

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Whitstable U.D.C.

Contributors

Whitstable (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1939

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hvyg8395>

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>



LIBRARY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

WHITSTABLE.

30th September, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to present to you my tenth Annual Report as
Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Whitstable.

Area of Urban District	...	...	...	8,283 acres
" " " " (before 1934)	...	...	...	794 "
Population at Census 1931	...	...	...	10,820.
" (estimated mid-1938)	...	...	...	15,590.
" (estimated mid-1939)	...	...	...	15,620.
Number of persons per acre (old area)	...	...	...	14.56.
" " " " (new area)	...	...	...	1.87.
" " Houses 1931	...	...	...	3,466.
" " Inhabited houses 1931	...	...	...	3,105.
" " Houses 1939	...	...	...	5,931.
" " Inhabited houses, 1939	...	...	...	5,382.
" " Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	...	...	...	3,327.
Rateable Value 1938	...	...	...	£139,795.
" " 1939	...	...	...	£138,441.
Sum represented by a penny rate 1938	..	...	...	£528.
" " " " 1939	..	...	...	£524.

AREA. - The area of the Urban District as constituted on
1st April, 1934, is 8,283 acres, made up as follows:-

Old	(Central Ward	...	...	78 acres
Urban	(East Ward	...	...	422 "
Area	(West Ward	...	...	294 "
	(Swalecliffe	...	...	927 "
	(Whitstable-cum-Seasalter	...	...	4,350 "
Added	(Dunkirk (part)	...	...	936 "
Area	(Graveney (part)	...	...	886 "
	(Hernhill (part)	...	...	390 "
	TOTAL...	...	...	8,283 "

POPULATION. Registrar-General's estimate of the population for mid-1939 is 15,620. The estimate for mid-1938 was 15,590.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF AREA - Whitstable is situated on the North Kent Coast in a bay of the same name. Parts of the old town are low-lying and protected by sea walls, the mean level of which is 16 feet above ordnance datum. The lowest level of the district is 9.5 O.D. and the highest 222 O.D.

There is rising ground to the east and the southern part of the district consists of well-wooded hills rising gradually from the sea and old town. To the West is a large area of marshland and in various parts farm land, mostly given over to pasture. The whole area drains towards the sea, through the Swalecliffe brook, Stream Dyke and the Red and White sluices at Seasalter. The subsoil is London clay. The climate is dry and bracing, the prevailing wind being south-westerly. During the first three months of the year the winds are often cold and keen, but for the remainder of the year it is very sunny and warm.

Winter unemployment has been more severe than usual owing to building development ceasing; an increasing number of men travel to employment in the Medway towns, where rearmament is creating work.

PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES. - These are as follows:-

	Acreage
Tankerton Sea Front and Slopes	25.1
Tankerton Circus Tennis Courts	1
Tankerton Castle	4
Westgate Terrace	0.66
West Cliff Slopes	2.5
West Beach Tennis Courts... ..	1
Westmeads Recreation Ground	5
War Memorial	0.1
Belmont Sports Ground	6.8
Fox's Cross	4
Prospect House Field.	6.52
	<hr/> 56.69
Parks, Walks and Open Grounds, etc. ...	42.89 ac.
Playing Fields... ..	13.8.
	<hr/> 56.69 ac. <hr/>

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Total for 1938.
<u>Live Births.</u>	170.	89.	81.	170.
Legitimate.	157.	81.	76.	
Illegitimate.	13.	8.	5.	(8)
<u>Still Births.</u>	5.	3.	2.	(6)
Legitimate.	5.	3.	2.	
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population is:-

		Rate for 1938.
Live Births ...	10.88 ...	10.9
Still Births ...	0.32....	0.38.

DEATHS.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total for 1938
	269.	136.	133.	212

The Registrar-General's estimate of population for purpose of Death Rate is 15829.

