

**[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Bacup Borough.**

**Contributors**

Bacup (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1925

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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 1925,

— BY —

**J. PERCIVAL BROWN,**

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

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**

**Maternity and Child Welfare**

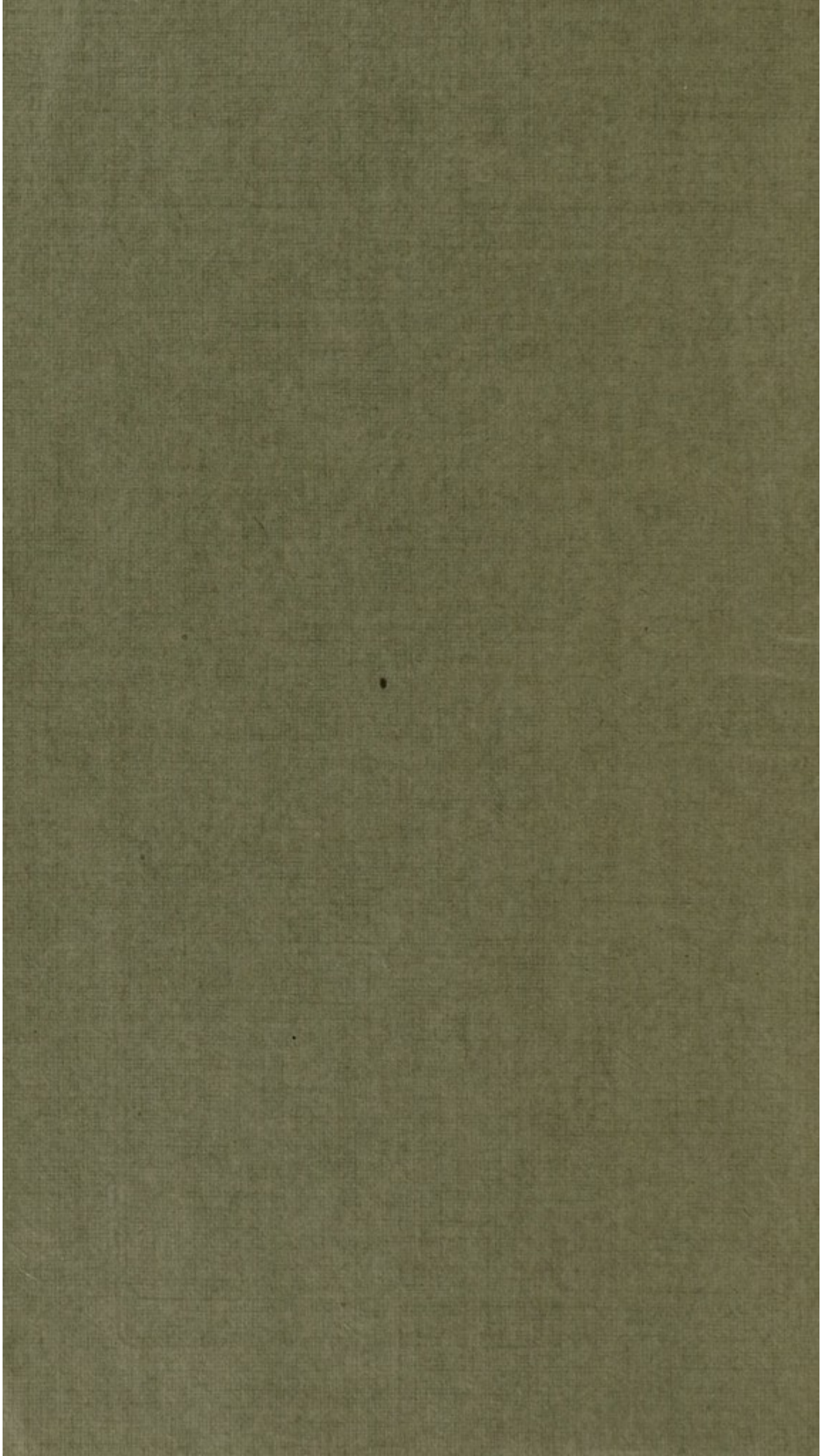
**Medical Officer.**

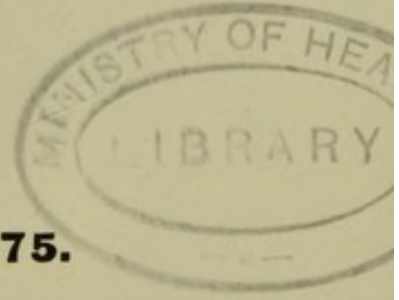
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**BACUP:**

