

[Report 1919] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashton-under-Lyne Borough.

Contributors

Ashton-under-Lyne (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1919

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/pxpeym7w>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

BOROUGH of ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR

❖ 1919 ❖

BY

JOHN WM. TALENT, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

— AND —

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

TO THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,

April, 1920.

To the Mayor and Council of the
Municipal Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my
Fourteenth Annual Report on the Health of the Borough
and on the work of the Public Health Department, for
the year ended 31st December, 1919.

The death rate during the year was somewhat high owing
to an epidemic of Influenza which caused 71 deaths.

In the latter part of the year the birth rate began to rise
towards its pre-war level.

The work being done for Infant Welfare was extended by
the opening of a special Massage Clinic for the treatment of
cases of Rickets and Malnutrition. A third Health Visitor was
also appointed for the purpose of visiting and helping cases of
Pneumonia and Infectious Disease; treating children who
suffered from Scabies and assisting at the Infant Welfare
Centres.

Details of routine work of the Department will be found
in the various tables embodied in the Report.

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Morris
and each member of the Staff for their excellent work and
support during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILLIAM TALENT.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1919.

Area of Borough	1,345 acres
Population (1911 Census)	45,179 persons
Persons per House as per Census	4·36
Rateable Value	£198,842
Number of Dwelling Houses on Rate Book	10427
" " " " empty	119
Population of Residents estimated at middle of year	
from number of inhabited houses	44942
Density of Population (persons per acre)	32·4
Number of Births	826
Excess of Registered Births over Deaths	72
Birth Rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	18 0
Number of Deaths	754
Death Rate	17·2
Number of Deaths of Children under one year of age.....	98
Infant Mortality	119·8
Zymotic Death Rate	0·5
Respiratory Death Rate	4·3
Phthisis Death Rate.....	0·9

Elevation.—The mean elevation of the Borough is 414 feet above sea level, and varies between 310 and 519 feet.

Report.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population (Census 1911)45,179

Population (estimated 1919).....44,942

The town is built upon the foothills of the Pennine Chain and rests upon the Middle Coal Measures, which are covered by drift. Upon the south it falls towards the River Tame, upon the north it rises towards Hurst, and on the east towards Stalybridge.

The chief occupations are:—cotton spinning and weaving, coal mining, machine making, leather tanning and dressing, brewing, and the manufacture of chemicals.

The amount of out-door Poor Law Relief, excluding administrative expenditure, was £2,177 15s. 4d.

The residents of Ashton-under-Lyne who have received relief are classified as follows:—

Department.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Hospital	163	156	34	353
Institution.....	176	144	24	344
Out-door Relief...	136	230	216	582
	—	—	—	—
	475	530	274	1279

At the District Infirmary 1,019 persons from Ashton (including Hurst and Limehurst) were admitted as in-patients. In the out-patient department there were close on 3,000 admissions from Ashton alone.

Births.—The Birth Rate was 18·0. The Birth Rate for the 148 smaller towns (populations from 20,000 to 50,000) was 18·4. Total number of Births 826, or 430 males, and 396 females.

BIRTH RATE IN WARDS FOR 1919.

	St. Peter's.	Portland.	Market.	St. Michaels.
No. of Births	261	195	261	89
Birth Rate ..	19·4	25·0	19·3	15·2

BIRTH RATE FOR FIVE YEARLY PERIODS.

1898—1902 = 26·5	1908—1912 = 23·8
1903—1907 = 26·5	1913—1917 = 20·2

Under the Notification of Births Act, we have received notice of 789 births, or 95 per cent. of the whole.

Deaths.—The death rate was 17·2. The death rate for the 148 smaller towns was 12·7. Total number of deaths of Ashton people, 754, being 374 males and 380 females.

DEATH RATE FOR FIVE YEARLY PERIODS.

1898—1902 = 19·5	1908—1912 = 17·5
1903—1907 = 18·5	1913—1917 = 17·8

Death Rates in Census Enumeration Districts.

The following table gives the Death Rate for the Census Areas in the Borough during the four year period 1911...1914. The last Census was taken in 1911. The method adopted in compiling the table has been to examine the Deaths for each year, and allot them to their proper areas.

