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Urban District Council
of Ulverston.

ANNUAL
REPORT

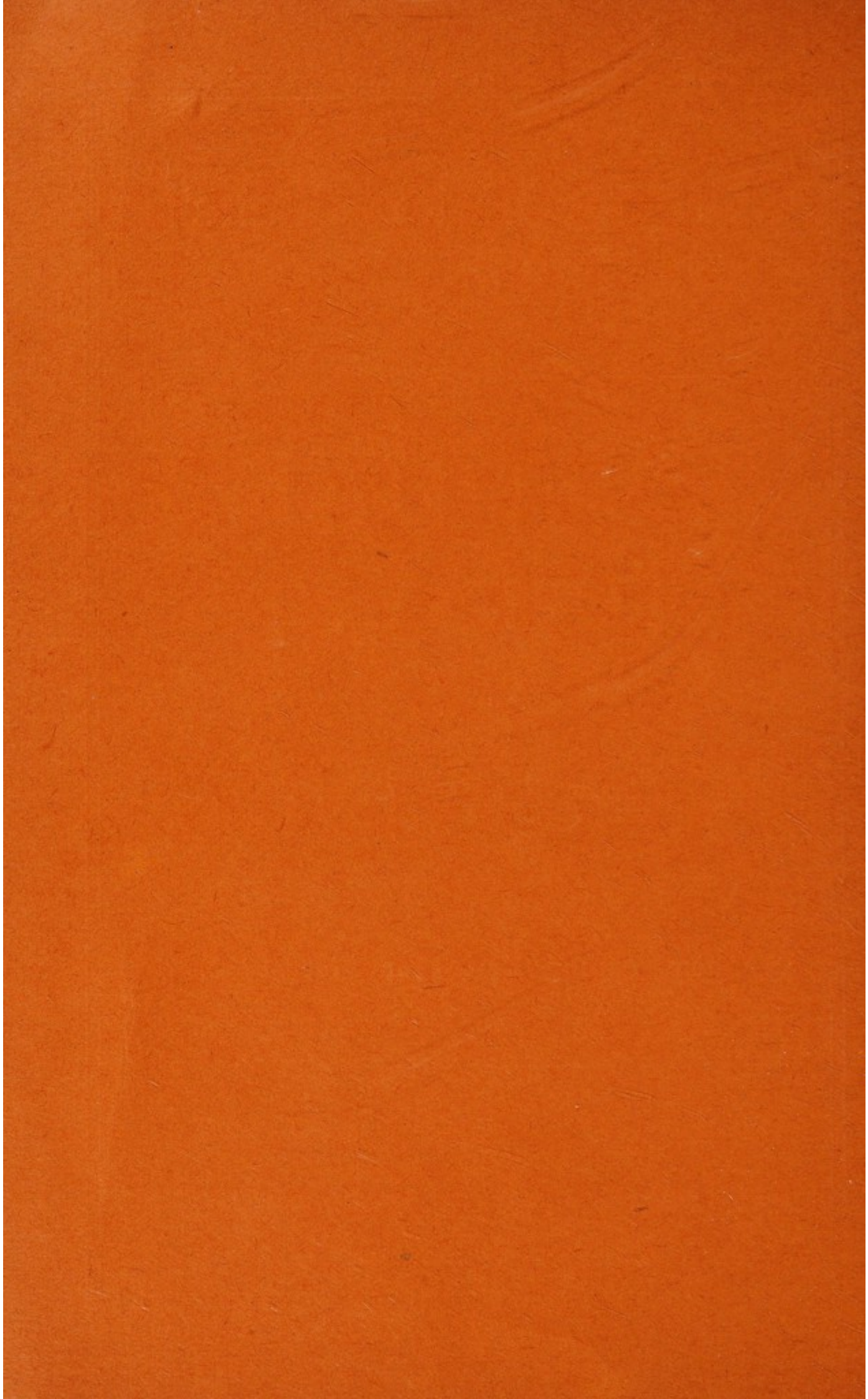
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Year ending December 31st, 1938.

ULVERSTON :

FLETCHER AND ROBINSON, QUEEN STREET.





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

: Annual Report of the :
Medical Officer of Health.

ULVERSTON,

APRIL, 1939.

