

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Wortley R.D.C.

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Wortley (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

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**WORTLEY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

INTERIM

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1944.

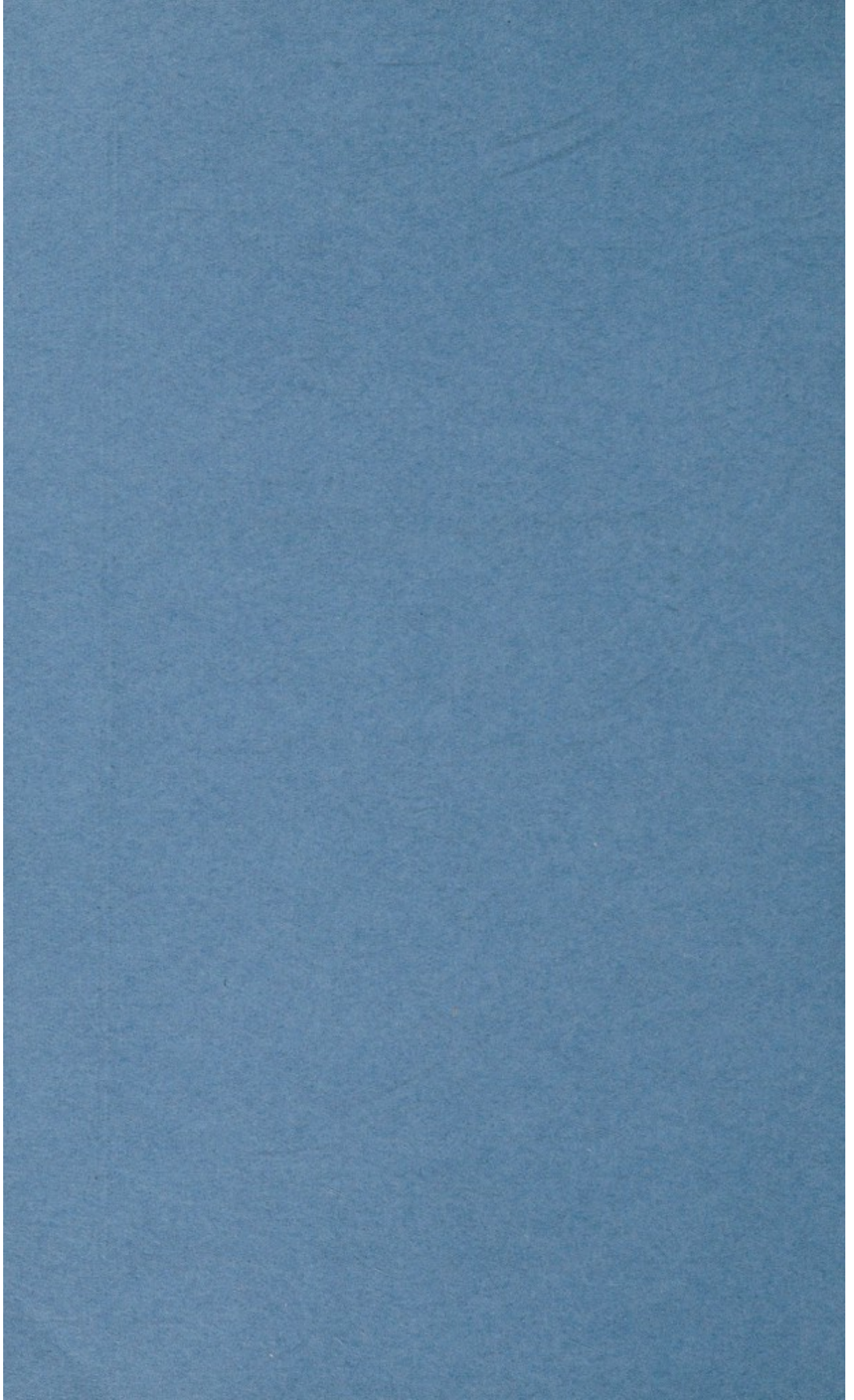
J. MAIN RUSSELL

(M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), B.Hy., D.P.H. (Dunelm))

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MEXBOROUGH:
TIMES PRINTING COMPANY LIMITED

1945.



**WORTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1944.**

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Clerk	Miss F. MARSHALL.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Interim Report upon the health services of the Wortley Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1944. The Ministry of Health have asked Medical Officers of Health once more to preserve, carefully, all records, including statistics supplied by the Registrar General, with a view to the publication of a report, at some future date, covering the period of war years.

I have to point out that the restriction, on the grounds of national security, previously imposed on the publication of population figures, has now been removed, and it is now possible to include statistics which convey a clearer picture of the vital statistics generally. Unfortunately, the Registrar General has once more been unable to issue a "Comparability Factor" in view of the variety and magnitude of local population movements, and also the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths. Not having this factor, it is impossible for the death rate in one district to be compared with that of another district, and therefore, the death rate given by me in this report, must be considered a crude death rate only.

During 1944, the vital statistics were fairly satisfactory. The number of births showed an increase, and the number of deaths showed a decrease compared with the 1943 figures. There was one maternal death for 1943, while the Infantile Mortality rate decreased from 48 per 1,000 live births in 1943, to 35 per 1,000 live births in 1944.

In that part of the Report dealing with Sanitary Circumstances (which section has been prepared and produced by Mr. Vickers) some reference has been made to housing. There is no need to emphasise the housing position. The country generally is suffering from an acute shortage of houses and this district is no exception. From my point of view this is one of the most urgent matters facing Local Authorities to-day. Bad housing in any form has a direct relationship to ill health.

Let us hope that during 1945 some evidence of alleviation of the housing needs will materialise.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Hospital Committees, and the Clerk and other officials of this Council and particularly the staff of the Health Department for their loyalty and unfailing help and co-operation during the past year.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
J. MAIN RUSSELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

The Wortley Rural District covers an area of 48,697 acres. The district is divided into four parishes: Ecclesfield, Bradfield, Tankersley and Wortley. The approximate acreage for each is as follows:—

Parish.	Acreage.	No. of Dwelling Houses.
Ecclesfield	6,147	5,176
Bradfield	35,134	2,881
Tankersley	2,436	559
Wortley	4,980	184
Total	48,697	8,800

The rateable value of the district is £196,175, while the product of a penny rate is £782,046 as at December, 1944.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The Registrar-General has given his estimation of the population at mid 1944 as 31,300. The figure given for 1943 was 30,770. There was an increase, therefore, of approximately 600. It must be noted, however, that the population of the West Riding Mental Hospital, including patients and staff, was 2,010, making a net district population of 29,290.

Births.—During the year, there were 600 live births, 298 male and 302 female; an increase of 60 over the 1943 figures. There were 22 illegitimate births.

Still Births.—During the year under review, there were 18 still births, 14 male and 4 female; an increase of 1 over the 1943 figures. There were no illegitimate still births.

Deaths.—The number of deaths attributed to this district in 1944 was 312—179 male and 133 female, a decrease of 42 compared with the 1943 figure. (For rates see table below.)

RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Year	England & Wales	126 C.B.s & Great Towns Including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Wortley R.D.
------	-----------------	--	--	--------------------	--------------

LIVE BIRTHS.

1944	17.6	20.3	20.9	15.0	20.5
1943	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	18.8
1942	15.8	17.3	18.4	14.0	16.4
1941	14.2	14.7	16.4	8.9	14.5
1940	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7	16.8

STILL BIRTHS.

1944	0.50	0.64	0.61	0.42	0.61
1943	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.59
1942	0.54	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.72
1941	0.51	0.58	0.60	0.33	0.75
1940	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44	0.73

DEATHS (CRUDE DEATH RATE).

1944	11.6	13.7	12.4	15.7	10.7
1943	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	12.3
1942	11.6	13.3	12.1	13.0	9.8
1941	12.9	14.9	13.0	16.3	10.9
1940	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8	12.18

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1941	1942	1943	1944
CANCER of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	2	1	—	2
Uterus	2	5	4	6
Stomach and/or Duodenum	8	7	9	12
Breast	8	6	6	4
Other Sites	20	30	31	29
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.				
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	38	40	43	45
Heart Disease	77	66	76	77
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	11	5	18
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.				
Bronchitis	21	17	30	23
Pneumonia	13	16	24	14
Other Respiratory Diseases	7	5	5	9
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.				
Ulcer of Stomach and/or Duodenum	3	1	5	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	1	2
Appendicitis	—	1	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	7	1	6	5
GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM.				
Nephritis	7	9	10	10
Puerperal and/or Post Abortion Sepsis	—	—	—	1
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1	—
INFANTS.				
Premature Birth	1	6	8	6
Congenital Malformation and/or Birth Injuries and/or Infant Diseases	5	4	3	4
VIOLENCE.				
Suicide	1	2	1	3
Road Traffic Accidents	5	3	2	3
Other Violent Causes	11	8	8	9
DIABETES.	4	1	4	1
EPIDEMIC DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)	9	7	28	8

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

Age Group.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Under 1 year ..	10 ..	24 ..	9 ..	20 ..	26 ..	21
1 — 2 years ..	4 ..	3 ..	6 ..	— ..	6 ..	2
2 — 5 years ..	5 ..	6 ..	6 ..	4 ..	4 ..	3
5 — 15 years ..	3 ..	5 ..	— ..	6 ..	11 ..	2
15 — 25 years ..	11 ..	7 ..	8 ..	4 ..	10 ..	8
25 — 45 years ..	22 ..	30 ..	31 ..	20 ..	52 ..	22
45 — 65 years ..	81 ..	82 ..	96 ..	77 ..	75 ..	85
65 years and over	151 ..	192 ..	142 ..	154 ..	170 ..	169
Totals	287 ..	349 ..	298 ..	285 ..	354 ..	312

Infant Mortality.—Twenty-one deaths, 12 male and 9 female, occurred during the year under review. This rate of 35 per 1,000 live births is less than that for 1943, but considerably higher than in 1941 and 1942. The rate for England and Wales for 1944 was 46 per 1,000 live births.

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—

LIVE BIRTHS.

	England & Wales	126 C.B.s & Great Towns Including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Wortley R.D.
Deaths Under 1 Year of Age.					
1944 ..	46 ..	52 ..	44 ..	61 ..	35
1943 ..	49 ..	58 ..	46 ..	58 ..	48
1942 ..	49 ..	59 ..	46 ..	60 ..	41

1941	..	59	..	71	..	56	..	68	..	19
1940	..	55	..	61	..	54	..	50	..	49

From the following table it will be seen that the principal cause of death was premature birth.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
	Prematurity	—	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Congenital and Wasting Diseases	—	3	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia and Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pink Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastro Intestinal Diseases	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	3
Violence	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Total	—	11	—	—	11	1	2	4	3	21
1943	7	2	—	—	9	2	3	5	7	26
1942	9	—	—	1	10	4	4	2	—	20
1941	4	1	—	1	6	2	—	1	—	9
1940	7	1	2	2	12	6	2	3	1	24
1939	8	—	—	—	8	—	1	1	—	10
1938	6	1	3	1	11	2	1	1	1	16

AREAS OF RESIDENCE.

PARISH.	DISTRICT.	1941	1942	1943	1944
BRADFIELD	Bradfield	—	1	—	1
	Loxley	—	1	—	1
	Wharncliffe Side	—	—	—	1
	Stannington	1	1	5	1
	Worrall	1	—	2	1
	Bolsterstone	—	—	—	—
	Oughtibridge	—	1	1	—
	Holdsworth	—	—	—	1
ECCLESFIELD	Chapelton	—	6	5	9
	High Green	—	2	6	2
	Ecclesfield	3	6	1	3
	Grenoside	1	—	2	—
TANKERSLEY	Tankersley	3	2	2	—
WORTLEY	Wortley	—	—	2	1

Maternal Mortality.—There was one maternal death attributed to this district during 1944.

Epidemic Diseases. — The following table shows the principal causes of death in the Epidemic Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) group:—

DISEASE.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	—	5	3	8	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	2	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	2	1	3	—
Influenza	12	2	2	11	6
Dysentery	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1

Inquests were held in 25 instances and in 9 instances the cause of death was certified by the Coroner after Post Mortem examination without inquest.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.—During the year, a total of 431 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified. Set out below are tables which are self-explanatory:—

Disease.	Total Cases			Cases admitted to our Isolation			Total Deaths.		
	Notified.			Hospital.					
	1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	122	197	62	108	172	61	—	—	—
Diphtheria	86	70	36	104	84	46*	3	8	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (Notifiable)	46	44	21	1	—	1	16	24	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	7	8	3	6	9	4	1	3	—
Dysentery	97	1	192	—	—	3	1	1	—
Erysipelas	8	9	6	—	2	2	—	—	—
Measles	184	534	45	3	6	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough	41	69	57	3	—	—	—	3	—
Malaria (believed to be contracted abroad)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Mumps	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Anterio Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever c Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—

* Of this number, 8 were admitted from Stocksbridge Urban District.

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Pneumonia.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.		Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.		Dysentery.		Measles.		Erysipelas.		Whooping Cough.		Malaria.		Scarlet Fever ^e Diphtheria.		
	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D	H	D
Under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5	14	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	26	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	9	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	3	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-35	3	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 yrs.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	62	—	—	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Sub)	62	—	—	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	62	—	—	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

D—Wortley Rural District. H—Wharnciffe Emergency Hospital and South Yorkshire Mental Hospital.

