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# Annual Report

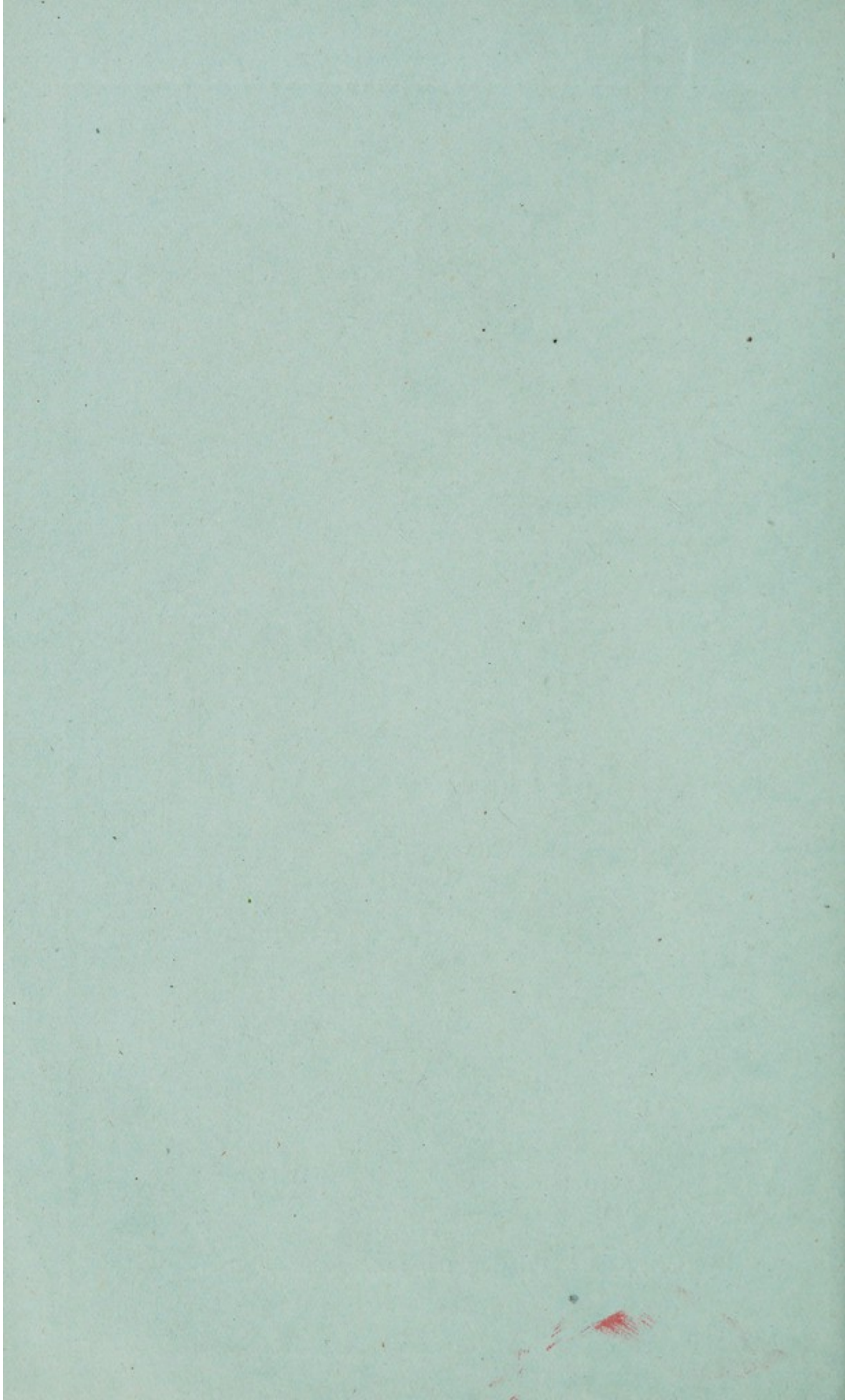
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

for the year

1942.

URMSTON :

"Telegraph" Printing Co. Ltd., Railway Road.



# Urmston Urban District Council

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Chairman of the Council:

Councillor R. H. TOOTILL, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., J.P.

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## HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

1942 — 1943.

County Councillor W. Wroe, *Chairman*.

Councillor Mrs. B. E. Bull, *Vice-Chairman*.

Councillor J. H. Batten	Councillor S. C. Shaw
Councillor R. P. Cartwright B.Sc., Engn.	Councillor H. Stewart
Councillor H. Howsdon	Councillor Dr. R. H. Tootill, O.B.E., J.P.
Councillor S. N. Penlington, J.P.	Councillor F. E. Trigg.
	Councillor Mrs. A. M. Wilkinson.

