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Urban District Council of Washington

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1941.

WILLIAM D. MILLAR,
M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.

J. MITCHELL,
M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

1943.

PELAW-ON-TYNE :
CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S PRINTING WORKS.





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Urban District Council of Washington.

List of Councillors for the year 1941-42.

Chairman :

Councillor WILLIAM HASKETT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor WILLIAM JAMIESON.

Councillor T. ANDERSON.

Councillor D. McBURNIE.

„ A. W. COLE.

„ R. PATTERSON.

„ J. R. COXON.

„ T. POTTER.

„ R. COATES.

„ S. PURVIS.

„ J. CULLEN.

„ A. RODDAM.

„ J. M. CULLINAN.

„ J. J. WALKER.

„ H. DYSON.

„ J. WALMSLEY.

„ B. FITZSIMONS.

„ R. C. WANLESS.

„ Mrs. GAUNT.

„ G. H. YOUNG.

„ J. W. GIBSON.

Clerk of the Council :

Mr. M. ANDERSON.

Staff of the Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

WILLIAM D. MILLAR, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

J. MITCHELL, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

W. C. BREWER, C.S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



*Council Chambers,
Washington,
Co. Durham.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Washington.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Fifth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District, and the work of the Health Department during the year 1941.

The report is much curtailed, as directed by the Ministry of Health.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by the Chairman and Members of the Council, and by my fellow Officials, especially those on the staff of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. D. MILLAR, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION A.

Statistics of the Area.

Area of the Urban District	...	...	...	...	5,758 acres
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1939 according to rate books)	...	...	...	...	4,400
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£62,002
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£220

Extract from Vital Statistics.**Live Births—**

Birth-rate per 1,000 per estimated resident population ... 15.4

Still Births—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 36.6

Deaths—

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... 12.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
No. 29—Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis...	0	0
No. 30—Other Maternal causes... ..	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants, per 1,000 live births ... 91.2

Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 89.8

Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 142.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 28

„ Measles (all ages) ... 2

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 4

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 1

Vital Statistics.

Births.

The birth-rate decreased from 16·4 in 1940 to 15·4 in 1941.

The birth-rate of Washington compared with the rest of the country generally is as follows :—

	Rate per 1,000 of population.
England and Wales	14·2
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns .	14·7
148 Smaller Towns	16·4
London Administrative County	8·9
Washington Urban District	15·4

Still Births.

England and Wales	0·51
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns .	0·58
148 Smaller Towns	0·60
London Administrative County	0·33
Washington Urban District	0·60

Deaths.

The death-rate in 1941 was 12·8, compared with 12·1 in 1940.

The following figures show comparisons :—

England and Wales	12·9
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns .	14·9
148 Smaller Towns	13·0
London	16·3
Washington Urban District	12·8

The statistics regarding causes of death, supplied by the Registrar-General, classified according to sex and the 36 divisions of the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes, are set out below.

Causes of Death in Washington Urban District, 1941.

Causes of Death.						Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES						120	92
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .					..	..
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever					1	..
3	Scarlet Fever .. .. .					..	..
4	Whooping Cough					2	2
5	Diphtheria					1	..
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System					5	9
7	Other Forms of Tuberculosis					3	..
8	Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .					..	..
9	Influenza					3	7
10	Measles					1	1
11	Acute Polio Myelitis and Polio Encephalitis .. .. .					..	..
12	Acute Infantile Encephalitis .. .. .					..	..
13	Cancer of Br. Cavity and Œsop. (M) Uterus (F). .. .. .					..	3
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum					6	5
15	Cancer of Breast .. .. .					..	1
16	Cancer of all other Sites					10	3
17	Diabetes					1	1
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions					13	8
19	Heart Disease					14	20
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System					3	2
21	Bronchitis					19	4
22	Pneumonia					5	2
23	Other Respiratory Diseases					1	1
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum					1	..
25	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)					1	..
26	Appendicitis					1	..
27	Other Digestive Diseases					3	5
28	Nephritis					2	..
29	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis .. .. .					..	..
30	Other Maternal Causes .. .. .					..	..
31	Premature Birth					2	4
32	Con. Mal.; Birth Injuries, Infant.; Dis.					2	1
33	Suicide .. .. .					..	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents					3	1
35	Other Violent Causes					7	2
36	All Other Causes					10	9

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
(Statistical Branch),
TERRA NOVA SCHOOL,
SOUTHPORT.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

A list of Public Health Officers will be found on page 4.