GENTLEMEN,

It again becomes my duty, in accordance with the Order of the Ministry of Health, to present to you a report which shall deal with the health and sanitary condition of the district under my supervision as your Medical Officer of Health. In the preparation of the report I follow out the instructions as set out in the Circular of the Minister of Health.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT. Your sanitary staff consists of an Inspector and an Inspector of Meat and Dairies and Cowsheds and I am quite satisfied that in all departments the work of inspection is carefully and systematically carried out.

WATER SUPPLY. From the report of the Inspector it will be observed that there has been no shortage in the water supplied to the district, and the quality has been quite beyond suspicion.

In some of the dwellings in the more elevated parts of the district there have been complaints as to a complete failure of supply when there has been a heavy draught on the mains in the part of the town at the lower level. To a great extent this has been remedied by scraping the trunk main. There has been an extension of the 3 inch main in Beckside Road necessitated by estate development, the 3 inch cast iron main in Old Hall Road has been renewed, and a new 4 inch main has been laid in Neville Street to replace 3 inch main.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. There has been no great activity in this department of sanitary administration, as I have mentioned in all former reports flushing and dredging of the drains is necessitated by the flat gradients and this is systematically carried out.

Care is taken to see that all new drains are inspected and tested.

HOUSING. I have always been able to speak with the greatest satisfaction of the progress made with our work under the Housing Act, and although there has been a lull in our activities during the year under review I am assured that this is only temporary and that the Council will proceed with the work in the near future. As to the necessity for continued action there can be no doubt and it is only the feeling of sympathy with owners that gives rise to any thought of delay and I feel that there is need for sympathy in many cases, nevertheless, there are many houses left that are much below a reasonable standard of fitness, very old and decrepit houses in which it must be impossible to enjoy a healthy, happy life.

Your Inspector reports that he has inspected 72 houses under the Act and details will be presented to the Council in order that the necessary resolution may be submitted to the Ministry.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	...	...	...	...	100
(1) By the local authority	...	...	...	...	64
(2) By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	NIL
(3) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	36
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :					
(1) By the local authority (included under (a) (1) above	...	...	...	...	64
(2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (3) above)	...	...	...	...	NIL

1. *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	91
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	270
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	72
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	216
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitataion	...	...	...	...	NIL
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	NIL

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit
in consequence of informal action by the local
authority or their officers NIL

3. *Action under statutory powers during the year :*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the
Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
repairs NIL

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were
rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners NIL

(b) By local authority in default of owners NIL

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
defects to be remedied 19

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which
defects were remedied after service of
formal notices :

(a) By owners 19

(b) By local authority in default of owners NIL

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the
Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which Demolition Orders were made ... NIL

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished
in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... NIL

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | NIL |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | NIL |

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (1) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | NIL |
| | (2) | Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | NIL |
| | (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | NIL |
| (b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | NIL |
| (c) | (1) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| | (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | ... | 183 |

REFUSE REMOVAL. I need only repeat what I have said in almost every previous report that the most important branch of sanitary administration is efficiently carried out by the Council.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. The report of the Dairies and Cowsheds Inspector is appended hereto.

Annual Report of Cowsheds :: and Dairies Inspectors. ::

March 1st, 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to submit to you my yearly report. During the year I have made regular inspections of the cowsheds in your area and find them, on the whole, kept clean.

The grooming of the cattle is also very satisfactory.

Number of inspections during the year about 320.

Milk sellers and producers, retail	...	...	13
" " " wholesale	...	...	10
Purveyors of milk whose premises are in the			
Rural District ...	...	...	19
Accredited milk farms	...	...	2

Number of cows milked in your area, 530 to 540 at the present time.

A new dairy has been erected at Swarthmoor Hall Farm.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK SMITH.

One cannot but feel very glad to note that the grooming of the cattle is satisfactory, and I would have been still more pleased to see your Inspector adding that the udders were washed before milking and also the milkers hands. It is not very pleasant to think that the milker, as I know sometimes happens, proceeds straight from the carting of manure to the milking of the cows without any preliminary washing of hands.

There is a demand by the public for a pure supply of this most important commodity and as time goes on this demand is bound to become more insistent.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

It is scarcely necessary for me to repeat what I have written in almost every previous annual report as to the condition structurally and positionally of the Slaughter Houses, there are seven registered and three licensed buildings. I should not like to say that they are satisfactory, but in the absence of a public abattoir it would not be possible to close them. The meat inspection is systematically carried out, and I think the Council may rest assured that in Mr. Smith they have a very capable officer.

Meat Inspector's Report.