**Martin Holt, Borough Printing Works, Plantation Street.**







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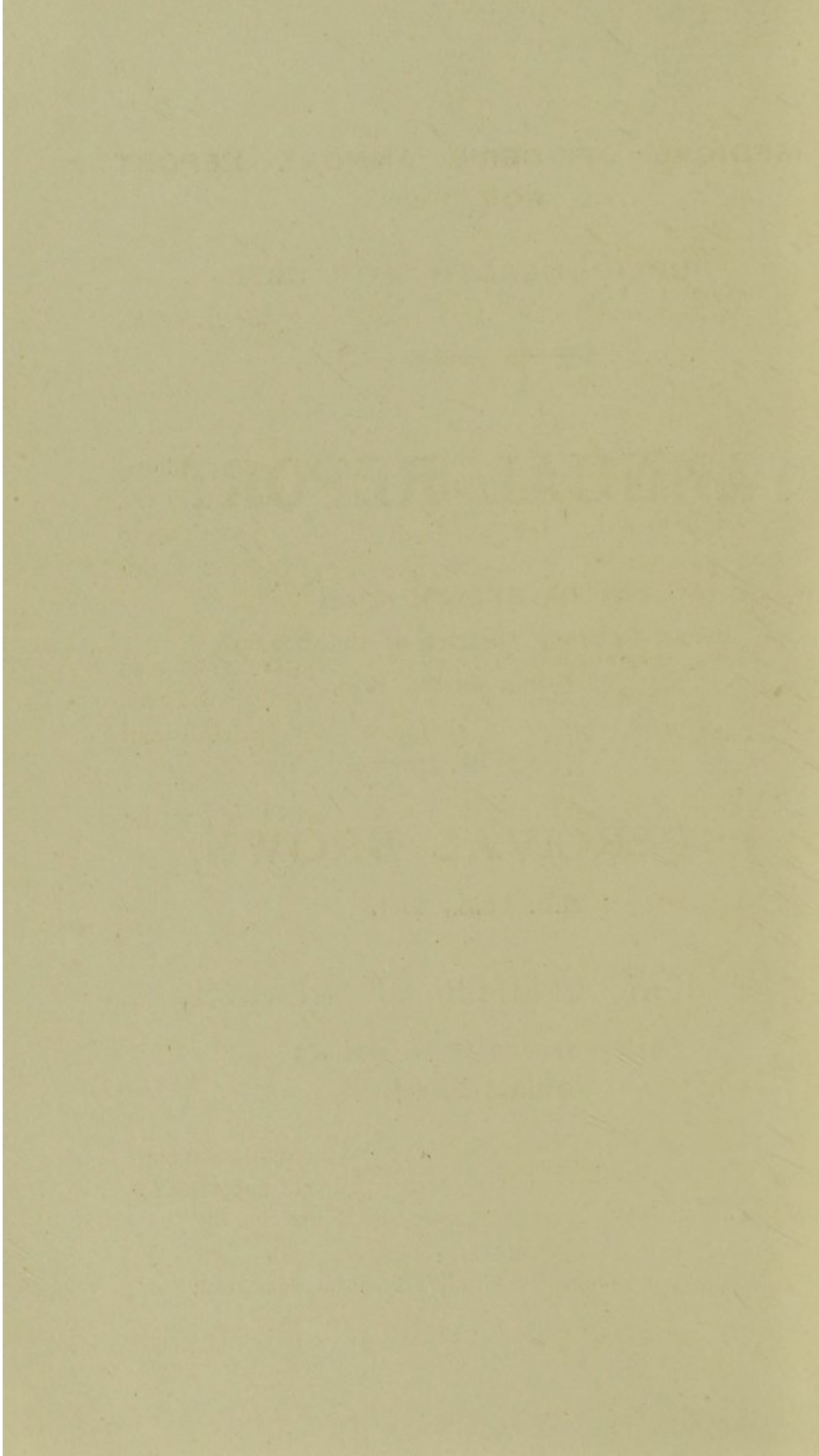
**Maternity and Child Welfare**

**Medical Officer.**

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**BACUP:**

**Martin Holt, Borough Printing Works, Plantation Street.**





## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report for 1925, which complies with Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health of December 10th, 1925. According to that Circular it will be a Survey Report as regards all departments of the Public Health Service.

Comparisons will be made as regards progress etc., also reference made to water, drainage, physical characters, etc. As far as possible I shall avoid elaborate details and tables.

The numbers and rates in brackets which follow the figures, unless otherwise stated, refer to 1924.

Rateable value—£113,598.

A Penny Rate yields £416.

Census 1921 population 21,263.

Acres for Census Return were 6,121.

The Registrar General has supplied a population estimate of 21,240 for use in this report, the one supplied for 1924 being 21,290. Figures supplied were for :

1921	...	21,720
1922	...	21,650
1923	...	21,550

The average for five years is 21,490.

Inhabited houses in 1921 were 5,655.

Number of families or separate occupiers in 1921 were 5,669.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES, GENERAL CHARACTER, OCCUPATIONS, SOCIAL CONDITIONS, etc.

Bacup is one of the few towns of any size situated at such a height above sea level, being in a very hilly and mountainous district. It is on the Western spurs of the Pennine Chain, and the river Irwell, which rises just outside the Borough, flows through it for about five miles alongside the Burnley Road and Newchurch Road. Two small streams join it, one from the Todmorden Road district and another from between Rochdale Road and New Line. The geological formation is the millstone grit. The soil is cold and damp. Most of the best and level land alongside these watercourses has been built on, chiefly for factories and works. Elevation varies from 650 to 1500 feet above sea level. Interesting heights which give an idea of the district are: Cricket Field 920 feet; Bull's Head Bridge, which is the centre of the town junction of four main roads, 827 feet. Five points of entrance on the Borough boundary are Burnley Road 1277 feet, Todmorden Road 1259 feet, Rochdale Road 982 feet, Newchurch Road 666 feet, Booth Road 818 feet, an average height of 1000 feet. The top water level of the Corporation Reservoirs in Bacup are: Cowpe 1012 feet, Sheephouse 1004, Cragg Holes 1323, Rubbing Mill 1392. From this description some idea of what wind, rain, snow, and frost can do at times may be gathered. Buildings require to be substantial. Water Closet question has not been an easy one owing to risk of frozen pipes. Advantages of the district are that there is plenty of water, fresh air, freedom from summer diarrhoea, and the back to back houses do not have



stagnant air around them. There are upland dairy farms with moorlands behind. When factories were built near the water courses houses were built in many cases alongside them, and as the valleys were in some places very narrow it soon meant building up the hill sides, very often in one of three ways. The first if built parallel with the stream were built into the hillsides; what one might call back to the land houses, and likely to be damp.

The second, if at right angles to the stream, then the streets were very steep, often dangerous in frosty weather, yet these were often a better type of house, in that many of them were really through houses, also they were drier.

The third way. A block or pile of houses was built into the hill side, the lower houses having front doors, the upper ones having their entrance by back doors in a higher street reached in many cases by stone steps up the hill side.