Laboratory Facilities.

There has been no change in the laboratory arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in accordance with arrangements made between the County Council and Durham University.

Ambulance Facilities.

In cases of infectious disease two ambulances are provided by the Chester-le-Street Joint Hospital.

For cases of accident or sickness two ambulances are provided by the Local Authority.

Ambulance facilities are adequate for the needs of the area.

Hospital.

Persons who are suffering from an infectious disease are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Chester-le-Street.

Other hospitals outside the district which are made use of for the treatment of medical and surgical cases are :—

1. Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.
2. Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
3. Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
4. Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
5. Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
6. Eye Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) *Water Supply.*

As in former years, water is supplied to the Urban District by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Water Co., and the South Shields and Sunderland Water Co., the total amount used being about 13,080,000 gallons per month.

The water supply throughout the Urban District is of a high standard of purity.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The sewage of the Urban District flows into the river Wear at two points, one near Barmston Forge, and the other at Washington Staithes. The river is tidal, and the sewage at Barmston only is treated in settlement tanks before being allowed to flow into the river. The settlement tanks were cleansed during the year.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

Favourable reports as to the condition of the various water-courses in the district were received during the past year.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

The district, with the exception of 36 dwelling-houses and 11 isolated dwellings, is provided with the water-carriage system.

At the end of the year the various types of conversion in use in the district were as follows :—

			1939.	1940.
Water-closets	...	...	4,656	4,648
Ash-closets	...	...	36	36
Ash-pit Privies	...	...	2	2
Chemical-closets	...	...	1	62

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The scavenging services, as in previous years, were carried out chiefly by direct labour, 13 isolated premises being dealt with by private individuals.

The cleansing staff includes 9 loaders and 3 drivers, and with 3 seven-cubic-yard freighters provide the area, including 4,546 dwelling-houses and premises, with a service varying from 5 days to 8 days throughout the year.

Disposal is by tipping in disused quarry workings and on low-lying agricultural land upon request being made to the Council by owners or tenants.

During the year approximately 79 per cent. of crude and 21 per cent. of miscellaneous tipping took place. Such tips as are used by Council employees are trimmed at intervals so as to avoid nuisance. The average haul is one mile.

It was not found necessary to deal with any vermin infestation at the tips during the year.

The total estimated quantity of refuse (including household and trade) collected and disposed of was 7,688 tons at a total cost of £3,065. The tonnage calculations are based on test weighings.

UNIT COSTS.

Expenditure per ton per annum	...	7s. 11d.
„ per 1,000 houses per annum		£674
„ per house per week	...	3.1d.
The estimated weight per house per		
year	... ..	1.69 tons

A comparative statement of the scavenging costs for the year prior to the war and the subsequent costs is given herewith.

Year.	Annual Cost.	Approximate cost per house.	
	£	s.	d.
1938-39	2,418	10	8
1939-40	2,488	10	11
1940-41	2,757	12	1½
1941-42	3,065	13	5½

The increase in costs is due to emergency conditions, and especially the maintenance costs of the Council's three cleansing vehicles.

The low tonnage removed compared with previous years is probably due to two reasons—the more economic use of fuel by the community; and secondly, the extra duties enforced upon the personnel, together with frequent vehicle defects, have caused many householders to dispose of refuse which would otherwise have been the duty of the cleansing staff to collect, remove, and dispose of. Altogether, each wagon had approximately 48.7 full days devoted to work other than refuse removal, and of that time an average of 14.1 days were taken up in repairs. Salvage involved 28 days, and 6.6 days were lost to refuse removal due to inclement weather.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections.

Visits and re-visits to premises under Public Health and					
Housing Acts ...	...	...	...	...	2,650
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	...	...	...	...	90
„ Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	11
„ Factories and Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	84
„ Work in progress ...	...	...	...	...	93
„ Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Pig-keepers' premises ...	...	...	...	...	25
„ Fish and Fruit Shops ...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits paid in connection with Infectious Diseases and					
disinfection of premises ...	...	...	...	...	158
Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures...	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of Visits ...					<u>3,139</u>

(b) Number of Notices served and complied with.

