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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 1914,

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— BY —

**J. PERCIVAL BROWN,**

**M.B., Ch.B., Vict.,**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

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**PRESENTED JANUARY, 1915.**

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BACUP:

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE  
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
IN THE YEAR 1876.

By J. PERCIVAL BROWN, M.D.

London: Printed by...

J. PERCIVAL BROWN, M.D.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRESENTED BY PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY, 1877.

# THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Consists of the following Members:

THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*).

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

*Vice-Chairman* : THE MAYOR (MR. COUN. J. H. LORD, J.P.)

MR. ALDERMAN E. LORD, J.P.,

„ COUNCILLOR ASHWORTH,

„ COUNCILLOR COUPE,

„ COUNCILLOR GLEDHILL,

„ COUNCILLOR HALL,

„ COUNCILLOR HEAP,

„ COUNCILLOR McLERIE,

„ COUNCILLOR STEVENSON,

„ COUNCILLOR THOMPSON,

„ COUNCILLOR WHITEHEAD.

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1914.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my first Annual Report on the Sanitary condition and Vital Statistics of the Borough of Bacup for the year 1914.

The area of the Borough is 6,120 acres, and the rateable value, April, 1914, £91,434-10-0.

## POPULATION.

The 1911 census was 22,324, Males 10,599, Females 11,725; inhabited houses 5,572, uninhabited 301; the average number of persons per house was 4; 1901 census gave average number of persons per house as 4·2, so that there is now less overcrowding. The population at the middle of 1914 was estimated at 22,500.

## BIRTHS.

During the year there were 421 births registered in the Borough. Males 224, Females 197. The birth-rate being 18·71 per 1000. There were 15 illegitimate births, Males 11, Females 4.

The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1914 was 23·6 per 1000.

The natural increase of population, *i.e.*: the number of births in excess of deaths was only 17, being the lowest recorded.

The table below, fewer of our population being in classes I. to IV., the adding of transferable deaths 30 to 40 a year during recent years, also the general fall in the birth rate of the whole country require considering when making comparisons with previous years.

Fertility Rates and Rates of Infantile Mortality in different Social Strata. (Percentage of deviation from corresponding rates for England and Wales).

Number		Fertility Rate per cent.	Rate of Infant Mortality per cent.
I.	Upper and Middle Classes ...	-27	-39
II.	Intermediate Classes ...	-19	-15
III.	Skilled Workmen ...	-6	-10
IV.	Intermediate Class ...	-2	-3
V.	Unskilled Workmen...	<del>31</del>	<del>22</del>
VI.	Textile Workers ...	-23	<del>19</del>
VII.	Miners ...	<del>42</del>	<del>28</del>
VIII.	Agricultural Labourers	-1	-22
		—	—
	All Classes ...	100	100

The table above from the Registrar General's Report for 1911 will partly explain the decrease of birth-rate in the district as the large majority of our population falls into class VI., which is -23 fertility rate and the children born have a ~~19~~ infant mortality rate against them, the proportion of population in classes V. and VII. being too small to neutralise them though their fertility rates are ~~31~~ and ~~42~~ respectively. When it comes to a question of infantile mortality, classes I. and IV. had 7 out of 53 deaths and classes V. to VIII. had 46 deaths, *i.e.* we have a large pop-

ulation with one of the lowest fertility rates and a high infantile mortality rate.

#### DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the Borough were 365—Males 183, Females 182, which equals a death-rate of 16·22 per 1000. The corrected deaths were 404—Males 210, Females 194, which is at the rate of 17·95 per 1000. The transferable deaths occurred at the following places :- Haslingden Union Workhouse, 24; Manchester Royal Infirmary, 3; Rochdale Infirmary, 4; Prestwich Asylum, 1; Lancaster Asylum, 1; Rainhill Asylum, 1; Ainsworth Sanatorium, 2; Wirral U.D. Infectious Hospital, 1; Manchester, 2; Blackpool, 1; Rawtenstall, 1.

The death-rate for England and Wales for 1914 was 13·6 per 1000.

The following table gives the nett mortality at different age periods:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	..	...	53
Above 1 year and under 2 years				...	...	19
"  2  "	"	5  "		...	...	20
"  5  "	"	15  "		...	...	18
"  15  "	"	25  "		...	...	21
"  25  "	"	45  "		...	...	57
"  45  "	"	65  "		...	...	118
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	98
					Total	<u>404</u>

#### CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Enteric Fever 3, Measles 6, Scarlet Fever 5, Whooping Cough 8, Diphtheria 2, Erysipelas 1, Phthisis 27, Tuberculous Meningitis 3, other Tuberculous Diseases 5, Cancer 23,

Rheumatic Fever 6, Meningitis 6, Organic Heart Disease 39, Bronchitis 47, Pneumonia (all forms) 30, other Respiratory Diseases 5, Diarrhœa and Enteritis 4, Appendicitis 2, Cirrhosis of Liver 2, Alcoholism 1, Nephritis and Bright's Disease 19, Puerperal Fever 2, Congenital Debitity and Malformation, including Premature Birth 16, Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide 12, Suicide 1, other Defined Diseases 119, Ill-defined Diseases 10. There were 6 uncertified deaths.

### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases caused 28 deaths viz. :—Scarlet Fever 5, Measles 6, Enteric Fever 3, Diphtheria 2, Whooping Cough 8, Diarrhœa and Enteritis 4. The Zymotic death-rate equals 1·22 per 1000.

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

Year	Zymotic Deaths		Zymotic Death-rate
1905	...	10	0·44 per 1000
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 "
1913	...	18	0·8 "
1914	...	28	1·22 "

The average for the years 1905 to 1914 equals 24 deaths per year which we are only slightly above, being very satisfactory considering the prevalence of infectious diseases during the year.

