#### [Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Woodhall Spa U.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

Woodhall Spa (England). Urban District Council.

#### **Publication/Creation**

1950

#### **Persistent URL**

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xvxd4zhy

#### 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.



# Urban District of Woodhall Spa



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



# WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1950

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

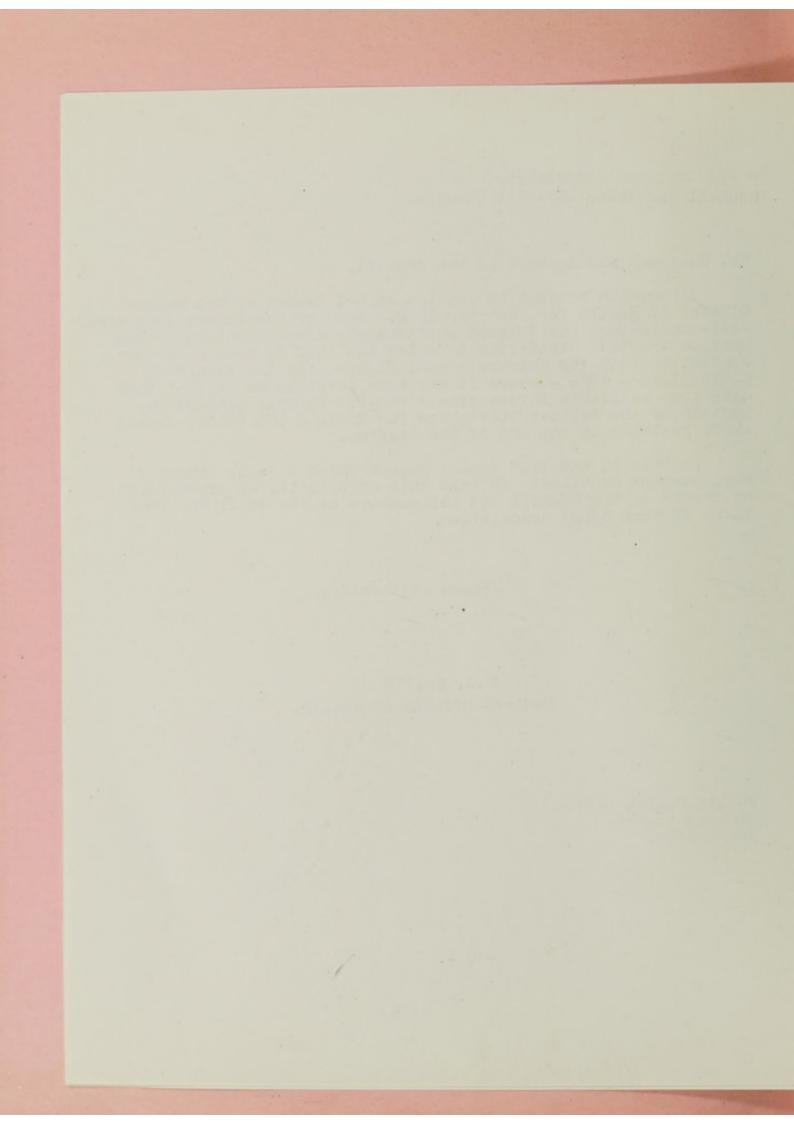
Medical Officer of Health
W.D. SWINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector
N.R. BOLTON, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2018 with funding from Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30291331

To the Chairman and Members. Woodhall Spa Urban District Council. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council, I herewith present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950. Much of the Report is entirely self-explanatory but I would particularly draw attention to the Section on Vital Statistics in which the 1950 figures have been contrasted with the average annual figures for the five year period 1945 - 1949 - where it has been possible to extract that data from available information - and for further comparison, certain of the Salient Statistics for England and Wales, during 1950, included at the end of the Section. As this is the last Annual Report which I shall submit I may, perhaps be allowed to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council and all members of its staff for four years of very happy association. Yours faithfully, W.D. SWINNEY Medical Officer of Health. Public Health Office, Conging Street, Horncastle. - 2 -



# STATISTICS

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT: 1874 acres.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION: 1,916

DENSITY OF POPULATION: 1.02 persons per acre.

