

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Wirksworth U.D.C.

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Wirksworth (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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WIRKSWORTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1938.



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Wirksworth Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Report for the year 1938.

Wirksworth is a market town in the centre of an agricultural area, which is largely milk-producing. It is situated on limestone and limestone quarrying forms one of the principal industries of the place. Tape-weaving is another industry, and three mills afford employment of this description.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres), 4,015.

Population: Census (1931), 4,855 (1937 R. G.), 4,689,

Estimated Resident Population, 4,727.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,443.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1,443.

Rateable Value, £21,405.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £82.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

As will be seen from the following statistical figures, a comparison with other districts is quite favourable.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births—	Legitimate - 70	73	38	35
	Illegitimate - 3			
Still Births—	Legitimate - 0	0	0	0
	Illegitimate - 0			
	Birth Rate - -	15.4		
Deaths - - - - -		Total	Males	Females
		56	22	34
	Death Rate - -	11.1		

No. of Women dying in/*or* in consequence of childbirth -
 From Sepsis - 0. From other causes - 0.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Total—4. Legitimate—4. Illegitimate—0.
 Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births - 54.7

England and Wales—Infantile Death Rate - - 53
 Birth Rate - - - 15.1
 Death Rate - - - 11.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 6
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) - - - 0
 „ Whooping Cough - - - 0
 „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - 1

Tuberculosis.

Age Period		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		-	1 1	2	2	1	0	0	0

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No notifications of Tuberculosis have been received in respect of those engaged in the Milk Trade, and no action has been required.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been taken under this section during 1938.

The notification of Tuberculosis appears to be satisfactory.

Other Infectious Diseases notified (other than Tuberculosis) are shown in the following table:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox -	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever -	4	3	0
Diphtheria -	20	20	1
Enteric Fever -	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever -	0	0	0
„ Pyrexia -	3	1	0
Pneumonia -	15	8	2
Measles -	3	0	0
Chickenpox -	46	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Erysipelas -	3	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica -	0	0	0

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Treated in Hospital	Vision	Deaths
Nil.	Nil	Nil.	Nil.

As will be seen, there were 20 cases of Diphtheria. The epidemic broke out towards the end of the year, and although it might be considered of mild degree, it nevertheless caused considerable anxiety. It was not confined to children, but was contracted by contacts up to middle age.

I have suggested prophylactic inoculation being considered by the local authority, with a view to controlling this dread disease.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Hospitals.

A Cottage Hospital in the town, which is dependent largely on voluntary subscriptions, affords in-patient and out-patient treatment. Provision is also made for Maternity cases.

The Royal Infirmary, Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital, Derby, are available, mainly on the "recommend system."

There is a scheme afoot to form a Contributory Association in connection with the Derbyshire Hospitals, by which it is hoped to give hospital benefits for a minimum contribution of 3d. per week. These joint hospital schemes have, on the whole, been very successful in other parts of the country, and it is hoped by this means to put the financial position on a sound basis.

1. *Professional Nursing in the Home.*
 - (a) General - None.
 - (b) Infectious Diseases - None.
2. *Midwife.*
 - (a) One practising privately.
 - (b) One under the supervision of the County Authority.
3. *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*
 - (a) **Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Matlock** provided by and under the control of the Derbyshire County Council.
 - (b) **Day Nurseries**—None.
 - (c) **School Clinics** at the Elementary Schools in Wirksworth provided by the Derbyshire County Council.
 - (d) **Tuberculosis** at the Tuberculosis Department, New County Offices, Derby, and also at the Tuberculosis Clinic, Matlock, provided by the Derbyshire County Council.
 - (e) **Venereal Disease** at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, provided by the Derbyshire County Council.
4. *Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.*
 - (a) **Tuberculosis**—Derbyshire Sanatorium, outside the district provided by the County Council.
 - (b) **Maternity**—Accommodation is provided at the Cottage Hospital.
 - (c) **Children**—None.
 - (d) **Fever**.—Heage Isolation, outside the District, to which the Local Authority contributes its share.
 - (e) **Smallpox**.—Heage Isolation, outside the District.

5. *Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children, and Homeless Children.*—None.