In the higher parts there are plenty of large building sites fairly level where it is possible to have wide roads, wide streets, wide avenues, with easy gradients, absence of concealed turnings, also room for two vehicles to pass each other anywhere. Its better to take away from gardens than not to allow room for two vehicles to pass. The district is a healthy one with moorland surroundings, also plenty of interesting places near to, easily accessible by train, tram, and motor bus. Reasonable precaution at times are needed in cold, damp weather. The town is very well supplied with things for recreation of mind and body, such as Moorlands and Stubbylee Park, Concerts in Recreation Ground and Park, Maden Recreation Ground, also Recreation Ground for Tennis, Cricket, Football, Bowling, etc., a Golf Club, Cricket Club, private Bowling Clubs &c., the Maden Swimming Baths. There is a large



Library belonging to the Co-operative Stores. Though I have called attention to the bad arrangement of many houses in older parts of the town there are plenty of good and desirable parts with good houses to live in. During recent years several improvements have taken place as regards open spaces in the town, and I would specially mention the St. James' Street open space so largely helped by the Deputy Mayor (Coun. J. T. Hoyle, J.P., C.C.)

### TRADE &c.

Chiefly Cotton, Shoe and Slipper, Dyeworks, Fibre Case Works, Size Works, Reed and Heald Works, Iron and Brass Foundries, Woollen Works, Coal Pits and Stone Quarries. Woollen and Stone trades have decreased recently. Some figures from Census 1921:—

	Males.	Females.
Total	9965	11,298
under 12 years of age	1962	1,970
12 years and over	8003	9,328
12 years and over occupied	7500	4,651
12 years and over un- occupied or retired	503	4,677

Mines and Quarries 610, being 326 in Coal and Shale Mines and 284 Stone Quarries; Metal Workers 323; Textile Workers 4968, being 552 Spinners, 1817 Weavers, 377 Card, Comb and Frame Tenters; 500 Winders, Reelers, Beamers, Warpers.

Makers of Textile goods and Articles of Dress 1948, being 1113 Clickers, Cutters and skilled operators in Boot, Shoe, and Slipper Trade.

The slipper industry has meant much less smoke whilst

the cotton mills to-day turn out far less smoke than a few years ago. Electricity is being much used for power.

### VITAL STATISTICS, ETC.

The deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

	1925	1924	Average for 5 years, 1922-5
Under 1 year ...	31	31	33·8
1 and under 2 years	9	13	9·0
2 „ 5 „	10	6	6·4
5 „ 15 „	7	4	6·2
15 „ 25 „	12	5	11·2
25 „ 45 „	35	24	32·4
45 „ 65 „	104	104	114·6
65 years and upwards	128	142	120·2
Total	336	329	314·6

The causes of death were Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 7, Influenza 9, Meningococcal Meningitis 1, Tuberculosis of respiratory system 16, other Tuberculous Diseases 3, Cancer, malignant disease 15, Rheumatic Fever 2, Diabetes 5, Cerebral Haemorrhage etc., 27, Heart Disease 47, Arterio-Sclerosis 12, Bronchitis 38, Pneumonia (all forms) 26, other Respiratory Diseases 2, Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum 2, Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 years) 1, Appendicitis 3, Cirrhosis of Liver 6, Acute and Chronic Nephritis 11, Diseases of Pregnancy 1, Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth 16, Suicide 2, Violence 2, other defined diseases 82, Causes ill-defined or unknown 1.

	Total	Male	Female
Births in 1925 ...	347	151	196
Deaths in 1925 ...	336	165	171

Per 1,000 of Population.



		Birth- rate	Death- rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 b'ths
Mean of 5 years					
1895-99	...	23.5	18.3	1.05	169
1900-04	...	22.5	17.6	0.96	146
1905-09	...	21.3	15.4	0.82	199
1910-14	...	19.1	16.3	0.95	112
1915-19	...	14.4	16.9	0.79	109
1920-24	...	19.2	14.2	0.69	84
Year					
1924	...	17.2	15.4	0.46	94
1925	...	16.3	*15.8	0.75	89
Increase or decrease in 1925 on mean of 5 years 1920-1924					
		-2.9	+1.6	+0.06	+5
Previous year					
		-0.9	+0.4	+0.29	+5

\*Standardizing factor 0.988 ;

Corrected death-rate = 15.6 per 1,000.

The illegitimate births were 12 (14), males 8 (6), females 4 (8).

The provisional birth-rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.3 per 1,000, death-rate 12.2 per 1,000.

### RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The deaths were Bronchitis 38, Pneumonia 26, other Respiratory Diseases (except Tuberculosis) 2, a total of 66 at 3.10 per 1,000 per year (55 at 2.50 per 1,000), practically one-fifth of the total deaths, 336 ; the highest rate for a long time, due probably to cold, damp weather.

### DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS (under 2 years old).

One death at 2.7 per 1,000 births, the death-rate for

England and Wales in 1925 being at 8·4 per 1,000 births.

### CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

Deaths were 15 (27), males 7 (10), females 8 (17), the lowest number for a few years.

### RENAL AND ARTERIAL DEGENERATION.

Includes Cerebral Haemorrhage, Arterio Sclerosis, Acute and Chronic Nephritis. Deaths were 46, compared with 61 in 1924, 51 in 1923, and 40 in 1922.

The AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF required for 1925-6 :—

Poor Rate :—		Amount in the £	
		s. d.	s. d.
Guardians ...	...	1 11	
County Rate ...	...	2 0	
		<hr/>	
Overseers' Expenses ...	...		3 11
			0 1
			<hr/>
			4 0

CHIEF HOSPITALS USED are Royal Infirmary, Manchester, Rochdale Infirmary, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester for women and children, Royal Manchester Eye Hospital.

The Mayor's Central Aid Fund assists at times as regards nourishments, medical and surgical appliances, etc.

EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF SICKNESS during the year in my opinion has been due to the bad weather and shows itself chiefly in larger number of cases of Tuberculosis and Respiratory diseases which caused 19 and 66 deaths respectively.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Professional Nursing in the Home (a) General is under-



taken by the Bacup Nursing Association, two Nurses ;  
(b) Infectious Diseases, e.g. Measles, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Pneumonia, Typhoid Fever, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum by the same nurses.

