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**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**On the HEALTH of the  
Urban Sanitary District of the Borough of  
Bacup during 1912.**

— BY —

**JOHN BROWN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., VICT.**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

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**PRESENTED JANUARY, 1913.**

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# The HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Consists of the following Members:*

THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*).

*Chairman*—MR. ALDERMAN J. H. MADEN, J.P., C.C.

*Vice-Chairman*—MR. COUNCILLOR J. H. LORD.

MR. ALDERMAN GREENWOOD, J.P.

„ COUNCILLOR HEAP

„ COUNCILLOR LAMBERT

„ COUNCILLOR E. LORD

„ COUNCILLOR PETRIE

„ COUNCILLOR STEVENSON

„ COUNCILLOR THOMPSON

„ COUNCILLOR WHITEHEAD



# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.



*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the  
Borough of Bacup.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my thirty-fifth Annual Report on the Sanitary condition and Vital Statistics for the Borough of Bacup, for the year 1912.

The area of the Borough is 6120 acres, and the rateable value is £87,499.

## POPULATION.

At the census in 1911, the population was 22,324 Males 10,599, Females 11,725; the inhabited houses, 5,572, uninhabited, 301; the average number of persons per house was 4; in 1901 the average per house was 4·2 persons, so that there is less overcrowding. The population in the middle of 1912 is estimated at 22,400.

## BIRTHS.

During the year there were 458 births registered in the Borough. There were 2 transferable births, total births 460—males 212, females 248, of these 23 were illegitimate—males 13, females 10; the birth-rate being 20·54 per 1000. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1912 was 23·8 per 1000.

The natural increase of population, i.e.: the number of births in excess of deaths was 93. In 1911 the natural increase was only 74, the lowest ever recorded.

#### DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the Borough were 332—males 182, females 150; of these 3 were non-residents which reduces the deaths to 329. The corrected deaths were 367—males 201, females 166, which equals a death rate of 16·38 per 1000. The transferable deaths, i.e.: of residents of Bacup dying outside the Borough were 38—males 21, females 17. The deaths occurred at the following places outside the Borough, viz.:— Haslingden Union Workhouse 18; Rochdale Infirmary 6; Manchester Eye Hospital 1; St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester 1; Burnley Joint Isolation Hospital 1; Rawtenstall 2; Stockport 1; Prestwich County Asylum 3; Winwick County Asylum 2; Storthie's Hall, Withington and Lancaster County Asylums 1 each.

The death-rate for England and Wales for 1912 was 13·3 per 1000.

The following table gives the nett mortality from all causes at the subjoined ages:—

Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	56	} 96
„ above 1 year and under 2 years				23	
„ „ 2 „ „ 5 „				17	
„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „				13	} 271
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „				18	
„ „ 25 „ „ 45 „				41	
„ „ 45 „ „ 65 „				106	
„ „ 65 years and upwards			...	93	
Total				367	



## CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Typhoid Fever 2, Measles 21, Diphtheria 4, Influenza 3, Erysipelas 3, Phthisis 21, Tuberculous Meningitis 4, Other Tuberculous Diseases 4, Cancer 16, Rheumatic Fever 1, Meningitis 1, Organic Heart Disease 36, Bronchitis 42, Pneumonia 22, other Respiratory Diseases 3, Diarrhœa and Enteritis 10, Cirrhosis of Liver 1, Nephritis and Bright's Disease 14, other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition 2, Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Malformations 21, Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide 4, other Defined Diseases 123, Diseases ill-defined or unknown 5, Uncertified 4.

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases caused 37 deaths, viz.:—Measles 21, Diarrhœa and Enteritis 10, Diphtheria 4, Typhoid Fever 2. The Zymotic death-rate equals 1·65 per 1000. The Zymotic death-rate for England and Wales for 1912 was per 1000.

The following table gives the Zymotic deaths and death-rate for the past 10 years:—

Year.	Zymotic Deaths.		Zymotic Death-rate.
1903	...	53	2·35 per 1000
1904	...	40	1·74 „
1905	...	10	0·44 „
1906	...	38	1·55 „
1907	...	26	1·06 „
1908	...	13	0·52 „
1909	...	29	1·17 „
1910	...	19	0·75 „
1911	...	22	0·98 „
1912	...	37	1·65 „
Total 287			12·21 „

The average for the years 1903–1912 equals 26 deaths each year. The average death-rate equals 1·22 per 1000. The Zymotic death-rate is slightly above the average. The Measles epidemic caused nearly two-thirds of the Zymotic deaths; except for this, the death-rate would have been very low indeed.

The following table gives the number of Infectious Diseases notified during the past 10 years under the Notification Act:—

Year.	Smallpox	Diphtheria and Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Chicken-pox	Total
1903	43	7	5	115	16	1	0	187
1904	4	3	6	38	6	6	103	166
1905	0	2	25	38	4	6	65	140
1906	0	18	22	42	15	3	34	134
1907	0	3	15	19	3	1	61	102
1908	0	22	19	82	4	3	44	174
1909	0	7	26	58	45	2	86	224
1910	0	16	21	89	4	1	45	176
1911	0	21	11	10	5	0	25	72
1912	0	19	18	15	6	2	82	142
Averages for Years 1903—1912	4.7	11.8	16.8	50.6	10.8	2.5	54.5	151.7

The following table gives the Monthly Returns of the Infectious Diseases notified for the year 1912:—

Month	Smallpox	Diphtheria and Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever	Chicken-pox	Total
January ...	...	3	...	1	1	...	10	15
February ...	...	2	3	3	1	1	8	18
March ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	16	17
April ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	17	19
May ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
June ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	4	6
July ...	...	1	4	1	...	...	...	6
August ...	...	4	1	2	1	1	...	9
September ...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	5
October ...	...	7	1	...	...	...	8	16
November ...	...	...	3	...	...	...	10	13
December ...	...	1	1	6	1	...	8	17
Total	...	19	18	15	6	2	82	142



Ophthalmia Neonatorum has been made a Notifiable Disease—two cases were notified during the year.

### SMALL-POX.

The Borough has been free from Small-pox since 1904.

### VACCINATION.

Through the kindness of Mr. A. A. Whitehead, B.A., Vaccination Officer, I am able to give the following interesting statistics in regard to Vaccination for the past 15 years. It will be seen that the number of Exemption Certificates is the largest ever granted, being 61 per cent. of all the births. Should an epidemic of Small-pox occur, these unvaccinated persons would be a serious menace to the Borough. Over 2200 Exemption Certificates have been granted during the past 15 years.

Year	Successful Vaccinations		Exemption Certificates		Births		Deaths under 1 Year.	
1898	...	335	...	195	...	589	...	72
1899	...	364	...	114	...	543	...	89
1900	...	314	...	96	...	589	...	100
1901	...	364	...	89	...	485	...	69
1902	...	452	...	51	...	560	...	76
1903	...	494	...	59	...	548	...	77
1904	...	383	...	68	...	509	...	74
1905	...	372	...	81	...	503	...	56
1906	...	336	...	122	...	524	...	63
1907	...	242	...	147	...	541	...	69
1908	...	189	...	220	...	537	...	57
1909	...	214	...	234	...	479	...	86
1910	...	201	...	234	...	473	...	50
1911	...	143	...	239	...	414	...	46
1912	...	157	...	275	...	460	...	56



## CHICKENPOX.

This disease has been notifiable since 1903. During the year 82 cases were notified, 42 had been vaccinated and 40 had not. No case of Chickenpox in an adult was notified.

## SCARLET FEVER.

There were only 15 cases notified, all were of a mild type. There were no fatal cases, nor were there any deaths the previous year. For over 26 years we have supplied to all patients "Carbolised Oil" for rubbing over the body, with excellent results. It is very rarely that a second case occurs in the family. None of the patients are removed from their homes.

The following table gives the deaths for the past 10 years :—

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1,000.
1903	...	7	...	0'34
1904	...	1	...	0'04
1905	...	2	...	0'08
1906	...	0	...	0'00
1907	...	0	...	0'00
1908	...	5	...	0'20
1909	...	2	...	0'08
1910	...	2	...	0'08
1911	...	0	...	0'00
1912	...	0	...	0'00

## DIPHTHERIA.

During the year there were 19 cases notified, four proved fatal. The case mortality being 21 per cent. The death-rate 0'17 per 1000. In recent years Diphtheria has increased. Some years ago there would be only

about 10 cases a year. During the past 2 years 40 cases have been notified; it has been chiefly amongst children attending the Infant Day Schools and it is very probable that the disease has been spread by the indiscriminate use of pencils, etc.