	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Statutory Notices Served.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses—Structural defects .	581	13	647
„ Foul conditions ...	10	...	7
„ Overcrowding ...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ...	2	...	2
Cowsheds ...	3	...	4
Bakehouses ...	1	...	1
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...
Ash-pits and Privies ...	2	...	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	1	...	1
Water-closets ...	100	2	98
Defective Yard Paving ...	11	...	10
House-drainage—			
Defective Traps ...	45	...	51
No disconnection from Sewers .	...	...	...
Other Faults ...	91	1	101
Water Supply ...	177	...	169
Pigsties ...	...	...	...
Animals improperly kept ...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	42	...	41
Totals ...	1,066	16	1,133

(iv) *Shops Act, 1934.*

Under the Shops Act, 1934, inspection of 49 shops in the district was carried out during the year. It was found necessary in 10 cases to serve informal notices on owners of shops having regard to the lack of suitable and sufficient water-closet accommodation.

(v) *Smoke Abatement.*

No action taken during the year.

(vi) *Swimming Baths.*

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

(vii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

						Infested.	Disinfested.
(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	...	5	5
	Other houses	...	...	...	...	9	8
(2)	Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs	...	...	...	...	Foompest	
(3)	Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses	...	...	...	...	Foompest	
(4)	Whether work carried out by the Local Authority or by a Contractor	...	...	...	...	Local Authority	
(5)	The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing	...	...	...	...	None	

4. *Schools.*

The schools in the area under the jurisdiction of the County Council of Durham and the water supply and sanitary conditions are adequate and satisfactory.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Washington Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present to you my Sixth Annual Report on the duties administered by your Health and Cleansing Department.

A summary of the work done by the department is given under the various sections, and in formulating the data relative to different matters I wish to record the assistance received from various members of the staff, also the courtesy and help received from members of the Council, and members of the community in general.

The construction of dwelling-houses, in abeyance until some future date, except under direction of the Minister of Health, has created many difficulties. Under these circumstances, permission was sought and obtained to complete 24 houses which were in an advanced stage of construction. The work was carried out by direct labour, and, on completion, the houses were occupied by tenants from the New Rows.

During the year many repairs to houses were carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts. The quality of the workmanship was low in comparison with the pre-war period; a condition which it will be readily appreciated was due to the lack of skilled labour, controlled materials, and further aggravated by the demands made upon available labour in other directions. Messrs. Bowes & Partners Ltd. carried out extensive repairs, under the Public Health Act, to their properties in Springwell, known as Bowes Crescent, Light Pipe Row, Hutts Terrace, and Palmers Villas, after lengthy negotiations with the Council. The aforementioned properties, although subject to clearance orders confirmed during 1936, rapidly deteriorated. Houses left vacant for special emergency purposes were so seriously affected that demolition had to be agreed upon. The condition of the remaining occupied houses was such that every house had essential repairs completed. During the year three exchanges in the above properties took place on request by the tenants and on agreement between the Owners, Agents, and the Council.

Walker's Buildings, Washington Staithes, subject to a clearance order during 1936, deteriorated to such an extent that rehousing of the tenants and demolition of the property was the only remedy. The four houses remaining occupied had essential repairs carried out by the Owners, the Lambton, Hetton & Joicey Collieries Ltd.

Overcrowding has not shown any appreciable change during the year.

The housing position on March 31st, 1941, was :—

Dwelling-houses in respect of which the Council had made arrangements to re-house persons from condemned property	188
Number of dwelling-houses commenced (including those completed)	110
Number of houses completed to date	84
Number of houses remaining to be completed	104

The total number of houses erected and under the jurisdiction of the Council is now 1,186.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. MITCHELL, M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D.

Housing.

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) ... 1039
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1087
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Nil.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil.
- (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 human habitation ... 83

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 ... 54

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 15
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners ... 14
- (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 9
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners 9
 - (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 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.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

At the end of the year there were 19 producers of milk and 48 purveyors of milk on the registers kept under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

Visits to farm and dairy premises numbered 90. The premises inspected were found generally to be satisfactory.