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*Medical Officer of Health*

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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*Chief Sanitary Inspector—*

\* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

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*Additional Sanitary Inspectors—*

- \* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
  - \* P. McKENNA, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (Appointed October, 1941).
  - \* Certified Meat and Food Inspector.
- 

*Public Health Department—*

*Chief Clerk—*G. W. Blake. Joined H.M. Forces  
October, 1941.

*Asst. Clerk—*M. Lambert. Joined H. M. Forces  
November, 1940.

*Temporary Asst. Clerk—*S. Rogerson. Appointed Dec., 1940.

„ „ „ —G. Ryder. Appointed July, 1941.

*Typist —*Miss M. Worthington.

„ —Miss B. Harrison.

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1942.

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

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 December 31st, 1942, and the arrangement of sections is the same as in previous reports, but the report has been again condensed in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health and certain tables and figures, including statistics of population are omitted.

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

The geographical conditions of the area have been dealt with in previous reports. The estimate of population by the Registrar General does not differ materially from the estimate for the previous year.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTH RATE.**—The total number of births credited to the district by the Registrar General was eighteen more than in the previous year. Over a hundred of the births took place outside the district. The birth rate per thousand of the estimated population was 15.5, an increase on the previous two years. Still births numbered 25 against 16 in the previous year and 22 in 1940. The following table gives the birth rate per thousand of the estimated population for Urmston, and for England and Wales, for the past five years.

Birth rates per 1,000 estimated population.

Year.	Urmston U.D.	England and Wales.
1938	16.6	15.1.
1939	16.6	15.0.
1940	15.4	14.6.
1941	15.2	14.2.
1942	15.5	15.8.

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—The death rate of infants under one year of age was 63 per thousand live births; in 1941 the death rate was 64.8. The average figure for the previous five years (1937-1941) is 48 deaths per thousand live births. One-third of the deaths occurred before the third day; two-thirds of the deaths took place during the first month of life.

The principal causes of death were as follows, the number of deaths in each case being indicated by the figure in brackets:—prematurity (8), atelectasis (2), asphyxia (2), intracranial haemorrhage or convulsions (4), pneumonia or bronchitis (6). Forty-five per cent. of the deaths occurred in hospitals outside the urban district, 40 per cent. of the deaths occurred at home.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.**—Four deaths occurred during the year from maternal causes, representing a maternal death rate of 7 per thousand live and still births, this rate being the highest for many years. One death occurred in the district from puerperal sepsis.

**GENERAL DEATH RATE.**—The crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 10.9, the same as in the previous year. The figures for the last five years are given below for Urmston and England and Wales.

Year	Urmston U.D.	England and Wales.
1938	9.1	11.6.
1939	10.1	12.1.
1940	12.2	14.3.
1941	10.9	12.9.
1942	10.9	11.6.

The deaths from bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases show a decline compared with the previous year, but there is an increase in deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system. The figure for the past five years are given below.

Year.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Tuber- culosis.	Other Respiratory Diseases.	Total.
1938	4	9	13	1	27.
1939	8	19	13	3	43.
1940	49	28	13	9	99.
1941	31	23	8	4	66.
1942	28	21	13	4	66.

Only three deaths were attributed to influenza, the same number as in the previous year. No deaths occurred from measles or whooping cough; two deaths were attributed to diarrhoea under the age of two years, the same number as in the previous year. One death occurred from diphtheria as in the previous year. No deaths were attributed to cerebro-spinal fever, a notable reduction from the previous year when 7 deaths occurred from this cause. Three deaths were attributed to syphilitic disease. The deaths attributed to cancer were 54 as against 55 in the previous twelve months.

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

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—There has been no change in the arrangement since the last report. The number of examinations carried out in 1942 was 303, made up as follows:—

### SWABS :—

Diphtheria .....171

### OTHER SPECIMENS :—

Sputum ..... 1

### MILK :—

Biological ..... 49

Bacteriological ..... 80

### WATER :—

Swimming Bath ..... 2.

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—These are provided by the Stretford and Urmston Joint Brigade, which has two ambulances available for non-infectious cases of sickness, accidents and maternity patients. A Civil Defence Ambulance presented to the Council by the late Mrs. Alker has been insured for all purposes, and this is kept in continuous readiness to supplement the Ambulances of the Joint Brigade, should neither of them be available in an emergency.

For the removal of infectious diseases, the ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and the Bury and District Hospital Board are available, the latter for cases of small-pox.

(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 are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and may be summarised as follows :—

1. **WELFARE CENTRES.**

Davyhulme : “ The Moorlands ” Cornhill Road, Monday afternoon  
Flixton : Alker Hall, Flixton Road ..... Tuesday afternoon  
Urmston : “ The Moorlands ” Cornhill Rd., Wednesday afternoon

The number of attendances at these centres totals 9,627 during the year, compared with 9,031 in the previous year and 9,799 in 1940.

