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2. L. L.



Urban District of Woodhall Spa

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

**1961**





WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1961

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with water supplies and swimming baths.

All members of the Council sit on all Committees.



To The Chairman and Members of  
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of  
your Medical Officer of Health for 1961.

1961 was a year of incipient change. Rumour of  
Boundary Commissions and Water Boards clouded the deliberations  
of the Council, whilst a scheme for an enlarged, plastic-lined  
swimming pool had to be abandoned in favour of a conventionally  
constructed one. The end of the year saw the old pool well in  
the hands of the contractors. It is hoped that the new pool  
will be ready for the 1962 season, with the beauty of the park  
unimpaired. At the time of writing, however, it seems the  
weather is attempting to thwart our efforts.

Preliminary estimates, prior to availability of  
Registrar General's figures suggest that deaths are down  
substantially and there is a suggestion, based upon the small  
proportion of attributable births actually registered in  
Woodhall, that the number of births is likely to prove  
greater than usual. Only two infant deaths are recorded, both  
associated with premature births and also in one case, a  
brain defect incompatible with life. Thereafter there were no  
deaths under 65 years of age except one coronary thrombosis  
(60) and two probable rheumatic heart disease cases (52 and 59).

There was a drop in notifications of infectious  
diseases from 39 to 29, mainly due to last years whooping  
cough outbreak. The visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography  
Unit was followed by the notification of 3 cases of pulmonary  
tuberculosis. The solitary case of poliomyelitis was imported  
during the incubation period from the Far East. There was never  
any real risk of spread within the Spa.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the Spa remain  
substantially the same as in 1960. Water and Food supplies  
remain satisfactory, but it must concern readers of this report  
outside Woodhall to see year after year, two families reported  
as overcrowded and unrelieved. In fact, the families concerned  
are at the stage when marriage may be expected to relieve the  
overcrowding spontaneously. The provision of Council Houses  
has remained in abeyance for some years and its resumption  
cannot be foreseen.

Caravans and their siting have caused some heart-aches  
and headaches. Whilst it must be admitted for those whose  
duties require mobility, and who have a small family, a caravan  
on an adequately served site can be a good home, the mere fact



of temporary occupancy tends to prevent site owners from providing more than minimal services and substantially forced the passage of the "Caravan Sites" Act of 1960, harsh as it has been upon many thousands of caravan holiday makers who tow their own vans.

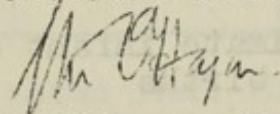
In providing a site for a caravan, or for many the same basic needs must be satisfied - water, drainage, scavenging, toilet facilities, access and privacy. These may well cost as much for a van as for a small dwelling.

Refuse Collection and disposal continues to be satisfactory, but the Sewerage System remains a permanent worry to its Committee because of the age of the system and the virtual certainty of broken joints and other unintended modes of ingress of soil water, all of which has to be pumped and may read a million gallons a day.

Direct protection from infectious diseases remains very good reaching 90% for diphtheria and whooping cough in the younger age-groups, 75% for Smallpox, and 60% for Tetanus, all related to the past 7 years. This covers the period when the "polio blitz" reduced the opportunities for bringing other protection up to date. Analysis of the immunizations during 1961 is not so good however: Protection of babies under a year old fell from 34 to 6 in respect of triple immunization whilst it is precisely this age group (0 - 1) in which diphtheria and whooping cough are most deadly. It is not likely that the Ministry of Health Circular 26/61 with its alternative schedule of injections (Q), in which protection against whooping cough in early infancy is ignored, was responsible for this fall-off, since the circular was not published until September 12th. The matter had, however, been discussed in the British Medical Journal earlier, and, provided that the figures represent a genuine acceptance of a definite schedule and not mere procrastination, I can be content.

In conclusion, may I thank the Members and Officers of the Council for their friendship and helpfulness throughout the year.

