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WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM BENTLEY

FOR THE YEAR 1947

N. BUDD (W'TON) LTD., PRINTERS,
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. NEWBY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1947.

The Birth Rate for the year shows a slight increase on last year being 19.50 against 19.26 per thousand of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 20.5.

The Death Rate was 7.92 against 8.72 per thousand of the population last year. The rate for England and Wales was 12.0.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 81.25 compared with 61.48 in 1946. The actual number of deaths under one year was 26 as against 19 last year. As will be seen from page 6, 6 of the deaths were from congenital causes, 3 from accidents at birth, and five from prematurity.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 41.

There has been a considerable increase in the incidence of Measles in the area, 204 cases being notified as against 21 last year. Scarlet Fever remained about the same as last year, 53 cases as against 56.

During the epidemic of acute poliomyelitis which affected the country, several cases were notified, all were mild cases and recovered.

Combined with my report is that of your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I would like to express thanks to all those who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Newey and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BENTLEY,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:—

Medical Officer of Health W. BENTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.

<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>	}	P. H. G. GRIMMETT,
<i>Meat & Foods Inspector</i>		M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., R.P.

Health Visitors ... Miss RICHARDS
Mrs. REILLY.

AREA	...	...	...	2,515 acres
POPULATION (estimated)			...	16,410
INHABITED HOUSES	...		...	4,940
RATEABLE VALUE	...		...	£66,744
GENERAL RATE	...		...	19/-
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE				£237

Year	1900	1901	1902	1903

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL		RATE
L	I	L	I	L	I	PER 1000
159	7	154	4	309	11	19.50

STILLBIRTHS

4 - 2 - 6

DEATHS

MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	RATE PER 1000
79	51	130	7.92

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year.

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL		RATE
L	I	L	I	L	I	PER 1000
18	-	8	-	26		81.25

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

From Sepsis - NONE

From other causes - ONE

INFANT MORTALITY during Year 1947.

Causes of Death	Total under one year	Under 1 day	1 to 7 days	7 to 14 days	14 to 28 days	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months
Prematurity	5	1	2			2			
Pneumonia	5						2		3
Enteritis	1						1		
Marasmus									
Bronchitis	4					1	3		
Atelectasis	1						1		
Meningitis	1						1		
Accidental Asphyxia	1	1							
Congenital Heart Disease	1			1					
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	1	1						
Congenital Malformation	3	1	1						1
Congenital Hæmolytic Anæmia	2		1		1				
TOTALS	26	4	5	1	1	4	8	-	3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD U.D.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All Causes.	86	76	68	70	79	63	79	61	79	130
	162		138		142		140		130	
Enteric Fever ...										
Small Pox ...										
Measles ...		1			1					
Scarlet Fever ...										
Whooping Cough ...					1	1			1	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ...	1				1					
Influenza ...	1	4	1							
Encephalitis Lethargica ...										
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...		1	1				1			
Meningococcal Meningitis ...										
Syphilis ...										
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	2		1	4	5	4	6	1	6	
Other Forms ...		2	1		1	1	2		2	
Cancer Malignant Disease ...	9	9	11	6	8	7	11	9	12	
Aneurysm ...										
Diabetes ...		3			1	1		1		
G.P.I. Tabes &c. ...										
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	8	6	3	13	2	3	3	2	4	
Heart Disease ...	16	15	15	14	15	16	15	21	16	
Other Circulatory Diseases ...			3	1		1	3		2	
Bronchitis ...	4	2	7	7	8	2	8	4	4	
Pneumonia, all forms ...	7	4		5	3	3	5	5	7	
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1					2		1	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...		1	1		1		1			
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	2	3	1	1	3	1		1	2	
Appendicitis ...	1			1		1				
Cirrhosis of Liver ...										
Other Diseases of Liver, &c. Other digestive diseases ...	4		1	3	2	2	3		2	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	3	5	3	4	2	1			2	
Puerperal Sepsis ...		1							1	
Other Diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition ...		1								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Births ...	6	7	5	5	8	3	6	5	9	
Road Accidents ...	1		1		1				1	
Suicide ...							1	1	1	
Other Deaths from Violence ...	3		3	1	5	1	2	1	3	
Other Defined Diseases ...	17	10	10	5	11	15	10	7	6	
Causes ill defined or unknown ...										
Estimated Population ...	15,250		15,340		15,450		16,040		16,410	
Total Deaths ...	162		138		142		140		130	
Death Rate ...	10.62		8.99		9.19		8.72		7.92	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Diphtheria swabs and other specimens are sent to the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Stafford and to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Hospital for examination.

