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Contributors

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WIGAN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL


ANNUAL
REPORT



OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1939



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1940



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Wigan Rural District Council



Chairman :

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ.

Councillors :

C. BUNKER, ESQ.

H. R. DEARDEN, ESQ.

J. GRAHAM, ESQ.

S. HORRIDGE, ESQ.

Clerk :

W. GORDON PIGOT, Solicitor.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT,

Bank Chambers,

Wallgate,

Wigan,

October, 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report, on behalf of Dr. Boyd who has been acting Medical Officer since Dr. Ormsby has been with H.M. Forces, and I wish to thank you on his behalf for your kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district.

I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and his staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

STATISTICS

Population—Census 1921.....	6,296
Population—Census 1931.....	6,168
Population—Estimated 1939	7,942
Population—Estimated 1938	7,224
Acreage of Townships	11,696
Density of Population per acre	1.47
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,264
Rateable Value of District	£38,555
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£151

Births and Deaths :—

	Male.	Female.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	49	58	107
„ Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Total	50	58	108
	—	—	—
Deaths	47	45	92

Deaths from Puerperal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis.....	Nil.
other Puerperal Causes	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population	13.6
Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population	11.6
Deaths from Cancer.....	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	Nil.

Bronchitis	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Prematurity	6
Nephritis.....	3
Digestive Diseases	3
Puerperal Causes	3
Accidental	1
Other Defined Causes	5
	<hr/>
	92

The number of deaths in each Township was as follows :

Shevington	44
Wrightington	24
Parbold	9
Haigh	8
Dalton	5
Worthington	2

92

CANCER.—9 deaths occurred from Cancer in 1939, compared with 9 in 1938, 7 in 1937.

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 1.13 compared with 1.24 in 1938.

The mean of 5 years, 1933-1937, was 1.42

Decrease in 1939, on 5 years' average, 1933-1937, was ... 0.29

Decrease „ „ previous year was 0.11

INFANTILE DEATHS.—6 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1939, 3 males and 3 females compared with 10 during 1938.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year per 1,000 Live Births was	56
The rate for England and Wales was	53
The mean of 5 years, 1933-1937 was	69
For year 1938	80
For year 1939	56
An increase in 1939 on 5 years' average 1932-1936.....	13
Decrease on previous year.....	24

INFECTIOUS FEVERS.—75 cases of Infectious Fevers were notified compared with 35 cases in 1936.

	1937	1938	1939
Scarlet Fever.	6	16	12
Pneumonia.	23	23	16
Diphtheria.	8	20	7
Erysipelas.	2	4	3
Enteric Fever	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	1
Chicken Pox	0	12	1

During 1938 (from September) Chicken Pox was made a notifiable disease. 12 cases occurred.

From November, 1939, Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable, but no cases occurred.

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows:—

Wrightington.

Scarlet Fever	3 cases.
Diphtheria	2 „
Pneumonia	6 „
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 „

Dalton.

Pneumonia	1 case.
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Parbold.

None.

Shevington.

Pneumonia	6 cases.
Scarlet Fever	8 „
Diphtheria	5 „
Erysipelas	3 „
Chicken Pox	1 „

Worthington.

Pneumonia	1 case.
Scarlet Fever	1 „

Haigh.

Pneumonia	2 cases.
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TUBERCULOSIS.—4 deaths, 2 males 2 females, occurred from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) in 1939 compared with 2 deaths in 1938.

One death occurred from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1939 compared with none in 1938.

7 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred in 1939 compared with 3 cases for 1938.

4 new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified compared with 6 cases for 1938.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system was :-

The mean of 5 years, 1933-1937	0.43
Year—1938	0.27
Year—1939	0.50
Increase on the previous year of	0.23

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtained supplies from the following sources :—

HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	} Upland Surface Water.
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
DALTON	Wrightington	Deep Well Water.
PARBOLD	Own Supply	„ „ „
WRIGHTINGTON	Own Supply	„ „ „

CONVERSIONS.—During the year 2 privy closets were converted to W.C.'s and 5 to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 15 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Scavenging of the District is carried out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon, except in the Parish of Dalton, which is done by means of a Motor Wagon under Contract.

The Statistics for the last four years are as follows :—

	1936		1937		1938		1939
No. of Bins Emptied	54,884	...	56,720	...	54,940	...	55,830
No. of Closet Pails Emptied	17,230	...	17,112	...	17,546	...	17,750
No. of Ashpits Emptied	1,540	...	1,385	...	1,293	...	1,120
No. of Cesspools Emptied	22	...	31	...	27	...	30
Total Tonnage	3,982 tons	...	4,012 tons	...	4,216 tons	...	4,180 tons
Mileage	8,788 mls.	...	9,200 mls.	...	8,900 mls.	...	9,000 mls.
Total Cost	£1,082	...	£1,049	...	£1,163	...	£1,308

The method of disposal is by tipping into disused pits or hollow land, and the larger tips are covered as frequently as possible with earth and kept levelled.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Building development, whilst showing no signs of ceasing, has not been continued as rapidly as in former years. Drainage is discharged into septic tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances in to the Council's sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During 1939, 57 new dwelling houses were erected in the Rural District, all by private enterprise.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 8.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School children.

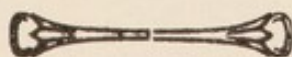
No. of Dairy Farms in the District.....	84
Approximate Number of Cows	700
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	138
Number on Register.....	138
Number of Inspections during the year	200
Dairymen other than cowkeepers	6
Number on Register.....	6
Number of Samples of Milk under Tuberculosis Order ...	20

Results : Positive 1 ; Negative 19.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are three registered slaughter houses two with shops attached and one other meat shop. Frequent inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

J. G. HAILWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

Board of Directors of the
Company for the year ending 1900.

The following is a summary of the
business of the Company for the year
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Respectfully,
Secretary

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J. C. HALL, JR.

Secretary of the Board