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**Contributors**

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WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1944.

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

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1944.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .. .. .	7,094 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population .. ..	10,760.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) .. ..	3,337.
Rateable value .. .. .	£48,861.
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£190.

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	179	94	85	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 17.47
	{ Illegitimate	9	2	7	
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate	8	5	3	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. 45.68.
	{ Illegitimate	1	1	-	
Deaths		153	72	81	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 14.21.

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	-	-
Total	-	-

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births .. ..	79.78.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	78.21.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	111.11.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	16.
" " Measles (all ages) .. .. .	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. ..	2.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1944.  
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	4	7
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	2	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	2	2
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac:polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	1	1
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	-	1	1
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum	3	2	5
15. Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	5	4	9
17. Diabetes	-	1	1
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	6	8	14
19. Heart Diseases	20	24	44
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	3
21. Bronchitis	5	2	7
22. Pneumonia	4	3	7
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	1	2
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	2	5
28. Nephritis	-	4	4
29. Puerperal & Post-abortion: Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	1	1
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	5	2	7
33. Suicide	2	1	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
35. Other Violent Causes	7	3	10
36. All Other Causes	6	9	15
Totals	<u>72</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>153</u>

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Towards the end of the year although the services of the two whole-time Civil Defence workers at the local First Aid Post were terminated, adequate local arrangements were made for the continuance of the Cleansing Centre Service through the Joint M.O.H. Committee.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - During the course of the year 29 samples (28 from the Town's public supply and 1 from a private source) were submitted to the Laboratories for chemical, bacteriological and residual chlorine examinations with the following results:-

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site.</u>	<u>Analyst's Report.</u>
3 Chemical Examinations:-	2	Abbott's Moss. Stretches Springs.	} Satisfactory.
	1	Oakmere Lake.	"Wholesomeness will depend upon adjusted reaction to overcome plumbo-solvency".
	<u>3.</u>		
14 Bacteriological Examinations:-	10	Stretches Springs. Shay's Pool. Abbott's Moss. Stretches Springs. Whitby's Reservoir. U.D.C. Offices. Police Station. Chester Lane (N.R.D.) Middlewich (M.U.D.) Wimboldsley School (N.R.D.)	} Satisfactory.
	2	Private Supply. Wheatsheaf Inn.	} Fairly Satisfactory.
	2	Abbott's Moss. Oakmere Lake.	} "Border-line".
	<u>14.</u>		
12 Residual Chlorine Examinations:-	12		"Varying from Nil at Albert Infirmary to 0.35 parts per million at U.D.C. Offices."
	<u>12.</u>		

In view of the fact that the Analyst's reports on the Council's water supply were not consistently good, the Council in October decided to ask Mr. S. E. Melling, F.I.C., County Analyst of Cheshire, to act as their Water Examiner and Consultant, with a result that Mr. Melling now analyses the water supply monthly and makes a minimum of four visits of inspection personally per annum. The system of treatment etc. is therefore now adjusted according to his advice. Chlorination is regularly applied to all the Council's sources of supply and it is unusual nowadays for a really adverse report to be received from the Analyst even before chlorination of the raw waters at the source.

With regard to quantity, the Council were forced on account of drought conditions to discontinue pumping from the Oakmere Lake and for some months a supplementary supply averaging about 90,000 gallons per day was taken under an existing agreement from the Northwich Urban trunk main passing the Oakmere Waterworks.

As to the availability of the supply in the area, the following sets out the proportion of dwelling houses and the population served at the end of 1944 from the Council's water mains and private sources, either directly or by means of standpipes:-

		<u>Population Served.</u>
Percentage of houses with direct piped service	- 99.82%	} 10,740(approx.)
Percentage of houses with standpipe service	- Nil.	
Percentage of houses dependent upon private wells or other sources	- 0.18%	20( " )

At the time of writing the number of houses not supplied by the Town's water in the whole of the Urban Area has been further reduced by the laying of a supply to the Gale Green area, thereby doing away with the springs and well supplies of four farms and cottages.

Drainage, Sewerage & Sewage Disposal - I am indebted to Mr. P. Heaton, the Engineer & Surveyor of the Council, for the following statement on drainage, etc.

"During the past year a scheme has been adopted for the drainage of the Swanlow South area where unsatisfactory conditions have existed for some time by reason for the lack of a drainage system in this area.

Advantage is also to be taken in the development of the Dene housing estate to so lay out the sewers on the new estate that relief will be given to the existing Town's sewers at Over Square.

The main Council's Sewage Works on the Flashes has been maintained during the past year in an efficient condition.

The unsatisfactory conditions existing in the Chester Lane, Blakeden, Littler Lane and Moor's Lane areas, mentioned in the last report, have not been overlooked, and it is now suggested that new out-fall works in the Blakeden area would be better able to deal with this problem now that the Swanlow South area is to be dealt with as part of the Dene Development Scheme.

In the meantime, the purity of the river water below Winsford is maintained and this can reasonably be taken as an indication of the satisfactory treatment of the Town's sewerage in Winsford."

Closet Accommodation - During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 6 and the number of houses still on the old system in built-up areas is 182.

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.

