

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

Contributors

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WORSBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



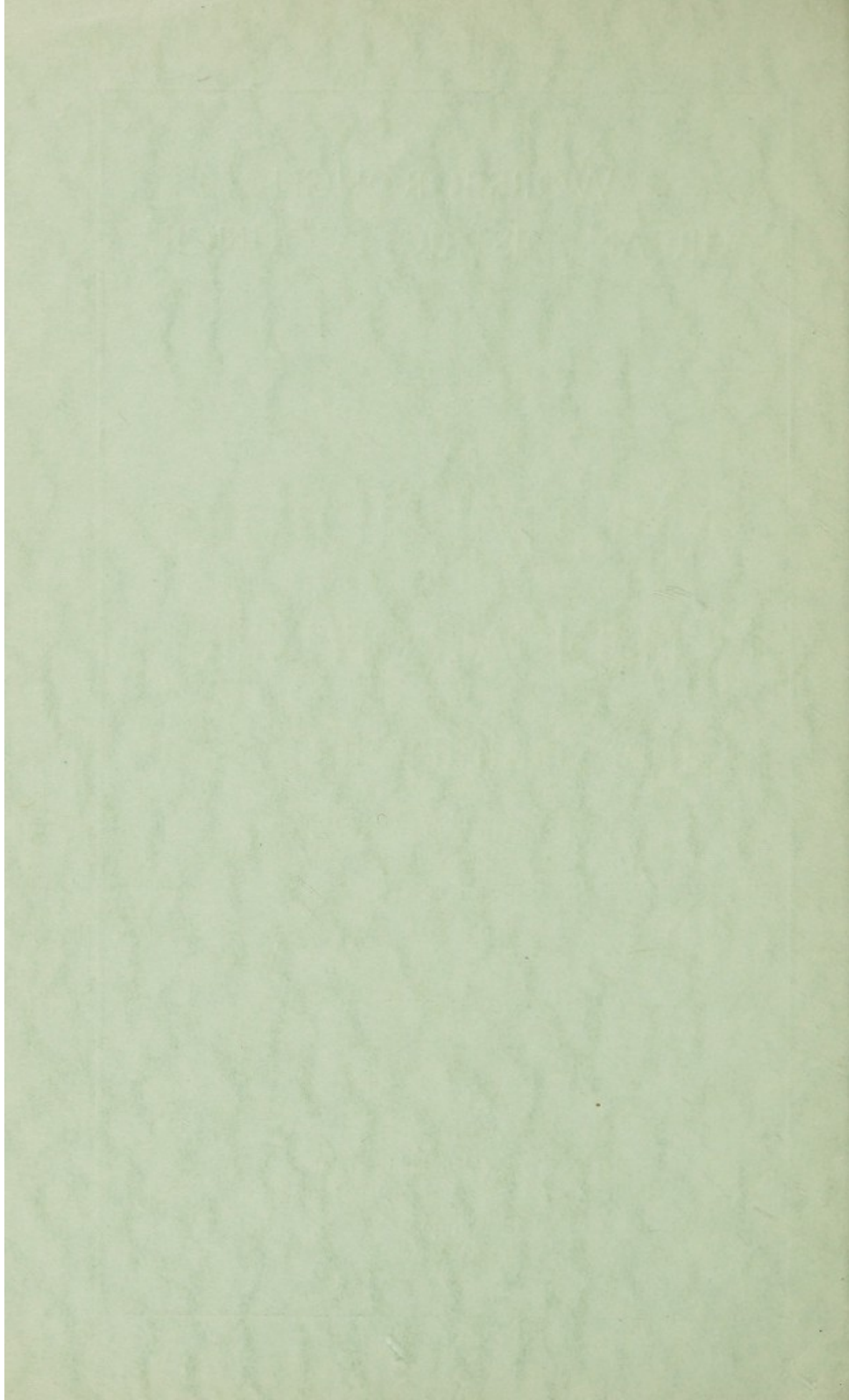
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
and
Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1939.