Eleven samples of milk were taken from producers' and from retailers' premises and were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. In all cases the reports received were communicated to the respective dairymen, their premises visited later, and suggestions made where found necessary. Repeat samples taken numbered 2, both being satisfactory. Four samples were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and in all cases a negative result was received.

(b) Meat Inspection.

H.M. Government system of Meat Control commenced on January 15th, 1940, thereafter all slaughtering for the Urban District was carried out at a recognised central depot.

One slaughter-house within the Urban District was also taken over and used as a local distribution centre.

During the year 4 emergency slaughters took place and the carcasses thereafter removed to central depot for examination and redistribution. Meat weighing 11st. 7lb. was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the same period.

Tinned meats and other foods involved the condemnation of 2cwt. 1st. 4lb.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The number of scarlet fever notifications in 1941 was 16, compared with 12 in 1940.

Diphtheria notifications numbered 67, a decrease of 41 compared to 1940. 2 deaths resulted from this disease.

Diphtheria antitoxin is kept in stock for distribution to medical practitioners on request.

Immunisation of the children in the district was considered by the Council in 1939 and a scheme adopted. The scheme is free and is carried out by the General Practitioners in the district, who are supplied with the necessary material. The number of children under 15 years of age who completed the full course by December 31st, 1941, totalled 1,069.

Table showing the Age Incidence, Deaths, &c., from Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.													Number removed to Hospital.	Number of Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At the following ages (years)—													
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65		
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	16	...	1	1	3	7	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...
Diphtheria	67	1	1	1	3	3	33	18	3	3	...	1	...	67	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	1	...	7
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...
Measles	57	1	5	8	9	6	24	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	30	4	1	6	4	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever	8	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	8	1

**Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality
for 1941.**

AGE PERIOD.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 Year	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
5 Years	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	...
15 "	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	...	3	...	...
25 "	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	...
35 "	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
45 "	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	...
55 "	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...

Totals	...	...	...	3	11	6	2	5	9	3	...

Tobacco - New Cases and Mortality
for 1941

State	New Cases		Mortality	
	No.	%	No.	%
Alabama	1	0.1	1	0.1
Arkansas	1	0.1	1	0.1
California	1	0.1	1	0.1
Colorado	1	0.1	1	0.1
Connecticut	1	0.1	1	0.1
Delaware	1	0.1	1	0.1
District of Columbia	1	0.1	1	0.1
Florida	1	0.1	1	0.1
Georgia	1	0.1	1	0.1
Idaho	1	0.1	1	0.1
Illinois	1	0.1	1	0.1
Indiana	1	0.1	1	0.1
Iowa	1	0.1	1	0.1
Kansas	1	0.1	1	0.1
Kentucky	1	0.1	1	0.1
Louisiana	1	0.1	1	0.1
Maine	1	0.1	1	0.1
Maryland	1	0.1	1	0.1
Massachusetts	1	0.1	1	0.1
Michigan	1	0.1	1	0.1
Minnesota	1	0.1	1	0.1
Mississippi	1	0.1	1	0.1
Missouri	1	0.1	1	0.1
Montana	1	0.1	1	0.1
Nebraska	1	0.1	1	0.1
Nevada	1	0.1	1	0.1
New Hampshire	1	0.1	1	0.1
New Jersey	1	0.1	1	0.1
New Mexico	1	0.1	1	0.1
New York	1	0.1	1	0.1
North Carolina	1	0.1	1	0.1
North Dakota	1	0.1	1	0.1
Ohio	1	0.1	1	0.1
Oklahoma	1	0.1	1	0.1
Oregon	1	0.1	1	0.1
Pennsylvania	1	0.1	1	0.1
Rhode Island	1	0.1	1	0.1
South Carolina	1	0.1	1	0.1
South Dakota	1	0.1	1	0.1
Tennessee	1	0.1	1	0.1
Texas	1	0.1	1	0.1
Utah	1	0.1	1	0.1
Vermont	1	0.1	1	0.1
Virginia	1	0.1	1	0.1
Washington	1	0.1	1	0.1
West Virginia	1	0.1	1	0.1
Wisconsin	1	0.1	1	0.1
Wyoming	1	0.1	1	0.1
Total	11	1.1	11	1.1