The result does not claim to be perfect, since there is a certain amount of interchange of dwelling places each year, it does, however, give a good working result, as is shewn by the fact that in each year certain districts come out with the highest death rates, and these districts are found on examination to be those which contain the poorest and most congested class of houses.

The years since 1915 have not been included since the leaving of so many men to join the army, has rendered the population an uncertain quantity. The four following areas head the list with a death rate of over 20 per 1000.

	Per 1000
(21) Brook Street and adjoining part, death rate	21·8
(16) Charlestown ,, ,, ,,	21·6
(5) Hill Street, Higher Wharf Street, &c. ,,	21·3
(3) Mount Street, Arthur Street, &c. ,,	20·3

District.	Death Rate per 1000	District.	Death Rate per 1000
1 	13·3	14 	17·4
2 	13·5	15 	14·8
3 	20·3	16 	21·6
4 	19·2	17 	12·9
5 	21·3	18 	9·9
6 	14·8	19 	11·2
7 	12·3	20 	16·1
8 	8·3	21 	21·8
9 	9·8	22 	10·7
10 	11·2	24 	9·3
11 	11·6	23 	9·4
12 	11·8	25 	10·0
13 	16·4	26 	16·2

These conditions have been shown by different colours on a large scale map of the district.

Infant Mortality.—The Infant Mortality Rate was 119·8. That for the 148 smaller towns was 90. Total number of deaths under one year was 98, being 67 males and 31 females.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR 5 YEARLY PERIODS.

1895...1899 = 209·3	1910...1914 = 163·4
1900...1904 = 175·6	1915...1919 = 125·5
1905...1909 = 167·3	

The chief causes of the Infantile Deaths were :—

Congenital Debility and Malformation...	42
Respiratory Diseases	25

Report upon the Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Water Supply....Water is supplied by the Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Waterworks (Joint) Committee's reservoirs at Swineshaw and Greenfield. The supply is constant. The average daily supply of water for the year ending 1919 was 25·02 gallons per head of population per 24 hours. This was divided into 19·72 gallons for domestic use, and 5·30 gallons for trade supply.

The whole of the domestic supply is filtered and treated at the Mechanical Pressure Filter Installation. It is a soft moorland water, of excellent quality. There have been no complaints of plumbo solvent action during the year.

Rivers and Streams....No pollution of the river Tame occurs in its course through our Borough. All the closets are on the water carriage system, and any trade effluents are passed into the sewers. A small stream runs into the Tame on the east, forming part of our easterly boundary ; this is free from pollution. Through the centre of our area formerly ran a stream known as Hurst Brook and Jeremy Brook. This

stream has been culverted and now forms a portion of the main intercepting sewer.

*Sewage Disposal....*The sewage is treated on the works at Plantation Farm, Dukinfield. These consist of a series of precipitation tanks and bacterial beds. The effluent is discharged into the river Tame, upon the banks of which the works are situate.

Along with the Ashton Sewage is treated that of Hurst and a small portion from Limehurst district. The population connected up is 53,000. The approximate dry weather flow is two million gallons. The district is drained by pipe sewers, varying from 9 to 18 inches in diameter, and egg-shaped brick sewers, 36 by 24 inches. The main outlet sewer is 4 feet by 4 feet 6 inches. The sewers are ventilated by manholes and lamp-holes. Every house is drained, generally by means of a yard drain. All house drains are disconnected from the sewers by syphon traps.

*Closet Accommodation....*There are no privies in the Borough. All dwelling houses are now upon the water carriage system. Fresh water closets number 3,494, being 3,129 in dwelling houses, and 365 in mills and workshops. Waste water closets number 8,014.

*Cleansing Arrangements....*These are under the direction of the Cleansing Committee. The Destructor has been closed from June, 1916, and since that date all refuse has been deposited on the tips used by the Corporation. The tips are situate at Gambrel Bank and Canterbury Street; the Richmond Street tip is now closed except for a few loads of street sweepings for covering purposes. The refuse in 1919 was removed by :—

4 large carts averaging 12 loads daily.		
2 pony carts	„	3 „
5 hand carts	„	15 „

Street sweepings are readily disposed of to allotment holders, and if unfit for cultivation purposes are taken to the tips.