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

Year.	Smallpox	Diphtheria and Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Chicken-pox	Total
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
1913	0	16	15	79	2	1	78	191
1914	2	17	31	193	6	2	37	288
Averages for Years 1905—1914	0·2	14·1	20·3	62·5	9·4	2·1	52·7	164·3

The following table gives the Monthly Returns of Eight of the Infectious Diseases notified during 1914 :—

Month	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Chicken-pox	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Total
January ...	...	10	4	1	...	1	...	...	16
February ...	...	25	1	2	...	3	2	...	33
March ...	2	43	2	...	...	...	3	1	51
April ...	...	34	1	1	2	1	5	...	44
May ...	...	11	...	...	...	2	3	...	16
June ...	...	14	2	1	...	17	2	...	36
July ...	...	6	2	...	...	...	2	...	10
August ...	...	10	...	...	...	...	3	1	14
September ...	...	8	2	1	...	5	2	...	18
October ...	...	22	2	...	...	1	1	...	26
November ...	...	9	...	...	...	5	1	...	15
December ...	...	1	1	...	...	2	7	2	13
Total	2	193	17	6	2	37	31	4	292

## TUBERCULOSIS.

All forms of Tuberculosis have been notified since 1913 and the returns are:—

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
1913	...	25	...	22	...	47
1914	...	41	...	17	...	58

Non-Pulmonary cases were Cervical Glands 4, Suprarenal Glands 2, Mesenteric Glands 1, Hip Joint 1, Knee Joint 1, Skin 2, Cerebral Meninges 3, Spine 1, Finger 1, Testicle 1.

Of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notifiable since 1911, four cases were notified, there being 2 in 1911 and 2 in 1912.

## SMALL-POX.

On March 5th, two cases of Small-pox were notified—Male, 34, Vaccinated; Male, 2, Unvaccinated. They were removed to the Sourhall Joint Hospital the same night, did well, all precautions taken and no other cases occurred. No source of infection could be traced.

## VACCINATION.

I am indebted to Mr. A. A. Whitehead, B.A., Vaccination Officer, for information used in the table below, which shows how unprotected we are becoming, the Vaccinations this year being the fewest recorded.

Year		Successful Vaccinations		Exemption Certificates		Births		Deaths under 1 Year
1898	...	335	...	195	...	589	...	72
1899	...	364	...	144	...	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
1913	...	124	...	266	...	425	...	43
1914	...	121	...	261	...	421	...	53

### CHICKEN-POX.

This disease has been notifiable since 1903. During the year 37 cases were notified, 20 vaccinated and 17 unvaccinated. No case occurred over 15 years of age.

### SCARLET FEVER.

There were 193 cases notified—112 occurring in February, March and April, also 22 in October, the two periods when it was epidemic. March was the worst month with 43 cases and December best with only one case. There were 5 deaths—one under 1 year and four between 5 and 15 years, a case mortality of about 2·5 per cent. which is much lower than it was some years ago as evidenced too in the Local Government Board's Return for 1913, when it was 1·60 per cent.; the whole country being 1·81 in 1911 and 1·86 in 1912. We had 22 deaths, about 5·5 per cent. out of 395 cases in 1900 and 7 deaths about 5 per cent. out of 115 cases in 1903. The milder form of the illness together with the better nursing is noticeable in the lower mortality, directly due to the disease and fewer kidney complications which are especially likely to occur on getting chilled dur-

ing convalescence. Twenty-two cases, about 11 per cent. occurred in persons over 15 years of age—eleven 15 to 25 years and eleven 25 to 45 years of age, a much higher proportion than in previous epidemics. In 19 houses there were 2 cases each and in 3 houses there were 3 cases each, whilst 1 house had 5 cases. Twelve cases were removed to the Bury Fever Hospital. The cases were distributed over the whole Borough, though fewest in the Weir and Sharneyford districts and most in Stacksteads. All classes were affected and nothing could be traced definitely to any special schools or milk supplies. The average Scarlet Fever sickness rate for England and Wales ought to mean about 60 cases a year for a Borough of our population and it would appear that we have just had our share of the Scarlet Fever epidemic which has occurred in neighbouring districts. In 1900 Scarlet Fever was first notified here when we had 395 cases and in 1903 there were 115 cases, these being the only other years with over 100 cases.

Whilst Carbolised Oil is supplied and is useful for rubbing over the body, I would specially call the attention to the danger of infection by the discharge from the mouth and nose as well as ear discharge, all of which easily infect toys, pillows, handkerchiefs, etc., and here one might put in a word as regards prevention of all kinds of infectious diseases, such a mixture as Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Consumption, Sore Throat, and an Ordinary Cold in the head; they are all due to some microbes or germs which are spread over a wide area when a patient coughs or sneezes, hence to prevent spreading such diseases, people should take care where they cough, etc., not spit, and not suck pens, pencils, toys, shuttles used by other people.

These are small but important things which patients com-

ing back from the Sanatorium and those who are now taking an interest in nursing owing to the war understand, realising that with many diseases it is war against germs.

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

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1000
1905	1	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
1913	0	0'00
1914	5	0'22

### DIPHTHERIA.

There were 17 cases notified, 2 proving fatal; a case mortality of about 12 per cent. The death-rate was 0'08 per 1000. The number of cases is about our average, which is only about half that of Boroughs of our population, the sickness rate for England and Wales being 1'32 in 1911, 1'24 in 1912 and 1'39 per 1000 in 1913, which would mean about 30 cases per year for our population.

It is more and more becoming a disease of towns rather than the country and the general remarks under Scarlet Fever about how diseases are spread specially apply to the danger of children in schools sucking pencils. In 9 cases Antitoxin Serum was used, there being 1 death, and in 8 none was used, with 1 death. Antitoxin is supplied free to all patients in the Borough. Three cases were treated in hospital.

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

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1000
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
1913	4	0·17
1914	2	0·08

### WHOOPIING COUGH.

There were 8 deaths all under 2 years of age, 6 being under 1 year of age. The death-rate was 0·35 per 1000. It was prevalent in the early part of the year and affected the school attendance.

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

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1000
1905	3	0·13
1906	0	0·00
1907	8	0·32
1908	1	0·04
1909	1	0·04
1910	8	0·32
1911	6	0·27
1912	0	0·00
1913	1	0·04
1914	8	0·35

### ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

There were 6 cases notified and 3 died. The death-rate per 1000 was 0·26. There was no connection traceable between any of the cases. In one house a suspicious private water supply was cut off.

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

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1000
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
1913	0	0'00
1914	6	0'26

### MEASLES.

There were 6 deaths all under 5 years of age. The death-rate per 1000 was 0'26. The disease has been prevalent all the year but especially in March and April, when there were also a large number of cases of German Measles. Several cases contracted German Measles afterwards. There were several cases of adults who contracted German Measles. The first epidemic was chiefly in Stacksteads, whilst the second, September to December, was in the central part of Bacup. Closure of schools is recorded in the schools section. This is a disease which owing to patients being young children and sneezing it is not easy to prevent from spreading, unless parents isolate cases early or better even when suspicions of it, for when a child has got the rash it is almost certain to have infected those who live with it who have not had it. In the Manchester, Derby, Liverpool and some other Local Acts, the following, with minor modifications, is included—

“Any parent or guardian having personal charge of a child in attendance at school who is aware of or has reason to suspect, the occurrence of any of the diseases known as Measles, German Measles, or

Whooping Cough in any member of the family, and who fails forthwith to notify such occurrence to the head teacher of the school shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings."