The death rate per 1,000 population is:-

		Rate for 1938.
Crude death rate ...	17.0... ..	13.5.
Adjusted death rate ...	12.2	9.7.

(4)

The transferred deaths were:-

Inward ... 53

Outward ... 21

The age distribution of total deaths was:-

Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 and upwards
1	Nil	1	4	2	13	65	183

Of the deaths over 65, 23 were between the ages of 65 and 70, 80 between 70 and 80, 71 between 80 and 90, and 9 over 90.

CAUSES OF DEATH for 1939:-

	1939			1939	
	Males	Females		Males	Females
Influenza	6	7	Diarrhoea, etc. (over 2 years)	1	-
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	3	5	Appendicitis	1	-
Other tuberculosis	-	-	Cirrhosis of liver	-	-
Syphilis	1	-	Other diseases of liver, etc.	2	1
Cancer, malignant disease	29	25	Other digestive diseases	-	1
Diabetes	2	4	Acute and chronic nephritis	4	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	13	Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Heart disease	37	47	Other puerperal causes	-	-
Aneurysm	1	-	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation etc.	2	1
Other circulatory diseases	15	10	Senility	5	2
Bronchitis	4	1	Suicide	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2	Other violence	3	1
Other respiratory diseases	-	1	Other defined diseases	7	8
Peptic ulcer	1	1			

Males Females

ALL CAUSES 136 133

Year	Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Cancer	Heart and Circulatory	All causes
1930	1	9	4	3	18	51	155
1931	2	4	10	8	20	68	152
1932	3	6	7	4	19	56	138
1933	3	9	5	14	21	61	176
1934	4	8	15	2	35	74	196 x
1935	2	7	11	-	34	82	186
1936	1	8	12	-	32	71	197
1937	-	10	9	8	30	75	195
1938	1	10	11	4	35	97	212
1939	-	8	11	13	54	110	269

x Extension of Urban boundaries this year.

The above Table shows Deaths from certain groups of diseases during the ten years 1930 - 39.

Deaths from all causes shows a considerable increase on last year's figures. The increase is accounted for by increase in deaths from heart and circulatory diseases and Cancer, the number of deaths from these being the highest ever recorded in Whitstable.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no deaths from Puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Deaths of infants under one year were as follows:-

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Totals for 1938.
Legitimate	1	-	1	(5)
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(-)

Infantile mortality rates are as follows:-

	(Rates for 1938)
All Infants per 1,000 live births	5.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	5.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	0.00

The Infantile Mortality rate is the lowest ever recorded for Whitstable.

TABLE OF BIRTH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1939.

	WHITSTABLE.	England & Wales	126 County Boro's & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Population					
BIRTHS -					
Live	10.88	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still	0.32	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
DEATHS -					
All Causes	12.2	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.26	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
NOTIFICATIONS -					
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	0.56	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	0.44	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric Fever	0.27	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.63	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	2.08	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	5.8	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY -					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.77	not avail-	not avail-	not avail-
Others	0.00	2.16	able	able	able
Total.	0.00	2.93			

	WHITSTABLE.	England and Wales	1926 County Boro's & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live & Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.74			
Others	0.00	2.08	Not available	Not available	Not available
Total	0.00	2.82			
NOTIFICATIONS -					
Puerperal Fever	0.00	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.00				14.22

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff engaged on public health work remains the same: myself, Medical Officer of Health, part-time; Mr. C.R.A. Martin, Chief Sanitary Inspector; his assistant, Mr. C.G.A. Rudd. Disinfecter and outside general assistant, Mr. P.K. Marsh.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements remain as described in previous Reports.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

All cases of infectious disease are removed to the Joint Hospital in the second ambulance of the local Ambulance Committee. As it may require to be used for other non-infectious cases, the ambulance is disinfected after each case.