The Bacup Nursing Association has no connection with the Local Authority.

Seven Midwives are in private practice. The Bacup Nursing Association nurses are midwives and practice. Seven live in and practice in the district. Birth Registers again show that few cases, even on the boundary lines of the Borough, are attended by midwives from adjoining districts.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and its work is put in Infant Mortality Section. School Clinics are under the Education Committee. Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Committee.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority.

Maternity. Special arrangements made with Moorlands House, Rawtenstall, joint agreement with Haslingden Union Board of Guardians according to number of cases sent in.

Children. None, except that if mother is fit to leave Moorlands House, after confinement there, the baby may remain, if necessary, for special treatment.

Smallpox. Joint Hospital at Sourhall, Todmorden, with 32 beds.

Fevers. Agreement with Bury Joint Infectious Hospital Board—beds unlimited for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, Polioencephalitis.

Other Diseases. Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases can obtain admission to the Royal Eye Hospital Manchester. Special arrangements for diseases made when required, e.g. Influenza Epidemic 1918, the Haslingden Guardians had a special agreement for Influenza—Pneumonia cases in their hospitals.

Ambulance Facilities. (a) In infectious cases—provided by hospitals. (b) Non-infectious and accident cases—the Borough Motor Ambulance.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

M.O.H. is also Maternity and Child Welfare M.O. and S.M.O. One Sanitary Inspector. Two Health Visitors are also School Nurses.

Legislation in force is given in a table at the end of the Report.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water Supply.—Town's Water supply is from moorland gathering grounds and is passed through Bell's Patent Mechanical Pressure Filters.

The Borough and Water Engineer's Report below gives details of water supplies, also drainage and sewerage:—

#### 1. New connections to Town's Water Supply:—

Private Houses, domestic use	...	...	147
Works and Mills (by meter)	...	...	1
Urinals ...	...	...	none
Sprinklers	...	...	none

#### 2. New Districts connected to Water Supply:—

Back of Rosebank Street, Park Row, Bankside, Booth Road (extension), Weir Lane and Bent (extension).



## 3. New connections to existing Service Pipes:—

Baths and W.C's.	...	...	...	...	173
Mills and Works (by Meter)	...	...	...	...	1

## 4. Total number of connections and Consumers on Town's Water Supply :—

(x) Domestic connections	...	...	...	4620
Domestic Consumers	...	...	...	18480
At four persons per connection				

Workshops, Mills and Urinals	...	...	...	114
Sprinklers	...	...	...	18

(x) These figures have been verified since last report and are now correct.

## 5. New Sewers:—

Burnley Road and Weir district, Todmorden Road and Greave, main sewer extensions; Beaver Terrace and Edward Street, Back of Cowtoot Lane, Tunstead Road.

Total length laid 9" diameter	...	5150 yds.
Total length laid 6" diameter	...	785 yds.

## New Surface Water Sewers:—

Albert Street, Blackthorn and Cowtoot Lane, New Line Bridge, Beaver Terrace, and Edward Street.

Total length laid 9" diameter	...	350 yds.
Total length laid 7" diameter	...	100 yds.

## 6. New connections to Sewers ... .. 176

## SCHOOLS.

Are in a satisfactory sanitary condition, with also supply of water.

As S.M.O. I am always in touch with them as regards the prevention and spread of infectious diseases.

RIVERS AND STREAMS attended to by the Mersey and Irwell River Board.

INSPECTION, CLOSETS, SCAVENGING, etc. are in the Sanitary Inspector's part of the report. Conversion of pail closets to fresh water W.C's. is progressing, and has been a big problem. 150 conversions in 1925, and 878 conversions during last five years.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES. There are three, which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

### HOUSING.

Inhabited houses 1925 were 5,655, and number of families or separate occupiers were 5,669, Census Return:

gave houses of	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	
Total, private				
Families	1991	1569	909	
Population	7132	6226	4009	
Rooms occupied	5973	6276	4545	
	35'1	27'7	16'0	1921 % of families living in various units.
	20.6	37'1	18.2	1911 of occupation

The figures are quite sufficient show the real need for houses with 3 and 4 bedrooms is so extensive as to affect all parts of the Borough, a question which the Housing and Town Planning Committee are dealing with.

With such figures replacement by new houses is bound to be slow, and there is little room for closure. Improvements are being carried out where possible and I find owners are generally anxious to do what they can. In some cases of course tenants are to blame for damage of property and the Corporation as owners can easier enforce their regulations than private owners. Only as tenants become better educated and see that they have duties as well as rights shall we have ideal homes.



## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of New houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts 1919 or 1923 :—							

I. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	7
II. By other bodies or firms	...	...	...	16

1. Unfit dwelling-houses :—

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 ... .. 20

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. None

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. None

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers: ... .. None

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

## (a) Proceedings under Section 3, Housing Act, 1925

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—

(a) by owners ... .. 20

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... .. None

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... .. 2

## (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 842

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners ... .. 826

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... .. None

## (c) Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders None



- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... None
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... .. None
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... None

#### INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk supply is good, being from local farms, regularly inspected. When necessary, Cattle are inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon. No milk, under special designation, is sold in the district. For Meat, under Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, the Sanitary Inspector has been appointed an Inspector. Meat Stalls are closed in on three sides. There are only private Slaughter-houses.

	In 1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
No. registered	None	None	None
No. licensed	15	14	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	15	14	14

Bake-houses and places where food is prepared are inspected.

The Chief Constable is the sampling officer, and his report is :—

“ Milk and Cream Regulations. Four samples taken. Proceedings instituted against one vendor for not complying

with attachment of prescribed labels.

Sale of Food Order 1921, and Imported Meat. Two persons were prosecuted for offences under the above named order, one being convicted, and the other ordered to pay costs.

Samples of Food and Drugs. Twenty-seven samples of New Milk obtained. One vendor being cautioned.

Nineteen samples of Food and Drugs were obtained. One vendor being cautioned.