Barnsley :

E. CHEESMAN LTD., PRINTERS, 3, MARKET HILL.

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Public Health Officers.

Office	Officer	Qualifications	Whole or Part Time
Medical Officer of Health	Jean H. Ritchie	M.B., Ch.B.	Part Time
Chief Sanitary Inspector	T. Pilkington	Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute Member of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association	Whole Time
Additional Sanitary Inspector	P. Briscoe	Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Jt. Board Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute	Whole Time

ANNUAL REPORT, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Worsborough Urban District Council.*

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health conditions of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

I have to apologise for its being so late. The explanation is that its preparation was hindered by the fact that we did not receive the Registrar General's Figures until the end of October.

Your Obedient Servant,

JEAN H. RITCHIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics.

The Area of the District is 3,613 acres.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 13,250 upon which our Birth and Death Rates are calculated.

Population (Census 1931), 12,490.

Number of inhabited houses (1931), 3,024.

Number of inhabited houses (1939), 3,746.

Rateable Value, £43,625.

Sum represented by a penny rate £165.

The Social conditions are the same as stated in previous reports.

Coal Mining is still the principal occupation of the male population.

No new industries have been established during the past year.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

According to the Registrar General's figures :—

Total live births in the district:—266 (131 males, 135 females).

Legitimate 127 males, 130 females.

Illegitimate 4 males, 5 females.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population:—20.07

Still Births :—4 males, 5 females. (all legitimate).

Still Birth Rate :—0.67.

Live and Still Birth Rate for the year :—20.74.

Deaths at all ages :—148 (78 males, 70 females).

Death Rate for the year :—11.237.

Adjusted Death Rate for the year :—13.71.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis — 2—Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births—7.21.

Other Puerperal — 1—Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births—3.63.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year—

Total 17 (9 males, 8 females. (all legitimate).

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year per 1,000 Live Births :—63.29.

Deaths from Cancer :—20 (8 males, 12 females).

Deaths from Measles :—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough 1 female.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) :—0.

England and Wales.

	1937	1938	1939
Death Rate	12.4	11.6	12.1
Birth Rate	14.9	15.1	15.0
Infantile Mortality Rate....	58	53	50

Worsborough District.

	1937	1938	1939
Death Rate	10.08	11.01	11.23
Birth Rate	20.62	18.31	20.07
Infantile Mortality Rate....	69.85	53.94	63.29

Causes of Death in 1939.

Disease.	Males	Females
Cancer	8	12
Syphilis	—	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1
Diphtheria	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Pneumonia	8	5
Bronchitis	4	1
Heart Disease	19	19
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	6	3
Diabetes	1	—
Suicide	3	—
Other Violences	5	3
Other Defined Diseases	9	3
Congenital Debility & Premature Birth	6	3
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	2
Other Liver Diseases	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Total	78	70

Deaths under 1 year.

Disease	Under 24 hours		Under One Week		Under One Year		Total
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem	Male	Fem	
Congenital ...			1	1	1	1	4
Broncho-Pneumonia					2	1	3
Lobar Pneumonia						1	1
Whooping Cough						1	1
Prematurity				1	4	2	7
Bronchitis ...					1		1
Totals			1	2	8	6	17

Deaths under One Year in the Different Areas.

Worsbro' Dale	Worsbro' Bridge	Blacker Hill	Birdwell	Total
6	6	2	3	17
<hr/>				
Deaths at 1	year and upwards.			
52	38	6	35	131
58	44	8	38	148

Observations on Vital Statistics.

Heart Disease is accountable for one quarter of the total deaths.

Thirteen deaths from Pneumonia are mostly at the extremes of life, when resistance is poor: probably the severity of the winter accelerated these deaths. A new therapeutic method of dealing with Pneumonia will help to cut down the mortality.

Cancer.

Of twelve deaths from Cancer among females, seven of them are due to Cancer of the Uterus. The average age of these cases is 63, three of them being over 70. It will be noted that these cases are all beyond the child bearing period, and therefore came under no supervision at Clinics; possibly some of them are long standing cases who have died of some intercurrent disease or who may have had some prejudice against surgical treatment. Eight cases of Cancer occurred among males, five of them in the digestive system.