March 1st, 1938, to March 1st, 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to present to you my report for the last year. During that time I have made regular inspections of the slaughter houses and examined the carcasses and offals of the animals killed, viz :—

Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Lambs	Pigs
27	502	120	111	1754	723	1233

Carcasses and offals condemned—

- 1 Heifer—Carcase and offal. Tubercular.
- 1 Sheep—Carcase and offal. Badly bruised.
- 1 Heifer—Carcase and offal. Broken back.
- 1 Sheep—Carcase and offal. Dropsical.

Seventy two livers, a quantity of offal, and 1 tin of Tongue (6lbs) were also condemned.

There were thirteen emergency cases brought in for slaughter :—

- (1) Pig—Fractured Pelvis.
- (2) Sheep—Bruised.
- (3) Lamb—Wool on stomach.
- (4) Sheep—Condemned.
- (5) Lamb—Spinal injury.
- (6) Lamb—Broken leg.
- (7) Lamb—Wool on stomach.
- (8) Heifer—Broken back.
- (9) Lamb—Broken leg.
- (10) Lamb—Broken leg.
- (11) Calf—Fractured skull.
- (12) Bullock—Broken back.
- (13) 4 young Pigs—Lost use of legs.

There are seven registered and three licensed slaughter houses in your area all of which are kept clean and the removal of garbage, lime-washing, etc., carried out as required.

I am, Gentlemen;

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK SMITH.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	3,196
Population, 1931	...	...	...	9,235
„ 1921	...	...	...	10,121
Inhabited Houses, 2597			Vacant	45
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£53,570
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£209

	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1000
BIRTHS—Legitimate	135	61	76	
Illegitimate	8	6	2	15·7
Totals	145	67	78	

In 1937 there were 138 births and the birth rate then was 14·9 per 1000.

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRTHS.

			Male	Female	Total
1st Quarter	...	...	18	18	36
2nd Quarter	...	...	19	29	48
3rd Quarter	...	...	14	11	25
4th Quarter	...	...	16	20	46
Totals	...	...	67	78	145

DEATHS. In looking through my returns I find that 177 deaths have occurred in the district but of these 52 have been non-residents and have been transferred away, this reduces the number of actual residents dying in the district to 115 but to find the correct number of deaths 18 persons ordinarily resident in the district, but dying outside, must be added making 133, equal to a death rate of 14'4 per 1000. Last year there 152 deaths equal to rate per 1000 of 16'4.

		Total	Males	Females	Death Rate per 1000
Legitimate	...	133	68	65	14'4
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	
Totals		133	68	65	

AGE PERIOD AT WHICH THE DEATHS OCCURRED.

			Male	Females	Total
Under one year	...	...	2	4	6
Between one and sixty-five	...	...	26	27	53
Sixty-five and upwards	...	...	40	34	74
Totals		...	68	65	133

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS.

	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total		Death-rate per 1000
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
North	5	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	15	10	11'4
South	6	5	6	5	6	3	4	6	22	19	19'1
East	3	6	4	7	3	1	2	4	12	18	15'8
West	6	3	3	3	1	4	2	4	12	14	14'7
Central	5	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	7	4	8'8
Totals	25	19	18	19	14	10	11	17	68	65	14.4

INFANTILE DEATHS. That is deaths of infants before reaching the end of their first year of life and is calculated as per 1000 or the births registered. At this age period there have been 6 deaths, producing an infantile death-rate of 45·1 per 1000 births. Last year there were nine deaths of infants equal to a rate per 1000 births of 65·2.

CAUSES AND WARD DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFANTILE DEATHS.

	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Total
Premature Birth ...	0 0	1 1	0 0	0 1	0 0	1 1
Congenital Defects ...	0 0	0 1	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 2
Measles ...	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 1
Totals ...	0 0	1 2	0 2	0 1	0 0	1 5
Rate per 1000 Births	...	...	...	...	...	45·1

From this it will be observed from the table given below that we make a most favourable comparison with the Urban and Rural Districts and with the Administrative County as a whole and also with the rest of England and Wales.

Rate of deaths of children under 1 year per 1000 live births.

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts ...	82	82	73	71	84	64	72	68	70	61	62	59	64
Rural Districts ...	71	71	68	57	64	58	63	65	61	59	57	47	51
Administrative County	82	80	73	69	84	64	70	67	68	61	62	59	62
England and Wales	75	70	69	65	74	60	66	65	64	59	57	59	58

It is fitting that under this heading I should give the report of the School Medical and Child Welfare Department as kindly furnished to me by Nurse Holmes who is in charge of the Centre.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

Open each Monday morning (Minor Ailments). Nurse in attendance.