2. **ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.** These are held as under :—

- (1) “ The Moorlands ” Cornhill Rd., Davyhulme, Friday afternoon
- (2) Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft, Friday morning and afternoon.

3. **SCHOOL CLINIC** (“ The Moorlands ”) Minor Ailments—Monday 9-30 to 12-0. Dental, Ophthalmic, Diphtheria Immunisation—by appointment. Orthopaedic cases are seen by appointment at the School Clinic, Longfield Lodge, Cadishead.

4 **TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.** Lancashire County Council Dispensaries are situated at :—

- (1) Gilda Brook Road, Eccles.
- (2) 14, Darbyshire Lane, Stretford.

(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY :** There has been no change in the hospital arrangements since my last report.

## **SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

There is nothing of importance to report in connection with water supply, drainage, sewerage, rivers and streams, or sanitary accommodation.

**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 visits and inspections of premises during the year was 2,839. The number of nuisances or defects discovered was 98 of which 87 were abated. Statutory Notices were served in 41 instances.

### **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS DURING THE YEAR.**—

Sixty-three houses were found to be infested, a great increase on the number of houses dealt with in previous years. Disinfestation was carried out in each case by spraying with “ Zaldecide ” and fumigation with “ Fumoid ” Blocks.



## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year either by the Local Authority or by any other 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—None.

Accredited milk	(1) Bottling.....	1
	(2) Distribution .....	2
Pasteurised milk	(1) Plants .....	1
	(2) Retail distributors.....	2

(b) DAIRIES, MILK SHOPS, etc.

The inspections of these premises during the year numbered 68. There are 26 Milk Purveyors in the district.

(c) FARMS.

There are 13 Dairy Farms and about 225 cows in the district. Inspections during the year numbered 82.

(d) SAMPLING OF MILK.

(1) Samples submitted for biological tests numbered 49, of which 6 gave positive results for tubercle bacilli, and 43 gave negative results.

(2) Samples submitted for bacteriological tests numbered 80, of which 40 were satisfactory and 40 unsatisfactory.

Much difficulty was experienced during the year, particularly in the summer months, with regard to milk coming into the district from outside. A great number of complaints were received from members of the public with regard to sour milk, and dirty bottles, broken glass in bottles, and in some cases complaints of slight illness alleged to be caused by the drinking of milk.

The matter was vigorously investigated by means of sampling and representations to the firms sending the milk into the district. The result of sampling may be summarised as follows :—

- (1) Samples of milk taken from farms within the Urmston area showed that 74 per cent. were up to the old Grade A standard : only 3 per cent. of samples showed a count of over 1,000,000 organisms.
- (2) Samples taken from distributors in the district who obtain their supply direct from Cheshire farms, show that only 25 per cent of samples were up to the old Grade A standard. Over one quarter of the samples showed a count of over 1,000,000 organisms per c.c. and half of these a count of over 5,000,000.
- (3) Samples taken from distributors in the district who derived their milk from Milk Depots and large distributors, including co-operative societies, showed that only 15 per cent of samples were up to the old Grade A standard, that 45 per cent. showed a count of over 1,000,000 organisms per c.c. and that 24 per cent. showed a count of over 5,000,000.

So serious had the matter become by the Autumn in spite of representations made to the Regional Office of the responsible Ministries, that it was decided in conjunction with the City of Manchester to summon a conference of Local Authorities within a radius of ten miles of the city. This conference was held at Manchester Town Hall on the 12th February, 1943, and was attended by representatives of almost all the Authorities within an area of ten miles from the city ; the conference passed the following resolution :—

**RESOLVED :—**

“ That this conference, representing local authorities within a radius of ten miles from the City of Manchester, expresses its grave concern at the serious complaints which have been made and continue to be made by consumers as to the standard of milk supplies within the area—complaints which are sustained and reinforced by examination of samples taken by local authorities : that from evidence adduced at this conference, it is clear that the milk is neither as safe, nor as fresh nor as clean as the people are entitled to expect : that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs appears to be attributable in greater or lesser degree to the following, among other causes :—

- (a) insufficient attention to cleanliness and cooling at the point of production ;
- (b) transport delays ;
- (c) insufficient sterilisation of churns or bottles ;
- (d) paucity of the right kind of labour ;
- (e) inefficient treatment by heat ;
- (f) lack of a standard for undesignated milk ;

that in the opinion of this conference, the standard of milk supplies is a cogent factor in maintaining the morale of the people in war-time, particularly as it affects the mothers of young children, and that the removal of the contributory causes referred to above is fundamentally dependent on a modification of national policy. Accordingly, and notwithstanding the terms of Circular 1761, this conference directs to this serious matter the urgent attention of the Ministers of Health, Food and Agriculture, and urges the reception by them of a representative deputation, in order that the views herein expressed may be explained and amplified as necessary."