Puerperal Deaths.

These are four in number, one being from Sepsis. The three others are due to sudden emergency arising after child-birth.

The **Infant Mortality Rate** is high, almost two-thirds of the 19 deaths are caused by Congenital Abnormalities and Prematurity together. Considering the severity of the winter, it is not surprising that premature babies did not survive, nor that the remaining eight cases all died from respiratory affections.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This year we have had a mild Diphtheria Epidemic, two of the cases proving fatal. In spite of the fact that cases occurred all over the district, and that a number of them were of considerable severity, the number reached only 46. But for the protection of immunisation, it is safe to say that the epidemic would have been much more extensive. On the other hand, if the children were 100% immunised, no single case would have occurred.

Investigation of the 46 cases shows that not one was properly immunised. One case had had two doses of protective serum and failed to have the final dose. One had been immunised two months before contracting the disease; in this case the immunity had not begun to take effect. A third case was notified as Diphtheria and found to have been immunised four years before. This case was subsequently sent home from Hospital, having proved to be non-Diphtheria. Not another case which developed Diphtheria had been immunised. Once more let the value of protection from Diphtheria by immunisation be emphasised: the above facts speak for themselves. The deaths of two children might have been prevented if their parents had taken advantage of the Immunisation facilities. In both the cases the Toxaemia was so severe by the time a doctor was called in that when they reached Hospital, even the most strenuous measures were of no avail.

Air Raid Precautions.

We have no lack of volunteers for the First Aid Services in this District. Our establishment for Worsbro' is one fixed First Aid Post, with nine whole-time members of staff—three males and six females; one First Aid Post (Mobile Unit) with driver and two whole-time members; five First Aid Parties of five each—two at Worsborough Dale, two at Birdwell, and one at Blacker Hill; and seven First Aid Points. The First Aid Parties have as yet no permanent members on the staff. There are four whole-time Ambulance drivers. The camaraderie and enthusiasm amongst volunteers and paid personnel alike are a source of great commendation and encouragement.

Child Welfare Centres.

Child Welfare Centres continue to be well attended. The Toddlers Clinic at Worsborough Dale has been discontinued. The County Medical Officer was anxious to encourage this Clinic, and at the beginning of the war was preparing a circular to Mothers in the district who have small children but

not babies advising them about this Clinic. As a war economy however, the circular was not sent, and the Clinic was stopped, it being considered that the toddlers could attend the baby Clinics. For the same reason the Sun Ray Treatment is discontinued.

General Provisions of Health Services.

Hospitals.

- A. (1) **Fever.** Arrangements with the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board.
- (2) **Smallpox.** Arrangements with the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board.
- B. (1) **Tuberculosis.** Provided by the County Council.
- (2) **Maternity.** Nil.
- (3) **Children.** Nil.
- (4) **Other Hospitals** not supported by the Council, viz.:—
Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, and the Hospitals at Sheffield and Leeds.

No institutional provisions for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) **For Infectious Diseases:—**
Arrangements with the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board to remove all cases to hospital.
- (b) **For Accidents, etc., and Non-Infectious Cases:—**
Motor Ambulance provided by the Council.

Particulars supplied by the Surveyor:—

Number of Patients using the Ambulance during 1939 :—
1,080.

Number of miles travelled :—7,258.

The Ambulance was out on 305 days.

Average cost per patient—7s. 2d.

Cost of Ambulance per day—£1 5s. 7d.

Nursing in the Home.

Nature of Arrangements in the District.

(a) General:—Private Association known as the "Cooper and Worsboro' District Nursing Association" (partly endowed) provides two qualified Nurses for the "Necessitous Poor" for treatment in their own homes, for the whole District.

During the year the Nurses made 7,040 General Visits to patients homes, 113 casual visits and 175 new cases were treated. 3,978 visits were paid to Public Assistance and Notifiable cases.

(b) Infectious Diseases :—None.