I remain, Sirs,  
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



## STATISTICS

Area of Urban District:	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population:	2250
Density of Population:	1.14
Number of Inhabited Dwellings:	659
Rateable Value of Urban District:	£23,789
Sum Represented by Penny Rate:	£94. 0. 0.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Comparability Factors	Births	Deaths
	1.15	0.75

### BIRTHS

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	38	30	37
Rate per 1000 population	17.6	13.9	17.9
Illegitimate live births % total	Nil	3% (i.e.1)	2.7
<u>Still Births</u>	0	0	1
Rate per 100 total live and still births	Nil	Nil	2.7
Total live and still births	38	30	38
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under 1 year)			2

### Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	54
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	55
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil

1961

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births) 54

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under one week per 1000 total live births) 27

Perinatal Mortality Rate

(stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births) 53

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths Nil

Rate per 1000 total live and still births Nil

DEATHS

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Male	20	29	13
Female	<u>32</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>28</u>
	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>41</u>
Deaths per 1000 population			18.2
Standardized Death Rate per 1000			13.7
National (England and Wales Death Rate) per 1000			12.0

Deaths were distributed according to age as shown in the table :-

Age at Death

0-1	1-5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	over 84
2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	16	14

The analysis of early deaths shows that the only major killing diseases were coronary thrombosis and the rather vague phrase "heart failure", which refers in two cases to probable late effects of cardiac rheumatism.



Considerable research is going on into the causes of death in the newborn, still birth, etc. Already it has become well known - but not yet well enough known - that chilling in a cold room or pram may be fatal to a young baby without any other disease being present. It is timely to remind all who have the care of young babies that the early weeks of life offer the greatest risk of death until late middle age.

Causes of death at ages under 75 years as follows :-

Prematurity	2
Coronary Thrombosis	2
Cancer of Lung	1
Cancer of Bowel	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	1
Heart failure	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1

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

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	0	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	0	0
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	3	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	6	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	1	4	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20.	Other heart diseases	5	7	12
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	0	0	0
24.	Bronchitis	1	0	1
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	0	4	4
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other Accidents	0	0	0
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Total		13	28	41



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification of infectious diseases during the year were as follows :-

Salmonella Typhimurium	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3
Dysentery, Bacillary	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Whooping Cough	4
Measles	<u>17</u>
Total	29

Review of the incidence of whooping cough in the last two years shows that 2 out of 18 cases were aged 12 months or less. This compares with 9 out of 57 cases for Horncastle Rural District and 1 out of 4 cases for Horncastle Urban District. In my view, the danger from whooping cough in early life can be met in either of two ways: Since it is from older sibs that the baby is almost always infected, a high order of protection among the older sibs and young school children ought to do much to prevent ingress of infection into the home. The alternative, early immunization of the baby may be less certain in its effectiveness than at a later age and carries some (very slight) risk of provocation poliomyelitis. The majority of deaths from whooping cough occur in the first six months of life, and it is improbable that the number could be much reduced by attempting universal early immunizing - Reliance is better placed, in an area like Woodhall Spa, on good relations between parents, health visitors and doctors, to maintain or improve the 90% level of immunization at the age ( 1 - 5 years) when many cases of whooping cough arises and the age at which there is most likely to be an infant sib at risk.

It is regretted that figures for the acceptance of B.C.G. vaccination are still lacking, but some satisfaction can be drawn from the substantial numbers of older students at both Grammar and Secondary Modern Schools who have been vaccinated against tuberculosis after, for one reason or another missed their normal chance at 13 years. This group is not susceptible to the influence of the health visitor to anything like the extent that the infant is, since there may well be no reason - other than a special visit for the purpose - for the health visitor to see the parents. Printed leaflets are at best an extremely poor substitute for the Health Visitor.



It is satisfactory to note that in 1961, before the Smallpox scare, substantial increase in vaccination against the disease. The continued very high value of vaccination was well demonstrated by the containment of the outbreaks in early 1962, not by panic mass - vaccination, but by systematically tracing and vaccinating those at risk only.