The following table gives the deaths for the past 10 years:—

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1,000.
1903	...	6	...	0·26
1904	...	1	...	0·04
1905	...	2	...	0·08
1906	...	8	...	0·32
1907	...	1	...	0·04
1908	...	1	...	0·04
1909	...	3	...	0·12
1910	...	2	...	0·08
1911	...	3	...	0·12
1912	...	4	...	0·17

### ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

There were 6 cases notified and 2 proved fatal. All the cases were enquired into. The case mortality was 33 per cent. The death-rate was 0·08 per 1000. We suspected a "Typhoid Carrier." A specimen of blood was taken with negative results. It is a matter for congratulation that so few cases of Typhoid Fever occur—only 15 cases have been notified in the past 3 years. Some of the suspicious water supplies have been replaced by the town's water with excellent results.

The following table gives the deaths for the past 10 years:—



Year		Deaths		Rate per 1,000.
1903	...	5	...	0'22
1904	...	3	...	0'13
1905	...	0	...	0'00
1906	...	1	...	0'04
1907	...	0	...	0'00
1908	...	0	...	0'00
1909	...	5	...	0'20
1910	...	2	...	0'08
1911	...	3	...	0'13
1912	...	2	...	0'08

### DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

There were 10 deaths registered—5 under 5 years and 5 over 5 years—which is the same as for 1911. The death-rate equals 0'44 per 1000. During the year diarrhœa was not of an epidemic character. No doubt the cold and wet weather prevented any serious epidemic of gastro intestinal diseases. The house-fly is considered the greatest factor in spreading diarrhœal diseases—as an irritating pest and filth carrier we must all agree. In regard to spreading Gastro Intestinal diseases, in my opinion it is greatly over-rated. In our Borough owing to high elevation and nature of the soil, the ground temperature is never high. In towns near the sea-level, where ground temperature is high, diarrhœal diseases prevail whether flies abound or not; of course flies generally breed rapidly when the temperature is high. The presence of flies is an indication of decaying organic matter being present which should be removed. Horse manure is one of best breeding places for flies. If unable to remove weekly, then a few fowls, about 5 for each horse, will most effectually prevent the Fly Nuisance.

FLIES.—Dr. Purdy, chief M.O.H. for Tasmania, speaks of the advantages attending the keeping of fowls where stable manure is stored, as the fowls feed on the larvæ. He recommends that 6 fowls be allowed for each horse as a means of preventing the nuisance from flies wherever there are stables.

The following table gives the deaths for the past 10 years :—

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1,000.
1903	...	3	...	0·13
1904	...	4	...	0·17
1905	...	3	...	0·13
1906	...	9	...	0·36
1907	...	3	...	0·12
1908	...	4	...	0·16
1909	...	4	...	0·16
1910	...	5	...	0·20
1911	...	10	...	0·45
1912	...	10	...	0·45

#### PUERPERAL FEVER.

Two cases were notified, both recovered.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORII.

Two cases were notified, in both cases a doctor was in attendance. When patients are unable to provide medical attendance provision has been made for a doctor to attend. We have two Queens Nurses who have rendered valuable services in cases of this kind.

#### REMARKS ON OTHER DISEASES.

Phthisis.—There were 21 deaths. The death-rate equals 0·93 per 1000.



The following table gives the deaths for the past 10 years :—

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1,000.
1903	...	26	...	1'15
1904	...	16	...	0'69
1905	...	23	...	1'02
1906	...	16	...	0'65
1907	...	22	...	0'87
1908	...	22	...	0'87
1909	...	14	...	0'56
1910	...	23	...	0'92
1911	...	20	...	0'90
1912	...	21	...	0'93

#### OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

There were 8 deaths, 3 under 5 years of age and 5 over 5 years of age.

#### RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

These include Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs. There were 66 deaths, 17 under 5 years and 49 over 5 years of age. The death rate equals 2'94 per 1000. Owing to our cold climate, the occupations of the people in the warm mills and then going into the cold air exposes them to chills. Also the large amount of soot, due to the smoke from our mills and houses, pollutes the atmosphere. In the winter the impurity of the air causes a great amount of Respiratory Diseases. The preventable sickness and mortality due to smoke and other impurities cannot be estimated. Some authorities are seeking to lessen the evils by cheap gas for domestic fires, cooking, etc., also gas-engines for workshops etc., and electricity as motive power for mills. We are pleased to observe that a new weaving shed has been fitted



for electrical driving. Very much could be done in our Borough if all the best methods of stoking were rigidly carried out in our mills and factories by the firemen.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—Twenty-nine observations have been taken. There is a slight improvement as compared with the previous year.

The following table gives the deaths for the past 10 years :—

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1,000.
1903	...	92	...	4·08
1904	...	76	...	3·22
1905	...	66	...	2·93
1906	...	83	...	3·40
1907	...	95	...	3·87
1908	...	61	...	2·48
1909	...	66	...	2·68
1910	...	61	...	2·06
1911	...	67	...	2·99
1912	...	66	...	2·94

### INFLUENZA.

There were 3 deaths, 1 under 5 years and 2 over 5 years of age. Death-rate equals 0·13 per 1000. This did not assume an epidemic character.

The following table gives the deaths for the past 10 years :—

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1,000.
1903	...	2	...	0·08
1904	...	6	...	0·26
1905	...	1	...	0·04
1906	...	2	...	0·08
1907	...	1	...	0·04
1908	...	10	...	0·40
1909	...	7	...	0·28
1910	...	2	...	0·08
1911	...	5	...	0·22
1912	...	3	...	0·13

## CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

There were 14 deaths registered. The death-rate equals 0·62 per 1000. Every year this terrible disease makes a heavy toll on our death-rate. We are still unable to discover the cause and any satisfactory treatment. Our chief aim must be to diagnose at its earliest stage and remove it. This method of early operation has proved the most successful.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 56 deaths under 1 year, which equals a death-rate of 121 per 1,000 births. In England and Wales for 1912 it was only 95 per 1,000 births. Of the 56 deaths 4 were illegitimate. The infantile mortality is fairly satisfactory for a manufacturing town where many of the mothers are engaged in weaving and spinning mills. The infants cannot have the same care and attention as those whose mothers are able to suckle and devote all their thought to their welfare. In agricultural districts the mothers have a small income, but the infantile death-rate is much lower than in Lancashire towns where the income is very much larger. The mortality this year is heavier owing to the epidemic of Measles which caused 6 deaths; Bronchitis and Pneumonia caused 6 deaths; Congenital Debility, Premature Births and Malformations 20 deaths; Diarrhoea and Enteritis 5.

In some of the homes a Lady Visitor would be able to give most valuable practical instructions on the feeding and care of infants. We ought to secure a Lady Visitor as soon as possible for this and other work.



## GENERAL REMARKS.

The Physical and geographical conditions have been stated in previous Reports.

The chief occupations are various branches of the cotton and woollen industry, brickworks, stone quarries, collieries and slipper works. The men employed in the stone quarries are liable to accidents; those who work underground in getting stone for flags, paving setts, etc., are very liable to chronic bronchial affections and to fibroid phthisis, owing to the fine particles of stone which they have to breathe in the confined atmosphere.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—From the 1911 census it will be seen that we have ample house accommodation. During the past year however, the cotton trade and other industries have been flourishing. The Ross Mill has started, other mills and works have been extended, so that the 301 empty houses are nearly all occupied, and in consequence, there will soon be a demand for new houses.

NEW PROPERTY.—During the year 2 new houses have been built; also plans for 18 new houses have been passed. There are no houses in course of construction. Supervision for construction of houses is given in the authority of building bye-laws, approved by the Local Government Board, in December, 1910.

OVERCROWDING.—In 1911, the census returns shewed that there were only 4 persons per house—the lowest number ever recorded. There is very little overcrowding, but it is certainly advantageous to deal with the overcrowding that does exist.



RATE ASSISTED RENTALS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.—The experience of medical officers in manufacturing districts, undeniably proves that overcrowding, to a large extent, accounts for excessive infantile mortality and physically enfeebled children. A Manchester physician recently stated that sixty per cent. of the children between the ages of 5 and 10 years reacted to the tuberculin test, thus indicating signs of tubercular infection. Large as this percentage is, we have not removed the predisposing cause, which is overcrowding. It ought to be realised that it is little short of a miracle to rear a family of robust and healthy children in a house of small air capacity. Unfortunately the time when the children should be in roomy surroundings happens to be at that period of their life when the parents have not the means to rent a house suitable for providing the same. I firmly believe, that were a certain portion of our rates allocated for assisting the parents to pay the rental of suitable houses for necessitous cases of overcrowding, not only would the children be healthier, but the town and state would be economically the gainers. Special care would be needed to prevent abuse of the rates. It is far more rational to combat phthisis, a resultant disease of overcrowding, by attending to the environments of our child life, than to have resource to costlier and less effective methods when children have reached adult years.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1912, confers special powers and duties on Local Authorities (on the advice of their Medical Officer of Health, see Article xiii.), to prevent and remove conditions favourable to tubercular infection &c. If these powers are exercised, these Regulations will probably do more to prevent Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis than the building of costly Snnatoria. "The Home should be the Sanatorium." The cost would be far less than sending patients to Sanatoria.