One must say that there is carelessness or want of thought of the right kind in some parents, for some children are sent to school when they are thought to be beginning with measles or whooping cough, and the sooner some parents think of others the better and recognise that at such an early stage of suspected illness there is great risk of infecting other children.

Though the deaths have been few directly due to it, it has I have no doubt accounted for the increased number of deaths due to Respiratory Diseases under 5 years of age, to say nothing of those left with Bronchitis for some time which was specially noticeable as regards the long time before many of them were fit to return to school.

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

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1000
1905	0	0·00
1906	20	0·82
1907	14	0·57
1908	4	0·16
1910	0	0·00
1911	0	0·00
1912	21	0·84
1913	2	0·08
1914	6	0·26

#### PUERPERAL FEVER.

There were two cases which proved fatal and were investigated by the County Midwives' Inspector, both cases being attended by a midwife.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Four cases were notified, doctors being in attendance along with midwife at two.

The Queen's Nurses where required rendered useful service. Arrangements are made by the Health Committee for a doctor to attend if none is attending.

## PHTHISIS.

There were 27 deaths. The death-rate was 1·20 per 1000. Out of 41 notified during the year 19 died, but as there is an increasing tendency to notify the slight cases early, I have no doubt but that in a year or two the difference between cases and deaths will be much more, this being one of the points to which attention is called in Statistics of Tuberculosis in the Report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for 1912-13. Fifteen cases were removed to Sanatoria. Three shelters are being used by patients, one private and two provided by the County Tuberculosis Authority.

The above figures may be a bit depressing, but the sooner people realise that Consumption is a common disease requiring to be detected early and treated more with rest, food and fresh air than drugs the better. It is often called a disease of poverty, but in my opinion another most important cause is want of knowledge. How to prevent as well as cure is one of the things patients learn in Sanatoriums and much good I believe would be done by exhibitions and lectures such as the County Tuberculosis Officer has been making enquiries about.

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

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1000
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
1913	...	18	...	0'80
1914	...	27	...	1'20

### OTHER TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.

The deaths from Other Tuberculous Diseases were 8, being 4 under 5 years of age and 4 over 5 years of age.

Three of these cases were Tuberculous Meningitis.

### INFLUENZA.

There were no deaths directly due to Influenza. There was no epidemic of serious cases.

### HEART DISEASE.

There were 42 deaths from Organic Heart Disease, which equals a death-rate of 1'86 per 1000.

### CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

There were 23 deaths registered. The death-rate is about 1'00 per 1000. Early exploring and free removal of suspicious growths especially after 40 years of age would tend to reduce our death-rate, whilst in some cases the Radium treatment will, I trust, come up to expectations. A common fallacy is that a growth without pain is not likely to be Cancer and the sooner people know that Cancer is only painful in its later stages the better.

## RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

These include Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs. There were 82 deaths, 30 under 5 years of age and 52 over 5 years of age. The death-rate equals 3·54 per 1000. There were 6 deaths from Lobar Pneumonia.

The cold damp climate and occupation of people in warm mills, who then go out into the cold air, renders them liable to respiratory diseases. The same things also cause diseases of the kidneys such as Bright's Disease. The impurities in the air, due to combustion or rather imperfect combustion, as evidenced by black smoke especially makes it worse. Gas fires, gas stoves, gas engines for works and electricity will lessen this. Careful stoking in our mills will help, though not the least evil is due to our own domestic fires. The majority of the people live in narrow valleys within about 400 yards from the River Irwell, along which are most of the mills so that a damp soot laden atmosphere is what they breathe from October to March.

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

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1000
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
1913	79	3·51
1914	82	3·64

## SMOKE NUISANCE.

Twenty-nine observations were taken and the particulars are in the Sanitary Inspector's Report appended.

## DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

There were 4 deaths, all under 5 years of age. The death-rate was 0·17 per 1000, which is very low. We very seldom get summer diarrhœa of children, as owing to our elevation and nature of soil, the ground temperature is never likely to get very high, quite different to towns only a few miles away. Should there be Diarrhœa or any Infectious disease about, I believe in the danger of the house-fly and at all times would recommend people not to keep damp decaying organic matter about in which they breed, also to cover up milk and other food. Fowls feed on the larvæ which become flies later on and Dr. Purdy, Chief M.O.H. for Tasmania recommends, where stable manure is stored, 6 fowls for each horse, which I can say is quite effectual.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 53 deaths, 30 males and 23 females, under 1 year, which though not as low as last year is very fair, figures for previous years being given in the vaccination table. The death-rate is 126 per 1000 births. In England and Wales for 1914 it was 105 per 1000 births.

There were 2 deaths from measles, 6 whooping cough, and 1 scarlet fever. Respiratory diseases accounted for 13 deaths. Mothers working in the mills prevents many children from being breast fed and also exposes them to chills when they are taken out early in the morning to be nursed. The heavy mortality in Lancashire manufacturing towns is I believe largely a question of money, and it is to

be hoped that the Maternity Grant and Sickness Grant under the Insurance Act will lessen it. Fertility and Infantile Mortality rates in the births section of this report are compared with non-textile towns.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

The Borough of Bacup is a very hilly district and is situated on the western spurs of the Pennine Hills. The River Irwell rises at Cliviger, just outside the northern boundary, and flows about 5 miles through its entire length. The elevation varies from 700 to 1,500 feet above the sea level. The average number of persons per acre is 3.5. The population is very sparse in the upland and moorland portions. In the central part of Bacup and Stacksteads it is densely populated. The geological formation is the millstone grit, above which are thick beds of clay. The soil is cold and damp.

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 a confined atmosphere.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—From the 1911 census it will be seen that we have ample house accommodation according to the average number per house, but as reported in previous years there is still a need for more houses with 3 bed-rooms, which in some cases has been done by making two houses, especially back to back, into one. On the Ross Estate several new three bed-room houses have been

completed during the year and more of the same kind are under construction.

**NEW PROPERTY.**—During the year 35 new houses have been built, an increase of 20 on the previous year; also plans for 31 new houses have been passed and 8 are in course of erection. Supervision of construction of houses is carried out according to Building Bye-laws, approved by the Local Government Board in December, 1900.