Ambulance Facilities

For the removal of infectious cases an ambulance is provided by the hospital authorities who take the patient.

Nursing in the Home

Wednesfield Nursing Association, an organisation supported by voluntary contributions, provides one nurse who gives professional service to necessitous non-infectious cases. When infectious cases are kept at home the mother of the patient usually acts as nurse, under the direction of the medical attendant.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Under the direction of the Staffordshire County Council a Welfare Centre is held at the Wesleyan Sunday School, Well Lane. Valuable advice and assistance may be obtained free at this Centre. The times of attendance are as follows :—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Weekly.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Fortnightly.

Children attending the Infant Welfare Centre can be referred to an Ophthalmic Surgeon, and for orthopædic treatment and dental treatment under the County Council's schemes. Dental treatment is also provided for expectant and nursing mothers.

Dried milks and vitamins are stocked at the Food Office and retailed at reduced cost prices under the National Scheme.

From time to time lectures on mothercraft are given

Hospitals.

On October 1st 1941 the Joint Hospital Board opened Moxley Hospital for the reception of cases of Infectious Disease. This is a great improvement on our previous arrangements when we had to rely on outside Authorities to take our cases.

Smallpox

Provision is made under the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board.

Maternity

By arrangement with the County Council the Royal Hospital Wolverhampton will take difficult cases requiring hospital treatment.

Accommodation at the Rosemary Ednam Maternity House is also available.

Two Registered Midwives reside within the District.

Medical and Surgical

The Royal Hospital, the Women's Hospital, and the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton, are all within easy distance.

Wordsley Hospital is also available for patients who cannot obtain accommodation elsewhere.

Nursery.

This has been used to full capacity during the year. It is a great help to mothers. A high state of efficiency is maintained.

Sanitary Circumstances

Combined with this report is that of your Sanitary Inspector it has been found much more suitable to the setting out of the Reports to combine the two rather than separate them.

Water

The supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is good and adequate and is obtained from Wolverhampton Corporation.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Total complaints, enquiries, etc. for attention ... 1346

Made up as follows:—

General Housing and nuisance complaints, etc. ... 771

Civil Building Licensing Control ... 505

Infectious Diseases, Contacts, Etc. ... 70

Notices served requiring repairs and abatement of Nuisances 73

Outstanding at end of year ... 17

The following inspections being made:

General Sanitation.

Drainage ... 348

Water Supply ... 25

Stables & Piggeries ... 36

Tents, Vans, Sheds ... 17

Factories ... 2

Refuse collection (Dustbins) 105

Refuse Disposal ... 9

Rodent Control ... 74

Smoke Observations ... 2

Schools ... 10

Shops (other than food) ... 3

Miscellaneous visits ... 78

The cleansing of private drains was continued throughout the year; 181 premises receiving attention; resulting in a gross income of £50 8 0d.

Food Inspection.