WATER SUPPLY.—We have an abundant supply of excellent water.

The Corporation supplies about 14,600 people, and about 8,000 are supplied from private sources; some of the latter have a good supply; some are liable to pollution from surface washing from manure fields. We have taken a few water supplies which have been condemned.

During the year 56 houses have been added to our town's supply.

SCAVENGING.—Removal and disposal of house refuse. This work is done almost entirely by our own Scavengers. On the whole it is well done. The ashes, etc., is removed weekly and deposited on tips in various parts of the Borough. Ash-pits are being abolished, with very great advantage from a sanitary point of view. The Sanitary Ash-bin is convenient to empty, also it keeps the contents dry and affords no breeding ground for flies, and obviates putrefaction and its resultant foul smells.

INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.—We have inspected the Borough and have taken action to remove nuisances and insanitary conditions. From the Sanitary Inspector's Report it will be seen that much valuable work has been done by Mr. Barnes, who has been a most alert and energetic official.

DISINFECTION.—This work has been carried out free of expense where infectious diseases have occurred in the homes. The infected houses are visited by the Sanitary Inspector, who disinfects room, or rooms, by means of Sulphur Dioxide or Formalin; the bedding, wearing apparel, etc., are removed to the Disinfecting Station and there treated with Steam under pressure and returned to the home free of cost. During the year all the Day



Schools have been disinfected by formalin spray, also sanitary saw-dust and liquid disinfectants have been supplied.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There are 5 Common Lodging Houses accommodating 195 lodgers, viz.—Princess Street 72 lodgers, Door Stones 61, Hare and Hounds 24, Laycock's 24, Patterson's 14. High-class Model Lodging House is a desideratum for better class working-men, who are prepared to pay for better accommodation. The Report of the Chief Constable on the Common Lodging Houses will be found annexed to my report.

CELLAR DWELLINGS.—There are very few cellar dwellings; these are of a better class type. When any become empty we take action to close the same if not in conformity with the regulations of the Public Health Act and the Housing and Town Planning Act.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There are 6 offensive trades, viz. Tripe Boilers 3, Gut-scraper 1, Fat Melter 1, Knacker's Yard 1. These premises are kept in a satisfactory condition. During the year we have granted a license for Gut-scrapping, which is the first ever issued. Previously, some of the pork-butchers had done gut-scrapping for their own use for sausage making. After the meat poisoning outbreak in 1911, we had reason to take all precautions to see that no one engaged in gut-scrapping should be engaged in the preparation of meat. We are strongly of the opinion that gut-scrapping in slaughter-houses is an insanitary practice and should be abolished.

SCHOOLS.—All the Elementary Day Schools have been inspected; the sanitary condition is fairly satisfactory. During the year, in 2 of the schools, the pail closets have been converted to the water carriage system. There are



two other schools which need to be dealt with; it is hoped that this will be attended to without further delay. There are 11 Schools with 17 departments. Accommodation for 4,812 Scholars. Total Scholars on register December, 1912, 3,370, against 3,327 in December, 1911. During the year there have been epidemics of Measles and of Chicken-pox. These epidemics have lessened the school attendance, particularly in the Infant departments. The following 9 Schools were closed owing to the epidemic of Measles, for periods varying from 5 days to 3 weeks:—Mount Council School, Central C. Infant, Sharneyford C., Wesley Place C., Britannia C., Western C., Tunstead C.E., St. Mary's R.C., St. Joseph's R.C.

OPEN AIR CLASSES.—We are glad to observe that when the weather is suitable some of the teachers are giving lessons in the open air. This is a practice which should be strongly encouraged. Some continental schools have pursued this course for several years with the most satisfactory results. Some of our Schools have covered shelters which could be used in wet weather.

PENCILS, ETC., AS PROBABLE DISEASE CARRIERS.—We have referred to this danger in several previous reports. Our experience fully justifies the *Special Caution* issued in the Memorandum of the Local Government Board in 1909—"Pencils suspected as Diphtheria Carriers." Between Oct. 20th and 24th, there were 5 cases of diphtheria between ages of 5 and 7 years; these children all attended one infant school and were in the same classes. All were treated with Antitoxin Serum and recovered. The pencils were disinfected, except 18 of those badly bitten, which were sent for Bacteriological examination. The diphtheria bacillus was not found. The Report however goes to prove, that the practice ought to be abolished of the in.



discriminate use of pencils, etc. On November 22nd, the Bacteriological Expert, says:— "I found pure culture of Staphylococci; 2 pencils presented actively motile bacilli of the colon type, hay bacilli, numerous putrefactive organisms, also streptococci and diplococci; no diphtheria present. The result of the investigations, in my opinion, is sufficient to justify the recommendation that, either each child should have his or her own pencil case, or if they have to be used in common, that the pencils should be frequently disinfected." The Health Committee forwarded my report to the Education Committee, which they have under consideration. Some of the schools have provided nearly all the classes with separate Cases, which will hold pencils, copy-books, etc. These cases are made in the Borough and are very cheap, less than 3d. each, and will last for 3 or more years. We examined the 83 children who attended these classes, a few had enlarged glands but none with diphtheric membrane. We took 6 swabs and sent them for bacteriological examination, the result in regard to diphtheria bacilli was negative.

FOOD—MILK SUPPLY, DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.—We have 127 Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers. The Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops have been inspected.

A considerable amount of money has been spent in improving the cowsheds; each year marks an advance; much remains to be done, as many of the cowsheds were built when light and ventilation were not considered as essentials. It will take several years before all the cowsheds are satisfactory in every detail. The importance of

#### CLEAN MILK

during the past three or four years has been emphasised in the lay papers. The dangers in regard to the spread of Tubercular Diseases amongst children, owing



to milk being contaminated by the tubercle bacilli is well known. Two years ago, we strongly urged the importance of Clean Milk. The public have a right to have their milk free from dirt, etc., due to negligence.

Two years ago, Miss Myerscough gave a lecture on the "Manipulation of Milk" to the dairy farmers in the Borough. Many valuable suggestions were made, one of the most practical of the suggestions was the use of the Sterilized Cotton Filter ; ordinary muslin should not be used. From enquiries which we have made, they have not been very generally adopted. The *Ordinary Muslin Filters* must be abolished—they have had their day ; the *Cotton Filter* must take its place, though the Silicate Cotton Wool Filter takes a premier place. In my opinion, it not only filters out dirt, but removes some of the bovine tubercle bacilli that may be present. The farmers' objection seems to be that the milk takes longer to filter, but this is a small matter when purity of the milk supply is in question. The milk if filtered immediately after being drawn from the cow will go through almost as quickly as through muslin. The cost of these filters is about 2/6 for 150, so it is a mere trifle.

It is well known that milk is liable to convey tuberculosis to children ; it is well therefore that all milk should be boiled for 5 minutes before using. It might be better still if the farmer were to pasteurise the milk, but the cost of a steriliser is rather prohibitive to small farmers. We know that the milk is very liable to contamination, due to the carelessness of the consumer in having dirty vessels and exposing the milk to dust, flies, etc.

OTHER FOODS.—The Market Ground and shops where food is prepared have been inspected regularly and has been found to be kept satisfactory. There have been no seizure of either meat or any other food.



SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 16 on the register. These have been visited regularly and found satisfactory. Some are not structurally fitted for the purpose and a Public Abattoir would be the best remedy.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS.—There have been 25 samples, viz. :—Milk 12, Bread 1, Butter 3, Vinegar 1, Pepper 1, Whisky 2, Rum 2, Gin 1, Compound Liquorice Powder 1, Cheese 1. All were found satisfactory.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.—Some most excellent work has been done, which is set forth in the following tabular statement :—

Situation of Premises.	DEFECTS.	WORKS DONE.
146 Todmorden Road	Back to the land, house damp, walls in a dilapidated condition, rooms low, no closet accommodation, badly lighted, ceilings not underdrawn, defective drains, dilapidated house floors.	Back walls taken out, area and yard provided, houses made into through houses, W.C. provided, new lights provided, ceilings underdrawn, new floors laid.
148 Todmorden Road	do.	do.
2 Sowclough	Back to the land, bad roofs, dilapidated walls, badly lighted, ceilings not underdrawn, no spouting or fallpipes, low rooms and premises damp, dilapidated outbuildings.	Closed for human habitation.
4 Sowclough	do.	do.
11 Sowcl'gh	do.	do.