DISTRICT.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Dysentery.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Malaria.	Scarlet Fever c Diphtheria.
Ecclesfield Parish:												
Ecclesfield	9	2	11	1	—	—	—	2	3	14	—	—
Chapelton	7	14	2	4	—	—	21	—	1	2	—	—
High Green	11	10	—	—	—	3	164	1	—	4	—	—
Thorpe Hesley	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Grenoside	2	1	3	1	—	—	3	32	1	5	1	—
Tankersley Parish:												
Tankersley	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	9	—	—
Birdwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hoyland Common	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wortley Parish:												
Wortley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—
Howbrook	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Bromley	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bradfield Parish												
Bradfield	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Strines Dam	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worrall	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Oughtibridge	9	3	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	1	—	—
Dungworth	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stannington	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Loxley	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wharncliffe Side	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S.Y.M. Hospital	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Midhopestones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	62	36	21	6	1	3	192	45	6	57	1	1

Scarlet Fever.—There was a marked decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever during the year—62 cases compared with 197 in 1943. In my report for 1943 I mentioned that the crest of the wave of incidence of Scarlet Fever had been reached or nearly reached, and the figures for 1944 show that the peak had, in fact, appeared towards the end of 1943. Towards the end of 1943, a rapid decline in the number of cases was observed. It is interesting to note, however, that the type of Scarlet Fever had also changed as the number of cases decreased. It was noticed that the disease was a less mild type than had previously been seen. Towards the end of 1944, the cases admitted were "rather ill."

The areas principally affected were High Green, Ecclesfield, Oughtibridge and Chapelton.

During the year there was a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever in one part of the district bordering the City of Sheffield, which outbreak affected a number of residents in the City of Sheffield. Investigation proved that a milk supply had been infected, and my report thereon was submitted to you on the 31st July, 1944.

Diphtheria.—During 1944 there was a decline in the number of cases of Diphtheria. A total of 38 cases were notified, either by official notification (36) or by admission to hospital for diagnosis (3). Of this gross total of 38, 18 proved negative on bacteriological and clinical examination, making a net total of 20 positive cases. One of the positive cases was notified from the West Riding Mental Hospital, which leaves 19 cases notified from the district. This is the lowest number of cases notified since 1937 (18), the next lowest being in 1931 (13). As has been seen in late years, we once again see an increase in the number of cases in the "over 15" age groups—age group "15-20"—4; "20-35"—4; "35-45"—1. Of the positive cases notified, 5 were stated to have been

immunised. After careful investigation, proof of immunisation was obtained in 3 of these cases only. There were 2 deaths—one child aged 4 years and one aged 12 years. Both children had not been immunised. The areas principally affected were Chapelton and High Green.

Immunisation.—During 1944 the publicity campaign for Immunisation against Diphtheria was maintained. Every opportunity was taken to emphasise the advantages of Immunisation as a protection against the effects of the dreadful disease of Diphtheria, and in Clinics, Schools, and in the Isolation Hospital, the propaganda work was carried out extensively. There was a falling off in the number of children immunised in 1944, and this may be explained by the fact that such a large number were immunised in 1943. I visited the Schools and had all children immunised there whose parents or guardians expressed the wish for it to be done. I learned that the Medical Officers at the various Clinics had the same experience as I had in that the number of children to be immunised had declined. It is interesting to note that in the Summary Report of the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st March, 1944, it is stated that "in the two years 1942/43 the annual rate of incidence of Diphtheria amongst immunised children, based on the estimated time of exposure to risk, was rather more than a quarter of that amongst the non-immunised, whilst the mortality ratio was about one to twenty-three. It is estimated that approximately five out of six of the children notified as suffering from Diphtheria during the same period, and about twenty-nine out of thirty of those who died from it, were children who had not been given the protection of Immunisation. It is of interest also to note, even though no causal connection can be positively demonstrated, that a decline in the number of deaths from Diphtheria, from 2,480 in 1940 and 2,641 in 1941 to 1,827 in 1942 and 1,370 in 1943, has coincided with an increasing proportion of children protected by Immunisation. It is estimated that about 56% of the population under 15 years of age were immunised."

During 1944, 266 children were immunised against Diphtheria in this district. Of these, 218 were under the age of 5. It is encouraging to note the increasing number of children under the age of 5 who are being immunised. This is the age at which Diphtheria, if it attacks an "under-5-year" old, is a deadly disease, and it is this age group that we wish particularly to have full protection. In the Wortley R.D. area, I estimate that approximately 76% of the "under 5" group, and 97% of the "over 5" group have now received protection by Immunisation, and I consider this a very satisfactory standard. It will never be possible to get 100%: parents or guardians in some cases still refuse to allow their children to be immunised.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—There were 6 cases notified during the year—4 cases occurred in Hospital amongst residents of the Wortley R.D. and 2 cases occurred in the patients' homes and were later admitted to Hospital.

There was 1 death.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—There was one case satisfactorily treated in Hospital.

Measles.—During 1944 there were 45 cases of Measles notified as compared with 534 in 1943. Towards the end of 1943 there was a gradual falling off in numbers, and during the first three quarters of 1944, only 12 cases were notified. Towards the end of 1944, however, there was a sharp increase in the incidence, and 33 cases were notified during the last quarter. There was evidence that another small wave of epidemic was re-appearing. The age group chiefly affected was the "5-10" age group.

The area principally affected was Grenoside—32 cases. During the epidemic of 1943, Grenoside was the one district which seemed to escape. The susceptibles in this area, however, were attacked during 1944.

There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.—There were 57 cases of Whooping Cough notified in 1944 as compared with 69 in 1943. In 1942, there were 41 cases. One cannot give an opinion as to the scourge, or distribution of, the epidemic

as cases were reported from all parts of the district. Wortley Parish and the Parish of Ecclesfield seemed to be the districts chiefly affected. The highest incidence occurred during the third quarter, and by the end of the year the incidence of Whooping Cough had practically disappeared, 3 cases only being notified in the fourth quarter.

There were no deaths.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.—During the year three notifications of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis were received, 2 of which were positive cases. Of those two cases one was "non-civilian" and not admitted to our Isolation Hospital. Four cases were admitted to our Isolation Hospital for investigation, either suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Only one case, the one civilian case notified officially, proved positive. The others were negative. There was, therefore, only one positive civilian case of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis in the district in 1944. The patient made a complete recovery.

Pneumonia.—Nineteen cases of Pneumonia—10 cases of Primary Pneumonia and 9 cases of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia—were notified during 1944.

Erysipelas.—Six cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

Dysentery.—During the year 1944, unofficial reports were received that minor outbreaks of an illness, similar in symptoms to Dysentery, was prevalent in certain parts of the district. The first case officially notified was during the second quarter of the year. No cases were notified in the third quarter, but in the last quarter of 1944, 191 cases were reported. The majority of those cases reported were the result of a sharp outbreak in High Green. A special report, by me, of an investigation made of this outbreak, was submitted to you in November, 1944. Although the outbreak was controlled, odd cases still cropped up until the end of the year, which was to be expected in view of the possibility of some of the affected people remaining carriers after they had apparently recovered from the disease.

The affected persons were attacked with the symptoms rather suddenly and many were rather ill for a day or two, but soon recovered. Some cases were really very ill, but no one succumbed to the disease.

Below, I set out a table showing notification rate per 1,000 civilian population, showing how the rates in this district compare with other areas throughout England and Wales.