NUMBER OF INHABITED DWELLINGS: 542

SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE: £46. 11s. 8d.

RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT: £11,798

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births			Ana	nual Mean
		1950		15 - 49.
Legitimate	Males Females	12		13.2
	Totals	29		23.0
Illegitimate	Males Females	0 1		0.8
	Totals	1		1.6
Total live births		30		24.6
Crude live birth thousand estimate		15.66		15.15
Standardised live thousand estimate	birth rate p d population	er 18.00		-
Still Births				
Legitimate	Males Females	0		0.0
-	Totals	1		0.2

Illegitimate	Males Females	0	0.0
	Totals	0	0.0
Total still bir	ths	1	0.2
Still birth rate total (live and		32.26	6.06
Total Births			
Crude total bir still) per thous	th rate (live and sand population	16.18	16.36
Standardised to (live and still population		19.74	_
Deaths			
	Males Females	14 19	11.0
		33	27.2
Crude death rate estimated popula		17.22	16.60
Standardised dethousand estimate		12.39	-
Mean age at dea	th	77.67 yrs	-
Ages at Death,	1950		

Years.	Unde 1		5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75 & Over	Total
Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	21	33



# Maternal Mortality

Number of women dying as a result of childbirth.

(Heading No.30 in the Registrar General's Short List)

	1950	Annual Mean 1945 - 49
No.30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0.0
Maternal mortality rate per thousand total births (live and still)	0.0	0.0
Death rates of infants under one y	ear of age	
Total No. of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	0	1.0
All infants per thousand live births	0.00	41.40
Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate births	0.00	45.99
Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate births	0.00	19.04
Other Stati	stics	
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	4	4.0
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0	0.0
Deaths from whooping cough (all age	es) 0	0.0
Deaths from Heart Disease (all For (all ages)	ms)	9.4
Deaths from Enteritis & Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0.0

The state of the s

# Vital Statistics, England & Wales, 1950

The following figures, from the Vital Statistics of the whole Country and extracted from the Registrar General's Report, are appended for comparison with the corresponding indices for Woodhall Spa Urban District to be found in the Vital Statistics data of this report.

Live births per thousand population	15.8
Total births per thousand population	16.17
Deaths per thousand population	11.6
Maternal Mortality per thousand total births	0.86

# Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short List No	• Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	_	_	_
2.	Tuberculosis, other	_	-	_
3.	Syphilitic disease	_	_	-
4.	Diphtheria	_	_	_
5.	Whooping Cough	_	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	_	_	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	_	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic			
	diseases	-	_	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	_	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	_	_
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3 3	_	- 3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system		4	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	3	2	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	3	9	12
21.	Other circulatory disease	-	_	_
22.	Influenza	_	_	-
	Pneumonia	_	_	_
(0.000 To	Bronchitis	1	_	1
	Other diseases of respiratory	-		
	system	_	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	_	_
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	_	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined			
	diseases	1	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	-	-	-
35.	Suicide	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	TOTALS	14	19	33

### Tuberculosis Statistics

During 1950 there was only 1 case of Tuberculosis notified in the district, a 22 year old female, suffering from Respiratory Tuberculosis, who was admitted via Lincoln County Hospital to Branston Hall Sanatorium.

In the preceding five year period, 1945 - 49, there have been 8 notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis and 6 of Non-Respiratory type.

The following Table shows the state of the District Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1950, during which period there were no deaths from this condition.

#### Cases

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	4	6	10
Non-Respiratory	5	3	8
Totals	9	9	18

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### Infectious Disease Notifications

Disease	Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Erysipelas	1		-
Measles	50	-	
Pneumonia	22	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	56	-1	-
All others	-	-	-

The most striking difference between 1950 and 1949 infectious disease notifications is the great increase in the number of cases of Primary Pneumonia, which rose from 3 cases in 1949 to 22 in 1950. All these cases were not, however, of the pneumococcal lobar-pneumonia type - what is generally thought of as "pneumonia" - but many were the result of a Virus infection which produces a true primary, but a typical pneumonia which, until quite recently was not recognised as a clinical entity at all. It is extremely doubtful if, before the last war, a series of 22 pneumonia cases would have resulted in not a single death, and this result, without recourse to hospital treatment, is a matter for great satisfaction and reflects much credit on the general practitioners concerned.