Slaughter Houses	...	...	11
Shops & Stalls etc.	...	...	9
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	15
Bake Houses	...	...	6
Cow Sheds	...	...	12
Dairies	...	...	16
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	7
General Food Premises	...	...	58

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1947 :

Bacon	...	...	12 lbs
Baked Beans	...	...	7 Tins
Red Plums	...	...	60 oz.
Tomatoes (tinned)	...	...	9 tins
Milk	...	...	20 tins
Meat Soup	...	...	1 tin
Irish Stew	...	...	1 tin
Sausage Meat	...	...	1 tin
Corned Beef	...	...	1 tin
Pears	...	...	2 tins
Wet Fish	...	...	33 lbs

All of the above foods suitable for the feeding of animals was directed to the processing plant to that end.

Infectious Diseases.

Visits covering General Notifications :

Small Pox, Poliomyelitis and Cholera contacts			122
Premises disinfected	...	...	83
Premises disinfested	...	...	8
Bedding destroyed (at owners request)	...	...	1 lot

Control of Civil Building.

Licences granted	...	...	279
W.B.A. Certificates Granted	...	...	321
Visits in connection therewith	...	...	571

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	One
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice :—	
(a)	by Owners	One
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Under the Public Health Act 1936	144
No. of Inspections made	296
Under the Housing Act 1936	177
No. of Inspections made	226
Overcrowded Houses	49
No. of Inspections made	56
Verminous Premises	14
No. of Inspections made	20

The progress of house construction received a severe set back in the early months of the year, but continued well in the good summer months following the hard winter, the year seeing completion of the thirty prefabricated bungalows in addition to houses of permanent construction.

Despite this only the fringe of the housing problem is touched, for demobilisation of forces personell, with slightly increased marriage and birth rates create a continuing fluctuation of the population, and although it is highly desirable from every point of view that each family unit should be separately housed, it is abundantly evident that a more definite approach must be made to deal with the poorly constructed badly ventilated houses many are compelled to live in.

I record with interest the discovery of one back to back house in the district, and a further one of back-to-back type.

6 houses were demolished during the year on the Orchard Building Site to make way for new developement the occupants in each case being re-housed by the council.

In the early part of the year a number of lectures were given in local schools completing a series undertaken in the latter half of 1946.

These lectures were well appreciated being embodied in their studies of "civics" culminating in a strong body of children attending a full council meeting.

Throughout the year personal contact has been the theme, 38 appointments being kept and 218 interviews being undertaken, with good co-operative effect; in all activities only 91 calls proved unsuccessful.

It is pleasing to record that in November the council agreed to the appointment of a clerk in my office; Mr. Morgan commencing duties the last week of the month.

Yours obediently,

P. H. G. GRIMMETT

Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS.

There are now seven Public Elementary Schools within the district, all these have a satisfactory supply of water piped from the mains and the sanitary conditions are generally good.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

Eleven licenses to slaughter and stun animals were granted during the year.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS ADULTERATION, Etc.

Samples of Foods and Drugs are taken by the County Council for examination, they being the responsible Authority.

MILK SUPPLY

Building development has taken its toll of the grazing land in the district, with the result that the number of Dairy Farms is now reduced to eight, these are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

DESIGNATED MILK

Ten Supplementary Licenses to sell Designated Milk within the District during the year, were issued all supplies being obtained from other districts. The grades for which licenses were granted were as follows :—

PASTEURISED	...	...	5
TUBERCULIN TESTED	...	...	5

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notified during 1947.

DISEASES	Number of Cases Notified.												Total Cases admitted to Hospital
	Age Periods—Years.												
	All ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 upwards	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	13	1	3	4	4	1							13
Erysipelas	4							1	2	1			
Scarlet Fever	53	10	20	13	2	3	3	1	1				
Ophthalmia Pulmonary													
Tuberculosis	16	1			3	5	3	3		1			5
Other Forms	4	1		1			2						1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2						2						1
Puerperal Fever													
Pneumonia	67	4	21	17	3	2		2	6	8	4		22
Whooping Cough	41	4	14	23									6
Measles	204	2	70	132									11
Totals	404	10	118	195	21	11	9	12	11	11	6		59

SMALLPOX. No case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER. 53 cases were notified compared with 56 in 1946. No death occurred

DIPHTHERIA. 13 cases were noted throughout the year as against 20 in 1946. No death occurred 96 swabs from suspected cases were examined.