Condensed Milk Regulations. Two samples obtained."

The amount of work done in this section is difficult to tabulate, but there is co-operation between the Chief Constable, the Sanitary Inspector, and those who have the handling of foods etc.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As regards 1925, also period since 1920, tables are at the end of the Report. In following sections, unless otherwise stated, the numbers will be cases, or deaths each year from 1920 to 1925 in their order.

### DIPHTHERIA.

Deaths were 2 in 1921; 1 in 1922; being 3 deaths out of 20 cases notified in 5 years. One case notified in 1925, a case rate of '04 per 1,000 population; England and Wales in 1925 being 1'23 per 1,000.

### ERYSIPELAS.

No deaths in 1925. 20 cases notified, a case rate of '94 per 1,000. England and Wales in 1925 were at '39.



## SCARLET FEVER.

Cases 8, 6, 14, 20, 27 equals 75 in five years. 1925 case rate 1·22. England and Wales 2·36. Only one death in five years the one in 1925. Cases mostly treated at home. No special difficulties as regards return or carrier cases.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

Cases 2, 1, 1, 1, 2, a total of 7 with no deaths. Case rate '03. England and Wales case rate '07. The cases were nursed at home.

## PUERPERAL FEVER.

Cases 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, a total of 6 with 3 deaths. Cases in 1925 recovered and was nursed in hospital. Case rate '09. England and Wales case rate '06.

## WHOOPIING COUGH.

Deaths were 5, 13, 0, 3, 7, a total of 28. One death in 1925.

## PNEUMONIA.

Cases 34, 41, 31, 34, 96, a total of 236, whilst deaths were 12, 12, 8, 11, 26, a total of 69. Cold, damp year in my opinion responsible for great increase.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	TREATED		VISION		TOTAL	
	at Home	in Hospital	Unimpaired	Impaired	Blindness	Deaths
4	3	1	4	0	0	0

One case treated in hospital.

## CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS.

One death of resident away was notified in another town.

## CHICKEN POX.

Cases 64, 25, 79, 135, 132, a total of 435.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Table at the end of the report :

Pulmonary cases	17, 10, 21, 12, 28,	...	...	total	88
deaths	20, 18, 15, 10, 16,	...	...	total	79
Non-Pulmonary cases	14, 7, 13, 12, 11,	...	...	total	57
deaths	4, 5, 5, 6, 3,	...	...	total	23

Our death rate per 1000 was '75 for 1925. from Respiratory Tuberculosis against '46 per 1000 in 1924 our lowest rate. Tuberculosis 27 males notified deaths 10  
12 females „ „ 9

In the earlier years given above many cases died which had been notified several years, a point I mentioned in previous reports. Bad weather in my opinion was responsible for many of 1925 deaths.

## INFLUENZA.

There were 9 deaths chiefly in early part of the year.

## GENERAL

There is a disinfecting and cleansing station where verminous persons and their belongings can be disinfected also cases of scabies in school children may have baths &c. At York Place, Manchester 21 specimens of sputum were examined for Tubercle Bacilli and 4 were positive.

Many sputum tests are done through the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

As I am School Medical Officer and the Health Visitors are also School Nurses I am kept well in touch with schools as regards infectious diseases.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infantile Mortality was 89 per 1,000 births per year against 84 in 1924. Whooping Cough and Respiratory Diseases in a year for bad weather caused several deaths. Infantile Mortality for England and Wales was 75, the same as in 1924. The legitimate death-rate per 1,000 was 83·5 (79·09). The illegitimate death-rate per 1,000 was 250 (214·28). 3 out of 12 children having died, causes being: Premature Birth 2, Whooping Cough 1. Out of 31 infant deaths 16 were in the first month, of which 10 were males and 6 females. Deaths were due to Congential Debility, and Malformation, Premature Birth 16; Pneumonia 5; Whooping Cough 3; Gastro-enteritis 1; other diseases 6.

Males born were 151 (184) of whom 21 (21) died, whilst of females 196 (184) only 13 (10) died, girls evidently having a greater vitality than boys. Deaths, 1 and under 2 years, were 9 (13) Pneumonia 3; Whooping Cough 3; Tuberculous Meningitis 1; other causes 2. Deaths, 2 and under 5 years, were 10, Pneumonia 5; Bronchitis 2; Whooping Cough 1; Heart Disease 1; Influenza 1. Including Whooping Cough 22 out of 50 deaths under 5 years of age were due to Respiratory diseases.

23 mothers were confined at the Moorlands Maternity Home.

The Milk (Mother and Children) Order 1919 has been carried out according to the Ministry of Health's scale.

Measles, Whooping Cough and cases of Epidemic Diarrhoea are visited by the Health Visitors.

At the end of July Nurse Dixon resigned to start a Nursing Home. I would place on record my appreciation of her work. In previous reports I have stated how also as School Nurse she could not in the year pay first visits



to all the births. Nurses E. Fielden and E. Fletcher were appointed and took up duty in August. The district was divided into two areas, each nurse to act as Health Visitor and School Nurse for her own area. This I have found to work well. It will be noticed that there are more first visits to births than births for 1925, owing to the newly appointed Health Visitors having visited some of those of 1924 which had not been visited previously.

Visits paid by Health Visitors during the year 1925 :

To expectant Mothers	(1) first visits	20	(2) Total visits	30
„ Infants under 1 year	(1) „	430	(2) „	966
„ Children 1-5 years	Total visits	944		
Visits re Stillbirth	„	19		
„ re Ophthalmia Neonatorum		18		
Whooping Cough cases visited		3		

The Maternity Centre was open 47 times when mothers and guardians made 1,001 attendances and babies made 701 attendances.

Baby Day was on September 30th, in the Mechanics Hall. Mrs. J. Ireland was in the chair and Miss Pendlebury Health Visitor of Farnworth, gave a lantern lecture on the Mother and the Child. About 300 mothers attended. Prizes were given for Photographs of children, knitted garments and best Centre Attendance.

