

[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Urmston U.D.C.

Contributors

Urmston (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1940

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Urmston Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year
1940



URMSTON :
"Telegraph" Printing Co. Ltd. Railway Road



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Urmston Urban District Council

Annual Report

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OF HEALTH

for the year

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Urmston Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council:
Councillor R. P. CARTWRIGHT, J.P.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE. 1940 — 1941.

Councillor S. N. Penlington, J.P., *Chairman*.
Councillor W. Wroe, *Vice-Chairman*.

Councillor J. H. Batten	Councillor W. Newton
Councillor Mrs. B. E. Bull	Councillor S. C. Shaw
Councillor R. P. Cartwright	Councillor H. Stewart
Councillor H. Howsdon	Councillor R. H. Tootill, O.B.E.

Medical Officer of Health
A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—
* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—
* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
* N. HAWKINS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
* Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Public Health Department—
Chief Clerk - - G. W. Blake.
Asst. Clerk - - - M. Lambert.
(Joined H.M. Forces 1st Nov.)
Temporary Asst. Clerk S. Rogerson.
(Appointed 19th December).
Typist - Miss M. Worthington

URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table I—STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area : 4,797 acres.

Population. Registrar General's Estimate for 194034,640.
Census 1931 (prior to amalgamation of districts) ... 9,284.

Number of occupied houses 31st December, 194011,142.

Number of occupied houses Census (prior to
amalgamation) 2,474

General Rate 1940-41, 13/8d.

Rateable Value at 31st December, 1940—£347,721.

Product of a penny rate—£1,381 11s. 5d.

Table II—VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	522	283	239	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.4.
		Illegitimate	12	3	9	
		Total	534	286	248	
Still Births	...	22	11	11	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 39.5.	
Deaths (all ages)	...	423	205	218	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, *12.2	
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—	Nil.					Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births, 3.57.
Other puerperal causes	...			2		
		Total	M.	F.		
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	24	16	8		
Infant Mortality Rate:—						
All infants per 1,000 live births...		...	..	44.7		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				42.8		
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „				83.3		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	54		
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	nil		
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	...	...	nil		
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	nil		
*1940 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.13)						
= 13.8 per 1,000						

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF URMSTON.

August, 1941.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district. The report deals with the year ending 31st December, 1940, and the arrangement of sections is the same as in my last report but it has been further condensed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Urmston Urban District lies 6 miles west-south-west of Manchester and consists of a large residential area, and a large industrial area comprising more than half the Trafford Park Estate.

Prior to amalgamation with the Davyhulme and Flixton portions of the Barton-upon-Irwell Rural District in April, 1933, the population of the Urmston Urban District was 9,284 (Census 1931); it is now estimated by the Registrar General to be 34,640.

The development of housing has been very rapid in the district during the past few years as the following figures show :—

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.

31st December, 1935.....	8,477.
„ „ 1936.....	9,178.
„ „ 1937.....	9,818.
„ „ 1938.....	10,530.
„ „ 1939.....	10,961.
„ „ 1940.....	11,142.

The mortality during the year under review was higher than for many years past, chiefly due to a rise in the deaths from bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, largely occurring during and after the severe weather of the first quarter of 1940. With regard to excessive sickness or invalidity, in addition to the prevalence of influenzal and bronchial infections

in the early month of the year, there was in the second half of the year a wide-spread measles epidemic and in the closing weeks the beginning of an epidemic of whooping cough.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.—The births registered numbered 534, a decrease of 24 on the previous year. The birth rate per thousand of the estimated population was 15.4. Still births numbered 22 as against 27 for the previous year.

Year.	Total Births Urmston U.D.	Birth rates per 1,000 estimated population.	
		Urmston U.D.	England and Wales.
1936.	465	16.1	14.8.
1937.	529	17.3	14.9.
1938.	533	16.6	15.1.
1939.	558	16.6	15.0.
1940.	534	15.4	14.6.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The Death Rate of infants under one year of age per thousand live births was approximately 45, as against 48 for the previous year. The figure compares well with that for England and Wales which was 55 for the year under review.