**OVERCROWDING.**—In 1911 the census recorded 4 persons per house, the lowest recorded. What little overcrowding there is ought to be dealt with. This is a question which specially affects children, as along with it are likely to be the very ones who want better feeding, cases for which something is being done now by the War Relief Committee. I put in the paragraph re Rate Assisted Rentals from last year's report just as it was written as I can endorse it, containing as it does a sentence "special care would be needed to prevent abuse of the rates," for there is always a danger of assistance being looked upon by some people as a right when no longer needed.

**"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 lives 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. We have families where the husband can only earn 18/- to 24/- per week. In some cases there are four to seven children to be housed, fed, clothed, and shod. It is impossible under such circumstances to pay the rental for proper house accommodation and to have the family well fed and clothed. At present there are no means of rendering substantial help either in assisted rent or by the supply of food and clothing. The Poor Law Guardians have in recent years been more generous to the poor; in fact they allow 5/- per week for food for each foster-child, with fair allowance for clothes and boots, also medical attendance. This matter of assisted rentals has been brought before the Local Government Board in my Annual Report last year and by personal interview. It is an important question and the Local Government Board might try and suggest a solution of this problem, which will not degrade the honest working man. It is a marvel what some mothers can do with their very limited means. In many cases mothers try and eke out the weekly income by charring, etc., when all her time and strength are needed in her domestic duties."

confers special powers and duties on Local Authorities on the advice of their Medical Officer of Health, (Article xiii.), to prevent and remove conditions favourable to tubercular infection, &c. If these powers are exercised they will help to prevent Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis. "The home can and should be the Sanatorium," the cost being far less than keeping patients in a Sanatorium, though for many years a large percentage ought for a while to go to a Sanatorium, where they see what diet, rest and fresh air mean for the cure as well as prevention of Consumption. Cases on their return are being followed up as regards housing, shelter, dietary and medical treatment, under the direction of the Family Doctor, assisted by the Medical Officer of Health and the County Tuberculosis Medical Officers. Some of the cases who have returned from Sanatoria have maintained the benefit derived, though the numbers sent are as yet too small to supply any useful information.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—There is an abundant and constant supply of excellent water belonging to the Corporation, who supply about 15,488 people, and about 7,012 are supplied from private sources. During the year 80 houses have been added to the Corporation supply. Samples of suspicious water have been examined. Cases of Plumbism were traceable to a private water supply, which is now being supplied by the Corporation water.

**POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS** is dealt with by the Mersey and Irwell Rivers Board.

**SEWERS AND DRAINAGE.**—The Borough is sewered and drained, the disposal being at Ewood Bridge under a Joint Bacup, Rawtenstall and Haslingden Board. The method is precipitation, filtration, and irrigation of land. The

conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system has meant more streets being sewered than usual, the number being likely to increase during the next few years. Owing to this work several streets have had to wait for paving, the number paved being fewer than usual, though between 70 and 80 are now down for paving next year.

SCAVENGING.—This work is done efficiently by our own scavengers. The ashes are removed weekly and deposited on various tips in the Borough. Ash-pits are being abolished wherever possible. The Sanitary Dust-bin is convenient to empty, keeps the contents dry, affords no breeding ground for flies and obviates putrefaction and its foul smells.

#### CLOSET AND REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Fixed Ash-pits in connection with Privies ...	40
Fixed Ash-pits not in connection with Privies	156
Moveable receptacles for refuse, of galvanized iron, with covers ... ..	<del>1466</del> 1447.
Other moveable receptacles for refuse, boxes, casks, etc. ... ..	3002
Tippler Closets ... ..	449
Pail Closets ... ..	2245
Cesspools and Privies ... ..	120
Fresh Water Closets on town's supply ...	1112

Cesspools and Privies are nearly all abolished, and the provision of new sewers is being undertaken with a view to their conversion to the water carriage system.

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.

DISINFECTATION.—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. Attached to the Disinfecting Station is a Cleansing Station for School Children, there being a bath-room and waiting rooms. Under the Children's Act, 1908, I have found this place very useful, though it has not been necessary to use it so much recently.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There are 4 Common Lodging Houses accommodating 181 lodgers, viz.:—Princess Street 72, Door Stones 61, Hare and Hounds 24, Laycock's 24. A 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<sup>3</sup> will be found annexed to my Report.

CELLAR DWELLINGS.—On account of the natural configuration of the district we still have several basement houses back to the land, but there are now no houses occupied as dwellings in the Borough which come within Sub-Section 7 of Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There are 5 offensive trades, viz.:

Tripe Boilers 3, Fat Melter 1, Knacker's Yard 1. The premises are all kept in a satisfactory condition.

SCHOOLS.—All the Elementary Day Schools have been inspected and their condition is generally satisfactory. There are still two Schools on the pail system. There are 11 Schools with 20 departments and accommodation for 4,812 children. There were 3,367 children on the register December, 1914, against 3,334 December, 1913. School attendance has been seriously affected; not so much at one period of the year, for only five departments have had to be closed as a means of prevention of disease spreading, but during a great part of year there has been a mixture of Measles, Scarlet Fever, German Measles, Whooping Cough, Mumps, Chicken-pox and Respiratory Diseases, *e.g.* owing to Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough and Respiratory Diseases, Tunstead C.E. Infant and Western C. Infant Schools were closed from March 31st to April 20th, and Tunstead C.E. Mixed and Western C. Mixed Schools from April 3rd to April 20th. For Measles the Mount C. Infant School was closed from September 22nd to October 12th. When the weather is suitable some Schools are able to have open-air classes. In all the Schools the Teachers realise the danger of children changing pens, pencils, books, etc., and are helping to stop that means of infection by as far as possible letting each have its own things. The Head Teachers send returns to the Education Office containing particulars of all absences owing to illness which I as School Medical Officer find helpful in giving me an idea of the prevalence of non-notifiable diseases as well as notifiable diseases.

FOOD.—MILK SUPPLY, DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS.—We have 123 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 but 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.

CLEAN MILK.—Meetings have again been held during the year of the Rossendale Farmers' Association, the Medical Officers of Health of Bacup, Rawtenstall and Haslingden, with representatives of the three Health Committees, and though it is a voluntary non-rate assisted society much good has been done as it has called the attention of the farmers and the public to the need for protecting milk from contamination, much of which they see is preventable.