113 New line	Dilapidated cess-pool closets, dilapidated surface of yard to level and repair, defective drains, defective sewers, roofs to repair, ashpit to abolish and provide a dust-bin.	Closet abolished and W.C. provided, yard flagged, new sewers and drains laid, roofs repaired, also dust-bin provided.
115 New line	do.	do.
117 New line	do.	do.
119 New line	do.	do.
121 New line	do.	do.
123 New line	do.	do.
125 New line	do.	do.
127 New line	do.	do.
129 New line	do.	do.
131 New line	do.	do.
133 New line	do.	do.
135 New line	do.	do.
137 New line	do.	do.
139 New line	do.	do.
141 New line	do.	do.
143 New line	do.	do.
145 New line	do.	do.
147 New line	do.	do.
149 New line	do.	do.
151 New line	do.	do.
153 New line	do.	do.
155 New line	do.	do.
157 New line	do.	do.
159 New line	do.	do.

459 Rochdale Road	Dilapidated outbuildings, surface of yards defective, to level and repair, pail closets to abolish and provide a W.C., ash-pit to abolish and provide a dust-bin.	Yard and outbuildings repaired, W.C. provided, also dust-bins provided.
461 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
463 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
465 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
467 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
469 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
471 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
473 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
475 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
480 Rochdale Road	Defective drains and sink waste pipe, pail closets to abolish, closet walls to repair.	New drains laid, also sink waste pipes disconnected and gully and channel fixed, W.C. fixed, and closet walls repaired.
482 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
484 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
345 Rochdale Road	Dilapidated cess-pool, closet, yards to repair, defective drains, ashpit to abolish.	W.C. provided, yard levelled and repaired, new drains laid, dust-bin provided.
347 Rochdale Road	do.	do.



349 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
351 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
353 Rochdale Road	do.	do.
258 New line	Defective cellar drains, dilapidated outbuildings, defective closets, offensive ashtubs, yards to level and repair, defective drains, sewer defective.	Matters complained partly done, others receiving attention.
260 New line	do.	do.
262 New line	do.	do.
264 New line	do.	do.
266 New line	do.	do.
268 New line	do.	do.
270 New line	do.	do.
272 New line	do.	do.
274 New line	do.	do.
276 New line	do.	do.
276a do.	do.	do.
105 New line	Defective drains, dilapidated outbuildings, pail closet to abolish, sewer defective.	Matters receiving attention.
107 New line	do.	do.
254 New line	do.	do.
450 Rochdale Road	Yards to level and repair, closets to abolish and provide W. C's., dust-bins required, defective drains, new sewer required.	
452 Rochdale Road	do.	

454 Roch- dale Road	do.
456 Roch- dale Road	do.
458 Roch- dale Road	do.
460 Roch- dale Road	do.
462 Roch- dale Road	do.
464 Roch- dale Road	do.
466 Roch- dale Road	do.
468 Roch- dale Road	do.

42a Lee wood      Defective drains  
discharging into  
brook, cesspool clos-  
ets, fallpipes connec-  
ted direct into drain,  
yards to level and re-  
pair, ashpits to abol-  
ish and provide dust-  
bin, sink waste to dis-  
connect from drain  
and fix gully & chan-  
nel, new sewer re-  
quired.

44 Lee wood	do.
46 Lee wood	do.
48 Lee wood	do.
50 Lee wood	do.
52 Lee wood	do.
54 Lee wood	do.
56 Lee wood	do.
58 Lee wood	do.
60 Lee wood	do.



- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2 Blackwood           | Back to the land,<br>ceiling not under-<br>drawn, dangerous<br>staircase, defective<br>closet, sinkstone in a<br>dark recess under<br>staircase, defective<br>drains, bed-room ad-<br>joins room used for<br>storing hay, premises<br>damp. |
| 1 Ashworth<br>Street  | Yards to level and<br>repair, cesspool clos-<br>ets, dilapidated out-<br>buildings, defective<br>drains, outbuildings<br>causing house to be<br>dark.   |
| 3 Ashworth<br>Street  | do.   |
| 5 Ashworth<br>Street  | do.   |
| 7 Ashworth<br>Street  | do.   |
| 9 Ashworth<br>Street  | do.   |
| 11 Ashworth<br>Street | do.   |
| 11 Zion<br>Street     | Cesspool closet,<br>yard to level and re-<br>pair, windows to be<br>made to open, ashpit<br>to abolish.   |

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.—The staff consists of chief Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant. Recently the amount of work has greatly increased and seems likely to continue; we shall probably require more assistance if the work is to be satisfactorily done.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION—SMALL-POX.—We have a Joint Hospital at Sourhall, which contains 32 beds and is in every way up-to-date. In regard to other infectious diseases, we have arranged with the Bury Joint Hospital Board to send our cases there. In the early part of the year we sent two cases of typhoid fever to the Burnley Joint Isolation Hospital.

#### CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—

Chemical—Water, 4 samples, all suspicious.

Bacteriological—Milk, 2 samples, negative.

Water, 1 sample, Bacilli Coli present.

Blood, 1 specimen, negative. Suspected Typhoid carrier.

Diphtheria Swabs, 8, Diphtheria Bacilli absent.

18 Pencils, Diphtheria Bacilli absent, but other suspicious forms of Streptococci, Diplococci, Bacilli Coli, etc.

Total 34.

In the past we have done very little Bacteriological examinations. We ought to make arrangements for more work of this kind to be done in regard to Milk, Phthisis, Diphtheria, etc.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease was of a sporadic character, also of a mild type. In January, 1 case. February, 3 cases. April, May and June, one each month. August, 2. following three months the Borough was free. In December there was a slight epidemic, 6 cases were notified; they were at the Stacksteads end of the Borough, and were all children. Isolation in the homes of the parents was carried out. In only one house were 2 cases notified.



DIPHTHERIA.—There were 19 cases notified. In 10 cases Antitoxin Serum was used, with only one death. If used early, the antitoxin serum lessens the death-rate. “Outbreak probably due to a ‘carrier’ in a Saloon Railway Carriage.”—On Friday, July 26th, 22 persons left Bacup in a Saloon Railway Carriage for 7 hours’ journey to the Eastern Counties. It is most probable that there was a ‘carrier’ amongst them, as three persons who travelled in that carriage contracted diphtheria. They lived in different parts of the Borough. All recovered. No other persons contracted the disease. The Saloon Carriage was disinfected.

MEASLES.—This disease not being notifiable, we are unable to tabulate the number of cases. By the kindness of the School Visitor and in other ways, we got to know of 301 cases. The deaths registered were 21. The epidemic was very general and nearly every day school was affected. In 9 out of the 11 schools, the infants’ departments were closed. This disease is treated far too lightly; in many cases, little or no efforts are made to protect children from infection. All children under 5 years should be most carefully guarded against infection when the disease is epidemic, as it is really dangerous to very young children. There were 20 deaths under 5 years of age, of these 16 were under 2 years. If a child can be protected from infection up to 5 years; after that age the mortality is very low indeed, in fact, only one death was registered over 5 years of age.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.—Every case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been investigated. Special instructions were given in regard to preventing the spread of the disease; etc. These investigations confirm the



results of several years observations, viz. :—that the disease is one of poverty. In 37 cases, occurring in 37 houses, the social status as evidenced by the rents, prove that poverty and what that means, is the chief factor. The average rent per house for 25 houses, including rates, was only 3/7. There was no case of Phthisis in any house with rent over 6/- per week.

We have no Health Visitor, but we need one. It is most important that a Lady Visitor be secured as soon as possible. There will be ample work, as the Day School Children from some homes need almost daily visitation, owing to the dirty and careless habits of their mothers. Should the Notification of Births Act be adopted, the Lady Visitor would be needed in some of the homes. We are hoping at an early date that something may be done in regard to Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis.

WEAVERS AND PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—“Shuttle Kissing” is admitted to be unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous; that means be taken that this practice be rendered unnecessary.” It is over two years ago that we called attention to this dirty custom and its potential dangers, yet no really serious and practical results have followed the agitations in this country. In the weaving centres in the U.S.A. immediate action was taken. Already 70 per cent. of the looms are provided with hand threaded shuttles and the remaining 30 per cent. must be abolished before next May. The dangers may not be so serious in their nature, or in their frequency as they have been supposed to be, yet the only logical and reasonable course is to abolish the custom, if it can be done without unreasonable cost to the manufacturer and financial loss to the weaver.—We believe it can. Last year the “Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1911,” came into force. These regulations made all cases compulsory notifiable, so that



we are able to act promptly in seeking to prevent the spread of this disease. In the month of December we had 3 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified amongst weavers, two women aged 35 and 21 respectively and one man aged 64. The two women died, one on Dec. 28th, 1912, and the other on Jan. 11th, 1913. In all three cases the shuttles were used by other weavers without being disinfected or cleansed. We sent for the shuttles and disinfected them. One weaver who was working at the looms on Dec. 9th, had a tenter assisting her; the risk is obvious. We would strongly urge that all shuttles, that have been used by persons who have any symptoms of disease of the mouth, throat, or lungs, should be properly cleansed and disinfected before being used by another person.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—The following is a list of streets which have been paved during the year 1912:—

Blackthorn Lane

Harcourt Street

Birch Street

Daisy Bank

Thistle Street

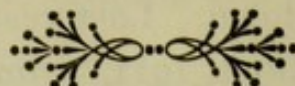
Rose Street

Ashworth Street

Brearley Street

Back Street rear of Ashworth Street and Brearley Street

Street at rear of 215 to 221, Newchurch Road



LIST OF ACTS PROMOTED BY AND OF THOSE  
ADOPTED BY THE CORPORATION OF BACUP.