	England & Wales	126 C.B.s & Great Towns Including London	148 Smaller Towns Resi- dent Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Wortley R.D.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—					
Typhoid					
Fever ..	0.01 ..	0.01 ..	0.01 ..	0.01 ..	0.00
Paratyphoid					
Fever ..	0.01 ..	0.00 ..	0.01 ..	0.01 ..	0.00
Cerebro-spinal					
Fever ..	0.05 ..	0.06 ..	0.04 ..	0.06 ..	0.07
Scarlet Fever	2.40 ..	2.41 ..	2.67 ..	1.57 ..	2.10
Whooping					
Cough ..	2.49 ..	2.49 ..	2.29 ..	2.90 ..	1.90
Diphtheria ..	0.58 ..	0.67 ..	0.69 ..	0.31 ..	0.72
Erysipelas ..	0.29 ..	0.32 ..	0.29 ..	0.37 ..	0.21
Smallpox ..	0.00 ..	0.00 ..	0.00 ..	0.00 ..	0.00
Measles	4.16 ..	4.51 ..	3.94 ..	2.98 ..	1.15
Pneumonia ..	0.97 ..	1.13 ..	0.82 ..	0.93 ..	0.64

Tuberculosis.—During 1944, 36 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified. Of these cases 25 were cases resident in the district and 11 were cases notified from the larger Hospitals or Institutions in the District (including non-civilians) not normally resident in Wortley R.D.

This shows a decrease of 3 "District" cases compared with 1943 figures. In 1943 only District cases were recorded.

There were in 1944, 23 Pulmonary cases and 2 Non-Pulmonary cases in the District, while all the Hospital cases were Pulmonary.

The tables below show age, sex and residential distribution of cases notified, other than Hospital cases and non-civilians.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ..	1	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
25 to 35 years ..	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years ..	1	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 to 55 years ..	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
	10	13	1	1	5	2	—	—

AREA OF DISTRIBUTION OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F
Parish of Ecclesfield				
Ecclesfield ..	2	3	—	—
High Green ..	2	2	—	—
Chapelton ..	2	1	—	—
Grenoside ..	1	1	—	—
Parish of Tankersley	—	1	—	—
Parish of Bradfield				
Bradfield ..	—	1	—	—
Oughtibridge ..	2	1	—	—
Stannington ..	—	1	1	—
Worrall ..	1	—	—	—
Midhoptstones ..	—	1	—	1
Dungworth ..	—	1	—	—

Notifications of Tuberculosis received from Larger Hospitals and Institutions in this District (including Non-civilians)—usual place of residence not in Wortley R.D.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F
0 — 25 years ..	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 years ..	3	—	—	—
35 — 45 years ..	3	—	—	—
45 — 55 years ..	3	—	—	—
55 — 65 years ..	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—

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During the year 11 cases were admitted to Sanatoria for treatment. There was one death from Tuberculosis—such case having not been previously notified.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

INFESTATIONS.

Scabies.—During the year 1944, no reports were received in this Department, that Scabies was very prevalent in the district; in fact there was no direct evidence to indicate that Scabies was prevalent at all. The County Medical Officer's scheme, whereby all cases coming to the notice of any of his district staff (Assistant Medical Officers or Health Visitors, etc) are notified to the district Medical Officer of Health, is one of the most valuable helps we have in the estimation of the prevalence of this infestation. I find that district Medical Officers

at their respective Clinics, and Health Visitors in the course of their duties, do meet odd cases, and they are always reported to me. I also have an opportunity to estimate the prevalence of this infestation amongst children, not only in my capacity as Medical Superintendent at the Isolation Hospital, but in my capacity as School Medical Inspector in the Wortley district. Twelve cases only were notified during 1944. Each notification received was followed up, and all cases received treatment. To combat this infestation properly, even with the powers invested in us by the Scabies Order, 1941, it is of paramount importance that a Centre for the out-patient treatment of Scabies infestations by trained staff is available. No such place exists in this district, but towards the close of the year, negotiations were in progress with the County Council for the sending of patients in this District to the treatment Centre at Rotherham. The cost of this treatment would be borne by the County Council. I have every hope that the negotiations will prove successful, and that the Clinic at Rotherham will be available for patients in this District. I am also, unofficially, discussing with the Deputy County Medical Officer the possibility of extending the scheme to include the use of the Barnsley and Sheffield treatment Centres respectively. The County Council, of course, have a scheme in being for the in-patient treatment of Scabies. Various County Institutions are available for the reception of patients suffering from Scabies, whose infestation is such that domiciliary treatment is insufficient for the proper clearing up of the condition. Admission to these Institutions of such infested persons is easily obtained by notifying the County Medical Officer of certain details of the cases concerned. Up till now, I have had no cases from the Wortley district admitted for in-patient treatment.

Venereal Diseases.—This Council is not the authority for dealing with Venereal Disease Services, and in consequence, I have no records or statistics concerning its prevalence during the year.

We have been asked by the County Medical Officer to help with propaganda work in the district, and during the year we have tried to bring this matter to the notice of the public by the distribution of literature, the posting of posters, and by other educational means.

During the autumn of 1944, a series of public meetings were held in the district at Tankersley, Chapeltown, Ecclesfield, Loxley, and Stannington, when the Central Council for Health Education provided lecturers, and displayed films which were very instructive and helpful.

I have found that the subject of Venereal Diseases is a difficult one in which to interest the general public. It was gratifying to find that in some areas, the attendances were so good at these meetings.

I should like here to thank personally, those members of the Public Health Committee, Messrs. Green, Leverington and Chambers, and also the Rev. R. T. West, of Loxley, for their presiding at the meetings in their respective districts. It is hoped that in 1945, a similar series of meetings will be held. It is essential that this great evil be brought to the notice of the general public; a difficult subject to tackle, but it must be done. A virulent infectious disease is prevalent; it must be controlled.

HOSPITALS COMMITTEE, 1944.

- Councillor H. Ibbotson (Chairman).
- „ Mrs. E. Stevenson (Vice-Chairman).
- „ W. J. Leverington, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).
- „ Mrs. E. Robinson.
- „ Mrs. E. Wragg, M.B.E., J.P., C.C.
- „ H. E. Boswell.
- „ F. Chambers, J.P.
- „ J. F. Frost.
- „ W. P. Green.
- „ T. W. Hulley, J.P.
- „ A. Lomas.
- „ D. Mount.
- „ W. H. Marlow.
- „ G. E. Plant.
- „ Col. H. S. Walker.
- „ W. Ward.
- „ T. Whittington.

Staff:

Medical Superintendent .. Medical Officer of Health.
 Matron Mrs. C McCaughey (nee Major),
 S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.
 Staff Nurse Miss D. Hill, R.F.N.
 (Commenced duties 15/6/44).

Assistant Nurses:

Category "C" Miss J. Nicholls.
 " "D" Miss B. Boswell.

7 Assistant Nurses Category "E".

There are kitchen and domestic staff, 2 Gardeners and Porters.

During the year under review a total of 119 cases was admitted to hospital, as follows:—

Scarlet Fever (or suspected)	61
Diphtheria (or suspected)	46
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis (or suspected)	4
Dysentery	3
Erysipelas	2
Pneumonia	1
Scabies	1
Diphtheria c Scarlet Fever	1

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There were 2 deaths—both cases of Diphtheria. All the other cases recovered. No cases were admitted to Hallwood during 1944.