OTHER FOODS.—The Market Ground and shops where food is prepared have been inspected regularly, and have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Unsound food seized and destroyed were:—Tinned Mutton, 6-lbs.; 1 Cow, 8-cwt.; Livers, 16-lbs. *4 Legs of Mutton 25 lbs.*

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 17 on the register, which have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory. Some are not structurally fitted for this purpose and a Public Abattoir would be the best remedy.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS.—There have been 25 samples, viz.:—Milk 9, Lard 3, Butter 3, Cheese 3, Whisky 4, Rum 1, Sugar 1, Seidlitz Powder 1. All were satisfactory except one sample of milk owing to abstracted fat. The 9 samples of milk were examined under the Milk & Cream Regulations, 1912, and found to contain no preservatives.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR.—The staff consists of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant, a fresh one recently appointed in place of Mr. A. Henery who has gone on active service as a member of the London Sanitary Companies. The work of the department is likely to increase and more assistance required later on. Everything is being carried out as regards co-operation between the Military and Civil Sanitary Authorities, as mentioned in the circular of August 31st. There is an Auxiliary Military Home Hospital for 12 patients at Fern Hill, Bacup, I being a Commandant of a V.A.D. and also a Medical Officer on the staff. Special attention has been given to all the sanitary arrangements by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself in co-operation with Military Authorities of the 2nd North Western General Hospital. No cases of infectious diseases have had to be reported. War means increased risks of disease, so contacts and carriers are being specially watched for.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—For Small-pox we have a Joint Hospital at Sourhall which contains 32 beds and is quite up-to-date where two cases were treated during the year. Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever and Diphtheria cases are sent to the Bury Joint Board Infectious Hospital. The cases treated during the year were:—Scarlet Fever 12, Diphtheria 1. Two cases of Diphtheria under special circumstances were treated at other hospitals not in our contract.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—Examinations are made, free of cost, for doctors when required at the Public Health Laboratories, Manchester, the results being:—

Throat Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	1	—	1
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli ...	3	—	2
Blood for Widal's Reaction ...	0	—	3

Two samples of Water for the Corporation were examined at the same laboratories and condemned on the chemical analysis. Samples of Water have been examined by myself and when suspicious forwarded to the laboratories.

A special circular has been sent to all the doctors, fully explaining the Bacteriological, Hospital and Notification of Infectious Diseases arrangements.

ANTHRAX.—Two cows suffering from Anthrax were notified. The carcasses were burnt. Disinfection and necessary precautions were taken. One woollen worker suffering from Anthrax was removed to hospital. Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, doctors are required to send a notification to the Home Office of any case of a person suffering from Lead, Mercury, Phosphorous, or Arsenic Poisoning, also Anthrax contracted in a factory or workshop.

A LADY HEALTH VISITOR is required and without one who would be needed for the Notification of Births Act, it not being an opportune time to appoint one, that Act has not been adopted. There is certainly plenty of useful work she could do. Arrangements have been made by the Education Authority for part time School Nurses' services with the Local District Nurses.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Situation of Premises.	DEFECTS.	ATTENTION GIVEN.
1 Irwell Cottage	One living and one bed-room, pail closet joins up to cellar used by occupiers of premises above.	Owner written to, to see what he was prepared to do to make these houses satisfactory.
2 Irwell Cottage	do.	do.
1 Holmes Buildings	Back to the land, bed-room partitioned off from living room.	do.
3 Holmes Buildings	Back to the land, damp, houses grouped together.	do.
4 Holmes Buildings	Back to the land, damp, bed-room part of living room, pail closet.	do.
5 Holmes Buildings	do.	do.
6 Holmes Buildings	do.	do.
7 Holmes Buildings	Back to the land, damp, pail closet.	do.
8 Holmes Buildings	Back to the land, premises very damp, one living, one bed-room, pail closet, yard defective, window broken.	do.
9 Holmes Buildings	Back to the land, dwelling bed-room partitioned off living room, room adjoining land used as bed-room, room damp, back room dark, pail closet.	do.

10 Holmes Buildings	Back to the land, damp.	do.
1 Back Villa Terrace	At present used as a workshop	
3 Back Villa Terrace	Used as a bake-house, one roomed basement house, separate room for sink-stone, pail closet.	
9 Back Villa Terrace	Landing over door.	
11 Back Villa Terrace	Cellar not used at present as a separate dwelling-house.	
13 Back Villa Terrace	One roomed basement house, separate room provided for sink, pail closet.	
25 Back Villa Terrace	One roomed basement living room, pail closet, separate room for sink-stone.	
31 Back Villa Terrace	Not used at present as a separate dwelling-house.	
294 New-church Rd.	do.	
298 New-church Rd.	Used as a workshop at present.	
300 New-church Rd.	Not used as a separate dwelling-house.	
290 New-church Rd.	Cellar not used separately as a dwelling-house.	
292 New-church Rd.	do.	
302 New-church Rd.	Cellar not used as a separate dwelling.	
304 New-church Rd.	do.	

306 New-church Rd.	do.	
308 New-church Rd.	do.	
310 New-church Rd.	do.	
312, 312a, Newchurch Road	do.	
314 New-church Rd.	Premises used as a bake-house.	
316 New-church Rd.	Not used as a separate dwelling.	
8 Luke St.	One roomed basement house, back to the land, landing over door.	Attention given.
7 Luke St.	do. landing over door and window.	
9 Luke St.	do.	
10 Luke St.	do. landing over door and window, step leading to landing near window.	
11 Luke St.	do.	
12 Luke St.	do.	
13 Luke St.	do.	
14 Luke St.	do.	
5 Rushworth Buildings	One roomed basement house, landing over door and window, separate room for sink, pail closet.	
6 Rushworth Buildings	do.	
7 Rushworth Buildings	do.	
8 Rushworth Buildings	do.	

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.—Every case of Tuberculosis has been investigated and special instructions given as regards means of preventing spread of the disease. Cleansing and disinfection is done where possible and bedding taken to the Steam Disinfector.

WEAVERS AND SHUTTLE KISSING.—The dangers of infection are now fully recognised and when required disinfection has been carried out. Six shuttles having been disinfected.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—The following is a list of streets which have been paved during 1914 :—

Gladstone Street  
 Crimea Street  
 Back Inkerman Street  
 Hindle Street (completed)  
 Osborne Terrace (completed)  
 Back Osborne Terrace  
 Back Hindle Street  
 Back Newchurch Road (part of)  
 Walnut Terrace  
 Back Walnut Terrace

This number is smaller than usual, as many of the list, between 70 and 80 shortly to be paved, have been sewered during the past year.

In conclusion, I may say that I shall at all times endeavour by the experience I have gained, from many years with my father my predecessor to whom I owe so much, and by keeping abreast of the times in Sanitary work to do all I can for the Public Health Service of the Borough.

