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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD.



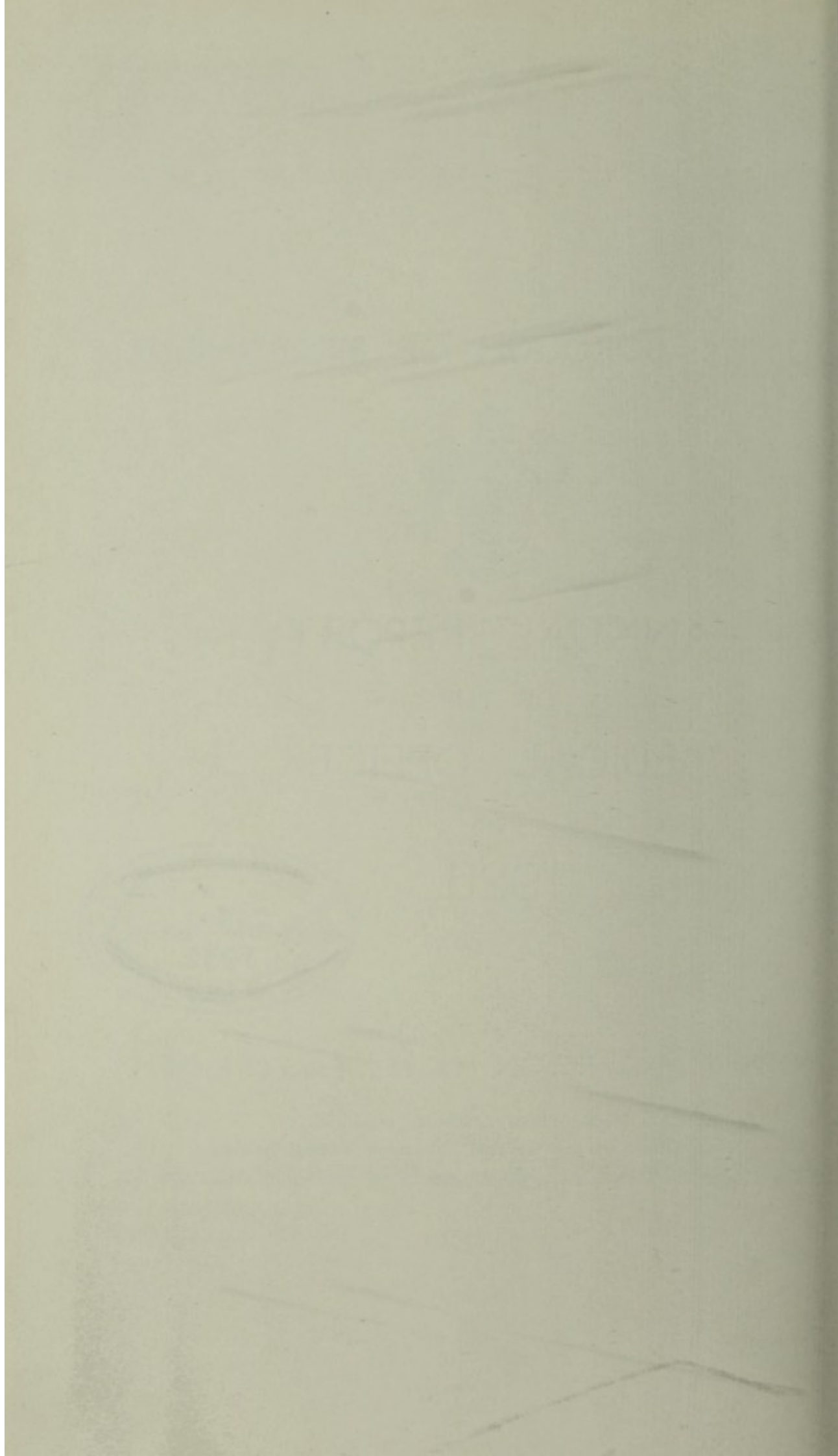
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1926.

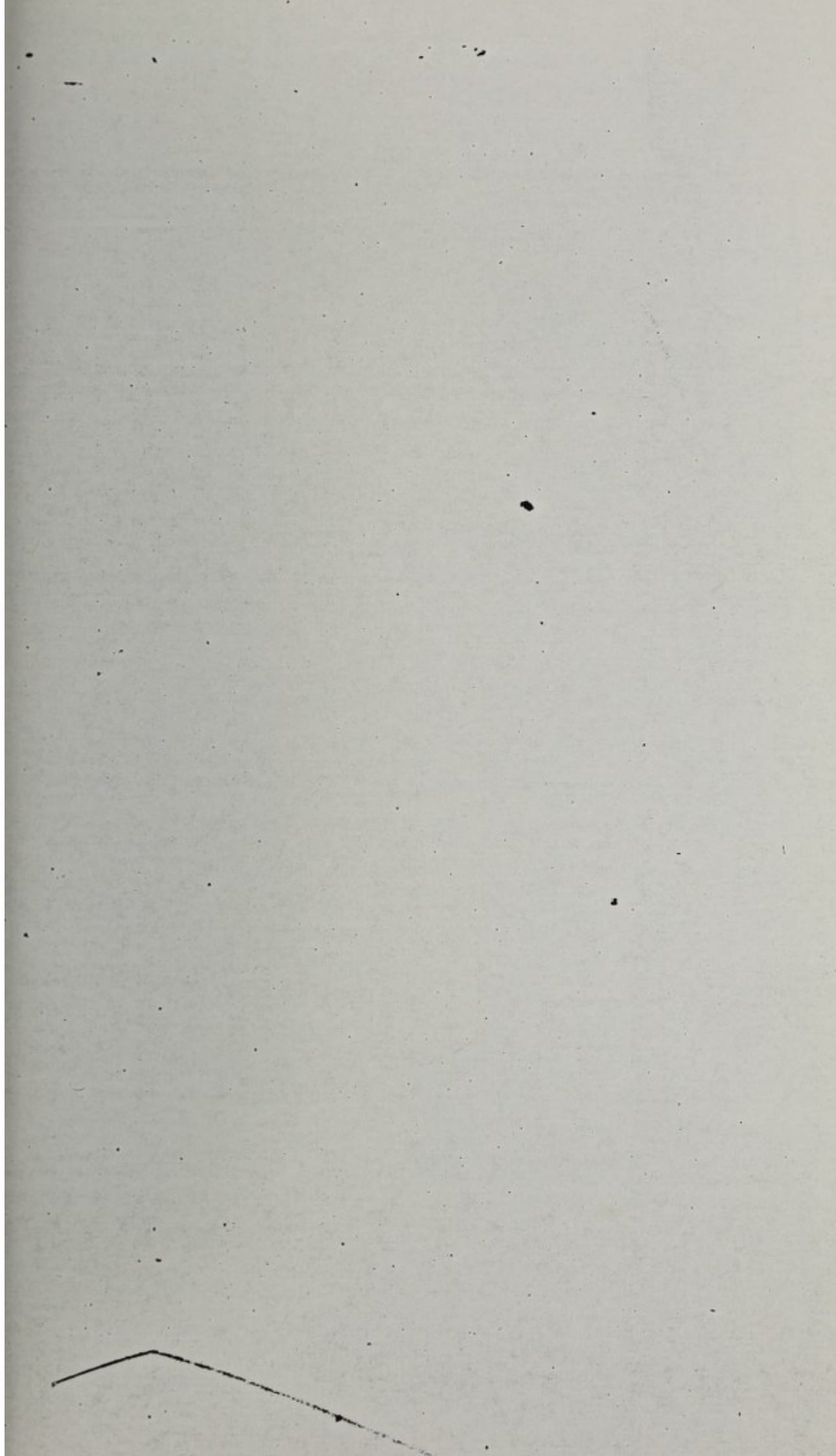


D. MORLEY MATHIESON, M.A., M.D. (Edin.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, and

Chief Medical Officer for the Municipal Tuberculosis, Mental Deficiency,
Maternity and Child Welfare, &c, Schemes, and for the School Medical Service.





CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Health Committee	Alderman TWEEDLE, J.P.
Education Committee	Alderman ARKLE, O.B.E., J.P.
Maternity & Child Welfare Committee...	Alderman Mrs. MERCER.
Mental Deficiency Committee	Alderman GOODWIN, J.P.
Water Committee	Councillor POWER.

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SHORT STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

1926.

Area of Borough	3,924 acres, or a little over 6 square miles
Estimated population (at midsummer)	158,000
Number of persons per acre (density of population)	40.3
Estimated number of houses in Borough	28,744
Number of inhabited houses at time of census, 1921	26,630
Rateable value	£911,669
Estimated product of penny rate	£3,275
Birkenhead rates, 1925-1926	11/8 in the £
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population	20.4
Death-rate ,, ,,	11.1
Average death-rate for the last ten years	12.9
Phthisis death-rate per 1,000 of the population	1.0
Infantile mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	85
Percentage of total deaths which were uncertified	0.06
Average number of children in elementary schools	23,816
Total children medically inspected during year	7,889

ADMINISTRATION.

General administrative arrangements.—The detailed arrangements made by the local authority for dealing with various branches of health work—*e.g.*, maternity and child welfare, tuberculosis, etc.—are set out in the appropriate sections of this report.

Staff.—The staff engaged on the work of the department consisted at the end of 1926 of the following:—

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Administrative Medical Officer:

D. MORLEY MATHIESON, M.A., M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers:

MARY A. S. DEACON, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

H. MASON LEETE, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

F. G. FOSTER, M.A., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

W. D. HOOD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ANNA MAY WILLIAMS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon:

P. WILSON SMITH, L.D.S. (Glas.).

Veterinary Officer:

H. L. TORRANCE, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (Vict.).

Bacteriologist and Pathologist:

*Professor J. M. BEATTIE, M.A., M.D., etc.

Analyst:

*HERBERT E. DAVIES, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

Orthopædic Surgeon:

*T. HARTLEY MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B.

Inspectors:

ALFRED LONGSTAFF (Chief Inspector and Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts).

JOHN M. CARNIE (Meat, Fish, and Abattoir Inspector); H. L. BATY (Housing Inspector), J. LEE, W. H. TILSTON, J. CROSHAW, G. WILLS, W. H. BATES, W. V. MORRIS, R. E. JONES, T. OVERSBY (District Sanitary Inspectors), G. S. REEMAN (Workshops, Food and Drugs, etc., Inspector), W. S. EDWARDS (Infectious Diseases Inspector), J. JACKMAN (Common Lodging Houses Inspector).

Matron, Isolation Hospital:

Miss EMILY YEOMANS.

Matron, Thingwall Sanatorium:

Miss I. R. MILLAR.

Health Nurses:

Miss K. NIXON (Chief Health Nurse).

Mrs. L. E. FLETCHER (Health Nurse and Inspector of Midwives).

Miss A. ADAMS, Miss J. BEATTIE, Miss L. M. CRAINE, Miss M. M. GRAHAM,

Miss M. JONES, Miss F. D. LEWIS, Miss G. F. PARKINSON, Miss L. PEACE,

Miss E. A. SMITH, Miss G. SMITH, Miss A. I. STEELE, Miss J. A. WARD,

Miss L. WILSON, Mrs. C. B. WILLIAMS.

*Not whole-time officers.

Clerks:

J. BENNETT (Chief Clerk). J. OWEN (Senior Clerk).
 E. P. ROGERS, R. BAKER, H. HOLDEN, W. S. SHAW, J. CHALLINOR,
 N. WILSON, A. COOPER, C. MARTIN (Clerks); Miss E. M. PINCHES
 (Records Clerk); Miss H. TREVETHAN, Miss E. ADAMSON (Typists);
 L. PINGUEY (Junior Clerk); J. Moreton, G. Davies (Office Boys).

School Teacher, Thingwall Sanatorium:

Miss M. HOBSON.

Other Staff:

NURSING STAFF, ISOLATION HOSPITAL—18.
 DOMESTIC STAFF, ISOLATION HOSPITAL—16.
 MALE STAFF, ISOLATION HOSPITAL—6.
 NURSING STAFF, THINGWALL SANATORIUM—7.
 DOMESTIC STAFF, THINGWALL SANATORIUM—7.
 MALE STAFF, THINGWALL SANATORIUM—4.
 ASSISTANTS ON MEAT INSPECTION WORK—2.
 LAVATORY ATTENDANT—1.

SUPERANNUATION SCHEME.

The Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, was adopted by the Birkenhead Corporation in June, 1923, and came into operation on 1st August, 1923.

The number of posts in the Corporation service designated as "established posts" for the purposes of the Act was 1,906, of which 1,711 were actually filled at the date on which the Act came into force, and 195 were additional posts.

Medical examinations carried out during 1926.—During the past year 56 examinations of selected applicants for designated posts, and 12 examinations of selected applicants for junior posts, were carried out.

Department.	Designated Posts	Junior Posts
Audit	1	0
Education	3	0
Electricity	2	0
Engineer and Surveyor's	4	0
Ferries	17	0
Gas	6	0
Libraries	1	0
Markets	1	0
Medical Officer's	12	0
Parks	2	1
Police	1	2
Town Clerk's	2	1
Tramways	0	5
Treasurer's	3	2
Water	1	1
Total examinations	56	12

COST OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The *net* cost to the Corporation (after deducting Exchequer grants) of all the Health Services dealt with in this report, for the financial year 1926-1927, was covered by a local rate of slightly under 10½d. in the £.