Laboratory Facilities.—All necessary facilities are available at the County Laboratory, Wakefield, and any urgent diagnostic examinations have been carried out at the Laboratory of the Sheffield University. The cost of the latter examination is met by this Council.

Besides the Laboratory Service at Wakefield there is an emergency Laboratory Service in various parts of the country, which can be utilised in case of national emergency.

Bacteriological Examinations were made by the County Laboratory on 196 specimens during 1944. They were as follows:—

Blood Films	1
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	9
Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	42
Urine and Faeces for Typhoid, etc.	79
Bio-chemical Specimens	3
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	37
Miscellaneous Specimens	15
Urines for Friedman Test	4
Milks for Bacteriological Examination	6

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Ambulance Facilities.—This Council possesses two motor ambulances for use at the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

In the event of their ambulance being out of commission, this Council have an arrangement with Sheffield Corporation for the use of their fleet attached to Lodge Moor Isolation Hospital at a charge of 2s. 6d. per mile for the mileage covered out and home.

Ambulance facilities for cases of sickness are provided by the Sheffield Central Ambulance Services for all contributors to the 1d. in the £ scheme of the Sheffield Joint Hospitals and for all necessitous poor and old age pensioners. The Sheffield Central Ambulance Services are available for non-contributors in the district for any case of sickness as the result of the District Council making an annual contribution to the Service. All street and road accidents are dealt with by the Police.

Clinics.—In the area there are nine Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. They are at Chapeltown, Ecclesfield, Grenoside, High Green, Tankersley, Oughtibridge, Stannington, Loxley and Worrall. The Clinic at Stocksbridge is available for those resident in that part of the parish of Bradfield nearest to Stocksbridge.

Hallamshire Maternity Home.—The County Council have a Maternity Home at Chapeltown, which was opened in 1940. This most

modern and up-to-date hospital, magnificently equipped, has 22 beds for the reception of cases from the administrative County. Arrangements can be made for the admission of private cases.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held at Chapeltown, High Green and Ecclesfield.

Venereal Disease Clinics.—There are 5 Special Treatment Centres for Venereal Disease, particulars of which are given below

Address.	Days and Hours of Attendance.	
	Men	Women and Children
Barnsley (Queen's Road)	Mon., 6—8 p.m. Thurs., 6—8-30 p.m.	Mon., 2-30—4-30 p.m. Thurs., 2-30—6 p.m.
Rotherham (No. 12, Frederick St.)	Tues., 9-30 a.m.— 12-30 p.m., and 5-30—8 p.m. Fri., 9-30 a.m.— 12-30 p.m.	Tuesday, 2—5 p.m. Thurs., 2—5 p.m. Fri. 5-30—8 p.m. Sat., 9-30 a.m.— 12-30 p.m.
Sheffield (Jessop Hosp. for Women)	— — —	Tues., 4—6 p.m. Thurs., 4—6 p.m. Sat., 11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
Royal Hospital	Tuesday, 6 p.m. Thurs., 6 p.m.	Thurs., 11 a.m. Fri., 6 p.m.
Royal Infirmary	Tues., 5—7 p.m. Wed., 5—8 p.m. Fri., 6—8 p.m.	Tues., 2—4 p.m. — —

Tuberculosis.—The greater part of the District is served by the Dispensary at Wadsley Bridge. For those patients in that part of Bradfield nearest to Stocksbridge, the dispensary there is available, while the Barnsley Dispensary is available for patients from the Tankersley district.

Mortuary.—The public mortuary and post-mortem room at Grenoside belonging to the District Council is available for the whole area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply.—The rainfall for the year, recorded at the Sewage Works, Ecclesfield (172 feet above Ordnance datum) was 32.18 inches. This figure is considerably higher than that for 1943 (22.88 inches) and is the highest since 1939 (33.44 inches). It is also above the average for the past eighteen years which is 29.33 inches. The driest month was March (0.46 inches), the wettest was November (5.6 inches).

8,328 of the 8,800 houses in the district obtain their water supply from one or other of the following undertakings:—

- 1.—Sheffield Corporation Waterworks;
- 2.—Barnsley Corporation Waterworks.
- 3.—Wortley Estate.
- 4.—Dearne Valley Water Board.
- 5.—Wortley Council, Hallbroom and Bradfield supplies.
- 6.—Whitley Private supply.

Of the 8,328 houses with a main water supply, only 12 obtain their water from standpipes; the remainder have water laid on the sink.

The Sheffield, Barnsley and Wortley supplies are from impounding reservoirs. The water from each undertaking is soft and acid in character. Precautions are taken at the waterworks to neutralise its plumbo solvent tendencies, and chlorination is also carried out. The

Dearne Valley supply is from a deep well, and is harder than the above supplies. The Hallbroom supply is from moorland springs, which are supplemented by water from a deep well, as, and when required. The characteristics of the water vary according to the quantity of bore hole water used. The Bradfield tank is supplied by springs from a protected gathering ground. The Whitley Private Supply is also obtained from impounded spring water. All these water supplies are adequate and satisfactory, both chemically and bacteriologically, for drinking purposes.

The remaining 472 isolated farms and houses obtain their water supplies from private wells and springs. A number of these supplies are piped into the houses. Where pollution is likely to occur, occupiers of the houses concerned have received instructions to boil the water before consumption. The largest group of houses without a main supply does not exceed eleven. It has, so far, been an uneconomical proposition to connect these isolated houses to a main supply, and no scheme is in preparation for this purpose, under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

Erection of the pump house over the new borehole, and the installing of the pumping apparatus at Hallbroom had not been commenced at the year end, but this work is now in progress. The water from this borehole is satisfactory as regards both quality and quantity.

During the year, eight samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. One of these was unsatisfactory, and the persons using this supply were advised to boil the water before using it for drinking purposes.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Of the 8,800 houses in the district, 7,539, or approximately 86% are connected to a public sewer. The remaining 1,261 are served by private arrangements such as cesspools, septic tanks with filters, and land drainage. Except in the case of 116 outlying and scattered houses (1.3% of the total houses in the district), all premises, whether connected to a sewer or not, are publicly scavenged.

The largest groups of houses not connected to a sewer, are at Bradfield (50 houses), Dungworth (45 houses) and Howbrook (25 houses). No scheme is, as yet, in preparation, for the laying of public sewers in these areas.

The bulk of the sewage from the sewered parts of the district is dealt with by sedimentation tanks and percolating filters at the Council's works at Ecclesfield, Tankersley, Wharncliffe Side, and Whitley. The sewage from Stannington, Oughtibridge, and Worrall, is dealt with by the Sheffield Corporation, and the part of Thorpe Hesley in this district is connected to the Rotherham Corporation sewerage system.

Although no official complaint has been received by the Council from the West Riding Rivers Board, the Chief Inspector has informed this Council's Engineer and Surveyor, that the effluents from the works at Ecclesfield are not up to standard, and seem to indicate that the works are overloaded. These works deal with the sewage from Chapeltown, High Green, Grenoside, and Ecclesfield. The alternative solutions to this problem are now under consideration.