The Incinerator in the Town's Yard burns 70 cwts. per week of fish refuse, butchers' offal, &c. All cats and medium sized dogs are destroyed at the Town's Yard. Large dogs, deceased animals, bedding, &c., are taken to the Stalybridge destructor.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Work of the Inspector of Nuisances:—

- (a) The number of inspections made by him during the year was 2,886.
- (b) The number of Statutory Notices served was 49
 " " Informal " " 431
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.
 Nuisances abated, 867.

No prosecutions were undertaken, but 21 persons received communications from the Town Clerk.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging-houses.—These are six in number, three being in Charlestown, two in Scotland Street, and one in Crickets Lane. One of them is a modern building and well suited for the purpose, the remaining five are old premises, originally built for dwelling-houses.

*Houses let in Lodgings....*These are situate in Charlestown and Crickets Lane. The number of these rooms is 38, and they are registered to accommodate 83 persons.

*Offensive Trades....*The following are carried on in the Borough:—

- (1) Tallow Melter, one.
- (2) Leather Dresser, two.
- (3) Tripe Boilers, three.

The premises used by two of the tripe boilers are old and unsuitable for the purpose. The third one is being re-built on modern lines. There is no complaint of a nuisance being caused by any of them.

Schools.

There are fourteen elementary schools, affording accommodation for 8,399 children. During the years immediately preceding the war, extensive structural alterations were made in several schools, by which the lighting and ventilation were much improved.

The heating of the schools during 1919 has been generally satisfactory. A new heating apparatus has been installed in Charlestown School. The schools are all supplied with town's water, which is of good quality and of continuous flow. The majority of the closets are on the trough system ; these troughs are flushed at systematic intervals. All closets discharge into the general drains.

It was not found necessary to close any schools for sickness during the year. Many individual school children were excluded as infectious disease contacts or as being unfit to attend school on the Certificate of the School Medical Officer.

Food.

(a) *Milk Supply*....There are only two cowsheds situate within the Borough, therefore practically all the milk is conveyed in from without. The larger proportion is produced on dairy farms in the immediate neighbourhood and brought into the town morning and evening in milk carts ; a smaller amount is delivered by rail from farms at a distance in Cheshire and Derbyshire. The two cowsheds in the Borough are at Knowl Farm and Park Farm.

The Dairies are five in number and in good order. Shops selling milk are sixty in number. The milk is sold along with greengroceries. The shops are situate almost entirely in back streets and supply their customers with milk in small quantities. The milk is kept in open bowls of glazed earthenware and usually without proper cover. The greengroceries sold in the same shop consist of potatoes, &c.; firelighters also are generally kept. No action has been taken during the year as to tuberculous milk.

Ashton Municipal Milk Depot.—Milk is sterilised here and retailed in two forms:—

- (1) As ordinary sterilised milk in pint bottles. 97,982 pints have been sold during the year.
- (2) As pasteurised modified milk for infants in small bottles, each containing one feed, nine such bottles being given out in a wire crate. The average number of infants supplied with this was 99 per month.

Milk and Cream Regulations....32 samples of milk have been analysed and found genuine, 3 samples taken informally for the District Infirmary were found to be below the standard and dealt with by the Infirmary Committee.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

Free and assisted milk has been distributed upon the Certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, in accordance with the following scale of income:—

“When the income does not exceed 6/- per head per week after the rent has been paid, the milk is supplied free; when the income exceeds 6/- but does not exceed 7/- per head per week, &c., the milk is supplied at 4d. per quart; when the income exceeds 7/- per head per week, the whole of the cost is paid by the mother.”

The distribution of this milk is carried out at the Infant Welfare Centres, and under this heading details will be found.

(b) *Other Foods*.—The following were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed :—butter $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., potatoes 2 truck loads, eggs 187, coffee and milk 6 tins.

A building where tripe was boiled and prepared for consumption was condemned as insanitary; so, soon as the occupant has found other and suitable premises this will be closed.

Bakehouses....These number 24. Two are underground. They are generally in good condition.

Slaughter-houses,—There are 17 in the Borough. The whole of the slaughtering, however, has for some time been carried out in one of them only, the remainder being disused. In two or three case the premises are of insufficient construction or in poor condition.