The total rate for the Borough (exclusive of water charges) was as follows:—

Gross estimate	12/7½ in the £
Deduct relief from Corporation undertakings	11½d. in the £
Rate levied	11/8 in the £

Below is an analysis of the cost to the Corporation of the various Health Services:—

	In the £	Approx. fraction of the total (gross) estimate for rates.
General administration, port sanitary account, housing inspection, municipal laboratory, etc.	2½d.	1/60th
Infectious diseases hospital, disinfecting and ambulances	2¾d.	1/50th
Tuberculosis (including Thingwall Sanatorium, Burntwood Sanatorium and Leasowe Hospital)	1¾d.	1/90th
Prevention and treatment of venereal diseases	¼d.	1/600th
Meat, food and drugs inspection	½d.	1/300th
Maternity and child welfare	¾d.	1/200th
Medical inspection and treatment of children of school age	¾d.	1/200th
Mental deficiency	½d.	1/300th
Miscellaneous (care of blind persons, housing schemes 1904-1909, etc.)	½d.	1/300th
Total	10½d.	1/15th

WEATHER.

METEOROLOGICAL RESULTS.

The mean barometer reading for the whole year was 29.922 inches, as compared with a mean of 29.921 for the past 60 years.

The number of wet days in 1926 was 183.

The total amount of rainfall at Bidston was 30.961 inches, as compared with an average annual rainfall for the past 60 years of 28.540 inches. The abnormally heavy rainfall during the summer is well shown in the tables below.

The mean temperature for the year was 50.0° Fahrenheit.

In Tables A 1 and A 2 monthly and weekly results are set out: those in Table A 2 being for the 53 weeks ending January 1st, 1927.

TABLE A 1.

Meteorological observations during 1926. Monthly results.

1926	Mean Temperature	Mean Barometer	Rainfall—1 ft above ground
	° F.	INCHES	INCHES
January	41.6	29.766	2.518
February	44.5	29.778	3.525
March	43.9	30.038	1.026
April	49.3	29.862	0.751
May	50.6	29.881	3.485
June	57.0	29.904	1.075
July	63.2	30.008	3.765
August	61.2	30.027	3.142
September	57.8	30.066	3.529
October	46.8	29.893	3.015
November	42.6	29.530	4.319
December	41.5	30.039	0.811

TABLE A 2.
Meteorological observations during 1926. Weekly results.

Weeks	Barometer means reduced to sea level & to 32°F.	Means of Evaporation.	Thermometer means.	Rainfall.		Average percent'ge of cloud to clear sky.	Mean hourly horizontal motion of air in miles	Percentage of time wind blew from S., SW. W. & NW.
				Hours.	Inches.			
1	29.353	43.9	46.0	26.9	0.778	84.28	25.81	81.55
2	29.795	42.9	44.3	16.0	0.863	78.57	22.00	89.88
3	30.036	35.9	37.2	3.1	0.034	70.00	13.87	3.57
4	29.652	37.9	39.5	20.9	0.748	74.28	16.90	57.73
5	29.665	42.1	44.2	12.2	0.534	77.14	21.60	68.45
6	29.368	43.4	44.5	22.0	0.950	87.14	12.87	16.07
7	29.779	35.8	37.7	17.6	1.182	90.00	12.34	5.95
8	29.730	43.2	45.8	24.6	1.054	75.71	20.90	85.12
9	30.071	47.1	49.8	12.4	0.433	88.57	16.61	76.19
10	30.049	43.8	46.4	11.8	0.513	71.43	29.48	98.81
11	30.235	44.3	47.1	7.6	0.391	35.71	33.74	100.00
12	30.223	39.3	41.8	0.0	0.000	80.00	8.77	37.50
13	29.951	37.0	40.6	0.0	0.000	78.57	15.43	0.00
1st Qr.	29.839	41.3	43.5	175.1	7.480	80.11	19.26	55.43
14	29.807	45.5	49.8	8.3	0.178	81.43	14.31	47.02
15	30.018	46.5	50.1	0.9	0.008	70.00	12.27	74.40
16	29.848	43.6	47.8	16.2	0.454	57.14	16.64	50.00
17	29.633	42.5	46.5	4.2	0.114	64.28	13.40	63.69
18	29.873	46.6	49.8	10.9	0.281	94.28	15.05	33.33
19	29.971	42.1	45.9	20.1	0.795	67.14	15.57	32.76
20	29.737	43.1	46.5	25.7	1.716	70.00	13.58	73.81
21	30.031	46.8	50.5	1.3	0.063	51.43	11.57	57.14
22	29.888	54.7	59.0	28.4	0.674	82.85	12.74	46.43
23	29.739	50.8	55.2	5.4	0.138	55.71	14.05	75.59
24	29.627	51.7	55.8	16.7	0.525	70.00	14.13	67.85
25	29.772	54.1	57.0	15.0	0.415	78.57	12.37	79.76
26	30.116	52.1	56.7	3.5	0.072	64.28	19.17	100.00
2nd Qr.	29.851	47.7	51.6	156.6	5.433	69.78	14.22	61.68
27	30.293	55.9	62.2	0.0	0.000	61.43	10.14	45.24
28	29.942	57.3	61.9	20.5	0.699	72.87	11.15	48.21
29	30.091	63.4	69.2	0.0	0.000	67.14	9.51	35.71
30	29.761	57.9	61.7	25.2	2.415	85.71	20.34	80.95
31	30.132	56.1	59.1	14.8	0.651	77.14	16.17	92.85
32	30.263	56.0	60.4	5.7	0.474	65.71	11.33	77.97
33	29.866	57.5	60.6	26.1	1.776	77.14	16.91	76.78
34	29.806	58.6	62.8	10.1	0.400	61.43	15.37	80.95
35	30.163	56.3	60.5	4.7	0.196	51.42	18.04	86.39
36	30.065	57.4	60.4	17.7	0.832	84.28	10.93	29.76
37	30.019	56.5	59.6	14.8	0.752	81.43	12.73	96.43
38	30.023	57.3	60.9	6.2	0.164	71.43	20.24	82.14
39	30.123	51.9	55.2	14.0	1.616	60.00	14.01	66.07
3rd Qr.	30.042	57.1	61.1	159.8	9.975	70.55	14.37	69.19
40	30.172	52.0	55.5	9.3	0.461	68.57	12.77	87.50
41	30.051	53.5	55.7	17.3	0.895	82.85	14.73	68.45
42	29.706	46.3	49.8	23.5	1.519	80.00	23.17	93.45
43	30.024	37.2	40.1	12.5	0.297	60.00	9.37	26.19
44	29.635	36.9	39.3	14.0	0.304	61.43	12.93	26.78
45	29.672	39.5	41.3	27.2	1.111	68.57	14.93	40.48
46	29.315	42.8	44.9	12.9	0.650	68.57	15.51	49.40
47	29.333	43.3	44.5	38.3	1.856	82.85	17.13	60.12
48	29.715	39.6	40.7	17.3	0.699	60.00	7.83	53.57
49	29.925	38.3	39.9	10.7	0.318	64.28	15.38	42.25
50	30.470	43.0	44.2	12.3	0.208	81.43	12.34	88.69
51	30.143	39.2	40.4	10.9	0.239	85.71	19.54	82.14
52	30.526	36.2	38.7	0.5	0.007	65.71	15.50	43.45
53	30.285	42.2	43.7	1.8	0.042	85.71	23.14	84.52
4th Qr.	29.927	42.1	44.2	208.5	8.606	72.50	15.31	60.50
Year ..	29.915	47.0	50.0	700.0	31.494	73.23	15.78	61.68

POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.

POPULATION.

Population.—The population of the Borough recorded at the time of the 1921 census was 145,592. The estimated mid-year population, 1926, was 158,000. This estimate has been made by the Registrar-General on the basis of the "adjusted" 1921 figures, after allowance for the varying rate of natural increase as evidenced by the births and deaths in each area and of migration as indicated from other sources of information such as the change in the numbers in the Parliamentary Register and the migration returns obtained by the Board of Trade.

BIRTHS.

Births registered during 1926, and birth-rate.—During the year 3,228 births belonging to the Borough were *registered*. (This total includes 47 Birkenhead births registered in other areas and transferred to Birkenhead, and excludes 110 births belonging to other areas which occurred in Birkenhead and were transferred to the areas concerned. Among the latter are numerous births which occurred at the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital and the Birkenhead Infirmary.)

This corresponds to a birth-rate of 20.4 per 1,000 of the population: the lowest rate yet recorded for the Borough.

Birth-rate in recent years.—The birth-rates since 1911 are as follows (the rates for 1912-1920 are given as they were published year by year, and are not calculated on revised estimates of population in the intercensal period):—

1911	28.4	per 1,000
1912	28.2	"
1913	28.7	"
1914	27.3	"
1915	27.4	"
1916	26.9	"
1917	22.4	"
1918	21.1	"
1919	22.5	"
1920	27.7	"
1921	25.8	"
1922	23.1	"
1923	21.4	"
1924	21.1	"
1925	20.5	"
1926	20.4	"

Comparison of birth-rate with rates for country generally.—

	Per 1,000 of population.
England and Wales	17.8
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	18.2
157 Other Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 20,000-50,000)	17.6
London	17.1
Birkenhead	20.4

Sex-distribution of births.—Of the 3,228 births, 1,669 were males and 1,559 females; a proportion of 1,070 : 1,000.

Legitimacy.—Of the 3,228 births registered, 117 were illegitimate; a percentage of 3.6.

Births notified during 1926.—During the year 3,345 births were notified in the Borough under the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915. Of these 122 were still-births, leaving a total of 3,223 live births. This total includes births which occurred in the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital, the Birkenhead Infirmary and the Birkenhead Borough Hospital, many of which were transferable to other areas.

The following is an analysis of the above births:—

Births in Public Institutions:—

Maternity Hospital	300	(21 still-births)
Infirmary	238	(17 „)
Borough Hospital	7	(1 „)
Other births (including those in nursing homes):—		
Notified by doctors	229	(7 still-births)
Notified by midwives	2568	(76 „)
Notified by parents	3	(— „)
	3,345	(122 „)

Un-notified births.—The Registrars reported 117 cases of un-notified births. 33 of these were attended by medical practitioners, 75 by both certified midwives and doctors, 5 by the Maternity Hospital staff, and 4 by the Borough Hospital staff.

DEATHS.

Death-rate.—1,753 deaths occurred during the year: the total figure includes 114 deaths of Birkenhead residents which occurred outside the Borough, but excludes 172 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the area. This gives a death-rate of 11.1 per 1,000.

Deaths in recent years.—The death-rates since 1911 are as follows (the rates for 1912-1920 are given as they were published year by year, and are not calculated on revised estimates of population in the intercensal period):—

1911	16.0 per 1,000
1912	14.7 ,,
1913	14.9 ,,
1914	15.6 ,,
1915	15.6 ,,
1916	14.2 ,,
1917	13.3 ,,
1918	17.6 ,,
1919	13.7 ,,
1920	13.3 ,,
1921	11.6 ,,
1922	13.6 ,,
1923	11.0 ,,
1924	11.9 ,,
1925	12.1 ,,
1926	11.1 ,,

Seasonal deaths.—The following gives the deaths for each quarter of the years 1925 and 1926.

	No. of deaths	
	1925	1926
First quarter.....	565	476
Second quarter.....	440	452
Third quarter.....	364	393
Fourth quarter.....	535	432
Totals	1904	1753

Sex-distribution of deaths.—Of the total deaths 905 were males and 848 females, a proportion of 1,067 : 1,000.

Coroners' inquests.—Coroners' inquests were held regarding 122 deaths—that is, in 7.0 per cent. of the total deaths during the year. There were no deaths due to overlaying during the year.

Uncertified deaths.—In 1926, out of the 1,753 deaths registered, 1 was marked "not certified," that is, 0.06 per cent. The cause of the death was entered in accordance with the statement of the person giving information to the registrar, viz.:—

Prematurity.

Causes of death.—From the beginning of 1920 the classification of causes of death previously employed was abandoned, and the recognised classification contained in the detailed international list was adopted. An analysis on this basis will be found in Tables P 1, P 2, and P 3.

Table P 1 (pages 8 to 17) show the causes of death in detail, sub-classified according to age.

Table P 2 (page 18) is a condensed form of Table P 1.

Table P 3 (page 19) is similar to Table P 2 but shows a sub-classification according to districts instead of ages.

Infantile mortality.—There were 276 deaths of infants under 1 year old. This corresponds to an infantile mortality rate of 85 per 1,000 births.

There were 14 deaths in illegitimate infants under 1 year old; giving an illegitimate infant mortality rate of 120 per 1,000.

The causes of infant deaths, and the ages at which death occurred, are shown in Table P 4 (page 20).

The corresponding rates for each year since 1911 are given below:—

1911	136
1912	98
1913	117
1914	122
1915	122
1916	105
1917	95
1918	110
1919	102
1920	102
1921	75
1922	95
1923	62
1924	91
1925	92
1926	85

The main causes of infant deaths during the past two years are shown below:—

	No. in 1925	No. in 1926
(a) Pneumonia (all forms)	60	40
Bronchitis	17	21
Whooping cough	7	5
Measles	6	6
(b) Diarrhœa and enteritis	44	62
Premature birth	54	53
(c) All other causes	108	89
	296	276

Deaths from tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 8.7 per cent. of all the deaths recorded in the Borough in 1926. The deaths from the disease were as follows:—

Deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs	122
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis	39
Total	161

This gives a tuberculosis death-rate of 1.02 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the 122 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during 1926, 110 occurred in individuals between 15 and 65 years old—that is, of a wage-earning age.

This subject is further dealt with in the "Tuberculosis" section of this report.