I would specially thank the Health Committee,

Mr. Barnes, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Elce, the Borough Surveyor, for their help during my first year when there has been so much special work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. PERCIVAL BROWN,  
M.B., Ch.B, M.O.H.

Burwood House,  
Bacup.

January 20th, 1915.

LIST OF ACTS PROMOTED BY<sup>1</sup> AND OF THOSE  
ADOPTED BY THE CORPORATION OF BACUP.

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Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	...	1890
Local Government Board's 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 1914, 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)	49	18	—
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	124	—	—
Workplaces ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Table 3)	6	—	—
Total ... ..	179	18	—

## 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 ... ..	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	Insufficient ... ..	2	1	—
	Unsuitable or defective ... ..	16	15	—
	Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse ... ..	—	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ... .. (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Table 3). ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	19	17	—	—

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—				
making &c. ... ..	2	2		
cleaning and washing ... ..				
Household Linen ... ..				
Lace, Lace Curtains & 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, &c., Boxes, Paper Bags				
Brush making ... ..				
Pea Picking ... ..				
Feather sorting ... ..				
Carding &c. of Buttons, &c. ... ..				
Stuffed Toys ... ..				
Basket making ... ..				
Chocolates and Sweetmeats ... ..				
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, &c. ... ..				
Textile Weaving ... ..				
Total ... ..	2	2	...	...



## IV.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year ...	116
Total Number of Workshops on Register ...	116

## V.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—	—
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act ... ..	—
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remedi- able under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act.      }	Notified by H.M. Inspector ...
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector
Other ... ..	—
Underground Bakehouses:—	
Certificates granted during the year ... ..	—
In use at the end of the year ... ..	—

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 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	
		Uncor-rected Number	Num-ber					Rate	Number		Rate per 1000 Nett Births
1909	24600	479	479	361	14.67	4	27	04	133	384	15.61
1910	24600	473	473	349	14.71	...	20	50	105	369	14.72
1911	22400	414	417	310	14.11	2	29	46	111	343	15.3
1912	22400	458	460	332	14.82	3	38	56	121	367	16.38
1913	22500	423	425	351	15.6	8	42	43	101	385	17.10
1914	22500	421	421	365	16.22	2	41	53	126	404	17.95
Area of District in acres (land and inland water).		6,120		22,234		Total Population at all ages.		Number of Inhabited houses.		Average Number of persons per house.	
								5,572		4	

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

Notifiable Disease	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ... ..	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup ... ..)	17	...	8	8	...	1	...	...	3
Erysipelas ... ..	31	...	...	3	5	9	14	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	193	1	45	125	11	11	...	...	12
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	6	...	...	...	2	...	4	...	...
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	41	...	...	1	15	21	4	...	15
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	17	2	4	4	2	2	3	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ... ..	37	2	10	25	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	350	9	68	166	35	47	25	...	30

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH  
DURING THE YEAR, 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the district.									Deaths in Public Institut'ns 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 un- der 45	45 and un- der 65	65 and up- wards	
All causes (Certified { Uncertifi'd	398 6	51 2	19 ...	19 1	18 ...	21 ...	57 ...	117 1	96 2	...
Enteric Fever ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	6	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	5	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	8	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	27	...	...	...	...	11	9	7	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	3	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	5	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	...
Cancer (malignant disease)...	23	...	...	...	...	...	4	15	4	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	6	...	...	1	2	...	...	3	...	...
Meningitis ...	6	...	2	...	1	2	...	1	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	39	...	...	...	1	1	10	17	10	...
Bronchitis ...	47	6	7	2	...	...	...	15	17	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	30	6	1	6	2	1	4	4	6	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	5	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
Diarrhœa & Enteritis...	4	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Alcoholism ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	19	...	...	...	3	...	6	8	2	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)...	12	...	...	2	...	4	3	3	...	...
Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	119	9	2	1	2	1	14	37	53	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	10	2	1	2	...	...	...	3	2	...
All Causes ...	404	53	19	20	18	21	57	118	98	...
Sub-Entries included in above figures :—										
Lobar Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	...

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	..	..	10	2	1
		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	..	..	..	1	..	..
	Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at birth	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atelectasis	..	..	..	3	..	..
	Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	1	..
	Premature birth	..	..	..	4	..	..
Atrophy. Debility and Marasmus	..	..	..	2	1	1	
Other Causes	..	..	..	1	..	..	
					11	2	1

Nett Births in the Year—legitimate, 406; illegitimate, 15.

DURING THE YEAR 1914.

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.
3	16	8	6	7	14	51
..	1	..	..	..	1	2
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	2	..	2
..	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	..	..	1	2	3	6
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	1	..	2	1	5
..	..	..	1	..	..	1
1	1	1	1	..	3	6
1	1	..	..	..	5	6
..	..	1	1	..	1	3
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	1	..	..	..	4
..	1	2	..	..	..	3
..	4	..	..	..	..	4
1	5	2	2	..	..	9
..	1	..	..	..	1	2
3	17	8	6	7	15	53

Nett Deaths in the Year of legitimate infants—50; illegitimate—3.

### Chief Constable's Report for 1914.

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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 the year.

JAMES NIVEN CAMPBELL,

Chief Constable.

January 16th, 1915.



**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, 1914.**

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BACUP:

Martin Holt, Printer & Stationer, Market Street.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR 1914.

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

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit my Thirteenth Annual Report, giving details of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1914.

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 responsible 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 and additional duties are being put upon us.

#### SUMMARY OF WORK.

Visits and Re-visits to Houses ... ..	1560
Notices and Letters served ... ..	475
Workshop Inspections ... ..	179
Slaughter-houses and Offensive Trade Inspections ...	566
Cowsheds Inspections ... ..	137
Rooms Disinfected, including 23 Schools, 5 Class-rooms, and 2 Cowsheds ... ..	275
Drains Tested (by smoke) ... ..	33
Complaints received ... ..	83
Visits to Fried Fish Shops ... ..	36
Visits paid to Infected Houses ... ..	710
Smoke Observations ... ..	29
Inspections under the Housing & Town Planning Act	43

#### NUISANCES ABATED.

Foul Drains cleansed ... ..	41
Cesspools abolished (14 Water Closets provided) ...	7
"    "    (Pail provided) ... ..	1
Pail Closets abolished (Water Closets provided) ...	121
Defective Drains to repair ... ..	9
Gable Ends Damp (to cement) ... ..	5
Offensive Manure to remove ... ..	4
Drainage from Manure Tanks flowing over Highway	2
Defective Soilpipes to repair ... ..	3
Privy Closet abolished (Pail provided) ... ..	1
Waste Water flowing over Street (Drains to repair)	1
Depositing Slops on Public Highway ... ..	3