In preparing this report it has at times been difficult to cut some parts down whilst perhaps other parts I have made lengthy yet I have tried to show the difficulties we have had how we have met them and are preparing for the future Health of the Borough. Zealous interest and co-operation has specially been shown to me as M.O.H. also S.M.O. and Maternity and Child Welfare M.O. during the year of



important changes in the staff, by the Chairman of the Health Committee, His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Whitehead, J.P., also the members of that Committee and its various Sub-Committees for which I am deeply grateful.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

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

Burwood House,  
Bacup,  
April 17th, 1926.

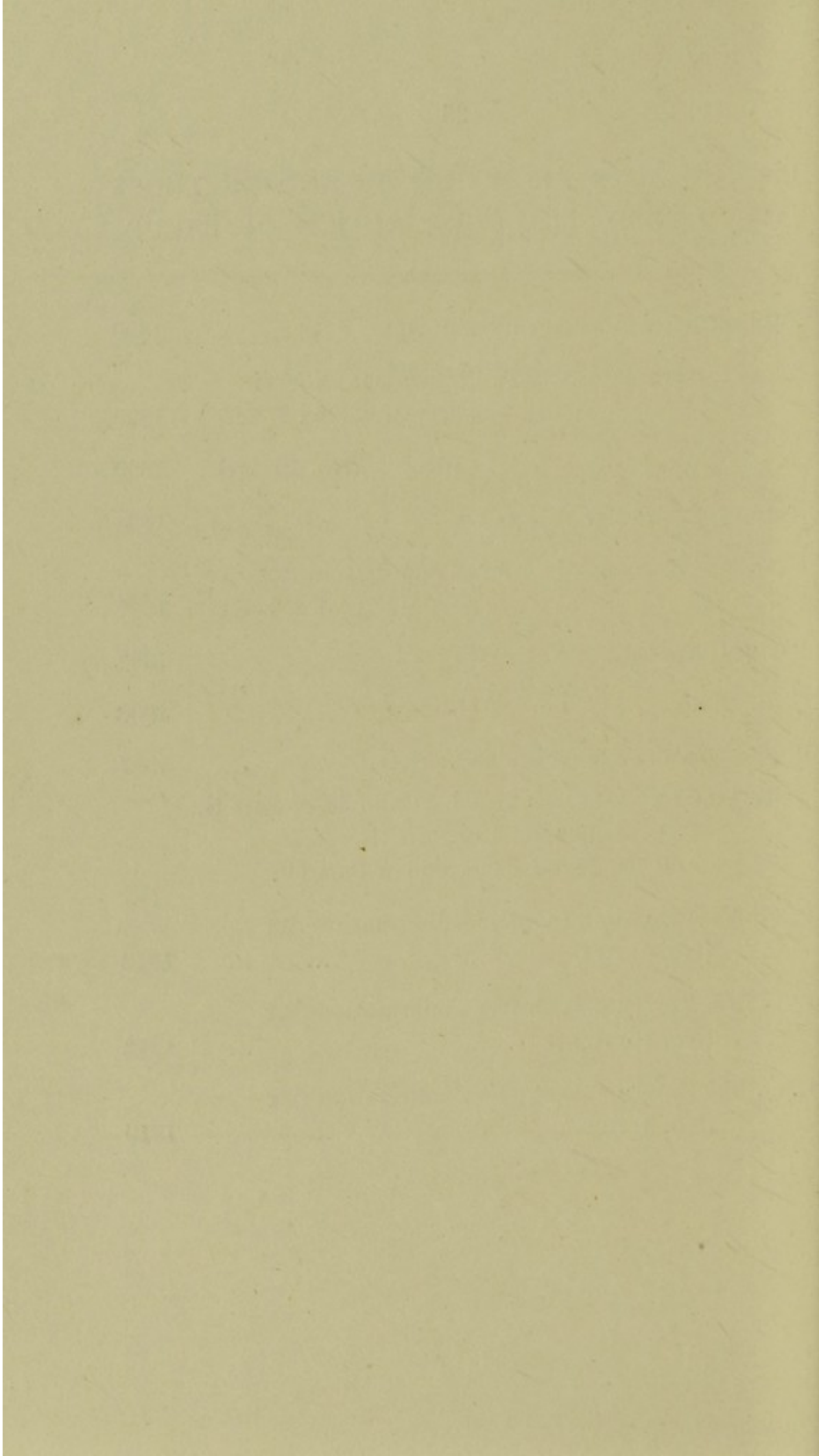
LIST OF ACTS PROMOTED BY AND OF THOSE  
ADOPTED BY THE CORPORATION OF BACUP.

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Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	...	1890
Local Government 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.			
L. G. B's. Provisional Orders Confirmation Act			
(No. 4) Act	...	...	1912
L. G. B's. Provisional Orders Confirmation Act			
(No. 16) Act	...	...	1913
L. G. B's. Provisional Orders Confirmation Act			
(No. 3) Act	...	...	1919





# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years											
0—1	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...		...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
5—10	...	...		1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
10—15	...	...		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
15—20	...	...		2	2	2	1	1	1	1	...
20—25	...			4	2	...	...	...	3	...	...
25—35	...	...		4	2	2	1	3	1	...	...
35—45	...	...		2	2	1	...	...	3	...	...
45—55	...	...		4	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
55—65	...	...		2	...	..	..	..	...	...	...
65 and upwards				...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...			20	8	7	4	8	8	2	1



