

[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, Urmston U.D.C.

Contributors

Urmston (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1945

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f4k8n3zu>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



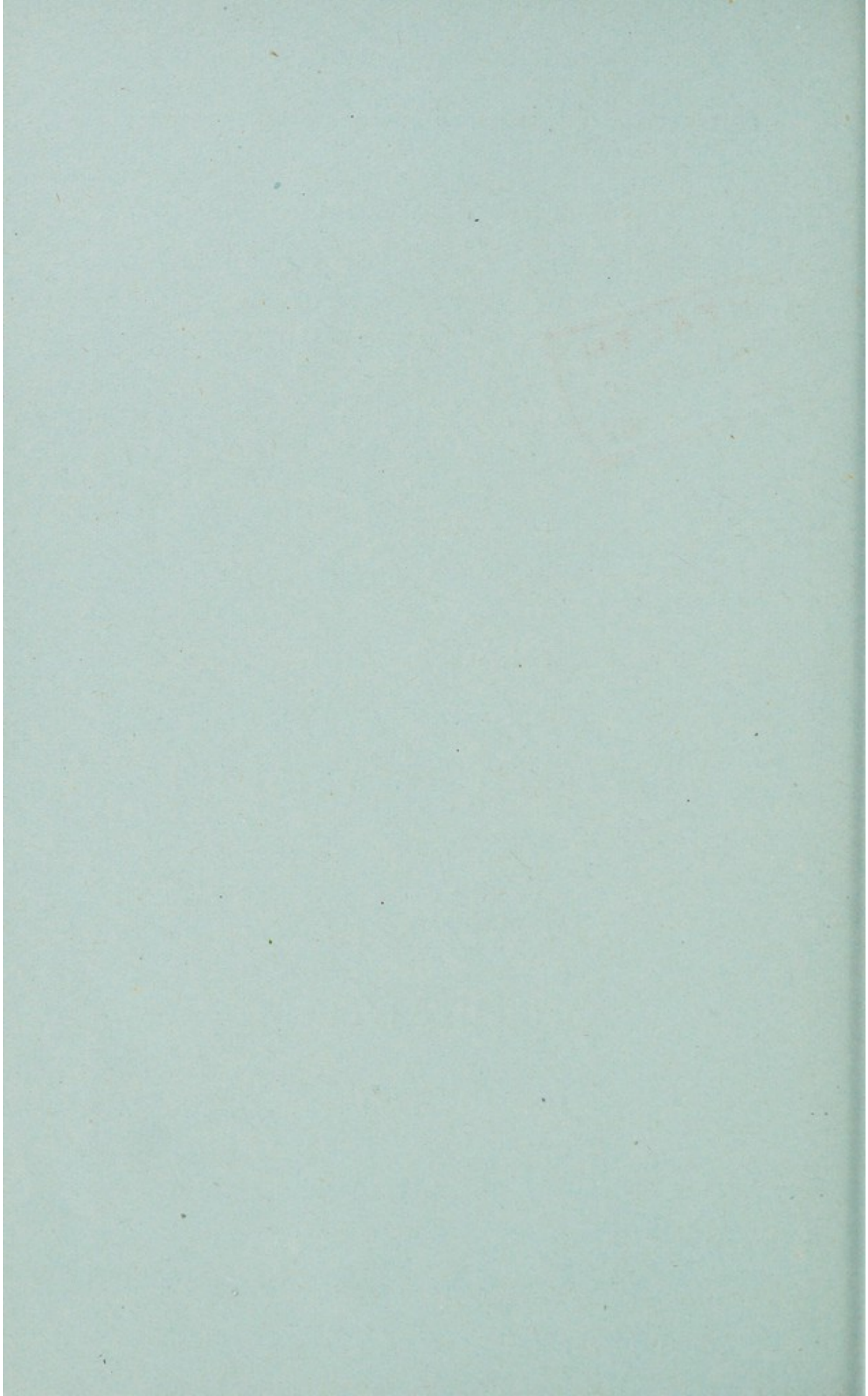
Urmston Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

for the year

1945



Urmston Urban District Council

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor S. N. PENLINGTON, J. P.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE. 1945 — 1946.