This policy is satisfactory only in a country with no endemic smallpox and with a high vaccination rate, and its success should not be regarded as an indication for routine vaccination of all infants (other than those suffering from eczema) to be reduced.

Table of Immunization and births in previous years      Total

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	
Births in previous year	29	31	24	21	28	38	30	201
Protected against Whooping cough	27	23	25	11	28	40	28	182
Diphtheria	23	23	25	10	31	41	29	182
Smallpox	13	20	18	25	17	24	34	151
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	25	56	29	110
Smallpox re-vaccinations	13	5	6	11	3	14	5	57
Diphtheria Boosters alone				24	18	24	15	81
	0 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 40	others				
Poliomy- elitis from start of scheme to Dec. 1961	77	39	45	2	Had 2 injections			
	377	128	81	11	Had 3 injections			
	165	0	0	0	Had 4 injections			



### Mass Radiography

The visit of the Lincolnshire Miniature Mass Radiography Unit last year was well worthwhile, and it is hoped to arrange regular visits. The spacing of the visits will not be annual because the first call must be populations at special risks, or where large numbers can be quickly dealt with. The services of the unit were appreciated, however, and a return visit will be requested when it can be included in their programme.

### The National Health Service

No significant change has occurred in the past year. The Ambulance Service has hitherto been run jointly with the Fire Service, but the separation of these functions of the County Council has now been recommended.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service is maintained by the Council on a 7 - 9 day basis, and appears satisfactory.

### The Open Air Swimming Pool

As indicated in my introductory letter, after initial setbacks, the scheme for enlargement of the pool and extension of the associated purification plant is under way.

### The Caravan Sites (Control of Development) Act, 1960

This Act has borne hardly upon that section of the public who tour for business or pleasure with their vans. Whilst an Act was necessary to control unsatisfactory conditions, the harshness of the terms of the present act have inevitably done immense harm to the industry and caravan users generally. The Council has been reluctant to take action which would deprive residents of any dwelling.

Woodhall Spa has provided a good site for holiday vans, adjacent to the park, and a large residential site is available quite close to the Urban District.

### National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

Again, no action has been required under this Section.



## Housing

No progress was envisaged by the Council and private building amounted only to 6 dwellings.

## Food Hygiene

The policy of periodic inspection and informal action by the Inspector has shown 5 contraventions during the year, a decline, of one on the previous year.

None were considered serious enough to warrant my direct attention.

## Water Supply

The whole of the water supply is drawn from an upland covered with heath and draining to a conventional water works with slow sand filters and continuous chlorination and alkali dosing. The latter was installed some years ago when the acidic nature of the water suggested it might be plumbo-solvent. Although the raw water may have plumbo-solvent properties, it was consumed by Woodhall residents for a lifetime without ill effect being recognised at the time or in retrospect. Nevertheless, by maintaining the water slightly on the alkaline side of neutral (pH 7.7 - 8.0) any possible ill effect is prevented.

No contamination was reported during the year, but in years of excessive sun and low rainfall, gross overgrowth of algae on filters have caused trouble, in the nature of an "earthy" taste, which has been curable by increasing the chlorine dose-rate.

All properties in Woodhall Spa (except three which have stand-pipes and are in a condition or situation in which continued usage for many more years is not expected) are supplied directly from the Council's Supply.

Interconnection of mains at strategic points with those of neighbouring authorities, to allow mutual supply, was carried out some years ago.

There has never been any real shortage of water in Woodhall Spa, although reasonable restriction on watering gardens has been requested in years of severe drought to avoid drawing supplies from Horncastle Rural District Council, whose water is greatly more costly.



## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

This has been a difficult problem for very many years. The ingress of considerable quantities of storm water to the sewers causes a wet weather flow vastly in excess of the normal ratio to the dry weather flow, which in its turn never falls to approach the level of 100,000 g.p.d. - which is the water intake.

Such large volumes of dilute sewage are difficult to treat and a recent scheme undertaken on the advice of consultant engineers has not met with the unqualified success that it's cost might have led us to expect.