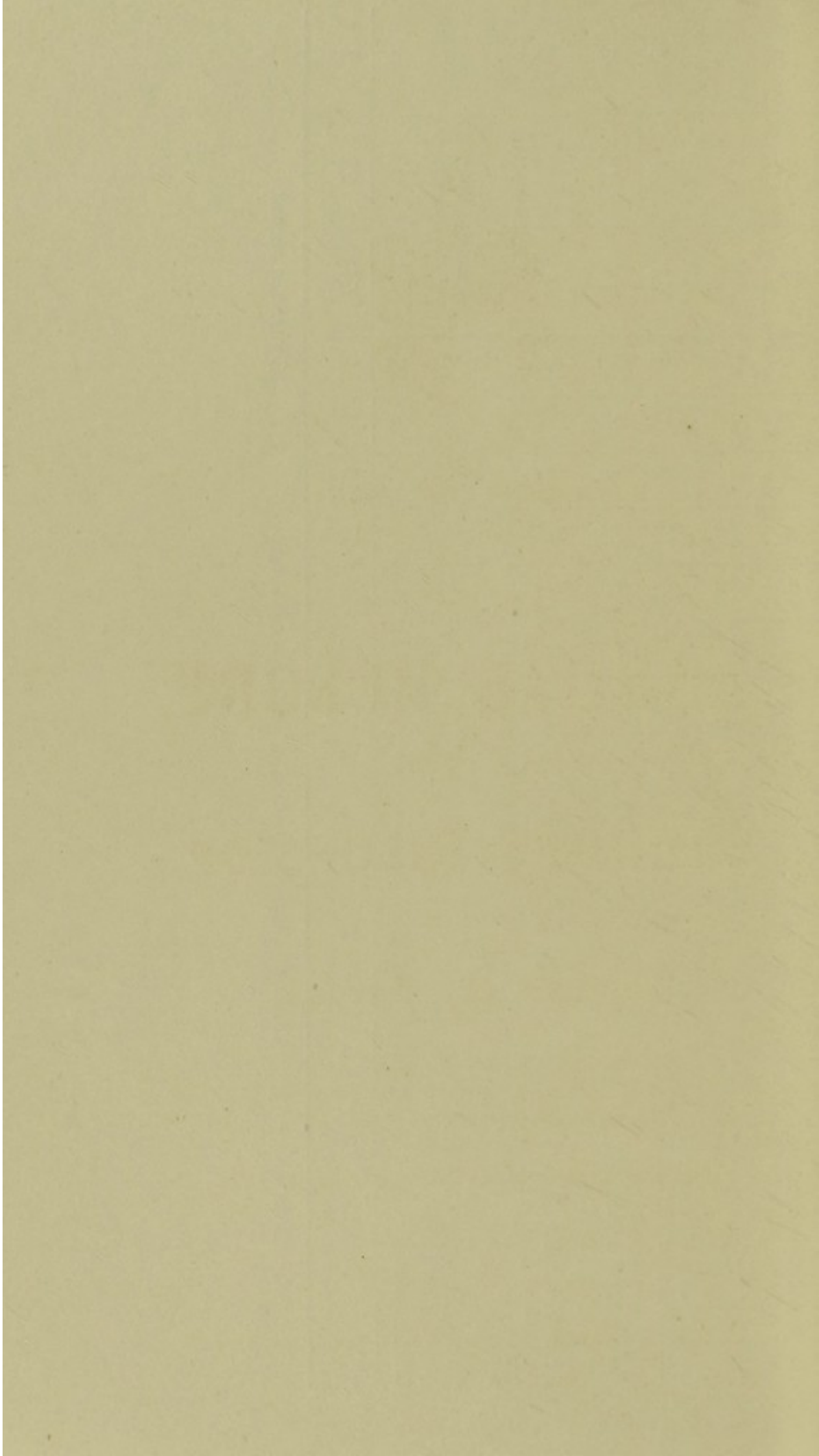
# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1925 :—

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths	Hospital		
	Total Cases at all Ages notified	YEARS.												Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				65 and over
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	2	8	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	27	...	...	2	3	10	6	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	4	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...









**BOROUGH OF BACUP.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Sanitary Inspector,**

**Arthur E. Barnes,**

A.M.R.S. Inst., Cert. R.I.P.H.  
Mem. (by exam.) Inst. of Cleansing Superintendents.  
Honours Cert. Plumbing, Hygiene, &c.

**For the Year ended December 31st, 1925.**

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**BACUP:**

M. HOLT, Borough Printing Works, Plantation Street.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,  
ROCHDALE ROAD,  
BACUP,  
JANUARY 20TH, 1926.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.**

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit my Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1925.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Visits and Re-visits to Houses	...	...	...	3205
Notices and Letters served	...	...	...	560
Workshop Inspections	...	...	...	112
Cowshed Inspections	...	...	...	129
Slaughter-house and Offensive Trade Inspections				550
Complaints received	...	...	...	92
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	170
Drains tested	...	...	...	12
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	42
Visits paid to Infected Houses	...	...	...	618
Dust-bins sold and delivered	...	...	...	374
Steam Disinfector used on 3 occasions.				

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspections have been made of premises and shops where food was prepared or kept for sale, also the Market has been visited twice weekly.

The following quantities of unsound food were destroyed :—

1 Carcase of Cow  
12 Beast Livers  
28 lbs Beef  
31 lbs Strawberries

## MEAT REGULATIONS.

Meetings have been held with the Butchers and Grocers Associations, when the various clauses affecting each association was gone through.

All the Butchers shops in our Borough, with the exception of one, are situated on the main road, and with the traffic this makes it imperative that these shop windows should be closed to prevent mud, filth or any other contaminating substance being splashed or blown thereon.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number on Register—	Tripe Boilers	2
„ „	Fat Melter	1

These premises have been regularly inspected and the Bye-laws strictly adhered to.

## FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are Thirty-eight in the Borough for the sale of fried fish and chip potatoes. Provided good and sound materials are used and the cooking carried out in a satisfactory manner no objection can be taken to these places.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

We have Fourteen Licensed Slaughter-houses situate in different parts of the Borough. These have been regularly inspected and the Bye-laws strictly adhered to.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

We have on our Register the following : Workshops 87 Workplaces 7, viz. :—Kitchen of Restaurants 6, Livery Stable Yard 1. One hundred and eighteen visits have been made under the above Act, several defects were noted and improvements effected. Eight notices were served, in other cases the owners' or occupiers' attention was drawn to the defects or contraventions observed. Fourteen pail



closets and two cesspools have been converted to the water carriage system at two factories.