Deaths from epidemic diseases.—The seven "principal epidemic diseases" caused 119 deaths, as follows:—

Diarrhœa and enteritis (under 2 years)	83
Whooping cough	12
Measles	14
Scarlet fever	1
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	8
"Fever" (enteric, typhus, and simple continued fever)	1
Smallpox	0

This corresponds to a death-rate from all these diseases of 0.75 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from other notifiable infectious diseases.—Pneumonia caused, in its various forms, 167 deaths; puerperal fever caused 3; encephalitis lethargica caused 4.

Deaths from certain non-notifiable infectious diseases.—Syphilis was returned as the cause of 6 deaths. With the existing system of death registration there is every likelihood that many deaths caused directly or indirectly by this disease are not so recorded in the death certificates.

Deaths from cancer.—The following table shows the cancer death-rate in Birkenhead as compared with the country generally:—

Year	BIRKENHEAD			ENGLAND AND WALES
	Population	Number of deaths from cancer in Birkenhead	Rate per 100,000 population	Rate per 100,000 population
1901	111,377	91	81	87
1902	113,231	66	58	
1903	115,117	78	68	
1904	117,034	83	70	
1905	118,982	94	79	
1906	120,964	101	83	94
1907	122,978	90	73	
1908	125,026	101	80	
1909	127,108	91	71	
1910	129,227	115	89	
1911	131,377	114	86	105
1912	135,521	126	92	
1913	135,740	107	70	
1914	137,906	114	82	
1915	140,291	121	85	
1916	142,622	140	98	118
1917	144,993	144	99	
1918	147,403	154	104	
1919	149,853	181	121	
1920	152,345	186	122	
1921	147,800	186	125	121
1922	149,200	172	115	123
1923	151,400	179	118	127
1924	154,100	179	116	130
1925	155,500	199	129	133
1926	158,000	204	129	*

Comparison of Birkenhead death-rates with those for country generally.—In Table P 5 (page 21) Birkenhead rates are shewn together with those for the country generally. The latter are provisional figures kindly supplied by the Registrar-General. Non-civilians are included in the figures for England and Wales, but not for other areas.

*Figure not yet available.

V. — Diseases of the digestive system.

[illegible]

TABLE P 2.

Deaths: causes and ages.

Causes of death	Net deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurring within or without the district.								
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
All causes { Certified	1752	275	90	61	63	98	191	397	577
{ Uncertified	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	14	6	4	3	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	12	5	4	3	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and croup	8	2	1	2	3	...	...	...	...
Influenza	25	3	...	...	...	3	2	9	8
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	122	...	2	3	7	32	51	23	4
Tuberculous meningitis	13	5	...	6	2	...	...	...	...
Other tuberculous diseases	26	2	6	3	6	4	3	2	...
Cancer (malignant disease)	204	...	...	...	1	1	22	97	83
Rheumatic fever	9	...	...	...	3	2	2	1	1
Meningitis	7	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...
Organic heart disease	143	...	...	...	3	6	19	35	80
Bronchitis	132	21	7	5	1	...	5	31	62
Pneumonia (all forms)	167	40	37	21	9	6	12	15	27
Other diseases of respiratory organs	23	3	...	1	1	1	...	10	7
Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years) ...	83	62	21	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and typhlitis	12	...	...	...	...	5	3	3	1
Cirrhosis of liver	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's disease	50	...	...	...	2	...	8	24	16
Puerperal fever	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	10	...	...	...	...	1	7	2	...
Congenital debility and malformation, including premature birth	99	97	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	67	2	...	4	8	14	11	11	17
Suicides	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other defined diseases	507	28	8	7	10	18	43	126	267
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	5	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	1753	276	90	61	63	98	191	397	577

TABLE P 3

Deaths: causes and districts.

Causes of death	Deaths in or belonging to localities at all ages						Total deaths in Public Institutions in the district
	Whole Borough	Birkenhead*	Tranmere*	Claughton Ward	Oxton Ward	Bebington Ward	
All causes { Certified	1752	1020	563	80	35	54	716
{ Uncertified	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	14	11	3	...	...	...	3
Scarlet fever	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	12	7	3	...	...	2	1
Diphtheria and croup	8	2	5	1	...	...	7
Influenza	25	13	8	2	...	2	2
Erysipelas	2	1	...	...	1	...	1
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	122	70	43	5	...	4	56
Tuberculous meningitis	13	10	1	1	...	1	7
Other tuberculous diseases	26	20	4	2	...	...	13
Cancer (malignant disease)	204	106	81	7	4	6	86
Rheumatic fever	9	3	3	2	1	...	5
Meningitis	7	3	3	...	...	1	9
Organic heart disease	143	67	55	9	4	8	34
Bronchitis	132	83	39	7	2	1	33
Pneumonia (all forms)	167	118	36	1	3	9	64
Other diseases of respiratory organs	23	13	8	2	...	...	5
Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	83	66	12	2	...	3	52
Appendicitis and typhlitis	12	4	4	4	...	...	10
Cirrhosis of liver	5	2	2	1	...	...	2
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's disease	50	30	19	1	...	...	14
Puerperal fever	3	3	...	...	...	...	3
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	10	7	3	...	...	...	9
Congenital debility and malformation, including premature birth	99	65	28	3	...	3	26
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	67	41	14	4	5	3	37
Suicides	3	2	1	...	...	...	1
Other defined diseases	507	268	188	25	15	11	244
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	5	4	...	1	...	...	2
Totals	1753	1021	563	80	35	54	716

* " Birkenhead " district comprises Argyle, Grange and Cleveland Wards. " Tranmere " district comprises Clifton, Egerton and Mersey wards.

NOTE.—All deaths which occurred in institutions are classified in the district in which the patient resided.

TABLE P 4.

Infant deaths: causes and ages.

Causes of death		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	Over 4 weeks & under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
All causes	Certified	64	22	12	4	103	48	40	40	45	275
	Uncertified	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Smallpox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	6
Scarlet fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping cough		..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	5
Diphtheria and croup		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Influenza ..		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	3
Tuberculous meningitis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Abdominal tuberculosis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other tuberculous diseases		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Meningitis (not tuberculous)		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
Laryngitis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ..		1	1	..	..	2	6	4	7	2	21
Pneumonia (all forms)		..	1	1	2	4	7	9	5	15	40
Diarrhoea and Enteritis		1	2	1	..	4	15	20	15	8	62
Gastritis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis		..	1	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	4
Rickets ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation (overlying)		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at birth (Atelectasis)		4	3	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	7
Congenital malformations		5	3	..	..	8	3	1	2	1	15
Premature birth		40	6	4	..	50	3	..	..	..	53
Atrophy, debility and marasmus		7	3	3	1	14	9	2	..	1	26
Other causes		6	2	2	1	11	1	2	5	4	23
Totals..		65	22	12	4	103	48	40	40	45	276

Net births in the year—

Legitimate

3111

Illegitimate

117

Net deaths in the year—

Legitimate infants

262

Illegitimate infants

14

TABLE P 5.

Death-rates: comparison with rest of country.

	Annual death rate per 1000 civilian population								Rate per 1000 births		Percentage of total deaths			
	All causes	Enteric fever	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	Total deaths under 1 year	Certified causes of death	Inquest cases	Uncertified causes of death
England and Wales	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.47	8.7	70	91.8	7.2	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London (census population exceeding 50,000)	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.22	0.43	11.8	73	92.0	7.5	0.5
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations 20,000 to 50,000)	10.6	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.11	0.06	0.23	0.40	6.6	67	92.6	6.3	1.1
London	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.02	0.05	0.12	0.17	0.48	11.8	64	90.6	9.4	0.0
Birkenhead	11.1	0.006	—	0.09	0.006	0.08	0.05	0.16	0.44	25.7	85	93.0	6.9	0.05

LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

OCCUPATIONS.

The staple industries of the district are shipbuilding, ship-repairing and engineering.

Occupations of males and females aged 12 years and over.—A statement setting out the occupations of males and females aged 12 years and over at the time of the 1921 census was given in my annual report for 1923.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Minister of Health requests Medical Officers to give in their annual reports an indication of the extent of unemployment and of the amount of poor law relief in their areas.

The returns of unemployment for each month of the year are shown below:—

TABLE O 1.
Unemployment during 1926.

Month	Live register	Increase or decrease in live register	Applicants placed	
			Locally	In other districts
January	5060	Inc. 71	137	12
February	5911	Inc. 851	77	5
March	5347	Dec. 564	95	35
April	5088	Dec. 259	160	31
May	6271	Inc. 1183	63	11
June	6460	Inc. 189	84	51
July	6079	Dec. 381	86	42
August	5957	Dec. 122	70	20
September	5924	Dec. 33	104	10
October	6176	Inc. 252	120	8
November	6188	Inc. 12	96	11
December	5472	Dec. 716	103	18

AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

The following is a statement of the sums expended in the relief of the poor in the Birkenhead Union for the year ended 31st March, 1927:—

Union Institution	£11,189	14	4
Union Infirmary	18,431	11	4
Children's Homes	2,582	13	9
Outdoor relief (actual cash payments to recipients of)	39,321	15	4
Outdoor relief (on loan to unemployed)	22,037	17	0
Lunatics in asylums and licensed houses (total cost of maintenance)	28,998	12	8
Persons maintained in other Institutions not under the control of the Guardians	6,280	4	4
	£128,872	8	9

The Birkenhead Union area covers the County Boroughs of Birkenhead and Wallasey, and the parishes of Bidston-cum-Ford and Noctorum. The populations of these three component parts were, in 1921:—

Birkenhead	145,592	(61.3 per cent.)
Wallasey	90,721	(38.2 per cent.)
Bidston and Noctorum ...	1,091	(0.5 per cent.)

WATER SUPPLY, FOOD, AND DRUGS.

WATER SUPPLY.

Particulars regarding the water supply of the Borough were given in detail in my annual report for 1921.

Bacteriological examinations.—Arrangements were ^{in operation} made during the year for bacteriological examinations of the Alwen water supply to be carried out in the laboratory in the Medical Officer's Department. The procedure followed was indicated in my annual report for 1923.

During the past year, bacteriological examinations have been carried out in connection with—

- 51 samples of tap water in Birkenhead.
- 12 samples of water from Alwen Reservoir, before filtration.
- 12 samples of water at Alwen, after passing through the filtration apparatus.

MILK SUPPLY.

Source.—Milk is supplied to the Borough chiefly from farms in Cheshire, Shropshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

Milkshops, etc.—The total number of milkshops in the Borough is 161. There are in addition 2 purveyors of milk, 3 cowsheds, and 70 farmers resident outside Birkenhead registered to purvey milk inside the Borough.

Milkshops are regularly inspected and the register of milk sellers is revised week by week.

Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.—19 applications have been received during the year from persons desiring to retail milk within the Borough. Of these 17 have been placed on the register as purveyors of milk. In the remaining 2 cases registration was refused owing to lack of suitable accommodation for the storage and sale of milk in the premises occupied by the applicants.

Notices were served on 4 purveyors of milk requiring them to appear before the Health Committee to show cause why their names should not be removed from the register of retail purveyors of milk. In each of these cases notices of refusal to register were served.

In 5 other cases purveyors were persuaded to discontinue selling milk and their names were removed from the register without the necessity of taking formal action.

Section 4 of the Act prohibits the addition of any colouring matter, or water, or any dried or condensed milk, or any fluid reconstituted therefrom, or any skimmed milk or separated milk, to milk intended for sale. No infringement of this section was reported during the year.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.—During the year 4 licenses were granted to persons other than producers to retail *certified milk* within the Borough.

2 licenses were granted to bottle and sell "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk."

1 licence was granted to sell "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk."

4 licences were granted to bottle and sell "Grade A" milk.

1 licence was granted to sell "Grade A" milk.

1 licence was granted to sell "Pasteurised" milk.

Quality of milk.—The composition of the various samples of milk taken in the Borough and analysed during the year 1926 is set out in Table F 1 (page 30). From this table an indication of the general quality of the milk supply can be obtained.

Preservatives in milk and cream.—Samples taken under the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917, during the year showed the following results:—

1. *Milk, and cream not sold as preserved cream.*

Article	No. of samples examined for the presence of a preservative (a)	No. in which a preservative was reported to be present, and percentage of preservative found in each sample (b)
Milk	143	Nil.
Cream	11	5 { 0.28% 0.28% 0.24% 0.36% 0.27%

Nature of preservative in each case in column (b)

Boric acid.

Action taken under the Regulations

Samples Nos. 177, 309 and 368 were taken informally. Sample No. 351 was a formal sample following upon No. 309. The vendors of samples Nos. 351 and 368 were cautioned. No. 180 was a sample following upon No. 177. Proceedings were instituted, and the vendor was fined 30/-.

2. *Cream sold as preserved cream.*

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct.

(1) Correct statement made	6
(2) Statements incorrect	0
Total	6

(3) Percentage of preservative found in each sample.	Percentage stated on statutory label.
0.22	0.4
0.37	0.4
0.35	0.4
0.32	0.4
0.35	0.4
0.37	0.4

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream.

(1) Above 35%	6
(2) Below 35%	0
Total	6

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V (1) and the proviso in Article V (2) of the regulations have not been observed.

Nil.

(d) Particulars of each case in which the regulations have not been complied with, and action taken:—

Nil.

3. *Thickening substances.*

The Public Analyst has not found any evidence of the addition of any thickening substances to the samples of cream or preserved cream which have been analysed.

Bacteriological examinations of graded milk.—The following bacteriological standards for the various classes of graded milk have been prescribed by the Ministry of Health:—

Certified milk—Must not contain more than 30,000 organisms per c.c. or any bacillus coli in 1/10 of a c.c.