Midwives:—Controlled by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities : — Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the County Council.

List and Dates of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations in force in the District.

	Adopted.
The Private Street Works Act	11th Feb., 1893
Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, Paving of Back Yards and Open Spaces	6th Oct., 1923
Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances, Slaughter-houses, etc.	17th Sept., 1900
Bye-laws with respect to Offensive Trades (Fish and Chip Frying included).....	20th Feb., 1922

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The Main Water Supply is obtained from the Barnsley Corporation by Meter, and is then distributed throughout the district by the Council.

All the houses are on Public Supply with the exception of about 14 houses on the outskirts of the district and these obtain their supply from wells.

There have been no complaints with regard to the water supply during the year.

There have been no extensions of water mains.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are still approximately 97 houses (including farm-houses) not connected to the sewer.

Extensions of Sewer :—

50 yards of 12 inch sewer.

88 yards of 15 inch sewer.

There have been no complaints with regard to the sewage disposal. The Council have still two sewage farms, one at Birdwell and one at Worsborough Dale. The sewage is treated on the Intermittent Downward Filtration Principle in conjunction with Rotary Sprinklers, Sediment and Humus Tanks.

No additions or alterations have been made at these works, and at present there is no shortage.

Closet Accommodation.

Some progress has been made during the year with regard to the conversion of privies and ducketts, but it has not been as satisfactory as was anticipated.

3 ducketts and 2 privies have been converted during 1939, and this brings a total of 138 ducketts and 55 privies converted since the Council circularised all the owners of these conveniences some three years ago.

No. of Privies converted into Water Closets during 1939	No. of Waste Water Closets converted into Water Closets during 1939	No. of Additional Closets provided for Old Property	No. of Water Closets constructed for New Houses	No. of Closets in District at end of 1939		
				W.C.'s	Waste W.C.'s	Privies
2	3	1	118	2,950	148	160

Scavenging.

No of Ashpits emptied	7,442
No. of Dustbins emptied	155,769
No. of loads removed	4,842
Deposited on land	269
Deposited on tips	4,573

The total cost of the scavenging for the year was £2,382, which is £114 more than last year.

Action under the Public Health Act, 1936, for the provision of Sanitary Dustbins in lieu of ashpits, continued throughout the year, and up to the present, nearly 400 new dustbins have been provided.

There was a noticeable falling off during the last three months of the year, but this was excused by the fact that deliveries of so many similar articles are seriously affected as a result of the war.

It is the desire of the Council that the existing ashpit buildings should be used as shelters for the dustbins, subject to slight structural alteration and always provided they are not in a dilapidated condition. This arrangement has proved satisfactory in several cases.

The scavenging department is now working well as a result of the disposal of the horse carts—motor vehicles only now being used. The night-soil is deposited on farm land and the household refuse on tips. The arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat are still unsatisfactory since there is no destructor in this district and payment is made to a neighbouring authority for each load destroyed.

Arrangements are now being made for the removal of this meat to a Government controlled Knackers Yard in Barnsley where it is used for the manufacture of commercial fat and manure.

NUISANCES.

Total number of Inspections made in 1939—300

Causes of Nuisances.	No. of Notices served		No. of Notices Complied with
	Informal	Statutory	
Drains	9		9
Flooding	5		5
Overcrowding	25		25
Rats	8		8
Sewage	5		5
Water Closets	9		9
Smoke	1		1
Ash-pits	6		6
Dirty Premises	3	3	3
Sinks	3		3
Dogs	2		2
Dust Bins	4		4
Fish Frying	1		1
Vermin	22		22
Pigs	1		1
Accumulations	1		1
Totals	105	3	105

Inspection of Factories, Meat Shops, etc.

	No. of Inspections	CONDITIONS
No. of Bakehouses— On Register 2	24	Kept clean & satisfactory
No. of Offensive Trades— (Fish Frying only) On Register 18	72	Inspected regularly Clean and satisfactory
No. of Slaughterhouses— On Register 11	1100	Conditions satisfactory except in one case Action now being taken
No. of Factories On Register 17	68	With the exception of the Barrow Coking Co. and Messrs. Longleys, Tim- ber Merchants, none of these premises are ex- tensive and only a few hands are employed. Routine inspections have been made and several necessary alterations are receiving attention

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in this District, but there is a growing demand for facilities for bathing.