Wednesday mornings—Dressings and Inspection. Doctor and Nurse.

Attendances—Infants under 1 year 1,495 ; from 1 to 2 years 99 children, making 769 attendances ; 121 children over 2 years, attendances 777 ; expectant mothers 59, making 207 attendances.

DENTAL CLINIC.

Mr. Hodgson, L.D.S., and Nurse. Attendance—Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Wednesday mornings (Minor Ailments) Child Welfare. Dr. Catlow.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

Drs. Bucknall and Catlow with Nurse. Tuesday afternoon every other month.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

Dr. Plowright and Nurse.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES. I am giving the usual tables referring to the number of cases of Tubercular Disease reported and the deaths arising therefrom. Pulmonary Tuberculosis has provided us with 10 cases, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 5, there have been 3 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from Tuberculosis of other organs.

Age Incidence of the Notified Cases and Deaths.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5—10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
15—20	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
20—25	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
25—35	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35—45	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
45—55	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—65	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & up	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	3	3	2	2	1	0	2

Ward Distribution of the Notifications and Deaths.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
North ...	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
South ...	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
East ...	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
West ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Central ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	3	3	2	2	1	0	2

On receipt of notifications of Tubercular diseases they are, at once, referred to the Tuberculosis Department of the County for treatment.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been 0·32 per 1000, from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0·21 per 1000.

For the sake of comparison I quote the figures for the County of Lancashire and for the rest of England and Wales. Administrative County, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0·46 per 1000, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0·10, all forms 0·56. For the Rest of England and Wales the rate per 1000 of the population for all forms of Tuberculosis is 0·58.

I have quite frequently been faced with the enquiry as to whether there was any connection between unemployment and consequent malnutrition and the incidence of Tuberculosis but I have gathered no evidence to lead me to arrive at the conclusion that there was any such connection.

CANCER. Looking at the tables herewith it will be observed that there have been 21 deaths from cancer of the various organs, equal to a death-rate of 2·2 per 1000, this is a very disquieting increase on the year 1937 when the cancer deaths were only 9 or 0·97 per 1000. It is somewhat strange that I remarked, as follows, in my report for 1937 "although the reduced number of deaths is most satisfactory it would not do to be over elated, as the disease is subject to considerable fluctuations."

WARD DISTRIBUTION.

		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000
North	...	7	2	9	4·1
South	...	3	2	5	2·3
East	...	2	1	3	1·5
West	...	1	2	3	1·7
Central	...	0	1	1	0·86
Totals		13	8	21	2·2

ORGANS AFFECTED AND AGE INCIDENCE.

		35 & 45		45 & 55		55 & 65		65 & up		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Stomach	...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2
Intestines	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	2	1
Breast	...	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Colon	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Rectum	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Uterus	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Spine	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Axilla	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bladder	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Liver	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Larynx	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Prostate	...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals		1	0	2	0	2	4	8	4	13	8

Comparing the above figures with the rest of the County the rate was 1'59 per 1000 for England and Wales it was 1'63 per 1000. It may temper our disappointment at the increase in our numbers when we remember that our population is largely composed of old and middle aged people living at an age period which is most susceptible to the disease. Nevertheless we cannot but express disappointment that with all the efforts that are being made to eradicate the disease, so little success is being achieved.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, Zymotic Deaths:—During the year there has been a death from Typhoid Fever and one from Diphtheria producing a Zymotic death-rate of 0·21 per 1000.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Disease	Under 1		1 to 2		2 to 3		3 to 4		4 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 35		35 to 45		45 to 65		Removed to Hospital		Deaths in Hospital	
	Total	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	18	1
Scarlet Fever	12	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	18	1
Diphtheria	18	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	1	18	1
Typhoid Fever	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	6	1	6	1	
Pneumonia	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7	0	7	0	
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	
Ophthalmia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	46	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	3	3	5	1	1	45	3	3	45	3	

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS.

	North Ward		South Ward		East Ward		West Ward		Central Ward		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	1	2	0	1	1	0	5	1	0	1	7	5
Diphtheria	2	1	0	0	4	6	1	2	2	0	9	9
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	3	3
Pneumonia	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	3
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ophthalmia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	3	3	4	2	9	8	7	6	3	1	26	20

SCARLET FEVER. The notification of 13 cases of Scarlet Fever spread fairly evenly throughout the district does not call for any special comment. The cases were all treated in the Fever Hospital and were mild.