Grade A (tuberculin tested) and Grade " A " milk—Must not contain more than 200,000 organisms per c.c. or any bacillus coli in 1/100 of a c.c.

Pasteurised milk—Must not contain more than 100,000 organisms per c.c.

During the year 42 samples were examined in the municipal laboratory and the following table gives the results of each examination. The table should be read in conjunction with the above standards.

The numbers of the samples do not run consecutively owing to samples of milk being examined for other purposes.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF GRADED MILK.

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Sample No.	Grade	Temperature on arrival at laboratory	Age of sample —hours—	Number of colonies on plate			Number of bacteria per 1 c.c.	Presence of bacillus coli in tube									
				1/100 c.c.				48 hours									
				1/100 c.c.	1/1000 c.c.	Control		1	2	3	1 c.c.	Control	1	2	3	1 c.c.	Control
18	"A"	61°	6 (5 after Pasteurisation 17)	2846	295	25	0	28,460	nil	nil	found	found	found	found	found	Control	satisfy.
19	"Pasteurised"	50°		*O.G. 882	98	0	88	200	nil	found	found	found	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.
20	"A"	53°		81	6	2	0	810	nil	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.
21	"A"	56°	5	*O.G. 292	15	0	29	200	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
23	"Certified"	50°	5	240	24	5	0	2,400	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
24	"Certified"	53°	19	99	12	0	0	990	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
25	"Certified"	58°	18	396	54	5	0	3,960	found	found	nil	found	satisfy.	found	found	found	satisfy.
26	"A"	55°	28	101	16	1	0	1,010	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
27	"Certified"	49°	5	238	18	3	0	2,380	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
28	"A"	57°	5	807	92	2	0	8,070	nil	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
29	"A"	56°	19	223	30	3	0	2,230	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
30	"A" (T.T.)	57°	16	261	26	3	0	2,610	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
32	"Certified"	55°	5 (1 after Pasteurisation 29)	197	38	4	0	1,970	found	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	found	nil	found	satisfy.
33	"Pasteurised"	52°		1515	85	2	0	15,150	nil	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.
34	"A"	53°	29	226	—	—	4	2,260	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
35	"Certified"	63°	19	1815	185	35	2	18,150	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
36	"Certified"	58°	19	125	12	4	2	1,250	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
37	"Pasteurised"	62°	20 after Pasteurisation 29	372	183	6	4	3,720	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
38	"Certified"	58°		216	14	—	—	2,160	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.

Water supply, food, and drugs.

Water supply, food, and drugs.

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39	"A"	61°	4	*O.G. 1756	209	—	175 600	nil	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	
40	"Certified "	65°	5	57	10	2	570	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	
41	"A"	68°	5	*O.G. 1041	114	1	104 100	found	nil	found	found	satisfy.	found	nil	found	found	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.
42	"A"	70°	4	*O.G. 244	23	1	24 400	nil	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	found	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.
43	"A"	62°	29	1326	124	13	1	13 260	nil	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.
44	"Certified "	65°	28	437	32	5	0	4 370	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
45	"Certified "	65°	29	618	107	12	5	6 180	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
46	"A"	65°	18	1565	184	12	1	15 650	found	found	found	satisfy.	found	nil	found	found	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.
47	"Certified "	65°	18	328	51	—	—	3 280	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
48	"Certified "	64°	29	25	2	2	—	250	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
49	"A"	63°	4	208	55	8	1	2 080	nil	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.
51	"A" (T.T.)	57°	28	160	19	14	1	1 600	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
52	"Certified "	65°	5	42	3	1	—	420	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.
53	"A"	56°	4	2521	216	24	1	25 210	found	found	found	satisfy.	found	nil	found	found	satisfy.	found	found	found	satisfy.
54	"A"	57°	5	427	43	11	—	4 270	nil	found	nil	satisfy.	nil	found	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	found	nil	satisfy.
55	"A"	46°	43	57	2	1	1	570	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	
57	"A"	53°	18	254	66	15	—	2 540	nil	found	nil	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.	
58	"A"	58°	29	785	209	56	—	2 090	found	nil	found	satisfy.	found	nil	found	found	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.
59	"A"	55°	18	128	12	4	—	1 280	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	
60	"A" (T.T.)	51°	29	134	21	3	—	1 340	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	nil	nil	found	satisfy.	
61	"A"	51°	5	956	97	5	—	9 560	found	nil	found	satisfy.	found	nil	found	found	satisfy.	nil	found	found	satisfy.
62	"A"	45°	28	104	22	1	—	1 040	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	
63	"A"	56°	5	109	10	—	—	1 090	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	nil	nil	nil	satisfy.	

*O.G.—overgrown.

TABLE F 1.

Composition of milk samples taken during 1926.

Date of sample	Identification No. given in quarterly report	Percentage of fat	Percentage of solids not fat	Date of sample	Identification No. given in quarterly report	Percentage of fat	Percentage of solids not fat	Date of sample	Identification No. given in quarterly report	Percentage of fat	Percentage of solids not fat
Jan. 14	12	3.53	9.37	Apl. 28	141	3.45	8.75	Oct. 22	328	3.80	9.08
18	13	3.68	9.13		142	3.18	9.05		329	3.85	9.05
26	23	3.87	8.85		143	3.88	8.46		330	3.90	9.29
	24	3.23	9.05	May 16	162	2.93	7.82	24	331	2.99	8.98
	25	3.58	9.16		163	4.27	8.67		332	3.86	9.20
	26	3.20	9.01		164	3.73	8.94		333	3.58	9.16
	27	2.82	8.86		165	3.90	9.26		334	3.32	9.20
	28	3.40	8.89		166	3.09	9.17		335	4.30	9.68
Feb. 2	31	3.20	8.84		167	3.35	9.03	27	336	4.90	8.88
	32	3.78	8.76	21	179	2.96	7.82	29	347	4.10	9.36
	33	3.50	8.96	June 27	206	3.82	9.06	Nov. 1	348	4.49	9.64
3	34	3.34	8.95		207	3.78	8.88		352	4.40	9.62
12	43	3.37	9.23		208	3.65	8.87	24	391	4.30	9.16
	44	3.15	8.79		209	3.12	8.94	Dec. 12	406	3.39	9.22
	45	4.75	9.21		210	3.46	8.54		407	3.98	8.80
	46	3.87	8.92		211	3.82	9.10		408	3.52	9.11
	47	3.44	9.69	July 2	212	3.85	8.71		409	3.49	9.13
	48	3.42	8.64		213	3.20	9.05		410	3.20	9.00
19	59	3.38	8.78		214	3.67	9.10		411	3.62	8.97
28	76	3.62	9.25		215	3.90	8.70		412	4.69	8.82
	77	3.98	8.63		216	3.78	9.18	14	413	3.19	9.03
	78	3.40	8.70		217	3.77	8.85		414	3.13	8.07
	79	3.00	8.66	7	218	3.89	8.75		415	4.91	8.50
	80	3.18	8.62	30	244	4.35	8.51		416	3.83	8.82
Mar. 5	81	3.65	8.89		245	3.39	8.77		417	3.70	8.75
	82	3.02	8.65		246	2.79	9.11		418	3.39	8.96
	83	3.80	8.58		247	3.30	8.82		419	3.20	8.80
11	93	3.25	9.46		248	3.42	8.76		420	3.90	9.01
14	94	3.70	8.77	Aug. 4	249	3.35	9.10	16	421	4.04	8.94
	95	4.20	8.56	Sep. 16	270	4.62	9.12		422	4.04	8.84
	96	2.97	8.70		271	3.28	9.08		423	3.30	8.87
	97	3.80	8.67		272	3.75	9.37		424	4.39	8.75
	98	2.73	8.33		273	3.70	9.00		425	3.52	8.87
	99	3.60	8.70		274	3.35	8.86		426	3.52	8.67
	100	3.38	8.78		275	3.20	9.08		427	3.60	8.71
20	111	2.88	8.52	30	289	4.20	9.47		428	3.67	8.89
Apl. 8	112	3.47	8.61		290	4.18	9.35	18	429	3.21	8.33
	113	3.44	8.50		291	3.95	9.03		430	3.30	8.53
	114	3.61	8.57		292	3.17	8.63	21	431	3.68	9.12
	115	3.55	8.53		293	3.83	8.91		432	3.27	8.89
	116	3.63	8.88		294	3.14	9.06		433	4.90	8.90
	117	3.57	8.71		295	4.10	8.98		434	3.30	8.97
	118	2.85	8.63	Oct. 4	296	4.10	8.82		435	3.52	9.16
17	127	3.21	8.67	22	323	3.13	9.39		436	4.08	9.10
28	137	3.10	8.66		324	3.69	9.17		437	3.85	8.96
	138	3.45	8.75		325	4.07	7.98		438	3.77	8.72
	139	3.80	8.76		326	4.17	9.19		439	3.95	8.52
	140	3.20	8.96		327	4.32	8.66				

Average percentage Fat, 3.62 ... Solids (not fat), 8.89

OTHER FOODS.

Abattoirs in Birkenhead.—Particulars regarding these—the abattoir within the Woodside Lairages and the Corporation abattoir at Tranmere—were given in my annual report for 1920.

Food inspection.—The Veterinary Officer reports that during the year there were killed 67,756 oxen, 1,112 calves, 5,416 pigs, 7,961 sheep and lambs, and 22 goats; as set out in Table F 2.

TABLE F 2.

Animals dealt with during 1926.

	Oxen	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs	Goats	Total
No. of animals remaining over in lairages from 1925 (slaughtered in 1926).....	2194	—	33	636	2	2865
No. of animals landed from vessels at Birkenhead during the year 1926—	208	—	171	4047	5	4431
(a) From Isle of Man	165187	—	35785	312670	75	513717
(b) From Ireland	38870	—	490	—	—	39360
(c) From other places abroad						
Total.....	206459	—	36479	317353	82	560373
The above animals were dealt with as follows—						
A—Slaughtered in Birkenhead—						
(1) At Woodside lairages	67439	—	1324	265	1	69029
(2) At nos. 4 and 5 sheds	1	—	7	267	21	296
(3) At "Wallasey Stage," B'head ..	15	—	—	—	—	15
B—(1) Removed alive from the district	136879	—	35126	315633	60	487698
(2) Not slaughtered by end of 1926 (still in lairages)	2125	—	22	1188	—	3335
Total	206459	—	36479	317353	82	560373
No. of animals slaughtered in Birkenhead not included in the above statement—						
At Municipal Abattoir.....	301	1112	4085	7429	0	12927
Total animals slaughtered in Birkenhead.....	67756	1112	5416	7961	22	82267

The total number of carcasses seized was:—

At Woodside	273	weighing	92,603 lbs.
At "Wallasey Stage" B'head	2	"	1,748 lbs.
At nos. 4 & 5 Sheds	13	"	1,593 lbs.
At Tranmere Abattoir	15	"	1,855 lbs.
At shops	4	"	109 lbs.
At other premises	nil	"	nil
Total	307	"	97,908 lbs.

99 of the above carcasses were seized on account of tuberculosis; their aggregate weight being 52,947 lbs. The remainder were seized on account of transit injuries, dropsy, sepsis, &c.

The number of parts of carcasses seized was:—

At Woodside	401	weighing	37,747 lbs.
At "Wallasey Stage," B'head	3	"	220 lbs.
At nos. 4 & 5 Sheds	1	"	6 lbs.
At Tranmere Abattoir	74	"	921½ lbs.
At shops	13	"	822½ lbs.
Total	492	"	39,717 lbs.

Of the above, 347 were seized on account of tuberculosis; the aggregate weight being 19,383 lbs. 28 heads and 122 tongues, weighing 1,162 lbs., were seized on account of actinomycosis and actinobacillosis.

The total weight of offal seized was 199,987 lbs.

Other articles of food.—The total weight of articles of food seized at various premises in the Borough was 389½ lbs. In addition, 161 eggs were seized.

There was 1 prosecution taken against a shopkeeper under the Public Health Acts, for having sold unsound food. A penalty of £3 was imposed.

Food poisoning.—Two cases of food poisoning occurred in the Borough during the year. The patients (two brothers, aged 27 and 25½ years respectively) had partaken of tinned crab. They showed in an acute degree the usual symptoms—vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pains, cramp in the legs, and collapse. Both recovered.

Full investigations were made in the matter and samples of the crab eaten by the patients and specimens of blood, faeces, and vomit from the patients were forwarded to the Ministry of Health. The report from the Ministry stated that they had failed to find any living "food poisoning bacteria" in the specimens.

30 SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year 438 samples were taken. Of these, 158 were formal and 280 informal. The articles sampled are set out in the following table.

TABLE F 3.
Samples taken during 1926.

Article	No. samples taken formally	No. samples taken informally	Article	No. samples taken formally	No. samples taken informally
Milk	142	1	Canned peas.....	—	1
Cream	2	9	Vinegar	—	6
Preserved Cream.....	—	6	White pepper	—	4
Cheese	—	11	Sponge cakes	1	13
Cream cheese	1	8	Olive oil	—	5
Butter	2	39	Castor oil	—	2
Malt vinegar	4	37	Am. tincture quinine...	—	2
Honey	—	3	Comp. liquorice powder	—	2
Margarine	1	22	Boracic powder	—	1
Lard	—	11	Epsom salts.....	—	2
Sausage	3	30	Sweets	—	4
Self-raising flour.....	2	14	Rum	—	3
Coffee	—	12	Brandy.....	—	1
Cocoa	—	4	Seidlitz powder	—	1
Condensed milk.....	—	6	Lemonade powder	—	1
Mustard	—	5	Canned fish	—	1
Canned fruit	—	10	Fish paste	—	3

Samples analysed formally 158

Samples analysed informally 280

Total samples analysed during the year 438

Of the total number of samples analysed

43 samples of milk
5 samples of cream
1 sample of butter
7 samples of cream cheese
9 samples of malt vinegar
3 samples of margarine
1 sample of lard
6 samples of sausage
3 samples of self-raising flour
2 samples of sponge cake
1 sample of canned fruit

were reported adulterated, and proceedings were taken in respect of:—

19 samples of milk
1 sample of cream cheese
2 samples of margarine
1 sample of self-raising flour
4 samples of malt vinegar
2 samples of sausage
1 sample of sponge cake.