From the sewage works, the effluent has a long flow in open dykes before reaching the river, which is locked at Grand Sluice, Boston. It is evident, therefore, that the Rivers Board have justification in pressing all dischargers of effluent to maintain a high standard. The Council, for their part, having spent so much money on improvements to sewerage and treatment plant are most disturbed to have an unsatisfactory result.

## Common Lodging Houses

This item is included at the request of the Ministry of Health.

There have not been any common lodging houses anywhere in the area for many years.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING:

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in district	659
Total number of houses erected during the year :-	
(1) By local authority	-
(2) by other local authorities	-
(3) by other bodies or persons	6
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-	
(1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued	-
Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	33
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	51
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	12
(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	-
(2) Proceedings under Housing Acts	-
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts :-	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made (individual unfit houses only)	-
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)	-
(c) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	-
(d) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	-
(e) Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	-
(f) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	-
(g) Total number of dwelling houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Acts, 1957	-
(h) Total number of dwelling houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-



(i)	Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	2
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#### Housing Acts - Overcrowding

(a)	(1)	number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-
	(2)	number of persons concerned in such cases	-
(b)	(1)	number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
	(2)	number of families dwelling therein	2
	(3)	number of persons dwelling therein	17

#### Housing Acts, 1949 - 59

	number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received - Standard	0
	- Discretionary	3
	number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard	0
	- Discretionary	3
	number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	0

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.	0
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#### Public Health Act, 1936

	number of site licences	2
	number of individual licences	1
	total number of moveable dwellings permitted under above licences	13
	Number of inspections during the year - sites	22
	- dwellings	2
	number of contraventions remedied	2
	number of sites exempt from licence	-
	number of moveable dwellings thereon	-

#### FOOD PREMISES

##### Bakehouses

	number in district	2
	number of inspections	6
	number of contraventions	2
	defects remedied	2

### Ice Cream

number of manufacturers on register	2
number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	9
number of inspection of premises made	11
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-
number of samples taken - Grade I	-
- Other Grades	-

### Meat Products

number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
number of inspections made	2
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-

### Other Food Premises

number of inspections made	11
number of contraventions found	3
contraventions remedied	3

### Slaughterhouses

number of licenced - abattoir type	-
- private individual	-
number operated by local authority	-

### UN SOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part	-
Other condemned foods	-
method of disposal - incineration	-

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

#### Closets

number of houses with privy vaults in district	1
number of houses with pail closets in district	2
number of houses with water closets in district	651
number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	2

#### Cesspools and Septic Tanks

number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc.	3
number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	-

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved :-	-
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2004

No

## WATER SUPPLIES

356

3

Q

0

0

No

0

## Swimming Pools

7

7

7

Q

0

## GENERAL

## Offensive Trades

0

## Knackers Yards

0

## Shops Act, 1950

9

Q

## Disinfection and disinfection

0

Q

Q

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

number of premises from which refuse is collected	691
frequency of collection	7 - 9 days
method of disposal	controlled tipping
Is this satisfactory?	Yes
number of tips	1
Is collection by local authority or contract	L.A.

### Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during the year :-

(1) abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	34
(2) Reported to the Council - Statutory Notice issued	-
- Statutory Notice not issued	-

### Details of nuisances abated

	<u>After Informal Intimation</u>	<u>After Statutory Notice</u>
Refuse	6	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	14	-
Drainage	6	-
Poultry and animals	2	-
Dangerous premises	-	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	6	-

### Rats and Mice Destruction

number of rodent operatives employed	1 part time
number of premises treated - dwelling houses	42
- other premises	33
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	No
Service covers domestic, business and agricultural premises	

### Atmospheric pollution

number of visits	0
number of nuisances found	0



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

PART I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	3	0	0
2. factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority	9	23	0	0
3. other premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	26	0	0

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were Found	Number of cases in which defects were Remedied	Number of cases in which prosecutions were inst.
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences :-			
Insufficient	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
Other offences against the act	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-





