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Contributors

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WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Winsford Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my third Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your Town for the year ended 31st December, 1941. The Ministry of Health has asked that this report should be confined to essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year, 1941.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	7,094 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	11,580.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941)	3,337.
Rateable value	£48,486.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£189.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	167	83	84	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 15.37.
	(Illegitimate	11	5	6	
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	7	6	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 37.83.
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths		132	65	67	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 11.39.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	5.40.
Total	1	5.40.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	48.38.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	40.00.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	181.81.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17.
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1940.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	1	1
5. Diphtheria	2	5	7
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	5
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	3	1	4
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac:polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	1	-	1
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
15. Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	9	4	13
17. Diabetes	1	-	1
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	3	12	15
19. Heart Diseases	13	14	27
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	3	4
21. Bronchitis	7	8	15
22. Pneumonia	-	-	-
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	-	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	-	3
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	3	6
28. Nephritis	6	2	8
29. Puerperal & post-abortion: Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	1	1
31. Premature Birth	1	2	3
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	2	-	2
33. Suicide	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	1	1
35. Other violent causes	-	2	2
36. All other causes	3	4	7
Totals	65	67	132

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no change to report under this heading.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - All sources of supply were maintained in a satisfactory state, free from pollution, and a continuous supply to all the District maintained. The supply has been analysed and passed as of wholesome bacteriological quality. The Council, however, have decided to duplicate the existing chlorination plant at the Waterworks.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - Sundry renewals have been effected at the Olive Works and the effluent here and at the Meadow Bank Works are both reported upon satisfactorily. At times the Olive Works are overworked.

The two original Sewage Disposal Works situated on the banks of the Flashes, though improved upon from time to time, suffer periodically from the effects of subsidence from brine pumping. Nevertheless with the constant care which is given all evidence appears to show that the position is satisfactory. Prolific fish live in the river below and the report of the County Analyst set out below

would appear to be conclusive evidence of this. Even so the County Council have raised the question with the Urban Council of the efficiency of these Works and have asked the Winsford Council to consider the removal of the two Works to another site. Apart from the question of cost, there is the problem of finding a site definitely free from subsidence within practicable reach of the present outfall points. The County Analyst's report on the analysis of a number of samples taken of the river water below and above the Works on the 17th September, 1941, reads as follows:-

"It will be seen that apart from the insignificant rise in the ammoniacal content of the waters from point "A" (above the Works) to point "C" (below the Works), the three samples are, as near as possible, of identical organic quality.

It is thus clear that on the sampling date in question the discharge of the sewage effluents from the Wharton and Over Sewage Works did not in any sense pollute the Flash water. This is strikingly supported by the results of the determination of the dissolved oxygen content of the three samples....."

This Analyst's report of the position, based on everyday working conditions, appears to justify the Urban Council in not concurring in the County Council's suggestion, at any rate during the period of the war.

Closet Accommodation - During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 4 and the number of houses still on the old system in built-up areas is 204.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY OFFICERS' (OUTSIDE LONDON) REGULATIONS, 1935.

ARTICLE 27 (18).

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions Insti- tuted	Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	246	3	30	30	3	1	-
2. Cellar Dwellings	None in the District.						
3. Back-to-Back Houses	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Privy Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies	14	-	6	5	1	-	-
7. Cesspools	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. House Drainage	161	-	11	11	-	-	-
9. Ditches, Water-courses etc.	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Offensive Accumulations	7	-	1	1	-	-	-
11. Keeping of Animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Offensive Trades	36	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Slaughterhouses (Private)	572	-	15	15	-	-	-
c) Other places where food is produced or sold	216	-	11	11	-	-	-
14. Piggeries	199	-	3	3	-	-	-
15. a) Dairies	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Shippens	31	-	4	4	-	-	-
c) Milk Shops	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued
(contd.)