The notification of 56 cases of whooping cough, compared with but 5 in the preceding year need occasion no surprise as this disease tends to bi-ennial epidemicity, a feature further borne out by the notification of 90 cases in the year 1948.

Measles cases fell from 78 cases in the preceding year to 50 in the year under review and scarlet fever remained constant with 2 cases in each year.

The absence from the notification tables of any cases of Diphtheria, Acute-Poliomyelitis and Food Poisoning is noted with pleasure.

#### Protective Immunisations

The following figures have been supplied by the County Health Department, with respect to Woodhall Spa Urban District.

# Diphtheria Inoculations, 1950

No. of initial immunisations under 5 years	26
No. of initial immunisations 5 - 14 years	4
No. of Booster inoculations	35
Smallpox Vaccinations, 1950	
No. of Primary Vaccinations	16
No. of re-vaccinations	12

It cannot be too greatly stressed that the great decline in the incidence of diphtheria throughout the Country as a whole, and its total absence from Woodhall Spa, in post war years is not an excuse for failing to have children given the necessary protective inoculations, but is rather the best reason of all for the maintenance of a high level of immunisation among the young population.

The same is true with regard to vaccination. Recent years have seen several small pox "scares" in the Country. These incidents need not be "scares" in a completely vaccinated community. There is no place for apathy nor for what is worse, so called conscientious objection masquerading behind a mask of pseudo-science.

# National Assistant Act, 1948. Section 47.

No cases believed to fall within the provisions of the above came under the notice of your Medical Officer during the year.

### HEALTH SERVICES - GENERAL PROVISION

Since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, there have been no changes in the following services which operated satisfactorily again during 1950.

General Practitioner Service
Hospital Service
Maternity Service
Home Nursing Service
Health Visitor Service
Ambulance Service
Laboratory Service

# Home Help Service

It is regrettable again to have to state that, despite the efforts of Lindsey County Council, it has been impossible to find a single local recruit to this service, so necessary in times of domestic upset resulting from illness in the house - particularly the illness of the mother.

The nearest Home Help lives at Horncastle and it is extremely doubtful if her services would ever be available outside that area.

### Treatment Centres & Clinics

Facilities as detailed in previous Annual Reports continued to be available at the County Council's Clinic in Horncastle and at the Methodist Church Schoolroom, Coningsby but it is surprising that Woodhall Spa makes but little use of these services, although difficulties of transport may well explain this.

# Tuberculosis Clinic & Dispensary

Lincolnshire Chest Unit took over this Clinic in Horncastle, but continued to hold Clinics as before. In April, 1950, however, the Chest Clinic, as such, closed down thereby depriving Woodhall Spa of its nearest facility in this field. Because of the absence of X-Ray equipment it cannot be pretended that arrangements at Horncastle were ideal, but it is nevertheless an incontrovertible fact that it is not every chest case which requires an X-Ray on the occasion of each supervisory examination. (It is strange to note that this fact is now becoming generally recognised by the National Health Service when X-Ray film is becoming scarce!) It is to be hoped that sometime in the future the Central Lincolnshire Chest Unit will see its way to restore the facilities of which the district has been deprived.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

# Water Supply

Bac

Following the decision of the Council, taken in the latter part of 1949, the work of scraping and chemically cleansing large sections of the water main system of the town was begun early in 1950 and in Tor-O'-Moor Road, instead of cleansing the existing three inch main it was found to be a better proposition to replace this cast iron main with one of four inch cement asbestos. After the work of cleansing had been completed much more satisfactory bacteriological reports were received on samples submitted for examination.

The following summarises the results of bacteriological examination of samples taken during the year.

cteriological	Class		Numbers
I II IV			46 4 4 1
Total	samples	submitted	.55

### Sewage Disposal

The Council's Sewage Disposal plant at Green Lane continued to produce a satisfactory effluent during the year, but it is apparent that in the very near future active steps will have to be taken to prevent possible break-downs at these works. New sprinkler arms have already been provided for, but attention must be directed to the condition of the filter-beds, the retaining walls of which are riddled with cracks of slowly but surely increasing width, and it must be remembered that the final effective treatment of the effluent depends entirely on the functioning of these beds.