6. *Ambulance Facilities.*

(a) For infectious cases, provided by the Heage Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases.

(i.) St. John Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.

(ii.) Matlock Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.

(iii.) Wirksworth Motor Ambulance stationed at Wirksworth,

Laboratory Work.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are made by the County Council Bacteriological Department.

Number of Specimens sent to the County Laboratory by private practitioners during 1938 :—

			Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	20	44	64
Enteric Fever	-	-	0	1	1
Phthisis	-	-	2	4	6
Miscellaneous	-	-	4	4	8
Total	-	-	26	53	79

The Local Authority provides Diphtheria Antitoxin and Tetanus Antitoxin free of cost. A supply is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, who renders an account of its use to the Local Authority.

The following quantities were issued during 1938 :—

Diphtheria Antitoxin - 22 vials, each containing 4,000 units.

Tetanus Antitoxin - 2.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the District.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention)	Date of Adoption.
Act, 1890 - - -	6th December, 1893

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III. (subject to cer- tain conditions as to Sects. 35 & 38 Order L.G.B. No. 59992, of 22nd January, 1913)	-	20th December, 1902
		5th March, 1913
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 (subject to certain con- ditions as to Sects. 25, 27 & 30 Order L.G.B. No. 63662, 29th May, 1915)	- -	12th July, 1915
Bye-laws :—		
New Streets and Buildings	-	1926
Common Lodging-houses	-	1879
Nuisances	- -	1879
Cleaning Footways, Removal of House Refuse, & Cleans- ing Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools	- -	1879
Shops Acts, 1912-28	- -	25th August, 1930
Do. 1934	- -	26th November, 1934
Offensive Trades Order of L.G.B., No. 63721, of 18th June, 1915, confirming Council's Order of 26th April, 1915, containing list of offensive trades	-	26th April, 1915
Chicken Pox Compulsory Notifica- tion Order for Compulsory notification	- -	22nd February, 1926
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. to IV., except Sections 21, 22 and 44	- - -	2nd May, 1927
Shops Acts 1934, came into operation by adoption 1936.		

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

Both the Wigwell and Dunsley supplies of water have proved satisfactory throughout the year, and with the original sources, there has been ample water of good quality for all purposes. The Wirksworth collecting system of pipework was found defective, and the system is being reconstructed at a cost of £600. Water supplies are being chlorinated as a precautionary measure.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The system, on the whole, works very satisfactorily. In the near future, however, it will be necessary to consider the provision of another percolating filter at the main sewage works, and so allow of proper "resting" of the filters. With the addition of Middleton, the building of new houses, and the continued conversions to water-carriage, the strain on the works becomes increasingly greater. I reported this last year but no action was taken upon same.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

All known sources of pollution have been removed from the Hannage Brook, but some examination of waste products from the tape mills should be made as necessary.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This is carried out in the entire district by annual contract. This has proved unsatisfactory and I again recommend it be done by direct labour.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of on the Gorsey Bank and Hopton Wood tips, with the exception of the contents of the pail closets, which are taken to the Sewage Farm.

In the event of continuance of the contract system of scavenging, I should like to see a properly shuttered refuse-collecting vehicle in use in the district, and venture to suggest that this might be made possible by the offer of a longer contract period. I understand that vehicles of the convertible type are now obtainable, making it possible to use the same vehicle for refuse collection or haulage work.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

Thirteen privy-middens and three pail closets have this year been converted to W.C's.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of the schools in the area is in some cases not up to standard, and should be improved, as dealt with in a previous report.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Forty-four milk samples were taken for analysis, during the year, and were mainly satisfactory. Dairies and cow sheds were regularly inspected throughout the year and found generally satisfactory.

(b) **Meat.**—Meat and places where meat is stored and sold have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

(c) **Other Foods.**—The storage of food and the conditions under which it is sold have come under regular inspection and been found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Eighteen houses, of the three bedroom type are nearing completion. The Council have acquired land in Derby Road, Wirksworth, for 90 houses, and are proceeding immediately with 24 houses, whilst an additional 10 houses will be erected at Middleton.

Six houses have been built by private enterprise during the year, making in all, twenty-four new houses.