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions Insti- tuted	Pending
Brought Forward	1,588	3	81	80	4	1	-
16.a) Factories with mechanical power	79	-	4	4	-	-	-
b) Factories without mechanical power	20	-	2	2	-	-	-
c) Other premises under the Act (including works of building)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Outworkers premises	None in the District.						
17. Ashbins	49	1	8	9	-	-	-
18. Bakehouses (over-ground)	135	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Common Lodging Houses	None in the District.						
20. Houses let in Lodgings	None in the District.						
21. Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. River Boats	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Infectious Disease Inquiries & Revisits	258	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Miscellaneous	202	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2,335	4	99	99	4	1	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	79	4	-
Factories without mechanical power	20	2	-
Other premises	3	-	-
Totals	102	6	-

Defects found in Factories:-

Particulars	Number of Defects		Number of offences	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary con- veniences (S.7)	(Insufficient. Unsuitable or defective. Not separate for sexes.)		-	-
Other offences	2	2	-	-
Totals	6	6	-	-

SECTION D.HOUSING.

The main activities during the year can be summarized as follows:-

1. - Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 239. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. .. . | 430. |
| (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 | 33. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. .. . | 39. |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil. |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.. | 41. |

11. - 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 ..	83.
--	-----

111. - Action ~~under~~ Statutory Powers during the year:-

- | | |
|--|------|
| (a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.. .. | Nil. |
|--|------|

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 4. |
|--|----|

- | | |
|--|--|
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
|--|--|

(a) By owners	3.
-----------------------	----

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1.
---	----

- | | |
|--|--|
| (c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:- | |
|--|--|

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil. |
|---|------|

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished
in pursuance of Demolition Orders.. Nil.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the
Housing Act, 1936 Nil.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The routine examination of farms and dairies
has been continued during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods - The following, based upon a statement
made by the Meat Inspectors, is a summary of the carcasses
inspected and condemned during the year:-

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	674	1,098	1,754	8,193	54,468
Number inspected	674	1,098	1,754	8,193	54,468
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	26	6	8	50
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	300	106	23	385	4,075
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	46.4%	12.02%	1.65%	4.79%	7.57%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	20	2	-	47
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	55	612	1	-	11,652
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.7%	57.56%	.17%	-	21.47%

6 carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of
the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, all carcasses were passed less
offals which were surrendered.

The Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act notified
3 suspected cases of Anthrax, none of which were confirmed by the
veterinary surgeons.

(c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared
has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.PREVELANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.(1) Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Apart from a rather severe outbreak of virulent Diphtheria the year 1941 passed off well. This outbreak was not localised to any one part of the Town and resulted in the notification of 55 cases all of which were admitted to Hospital. There were 7 deaths from this disease during the year and in none of these cases had protective treatment been given. Whilst it is disappointing to record that of the 55 cases notified, no less than 11 had received a course of protective treatment during the year, all the 11 cases responded promptly to treatment in Hospital and were but mildly incapacitated by the complaint. The disease amongst the non-immunised cases showed itself as a grave form of Diphtheria and possibly this virulence of the disease explains why it should affect even those children who had in the past received protective treatment. As a result of this experience the doses of the Diphtheria "Antigen" was subsequently increased for each child with a view to securing a higher degree of protection in the child's system.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	10	-
Diphtheria	55	55	7
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	1	-
Measles	16	-	-
Whooping Cough	26	-	1
Typhoid Fever	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-

The beginning of the year saw the commencement of a successful "drive", jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities, against Diphtheria. Such good progress was made that by the end of the year 1,532 children under 15 years of age had received a full course of protective treatment. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year were:-

under 5 years	25.5 per cent.
between 5-15 years	71.8 " "

It would be remiss of me not to express my full appreciation of the excellent assistance given during the year by all the local Medical Practitioners and the Teachers throughout the District. Their help has, without doubt, contributed materially to the success of the Scheme.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	124	17	107
Bacillus typhosus	6	-	6

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

<u>TUBERCULOSIS.</u>								
New Cases and Mortality during 1941.								
Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
35 - 45 "	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	-	-	1	3	2	-	-

Number of patients on register at 31.12.40 - 72.

Number of patients on register at 31.12.41 - 73.

9 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; one was reported on as positive.

(3) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The Ministry of Health's Scabies Order, 1941, received in November of that year, was given careful consideration by the Council and as a result of arrangements made jointly with the other Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities 4 Cleansing Centres were set up promptly in the joint area and cleansing work on a vigorous scale started in January, 1942.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools were disinfected at least twice during the year and 12 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1942.