Councillor W. WROE, *Chairman*.

Councillor H. HOWSDON, *Vice-Chairman*.

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.

R. G. CHILD, C.S.I.

* Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Public Health Department—

*Chief Clerk—*G. W. BLAKE (H.M. Forces).

*Asst. Clerk—*M. LAMBERT (H.M. Forces).

*Temporary Asst. Clerk—*S. ROGERSON (Resigned Sept. 1945).


„ „ „ —G. RYDER (Resigned, August, 1945).

„ „ „ —Mrs. E. M. WILD (commenced July 1945)

*Immunisation Nurse & Clerk—*Mrs. E. POWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*Typist—*Miss B. HARRISON.

„ —Mrs. E. RAMSDEN (Resigned Sept. 1945).



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30202322>

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Year 1945

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
UBRAN 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, 1945, 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. In some of the statistical tables given below figures are given for the sake of comparison for 1938, as being the last complete year before the war.

A most satisfactory feature of the vital statistics for the year is the low infant mortality, the lowest since 1938, and the absence of any maternal deaths.

The birth rate was lower than in 1944 or 1943; a disquieting feature is the high proportion (one in every fifteen) of illegitimate births and further reference is made to this in the report.

The general death rate remains unchanged. The death rate from cancer was the lowest for six years and the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis was the lowest recorded for twelve years.

It is also satisfactory to be able to record that no deaths occurred from influenza, diphtheria, measles or whooping-cough.

The admissions to hospital for infectious disease were 38 during the year, a low figure. Only one confirmed case of diphtheria occurred in the district. No case of diphtheria in a child under five years of age has occurred since 1943.

I desire to express my sincere thanks to my colleague, Mr. Wood, and to all members of the staff of the Health Department, for their assistance in the compilation of this report, and to record my appreciation of their work during the year under review.

A. V. STOCKS,
Medical Officer of Health.

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

The geographical conditions of the area have been dealt with in previous reports.

The following are the estimates by the Registrar General for the years stated :—

	<i>Population.</i>
1938	32,030
1944	34,910
1945	35,140

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.

The number of occupied houses at the end of 1938 was 10,530, and at the end of 1945 was 11,205; this was an increase of 27 on the previous year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.—Births registered numbered 619, representing a birth rate per thousand of the estimated population of 17.6.

The following table gives a comparison between the birth rates in the Urban District, in the Administrative County, and in England and Wales for the years indicated :—

Year	Urmston	County Administrative Area.	England and Wales.
1938	16.6	14.14	15.1
1944	21.5	18.64	18.0
1945	17.6	—	16.1
Mean of 1940-1944	17.3	—	—

The following table gives total live births, illegitimate births and still births for the years indicated.

Year	Total Live Births	Illegitimate Births	Stillbirths.
1938	533	13	24
1944	752	23	16
1945	619	41	26

It will be noticed from this table that there has been a very great increase in the proportion of illegitimate births to total live births.

The percentage of births that were illegitimate is 6.6 compared with 3 in 1944 and 2.4 in 1943. Throughout the County Administrative Area, the percentage was 5 in 1944.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The death rate of infants under one year of age was 29 per thousand live births, the lowest since 1938. The mean of the five years 1940-1944 was 55.

The following table gives a comparison with the years 1944 and 1938 and with the figures for the County Administrative area and for England and Wales :—

Year	Urmston	County Administrative Area.	England and Wales.
1938	26	55	53
1944	49	46	46
1945	29	—	46

The following table gives the death rate of infants under one year of age per thousand live births together with the death rate of legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births and the death rate of illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births, compared with the corresponding figures of 1944.

	<i>Death Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	
	1944	1945
All Infants	49	29
Legitimate Infants	49	27
Illegitimate Infants	43	48

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

The following table gives the death rate of infants under the age of one month per thousand live births for each of the past four years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Neo-Natal Mortality.</i>
1942	40.6
1943	29.0
1944	30.6
1945	17.7

It is satisfactory to note the decrease since 1942 in the mortality rate of infants under the age of one month as this is a particularly sensitive index of the efficiency of ante-natal care and the care of small infants.