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Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	...	1890
Local Government Boards Provisional Orders			
	Confirmation (No. 7) Act		1890
do.	do.	(No. 10) Act	1890
Bacup Corporation Water Act	...	...	1894
L. G. B's Provisional Orders Confirmation Act			
(No. 19) Act	...	...	1897
Bacup Corporation Water Act	...	...	1898
do.	do.	Act	1906
Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	...	1907
Sections 18, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31, and 33 of Part II.			
„ 34, 45, 49 and 51 of Part III.			
„ 55, 56, 59, 60, 62 and 66 of Part IV.			



*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1912, for the Borough of Bacup on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.*

## I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	12	3	...
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	120	4	...
Workplaces ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Table 3)	5	...	...
Total ... ..	137	7	...

## II.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	11	11	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation {	Insufficient ... ..	2	2	...
	Unsuitable or defective ... ..	9	9	...
	Not separate for sexes ... ..	2	2	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses ... ..	3	3	...	...
Other Offences ... .. (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Table 3). ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	27	27	...	...



## III.—HOME

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists.			
	Lists received from Employers.			
	Twice in the Year.		Once in the Year.	
	Lists	Out-workers	Lists	Out-workers
Wearing Apparel—				
(1) making, &c. ... ..	I	...	I	...
(2) cleaning and washing ... ..	...	...	...	...
Household Linen ... ..	...	...	...	...
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets ... ..	...	...	...	...
Curtains & Furniture Hangings ... ..	...	...	...	...
Furniture and Upholstery ... ..	...	...	...	...
Electro-plate ... ..	...	...	...	...
File making ... ..	...	...	...	...
Brass and Brass Articles ... ..	...	...	...	...
Fur pulling ... ..	...	...	...	...
Cables and Chains ... ..	...	...	...	...
Anchors and Grapnels ... ..	...	...	...	...
Cart gear ... ..	...	...	...	...
Locks, Latches, and Keys ... ..	...	...	...	...
Umbrellas, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...
Artificial Flowers ... ..	...	...	...	...
Nets, other than Wire Nets ... ..	...	...	...	...
Tents ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sacks ... ..	...	...	...	...
Racquet and Tennis Balls ... ..	...	...	...	...
Paper etc., boxes, paper bags ... ..	...	...	...	...
Brush making ... ..	...	...	...	...
Pea picking ... ..	...	...	...	...
Feather sorting ... ..	...	...	...	...
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...
Stuffed Toys ... ..	...	...	...	...
Basket making ... ..	...	...	...	...
Chocolates and Sweetmeats ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	I	...	I	...

[illegible]





TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1912 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICTS.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	NETT		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year	At all Ages	Rate
		Uncor-rected Number	Num-ber					Rate per 1000 Births		
1907	24500	541	541	385	15.71	...	23	69	127	407
1908	24600	537	537	360	14.73	3	19	56	104	376
1909	24600	479	479	361	14.67	4	27	64	133	384
1910	24600	473	473	349	14.71	...	20	50	105	369
1911	22400	414	417	310	14.11	2	29	46	111	343
1912	22400	458	460	332	14.82	3	38	56	121	367
										16.38
Area of District in acres (land and inland water).		Total Population at all ages.		Number of Inhabited houses.		Average Number of persons per house.				
6,120		22,234		5,572		4				



TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1912.

Notifiable Disease	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup ...	19	6	9	4	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	18	2	1	3	...	4	4	4
Scarlet Fever ...	15	...	8	7	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	6	...	...	2	1	3	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	39	...	...	4	11	11	12	1
Ophthalmia Neon- atorum ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Varicella ...	82	12	38	32	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	183	22	56	52	12	20	16	5

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH  
DURING THE YEAR, 1912.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the district.									Total Deaths whether of "Resi- dents" or Non-resi- dents" in Instituti- ons in the District.
	All Ages	Un- der 1 year	1 and und'r 2 yrs.	2 and und'r 5 yrs.	5 and und'r 15	15 and und'r 25	25 and und- er 45	45 and und- er 65	65 and up- wards	
All causes { Certified { Uncertifi'd	363 4	55 1	23 ...	17 ...	12 1	18 ...	41 ...	105 1	92 1	363 4
Enteric Fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	21	6	10	4	1	...	...	...	...	21
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	4	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	4
Influenza ...	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	3
Erysipelas ...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	21	...	...	...	1	4	9	7	...	21
Tuberculous Meningitis	4	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	4	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	4
Cancer (malignant disease)...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	1	16
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Organic Heart Disease	36	...	...	...	1	4	5	16	10	36
Bronchitis ...	42	4	2	2	1	...	3	14	16	42
Pneumonia (all forms)	22	3	2	2	...	2	4	6	3	22
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	3
Diarrhœa & Enteritis...	10	5	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	10
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	4	14
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	21	20	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)...	4	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	4
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	123	10	5	2	3	3	10	35	55	123
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	5	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
All Causes ...	367	56	23	17	13	18	41	106	93	367



TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY  
NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT

CAUSE OF DEATH.					Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks.
All causes	Certified	..	..	..	11	2	4
	Uncertified	..	..	..	1	..	..
{ Small-pox .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Measles .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Diphtheria and Croup .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Erysipelas .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Convulsions.. .. .					..	..	..
{ Laryngitis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Bronchitis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Pneumonia (all forms) .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Diarrhœa .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Enteritis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Gastritis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Syphilis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Rickets .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Suffocation, overlying .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Injury at birth .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Atelectasis .. .. .					..	..	..
{ Congenital Malformations.. .. .					1	..	..
{ Premature birth .. .. .					1	2	2
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus .. .. .					7	..	2
{ Other Causes .. .. .					2	..	..
					12	2	4

Nett Births in the Year—legitimate, 437; illegitimate, 23.

## DURING THE YEAR 1912.

## VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
::	17	9	6	8	15	55
::	1	..	..	..	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	1	5	6
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	2	..	..	..	2
..	..	..	..	1	1	2
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	1	1	2
..	..	..	2	1	1	4
..	..	2	..	1	2	5
..	..	..	..	1	1	2
..	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	1
..	5	1	..	..	1	7
..	9	4	..	..	..	13
..	2	..	4	2	2	10
..	18	9	6	8	15	56

Nett Deaths in the Year of legitimate infants—52; illegitimate—4.



## Chief Constable's Report for 1912.

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The Common Lodging-houses are visited daily, and each proprietor fills up a form stating the name of each new lodger, whence they came, and their destination, which he hands to the visiting officer each morning; these are kept at the Police Station for reference.

There has been no additional Lodging-house registered during this year.

J. HARLAND,

Chief Constable.



BOROUGH OF BACUP.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

*Arthur E. Barnes,*

A.M.R.S. Inst. (by exam.);

Member of Incorp. Assoc. San. Inspectors.

Hons. Cert. Plumbing, Hygiene, &c.

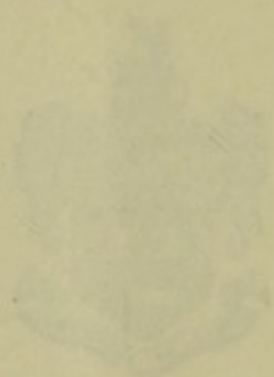
*For the Year ended December 31st, 1912.*

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BACUP:

Martin Holt, Printer & Stationer, 173, Market Street.





BOROUGH OF BACUP

# ANNUAL REPORT

Sanitary Inspector

Arthur C. Barnes

A small part of the  
Sanitary Inspector's  
Report for the year ended  
December 31st, 1912.

For the Year ended December 31st, 1912.

Printed by the Borough Engineer, Bacup, 1913.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR 1912.



*To His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. C. Hoyle),  
Mr. Alderman Maden, Deputy Mayor (Chairman),  
Mr. Councillor J. H. Lord, (Vice-Chairman),  
and Members of the Health Committee of the  
Corporation of the Borough of Bacup.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Eleventh Annual Report, giving details of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1912.

INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH AND REMOVAL OF NUISANCES.

As in previous years, regular inspections of the courts, yards, and passages within the Borough have been made, and the nuisances discovered during such inspections have been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the various Health Acts.

The nuisances discovered were of a varied nature, many being of such a character as to require no structural alteration to property to procure their abatement; therefore, in many instances, verbal intimation to the persons respon-



sible was sufficient to bring about the desired result. In cases, however, where the nuisances arose from structural defects, or from the absence of sanitary appliances, the usual statutory notices were served upon the owners.

From the perusal of this report it will be seen that a large amount of work is being done, when it is considered that the work of the Sanitary Department increases each year.

#### SUMMARY OF WORK.

Visits and Re-visits to Houses	...	...	...	1523
Notices and Letters served	...	...	...	587
Workshop Inspections	...	...	...	127
Slaughter-houses and Offensive Trade Inspections				644
Cowsheds Inspections	...	...	...	138
Rooms Disinfected, including 21 Schools, 1 Cowshed and 1 Living Van	...	...	...	208
Drains Tested (by smoke)	...	...	...	28
Complaints received	...	...	...	97
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	33
Visits paid to Infected Houses	...	...	...	605
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	29

#### NUISANCES ABATED.

Foul Drains cleansed	...	...	...	38
Cesspools abolished (Water Closets provided)	...			25
„ „ (Pails provided)	...	...		5
Pail Closets abolished (Water Closets provided)	...			85
Defective Drains to repair	...	...	...	21
House Walls Damp (to cement)	...	...	...	10
Gable Ends Damp (to cement)	...	...	...	8
Gable End Area to cleanse	...	...	...	1

NUISANCES ABATED—*continued.*

Drainage from Manure Tanks flowing over Highway ... ..	2
Defective Soilpipes to repair ... ..	2
Privy Closets abolished (W.C's. provided)... ..	13
„ „ „ (Pails „ )... ..	4
Waste Water flowing over Street (Drains to repair)	3
Depositing Slops on Public Highway ... ..	1
Badly Lighted Slaughter-house ... ..	1
Dilapidated Slaughter-house Walls (to take down and re-build) ... ..	1
Offensive Dog kept in house (to remove) ... ..	1
To discontinue depositing Bones and Skins on Street	1
Offensive Cellar Areas to fill in ... ..	3
Dilapidated Slaughter-house Floor (floor repaired)	1
Defective Waste Water Closets (stopped up) ... ..	12
Offensive Waste Water Closets removed (W.C's. provided) ... ..	4
New Pedestal Water Closets fixed ... ..	5
Dilapidated House Floors (re-laid)... ..	4
„ „ „ (to repair) ... ..	2
Dilapidated Sinkstones (new ones fixed) ... ..	3
Dilapidated Surface of Yards re-laid with flags ... ..	2
„ „ „ to level and repair... ..	1
Dirty Closets to cleanse ... ..	17
Offensive Rubbish in Cellars to remove ... ..	2
„ „ Yards „ ... ..	3
Dirty Dwellings to cleanse ... ..	19
Dirty Bedrooms to cleanse ... ..	14
Slaughter-houses to cleanse ... ..	1
Fall Pipes stopped up cleansed ... ..	11
Offensive Deposits to remove ... ..	5
Insufficient Ash-pits (Ash-bins provided) ... ..	81
Additional Water Closets provided ... ..	4



NUISANCES ABATED—*continued.*

Defective Stable Drains repaired ... ..	2
"    "    "    new one required ... ..	1
Defective Stable Roof to repair ... ..	1
Depositing Fish Offal on Street (to discontinue) ...	3
New Urinal provided ... ..	1
Depositing & Burning Refuse on disused Delph ...	4
Drains inside Slaughter-house (to remove and fix outside) ... ..	2
Defective Chimney (to repair) ... ..	1
Defective Urinals (to repair) ... ..	2
Bedroom Ceiling (to be under-drawn) ... ..	1
Defective Drains under Buildings (drains removed)	4
Scullery Roofs (to repair) ... ..	2
Dilapidated House Roofs repaired ... ..	5
Dilapidated Spouting, Fall Pipes (new ones fixed)	22
No Closet Accommodation (to provide W.C.) ...	2
Cellar Floors to level and repair ... ..	2
Defective Cellar Drains cleansed and repaired ...	7
Defective Closet Basins (new ones fixed) ... ..	3
Dilapidated Closets to repair ... ..	6
Dilapidated Closet Boxes (Sanitary Pails provided)	5
Sinkwaste Pipes disconnected from Drains (gullies and 18in. channels fixed) ... ..	34
Sinkwaste Pipes stopped-up (cleansed) ... ..	17
Foul Fresh-water Closet Drains (cleansed) ...	14
Fall Pipes disconnected from Drains ... ..	11
Premises overcrowded ... ..	6
Defective Sinkwaste Pipes (new ones fixed) ...	5
Defective Closet Cisterns ... ..	3
Sinkwaste Pipe discharging direct into Waste Water Closet ... ..	1
Defective Lavatory, Waste Pipes ... ..	2
Stagnant Water in Cellar ... ..	3
Defective Closets to repair ... ..	2
Rubbish on Street to remove ... ..	1

DRAINS TESTED (by Smoke).

<u>No. of Premises, 47.</u>	<u>No. of Defects Found.</u>	<u>Work carried out.</u>
<u>Nature of Defects.</u>		
Drains untrapped ...	3	Gully Traps and Dishstones fixed
Defective Drains in Cellar ...	9	Drains Disconnected from Sewer
Drains discharging to River ...	2	
Defective Sewer ...	1	
Bath Waste connected direct into Drain ...	1	Gully and Channel fixed
Defective Drains ...	10	Drains repaired
Defective Stone Drain ...	1	Drain removed
Defective Drains with Iron Traps ...	3	New Gully Traps and Channels fixed
Defective Soilpipes ...	4	New lengths fixed
Sinkwaste Pipes connected direct to Drains ...	2	Sinkwaste Pipes disconnected, Gullies and Channels fixed outside
Defective Drains passing direct under Dwelling	1	Drains removed
Fall Pipes connected direct into Drains ...	7	Fall Pipes disconnected Gully Traps fixed
Fall Pipes blocked ...	9	Drains cleaned
Defective Joints between Closet and Soilpipe ...	4	Joints repaired



During the year I have submitted the following Reports to the Health Committee, viz:—

Report *re* Tradesmen's Refuse.

Report *re* Privies and Cesspools.

Report *re* Number of Men Employed and Wages Paid.

Report *re* Proposed Premises to be used for an offensive Trade.

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspections have been made of premises and shops where food is prepared or kept for sale, the food which came under my observation was found to be satisfactory.

During the year special attention was given to food-stuffs preserved in tins. Several shops were visited and tins taken from stock were inspected. In every case I found a willingness on the part of each tradesman to assist in this inspection. No "Blown" tins were observed.

The whole of the butchers, fishmongers, fruiterers, and other tradesmen's premises have been kept under close and frequent supervision; also, the market has been visited twice weekly. Thirty copies of the "Gooseberry Milldew Fruit Order" were served upon the Greengrocer's in the Borough.

Two samples of mixed milks and one sample of water were taken for Bacteriological examination.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No. on Register, 16.

The Slaughter-houses in the Borough have been periodically inspected. Some of the Slaughter-houses are in congested areas, and structurally not suited for the purpose, otherwise the premises are kept clean, and at the time of my inspections the slaughtering was done so as to prevent as far as the nature of the trade would allow, any effluvium nuisances. Several improvements have been effected at the slaughter-houses during the year. The question of gut-scraping in the slaughter-houses, as mentioned in my previous Reports, has received attention, and as a license has been granted for the business of gut-scraping in premises away from the slaughter-houses, I am expecting no further trouble will arise from this insanitary and dangerous practice.

I still find a few butchers are in the habit of having their meat taken from their slaughter-houses on carts, etc., without any covering, thus allowing the dust and rain to fall upon it. It would be more satisfactory if coverings in all cases of removal were provided. If this is done it will be both to the butchers' as well as to the consumers' advantage.

The difficulties in the way of food inspection are great as regards meat. The slaughter-houses in the Borough are scattered, slaughtering being done at irregular times and hours.

In connection with this point, I would suggest to the Committee the desirability of an early consideration of the question as to the provision of a Public Abattoir. In view



of the difficulties liable to be experienced in the prompt and effective discovery of unsound meat, I think it will be generally agreed that the provision of a public slaughter-house for a large district such as ours is a question well worth considering, and I would commend it to your notice. The necessarily superior conditions under which meat would be prepared, and the corresponding benefits likely to accrue to the public would, I feel sure, be very great whilst it would render the sanitary supervision of the meat supply far less difficult.