It was decided that the deputation should consist of representatives of the Local Authorities of Manchester, Salford, Stretford, Oldham, Bury and Urmston.

**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.**—Notifications of cases of infectious diseases amongst civilians numbered 475 as against 514 in the previous year and 1,017 in 1940.

There was an epidemic of measles towards the end of the year, 300 cases being notified, there was also the beginning of an outbreak of whooping cough, 20 cases being notified towards the close of the year. Diphtheria cases numbered 17, the smallest number in any year since the immunisation scheme was commenced in the district.

Scarlet fever was very prevalent during the year, no less than 105 cases being notified. During the previous five years scarlet fever had declined continuously, reaching the low figure of 18 cases in 1941. It should be pointed out that there has been a general rise in the incidence of scarlet fever in the

country as a whole since then. Only three cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified during the year and there were no deaths; this contrasts very favourably with the previous year when there were 13 cases amongst the civilian population and seven persons died of this disease.

**PNEUMONIA.**—Notification of acute pneumonia again declined, the figures being 22 as against 42 in the previous year and 54 in 1940.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria in the last four years amongst the civilian population.

#### NOTIFICATIONS OF DIPHTHERIA AMONGST CIVILIANS

Year.	Under					Total.
	5	5—14.	15—19.	20—34.	35 & over.	
1939.	7	16	3	6	2	34.
1940.	4	8	—	6	—	18.
1941.	7	7	3	1	2	20.
1942.	1	8	2	6	—	17.

The most satisfactory feature of this table is the reduction in notifications of diphtheria amongst children under school age, and this can undoubtedly be attributed to the increasing proportion of immunised children between the ages of one and five years. There was one death from diphtheria during the year, this being in a child who had not been immunised; only one case of diphtheria occurred in a child who had completed the course of immunisation not less than three months before the onset of the disease.

**SCABIES.**—The Scabies Order came into force on 28th October, 1941. During the year under review 95 cases came to the notice of the Public Health Department through information received from the Manchester Skin Hospital, the School Clinic or local medical practitioners; 73 households were visited and advice given by members of the staff; disinfection was carried out where this appeared to be desirable. Many children were treated at the School Clinic and leaflets about the disease given to parents.

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 which began in 1937 continues to progress satisfactorily; more interest than usual was shown by the public during the autumn as a result of the Ministry of Health propaganda. Over a thousand children were immunised during the year. The following table gives the number of children immunised in each year since the commencement of the scheme.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

Year.	School children.	Children under school age.	Total.
1937	379	55	452
1938	1132	251	1383
1939	151	116	267
1940	64	69	133
1941	534	381	918
1942	504	588	1092
Total ..	2782	1463	4245

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

In addition to the facilities provided at these 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 materials for use in their Surgeries for children resident in the district.

On the 31st December, 1942, it was estimated that of the children under five years of age in the district 47 per cent. had been immunised and that of the children between five and fifteen years of age 69 per cent. had been immunised. These estimates include children in the area immunised at private practitioners' surgeries, and children who have come into the district after being immunised elsewhere.

(b) **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 116 during the year under review.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—There has been a tendency for mortality from tuberculosis to rise since the war began, in the country as a whole, as was the case in the last war. In view of this the following table is of interest and shows that there is in this district little evidence as yet of any rising trend since the war began.

NEW NOTIFICATIONS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.
1st Quarter	6	7	8	9
2nd Quarter	7	9	10	5
3rd Quarter	13	9	4	9
4th Quarter	5	10	6	13
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	31	35	28	36
	—	—	—	—
Deaths .....	13	13	8	13

NEW NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.
1st Quarter	6	4	2	6
2nd Quarter	6	4	6	3
3rd Quarter	5	3	3	4
4th Quarter	4	5	6	11
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	21	16	17	24
	—	—	—	—
Deaths .....	5	1	5	4

Details of the cases and mortality in respect of 1942 are shown in the usual Table below.

Table V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—								
1—			4	1			1	1
5—			3	3				
10—								
15—		1	1	1				
20—	1	4	1	1				
25—	2	2	1	2		1		
35—	5	2			1			
45—	8							
55—	3	1						
65 & upwards								
Totals	19	10	10	8	1	1	1	1
	29		18		2		2	

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the work of the members of the staff of the Public Health Department during the year, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee for the help and support given to the Department in all its activities.

A. V. STOCKS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*