During the year, 2 privies were replaced by 1 W.C., and 1 ashpit by 2 ashes bins. Of the 1,049 privies and 65 pails remaining in the district at the year end, 101 are convertible into W.C.s in their present position; 106 are convertible if new buildings are erected nearer the sewer, and the remaining 907 have no sewer and/or water supply available.

In view of the shortage of labour and materials, and the substantial rise in cost of conversions, only urgent cases are being dealt with at present.

The following table gives details of the number of houses, water closets, privies, etc., in the district at the year end:—

Locality.	Water			Pail Closets.	Ash Pits.	Ash Bins.
	Houses.	Closets.	Privies.			
Ecclesfield	1512	1246	58	1	140	1247
Chapelton & High Green	2743	2322	103	—	198	2283
Grenoside	761	539	126	—	156	510
Thorpe	160	69	43	—	42	44
Total, Ecclesfield Parish	5176	4176	330	1	536	4084
Wadsley	43	26	2	—	6	40
Worrall	279	216	32	—	37	210
Oughtibridge	822	656	49	2	114	573
Wharncliffe Side	224	169	37	—	58	141
Loxley	308	192	88	—	93	178
Stannington	900	594	171	7	173	584
Bradfield	104	10	66	4	59	10
Hollow Meadows	41	24	13	4	16	10
Midhope	44	3	22	14	26	1
Rest of Bradfield	116	23	68	29	82	—
Total, Bradfield Parish	2881	1913	548	60	664	1747
Tankersley Parish	559	491	74	4	98	420
Wortley Parish	184	108	97	—	83	51
Grand Totals	8800	6688	1049	65	1381	6302

Refuse Collection and Disposal.—The whole of the district, with the exception of the 116 outlying farms and cottages previously referred to, is publicly scavenged by direct labour, mechanical transport being utilised throughout.

The staff employed consists of 18 loaders, 5 drivers and 3 tip controllers; one of the latter being employed part time only.

Six vehicles are used, one of which is hired, complete with driver, to scavenge the parishes of Tankersley and Wortley. Consideration will have to be given during the next year to the provision of new vehicles, to replace three which have now reached the limits of their estimated reliable and economical service. Details of the Council's vehicles are set out hereunder. Those requiring replacement are marked *.

Type of Lorry	Year of Manufacture	District Scavenged
*Fordson 2 Tonner	1932	Chapelton and High Green
*Fordson 2 Tonner	1937	Ecclesfield, Grenoside and Thorpe
*Fordson 2 Tonner	1937	Stannington and Loxley (part)
Fordson 1½ Tonner	1937	Chapelton and High Green
Dennis 4-5 Tonner	1943	Westnall Ward, Bradfield, Loxley (part) and Midhope

The refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping on tips at Ecclesfield, Westwood, Tankersley, Wortley and Worrall. Two of these tips (Westwood and Worrall) are on land owned by the Council; the remainder being leased for the purpose. The Cowley Lane tip, Chapelton, has been brought into use again. This tip is leased from Messrs. Newton Chambers. It had been used previously, but difficulties in the disposal of ground water caused its temporary abandonment. It is now being used to relieve the Ecclesfield tip, which is almost filled.

The tips are controlled by specially engaged staff, and no complaints of nuisance or rat infestation arising from them have been received.

The estimated weight of refuse collected, removed, and disposed of in 1944 was 10,850 tons, at a cost of £8,293, 3s. 9d., representing an

approximate weight of 1.23 tons and an approximate cost of 18s. 10d. per household per annum.

Compared with 1943, the total cost has increased by £1,664, but the bulk of this increase is accounted for by the purchase of a new lorry (£1,036) and increases in war bonus, amounting to £543.

Very few complaints have been received from householders regarding refuse removal, and in view of the extra work incurred, principally by the salvage effort, the service can be considered to have been very satisfactorily maintained.

Salvage of Waste.—A total weight of 232 tons of waste material, valued at £959, was salvaged by the Council during the year, and an additional 80 tons of paper by private enterprise.

These figures, which show a further reduction compared with those for 1943, represent a weight of 59 lbs., and a value of 2s. 2d. per household per annum.

Salvaged articles included paper (3 grades), ferrous and non-ferrous metals, rags, bones, bottles, jars, rubber and twine. The collection of ferrous metal, and rubber, was discontinued during the year.

No difficulty was experienced in disposing of the articles salvaged. The following table compares the salvage effort of 1944 with that of 1943, so far as the weight and value of the salvaged articles are concerned.

Commodity.	Salvage Statistics—1944.						Salvage Statistics—1943.					
	Weight.			Value.			Weight.			Value.		
	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Paper (Council)	111	12	3	714	2	11	164	7	1	1059	5	10
Paper (Priv. Coll.) (a)	1	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b)	78	15	0	—	—	—	116	0	0	—	—	—
Scrap (Ferrous)	12	7	4	33	15	0	20	7	2	43	15	4
Scrap (Non-Ferrous)	—	9	0½	11	12	5	—	4	1½	4	16	2
Scrap (Unbaled Tins)	2	8	0	—	—	—	50	3	1	—	—	—
Bones	10	12	0½	131	5	6	11	10	0½	54	9	9
Rags	10	19	3½	54	11	4½	13	18	3	164	4	8½
Bottles and Jars	—	14	2	4	3	7	6	18	0	39	15	7
Rubber	3	13	1	9	3	2	6	0	0	15	0	0
Twine	—	1	0	5	0	—	2	1	—	11	3	—
Totals	232	13	2	£958	18	11½	389	11	1½	£1381	18	1½

There was no special salvage drive held in the district during the year. The summary of salvage returns made by Yorkshire local authorities for the year ended 31st October, 1943, was received from the Honorary District Adviser. The following extracts from this, and previous summaries, provide a reasonably accurate comparison between the salvage effort of this authority, and the average effort of all the rural districts in the County.

Value of Salvage in £'s per 1,000 population.

Authority.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Totals.	Annual Avge. over whole period.
Wortley R.D.	17.3	29.9	47.7	46.4	38.5	179.8	35.9
Average of all R.D.'s in Yorks.	11.3	23.6	49.4	41.1	33.2	158.6	31.7

Although the need for some salvaged articles is not now so acute, the salvage of waste paper, bones, textiles, and kitchen waste is as important as ever it has been, and must continue to be so for some time yet.

Nuisances.—During the year, 1,404 visits were made for the detection and abatement of nuisances, and the supervision of work in progress. The number of nuisances dealt with, including 18 outstanding from last year, was 205, and of these, 179 were abated. 187 informal notices and 3 Statutory Notices were served during the year, of which 179 and 2 respectively were complied with.

The 187 nuisances reported during the year comprised:—
 72 choked and defective drains.
 49 choked and defective water closets.
 28 defective roofs, spouting, etc.
 5 defective floors.
 9 defective ashbins.
 12 defective privies.
 4 accumulations.
 8 nuisances arising from the keeping of animals.
 and other nuisances.

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VERMINOUS HOUSES.