Smoke Abatement.

Smoke observations have been taken several times during the last year but there has been no complaint and no cause for further action to be taken.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Burning Spoil Banks.

The Spoil Banks belonging to the Barnsley Main Collieries are constantly burning and at times emit large quantities of smoke.

Fortunately there are no houses near these banks.

The Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The New Housing Estate at Dawcroft was completed by the Council in the early part of this year and during that period, considerable time was taken up in the inspection of houses and furniture, for vermin.

Every tenant moving into a council house was visited and the house and furniture were inspected. As a result of this, 10 council houses and 39 private houses were found to be infested with vermin and the furniture and goods of these tenants was disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas. The houses remaining, whether to be demolished or not were treated with 'Zaldecyde' Spray and Sulphur Vapour.

As stated in previous reports, Hydrogen Cyanide Gas is not used for the purpose of disinfesting Council Houses, owing to heavy expense and inconvenience entailed in creating the necessary safety zone. In these cases, the houses, which are built in blocks of two, are stoved with 'Cymex' in conjunction with the liquid spray. Both houses are done—(although only one may be infested)—in order to prevent the retreat of bugs into a house which is not so troubled, and it has been found that tenants living in a house next door to one which was verminous were only too eager to have these precautions taken.

The disinfestation of private houses is only undertaken by the Council upon the request and payment of the owner. In these cases the 'Cymex' vapour is used in conjunction with the liquid spray and the cost of an ordinary three bedroom type house is approximately £1.

Sulphur candles and Zaldecyde are provided free of charge to tenants who wish to stove their own houses, and many people who have previously been troubled with vermin take advantage of this at the commencement of the warmer weather.

Schools.

There are nine schools in the district, four of which are Council Schools and the remaining five are non-provided.

The new school at Ward Green, built by the West Riding County Council is now in course of erection, and this school will provide accommodation for about 250 children.

Periodical inspections have been made during the year, nothing has yet been done with regard to the unsatisfactory conditions at the Worsborough Dale Church of England School, except that the irregular stone staircase has been much improved and made safe. It is anticipated that further action will be taken when the new school at Ward Green is completed.

Action has been taken with regard to the flushing of the water closets at the Birdwell Infants' School, and the matter is still under observation.

Housing.

As in previous years, a great deal of attention has been directed this year on the Slum Clearance and Overcrowding work.

The Main Slum Clearance Programme of the Council has now been completed and all the tenants have been rehoused on the new Council scheme at Dawcroft, Worsborough Bridge.

The old condemned property has in most cases, been demolished and the sites cleared, and action is now being taken for the clearance of those left, on which demolition work has already commenced.

No further Clearance Areas have been declared during the year and this section of the Housing will remain at a standstill for some considerable time.

With regard to Individual Unfit Houses, some further action has been taken.

A total of 9 houses with a population of 26 persons have been declared as Individual Unfits, and action in some cases has been completed :—

Nos. 33, 35, 37, 39 Bank Top Road, Worsborough Dale.

Nos. 17 and 19 West Street, Worsborough Dale.

No. 13 West Street, Worsborough Dale.

Nos. 1 and 2 Water Pit Cottages, Worsborough.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	231
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	231
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	106
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	106
3. Number of dwelling-houses needing further action	42
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head 3 (a) above) found not to be in all respects fit for habitation	35

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit as a result of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their officers	25
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 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 (78 outstanding)	114
(a) By Owners	114
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of representations made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	7
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the closing orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

Overcrowding.

A great deal of work has been done again this year in respect to the overcrowding in the District, including not only the statutory cases of overcrowding, but also cases of large families requiring increased bedroom accommodation.

At the end of 1938 there remained 31 cases of statutory overcrowding and 64 cases of overcrowding on bedroom accommodation.