INFANT MORTALITY. 1936-40.

Year.	Urmston U.D.	England and Wales.
1936	47.	59.
1937	58.	58.
1938.	26.	53.
1939.	48.	50.
1940.	45.	55.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—Two deaths occurred during the year from maternal causes, giving a maternal death rate per thousand total live and still births of 3.57. There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.—The crude death rate per thousand of the estimated population was 12.2 and the adjusted death rate 13.8. This is the highest death rate for some years. The death rate for England and Wales for the year 1940 from all causes was 14.3 for the civilian population. The higher death rate in this district for 1940 was chiefly due to the increased number of deaths from bronchiis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases as shown in the table given below covering the past five years.

	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Other Respiratory Diseases.	Total.
1936.	8.	16.	4.	28.
1937.	3.	26.	4.	33.
1938.	4.	9.	1.	14.
1939.	8.	19.	3.	30.
1940.	49	28.	9.	86.

Table III.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1940.

(with figures for 1939 for comparison)

	Males	Females	Total	Total for 1939
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	—	2	3
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	3
Diphtheria ...	1	—	1	6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	8	13	13
do. (non-respiratory) „	—	1	1	5
Syphilitic disease ...	3	—	3	1
Influenza ...	8	7	15	1
Cancer ...	14	40	54	45
Measles ...	—	—	—	1
Diabetes ...	3	2	5	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	21	24	45	25
Heart Disease ...	54	51	105	89
Other circulatory diseases ...	3	5	8	23
Bronchitis ...	28	21	49	8
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	18	10	28	19
Other respiratory diseases ...	6	3	9	3
Peptic Ulcer ...	3	3	6	4
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—	2
Appendicitis ...	1	1	2	2
Other digestive diseases ...	—	5	5	8
Nephritis ...	2	3	5	7
Puerperal sepsis ...	—	—	—	—
Other maternal causes ...	—	2	2	—
Premature birth ...	5	1	6	} 15
Diseases of infancy ...	4	3	7	
Suicide ...	1	1	2	1
Road traffic deaths ...	4	1	5	} 15
Other violent deaths ...	5	5	10	
All other causes ...	14	21	35	38
Total	205	218	423	339

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—There has been no change in the arrangements since the last report. The number of examinations carried out during 1940 was 265, made up as follows :—

SWABS :—

Diphtheria	116.
Haemolytic Streptococci	29.
Widal Test	4.
Miscellaneous : Examination of pus from abscess	1.

MILK :—

Biological	70.
Bacteriological	45.

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—Since 1st April, 1940, the ambulance service has been incorporated with the Stretford and Urmston Fire Brigade. These ambulances are available for non-infectious cases of sickness, accident cases and maternity patients. For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available.

(c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**—There has been no change in these arrangements since my last report.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**—These arrangements are as outlined in my report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY :**

(1) **GENERAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**—In January, 1940, the Lancashire County Council opened a new hospital, Abbotsfield, Flixton Road, for urgent surgical and medical cases. This has some fifty beds available and has been equipped with an X-Ray Department.

A new wing for maternity cases was opened in connection with the Urmston Cottage Hospital during the year and this has enabled the hospital to restore part of its premises to their former function of treating cases other than maternity.

(2) **ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS CASES :**

SMALL POX.—The agreement between the Council and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the treatment of small pox patients expired in September, 1940, and a new agreement was entered into with the Board.

Other infectious cases are treated by agreement with the Salford Corporation either at their Ladywell Sanatorium or at other institutions as the Salford Corporation may arrange.