NUISANCES ABATED—*continued.*

Dilapidated Slaughter-house Floor (floors repaired)	2
Defective Ventilation to Slaughter-house ... ..	1
Defective Waste Water Closets (stopped up) ...	27
New Pedestal Water Closets fixed ... ..	5
Dilapidated House Floors (to repair) ... ..	2
Dilapidated Sinkstones (new ones fixed) ... ..	9
Dilapidated Surface of Yards to level and repair ...	5
Dirty Closets to cleanse ... ..	11
Offensive Rubbish in Building to remove ... ..	3
Offensive Rubbish in Yards to remove ... ..	7
Dirty Dwellings to cleanse ... ..	6
Dirty Bed-rooms to cleanse ... ..	4
Slaughter-houses to cleanse ... ..	4
Fall Pipes stopped up (cleansed) ... ..	7
Offensive Deposits to remove ... ..	7
Insufficient Ash-pits (Ash-bins provided) ... ..	73
Manure Pits to repair ... ..	3
Dilapidated Bed-room Floors (new ones required)	3
Insufficient Water Supply to Slaughter-houses ...	1
Defective Drains removed (new ones laid) ... ..	3
Pigs kept in Cow-shed (to remove) ... ..	1
Pigs kept in Slaughter-house (to remove) ... ..	1
Ash-pit Doors to refix ... ..	5
Nuisance from Black Smoke ... ..	1
Drainage into river from Slaughter-house (new drains provided connected to sewer) ... ..	1
Cellar Walls to repair ... ..	3
Dilapidated Closets rebuilt ... ..	3
Dilapidated Pail Closets to repair ... ..	7
Defective Stable Drains repaired ... ..	1
Defective Stable Floors repaired ... ..	2
Drains inside Slaughter-house (to remove and fix outside) ... ..	1

NUISANCES ABATED—*continued.*

Defective Chimneys to repair ... ..	3
Dilapidated House Roofs repaired ... ..	5
Dilapidated Spouting, Fall Pipes (new ones fixed)	37
No Closet Accommodation, Lock-up Shops (pails provided) ... ..	2
Defective Cellar Drains cleansed and repaired ...	6
Defective Closet Walls to repair ... ..	2
Dilapidated Closet Doors (new doors to fix) ...	4
Dilapidated Closet Boxes (Sanitary Pails provided)	2
Sinkwaste Pipes disconnected from Drains (gullies and 18in. channels fixed) ... ..	54
Sinkwaste Pipes stopped-up (cleansed) ... ..	5
Foul Fresh-water Closet Drains (cleansed) ... ..	4
Fall Pipes disconnected from Drains ... ..	8
Premises overcrowded ... ..	11
Defective Sinkwaste Pipes (new ones fixed) ... ..	5
Defective Closet Cisterns ... ..	3
Stagnant Water in Cellar ... ..	2
Rubbish on Street to remove ... ..	2
Dilapidated House Windows (to repair) ... ..	4
Offensive Dust Extractor ... ..	1
Defective Drains to repair (gullies & channels fixed)	27

## DRAINS TESTED (by Smoke).

No. of Premises, 35.	No. of Defects Found.	Work carried out.
Nature of Defects.		
Defective Drains in Cellar ... ..	3	1 Drain removed, 2 repaired
Defective Interceptor Trap ... ..	1	Trap repaired
Defective Drains ... ..	5	Drains repaired

Defective drains (draining into brook) ... ..	2	New Drains laid, connected to sewer
Defective Soilpipes ... ..	2	Repaired
Defective Fall Pipes ... ..	5	New Fall Pipes provided
Defective Sinkwaste Pipes connected direct into Drains ... ..	6	Sink Pipes disconnected, gullies and channels fixed
Fall Pipes connected direct into Drains ... ..	7	Fall Pipes disconnected, Gully Traps fixed.

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

Report *re* Premises used by Gut Scraper.

Report *re* Sanitary Condition of Slaughter-houses.

Report *re* Housing Inspections.

#### 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.

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.

#### UN SOUND FOOD DESTROYED.

4 Legs of Mutton ... ..	25 lbs.
1 Cow ... ..	8 cwts.
Livers ... ..	16 lbs.
1 Tin Boiled Mutton ... ..	6 lbs.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

No. on Register, 17.

There are seventeen private Slaughter-houses in the Borough ; nine have private water supplies and eight town's water. Five are situated on public roads, allowing slaughtering to be done in view of the public, and when the premises are being swilled blood and water flow on the roads. One has no lairage accommodation, the accommodation which is provided at six places is unsuitable and unsatisfactory. One Slaughter-house is a portion of an old building which is also used for other purposes. In some cases the drains are inside. One is in a congested area. The premises generally are fairly well provided with ventilators, in some cases I am of opinion that the slaughter-house ventilates the lairs.

Refuse is stored in wooden tubs and removed by our own men, the tubs being periodically renewed. White-washing at all premises except two (the interiors of which are provided with glazed brick), is regularly carried out. The great objection against the places used are the premises with few exceptions are too small for convenient work. Not one slaughter-house in the Borough is provided with a cooling room into which every carcase could and should be removed immediately dressing is completed. Dealing with our slaughter-houses, scattered as they are all over the Borough, and slaughtering being done at different times, anything meriting the name of inspection of the carcasses slaughtered cannot be adequately carried out, and until one place is established for the slaughtering of all animals, with central inspection of all meat offered or intended for human food, we shall be largely dependant upon the knowledge, care, and honesty of our butchers.

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.

Very few butchers are in the habit of having their meat taken from their slaughter-houses on carts, etc. without any covering. Meat when being conveyed through the streets is now generally covered, which prevents the dust and rain from falling upon it.

Nineteen permits have been granted during the year allowing persons to slaughter the following animals on premises not licensed as slaughter-houses, viz. :—Pigs 32. One 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
„ „ Fat Melter ...	...	1
„ „ Knacker's Yard	...	1

The premises in occupation have been regularly in-

spected, and so far as the nature of the trade would allow, kept in a clean condition, the Bye-laws being strictly enforced. Complaints were received respecting two of these trades.

#### FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 31 shops in the Borough for the sale of Fried Fish and Chip Potatoes.

Inspections 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 Food-stuffs were made were visited. In each case the utensils were found to be clean, the occupiers trying to produce these food-stuffs 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 food-stuffs should be prepared under the most hygienic conditions possible.