Proceedings were instituted in 1 case of obstruction.

With reference to the remaining samples reported adulterated it was decided, after consideration of the circumstances, that it was inadvisable to institute proceedings.

Informal samples.—Suitable action was taken regarding each of the 25 informal samples reported adulterated.

Particulars of the defects found in those samples with regard to which proceedings were taken, and the result of the proceedings, are set out in Table F 4.

The composition of each sample of milk analysed during the year will be found in Table F 1.

TABLE F 4.

Samples with reference to which proceedings were taken.

Nature of adulteration and result of proceedings.

Date	Article	No. of sample	Adulteration	Fine inflicted
Jan. 14	Cream Cheese ...	11	Made from skimmed milk	£3
18	Milk	13	Sediment and dirt. 6 grs. per gal.	£3
26	Milk	24	Sediment and dirt. 13 grs. per gal.	£3
26	Milk	27	Deficient in fat 6%	£3
26	Margarine	30	Exposed for sale unlabelled....	£3
Feb. 3	Milk	34	Sediment and dirt. 5 grs. per gal.	£3
19	Self-raising flour	61	17% calcium sulphate.....	£3
23	Margarine	62	Boric acid O. 67%	£2 10s. 0d.
23	Malt Vinegar ..	63	15% deficient in acetic acid	£2 10s. 0d.
Mar. 5	Milk	82	Sediment and dirt. 13 grs. per gal.	£1
5	Milk	83	Sediment and dirt. 10 grs. per gal.	£1
5	Malt Vinegar ..	84	Artificial vinegar.....	£1 16s 0d
14	Milk	98	2% added water. 9% deficient in fat	£5
20	Milk	111	4% deficient in fat	£2
Apr. 8	Milk	118	5% deficient in fat	£1
May 16	Milk	162	8% added water	£1
21	Polony Sausage..	170	20% deficient in meat.....	£5
21	Milk	179	8% added water	£5
June 4	Cream	180	Boric acid O. 28%	£1 10/-
11	Sponge Cake ..	189	Boric acid O. 15%	£2
July 30	Milk	246	7% deficient in fat	£2
Oct. 22	Milk	325	6% added water	£1
24	Milk	331	Sediment and dirt. 8 grs. per gal.	£3
29	Malt Vinegar ..	349	32% deficient in acetic acid	£1 6s. 0d.
Nov. 8	Malt Vinegar ..	366	6% deficient in acetic acid.....	£1
26	Polony Sausage..	392	5% deficient in meat	£1
Dec. 14	Milk	413	Sediment and dirt. 6 grs. per gal.	£1
16	Milk	427	Sediment and dirt. 11 grs. per gal.	£1
18	Milk	429	2% added water. Sediment and dirt 5 grains per gallon	£3
21	Milk	431	Sediment and dirt. 3 grs. per gal.	£5
21	Milk	435	Sediment and dirt. 3 grs. per gal.	£2 and 21/- costs
21	Milk	438	Sediment and dirt. 6 grs. per gal.	£3
21	Milk	439	Sediment and dirt. 4 grs per gal.	£3
July 29	Lard	243	Obstruction	£5

TUBERCULOSIS.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

The arrangements made by the Birkenhead Corporation for dealing with tuberculosis in the area include

(a) The provision of a dispensary or clinic, opened in 1913. (This clinic is used on one half-day each week in connection with cases from the area of the administrative county of Chester.)

(b) The provision of garden shelters for suitable cases at a small rent.

(c) The retention since August, 1914, of twelve beds at Leasowe Hospital for cases of surgical tuberculosis in children.

(d) A joint arrangement with the Cheshire County Council, and the Councils of the County Boroughs of Wallasey, Chester, Stockport, and Stoke-on-Trent, for the provision of a sanatorium at Burntwood.

(e) The provision of a residential institution at Thingwall, Cheshire.

Staff.—The medical and health visiting staff for tuberculosis at the end of 1926 was as set out in the annual report for 1921. The clinical work at Thingwall Sanatorium and at the Tuberculosis clinic has been carried out by Dr. Mason Leete and Dr. Foster. At Thingwall Sanatorium Miss Millar succeeded Miss Graham as matron in August, and Miss Hobson took up duty as teacher in July, 1926.

The Corkhill Fund.—Under the will of the late Mr. John Lloyd Corkhill, of Oxtou, a sum of money was provided for the assistance of persons suffering from consumption. By arrangement with the trustees, persons applying for help from the charity are passed through the municipal clinic for classification; and the trustees have been largely guided by the recommendations of the medical staff of the clinic.

Keeping of records.—The method of keeping records at the clinic has been completely revised in order to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health contained in Circular 37/T, September, 1925.

PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY FROM, TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.—The total number of primary cases of tuberculosis notified during 1926 was 390—258 pulmonary and 132 non-pulmonary. An analysis of these cases with reference to age and sex will be found in Table T 1 (page 42.)

Mortality.—The total number of deaths, certified as due to tuberculosis, of patients who had previously been notified as suffering from the disease was 138—109 pulmonary and 29 non-pulmonary.

The total number of deaths, certified as due to tuberculosis, of patients who had *not* previously been notified as suffering from tuberculosis was 23—13 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary.

Adding these together, the total number of deaths certified as due to tuberculosis was as follows:—

Pulmonary	122
Non-pulmonary	39
	161

An analysis of the tuberculosis mortality for the past twelve years will be found in Table T 2 (page 43).

Number of known cases.—After making deductions for patients who had died during the year, or who had permanently left the district, or whose names have been taken off the register as provisionally cured, the total number of known cases of tuberculosis in Birkenhead at the end of 1926 was as follows:—

	Insured persons		Dependents of insured person	Neither insured persons nor dependents	Total
	Ex-service men	Others			
Pulmonary.....Male	47	424	135	25	631
Female	—	196	110	348	654
Non-pulmonary...Male	4	40	251	—	295
Female	—	50	231	35	316
Total...Male	51	464	386	25	926
Female	—	246	341	383	970
Total	51	710	727	408	1896

A revision of the cases of tuberculosis on the register is carried out each year, with a view to seeing that, so far as is practicable, only the names of patients still suffering from tuberculosis, and resident in Birkenhead, are kept on the roll. In connection with the revision the following procedure is observed:—

(1) *Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.* Cases of non-pulmonary or surgical tuberculosis are struck off the register as cured when complete arrest of the disease has been maintained for three years.

(2) *Pulmonary tuberculosis.*

(a) *Patients who have probably been wrongly notified as tuberculous.*

If the conclusion is come to that a notified case is not, and probably never was, one of active tuberculosis, the name is crossed off the register at the time of the annual revision after obtaining, if possible, the assent of the notifying practitioner.

(b) *Patients diagnosed on good evidence as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, who at a later stage appear to have been cured.*

Such cases are not removed from the register until at least five complete calendar years have elapsed since the date of notification and three complete calendar years after the disappearance of all symptoms.

Of the 122 patients who died from pulmonary tuberculosis during 1926, those who had been notified

over four years numbered ...	8 (7.0% of total)
under " " " " ...	2 (2.0 ")
" three years " " ...	5 (4.0 ")
" two years " " ...	10 (8.1 ")
" one year " " ...	15 (12.2 ")
" six months " " ...	13 (10.7 ")
" three months " " ...	27 (21.3 ")
" one month " " ...	18 (15.0 ")
" one week " " ...	11 (9.0 ")
and those who had not been notified numbered	13* (10.7 ")

Thus only 43.4% of these cases were notified to this department three months or more before death.

Of the 39 patients who died from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1926 those who had been notified

over three years numbered ...	—
under three years " " ...	—
" one year " " ...	3 (7.7% of total)
" three months " " ...	3 (7.7 ")
" one month " " ...	5 (12.8 ")
" one week " " ...	18 (46.1 ")
and those who had not been notified numbered	10 (25.7 ")

CASES DEALT WITH THROUGH THE TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

Attendances of patients at the clinic.—During the year 1,626 examinations were made. Of these 634 were *first* examinations (*i.e.*, examinations of patients who had not been seen previously at the clinic). In addition to attendances made for the purpose of medical examination 1,266 other attendances were made by patients for weighing, interview, advice or certification, and by patients' relatives in connection with questions arising as to treatment, removal, home conditions, etc.

Examination of patients who were notified for the first time during 1926.—Of the 390 new patients notified in 1926, 174 were examined at the clinic during the year. The remaining 216 were not referred to, did not attend at, or were previously examined at, the clinic.

Classification of new cases.—The 634 new patients who attended during the year were classified as follows:—

* As compared with 26 in 1925.

		*Adults	Children	Total
Classed as suffering from respiratory tuberculosis	Males ..	66	2	68
	Females	58	6	64
Classed as suffering from other forms tuberculosis	Males ..	5	29	34
	Females	8	20	28
Classed as non-tuberculous	Males ..	63	140	203
	Females	49	119	168
Classed as "suspect"	Males ..	20	16	36
	Females	19	14	33
Total...		154	187	341
		134	159	293
Total		288	346	634

* All patients of fifteen years and upwards are classed as adults.

Pensions cases.—Included in the 634 new patients were 10 patients examined for pensions purposes, with the following results:—

Found to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis	4
Found to be suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis	1
Found to be free from active tuberculosis	5
	10

In addition to the above, 132 re-examinations were made for pensions purposes.

During the year the following reports were made in connection with the examination at the tuberculosis clinic (or at their own homes) of ex-servicemen:—

War Pensions Committee.	M.P.M.S. D. 28	M.P.M.S. D. 28A	36 T.O.	M.P.M.S. D. 122	Total
Birkenhead	*87	†11	36	—	134
Liverpool	—	—	—	12	12
Total	87	11	36	12	146

* Includes 15 visits paid to pensioners' homes.

† Includes 1 visit paid to pensioner's home.

Examination of contacts.—258 persons who had been in close contact with known cases of tuberculosis were examined either at the clinic or at their own homes. Of these 3 were found to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, 10 were found to be suffering from other forms of tuberculosis, 228 were not suffering from tuberculosis, and 17 were classified as "suspect."

HOME VISITING, DISINFECTION, ETC.

During the year the health nurses paid 335 first visits and 2,893 re-visits to the homes of patients.

The number of houses disinfected after death or removal of patients was 95.

Spitting flasks were provided free of charge to 7 patients.

THINGWALL SANATORIUM.

Patients dealt with.—Thingwall is now devoted to the treatment of children only; no adult cases were admitted in 1926. At the commencement of the year there were 25 patients in the Sanatorium. There were 59 admissions during the year. These were classified as follows:—

Tuberculosis of bones and joints	21
„ abdominal glands or peritoneum	12
„ cervical and other glands	9
„ lungs	6
For observation and diagnosis	11

50 patients were discharged, and the classification on discharge may be summarised as follows:—

Disease quiescent	21
Much improved	4
Improved	9
No material improvement	5
Died	2
Found after observation not to be suffering from tuberculosis	9

There were 34 patients under treatment at the end of the year.

Nature of treatment.—Fresh air, nourishing food, a well ordered routine of rest, work and play, and lastly, but by no means least, sunlight. At Thingwall the children run about in the summer clad only in light cotton pants; and the beneficent results are obvious. An artificial sunlight apparatus was installed in July, and is used during the days when the sun is absent. Sunlight, however, must be used with discrimination; pulmonary cases do not do well and the fair Nordic and red-haired types, which freckle, rather than tan, do not appear to derive benefit from the ultra-violet ray. Patients suffering from tuberculosis of bones and joints, abdomen and glands, do remarkably well, and sinuses and sores dry up quickly.

Average duration of stay.—The average length of stay in the sanatorium was 26 weeks.

Garden, etc.—There was a marked increase in garden produce this year. The currant bushes and fruit plants yielded good results.

Patients' and staff fund.—Mrs. Herbert Bickersteth, and other ladies whom she has interested in the work, continue to devote much time and thought to the welfare of the patients and staff. Their kindness is greatly appreciated.

Education.—Systematic teaching of the children at Thingwall Sanatorium was begun in July, when Miss Hobson took up duties. The object of making teaching provision at the Sanatorium is not so much to instil knowledge as to promote healthy and health-giving mental activity. The curriculum has to be very carefully selected, and covers the following subjects:—

The English language, including speaking with clear articulation and enunciation, reading, writing and recitation.

Arithmetic, including mental arithmetic and practical knowledge of money, weights and measures.

Knowledge of common things, including Nature study and observation lessons.

Drawing.

Singing, including training in proper breathing.