Meat inspection is carried out by Mr. New, Veterinary Surgeon; the amount condemned by him was as follows :—

Beef, mutton, tongue and liver ...	2018 lbs.
Bacon and ham	348 „
Fish	166 „
Rabbits	265
Oysters	597

No public abattoir has been established in the district. This question was considered some time ago, and it was decided that the number of cattle killed in the town was not large enough to justify the provision of an abattoir. A large amount of dead meat is brought in from Manchester.

The carcasses and parts of carcasses condemned for tuberculosis, number nine.

Fried Fish Shops....These number 52. The food prepared for eating is fish, potatoes, peas and beans. There is a large sale for these foods in the town. Speaking generally, these shops and premises are kept in good order.

(c) *Sale of Food and Drugs Acts* ... Details are given under "Other Foods."

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, for the year 1919, was 496. This is 162 more than in the previous year.

There were 90 cases of Scarlet Fever; 18 of Diphtheria; 3 of Enteric Fever; 19 of Erysipelas; 92 of Measles; 94 of Pneumonia; 50 of Scabies; 27 of Malaria; 82 of Tuberculosis.

The death rate from the principal epidemic diseases was 0.5 per 1000.

Information is also obtained of suspected cases of Infectious Disease from School Teacher, School Attendance Officers, Health Visitors and School Nurses. Enquiries are made and instructions given by the Health Visitors and School Nurses. Rules for contacts in School children are enforced by the School Attendance Officer.

Disinfection of clothing is carried out at the steam disinfecter in the Town's Yard.

A Special Nurse visits cases of Measles, Pneumonia and Whooping Cough, to give advice and assistance. She has made visits as follows, from 1st September to 31st December:—

Measles	47	Erysipelas	11
Diphtheria	10	Chicken Pox	25
Malaria	24	Pneumonia.....	90
Enteric	3		

Small Pox.— There has been no case notified during the year.

Vaccinations :—

Year.	Births	Vaccinations.	Exemptions.
1910	1093	263	564
1911	1042	164	552
1912	1055	157	578
1913	1056	148	622
1914	1053	111	665
1915	902	127	592
1916	771	141	527
1917	740	114	498
1918	732	73	426
1919	826	77	546

No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis :—

(*a and b.*)—Patients are treated in accordance with the County Council Scheme at the Dispensary in Warrington Street, by Dr. Stewart.

School children are referred for examination by the School Medical Officer, and Dr. Stewart furnishes special reports upon these. Notifications are forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health of premises which need disinfection.

A scheme for the disinfection of these rooms was brought into operation by the Borough Health Committee in July, and has been carried out since that date. Under this, disinfection is effected of the bedroom and living room in each infected case ; (*a*) immediately after notification ; (*b*) at intervals of six months thereafter, so long as the patient is infective ; (*c*) on removal of the patient to another house and before the new inmates of the house take possession ; (*d*) after a patient dies.

The method is by rubbing the walls with dough or lime-washing or soaking the wallpaper with disinfectant and then stripping, according to the condition of the house and the nature of the case.

In this work Dr. Stewart, Medical Officer of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, gives his kind co-operation and advice.

The number of rooms so cleansed is shewn in the following table :—

By Douching.	Limewashing.	Stripping.
38	22	6

(*c and d.*)—The provision now made for early cases and for advanced and chronic male cases is satisfactory. The chief need is for further accommodation for advanced and chronic female cases.

Further accommodation on the lines of institutions, such as Treloar Homes and Leasowe Sanatorium, is required for non-pulmonary cases in children and adults.

(*e*) The co-operation of the medical profession is quite satisfactory.

(*f*) As a rule patients are quite ready to avail themselves of the facilities provided for treatment, the only difficulty has been with male patients of working age, a proportion of whom are reluctant to go to Sanatorium, and if they go, to remain there for a sufficient period.

(*g*) Home visiting is carried out by the whole time Tuberculosis Nurse, who also arranges for the examination of contacts at the Dispensary. In regard to After Care Work, there is a Special Tuberculosis Care Committee for the Borough, which has been in operation for the past three years.

The question of securing prompt notification of cases by Medical Practitioners is now under consideration by the County Authority.

Venereal Diseases.