THE PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES,  
BANK STREET.

Some complaints were received during the year respecting the locks, etc. 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 taken. The average number of minutes of black smoke emitted being less than 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. I consider that an allowance of 10 minutes of black smoke per hour in our Borough too much.

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, the average amount of black smoke emitted is about the same as in the previous year.

#### VANS USED AS DWELLINGS.

Twenty-one dwelling-vans of showmen who visited the town for the purpose of attending the fair, 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 were satisfactory.

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

We have on our Register the following workshops—116, and 5 workplaces.

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

Particulars.	Defects.	No. of Defects Found.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>		
Defective Dust Extractor to repair	...	1
Defective Sinkstone (new one required)	...	1
<i>Sanitary Accommodation—</i>		
Insufficient Closet accommodation for Females		1

Dirty closets cleansed and whitewashed	...	9
New W. Closets provided	... ..	24
Closet Doors to fix ... ..	... ..	18

*Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act—*

Offensive Pail Closets to abolish (13 Closets)	...	1
Offensive Cesspool Closets to abolish	... ..	1
Closets to screen	... ..	8
Workshop to whitewash	... ..	1
To provide ventilation to W.C.	... ..	3

*Homework—*

Two lists of out-workers have been received from occupiers, and two from an adjoining Council.

We have on our Register the names and addresses of 17 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 Yard	... ..	1

In the majority of 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.

Forty-three premises were specially reported upon under this Act.

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

We have on our Register 123 Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers.

During the year 137 inspections were made. Three farmers supply Milk in our Borough from an adjoining district. Seven applications for Registration as Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers have been received during the year, all being registered. The Cow-keepers registered are using premises previously occupied by Registered Cow-keepers.

The following defects were found, works have been done to remedy same.

Foul Drains	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dilapidated House Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Manure Pit adjoining Cowshed door to remove and provide new ones	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies ventilated and lights provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dairy Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Badly lighted Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cowshed Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drains inside Cowsheds removed, Drains fixed outside	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowshed Walls to repair	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds to cleanse and whitewash	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive Yards to pave	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unregistered	...	...	...	...	...	7

Dilapidated Cowsheds (new interiors required)	3
New Spouting and Fall Pipes fixed ... ..	2
Manure Pits repaired ... ..	2
Piggery redrained and repaired ... ..	1
Pigs kept in Cowshed ... ..	1
Cowshed Roofs to repair ... ..	1
Gable End to Cement ... ..	2
Closet Walls to repair ... ..	1
New Sinkstone and Sinkwaste Pipes required	3

### TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1913.

Up to the time when this Order was revoked, ten cows were notified as suffering from this disease. In each case after post-mortem examination, such disease has been confirmed. Compensation was paid in each case. Some of the owners of the cattle destroyed have complained as to the small amount of compensation given.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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

	1913	1914
Chicken-pox ... ..	78	37
Scarlet Fever ... ..	79	193
Typhoid Fever ... ..	2	6
Diphtheria (Mem. Croup) ... ..	16	17
Erysipelas ... ..	15	31
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	2	4
Phthisis ... ..	25	41
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	22	17
Measles ... ..	42	67
Small-pox ... ..	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	282	417

Seven hundred and ten 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 Carbolised Oil are supplied free. The Schools are sprayed with Izal or Formalin Disinfectant. Also Disinfectant Sawdust is supplied to the Schools.

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 seventy-five rooms, including twenty-three Schools, five Classrooms, and two Cowsheds have been disinfected. We have discontinued disinfecting after cases of Chicken-pox, unless the occupier desires it. The houses in which deaths had occurred from Phthisis were visited, and an offer made to disinfect. In only 11 cases was the offer accepted. 12 Books have been fumigated and returned to their owners, also six shuttles were disinfected, also the clothes of a midwife who had been in attendance on a puerperal fever case were disinfected. 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.

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.

Two Tubercular shelters have been fixed in the Borough during the year.

## 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, Small-pox, Phthisis, and Scarlet Fever.

## ARTICLES DISINFECTED.

Bag of Flocks	...	...	...	...	1
Trousers	...	...	...	...	3
Towels	...	...	...	...	8
Flock-beds	...	...	...	...	32
Quilts	...	...	...	...	31
Sheets	...	...	...	...	28
Pillows	...	...	...	...	61
Suits of Clothes (Mens and Boys)	...	...	...	...	3
Girl's Jackets	...	...	...	...	4
Sundry Small Articles	...	...	...	...	10
Shawls	...	...	...	...	2
Carpets	...	...	...	...	8
Curtains	...	...	...	...	5
Blankets	...	...	...	...	45
Cap	...	...	...	...	1
Cushions	...	...	...	...	7
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	3
Shirt	...	...	...	...	1
Dressing Gown	...	...	...	...	1
Cape	...	...	...	...	1
Waistcoats	...	...	...	...	2

## CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

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. 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.

The task of removing and dealing with domestic refuse has specially received the attention of your Inspector, and though the number of houses we collect from has increased during the year, the work has on the whole been satisfactorily carried out. If a weighing machine could be provided in a convenient place, 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. Several complaints were received during the year respecting the tips, I consider the time opportune for the consideration of the provision of a Refuse Destructor.

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 offensive 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.

The following is the number of the various types of closets, ashpits, etc. in the Borough, (this does not include isolated houses or several of our farmhouses in the outlying districts, which are emptied by the tenants themselves).

We have the following:—

Fixed Ashpits in combination with Privies

40

Fixed Ashpits not in combination with Privies	156
Moveable receptacles of galvanized iron, with covers	1447
Other moveable receptacles, boxes, buckets, casks, etc. (this is a varying quantity)	3002
Tippler Closets	449
Pail Closets (abolished 121, added 3)	2245
Fresh Water Closets on Town's Water supply	1112
Cesspools and Privies	120

The provision of new sewers where cesspool and privy closets exist is under consideration. In some cases sewers have been laid and more cesspools and privies will be abolished when the drains are connected.

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

Month.	Pails and Cesspools.	Loads Refuse Removed.
January ... ..	6203	536
February ... ..	7807	651
March ... ..	6279	540
April ... ..	6166	536
May ... ..	7863	635
June ... ..	6249	538
July ... ..	6160	490
August ... ..	6517	519
September ... ..	7554	559
October ... ..	7075	614
November... ..	6104	579
December... ..	6234	515
Total 1914 ... ..	81011	6652

Your Sanitary Inspector gratefully recognises the valuable assistance he has received from the Chairman, Alderman J. H. Maden; His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor J. H. 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.