The principal causes of death of infants under one year of age during 1945 were broncho-pneumonia or bronchitis (5), congenital heart disease (3), prematurity (2), gastro-enteritis (2). Eight of the deaths occurred in institutions outside the Urban District. The following table gives for each of the past four years total births, total deaths of infants under one year of age, deaths within one month and deaths within 3 days of birth.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths under One Year.</i>	<i>Deaths within One Month.</i>	<i>Deaths within Three days.</i>
1942	542	34	22	11
1943	657	37	19	11
1944	752	37	23	12
1945	619	18	11	5

CAUSES OF DEATH

1943-1945

CAUSES.	1943.		1944.		1945.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	9	5	7	5	3	4
Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory	2	1	2	1	2	1
Syphilitic Disease	—	1	2	—	1	—
Influenza	9	9	—	3	—	—
Measles	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	1	2	2	1	—
Cancer	27	32	30	33	28	25
Diabetes	—	2	3	2	1	2
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	17	21	21	22	16	36
Heart Diseases	48	39	44	46	39	43
Other circulatory diseases	3	8	2	5	6	4
Bronchitis	19	8	12	12	13	10
Pneumonia	9	10	8	6	8	8
Other Respiratory diseases	3	5	4	—	5	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	—	—	4	2
Diarrhoea (under 2)	3	—	1	4	—	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1	1	1	1
Other Digestive diseases	7	5	2	5	6	2
Nephritis	4	8	3	3	6	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	1	—	2	—	—
Premature Birth	4	6	3	5	1	1
Congenital infantile causes	5	4	9	10	5	5
Suicide	—	—	—	—	3	4
Road Traffic Accidents	2	3	1	2	5	—
Other violent causes	10	3	3	1	5	3
All other causes	12	17	13	15	21	24
	197	192	173	185	180	180

MATERNAL MORTALITY

It is satisfactory to record that no maternal deaths occurred during 1945. The following table gives particulars of the maternal death rate for the years indicated :—

Year	Maternal Deaths per 1,000 live Births.	Maternal Deaths per 1,000 live & still Births.
1938	1.87	1.79
1944	2.65	2.60
1945	Nil.	Nil.
Mean of five years 1940-44	3.73	3.60

GENERAL DEATH RATE

The following table gives the deaths per thousand of the estimated population for 1938, 1944, and 1945 for Urmston and for England and Wales :—

Year	Urmston.	England and Wales.
1938	9.1	11.6
1944	10.2	11.6
1945	10.2	11.4

The total number of deaths during the year was 360, two more than in the previous year. A detailed analysis for the past three years giving the causes of death for both sexes, is shown in an accompanying table. The crude death rate per thousand of the estimated population was 10.2, the same as in the previous year; the mean for the five years 1940-1944 was 11.0.

It is satisfactory to note that no deaths occurred from measles, whooping-cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria, cerebro-spinal fever or influenza. Deaths from pneumonia numbered 16. The mortality from cancer was the lowest for a number of years, the deaths numbering 53 as against 63 the previous year, 59 in 1943, 54 in 1942 and 55 in 1941. The death rate from cancer was the lowest since 1939, being 1.50 per thousand of the estimated population against the mean for the five years 1940-1944 of 1.63.

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 1945 was 292 made up as follows :—

SWABS :—

For Diphtheria	62
For Haemolytic Streptococci	5
EXAMINATION OF FAECES	63
OTHER SPECIMENS	4

MILK :—

Biological	45
Bacteriological	91
Phosphatase Test	15
OTHER FOODS	2

WATER :—

Drinking Water	2
Swimming Bath	3

(b) **AMBULANCES FACILITIES.**—For the removal of infectious cases other than smallpox, the ambulances of the Salford Corporation are available; for cases of smallpox the ambulance of the Bury and District Joint Board is available. For the removal of non-infectious cases of sickness, accident, or maternity patients, the Council maintains two ambulances at Bowfell Road Depot and a staff of drivers and attendants. The following table gives particulars of calls upon the ambulance service during the year.