## 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)	156	3	21	12	9	-	-
2. Cellar Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Back-to-Back Houses	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Privy Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies	25	-	7	7	-	-	-
7. Cesspools	4	-	2	2	-	-	-
8. House Drainage	78	3	10	13	-	-	-
9. Ditches, Water-courses, etc.	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Offensive Accumulations	6	-	3	3	-	-	-
11. Keeping of Animals	8	-	4	4	-	-	-
12. Offensive Trades	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. a) Slaughterhouse (Public)	472	-	9	9	-	-	-
(used by the Ministry of Food).							
b) Slaughterhouses (private)	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Other places where food is produced or sold	108	-	7	-	-	-	-
14. Piggeries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. a) Dairies	69	-	5	-	-	-	-
b) Shippens	64	-	7	-	-	-	-
c) Milk Shops	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. a) Factories with mechanical power	32	-	3	3	-	-	-
b) Factories without mechanical power	21	-	1	1	-	-	-
c) Other premises under the Act (including works of building)	9	-	3	3	-	-	-
d) Outworkers premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Ashbins	125	13	6	17	2	-	-
18. Bakehouses (over-ground)	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Houses let in Lodgings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. River Boats	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Infectious Disease Inquiries & Re-visits	187	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Miscellaneous	41	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1,485	19	88	74	11	-	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	32	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	24	-	-
Other Premises	9	-	-
Totals	65	-	-

Defects found in Factories:-

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

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

With a view to arriving at some approximate figure of new houses likely to be needed in the post war years for the purpose of re-housing occupants of unfit houses, a survey of the Town was made in July, 1944. It was found that 53 houses at least were likely to need closure or demolition in post war years on grounds of unfitness for habitation.

In addition other housing activities during the year, based upon a statement by the Sanitary Inspector, 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) .. .. 390.
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. 450.
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. 53.
  - (3) 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 .. 347.

## 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 .. .. . 165.

## 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 .. 19.

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

(a) By owners .. .. 13.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. 6.

(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the housing Act, 1936 .. .. Nil.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - I have nothing new or special to record under this heading.

(b) Meat and Other Foods - The following, based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspector, 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	1,104	1,918	1,930	8,405	72
Number inspected	1,104	1,918	1,930	8,405	72
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	16	46	7	4	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	103	284	1	149	1
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	10.77%	17.20%	.41%	1.82%	2.77%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	20	68	4	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	120	946	-	-	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.68%	52.86%	.207%	<del>.000%</del>	8.33%



63 carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, the entire carcasses and organs of 35 were condemned; the remainder were passed less any part-carcasses and offals which were surrendered.

The Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act notified 5 suspected cases of Anthrax, one of which was reported on as positive.

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

#### SECTION F.

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

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low and calls for no special comment. One only of the two cases of Diphtheria notified proved to be clinical Diphtheria and this child had received protective treatment under the Council's Scheme about twelve months previously.

#### Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	39	38	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Pneumonia	7	2	1
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Measles	30	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-

#### Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number Submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	4	-	4
Haemolytic Streptococci	1	-	1

- (2) TUBERCULOSIS.

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

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

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	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	2	4	-	2	-	2	-	1
25 - 35 "	3	1	1	-	1	2	-	1
35 - 45 "	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	7	2	3	3	4	-	2

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1943 - 97.  
Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1944 - 103.

47 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 5 being reported on as positive.

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme which was commenced jointly in 1941 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1944 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Urban area was 2,431. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year 1944 were:-

under 5 years                      51.3%.  
between 5 - 15 years            88.6%.

Towards the end of the year the Council agreed that those children who received protective treatment under the Scheme in 1941, when they were 3 years and under, and who are therefore in 1944 just about to start, or have already started, school, should receive a third reinforcement injection of 0.5c.c. A.P.T. The response on the part of the parents of such children was satisfactory and 82.5% of them attended for this "booster" treatment.

Set out below is a table recording the progress of the Immunisation Scheme, the numbers dealt with in the various age groups, etc. since the Scheme was first started in 1941. This table takes the form of that recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1941 - 1944.				
	1941	1942	1943	1944	
0 -	1	-	-	-	Total inoculated
1 -	24	68	87	73	aged under five
2 -	55	51	49	35	years on 31st
3 -	53	46	29	7	Dec. 1944:-
4 -	56	38	22	3	427.
5 -	85	49	22	7	
6 -	122	42	9	2	Total inoculated
7 -	114	18	10	2	aged 5 - 14
8 -	134	14	4	2	years on 31st
9 -	140	14	2	1	Dec. 1944:-
10 -	135	9	2	2	
11 -	143	18	3	1	
12 -	140	16	2	-	1,397.
13 -	154	6	2	1	
14 -	151	4	1	-	
15 and over	27	-	-	-	Total aged 15 years and over:- 483.
Total each year	1,534	393	244	136	Grand total 1941 -1944:- 2,307.
Age not known	14	5	1	-	20.
Children known to have had treatment privately or elsewhere:-					104.
GRAND TOTAL:-					2,431.

Number of young children who received a  
"Booster" injection in 1944:-

109.

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made jointly in 1942 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities worked very satisfactorily during the year under review and it is gratifying to record a reduction in 1944 of 39% in the number of cases of vermin infestation compared with the 1943 figures. The following sets out the 1942, 1943 and 1944 figures of patients dealt with:-

Cases of Scabies	<u>1942.</u> 285	} total	<u>1943.</u> 195	} total	<u>1944.</u> 115	} total
Cases of Pediculosis	2	} 287.	1	} 196.	3	} 118.
Number of Households involved	110		85		54	

At the time of writing, mid-1945, it is apparent that the incidence of Scabies is still further decreasing.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least twice during the year and 16 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin. In particular the arrangements made for the disinfection of mattresses and bedding of Tuberculosis cases have been "tightened up" and full use of the steam disinfector at the Davenham Isolation Hospital has been made during the year.

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, 1945.