DIPHThERIA. The table shows that 18 cases of Diphtheria have been notified and all treated in Hospital with one death. The public do not appear to recognise that there is at the present time a method of proved value for the prevention of Diphtheria, the commonest single cause of death in children of school age: such deaths should not occur when we have a preventative so simple and so effective. This prophylactic injection should be demanded for all children, for there is little doubt that with the general adoption of prophylaxis we should see the virtual disappearance of the disease.

TYPHOID FEVER. An unusual feature of my report is that six cases of Typhoid Fever have been notified. In May two girls, sisters, one aged six and the other 14, were notified and removed to Hospital. Some months before the cases were notified the mother had been suspiciously ill, and she was proved to be the "carrier," otherwise there was nothing to account for the outbreak. The sufferers were treated at the Fever Hospital.

In December two cases were reported as arising in the same house, one a man aged 55 and a woman with whom he lodged. The man was the first to be taken ill and I should suspect that the woman contracted the disease in attending upon him. The sanitary conditions of the cottage were quite satisfactory. The cases were removed to Hospital. At the end of the same month a man was admitted to the Hospital assumed to be suffering from Typhoid, and died. He was too ill on admission to obtain any history of the illness, and I was no more successful in my enquiries at the house where he lived. The case was very doubtful, the symptoms of Typhoid not being very marked.

CHILD BIRTH. Two deaths have arisen in Child Birth, one from Pulmonary Oedema and the other from Eclampsia. The deaths occurred in Hospital.

INFLUENZA. There has been no widespread epidemic of Influenza during the year.

HOSPITALS. A Hospital is provided by the County Council at High Carley, in the Ulverston Rural District, providing 112 beds for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and 12 beds at Oubas House, Ulverston, for Tubercular Children. There are no Children's or Maternity Hospitals in the district. There is accommodation for 34 patients at the High Carley Hospital for patients suffering from Infectious Diseases; this is under the management of the Ulverston Joint Hospital Board.

SMALL POX. Should any case of Small Pox arise in the district, arrangements have been made with the Kendal Joint Fever Hospital Board to admit them to their Hospital at Kendal.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Motor Ambulance provided by Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases, and motor ambulance provided for non-infectious diseases.

LABORATORY WORK. Facilities are offered the Medical Practitioners for carrying out Laboratory Investigations.

In concluding my report I must not omit to thank the Members of the Council for their kind assistance and co-operation, and I feel that I owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr. Hague and his staff, for without their assistance the compilation of this report would have been made much more difficult.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON,
L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.

25th April 1939.

ANNUAL REPORT

Inspector's Department.

TOWN HALL,

ULVERSTON,

FEBRUARY, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to submit a summary of the work carried out during the year ending the 31st December, 1938, relating to Public Health Administration.

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN.

Water closets defective, affecting six houses	...	...	6
Dampness in houses, affecting three houses	...	...	3
Notice to improve property generally, affecting three houses	...	...	3
Defective drains, affecting two houses	...	...	2
Pail closets at a factory abolished and W.C's provided	...	...	3
Offensive accumulations	...	...	2
Insufficient and insanitary refuse accommodation, affecting two houses	...	...	2
Defective fireplace, affecting one house	...	...	1
Defective window, affecting one house	...	...	1
Defective roof, affecting one house	...	...	1
Notice to clear premises of rats	...	...	1
Nuisance caused by keeping dogs	...	...	1
Hedges overhanging public highway	...	...	1
Houses surveyed for action by the Committee under the Housing Acts	...	...	72

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

1. Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	100
(1) By the Local Authority	64
(2) By the Local Authorities	NIL
(3) By other bodies or persons	36
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts.	
(1) By the Local Authority (included under (a) 1 above	64
(2) By other bodies (included under (a) 3 above	NIL

2. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	91
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	270
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	*72
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	*NIL
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	*NIL

*72 houses have been surveyed during the year for submission later to the Ministry as clearance areas.

3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	NIL
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4. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceeding under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	NIL
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) by owners	NIL
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(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	NIL
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(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	19
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) by owners	19
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(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	NIL
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(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	NIL
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(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...		NIL
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...		NIL
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...		NIL
3. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.		
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...		*NIL
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...		NIL
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...		NIL
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...		NIL
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...		29
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases		183

* The original overcrowding cases have all been dealt with, and it will now be necessary to re-examine border line cases.