During the year, 212 visits were made to 115 houses in the district for the purpose of detecting and dealing with bed bug and cockroach infestations. Zaldecide and sulphur compounds have again been used, either separately or in combination, according to the nature of the infestation.

Following the Council's resolution on the subject, tenants of houses infested with cockroaches have been advised to purchase sodium fluoride, and have been given instructions as to its most effective application. No insecticide has been issued from this Department.

In my opinion, this arrangement is not a satisfactory solution to the problem, and it is hoped that Pyrethrum, or the new insecticide powders referred to later on in the report, will soon become available for use in dwelling houses.

Ward.	No of. Visits.	Houses Inspected.	Houses found to be Verminous		TREATMENT.		
			Bugs.	Cock-roaches.	Houses Sprayed.	Houses Stoved.	Insec-ticides left.
Chapelstown ..	120	53*	44*	4	1	38	5
High Green ..	31	21	10	5	1	1	8
Ecclesfield ..	29	21	4	—	1	—	3
Westnall ..	24	15	6	3	—	—	6
Loxley ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Stannington ..	6	3	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	212	115	65	12	3	39	22

* Includes 36 cubicles infested, or suspected to be infested, with bed bugs at the Bracken Hill Hostel, Chapelstown.

It is highly probable that two synthetic insecticide powders will be available for post-war attacks on the bed bug and cockroach. I refer to Dichlor-Diphenyl-Trichlorethane (usually known as D.D.T) and "Gammexane," both of which are likely to be valuable additions to the list of existing insecticides. "Gammexane" is already being manufactured for distribution, in limited quantities, to local authorities, but D.D.T. is not likely to be available until the war with Japan ends. These synthetic powders are very lethal to all household insect pests. They act by contact, and when used in powder form are not dangerous to humans or animals, unless consumed in large quantities. Bugs and cockroaches are more resistant to the toxins than flies, and therefore take longer to die, but death is certain when they have been in contact with the powder. The most important feature of these powders, however, is that they retain their toxicity over a period of months, and are not affected adversely when becoming damp.

Although these synthetic compounds are very efficient, they are not likely to replace fumigation with Hydrocyanic gas, where large scale bed bug disinfestations have to be dealt with, but they should be invaluable for small scale bed bug infestations, and for dealing with cockroaches. The latter problem has been particularly difficult in the past because the best insecticide powder for the purpose was Pyrethrum, and this ceased to be available to local authorities in the early stages of the war.

Pyrethrum is a natural organic powder, and is, therefore, liable to variation in its toxicity. It also deteriorates when exposed to air and damp. These facts made it imperative when using Pyrethrum, either to make short periodical visits to the infested properties, or to leave the duty of putting down the powder to the tenant, which was usually an unsatisfactory arrangement. With the new synthetic powders, however, it is hoped that not more than two applications per annum will be necessary, in which case the work could be carried out by the Health Department staff.

In common with most other boons to society, D.D.T. and "Gammexane" dust have their disadvantages. These insecticides, which, in powder form are harmless if used with reasonable care, may become dangerous when used as liquids. They are not soluble in water, but the danger appears to be, that when dissolved in other solvents, unless precautions are taken, the solution may penetrate the skin or be inhaled, with consequent detrimental effects to health. "Gammexane" also has a defined earthy smell. These disadvantages, however, are the subject of scientific research, and will probably be overcome by the time the insecticides are available for general use.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919—Infestation Order, 1943.—270 visits have been made during the year to premises infested, or suspected to be infested, with rats and/or mice. Principal attention has been focussed on the infestations at the sewage works at Ecclesfield and Tankersley, and the salvage hut at Mortomley. In the case of the sewage works, experience has shown that treatment, at six monthly intervals, is sufficient to keep these places clear, or almost clear, of rats. Difficulty has been experienced, however, in clearing the infestation at Mortomley salvage hut. The rats are attracted to this store, principally by the waste paper which has been used for wrapping fats, and to which some fat still adheres. This paper is inadvertently baled, along with the other types of paper. The rats gnaw through the twine, which holds the bales together, in order to get at the greasy paper inside, thereby causing an appreciable amount of extra work in re-baling. Treatment here is complicated by the fact that the rats have gained access to the drainage system, and the sewer, due to damage to sanitary fittings, since the huts ceased to be used as dwellings. No reports of rat infestation in the refuse tips have been received.

A trial baiting of the Tankersley sewers was also carried out during the year. Pre-baits were placed on the benchings of 14 selected manholes, but none of the baits was taken after seven days, which appears to indicate that this sewerage system is not infested with rats. It is anticipated that trial baitings in the remaining sewer parts of the district will be carried out during next year. The Ministry of Food is prepared to accept a 10% baiting of manholes as an indication as to whether or not sewers are infested. Where such tests are carried out, and bait is taken, treatment of all the manholes is required.

The principal method of attacking rats was the use of poisoned baits. These were prepared and laid strictly according to the recommendations of the Ministry of Food, and speaking generally, results were very satisfactory. Gassing was carried out as an alternative, where conditions were suitable.

The problem of eradicating mice is much more difficult, particularly where alternative foods are readily available; e.g., in shops, and store rooms. Mice are not consistent in their feeding habits, and it is quite usual for them to take unpoisoned baits on one or two occasions, and then to ignore them in preference for other foods. I am convinced that the cat remains the most effective mouse destroyer for domestic use, and recommend blitz trapping as an alternative. Large infestations in food stores require special consideration.

Following the resolution of the Council on the subject, a charge was made for treatment of infestation on private premises. The usual charge of a dwelling house is 2s. 6d.

The Planning and Advisory Committee for "Workable Area 21," which includes the Wortley Rural District, held its first meeting on June 27th. Two further meetings were held during the year. These meetings provided useful opportunities for discussing the various problems arising from the application of the Infestation Order, 1943.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.—During the year, 778 inspections of cowsheds and dairies were made in the district. 40 Notices were served on cow-keepers to cleanse and lime wash the premises, and all complied with the terms of their respective notices.

The following are details of the classification of premises and purveyors in the district:—

Registered Cow-keepers	229
Producer Wholesalers	46
Producer Retailers	183
Retailers only	27

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938, one licence is in force for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and 15 for Accredited Milk. Three supplementary licences to sell pasteurised milk were issued by the District Council. A plant for bottling pasteurised milk is operating in the district.

During the year, 46 samples were taken by the West Riding County Council Sampling Officer. 21 of these samples were from school milk supplies, 10 being unsatisfactory. Of the remaining 25 a further 7 were unsatisfactory. Shortage of labour is the predominant explanation of the cause of the unsatisfactory samples.

There were two small outbreaks of milk-borne infectious disease during the year. One of these was at Ecclesfield, where an outbreak of Scarlet Fever was traced to a milk supply. The other was an outbreak of Dysentery (sonné) at High Green, which was also found to have been disseminated by milk. Both these outbreaks have already been the subject of separate detailed reports.

Meat and Other Foods.—The only slaughtering in the district is for the feeder's personal use under Food Circular F.I.G. 107.

The carcasses of 252 pigs were inspected for the purpose during the year.