(*a & b*) Under the supervision of the County Authority a Clinic is held by three Medical Officers at the District

Infirmery. The meetings are held on two afternoons and one evening. The attendances at the evening clinic during the past few months have increased by 50 per cent,

- (c & d) The arrangements are adequate for present needs.
- (e) The local medical profession co-operate satisfactorily and sends the majority of the patients. It would be an advantage if cases were sent at an earlier stage.
- (f) The large majority of patients attend regularly and willingly. Patients can attend any morning and evening for irrigation. Means of disinfection have not been utilised by persons exposed to the risk of infection, probably owing to the distance of the clinic from the centre of the town. Saluarsan substitutes are given by all members of the staff and by two local practitioners; these substitutes have been supplied in 255 doses.

Action was taken under the Venereal Diseases Act, 1917, against two herbalists; in each case a heavy fine was imposed.

The number of cases in which pathological examinations were made use of was 35.

Scarlet Fever :

Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Removed to Hospital
90	1	0.002	44

Diphtheria :—

Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Removed to Hospital
18	5	0.01	5

Antitoxin has been supplied free of cost to seven cases. The antitoxin is kept at the Central Police Station. Bacteriological Examinations have been made for four patients; these are sent to the Public Health Laboratory of the Manchester University.

Enteric Fever :...

Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Removed to Hospital
3	1	0.002	1

Measles :...

Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Removed to Hospital
92	1	0.002	0

This disease ceased to be notifiable on the 31st December, 1919. All cases notified were visited by the Special Health Visitor, who gave advice, and where the patient was suffering from Bronchitis or Pneumonia, assisted in the nursing by cleansing the mouth, putting on a wadded waistcoat, &c.

Whooping Cough....There were 0 deaths recorded. Most of the cases reported by School Teachers were visited and advised by the special Nurse.

Diarrhœa....There were 12 deaths. There was no epidemic of this disease.

Influenza....The deaths recorded numbered 71. An epidemic occurred during the months of February and March. It resembled the epidemics which occurred in 1918 but was not so severe in character. A detailed description of last year's epidemics was given in my report for 1918. Similar administrative precautions were taken this year, viz.: cleansing

and ventilation of schoolrooms, exclusion of individual scholars, instructions to the public by posters and handbills, cleansing and ventilation of cinema houses and theatres, cleansing of tram cars and notices against spitting. It was not found necessary to close any schools.

Scabies....The treatment of Scabies by baths has been continued during the year. These are given in the bathroom attached to the Municipal Disinfecting Station by a Nurse who attends each afternoon. Once in the week these patients are sent to the School Clinic for inspection by me

Number of children treated from September 1st	
to December 31st.	27
Number of baths and treatments	435

Maternity and Child Welfare.

(1) The inspection of midwives is carried out by the County Authority.

(2) The Maternity and Child Welfare work conducted in the Borough is under the control of a separate Committee of the Corporation. The work is carried out by their officials as follows :...The Medical Officer of Health acts as Medical Officer to the consultation and treatment centres, and supervises the work in general ; one Superintendent and three Health Visitors visit the homes and assist in work at the Centres.

A certified Masseuse treats the children requiring Massage, at the East End Centre.

The Centres are two in number, situate one at each end of the town. The East End Centre is a large dwelling-house, which is rented on a lease ; the West End Centre is held on the premises of the Trafalgar Sunday School. A large house has recently been purchased by the Council to take the place of this Sunday School as a Centre for the West End, and is now in course of adaptation for that purpose.

The Ladies' Voluntary Society assists in the work by sup-

plying a Voluntary Lady Superintendent to each School ; both these ladies have a seat upon the Council Committee. Other members also assist in the keeping of registers, dispensing of milk, teaching of cookery, sewing, &c.

Each of the Infant Welfare Centres has been supplied with a small ambulance first aid outfit. This will meet a want which has often been experienced.

The number of births registered during the year was 826, and the number of births notified 789, or a proportion of 95 per cent of the total.

Attended by Doctors.	Attended by Midwives.	Attended by Handy Women.
262	504	23

Summary of Work performed by Health Visitors :—

(a) Visiting at the homes :—

	East-end	West-end
First visits concerning births	305	447
Further visits to infants	1543	672
Visits to children aged 1 5 years	481	769
Visits to expectant mothers	213	203
Visits to cases of Measles	43	69
Miscellaneous enquiries concerning deaths, still births, &c.	175	146
	2760	2306

(b) Work done at the Centres :—

East End :—Tuesdays, 2 to 3-30 p.m., Medical Consultations and Weighings.

Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m., Expectant Mothers' Class, Health Lectures, Sewing Class and Social Work.

West End :—Mondays, 10 to 11-30 a.m., Medical Consultations and Weighings.

Thursdays, 2-30 to 4 p.m., Expectant Mothers, &c.

The consultations, weighings, lectures and social work have been held weekly during the year. The health talks are given on the care of the mother and child each social afternoon.

Cookery demonstrations are given in place of health talks at intervals during the year.

	East-end	West-end
Number of children brought to weighings and consultations	346	482
Numbers registered for lectures of various kinds and sewing classes ...	103	180
Expectant Mothers' Classes.....	19	90

Record of all Attendances at Centres.

	East-end	West-end	Total
Weighings.....	1702	1719	3421
Consul- (Expectant Mothers..	21	55	76
tations ... (Children	1057	1213	2264
Lectures	604	4224	1828
Sewing Class.....	0	301	301
Expectant Mothers' Class	105	324	429
Children (at lectures)	293	576	869
Total.....	3716	5238	9178

Still Births.—The number registered during the year was 35.

Illegitimate Births.—The number of these was 42, being 24 in the West-end and 18 in the East-end. Of these, 8 died, representing a rate of 190 per 1,000, or almost double that for legitimate births.

AGES AT DEATH OF ILLEGITIMATE BABIES.

Premature.	Full Term.
Under 1 week 2	Under 1 week 1
Under 1 month ... 2	Under 1 month ... 0
Under 2 months ... 1	Under 2 months ... 1
	Under 4 months ... 1

The work of distributing assisted or free milk to necessitous cases, which had been commenced in September, 1917, was continued throughout the year.

Milk.—Supplied from 1st April, 1918, to 31st Mar., 1919.

	Free.	Assisted.	Total.
Amount.....	4531	36115	40646 pts.
Children Supplied .	133	261	394

In addition to this, 35 infants have been granted modified milk free of cost, for varying periods.

Sugar has been allowed in the form of an extra ration by the Ministry of Health, to not more than 29 children per week. The conditions are, that the children be artificially fed infants under 18 months of age, that they are in regular attendance at the Centres, and are certified by the Medical Officer as needing the extra ration. The sugar must be sold at the current market price and shall not exceed in quantity 4 ounces per head per week.

Massage.—A Clinic for this purpose was opened on 1st September, 1919, at Enville House Centre. The treatment is given by Miss Clough, Certificated Masseuse, on three morning sessions per week. Each child receives a cup of milk during the course of its massage, and the mother is expected to provide cod-liver oil, which may be purchased at a reduced rate from the Centre. The patients so treated are children under five years of age, who suffer from Rickets, Malnutrition, &c. They have shewn marked improvement.

From 1st September to 31st December there were 47 sessions, at which 35 children made 256 attendances. At the end of the year 1 had been discharged as cured, 3 as improved and 3 for irregular attendance.

(3) *Puerperal Fever* Notifications numbered 1, of these 1 died. *Ophthalmia Neonatorum* Notifications numbered 10. All of these cases recovered, without any permanent injury either in one or both eyes. Each of these 10 cases was visited by the Health Visitors, sometimes daily, sometimes more than once daily, until they recovered, and assistance given in carrying out the treatment prescribed by the doctor.

Measles Notifications numbered 92, with 1 death. Most of these cases were visited by the third Health Visitor, who gave advice, and when necessary assisted in cleaning the mouth, washing the patient, &c.

Whooping Cough.—There was no special prevalence of this complaint, and no deaths were notified.

Epidemic Diarrhœa....There were 12 deaths, being 8 male and 4 female. These all received visits from the Health Visitor.

Sanitary Administration.

(1) The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, whole time, in combination with the post of School Medical Officer and Superintendent of the Borough Hospital for Infectious Disease; the Chief Sanitary Inspector; one Clerk who also carries out the disinfection of rooms, &c.; two assistants for the purpose of clearing drains, cleansing tuberculous rooms, &c.; one Superintendent of Infant Welfare work, with two Health Visitors and one Special Nurse for visiting cases of Pneumonia, &c., and treating Scabies patients.