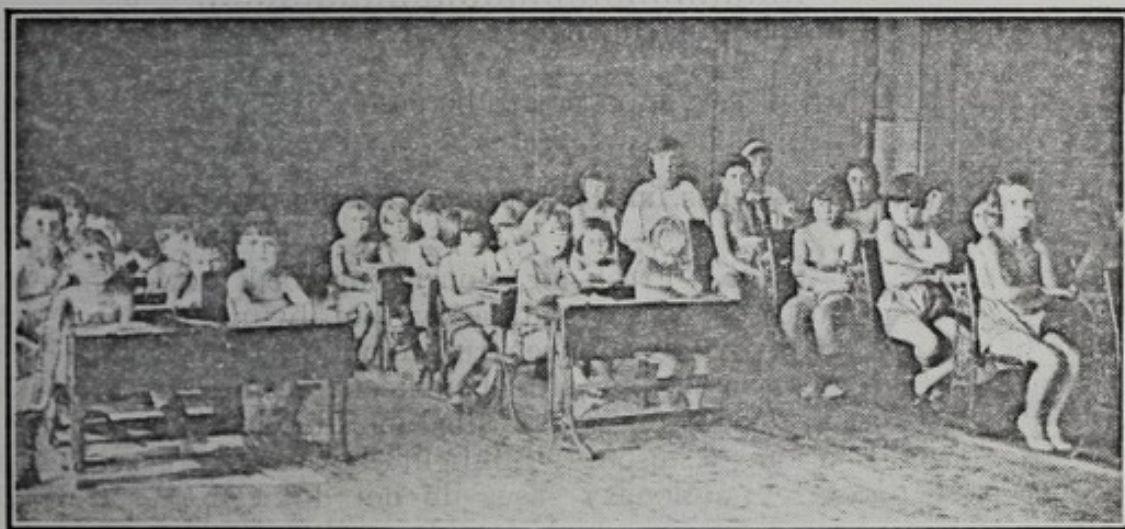
Physical exercises.

Plain needlework.

Manual instruction.

Composition, study of literary matter, history and geography.

In connection with all forms of exercise the instructions of Dr. Foster are obtained by the teacher, and carefully followed, the requirements of individual children being closely observed.



Thingwall Sanatorium—Children at School.

For those children who are in bed, teaching is mainly individual in character; the time-table is planned to provide suitable occupation for such children.

The curriculum is adapted to the special conditions under which the children are taught, and the teaching of such subjects as arithmetic, English, geography, and history, are connected as far as possible with the manual occupations of the children.

During the six months for which this new work has been going on a marked improvement in the mental condition of the children has been noticed; they are at once more contented and less apathetic, and take a keen and intelligent interest in the daily routine.

Christmas entertainment.—A Christmas party was given to the patients and their relations. Mrs. Herbert Bickersteth, as usual, provided presents for all the patients and staff from the Christmas tree. and The Mayor, the chairman and members of the Health Committee, were present, and were entertained by a concert given by the children.

CHESHIRE JOINT SANATORIUM.

The Cheshire Joint Sanatorium was opened on the 6th November, 1923, for 50% of the approved bed accommodation.

In the completed institution Birkenhead will have the use of 32 beds; at the end of 1926, 31 had been placed at the disposal of the Borough.

Patients dealt with.—At the beginning of the year 22 Birkenhead patients were under treatment. During the year 46 Birkenhead patients were admitted, 37 were discharged, and 4 died. 27 patients remained under treatment at the end of the year.

	Men	Women	Children (under 15)	Total
In Sanatorium January 1, 1926	13	8	1	22
Admitted during year	26	20	—	46
Discharged or left Sanatorium during year	22	14	1	37
Died in Sanatorium	3	1	—	4
In Sanatorium December 31, 1926 ...	14	13	—	27

LEASOWE HOSPITAL.

The twelve beds reserved by the Corporation at Leasowe Hospital for cases of *surgical tuberculosis* among Birkenhead residents have been in occupation throughout the year.

There were 12 cases in hospital at the beginning of the year; 9 new cases have been admitted during the year, and 9 have been discharged or died; leaving 12 patients in hospital at the end of December.

The localisation of the disease in the 21 patients under treatment during the year was as follows:—

Tuberculosis of spine	10
„ hip	5
„ knee joint	1
„ elbow	1
„ face	1
„ left femur	1
„ hip joint	1
„ shoulder	1
	—
	21
	—

The 9 cases discharged or died were as follows:—

Tuberculosis of hip joint	1	quiescent
„ knee joint	1	quiescent
„ shoulder	1	quiescent
„ left femur	1	quiescent
„ hip	1	quiescent
„ spine	4	1 died ; 3 quiescent
	—	
	9	
	—	

TABLE T 1.

New cases notified for first time during the year.

Age periods.....	PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS											Total
	C-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and up	
Pulmonary—Males	—	1	7	4	7	18	26	37	28	5	2	135
Females ..	—	5	7	5	7	21	35	21	9	1	2	123
Non-pulmonary—Males...	9	20	19	13	1	2	3	2	1	—	—	70
Females ..	4	25	16	8	2	—	3	—	3	1	2	62
Totals.....	11	51	49	30	17	42	67	60	41	7	6	390

TABLE T 2.

Deaths from tuberculosis during the past twelve years.

Year	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs—												
Number	173	177	172	167	146	116	154	141	109	136	123	122
Rate per 1000	1.23	1.24	1.18	1.13	0.97	0.76	1.04	0.94	0.72	0.88	0.79	0.77
A Males—												
Number	105	104	89	97	73	55	68	77	67	75	61	68
Rate	0.74	0.72	0.61	0.65	0.48	0.36	0.46	0.51	0.44	0.48	0.39	0.43
B Females—												
Number	68	73	83	70	73	61	86	64	42	61	62	54
Rate	0.48	0.51	0.57	0.47	0.48	0.40	0.58	0.42	0.28	0.40	0.39	0.34
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis—												
Number	67	61	69	66	38	56	40	50	43	51	35	39
Rate per 1000	0.47	0.42	0.46	0.44	0.25	0.36	0.27	0.32	0.28	0.33	0.22	0.24
A Males (all ages)												
Number	44	36	36	40	24	36	21	25	21	25	17	18
Rate	0.31	0.25	0.24	0.27	0.16	0.23	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.16	0.10	0.11
B Females (all ages)												
Number	23	25	33	26	14	20	19	25	22	26	18	21
Rate	0.16	0.17	0.22	0.17	0.09	0.13	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.17	0.11	0.13
C Children (un. 5 yrs)												
Number	42	44	44	36	22	26	17	21	20	26	22	24
Rate	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.24	0.14	0.17	0.11	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.13	0.15
Deaths from tuberculosis (all forms)—												
Number	240	238	241	233	184	172	194	191	152	187	158	161
Rate per 1000	1.70	1.66	1.66	1.58	1.23	1.13	1.31	1.28	1.00	1.21	1.15	1.02
<i>Rate per 1000 England & Wales</i>	1.55	1.62	1.80	1.92	1.26	1.13	1.12	1.12	1.00	1.06	1.03	—

VENEREAL DISEASES.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

The diagnosis and treatment of cases of venereal disease have been carried on at the municipal clinic at the Birkenhead Borough Hospital for the past nine years. Since 1923 the arrangements have been as set out in the agreement of that year.

At this clinic during the past year Dr. Foster, assisted by Dr. Hood, has dealt with male patients, and Dr. Deacon with female patients.

Hitherto, apart from the supply of arsenobenzol compounds to general practitioners for the treatment of private patients suffering from syphilis, the facilities provided by the Health Authority have been limited to this clinic, where males and females of all ages have been treated, the males attending on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, and the females on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons.

In view of the great importance of securing efficient and continuous treatment for cases of venereal disease among children, observations have recently been made as to the extent to which the Corporation clinic was used by children for diagnosis and treatment. A period of twelve calendar months was taken; during this period the total number of cases of children under the age of 16 years referred to the clinic for diagnosis and treatment was 69. The majority of these cases were sent from the infant welfare clinics, school eye clinic or the school general clinic. Of these cases, 32 were found to be non-venereal, 22 were definitely suffering from syphilis, 5 from gonorrhœa, and in the remaining 10 diagnosis was doubtful and the children were instructed to attend for further observation and, if necessary, treatment. In all, therefore, 37 children were selected to continue attendance at the clinic. The cases may be classified as follows:—

(a) *Babies under 3 months whose parents were known to be syphilitic, but who were yet too young for a definite diagnosis of congenital syphilis to be made.*—These cases were kept under careful observation and a Wassermann test was carried out as soon as practicable.

(b) *Children suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum.*—In these cases immediate, thorough, and continuous treatment is of the greatest importance.

(c) *Children suffering from interstitial keratitis.*—Most of these cases were discovered, in the first instance, at the school clinics, and were frequently unilateral. Most recent work emphasises the importance of immediate treatment if the disease is to be prevented from appearing in the other eye, and only continuous treatment is likely to prevent scarring of the cornea or blindness.

(d) *Children suffering from acquired syphilis and gonorrhœa.*—These children may be a source of danger to other children and it is desirable that they should be treated at a clinic where exclusion from school can be officially notified and enforced.

The following notes were made regarding the attendance of the 37 selected cases at the clinic:—

• Satisfactory attendance	10
Unsatisfactory attendance	13
Very unsatisfactory attendance	14
	—
Total	37
	—

That is to say, the attendance of practically three-quarters of the children has been unsatisfactory. Efforts were made to follow up cases, the Health Nurses visiting the homes; but the results obtained were disappointing. Inquiry into the reason for non-attendance showed that in most cases the mothers objected to bringing the children to a clinic which was known among their neighbours to be a venereal diseases clinic (although, of course, the clinic is not so described). Objection was also taken to the fact that the children had to use the same waiting rooms as adults; and could not attend without some older or responsible person being present.

After careful consideration had been given to the whole question it was recommended that facilities should be provided for the treatment of cases of venereal disease in children at the central premises at No. 9, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, which are used for clinic purposes under the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Service schemes of the Local Authority.

It appeared to be likely that with such arrangements available not only would a greater number of cases of venereal disease among children be detected but that the cases when discovered could be treated continuously until a cure was established. There is no doubt that many children classified as mentally defective and anæmic have a syphilitic taint and could be greatly benefited by appropriate treatment.

The above recommendation was approved by the Health Authority and by the Ministry of Health. The special children's clinic was opened on 4th October, 1926.

GENERAL NOTES.

Cases dealt with.—(a) Borough Hospital clinic. During the year 960 persons, comprising 697 males and 263 females, were dealt with at the clinic as out-patients.

The total attendances of out-patients was 10,466; the number of in-patient days was 237.

New patients numbered 399 males and 138 females; of these 160 were non-residents of Birkenhead. As is usual in seaports, sailors of many nationalities were treated at the clinic. Natives of Norway, Argentine, China, Italy, Australia, Denmark, Lithuania, India, Germany, and U.S.A. attended during the year. Residents of Cheshire county accounted for 40 of the 160.

(b) Hamilton Square clinic.—Since the opening of this clinic on 4th October, 1926, 29 children (14 males and 15 females) were dealt with at the clinic as out-patients, the total attendances made being 139.

Syphilis.—As formerly, the arsenobenzol and bismuth preparations are the mainstays in the treatment of this disease.

Gonorrhœa.—There have not been any fresh developments in the treatment of this disease.

Chancroid.—There were only 4 cases of this disease treated during the year.

Notes regarding special cases.—1. There were two severe cases of bismuth stomatitis. In one of these cases ulceration of the buccal mucous membrane occurred. Both cases, however, made good recoveries and after a few months showed no ill effects.

2. There were 3 cases of gonorrhœa in female children of the ages of 8, 10, and 11 years respectively. In 2 of these cases criminal assault was suspected but could not be proved.

General observations.—There has been a marked improvement in the general attendances at the clinics and patients are following up their treatment more conscientiously than in former years.

The introduction of Form V.44 issued by the Ministry of Health is now proving of great value and is being much used, especially by seamen. This record is of great value to the Medical Officers of the clinics as it enables them to follow up the original line of treatment.

Bacteriological work.—(a) At the clinics 153 smears were examined for the presence of gonococci, 32 specimens were examined for the presence of spirochetes, and 5 were examined for other organisms.

(b) At the University of Liverpool, Professor Beattie examined 912 specimens, 534 of these being sent from the clinic and 378 from private medical practitioners. Of the specimens sent 907 were for the Wassermann reaction and 5 for the detection of gonococci.

Treatment of Birkenhead patients carried out at other treatment centres.—So far as has been ascertained from official returns which have been received from other areas, Birkenhead patients attended other treatment centres as shown in Table V 3.

Issue of arsenobenzol compounds.—Arsenobenzol compounds were issued during the year by the Medical Officer of Health

to the Medical Officers of the treatment centres at the Borough Hospital and at No. 9, Hamilton Square
to the Medical Officer, Birkenhead Union Infirmary
to three approved local practitioners.

Propaganda.—The following lectures were given under the auspices of the Merseyside Boroughs Health Education Committee, to which the Birkenhead Corporation pays an annual contribution:—

Public Lecture, Town Hall. Professor Leonard Hill.

Lecture to Women, Brassey Street Institute. Dr. E. C. Hanson.

Lecture to Women, Co-operative Women's Guild. Dr. Mary Deacon.

Lecture to Women, Gilmour Mission, Arno Road. Dr. Hanson.

Lecture to Women, Hind Street Club. Dr. Mary Deacon.

Lecture to Nurses, Birkenhead Borough Hospital. Dr. Mary Deacon.

During the week 22nd March to 28th March, 1926, a health week was held in the Borough. Lectures to men, women and children were given at various places and cinema films were displayed. It is estimated that during the week 12,500 people attended the various meetings, etc.

TABLE V 1.

Statement showing the services rendered at the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Birkenhead Borough Hospital during the year, classified according to the diseases dealt with.