24 cases of statutory overcrowding and 54 cases of overcrowding on bedroom accommodation were abated during 1939.

A further survey of the border line cases was conducted during the year and this revealed a further 18 cases of statutory overcrowding of which 3 were remedied, and 4 cases of overcrowding on bedroom accommodation, not remedied.

This leaves at the end of 1939, a total of 22 cases of statutory overcrowding and 14 cases requiring increased bedroom accommodation.

The whole of the Dawcroft Housing Scheme was completed in the first half of the year and this helped to make substantial reductions in the overcrowding. But there can be no doubt that a certain number of these cases have been abated as a result of the sons of the families concerned joining up in the Forces, and further action will be necessary at some later date when they return to civilian life. Still further housing schemes will then be necessary to meet the demand from these cases, as well as the normal growth of population of the district.

Milk Supply.

Milk and Dairies Orders.

Summary of the Registers :—

Number of Milk Producers	26
Number of Milk Retailers	26
Number of Milk Retailers (Not Cowkeepers)	10
Number of Wholesalers	7

One producer licensed for the production of Certified Tuberculin Tested or Grade A (T.T.) Milk.

One Vendor Licensed to Retail Pasteurised Milk.

One Vendor Licensed to Retail T.T. Milk.

Six Vendors Licensed to Retail Accredited Milk.

There are 42 cow-sheds in the district and a total of 250 cows are kept. A total of 168 cowshed inspections have been made during the year and conditions are quite satisfactory.

Apart from the routine samples taken by the County Council, for bacteriological examination, 4 samples were taken by the Health Department under the Food and Drugs Act and 5 sediment tests were made. In all cases the results were satisfactory.

Meat Inspection.

There is still no Public Abattoir in the District, the slaughtering being done in 11 private slaughterhouses, 9 of which are licensed and 2 are registered.

Inspections have been made at least twice and sometimes three times weekly, and the conditions are quite satisfactory in all except one case.

The butchers also hawk their meat in vans and these also are inspected weekly. No trouble however, has been experienced from these.

There are 14 meat shops in the district and these are kept quite clean and satisfactory, but action is now being taken under the new Food and Drugs Act, with regard to those premises used for the manufacture of sausages, potted meats etc., and it has been found that alterations will be necessary in several cases.

The total number of carcasses examined during the year are as follows :—

Bulls	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Bullocks	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	118
Heifers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	159
Cows	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	339
Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	915
Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	501
Calves	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23

In the case of diseases other than tuberculosis, the percentage of animals inspected and found to be affected are as follows :—

Cows	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.06
Cattle (excluding cows)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.4
Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.5
Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.4

In the case of tuberculosis the percentages were higher :—

Cows	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14.7
Cattle (excluding cows)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.2
Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.0

The meat inspection has gone fairly smoothly.

There was one prosecution under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, when a local butcher had killed a sheep without stunning previously, and also, he held no licence to slaughter. He was convicted and fined.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5			1	2				
15	1	2				1		
25		1	1	1		1		
35		4				1		
45	1	1				1		
55								
65								
and upwards								
Totals	2	8	3	3		4		

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1939.

Notifiable Disease.	Age Groups.													Number of Cases Notified in each Locality				Total Cases removed to Hospital	Number of Deaths
	At all Ages.	Year												Worsboro Bridge	Worsboro Dale	Birdwell	Blacker Hill		
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over						
Diphtheria	46	1	3	2	10	20	7	2	1	2	1	2	1	20	17	3	6	46	2
Scarlet Fever	25	2	2	3	4	10	2		2					7	7	10	1	23	
Pneumonia	25	1			1	3		2	6	6		5		11	7	4	8		18
Erysipelas	17					1		1	1	5		6		9	5	1	2		
Whooping Cough	1													1					1
Poliomyelitis	1					1								1				1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	6								6					4	1	1		4	
Enteric Fever	2				1		1							2				2	
Totals	123	1	4	5	5	17	10	5	16	11	11	8		55	87	19	12	76	16