(2) Borough Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situate within the Borough, and provides two wards of 10 beds each, total 20.

During the year there have been 54 patients treated in the hospital; 5 cases of Diphtheria, 4 of which were Tracheotomy cases, 44 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 cases of Impetigo, 1 case of Erysipelas and 1 case of Enteric Fever. Of these, 2 were removed from outside the Borough, 14 transferred from the District Infirmary and 38 from the Borough.

The average duration of a patient's stay in hospital was 34 days.

Of the total 54 cases, 28 were females and 26 males.

There was 1 death from Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases isolated during the past five years has been...1915, 91; 1916, 27; 1917, 28; 1918, 36 and 1919, 54.

The Staff consists of Matron, Staff Nurse, two Probationer Nurses, two Maids, Ward Maid, Laundress, Housemaid and Porter.

The average cost of Board for patients and Staff in Hospital was 17s. 0d. per week, per head during the year.

*Smallpox Hospital...*For the treatment of Smallpox, Ashton-under-Lyne is in combination with the Borough of Stalybridge, Hurst, the Urban District of Audenshaw and the Rural District of Limehurst. The Hospital is situate on a well isolated site of 40 acres on a hill side at Hartshead, in the Rural District of Limehurst, three miles distant from the Town Hall of Ashton.

Provision is made of 12 beds, in two wards.

(3) The following Local and General Acts are in force in the district:—Corporation Improvement Act, 1886; Corporation Act, 1893; Provisional Order for Conversion of Closets,

1893; Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907; Notification of Births Act, 1907.

(4) Arrangements for chemical and bacteriological work during the year 1919, and their results :

	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.
Positive	1	1
Negative	2	3

These bacteriological examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Other Services.

The District Infirmary received a grant of 250 guineas during the year.

The Ashton and District Nursing Society received a grant of £20.

In connection with and on behalf of the Local War Pensions Committee, the Health Visitors made systematic enquiries and reports upon cases requiring assistance; they also supervised the distribution of grants made by the Committee, in money or kind.

Housing.

(I) *General Housing Conditions in the district :*

- (1) Number of houses: total number 9923; number for the working classes, 8811; new houses for the working classes erected during the year, or in course of erection. None.
- (2) Population: for birth rate, 45,519; for death rate, 43,697. No important change occurred during the year.

- (3) (a) Extent of shortage of houses, 250 ; (b) measures taken to meet this shortage: the erection of 250 new houses by the Town Council.

(II) *Overcrowding :*

- (1) 42 houses with more than two per room.
- (2) Causes : shortage of houses.
- (3) Measures contemplated to deal with overcrowding: the erection of 250 new houses.
- (4) Principal cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year and action taken. No action was taken owing to want of alternative accommodation.

(III) *Fitness of Houses :*

- (a) The large proportion of the houses are of modern construction, and are of fairly good class and in good condition.
- (b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses: faulty construction, deficiency of ventilation and neglected repairs.
- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under our Local Act: notice was served on the owner of 10 houses in Charlestown to put them into habitable condition, as a result of which necessary repairs were carried out.
- (3) Difficulty in remedying unfitness was found owing to shortage of necessary labour.
- (4) Conditions as to water supply were satisfactory; closet accommodation: fresh water closets number 3,494, and waste water closets, 8,014; refuse is placed in open ash tubs, which number 6,576.

(IV) *Unhealthy Areas :*

There has been no action taken and no complaints made with regard to unhealthy areas.

(V) *Bye-laws relating to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.*

These work satisfactorily and do not need revision.

(VI) *Statistics for the 12 months ending 31st December, 1919 :*

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made by householders that they were unfit for human habitation. None.
- (2) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909, none.
- (3) Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919. Number of orders for repairs issued : None.
- (4) Closing Orders : None.
- (5) Demolition Orders : None.
- (6) Number of houses demolished voluntarily : None.
- (7) Obstructive Buildings : No action taken.
- (8) Staff engaged in housing work : The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who makes the actual inspections, and an assistant for the necessary clerical work.