Much of the unsuitable property in the Town has been dealt with, either by demolition or repair, but much yet remains. Owing to the class of property, the task is a considerable one, and for varying reasons, progress is somewhat slow. I would urge you to expedite, as far as possible, this very important work, since better housing conditions must eventually be conducive to a healthier community.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. S. G. CHRISTIE.

Sanitary Administration.

Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES FROBISHER, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.Inst.P., F.Inst.
H.E., A.M.I.Struct.E., C.R.S.I., Chartered Engineer

- (1) No. of houses converted from Privy Middens, etc., to
Water Closets during the year 1938 - - 13

No. of Privy Middens, etc., converted to Water Closets
during the past eight years :—

Year	-	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
No.	-	27	35	8	9	31	19	7	13

- (2) Approximate Number of Houses at 31st December with :

(a)	Privy Middens	-	-	129
(b)	Pail Closets	-	-	161
(c)	Water Closets	-	-	1140
Total				1430

- (3) Work of the Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the
Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 :

Area of District, 4,015 acres.

Estimated No. of Houses inhabited, 1,443.

New Houses erected 1938: 24.

(a) By Local Authority, 18.

(b) By Private Enterprise, 6.

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.

	No. of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	No. of Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	No. of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
(a) Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (<i>not for conversion</i>)	- 12	9	17
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	13	—	13
(a) Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	- - - 3	—	3
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets.	- - - —	—	—
Defective Water Closets	- 7	5	10
Provision of additional W.C.'s	- 8	—	32
(a) Provision of Portable Ashbins	- 28	—	26
Dirty Closets	- - - 13	1	10

DRAINAGE—

(a) No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	2	14	16
(a) Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, In-			
lets and Drains - - -	14	5	17
Drains Obstructed - - -	14	4	17

OTHER DEFECTS—

(a) Paving of Courts and Yards -	17	1	18
(a) Roofs, Eaves and Down-Spouts -	12	9	14
(a) Sinks - - - -	14	3	17
(a) Insufficient Ventilation - -	36	4	32
(a) Windows - - - -	12	2	13
(a) Dampness - - - -	18	2	12
Water in Cellars - - -	2	1	3
(a) Water Supply: Burst Pipes and			
Defective Taps - - -	34	4	31
Foul Condition of Houses - -	12	—	10
Offensive Accumulations - -	4	2	6
Animals improperly kept - -	—	—	—
Pigstyes - - - -	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances - - -	2	—	2
Urinals - - - -	2	—	2
Nuisances not specified above -	32	14	29

	Number on Register.	Inspec- tions made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	71	134	18	39
Bakehouses - - - -	8	24	—	2
Slaughter Houses - - -	4	16	—	2
Total -	83	174	18	43

Infected Rooms Disinfected, 54. Method: Fumigation.

Sewage effluents taken quarterly by County Council.

Prosecutions, Particulars of: Sanitary defects.

Result of prosecution: None.

Food Seizures: Nil.

Milk Samples Analysed - - - - 44

Food Voluntarily Surrendered: nil.

Water Samples Analysed - - - - 6

Other Action taken: Pamphlets issued to all Shopkeepers,
Cowkeepers and Dairymen, of their obligations under the
Inspective Acts.

(4) Inspection of places where food is prepared:

	Inspections made.
(a) Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	- 71
(b) Bakehouses - - - -	- 8
(c) Slaughter Houses - - -	- 4
Total	- 83

(5) Number and condition of Slaughter Houses registered
or licensed:

	1938.
Registered - - - -	3
Licensed - - - -	1

The Slaughter Houses are kept clean and are lime-washed four times a year in accordance with Regulations, and offal regularly cleared.

(6) Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation and the extent of their use :—

Upon the recovery of a patient from infectious disease, or the removal of a patient to hospital, the infected rooms are disinfected with Formalin Vapour, and, if necessary, the clothing and bedding sent to Heage Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

Number of Rooms disinfected in 1938	-	54.
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(7) Action taken with regard to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :—

Every Cowkeeper, Dairyman and Purveyor of Milk in the district is registered, and their premises and utensils are kept under observation. Two Registered Cowsheds condemned and put out of use.