### Public Cleansing and Refuse Collection

A regular weekly was more consistently maintained during 1950 than in immediately previous years and no complaints of non-removal were received by the Health Department.

# Swimming Pool, Jubilee Park

I

Advised by the Water Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, the system of "Break Point Chlorination" was instituted at the opening of the season at the open air Swimming Pool. This proved eminently satisfactory, and reports on eleven samples of the pool water which were bacteriologically examined during the bathing season, testified to the efficiency of the new method.

# REPORT OF SANITARY WORK DURING THE YEAR

The following are the details of the work of the Council's Sanitary Inspector during 1950, as reported by him to the Health Department of the County Council.

# Total No. of New Houses erected during the year

(I)	By the Local Authority	Nil
(II)	By other Local Authorities	Nil
(III)	By other bodies or persons	5

# Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(I) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 14

	Number of inspections made for the purpose	19
(2) (a)	No. of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)	No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation	s 8
Remedy of of formal	Defects during the year without service notices	
	No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	
	the bocal Addition of their officers	4
Action und	der Statutory Powers during the year	4
(a)	der Statutory Powers during the year  Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and	4 Nil
(a) (b)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(a) (b) (c)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936  Proceedings under Public Health Acts  Proceedings under Sections 11, 12 and	Nil Nil
(a) (b) (c) Housing Ac	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936  Proceedings under Public Health Acts  Proceedings under Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil Nil

II

III

IV

	durin Numb (d) Numb	er of cases of overcrowding relieved ng the year er of persons concerned in such cases er of houses again overcrowded after g previously relieved	Nil Nil
V		s, tents, vans, etc.	
	No. No.	of site licences of individual licences inspected during year of contraventions remedied	2 2 6 Nil
VI	Bakehouses		
	No. No.	in district of inspections of contraventions cts remedied	24 Nil Nil
VII	Control of Milk	Supplies	
	No. No. No. Cont	of distributors on register of producer/retailers of dairies on register of inspections of dairies raventions remedied of milk samples taken: Satisfactory	4 2 2 2 Nil Nil
		Unsatisfactory	Nil
VIII	Ice Cream		
	No. No.	of manufacturers of premises registered for sale of contraventions of samples taken: Satisfactory	2 6 Nil 4
		Unsatisfactory	1
IX	Slaughterhouses		
	No. Cont	on register of inspections raventions of by-laws cts remedied	N11

X	Offensive Trades				
		No. of premises in district No. of inspections Contraventions of by-laws Contraventions remedied	Nil Nil Nil Nil		
XI	Shops Act, 1950				
		Number of shops inspected Contraventions remedied	64 Nil		
XII	Water Supply				
		Wells ( Closed as polluted	Nil		
		( Closed as polluted	Nil		
		( Area supplied All but propert Public ( Percentage of houses internal Supply ( supply ( Communal supply Number of samples obtained for analysis (a) from wells			
XIII	Drainage an	(b) from public supply Any insufficiency and where	-		
	Closets				
		No. of houses with privy vaults in district No. of houses with pail closets in district No. of pail closets repaired No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles No. of houses with water closets in district No. of water closets repaired	17 Nil		
XIV	Drains	Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc. Drains unstopped, repaired, etc. Waste, pipes, disconnected, repaired, etc. Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired	8 l Nil		

XV	Sewers			
		New lengths of sewer laid	Nil	
XVI	Tanks, Filter beds, etc			
		Alterations to sewage disposal works Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works	Nil	
		or complaints as to smells	Nil	
XVII	II <u>Cesspools</u>			
		Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc Cesspools abolished	Nil Nil	
XVIII	Disinfection, etc.			
		Rooms disinfected  (a) ordinary infectious disease (b) tuberculosis  Rooms stripped and cleansed No. of premises disinfested	l Nil Nil Nil	
XIX	House Refuse			
		No. of houses using dustbins Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger? How frequently is refuse removed from	529 Public Scavenger	
		each house? No. of complaints of non-removal Method of final disposal	Every 7 days Nil Controlled Tipping	
		Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes	
XX	Nuisances			
		Total Number of nuisances during year :-		
	(1)	Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	4	
	(2)	Reported to Council(		

.