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

We have on our register 105 Cowkeepers and Milk-sellers. During the year 129 inspections were made. Some farmers supply milk in our Borough from an adjoining district. Two applications for registration as cowkeepers and milksellers were received. The Cowkeepers registered are using premises previously occupied by registered cowkeepers. Some premises have been re-let, the occupiers being exempt from registration, not being milksellers.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909 AND 1925.

Twenty inspections were made under the above Act and 842 inspections under the Public Health Acts. Several of our back to back houses can be converted into through houses which will make them satisfactory. Along with these alterations in other cases houses will have to be taken down to relieve the congestion and improve the light and ventilation. The houses in one area in the centre of the town should be entirely removed. I would like to mention that at several of our back to back houses pail closets are provided some distance away from the dwellings. In such cases, when the houses are altered into through houses, these pail closets can be removed and water closets provided and fixed inside. A great improvement has been effected by the provision of new sewers at Beaver Terrace and Edward Street, this has enabled us to have all the cesspools, privy closets and pails converted to the water carriage system. Two houses have been voluntarily closed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Six hundred and eighteen 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 person and disinfection of the infected articles, etc., connected with the disease. Sanitary Pails, disinfectants and carbolised oil are supplied free. 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.

One hundred and seventy-four rooms have been disinfected. Houses in which there were tubercular diseases were visited and an offer made to disinfect. On request from the owners or occupiers any infected material is destroyed by our own men. Thirty-three mattresses, beds and a large quantity of bed linen has been destroyed on such request during the year, in each case I always endeavour to have this request in writing. Other articles are either disinfected in the bedroom with formic aldehyde gas or removed to the steam disinfector. During the year 27 articles have been removed, disinfected and returned to the owners from houses in which had been infectious cases.

#### CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

During the year the work of collecting the pail contents has been continued during the night-time. Some complaints respecting night-time work were received. I have gone into this matter but cannot see that the complaints can be remedied until the water carriage system is generally adopted throughout the Borough. During the early part of the year we employed on this work one horse and two men full time. During the year I dispensed with the services of one horse and two men three nights each two weeks. This not only meant an actual saving of the amount paid for this horse and two men, but a great sanitary improvement was effected which cannot fail to be of benefit to the ratepayers. In dealing with the conversion of pail closets to water carriage I would strongly urge the Committee to proceed with a general scheme throughout the Borough, instead of the



present piecemeal system. I consider our present system is wasteful and slow, the amount we spend in emptying pails, contributions towards conversions, etc., would provide a sinking fund, and interest payments towards a loan for a general scheme, and leave some margin for other improvements, or reducing the cost of the Health Committee's estimates. This would not only effect a financial gain but also one of our most needed sanitary improvements. This matter is worth your urgent consideration. I would also draw your attention to the fact, though sewers have been provided in the outlying districts on account of no suitable supply of water we cannot have these closets converted. This entails wasteful expense in travelling to and from these outlying districts for the collection of these pails.

The collection of domestic and trade refuse is done by Two Albion 3 ton waggons, fully employed on this work. In dealing with the collection of refuse certain governing factors have to be taken into consideration; towns cannot be judged from the same standpoint. After an extensive trial with motors for our town, I am convinced the work is more efficiently done than when done by horses, especially during the present time when the place of disposal is such a long distance from the point of collections. By having a Vulcan waggon in reserve our difficulty has been overcome viz.:—that on account of our motors being fully employed, should any repairs be required which necessitated taking any time during the day, our work is not impeded.

We have a few places in the Borough where it is not practicable to get with our Albion motors for which we occasionally engage a horse and cart, or use the Vulcan motor. All the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping on land; several complaints were received during the year respecting paper being blown off the tips. If occupiers and householders could be prevailed upon to dispose of their paper at home, an improvement would be effected. I have



carefully examined the refuse collected and find that a great quantity is useable or saleable material which should be disposed of at home. We are removing too great a quantity of refuse which entails a two-fold loss to the rate-payers. Respecting the disposal of refuse I would recommend the Committee to give the modern methods of refuse disposal their earliest attention, so that the present method of dumping the refuse on " Tips " could be dispensed with. Several complaints have been received respecting fires on our tips, to obviate this, is a difficult question in our Borough as at some houses the ashes are only removed from the householders grates during the time the collection of refuse is taking place, this means live ashes are mixed with other refuse, I have drawn the occupiers attention to this matter.

During the year the sale of dust-bins has been continued, we have sold and delivered 374. Twenty-eight ash-pits have been abolished and bins supplied in lieu thereof. The owners of property are finding it is to their own advantage to dispense with ashpits, boxes etc., and provide up-to-date dust-bins. When dust-bins are generally adopted a great sanitary improvement will have been effected and the work of refuse removal will be greatly facilitated. There is some difficulty experienced in several of our houses by lack of provision for any place outside the premises to store the bin. During the year the smaller bin which was adopted for the back to back houses have given every satisfaction.

The following are the number of the various types of closets, ashpits, etc. in the Borough (these do not include isolated houses or several of our farm houses in the outlying districts which are attended to by the occupiers themselves)

Fixed ashpits in combination with privies	...	...	2
" " " " cesspool	...	...	3
" " not in combination with privy or cesspool			85
Moveable receptacles of galvanised iron	...	...	3890



Other receptacles, boxes, etc. (this is a varying quantity)	1797
Fresh water closets ... ..	2665
Cesspools and privies ... ..	12
Pail closets ... ..	1218
Waste water closets ... ..	445

Your Inspector gratefully recognises the valuable assistance he has received from the Chairman, His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Whitehead), the ex-Mayor Mr. Councillor J. T. Hoyle, and Members of the Health Committee during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. BARNES,

A.M.R.S.I. Cert. R.I.P.H. ; Mem. (by exam) Ins. of Cleansing  
Superintendent ; Hons. Plumbing, Hygiene, etc.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

