to dwelling houses and other premises will be found in succeeding paragraphs of the report.

The position regarding labour for carrying out repairs to premises on which sanitary notices were served was no worse than in 1942 although urgent repairs only were carried out.

Shops.

56 routine inspections of shops were made and no contraventions of the statutes were found.

As was the case in 1942, the general closing hours were varied during the year to meet "black-out" conditions.

Public Cleansing.

The emptying of dustbins alternates weekly with the collection of salvage and this system has been found to work most efficiently.

Housing.

The position regarding action taken under the Housing Acts remains much the same, although local authorities under a Ministry of Health Circular issued in March, 1943, now have an opportunity of formulating plans for their first year's activities after the cessation of the war.

In May, 1943, a report was submitted to the Council showing that approximately 200 houses in the district fall below the 1936 Housing Act standard and are therefore liable to be dealt with under that Act. The Council eventually decided that a minimum of 100 houses should be built by the Local Authority to meet the demand under the following heads:—

For Slum Clearance	-	-	50 Houses.
For abatement of overcrowding	-	20	„
For normal demand	-	20	„
For aged persons	-	10	„

The Council's Surveyor was, at the end of the year, preparing plans of a selected site for about 130 houses to cover the first year's Post War programme.

Overcrowding.

No recent records are available to show to what extent overcrowding exists in the area although it is certain that there must be many houses where conditions are not satisfactory even if they are not technically overcrowded. It is hoped, however, that the position will be alleviated by the inclusion of 20 houses for such cases in the post war first year's programme.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The following summary shows the number of registered purveyors and producers of milk on the 31st December, 1943:—

Number of Registered Producers	...	...	...	...	11
" " " Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	...	4
" " " Retail Purveyors of—					
" " " (a) loose and/or bottled milk					22
" " " (b) bottled milk from shops					14
Number of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	11
" " Registered Dairy Premises	...	...	...	...	16
" " Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	77
" " Inspections of Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	87

The cowsheds were maintained in a clean condition during the year, but it was found necessary to send warning letters to two farmers regarding the accumulation of manure and failure to cleanse floors and walls of cowsheds. In four cases it was found that the milking methods were unsatisfactory, due in the main to failure to cleanse udders and to failure to immediately cool the milk. Warning letters were sufficient to secure a remedy.

One retailer was found to be filling bottles on unregistered premises. After representation to the retailer, the practice ceased and filling is now carried out at the dairy of the farm from which the milk is obtained.

The floors of the cowsheds at one farm were improved after service of notice under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No further statutory action was necessary in the cases mentioned.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Licenses in respect of the four private slaughterhouses continue to be granted every 6 months under the same conditions as when the licenses were first issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The meat supply of the district is obtained from the Wolverhampton Municipal Abattoir and no complaints regarding its condition were received.

69 inspections of shops and other premises for the purpose of meat and food inspection were made, whilst 12 inspections of food preparation premises were made.

The following articles of food were surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption:—

- 3-lbs. Bacon.
- 12-lbs. Ham.
- 124-lbs. Custard Powder.
- 24-lbs. Prunes.
- 42½-lbs canned meat—18 tins.
- 19 tins of various tinned foods.

No statutory action under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was necessary.

Slaughter of Animals Acts.

The number of slaughterman's licences in force at the end of the year was 4, a decrease of 2.

(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.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

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

Report of Sampling during 1943.

Article of Food	Number of Samples	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	42	32	10
General Foods	13	13	—

All the samples of general foods were genuine, but ten samples of milk were reported against and, of these, two were slightly deficient in fat, due to natural causes.

One sample was 20% deficient in fat, this was found to be due to lack of care in handling, the milk not having been kept properly mixed, but in view of the seller's previous excellent record, a warning was issued.

Two other samples were found to contain 3.7 and 3.4% of added water respectively. The samples were pint bottles and it was found that these were not being properly drained after washing, so the seller was warned that more care must be exercised in future.