HOME NURSING. The District Nursing Association and three private Nurses provide the General Nursing Service of the District. There has been no change during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. The Isolation Hospital, West End, Herne Bay, continues to receive infectious disease patients from this District. Neither the advent of Evacuees into Herne Bay or Whitstable, nor the presence of Military made the accommodation inadequate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. The new mains and reservoir completed in 1938 were brought into use during 1939 at the completion of the arbitration proceedings. Most of the houses on the route of the mains have been connected thereto. Samples of the public water supply are taken periodically for chemical and bacteriological examination, and the results of the examinations have been satisfactory.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. No new sewerage works have been carried out during the year as the result of the War. The scheme for extending and modifying the sewerage system of the District has been held in abeyance. The flooding of sewers in wet weather which has given so much trouble in several parts of the town in the last few years was not such a serious nuisance during 1939. The practice of emptying cesspool contents on the land in isolated parts of the District has been continued throughout the year, and there has been a complete cessation of the complaints which were made when the matter was emptied into the sewers. The privy cleansing scheme at Seasalter has operated successfully and without complaint.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

A classified summary of inspections made during the year is as follows:-

Total number of inspections and re-inspections	4320
Inspection of dwelling-houses	147
" " slaughter-houses	1218
" " shops	386
" " workshops	38
" " bakehouses	22
" " dairies and cowsheds	73
" " van dwellings, etc.	191
Visits to infected houses	58
" " works in progress	374
Miscellaneous visits	1853
Total number of notices served	280

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Inspections.	Notices served.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	34	12
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	4	1
	----	----
Total	38	13
	-----	-----

DEFECTS IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	12	12
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1
(Insufficient	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences(
(Defective	4	4
Other Offences	3	3
	----	----
	22	22
	-----	-----

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935
Scarlet Fever	9	10	23	16	27
Diphtheria	7	6	17	-	4
Enteric Fever	4	3	-	-	3
Erysipelas	10	5	2	3	3
Pneumonia	33	21	22	23	9
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	8	17	8	13	14
" (other forms)	5	6	8	12	13
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	1	1
" Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	5	142	1	212	
Whooping Cough	9	3	51	28	Not notifiable.

Contrary to expectation the incursion of large numbers of evacuees into the district had no appreciable effects on the incidence of infectious disease. All cases of Diphtheria occurred in evacuees and in three cases there had been previous immunization. There was no evident connection between the cases of acute poliomyelitis.

AGE INCIDENCE, DISTRIBUTION, ETC. OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1939.

D I S E A S E	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	15 - 25 years	25 - 45 years	45 - 65 years	65 and upwards	Cases notified in each Ward						Cases removed to Hospital
									East Ward	Central Ward	West Ward	Schulster East	Schulster West	Swalecliffe	
Scarlet Fever	9	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	2	4
Diphtheria	7	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	7	2	1	1	1	1	7
Enteric Fever	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Cerebro spinal fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Erysipelas	10	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	4	1	4	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1
" (other forms)	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	33	2	2	2	2	6	9	13	16	8	7	1	1	1	1
Measles	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	9	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	1

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at commencement of 1939	27	40	14	16	97
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1939	2	6	2	3	13
Number of cases restored to the Register	2	1	-	-	3
Other additions	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from the Register during 1939 ...	3	7	2	1	13
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1939	28	40	14	18	100

(11)

T U B E R C U L O S I S
New Cases and Mortality, 1939.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 -15 years	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
25-35 years	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
35-45 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-
55-65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years & upwards	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	6	2	3	3	5	-	-

One death from pulmonary tuberculosis had not been previously notified, otherwise there was nothing to complain of in the notification of tuberculosis during the year.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

C O N C L U S I O N.

I had anticipated the Report for 1938 would be my last, but as a result of the War I am being permitted to continue my services as Medical Officer of Health for Whitstable, and I welcome this opportunity to give further service to the town and to be associated with the Council. I thank Mr. Martin for all his unfailing assistance, and the Chairman and Members for their kindness and courtesy.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES E. ETHERIDGE.

Medical Officer of Health.