Requests, for inspection, of small quantities of foods, were received, and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

224 lbs. bacon.
12 tins of cooked meat (35 lbs.).
193 fish cakes.
20 tins of fish including lobster, salmon, pilchards, and sardines.
16 tins of peas or beans.
12 lbs. of jam.
11 tins of milk.
1 tin of soup.
1 tin of fruit, and
6 lbs. of cheese.

HOUSING.

No dwelling houses were erected during the year, either by private enterprise, or by the Council.

The total number of dwelling houses in the district is 8,800. Since 1930, 2,121 have been built by private enterprise, and the total number of Council houses is now 1,334.

The distribution of these houses is as follows:—

	By Council.	By Private Enterprise.
Ecclesfield Parish:		
Ecclesfield	298	413
Chapelton	220	392
High Green	330	312
Grenoside	63	6
Thorpe Hesley	—	—
Bradfield Parish:		
Oughtibridge	154	158
Worrall	18	142
Stannington	84	381
Loxley	50	57
Dungworth	8	4
Middlewood	—	74
Wadsley	—	5
Wharnccliffe Side	—	70
Other parts of the Parish	—	38
Tankersley Parish:	106	58
Wortley Parish:	—	11
Totals	1334	2121

Licences in respect of nine houses were renewed by the Ministry of Health during the year. These houses, eight of which were the suspect of Demolition or Compulsory Purchase Orders, are for the use of families rendered homeless by enemy action. Sufficient repairs have been carried out to make them suitable for temporary shelters.

Shortage of building labour has not seriously interfered with the carrying out of essential works of repair and maintenance to houses in the district. Fortunately, there is a number of small contractors, capable of dealing with this class of work, who have been available during the whole war period.

Post War Housing Programme.—The immediate post-war housing programme in this district, involves the provisional erection of 187 houses in the first post-war year, and a further 213 in the second year. There are sufficient sites, already owned by the Council, to accommodate the first year's programme. Steps are being taken to obtain further sites at Worrall, Wharnccliffe Side, Grenoside, Ecclesfield, Chapelton, and Pilley, either by Compulsory Purchase, or by private sale.

80 temporary bungalows have been allocated to this district and it is proposed that they be erected as follows:—

Ecclesfield	20
Chapelton	20
Loxley	10
Stannington	20
Pilley	10

During the year, an important report on Rural Housing, prepared by a sub-committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse, was circularised to rural authorities.

This report is a comprehensive survey of the whole field of local authority housing in the rural areas of England and Wales. It points out the general inferiority of housing conditions in rural areas, compared with those in urbanised districts, and recommends that this disparity should not be allowed to persevere after the war.

In order to elevate the standard of rural housing, and at the same time establish a uniformity of standard throughout the country, or at least throughout each county, the setting up of Joint County Committees is strongly recommended by the sub-committee.

The second main recommendation in the report, is that in order to obtain a picture of existing housing conditions in each rural area, a survey be carried out as a basis for a long term programme to improve these conditions.

The West Riding County Joint Committee, appointed as a result of the above recommendation, held its first meeting at the year end, and appointed a technical sub-committee, of which I (The Medical Officer of Health) am a member.

The carrying out of the survey, previously mentioned, is of major importance to rural housing authorities, serving, as it will, as a basis for the future long-term programmes.

The information to be derived from the survey will be as follows:—

- 1.—The number of houses unfit for human habitation.
- 2.—The number of houses requiring major repairs to make them fit for habitation.
- 3.—The number of houses requiring minor repair only, or not in need of repair.
- 4.—The number of houses overcrowded.

The Minister of Health requests that this survey be completed within one year of the cessation of hostilities with Germany. As the completion of a detailed survey of all working class houses, within one year, is virtually impossible with the present shortage of technical officers, it has been agreed that a survey of a preliminary nature be carried out within the specified period, details being provided for classifications 1, 2, and 4 above only.

It has been further recommended by the West Riding Technical Sub-Committee, that the overcrowding survey be carried out during the last three months of the allotted year. In view of this recommendation, nothing has yet been done in this district for this purpose.

In my opinion, when the survey for overcrowding statistics is carried out, it should be completed as quickly as possible, and not be extended over a period of more than one week. The alternative methods of dealing with this matter on the above lines, are now under consideration.

The recording of the whole survey will be made on a card system, already in existence. In the case of houses found to be in classifications 1 and 2, an additional inspection sheet, giving greater details, will be used.

There seems to be no reason why the preliminary survey should not be completed within the specified period. The latest details of work already carried out in this district, in connection with the survey, are as follows:—

Locality.	Total Houses.	Classification (See above).				Not Yet Classified.
		1	2	3	4	
Ecclesfield	1,512	74	58	1,380	—	Nil
Chapelton & High Green	2,743	140	258	2,345	—	Nil
Grenoside	761	66	85	610	—	Nil
Thorpe Hesley	160	28	22	110	—	Nil
Total—Ecclesfield Parish	5,176	308	423	4,445		Nil
Wadsley	43	—	—	—		43
Worrall	279	5	—	—		274
Oughtibridge	822	28	32	—		762
Wharnccliffe Side	224	2	29	—		193
Loxley	308	—	—	—		308
Stannington	900	22	—	—		878
Bradfield	104	—	—	—		104
Hollow Meadows	41	—	—	—		41
Midhope	44	—	—	—		44
Rest of Bradfield Parish ...	116	—	—	—		116
Total — Bradfield Parish	2,881	57	61	—		2,763
Tankersley Parish	559	39	—	—		520
Wortley Parish	184	8	—	—		176
Grand Totals	8,800	412	484	4,445		3,459

Overcrowding survey not yet carried out.

Building Byelaws.—During the year, 98 plans were passed. Of this number, 25 were of greenhouses and garden toolsheds, 19 of garages, 11 of extensions or additions to factories, 9 of alterations to existing buildings, 8 of porches, 5 of W.C.s and conveniences, 5 of road and drainage works, 4 of alterations to farm buildings, 2 of dairies, 2 of coal-places, 1 connected with the proposed erection of two detached houses, 1 of a sports pavilion, 1 of a temporary locker room and 1 of a boiler house.

Shops Act, 1930.—Twenty-five inspections were made under the above Act during the year. There are 103 shops on the register and all have suitable sanitary accommodation. No unsatisfactory conditions were found.

Moveable Dwellings.—The number of moveable dwellings in the district is now approximately 140. With very few exceptions, these dwellings are occupied only at week-ends, and during holiday periods. Some of these dwellings are occupied by persons working on local outcrop sites, and will be removed when this work ceases.

9 applications for licences, involving 73 dwellings, were received during the year. Licences were granted in respect of 62 dwellings.

An appeal against the refusal of the Council, to grant a licence in respect of a site at Bradfield, was heard in court at the beginning of the year. The appeal was upheld subject to the following provision:

- 1.—That the licence to be granted by the Wortley Rural District Council shall have attached thereto such reasonable conditions as the said Council think fit.
- 2.—That when the Sheffield Corporation notify the said Council that the water in the Dam Flask reservoir is used for human consumption, the said licence shall cease to have effect.