(3) **MATERNITY HOSPITALS.**—As stated in the last report, arrangements have been made under the Lancashire County Council Maternity Scheme for cases requiring hospital accommodation to be received at the Urmston Cottage Hospital and for cases of urgency or where difficulty is anticipated in the confinement, to be accommodated at Hope Hospital. There are two private nursing homes registered by the County Council in the District.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There is nothing of importance to note in the year under review.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—The number of houses on the water carriage system is 11,212. There are 35 pail closets in the district and five dry ash pits.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—In consequence of the necessity for curtailing the report, the usual section dealing with this service is omitted.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.—The number of inspections undertaken during the year was 2,167. The number of nuisances or defects discovered was 146 of which 136 were abated. Notices were served in 146 cases (107 informal and 39 statutory). No legal proceedings were taken.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS DURING THE YEAR.—Thirteen houses were found to be infested and the usual disinfection was carried out in each case.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year by the Local Authority; 63 houses were erected by other bodies or persons.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—

(a) LICENCES.—The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 have been issued to dealers :—

Tuberculin Tested milk	(1) Bottling.....	Nil
	(2) Distribution.....	3
Accredited milk	(1) Bottling.....	1
	(2) Distribution.....	2
Pasteurised milk	(1) Plants.....	Nil
	(2) Retail distributors.....	2

(b) DAIRIES, MILK SHOPS, etc.

The inspections of these premises during the year numbered 253. There are in the district 34 Milk Purveyors.

(c) FARMS.

There are 16 Dairy Farms and about 250 cows in the district. Inspections numbered 114 during the year.

(d) SAMPLES.

(1) Tuberculous milk.

Samples submitted for biological tests 70.

Results :—Positive 7.

Negative 63.

This is a more satisfactory result than in 1939; the percentage of positive results in that year was 19 per cent. and for the year under review 10 per cent.

(2) Samples submitted for bacteriological tests, 45.

Results : Satisfactory 23.

Unsatisfactory 22.

It should be pointed out, that the taking of samples was somewhat restricted during the year under review and attention was directed to the taking of samples from sources thought likely to be unsatisfactory; this accounts for the relatively high percentage of unsatisfactory results.

Appropriate action was taken in all unsatisfactory cases.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—There is nothing calling for special comment during the year.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—Measles and whooping cough were made notifiable throughout the country in October 1939.

TABLE IV—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1940.

"Notifiable" Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.	
	Total cases at all ages.	under 1-	AGE PERIODS—YEARS.								65 and over		Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
			1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			
Scarlet Fever...	(a) 34			3	3	4	9	11	1		2	1		18	
Diphtheria ...	18				3	1	7	1		6			1	17	
Enteric Fever ...	3									3				3	
Measles ...	832	16	52	87	104	86	440	30	9	5	2	1		5	
Whooping Cough ..	60	3	1	9	10	6	30			1					
Pneumonia (Ac. Prim) ... (Ac. Infl.)...	54	1		4				2		14	11	20	2	9	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6								1	5				1	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	5					1				2	2		2	5	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1													
Erysipelas ...	4									1		1	2	3	
Totals ...	1017	21	53	103	120	98	486	44	11	37	17	23	4	61	4

N.B.—It should be noted that cases occurring among non-civilians are not included in the above table.

Both diseases were prevalent in the district towards the end of 1940, measles in epidemic form.

Diphtheria notifications amongst the civilian population declined, as also did scarlet fever.

There were 5 cases of cerebro-spinal fever as against 3 in the previous year and 53 cases of pneumonia were notified as against 33 in 1939.

MEASLES.—No less than 839 were notified, of which 832 were amongst the civilian population. Table IV gives the ages and it will be seen that 440 cases occurred in the age group 5—10, showing the part which school life plays in the spread of this disease. Many children living in districts that are not closely built-up escape measles until the time of entry into school and are thus susceptible to the first infection encountered in a class-room.