	Syphilis		Soft chancre		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than venereal		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Number of cases which—										
(a) at the beginning of the year under report were under treatment or observation for.....	157	102	2	—	136	23	—	—	295	125
(b) had been marked off in a previous year as having ceased to attend or as transferred to other centres, and which returned to the treatment centre during the year under report suffering from the same infection ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Total—Items 1 (a) and 1 (b) ...	160	102	2	—	136	23	—	—	298	125
2 (a) Number of cases dealt with at the treatment centre during the year for the first time	118	62	12	—	136	22	133	54	399	138
Total—Items 1 (a), 1 (b) and 2 (a)	278	164	14	—	272	45	133	54	697	263
2 (b) Number of cases included in item 2 (a) known to have received previous treatment at other centres for the same infection	5	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	9	—
3. Number of persons who ceased to attend the out-patient clinic										
(a) before completing the first course of treatment for	10	16	—	—	18	12	—	—	28	28
(b) after one or more courses, but before completion of treatment for	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	10
(c) after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure, of	1	5	—	—	31	5	—	—	32	10
4. Number of persons transferred to other treatment centres after treatment for.....	45	1	8	—	47	—	—	—	100	1
5. Number of persons discharged from the out-patient clinic after completion of treatment and observation for	8	—	2	—	24	—	—	—	34	—
6. Number of persons who, on the 1st January, 1927, were under treatment or observation for ...	210	132	4	—	152	28	—	—	366	160
Total—Items 3, 4, 5 and 6	298	164	14	—	272	45	—	—	564	209
7. Out-patient attendances—										
(a) For individual attention by the Medical Officer	2235	1323	83	—	1661	394	368	191	4347	1908
(b) For intermediate treatment— <i>e.g.</i> , irrigations, dressings, &c...	3	—	10	—	4198	—	—	—	4211	—
Total attendances ..	2238	1323	93	—	5859	394	368	191	8558	1908
8. Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of treatment given to persons who were suffering from	38	60	12	—	90	28	9	—	149	88
9. Examinations of pathological material—			For detection of				For Wassermann reaction			
			Spirochetes		Gonococci		Other organisms			
(a) Specimens which were examined at, and by the medical officer of, the treatment centre			32		153		5		—	
(b) Specimens from persons attending at the treatment centre, which were sent for examination to an approved laboratory			—		—		—		506	

TABLE V 3.

Statement showing particulars of Birkenhead cases treated at Venereal Diseases Clinics in other areas.

Name of town	No. of patients	Disease	Attendances at out-patient clinic	No. of in-patient days	Doses of arsenobenzol compounds given in	
					Out-patient clinic	In-patient department
Liverpool	5	Syphilis	2	455	—	161
(David Lewis Northern Hos.)		Gonorrhœa	2			
		Conditions other than venereal	1			
(Stanley Hos.)	2	Syphilis	1	20	—	14
		Conditions other than venereal	1			
(Royal Infirm.)	17	Syphilis	3	355	—	28
		Gonorrhœa	9			
		Conditions other than venereal	5			
(Seamen's Dispensary)	24	Syphilis	6	813	—	48
		Soft chancre	3			
		Gonorrhœa	15			
(Royal Southern Hospital)	4	Soft chancre	2	68	—	13
		Conditions other than venereal	2			
Wallasey	3	Gonorrhœa	2	77	—	—
		Conditions other than venereal	1			
Greenwich	3	Syphilis	1	14	—	1
		Gonorrhœa	2			
South Shields ...	2	Syphilis	1	12	—	1
		Soft chancre	1			

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES WHICH ARE NOTIFIABLE.

The infectious diseases which (in addition to tuberculosis, already dealt with) were compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health at any time during the past year are as follows:—

- Smallpox.
- Scarlatina.
- Diphtheria and membranous croup.
- Erysipelas.
- Typhus fever.
- Typhoid fever.
- Continued fever.
- Relapsing fever.
- Cerebro-spinal meningitis.
- Acute encephalitis lethargica.
- Acute polio-encephalitis.
- Acute poliomyelitis.
- Puerperal fever.
- Ophthalmia neonatorum.
- Cholera.
- Pneumonia (acute primary and influenzal).
- Malaria.
- Dysentery.
- Trench fever.
- Puerperal pyrexia.

New Regulations regarding the notification of certain diseases came into force on 1st October, 1926. These were the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926.

The Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, prescribe new forms for the notification of *puerperal fever*, and place upon medical practitioners an obligation to notify all cases of *pyrexia* during the puerperium irrespective of the cause to which the fever may be attributed.

The Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926, supersede the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1914. Under the 1914 Regulations, midwives as well as medical practitioners were responsible for the notification of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum. With this dual system there was a tendency for cases to escape notification altogether.

Under the 1926 Regulations, the duty of notifying a case of ophthalmia neonatorum is placed *solely upon the medical practitioner* in attendance upon the patient. Midwives are not required to notify cases of the disease. They are still required, however, under the rules

of the Central Midwives' Board, to *summon medical assistance* in all cases, however slight, of inflammation of, or discharge from, the eyes of a child.

Cases notified in 1926.—During the year 818 cases of infectious diseases other than tuberculosis were notified to me. These are set out in Tables I 1 and I 2.

TABLE I 1.

Infectious diseases other than tuberculosis notified during 1926; showing seasonal incidence.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tot a
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina	23	18	13	18	17	28	7	22	22	28	30	24	250
Diphtheria and membranous croup	17	9	8	10	11	16	11	9	12	14	10	10	137
Erysipelas	3	—	5	7	4	3	4	2	5	3	10	12	58
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	1	—	2	—	2	1	1	7	3	—	1	1	19
Continued fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Encephalitis lethargica (acute)	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	7
Polio-encephalitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal fever	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	9
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3	4	4	3	4	4	2	—	2	4	1	1	32
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	28	26	36	25	23	22	7	7	18	19	35	48	294
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Trench fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4
Total	77	57	68	68	61	78	32	50	65	73	89	100	818

Case-rates of certain diseases.—The case-rates of certain diseases for Birkenhead, and for England and Wales, per 1,000 living, are set out below:—

Case-rate per 1,000 living.
Birkenhead England and Wales

Smallpox	—	0.26
Scarlet fever	1.57	2.10
Diphtheria	0.87	1.31
Enteric fever	0.12	0.07
Puerperal fever	0.05	0.07
Puerperal pyrexia	0.02	0.19
Erysipelas	0.36	0.38

TABLE I 2.

Infectious diseases other than tuberculosis notified during 1926;
showing ages.

Disease	und. 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. up	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina	2	6	4	17	13	120	46	16	20	5	1	—	250
Diphtheria and membra- nous croup	3	6	10	9	10	61	19	10	8	1	—	—	137
Erysipelas	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	1	10	10	28	3	58
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	2	5	1	3	1	19
Continued fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Encephalitis lethargica (acute).....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	1	7
Polio-encephalitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (acute) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	9
Ophthalmia neonatorum	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	48	66	28	18	17	36	9	9	16	11	23	13	294
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Trench fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4
Total	85	79	42	45	44	223	81	39	75	30	57	18	818

Encephalitis lethargica.—7 cases were notified during the year. Of these 5 cases were treated in general hospitals and 2 were treated at home. 3 cases recovered and 4 cases died (M. 16 years and F. 73 years died at home, and M. 59 years and F. 29 years died at a general hospital).

The annual figures relating to notification of this disease are as follows:—

1919	4
1920	2
1921	3
1922	3
1923	14
1924	12
1925	13
1926	7

Cerebro-spinal fever.—4 cases were notified during the year, viz.:—

2 males, 5 years of age; treated at Infectious Diseases Hospital, Birkenhead; both recovered.

Male, 11 years of age; treated at Birkenhead Infirmary; died.

Male, 5 years of age; treated at home; died.

Smallpox.—There were no cases of smallpox notified in Birkenhead during the year. This disease was, however, present in epidemic form in many parts of England throughout the whole year, 10,222 cases being notified.

DISINFECTION.

Books.—63 Public Library books were collected from infected houses and disinfected.

Dwellings.—248 house-disinfecting notices were served; 390 houses or parts of houses were disinfected during the year.

Bedding and clothes.—Infected bedding and clothes were collected from 449 dwellings and disinfected at the disinfecting station. In 48 further cases infected or discarded bedding and clothes were destroyed.

Visits and revisits paid to houses, etc., by Disinfecting Inspector.—2,168 visits and revisits to property were made during the year in connection with disinfection after infectious diseases (including tuberculosis).

VACCINATION.

The following is the latest completed information relative to vaccination in the Borough and relates to the period 1st January, 1925, to 31st December, 1925, viz.:—

No. of births	3215
Successfully vaccinated	2193
Insusceptible	10
Had smallpox	—
Number in respect of whom statutory declarations of conscientious objection have been received	532
Died unvaccinated	231
Postponements, removals, or cases not found, etc.	249

ISSUE OF DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

During the year, in accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Antitoxin (outside London) Order, 1910, diphtheria antitoxin was issued to 8 medical practitioners; a total of 97,500 units was given out.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During the year facilities were offered to the mothers attending the infant welfare clinics to have their children immunised against diphtheria. These facilities became available on 13th October, 1926, and from that date up to the end of the year the parents of 100 children availed themselves of the facilities. The children immunised attended the various infant welfare clinics in the area as follows:—

Hamilton Square clinic	52
Brassey Street clinic	32
St. Paul's Road clinic	9
Mount Grove clinic	7
Total	100

HOME NURSING.

The arrangement made between the Corporation and the Birkenhead District Nursing Society, dating from 1st July, 1919, provides for the home nursing of cases of influenza and pneumonia. During the year 1926 the Society's nurses paid 945 visits in respect of 68 cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

Cases treated during 1926.—At the beginning of the year there were 35 patients in hospital. New cases admitted during the year numbered 341, making a total of 376 patients dealt with. 32 patients were in hospital at the end of the year.

The diseases treated, together with the sex of the patients and particulars as to recoveries and deaths, are shewn below.

TABLE I 3.

Patients sent in as suffering from		In hospital at beginning of year	Admitted during year	Died during year	Discharged cured during year	Remaining in hospital at end of year
Scarlet fever	M.	11	71	—	92	10
	F.	13	115	—	121	7
Diphtheria	M.	6	62	1	61	6
	F.	4	74	5	65	8
Enteric fever	M.	—	4	—	4	—
	F.	1	12	—	12	1
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	M.	—	2	—	2	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—
Mumps ..	M.	—	1	—	1	1
	F.	—	—	—	—	—
Total		35	341	6	338	32

Final diagnosis (all cases).—The final diagnosis arrived at in connection with the 344 patients who died in, or were discharged from, hospital during the year was as follows:—

Scarlet fever	172
Diphtheria	87
Whooping cough	1
Tonsillitis	22
Erythema	9
Measles	6
Rubella	7
Vincent's angina	2
Laryngismus stridulus	1
Peritonsillar abscess	3
" Bacteriological " diphtheria	1
Lobar pneumonia	1
Broncho pneumonia	1
Convulsions (rickets)	1
Cervical adenitis	2
Chronic V.D.H.	1
Nephritis	1
Meningismus	1
Mumps	1
Pyrexia of unknown origin	1
Rheumatism	1
Typhoid	12
Paratyphoid " B "	1
Septic finger	1
No obvious disease	8
	344

Scarlet fever.

Cases discharged or died, notified as scarlet fever	193
Cases found to be suffering from scarlet fever	172
Deaths from scarlet fever	—
Case-mortality rate, approximately	—

Complications.—The complications met with among the 172 completed cases were as follows:—

1 suffered from arthritis	(0.6%)
6 suffered from albuminuria	(3.5%)
3 suffered from rhinitis	(1.7%)
4 suffered from otorrhœa	(2.3%)
13 suffered from secondary adenitis	(7.6%)
1 suffered from mastoiditis	(0.6%)
1 suffered from scarlatinal nephritis	(0.6%)

Average stay in hospital.—The average length of stay in hospital of all cases notified as scarlet fever was 32.4 days. For an uncomplicated case the usual period of isolation has been about 4 weeks.

Type of disease.—The prevailing type of the disease was extremely mild. It is of interest to note that this is the first year in the history of the hospital in which no deaths from scarlet fever have to be recorded, and serious complications have been almost unknown. In fact, the majority of cases dealt with have been slight or even trivial illnesses. Severe or toxic cases have been treated with antiscarlet serum, the value of which is now firmly established.

Diphtheria.

Cases discharged or died, notified as diphtheria	132
Cases found to be suffering from diphtheria on admission	87
Deaths from diphtheria	5
Case-mortality rate, approximately	5.75%

Another death occurred in a child admitted as diphtheria, but found to be suffering from very extensive broncho-pneumonia following measles.

Of those cases which terminated in a fatal result, 2 died within 24 hours of admission

Tracheotomy.—18 cases showed signs of laryngeal obstruction on admission, and it was found necessary to perform tracheotomy in 3 of these. 2 recovered and 1 died.

Average stay in hospital.—The average length of stay in hospital of all cases notified as diphtheria was 32 days.

Complications.—The complications met with among the 162 cases of diphtheria were as follows:—

- 5 suffered from paralysis of the palate
- 3 suffered from paralysis of the legs
- 2 suffered from paralysis of the ocular muscles
- 1 suffered from paralysis of the diaphragm
- 3 suffered from paralysis of the pharynx
- 3 suffered from late cardiac failure

The prevalence of a mild infection generally has been reflected in a lower case-mortality rate, the comparative absence of severe paralysis, and the small number of cases in which tracheotomy has been required. Methods of immunisation against diphtheria have been carried out with some success on several members of the nursing staff, a number of patients who have been sent to us by private practitioners for this treatment, and on several children admitted to hospital with other diseases.

