**3.4. Cases of Industrial Disease among workforce of the Fife Coal Company, 1936-1945.**

Note: Beat hand and knee, in addition to nystagmus, came within the scope of the Workmen’s Compensation legislation by an Act passed in 1906. The understanding of silicosis and pneumoconiosis developed during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s so that those diseases were gradually brought within the scope of the compensation system during those decades and there were numerous changes to the rights of sufferers to compensation. These factors would have had a significant influence on the extent to which the Fife Coal Company recorded instances of these diseases.

Number of Cases of Industrial Disease

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **‘Beat’ (Hand or Knee)** | **Dermatitis** | **Nystagmus** | **Silicosis and Pneumoconiosis** | **Total No. of Cases** |
| 1931 | 144 | - | - | - | 144 |
| 1932 | 143 | - | - | - | 143 |
| 1933 | 133 | - | - | - | 133 |
| 1934 | 131 | - | - | - | 131 |
| 1935 | 112 | 2 | - | - | 114 |
| 1936 | 89 | - | - | - | 89 |
| 1937 | 72 | 2 | 1 | - | 75 |
| 1938 | 66 | 9 | - | - | 75 |
| 1939 | 43 | 4 | - | - | 47 |
| 1940 | 56 | 7 | - | 1 | 64 |
| 1941 | 60 | 6 | - | - | 66 |
| 1942 | 59 | 5 | - | 2 | 66 |
| 1943 | 66 | 7 | 1 | - | 74 |
| 1944 | 73 | 12 | - | 6 | 91 |
| 1945 | 66 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 82 |

Source: National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh, CB3/134, J. N. Williamson, *Ten Years of Safety Work in a Scottish Colliery Group. The Safety Records of the Fife Coal Company Limited 1936 – 1945* (1946).