Immunisation against this disease is now available, and out of an estimated child population of 4310, 3517 children have been immunised.

Owing to the incidence of Smallpox in a nearby district vaccination facilities were provided. The Public Vaccinator reports having vaccinated approximately 2000 persons.

ENTERIC FEVER. No case occurred.

MEASLES. 204 cases were notified. One death occurred.

WHOOPING COUGH 41 cases were notified. One death occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS. At the end of the year there remained on the register 131 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 73 males and 58 females, and 67 persons, 31 males and 36 females, suffering from other forms of Tuberculosis, a total on the register of 198. From the following table it will be seen that 9 deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 deaths occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis. 16 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and 4 other forms. 5 of the pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria.

TUBERCULOSIS, New Cases and Mortality during 1947

Age Periods— Years.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
5 to 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
10 to 15	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
15 to 20	1	2	...	...	2	1	...	...
20 to 25	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 to 35	2	1	...	2	1	1	...	...
35 to 45	1	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
45 to 55	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
55 to 65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	7	9	4	6	3	2	...	...

The Sanatoria for the district are :—

For Males Prestwood Sanatorium and Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital

For Females, Groundslow and Yarnfield

For Children, The Limes Sanatorium, Himley

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA no case occurred.

INFLUENZA & PNEUMONIA. During the year 67 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 34 in 1946 and 10 in 1945. There were 8 deaths due to this cause against 10 in 1946. No death occurred from Influenza.

CANCER. 21 deaths occurred from this disease during the year, 12 males and 9 females.

Ages and Parts Affected.

PARTS AFFECTED	20 — 30		30 — 40		40 — 50		50 — 60		60 — 70		70 —		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
OVARY	1...	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...2..
UTERUS	2...	...	...	...	8...	...	...	...2...
RECTUM	1..	...	2...	...	...	...3..
COLON	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	1...	...	...4...
LUNG	2	...	1..	...	...	...	...3...
STOMACH	1..	...	2...	...	...	...	...	...	...3...
PANCREAS	1..	...	...	...	...1...
BLADDER	1..	...	...	...	...1...
MOUTH	2..	...	...	...	...2...
	1	...	1...	3...	4...	2...	5...	4...	1...	...	.. 21...

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED											DEATHS												
	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles
1937	15	2	22	5	-	14	6	-	21	4	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	11	-	-	-
1938	27	5	46	5	-	7	3	-	19	7	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	1	-	-
1939	10	4	35	6	-	12	3	-	14	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	8	1	-	-	-
1940	8	2	16	2	-	23	1	1	11	3	-	12	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	9	2	-	-
1941	14	3	59	4	-	43	4	-	17	4	-	129	10	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	10	3	-	-
1942	23	3	111	7	-	37	3	-	17	1	-	25	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	1	-	-
1943	59	6	77	6	-	23	4	-	10	5	-	245	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	1
1944	6	3	33	2	-	2	1	-	18	10	-	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-
1945	10	-	15	1	-	22	-	-	16	7	-	106	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	2	-	1
1946	34	3	56	2	-	20	3	-	18	1	-	21	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-
1947	67	2	53	4	-	13	-	-	16	4	-	204	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	-	1

FACTORY ACT 1937

1. INSPECTIONS.
for purposes of provisions as to
health. Including inspections made
etc by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspt.	Wttn. Not.	Occs. Pros.
Factories with mechanical power			2
Factories without mechan- ical power			

 2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects	
	Found	Remedied Ref. to HMI.
Want of cleanliness		
Overcrowding		
Unreasonable temperature		
Ventilation or Drainage.		
Sanitary Conveniences insufficient	2	2
Other offences.		
Total	2	2