Two other samples found to contain 5.7 and 8.7% of added water respectively. This milk was being supplied to a local retailer from a farm outside the Urban District and three further samples were taken at the farm, these contained 7.9, 7.9 and 3.8% of added water respectively. Proceedings were taken against the farmer who was fined £18 and £4 4s. 0d. costs.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

The table below gives details of the samples of milk taken "in course of retail" in the district during the year and submitted for either bacteriological and/or biological examination.

50% of the samples of non-designated milk submitted were reported satisfactory from the cleanliness point of view. This is a slight improvement on last year when the figure was 62%. It is pleasing to record that of 21 samples submitted for biological examination only 1 contained tubercle bacilli; also an improvement on last year.

It will be noted that all three samples of pasteurised milk were unsatisfactory as regards cleanliness, but as there are no pasteurising plants in this district, it must be assumed that the milk was pasteurised in another area and simply retailed in Tettenhall.

Again, on two occasions only was it found necessary for the County Authority to inform the Medical Officer of Health of unsatisfactory samples. In the other cases improvement was effected by the County Authority itself.

Designation	No. of samples submitted	Cleanliness		Phosphatase Test		T.B.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Passed	Failed	
Pasteurised	3	—	3	2	1	—
Non-Designated	18	9	9	—	—	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938.

The following table gives details of licences issued under the above Statutes and in force on December 31st, 1943:

Designation of Milk				Producers	Dealers	Supplementary Licences	TOTAL
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	—	—	3	3
Accredited	...	...	...	2	1	2	5
Pasteurised	...	...	...	—	—	4	4
TOTAL							12

The number of supplementary licences issued shows a decrease of 4 on last year—(1 T.T., 1 Accredited and 2 Pasteurised).

There were no contraventions of the Orders.

Details of inspections of registered premises will be found in a preceding paragraph.

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.

Details of the inspection work carried out during the year are given in the following table:

Summary of Routine Inspection Work of Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES INSPECTED.	No. of Inspections
COWSHEDS	77
DAIRIES, Etc.	87
ICE CREAM PREMISES	1
BAKEHOUSES	20
BUTCHERS' SHOPS	69
OTHER FOOD SHOPS (Grocers, etc.)	12
FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES	12
SLAUGHTERHOUSES	42
FACTORIES	54
SHOPS	56
SCHOOLS	13
TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, Etc.	2
Re DRAINAGE	121
Re WATER SUPPLY	7
STABLES AND PIGGERIES	48
Re ASH BINS AND REFUSE DISPOSAL	34
RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION	56
MISCELLANEOUS SANITARY VISITS	30
MISCELLANEOUS VISITS (Emergency Feeding, Mortuary, Civil Defence)	92
MISCELLANEOUS FOOD VISITS	34
BILLETING ENQUIRIES	156
DWELLING HOUSES:	
UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS	81
RE-INSPECTIONS	268
UNDER HOUSING ACTS	5
RE-INSPECTIONS	—
FOR OVERCROWDING UNDER HOUSING ACTS	—
RE-INSPECTIONS	—
TOTAL	1,473

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Form of Notice	No. Served	Premises	Defects
Informal			
(a) General Sanitary Defects	68	96	187
(b) Others	3	3	6
TOTAL	71	99	193
Statutory			
(a) Sanitary Defects	25	36	83
(b) Others	1	1	3
TOTAL	26	37	86

A total of 191 improvements to dwelling houses and other premises were effected during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1944.

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The Urban District Council of
Tettenhall

JH/M.

Council Offices,
Upper Green,
Tettenhall,
Staffs.

Ref. 1717/10,000.

24th October, 1944.

Sir,

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH 1943.

May I draw your attention to the second paragraph under the heading "Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders" on page 9. The word "satisfactory" in the second line should read "unsatisfactory". Will you kindly amend your copies.

The Medical Officer of Health
regrets the error.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) John Hinckes.

Clerk of the Council.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
LONDON.. S.W.1.