Forty-three permits have been granted during the year, allowing persons to slaughter the following animals on premises not licensed as slaughter-houses viz ;—Pigs 62, Goats 2, Cow 1, Lambs 4. I am strongly of opinion, that this privilege is likely to be abused, also your Inspector cannot supervise these premises as satisfactorily as the slaughter-houses, still we have some knowledge when and where the slaughtering takes place.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number on Register—	Tripe Boilers	...	3
„	„ Gut-scrapers	...	1
„	„ Fat Melter	...	1
„	„ Knackers' Yard	...	1

The premises in occupation have been regularly inspected, and so far as the nature of the trade would allow, kept in a clean condition, the Bye-laws being strictly enforced. One application for license for use of premises for the purpose of carrying on the trade of gut-scraping was received, and was favourably considered by the Committee.



FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 33 shops in the Borough for the sale of Fried Fish and Chip Potatoes.

Inspection of these premises were made during the year—the majority were found clean and well fitted-up. Your Inspector occasionally receives complaints from people living near these premises regarding the smells, but when sound fish and good materials are used, and cleanliness observed, considering the advantages they offer of a cheap, wholesome, ready-prepared food, little exception can be taken to the manner in which they are conducted. Inspection of the fish and other materials used were made at intervals, and in each case they were found satisfactory. Fish and chips are articles of diet consumed to no small extent in the town, and they should always be prepared under hygienic conditions and sanitary surroundings. The operation of special administrative powers—namely, Bye-laws—would enable your Inspector to be more exacting in his demands for that purpose, and would establish a uniform system of supervision.

POTTED MEAT AND SAUSAGE MAKERS.

During the year the premises in which Sausages, Potted Meats and Foodstuffs were made, were visited. In each case the utensils were found to be clean, the occupiers trying to produce these foodstuffs as cleanly as possible.

Some of these premises were not made for the work carried on and cannot be called ideal places for the purposes to which they have been put. I consider it is of the greatest importance that all foodstuffs should be prepared under



the most hygienic conditions possible. One of these premises was unfit for the work carried on, the owner had the entire interior remodelled.

THE PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES,  
BANK STREET.

Some complaints were received during the year respecting the locks being out of order, but if persons using these places exercised more care, complaints would be reduced. During the whole year one closet has been left open for the use of females. A few complaints were received respecting this closet, but considering we have no female attendant during the day, the leaving of one closet open has worked fairly well.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Twenty-nine observations, each of a half-hour's duration, were made. The average number of minutes of black smoke emitted being nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes per half-hour, the highest being 5 minutes in the half-hour. In each case, after an observation has been taken and the time limit is exceeded I visit the boiler-house, see the manager, or fireman, and draw their attention to the amount of smoke emitted.

Whatever mechanical or automatic apparatus is provided to prevent or consume black smoke, unless attention and care is given to them, they will prove failures so far as preventing or consuming black smoke is concerned. Improvement could be effected if firemen would exercise greater care during the process of firing. As the Committee have fixed a time limit for the emission of black

smoke, better results should be observed in the future. As will be seen, a slight improvement has been effected during the year, when compared with the previous year.

#### VANS USED AS DWELLINGS.

The dwelling vans of showmen who visited the town for the purpose of attending the fair, and also some who visited Stacksteads, were all inspected in order to ascertain their sanitary condition, and also for the purpose of observing any cases of sickness which might exist among the inmates. The condition of the vans with one exception were satisfactory. In making my inspections, I found a child suffering from diphtheria, a doctor was called in and the case notified, after the child got better the van was disinfected before leaving the town.

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

We have on our Register the following workshops—115, and 5 workplaces.

One hundred and thirty-seven visits have been paid under the above Act, and several defects noted, and improvements effected. Seven notices were served. In other cases the owners' or occupiers' attention was directed to the defects observed. Three complaints respecting defects in Factories were received from H.M. Inspector, which received attention.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>DEFECTS.</u>	<u>No. of Defects Found.</u>
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>		
Defective Dust extractor to repair	... ..	1
New Fallpipes and Spouting to fix	... ..	2



No Ashpit accommodation, to provide Dust-bin	1
Foul drains cleansed (Urinal) ... ..	2
Foul drains cleansed (W.C.) ... ..	3

*Sanitary Accommodation—*

No Closet accommodation for Females ...	2
„ „ „ for Males ...	2
Pail Closets to abolish and provide W.C. ...	3
Dirty Closets cleansed and whitewashed ...	2
Dilapidated Closet pails to provide new ones	3

*Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act—*

Floors to repair ... ..	1
Bakehouses to whitewash ... ..	1
Drain inside Bakehouse to remove ... ..	1
Closets to screen (3 Closets screened) ...	1
Workshop to whitewash ... ..	1
To abolish Urinal ... ..	1

*Homework—*

One list of out-workers was received from an occupier, and two from an adjoining Council.

We have on our Register the names and addresses of 13 out-workers. The out-workers of our Borough are persons who take in slippers to make at home. This work is chiefly carried on in the kitchen or living-room. At the time of my inspection these premises were found in a clean condition.

We have on our Register five workplaces, viz :—

Kitchens of Restaurants ... ..	4
Livery Stable Yards ... ..	1

In all cases I found a willingness on the part of the owners and occupiers to carry out any suggestion made respecting the sanitary improvement of their premises, all the defects complained of being attended to or are receiving attention.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, ETC., ACT, 1909.

Eighty-eight houses were specially reported upon under this Act. In every case action were taken by the Committee. The works required to be done with few exceptions have been attended to, others receiving attention.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885,  
AND REGULATIONS, 1907.

We have on our Register 127 Cowkeepers and Milk-sellers.

During the year 138 inspections were made. Three farmers supply Milk in our Borough from an adjoining district. Eight applications for Registration as Cowkeepers and Milksellers have been received during the year; all being registered. The Cowkeepers registered are using premises previously occupied by Registered Cowkeepers.

I find a common practice amongst some of our people, is that of placing their jugs, etc., outside their premises, so that the Milkman can put milk in them. It is very important in these cases that the jugs should be placed in such positions as not to catch dust or absorb foul gases.



The following work has been carried out during the year :—

Dilapidated House Roofs to repair ... ..	3
New Sinkwaste Pipe required ... ..	1
Dilapidated Closets ... ..	2
Manure pit adjoining Cowshed door to remove and provide new ones ... ..	2
Dairies Ventilated and Lights provided ...	3
Cowsheds ventilated ... ..	7
Dairy Floor repaired ... ..	1
Badly lighted Cowsheds ... ..	5
Cowshed Floors repaired ... ..	6
Drains inside Cowsheds removed, Drains fixed outside ... ..	2
Cowshed Walls to repair ... ..	3
Cowsheds to cleanse and whitewash ...	4
Dairies to whitewash ... ..	1
Unregistered ... ..	8
New Drains to Cowsheds provided ... ..	1
Dilapidated Cowsheds (new interior required)	2
New Spouting and Fallpipes fixed ... ..	2
Fallpipe disconnected from Drains, Gullies and Dishstones fixed ... ..	2
New Manure Pits provided ... ..	2
Piggeries re-drained and repaired ... ..	5
Dilapidated Pigstye floors, new ones required	3
Dilapidated Pigstye to abolish (new ones provided) ... ..	2
Pigs kept in Cowshed ... ..	1
Unsatisfactory Water Supplies ... ..	7
Cowshed Roofs to repair ... ..	5
Gable End to cement ... ..	3

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following number of Infectious Diseases were reported during the year :—

	<u>1911</u>	<u>1912</u>
Chickenpox ... ..	25	82
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	15
Typhoid Fever ... ..	5	<del>16</del> 6
Diphtheria (Mem. Group)... ..	21	19
Erysipelas ... ..	11	18
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	2
Phthisis ... ..	—	40
Measles ... ..	—	301
	<u>72</u>	<u>495</u>

408

Six hundred and five visits were made to infected houses, enquiries made as to the cause or origin of the disease, instructions given with regard to the isolation of the infected persons, and disinfection of the infected articles etc., connected with the disease. Sanitary Pails, Disinfectants, and Carbolic Oil are supplied free. The Schools are sprayed with Izal or Formalin Disinfectant. Also Disinfectant Sawdust is supplied to the Schools on request.