		<i>Sudden</i>		<i>Other</i>		
1945.	<i>Accident</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1st Qr.	34	8	43	205	290	2520
2nd Qr.	42	15	45	179	281	2447
3rd Qr.	23	16	35	175	249	2433
4th Qr.	33	26	35	175	269	2651
Totals	132	65	158	734	1,089	10,051

(c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**

There has been no change in these arrangements since the last report.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**— These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and may be summarised as follows :—

1. **CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.**

Davyhulme : "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd., 2—4 p.m. Monday.
Flixton : Alker Hall, Flixton Road 2—4 p.m. Tuesday.
Urmston : "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd., 2—4 p.m. Wednesday.

The number of attendances at these centres totals 12,464 during the year compared with 13,590 in the previous year and 10,334 in 1943.

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," Cornhill Road, Davyhulme. Minor Ailments—Monday 9-30 to 12-0 a.m.
Dental, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy—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. 28, Gildabrook Road, Eccles.
2. 14, Derbyshire Lane, Stretford.

(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY :** There was no change in the hospital arrangements during 1945, but at the beginning of 1946, Park Hospital, Davyhulme was re-opened after being in the hands of the Military for over six years, and the Emergency Hospital at "Abbotsfield" was closed.

(f) **REGIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE** :—In the campaign for enrolments of Blood Donors in the Autumn of 1944 over 1,000 donors were enrolled. The Regional Blood Transfusion Officer arranged for a mobile team to come into the district from time to time during 1945 for the collection of blood from donors, and clinics were arranged at "Collingwood," Davyhulme Road. The following table gives an indication of the work done since the inception of the scheme in September, 1944 :—

Sessions held from September to December 1944	5
Number of persons notified to attend	229
Number of persons attended	154
Total pints of blood collected	120
 Sessions held at "Collingwood" during 1945	 38
Number of persons notified to attend	2292
Number of attendances	1287
Total pints of blood collected	1129

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation; the quality is excellent and the quantity sufficient. Water is supplied from the public mains to 11,246 dwelling-houses. No water is supplied by means of stand-pipes. Two bacteriological examinations and one chemical analysis were made during the year and the results were satisfactory. No liability to plumbo-solvent action has been noticed, nor any evidence as to contamination by lead.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—A small sewage disposal plant which drained sewage from a small number of houses in Davyhulme was found to be in an unsatisfactory condition and arrangements are being made for its reconstruction.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Several small water courses have been found to be polluted; one from the faulty sewage disposal plant referred to above. The water courses are inspected at intervals and steps have been taken to deal with any pollution.

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 3,041, as against 3,370 for 1944. The number of nuisance defects discovered was 332 of which 270 were abated. Statutory Notices were served in 135 instances.

DISINFESTATIONS.—Forty-three houses were found to be infested during the year and disinfestation was carried out in each case.

DISINFECTIONS.—The number of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious diseases was 78 during the year under review.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

During the year 19 new houses were erected, none of these being by the Local Authority.

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.....	1
	(2) Distributors	4
Accredited Milk—Nil.		
Pasteurised milk	(1) Plants	1
	(2) Retail Distributors.....	3

One tuberculin tested milk licence was revoked during the year because successive samples taken were below standard.

(b) DAIRIES, MILK SHOPS. etc.

Monthly inspections of these premises were carried out and their condition was found to be generally satisfactory.

(c) FARMS.

There are 12 dairy farms and about 200 cows in the district. Inspections during the year number 122.

(d) SAMPLING OF MILK.

(1) Samples submitted for biological test number 45 of which 43 were satisfactory and 2 gave positive results.

(2) Samples submitted for bacteriological test number 91 of which 25 were unsatisfactory.

(3) Samples submitted for the Phosphatase Test number 15 of which 4 were unsatisfactory.