HOUSING, SLUM CLEARANCE AND OVERCROWDING.

The progress of this important branch of the department's work has been well maintained and, although no schemes have been submitted to the Ministry during the year, 72 houses have been inspected and measured and details obtained. These reports now await the consideration of the Council.

In addition, families from Clearance schemes and overcrowded families, as detailed below, have been re-housed in the houses which have been erected during the year. In the case of removals and demolition, the same procedure as in previous years has been adhered to for disinfection.

DETAILS OF PROGRESS.

Number of families removed during the year, Slum					
Clearance	...	...	...	...	29
Number of families removed during the year, Over-					
crowding	...	...	...	...	29
Total families now re-housed	...	...	...	...	200

Note: Six one bedroomed Maisonettes not adequate for Slum Clearance or Overcrowded families have been let at economic rents.

Total persons re-housed—Slum Clearance	...	...	744
" " " Overcrowding	...	...	183
Number of houses demolished	...	...	124
Total number of houses built (1939 Act onwards)	...	...	207
" " " " under all Housing Acts	...	...	293

There are yet some 45 or so houses under confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders still to demolish.

The Council, during the whole of their housing programme, have had difficulty in obtaining sites. On the sites obtained, it has been difficult to achieve good siting and pleasing layouts; bad contours and unstable ground have added considerably to the cost of the buildings.

The programme has been held up for several months owing to the inability of obtaining suitable sites at a reasonable cost and a desire to restrict expenditure. I am, however, pleased to say that negotiations are now in progress for a site that will accommodate about 40 houses.

It is unfortunate that expenditure applied to the effort of improving the health of the citizen never shows a profit on paper. Nevertheless, public health work has its financial side in the saving of health to the worker, in giving him more years of useful employment, and often in the saving in the cost of national health treatment for him or his dependents.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Number of plans submitted	46
Number of plans approved	43
Number of plans disapproved	1
Number of plans referred back	2

The approved plans are for :—

11 houses (private enterprise).

9 Garages.

30 miscellaneous buildings (alterations and additions, sanitary improvements, tool sheds, etc.)

All new buildings and alterations are inspected during construction to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Bye-laws.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewers have been regularly and systematically inspected, dredging and flushing carried out on certain lengths with flat gradients and ordinary maintenance work carried out where necessary.

INSPECTION OF PRIVATE DRAINS.

All new drains and relaid drains are inspected before covering up.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no premises registered as common lodging houses in the Urban Area.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 27 workshops and 48 factories in the Register. No serious defaults have arisen during the year and the minor defects found have been rectified without service of formal notice.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of shops inspected during the two six month periods of the year	...	548
Number of visits made	...	650

REFUSE REMOVAL.

Number of Ashbins emptied	129,900
„ „ Ashpits	227
„ „ Privies	146
„ „ Pails	226
„ „ loads of refuse removed	2,715

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION
OF PREMISES.

Number of notifications received	33
Scarlet Fever	9
Diphtheria	18
Typhoid	6

Rooms of dwelling houses fumigated after Scarlet Fever	11
" " " " Diphtheria	14
" " " " other causes	15
Disinfectants are supplied free of charge in cases of infectious disease	

RATS.

As in previous years, during National Rat Week, the householders of the district were circularised by means of hand-bills, advising the necessity for concerted action against rats. Poisons were issued free and 1d. each offered for rat tails. It is the policy of the department to issue rat poison free during the whole year to any ratepayer who reports the prevalence on his premises of rats.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has been maintained without interruption, and the quality has again by test been found entirely suitable for domestic use. During the early part of the week when the demand is at its maximum, the higher parts of the town are subjected to poor pressure, but it is hoped to remedy this early in the new year by scraping the trunk main. The following extensions or replacements have been carried out :—

Tower St. and Byron St.	48 yds. 3" C.I. pipe extended from existing main.
Mowings Lane.	35 yds. 3" C.I. pipe extended for estate development.
" "	133 yds. 4" C.I. pipe extended for estate development.
Beckside Road.	140 yds. 3' C.I. pipe extended for estate development.
Old Hall Road.	194 yds. 3" C.I. pipe renewed to replace defective 3" main.
Neville Street.	90 yds. 4" C.I. pipe laid to replace defective 3' main.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. TELFORD HAGUE.