The number on the Register is as follows :—

Retail Purveyors of Milk	-	-	34
Wholesale Traders and Producers	-	22	
			—
			56
			—

(8) Action taken under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream regulations.

The Council is not a Local Authority under these Acts.

(9) Action taken with a view to Smoke Abatement :—

Two cases were dealt with under this head during the year under review.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector on Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

The following is a summary of the Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces on the Register in your District.

These premises have been kept under observation, and the respective sanitary condition of each has invariably been found satisfactory.

SUMMARY.

FACTORIES—

Factory Bakehouses	-	-	-	5
Building Contractors	-	-	-	4
Tape Works	-	-	-	4
Stone Quarries	-	-	-	5
Whitesmiths	-	-	-	1
Total	-			19

WORKSHOPS—

Building Contractors	-	-	-	5
Painters, Decorators and Plumbers				8
Tin Plate Workers	-	-	-	1
Blacksmiths	-	-	-	2
Tailors	-	-	-	2
Wagon Repairers	-	-	-	2
Bootmakers	-	-	-	2
Boot Repairers	-	-	-	4
Cabinet Makers	-	-	-	3
Monumentalists	-	-	-	2
Dressmakers	-	-	-	5
Milliners	-	-	-	3
Watch Repairers	-	-	-	0
Cycle Repairers	-	-	-	3
Saddlers	-	-	-	1
Hairdressers	-	-	-	4
Bakehouses	-	-	-	6

Motor Repairers	-	-	-	3
Printers	-	-	-	3
Quarries	-	-	-	5
				—
Total	-			64
				—

*Nuisances found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces,
and Remedied.*

Want of Cleanliness	-	-	1
Want of Ventilation	-	-	—
Offensive Accumulations	-	-	—
Water Closets defective	-	-	2
Insanitary Privy Closets	-	-	—
Defective Traps	-	-	1
Foul Condition of Premises	-		—
Gas Plant emitting Noxious Fumes			—

Public Scavenging.

Public Scavenging is in operation in the whole District for the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Pail Closets, Ashpits, Ashbins, and Cesspools, and is carried out by contract.

The whole of the refuse is disposed upon the Gorsey Bank Tip and Hopton Wood Tip, with the exception of the contents of the Pail Closets, which go to the Sewage Farm.

CHARLES FROBISHER,

Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Staff.*Medical Officer of Health :*

W. S. G. CHRISTIE, M.B., Ch.B.

Part time. Half Salary Contributed.

Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES FROBISHER.

Part time. Half Salary Contributed.

Engineer and Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council,

Housing.

No. of Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	-						18

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) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 89 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | | | 302 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | | | 19 |
| (3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to Health as to be unfit for human habitation | - | - | - | - | - | - | 50 |
| (4) (a) 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 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32 |

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—*

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

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | - | - | - | - | 49 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | | | | | |
| (a) By owners | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| (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 | - | 25 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | | |
| (a) By owners | - - - - - 13 | |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | - 12 | |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | - | - | - | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | - | - | - | 16 |

Housing Act, 1936 :

Notices served under S. 11	-	-	-	-	3
Ditto S. 9	-	-	-	-	15

Water Supply during the Year 1938.

1938. Month.	Rainfall.		Yield of Springs in Gallons per Hour.		
	1937. Inches.	1938. Inches.	1937.	1938.	Increase. Decrease.
January	4.44	4.77	7,230	8,876	1,646
February	5.24	1.51	8,560	8,850	290
March	2.96	.39	7,850	6,870	980
April	2.51	.20	7,120	4,160	2,960
May	2.76	2.12	4,870	2,120	2,750
June	2.15	1.92	3,250	5,200	1,950
July	2.98	5.63	3,100	1,896	1,204
August	.52	1.38	2,910	2,150	760
September	1.66	2.72	1,920	2,850	930
October	3.00	4.58	1,700	3,960	2,260
November	2.08	4.55	3,720	6,600	2,880
December	4.51	5.12	6,230	6,280	50
	34.81	34.89	4,871	4,983	112
					Average net Increase per hour.

CHARLES FROBISHER,
Water Engineer and Surveyor.