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 disease number 423 as against 860 in the previous year. The epidemic of measles which occurred in the latter part of 1944 continued into the early months of 1945 during which 189 cases were notified. Whooping-Cough was more prevalent than in the previous year, there being 130 cases notified as against 46 in the previous year. Scarlet Fever, however, showed a considerable reduction, the cases notified being 64 as against 105 in the previous year and 193 in 1943. Several notifications were received of diphtheria, but only one case was confirmed. Cases of dysentery showed an increase, there being 14 notifications as against 8 in the previous year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Your Medical Officer has been of the opinion for some time that the mild type of case prevalent in the district is better

nursed at home rather than in hospital, provided that proper isolation and nursing are available, and that there are no special reasons demanding hospital treatment. This view was put before the local medical practitioners at the beginning of 1944 and doctors were requested not to promise hospital treatment for cases of scarlet fever without consultation with the Health Department.

The following table indicates for each quarter during the past two years the notifications of scarlet fever and admissions to hospital :—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Notifications.</i>	<i>Admissions to Hospitals.</i>
1944.	1st Quarter	37	22
	2nd „	20	6
	3rd „	27	6
	4th „	21	2
	Totals ...	105	36
1945.	1st „	33	12
	2nd „	16	5
	3rd „	5	1
	4th „	9	3
	Totals ...	63	21

DIPHTHERIA.—The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria during the last eight years :—

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA AMONGST CIVILIANS.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Under 5</i>	<i>5—14.</i>	<i>15—19.</i>	<i>20—34.</i>	<i>35 & over.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1938	11	23	5	3	3	45
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
1943	1	16	3	5	1	26
1944	—	2	1	—	—	3
1945	—	—	1	—	—	1

It may be added that in the first six months of 1946 no case of diphtheria was notified in the district.

The table shows a striking reduction in the incidence of diphtheria amongst children of pre-school age and it cannot be doubted that this is due to the intensive campaign which has been carried out in the district, and to the particular attention which has been given in recent years to children under 5 years of age. It has recently been decided, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, to encourage the immunisation of infants at 9 or 10 months instead of leaving it until the child is one year old, on the ground that cases of diphtheria in children under the age of one year do occur and are apt to be very fatal.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

(Under the Council's Scheme)

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	534	384	918
1942	504	588	1092
1943	343	592	935
1944	312	229	541
1945	66	479	545
	<hr/> 3503 <hr/>	<hr/> 2763 <hr/>	<hr/> 6266 <hr/>

During the year 34 sessions were held for immunisation at "Collingwood." No Schick Tests were performed during the year at the Clinics.

In addition to the facilities provided at these sessions at the Clinic, medical practitioners can be supplied free of cost with immunising materials for use in their surgeries for children resident in the district.

In order to reinforce the immunity of children who have been immunised four or more years previously a "boosting" dose has been advised at the end of four years. Cards have been distributed throughout the schools advising parents about this. This scheme has been in operation for two years and the total number of children who had received a "boosting" dose up to December 31st, 1945, was 1,170.

SCABIES :—The arrangements described in the last report are still available at “Collingwood.” During the year 58 patients were treated for scabies at that centre.

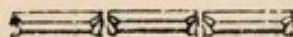
TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the new cases and mortality during 1945 :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—								
1—			2	1			2	1
5—			2	1				
10—								
15—	1	1		2		1		
20—	2	3		2				
25—	3	4		4	2			
35—	3	2	1		1	2		
45—	6	1	1		1	1		
55—	2				1			
65 & upwards								
Totals	17	11	6	10	5	4	2	1
	28		16		9		3	

The following table shows the death rates from Pulmonary Tuberculosis since 1934 :—

1934.....	0.48	1940.....	0.37
1935.....	0.32	1941.....	0.23
1936.....	0.27	1942.....	0.37
1937.....	0.49	1943.....	0.40
1938.....	0.40	1944.....	0.34
1939.....	0.38	1945.....	0.19



"Telegraph" Printing
Co. Ltd.,
Urmston