In case the infected person was a child attending school the school authorities were informed, and instructions given to keep all children from school until the medical attendant certified the children to be free from infection. Two hundred and eight rooms including twenty-one Schools, one cowshed, and one living van have been disinfected. The houses in which deaths had occurred from Phthisis were visited, and an offer made to disinfect. In only 14 cases was the offer accepted. 6 Books have been fumigated and



returned to their owners. Several parcels of lead pencils and brushes from the Schools have been disinfected, and 8 beds, 8 mattresses, and 6 parcels of clothing on the application of the owners have been destroyed. As the requests from the occupiers of houses for the destruction of mattresses and beds are increasing yearly, and the difficulties of burning them on our tips are great, some other means of destruction should be provided.

The free supply of disinfectants in the Borough has been duly appreciated. In some instances I find that disinfectants have taken the place of cleanliness. When the occupiers' attention was called to this matter, disinfectants were not so freely used, but search was made for any offensive smell, and the cause of same was removed, instead of being covered up.

From my inspections during the year I find that the people are taking a greater interest in matters relating to sanitation in and around their dwellings, and from this increased interest, improvement in the health of the parents and children must be effected.

#### STEAM DISINFECTOR AND CLEANSING STATION.

Fumigation of rooms in which have been infectious diseases is carried out by Sulphur Dioxide or Formic Aldehyde Gas. It is now the practice to remove on request or with the consent of the owners, bedding, clothing, etc., after cases of infectious diseases, to the Steam Disinfector for disinfection. During the year articles have been removed, disinfected and returned to the owners, from houses in which had been cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Cancer, Phthisis, Scarlet Fever, and Verminous children. Also some children have been taken to the cleansing station and



washed and cleansed by the lady attendant. During the time children are being washed their clothes, beds, and bed-clothes are being disinfected in the Steam Disinfector and also their bed-rooms are being Fumigated. When the advantages of Steam Disinfection are better known amongst our people more use will be made of the Disinfector.

#### ARTICLES DISINFECTED.

Towels ...	...	...	...	...	3
Mattresses (Wool)	...	...	...	...	3
Beds ...	...	...	...	...	21
Quilts ...	...	...	...	...	13
Sheets ...	...	...	...	...	10
Pillows ...	...	...	...	...	49
Suits of Clothes (Boys)	...	...	...	...	3
Girls Clothes ...	...	...	...	...	2
Sundry small Articles	...	...	...	...	46
Carpets ...	...	...	...	...	2
Blankets	...	...	...	...	10
					162

#### CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

As in previous years, I have visited each part of the Borough, and am well acquainted with the Sanitary condition of the differently constructed Privies and Ashpits. These are being reduced, and the Water Carriage system adopted. The weekly and bi-weekly collection of shop refuse in the central portion of the town has been well sustained, and I think has given general satisfaction.

During the year the increased amount of trade refuse removed has been sustained. This is probably due to the fact that a charge is being made to those who previously



had it removed free. A few complaints have been received respecting charges for trade refuse, but when it is considered that a charge must be made, and this refuse is being removed at low cost, I do not see how these complaints will be avoided.

Every application received for the emptying of Ashpits, Cesspools, or Pails is duly recorded in a book. During the year 39 such applications were made, which were attended to. The efforts I am making to dispose of the nightsoil in a more sanitary manner in preference to "dumping" it on the tips has, so far as disposing of it is concerned, been more satisfactory, more nightsoil having been put down the shutes than in any previous year. Several complaints were received during the year *re* smells from sewers and tips, caused by the nightsoil; these complaints will only decrease as the Pail Closets and Cesspools are abolished and the water carriage system becomes more generally adopted.

The only practical way to abate the nuisance arising from the disposal of pail contents on tips or shutes, is by adopting the W.C. system. Nearly all of the outlying districts are scavenged by ourselves. As opportunities occur we try to undertake this work by our own staff and without any increased cost.

The arrangements agreed to by the Committee of disposing of the butchers' and fish offal to the knacker's so as to be made into artificial manure, has greatly lessened the nuisance arising from the tips.

The work of cleansing at Britannia has had a fair trial, and has, so far as work is concerned, been satisfactory. A great sanitary improvement is being effected in this district by the conversion of the pail, privy, and cesspool



closets to the water carriage system ; already we have been able to partially dispense with a barrel going out for the collection of nightsoil.

In the Weir district I have made temporary arrangements with the farmers to take the nightsoil we collect there ; this will relieve us for a time and allow us to proceed with the conversion of closets in the Britannia district. In this district the provision of tips is becoming more difficult each year.

The task of removing and dealing with domestic refuse has specially received the attention of your Inspector during the year, and though the number of houses we collect from has increased since my appointment, the work has on the whole been satisfactorily carried out. If a weighing machine could be provided on the tip at Change, and all refuse weighed, it would soon pay for itself, as well as effect a saving in cleansing. From my experience I find that more efficient and better work is done when each load is weighed and I am strongly of the opinion that for the amount we pay for team labour and the class of horse we have, more refuse should be removed than is at present. This could be done by the provision of larger carts and the refuse being pressed down. If this was done a saving could be effected in this part of my work.

The abolition of the conservancy system, and the adoption of water carriage system for refuse removal is rapidly becoming general throughout the country, and wherever the sewers are satisfactory, your Inspector would advise that the abolition of all closets so constructed as to retain excrementitious matter around houses be rigidly enforced, and clean Water Closets substituted, as it is becoming more apparent that the water carriage system proper is the only alternative.



I would suggest to the Committee the urgent advisability of considering the question of obtaining a loan, so as to push forward the work of converting the Pail Closets, wherever possible, to the water carriage system. The money we provide each year towards conversions, and the amount we spend in collecting and repairing pails and disposing of the nightsoil, would go a long way towards redeeming the loan, as well as effecting a great sanitary improvement, and I am convinced, after a long experience, that this is the only effectual manner in which to deal with the complaints arising from our Sewers when we deposit nightsoil down them, all other ways being merely palliative. As the Health Committee makes a grant of part costs for conversion of Pail Closets in suitable places, and allows free water to one closet, one would have expected that this privilege would have been better appreciated.

During the year 40 certificates respecting grants towards the conversion of 122 Pails to the Water Carriage system have been given, some of these closets were altered during the latter part of 1911.

I think all responsible persons should avail themselves of the Committee's offer, and provide Water Closets in place of Pails, which are very insanitary, when it is considered that, not only has the excrement to remain about the houses, polluting the air, then collected and carted through the town, and has to be disposed of by depositing on tips or putting down the sewers, which is simply removing the "source" of nuisance from one place to another. Clean Water Closets are being adopted in lieu of Waste Water Closets, as Waste Water Closets are not as sanitary. It was claimed for these closets when they were introduced, that great saving of fresh water would be effected through



being flushed with slop water, but practical experience has shown that this is not the case.

The condition of the cesspools, privies etc., abolished during the year were extremely unsatisfactory and dangerous to health. The change in the districts where Water Closets have been provided is giving much satisfaction to the inhabitants. Greater efficiency and better satisfaction would arise from the use of Water Closets if occupiers would exercise care during the hard frosty weather, by turning off the water, so as to minimise as far as possible the tendency for the water in the pipes to freeze, thus causing needless expense to the owners, as well as annoyance to themselves.

During my inspection I have found closets, and sanitary fittings in a very unsatisfactory condition, caused by the indifference of the occupiers. It is to their own advantage to see that closets and all sanitary fittings are cleansed and kept in good order. Some persons have an idea that closets and sanitary fittings never require cleansing, with the result that they soon become a nuisance and annoyance to health. People do not seem to be aware that it is their duty to see that closet seats and floors must be regularly washed and cleansed, and all yards, passages and approaches thereto must always be kept clean and free from all ashes and dirt whatever, to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Inspector, in order to prevent a nuisance.

During the year I received some complaints respecting some hawkers being in the habit of depositing their fish offal and bad fruit on the streets and vacant lands in the Borough. I have drawn the attention of some hawkers to this undesirable practice.



TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF PAILS EMPTIED AND  
LOADS OF RUBBISH REMOVED EACH MONTH.

Month.	Pails and Cesspools.	Loads Refuse Removed.
January ... ..	8000	612
February ... ..	6328	513
March ... ..	6314	526
April ... ..	6275	495
May ... ..	6141	552
June ... ..	7854	623
July ... ..	6453	540
August ... ..	8767	625
September ... ..	6212	625
October ... ..	7640	660
November... ..	6259	528
December... ..	6292	531
Total 1912 ... ..	82535	6830

Your Sanitary Inspector gratefully recognises the valuable assistance he has received from the ex-Mayor (Alderman J. H. Maden, Deputy-Mayor), Mr. Councillor Cropper, ex-Vice-Chairman; Mr. Councillor Lord, Vice-Chairman; and Members of the Health Committee, in his endeavours to improve the sanitary condition of the Borough.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. BARNES,

A.M.R.S. Inst. (by exam.); Member of Incorp. Assoc. San.  
Inspectors; Hons. Certs. Plumbing, Hygiene, etc.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.