The early symptoms of measles, before the appearance of the rash, are frequently mistaken for a common cold, and children are allowed to attend school, with the result that infection is spread only too easily in spite of the efforts of teachers and of the school medical service. During measles epidemics all children suffering from symptoms resembling those of a cold should be kept at home.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease has been mild in form and not unduly prevalent. The notifications of civilian cases numbered thirty-four as against thirty-five in the previous year, fifty in 1938 and eighty-two in 1937.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were seventy-one notifications as against seventy-four in the previous year, but as was the case in 1939 the majority of the cases were non-civilian. An outbreak of the disease broke out in a military establishment in the district causing fifty-three notifications. Civilian cases numbered eighteen as against twenty-eight in 1939. Twelve cases occurred among children, eight being school children and four under school age. Only one of the children had been previously immunised. There was one death from diphtheria, this being in a child who had never been immunised and who died before he could be admitted to Hospital, in consequence of delay in calling in medical advice.

TYPHOID AND PARA-TYPHOID FEVERS .—During August and September three civilian cases were notified, all in young women, and one non-civilian case. The most careful investigation did not reveal any common causative factor for these cases.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications numbered fifty-three during the year as against thirty-three in the previous year, and eighteen in 1939. No doubt the severe weather of the past two winters has contributed to the increasing prevalence.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMMUNISATION AND PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN, VACCINES, ETC., FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

(a) DIPHTHERIA—

- (1) Antitoxin is provided free by the Council and is available at local chemists and also at the Urmston Police Station by day or night at times when chemists' supplies are not available.
- (2) Immunisation. The scheme of diphtheria immunisation commenced in 1937, continues to work satisfactorily. Leaflets were distributed in Infants' Schools and local Welfare Centres and much more interest has been manifest in the early part of 1941 than at any time since the beginning of the war, over four hundred children being immunised in the first six months. During 1940, however, very few applications for immunisation were received. The following figures indicate the progress of the scheme :—

Number of Children Immunised :—

Year	School Children.	Children under School Age.	Total
1937	397	55	452
1938	1132	251	1383
1939	151	116	267
1940	64	69	133
1941 (first 6 months)	199	239	438
Total	1943	730	2673

No Schick Tests were performed during the year at the clinics.

In addition to the facilities provided at these fixed sessions at the Clinic, it was decided by resolution of the Council in December, 1940, that Medical Practitioners be supplied free of cost with immunising material for use in their Surgeries for children resident in the district.

(b) **TYPHOID FEVER.**—In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health it was decided by the Council in January, 1941, to offer free immunisation facilities to individuals, the nature of whose employment exposed them to special risk, and in the first few months of 1941 227 A.R.P., A.F.S. and other volunteers and Police were immunised at the Clinic at special sessions organised on similar lines to those for diphtheria immunisation.

(c) **WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES.**—The Council on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health agreed in December, 1940, to supply free of cost to Medical Practitioners suitable vaccines or sera for the treatment or prevention of these diseases, in accordance with section 65 of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935. So far only the vaccines or antigens for whooping cough have been used, there being no demand for the measles serum.

DISINFECTION.—The number of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious diseases was 169 during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Notifications of Tuberculosis and deaths from this are shown in Table V. The ratio of non-notifiable Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths was 1 in 10.

Table V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—								
1—				1				
5—			2	1				
10—		1	1			1		
15—	1	1	1			1		
20—	1	3	1					
25—	9	5	1	3	4	1		
35—	7	2	2	1	2	4		1
45—	1	2		1	2	2		
55—	3				2			
65 & upwards			1	1				
Totals	22	14	9	8	10	9		1
	36		17		19		1	

In conclusion I desire to record my appreciation of the work of the staff of the Public Health Department during a difficult year. The demands of Civil Defence work have increased during the year and changes in staff, as in most departments, have added to the difficulties. It is satisfactory to record that in spite of the extra work occasioned by the administration of the Salvage Scheme and of the A.R.P. Casualties Services, the essential Public Health work of the department has been maintained at a satisfactory level.

I also desire to thank the Chairman and members of the Health and Housing Committee for the help and support given to the Department.

A. V. STOCKS,
Medical Officer of Health.