Other diseases.

Typhoid fever.—16 cases were discharged in 1926; the diagnosis was confirmed in 13 of these. All recovered. The source of infection could not be traced in any of the cases.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis.—2 cases were admitted under this notification, were found to be suffering from other diseases, and both recovered.

General.—The past year has proved somewhat uneventful. There has been no great prevalence of the commoner infectious diseases, and at no time have the resources and accommodation of the hospital been strained as they were during 1925, or even used to their full capacity.

Training of nurses.—Courses of instruction have been given during the year to the probationer nurses in training. Two have passed the Final (Fever Nursing) Examination of the General Nursing Council, and five the preliminary examination. Considerable pains are taken to enable every nurse to obtain as comprehensive a training and experience as the hospital can afford; and although this involves no small amount of extra work, both on the part of the nurses themselves and of others, any trouble taken is amply repaid by the increase in interest, efficiency and keenness which results.

E. P. Smith Memorial Fund.—One case received assistance from this fund during the year.

MUNICIPAL LABORATORY.

• **Examination of clinical material.**—The nature and number of the examinations, etc., made at the Municipal Laboratory during 1926 is shown in the following table:—

Examination	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Sputum for <i>B. tuberculosis</i>	89	265	354
Other material for <i>B. tuberculosis</i>	2	4	6
Cultures for <i>B. diphtheriæ</i>	70	306	376
Blood tests (Widal) against enteric group	14	10	24
	175	585	760

Other examinations were made as follows:—

Fæces for <i>B. Typhosus</i>	27
Urine for <i>B. Typhosus</i>	29
Urine	20
Miscellaneous	14
	90

Bacteriological examinations of water.—Examinations of the Alwen water supply were carried out at the laboratory during the year, on the lines indicated in my annual report for 1924. In all, 75 complete bacteriological examinations were made, samples being taken from the mains, from the Alwen reservoir before filtration, and immediately after filtration.

The results obtained have again been highly satisfactory and indicate that the water supply maintains its high level of bacteriological purity.

Bacteriological examination of milk.—During the year the regular bacteriological examination of milk was carried out. 47 samples were examined. The work is undertaken primarily because of the introduction into the borough of "designated milks" as laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. These milks are:—

- (1) Certified milk.
- (2) Grade A milk (tuberculin tested).
- (3) Grade A milk.
- (4) Pasteurised milk.

The bacteriological examinations consist of:—

- (a) The enumeration of the total micro-organisms per cubic centimetre. The number has not to exceed 30,000 in certified milk or 200,000 in the Grade A milks.
- (b) Examination for the presence of *B. coli* in specified quantities of milk. *B. coli* must not be found in 1-10th c.c. of certified milk or 1-100th of a c.c. of Grade A milk.

The examination of certified milk is done at the request of, and for, the Ministry of Health, who grant the licences for the production of this milk.

The Grade A milks are examined for the Corporation, who grant the licences for the retailing of this class of milk.

In addition to the designated milks, other samples of milk have been examined from time to time, but no routine examination is carried out on ordinary milk, for which no standard of bacteriological purity has been laid down.

Without going into detailed results, it may be said that the Certified and Grade A milks examined were on the whole far above the required standard. A few samples failed to pass the tests, but on the other hand many showed a very low bacterial count, coupled with the absence of *B coli* in such large quantities as 10 c.c. A table giving details of the results obtained in the case of designated milks will be found under the "Water supply, food and drugs" section of this report.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

Cases of mental deficiency fall into two categories—

- (a) Those which can be dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913; for these the Mental Deficiency Committee is responsible.
- (b) Those which can be dealt with under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Acts, 1899 and 1914; for these the Education Committee is responsible.

CASES COMING WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT, 1913.

The following classes of persons who are mentally defective are deemed to be defectives within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913:—

- (a) Idiots; that is to say, persons so deeply defective in mind from birth or from an early age as to be unable to guard themselves against common physical dangers;
- (b) Imbeciles; that is to say, persons in whose case there exists from birth or from an early age mental defectiveness not amounting to idiocy, yet so pronounced that they are incapable of managing themselves or their affairs, *or, in the case of children, of being taught to do so*;
- (c) Feeble-minded persons; that is to say, persons in whose case there exists from birth or from an early age mental defectiveness not amounting to imbecility, yet so pronounced that they require care, supervision, and control for their own protection or for the protection of others, *or, in the case of children, that they, by reason of such defectiveness appear to be permanently incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in ordinary schools*;
- (d) Moral imbeciles; that is to say, persons who from an early age display some permanent mental defect coupled with strong vicious or criminal propensities on which punishment has had little or no deterrent effect.

It will be seen from the above definition that certain special provisions are made with regard to children. Briefly, the effect of these is that a mentally defective child remains under the care of the Local Education Authority if he can be taught in one of the schools provided by that authority—the term “ordinary” in paragraph (c) being taken to include “special” schools for mentally defective children.

The Local Education Authority must, however, give notice to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority in the case of all children over the age of seven

- (a) who have been ascertained to be incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving benefit or further benefit in special schools or classes, or who cannot be instructed in a special school or class without detriment to the interests of the other children.

or as respects whom the Board of Education certify that there are special circumstances which render it desirable that they should be dealt with under this Act by way of supervision or guardianship;

- (b) who on or before attaining the age of sixteen are about to be withdrawn or discharged from a special school or class, and in whose case the local education authority are of opinion that it would be to their benefit that they should be sent to an institution or placed under guardianship.

The Special School for mentally defective children provided by the Local Education Authority is referred to in another section of this report (page 96). An After-Care Committee carried out general supervision in connection with children on leaving this school; the number of cases being dealt with at the end of 1926 was 114.

During the past year 4 new cases came under the care of the Mental Deficiency Committee.

No cases were sent to institutions by judicial order.

1 case was placed under supervision pending institutional vacancy arising; 3 cases were placed under home supervision; 1 case was removed to hospital under the Lunacy Acts; 1 case was discharged from institution; 3 cases died during the year; 1 case left the district.

4 first visits and 474 revisits were paid to the homes of mental defectives by the Health Nurses.

At the end of the 1926 there were under the care of the Mental Deficiency Committee 241 cases, as set out in the following table:—

In institutions (placed by the Mental Deficiency Committee under judicial orders)—

	Males	Females	Total
Ashton House (Birkenhead)	0	1	1
Birkenhead Union Institution	4	8	12
Caterham Institute (Surrey)	1	0	1
Chester Union Institution	0	3	3
Prudhoe Hall (Prudhoe-on-Tyne)	1	0	1
Royal Albert Institution (Lancaster)	8	2	10
Sandlebridge Colony (Cheshire)	1	4	5
Stoke Park Colony (Bristol)	4	3	7
Whittington Hall (Chesterfield)	0	1	1
	19	22	41

In institutions (placed by the Birkenhead Board of Guardians, or by parents; not under judicial order)—

Birkenhead Union Institution	7	7	14
Sandlebridge Colony (Cheshire)	1	1	2
County Mental Hospital (Cheshire)	1	1	2
Royal Albert Institution (Lancaster)	7	2	9
	16	11	27

Under home supervision—

(a) Cases which should be in institutions	18	6	24
(b) Others (including ex-Special School cases, 114 in number)	97	50	147
Under guardianship	0	2	2
	115	58	173
Total	150	91	241

Scarcity of institutional accommodation.—It will be seen that in the above table 24 cases at present under home supervision are classed as cases which should be in institutions. Adding to these the 27 cases which are in institutions but are not under order, and for which provision should be made by the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, we have a total of 51 cases, as at the end of 1926, for whom institutional accommodation should be provided.

The difficulties which have been experienced in endeavouring to discover accommodation for these cases, and the urgent need for the provision of adequate local accommodation, were referred to in my annual report for 1925.

CASES DEALT WITH UNDER THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) ACTS, 1899 and 1914.

The cases of mental deficiency in children which come under the care of the Local Education Authority are children over the age of 7 and under the age of 16 who, not being imbecile, and not being merely dull or backward, are defective, that is to say, children who by reason of mental defect are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools, *but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in such special classes or schools as may be provided by the Local Education Authority for mentally defective children.*

CASES COMING WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The following classes of persons are included in the category of mental defectives by the Ministry of Health for the purposes of the Blind Persons Act, 1920:—

Blind persons suffering from epilepsy, fits or nervous disability.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

The administrative arrangements throughout the year were as set out in my annual report for 1923.

GENERAL FACTS REGARDING BLIND PERSONS IN BIRKENHEAD.

Number and ages of blind persons.—The total number of blind persons in Birkenhead coming within the scope of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, on 31st March, 1927, was 148; of these 81 were males and 67 females.

Age.		M.		F.		Total.
0—5	... ..	—	...	—	...	—
5—16	... ..	3	...	4	...	7
16—21	... ..	5	...	1	...	6
21—30	... ..	4	...	3	...	7
30—40	... ..	5	...	2	...	7
40—50	... ..	11	...	5	...	16
50—60	... ..	14	...	12	...	26
60—70	... ..	19	...	24	...	43
Over70	... ..	20	...	16	...	36
Total ...		81	...	67	...	148

Age incidence of blindness.—So far as can be ascertained the age of onset of blindness is set out below:—

Age at onset of blindness		M.		F.		Total.
0—1	... ..	15	...	10	...	25
1—5	... ..	1	...	1	...	2
5—10	... ..	1	...	3	...	4
10—20	... ..	10	...	5	...	15
20—30	... ..	4	...	1	...	5
30—40	... ..	8	...	3	...	11
40—50	... ..	8	...	8	...	16
50—60	... ..	12	...	17	...	29
60—70	... ..	14	...	10	...	24
Over70	... ..	8	...	4	...	12
Not ascertained	... ..	—	...	5	...	5
Total ...		81	...	67	...	148

Blind persons who are otherwise defective.—Eleven of the blind persons on the register were handicapped in addition by other physical or mental defects:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Mentally defective	4	1	5
Deaf	1	1	2
Deaf and Dumb	1	—	1
Otherwise physically defective	2	1	3
	8	3	11

Children under 16 years of age.—These numbered 7; 3 boys and 4 girls. 2 boy and 3 girls were attending school; the other boy and girl were not attending school.

Conditions as regards employment.—The following table shows the position of blind persons in the area over the age of 16 with reference to employment:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Employed	21	2	23
Trained but unemployed...	7	2	9
Under training	—	—	—
Not trained, but probably trainable	3	3	6
Probably unemployable ...	47	56	103
	78	63	141

The occupations of the *employed* blind in the area were as follows:—

Agents, collectors, etc.	2
Basket and cane workers	7
Brush makers	4
Mat Makers	1
Labourers... ..	1
Home teachers	1
Knitters	1
Musicians and music teachers	1
Newsvendors	1
Tuners	3
Miscellaneous	1
Total	23

HOUSING AND GENERAL SANITATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

The staff engaged on the work of housing and general sanitary inspection consisted, at the end of the year, of the Chief Inspector, one housing inspector, and six sanitary inspectors.

The six sanitary inspectors devoted such time to the work of housing inspection as their other duties permitted.

GENERAL.

Area of the Borough.—The area of the Borough (land and inland water) was at the time of the 1921 census 3,924 statute acres. This area is largely built over, or otherwise occupied, by domestic buildings, docks, factories, railway stations, and sidings, etc.

Number of dwelling houses in the Borough.—The approximate number of dwelling houses of all descriptions within the Borough, excluding institutions, on 31st December, 1926, was 28,744.

New dwellings erected, 1921-1926.—The new dwellings erected in the Borough between the date of the census and the end of 1926 were as follows:—

(1) Between the date of the census and 31st December, 1925	
(a) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919-1925	
(i) By the Local Authority	707
(ii) By other bodies or persons.....	290
(b) Other	254
	— 1251
(2) During 1926	
(a) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1925	
(i) By the Local Authority	251
(ii) By other bodies or persons.....	187
(b) Other	86
	— 524
	—
Total	1775
	—

1 house was erected during the year which did not comply with the building byelaws.

Uninhabited property.—The following is a return of uninhabited property in Birkenhead for the past year:—

District	Half-year ended 30th June, 1926					Half-year ended 31st Dec., 1926				
	Private houses	Shops	Cottages	Dock cottag's	Total	Private houses	Shops	Cottages	Dock cottag's	Total
Birkenhead.....	5	9	—	—	14	8	14	—	—	22
Claughton and Oxtun	86	3	3	57	149	79	4	2	62	147
Tranmere and Bebington ..	82	11	1	—	94	109	11	1	—	121
Totals ..	173	23	4	57	257	196	29	3	62	290

The total uninhabited and unoccupied property, 31st December, 1925, was 221, so that there was an increase of 69 at the end of 1926 as compared with the previous year.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH HOUSING AND GENERAL SANITATION.

(a) Mainly under Housing Acts.

During the twelve months ending December 31st 1926, the following work was carried out by the department under the provisions of the Housing Acts and Regulations (the arrangement is based on that suggested by the Ministry of Health):—

Inspection.

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts); all these houses were also recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 1315
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 4
- (3) 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 1162

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' 11

Action under statutory powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1151

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

(a) by owners

(1) Houses in respect of which notices were served during 1926 461

(2) Houses in respect of which notices were served prior to 1st January, 1926..... 886

(b) by local authority in default of owners 39

Total 1386

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owner of intention to close —

B. Proceedings also taken under the Public Health Acts in connection with above properties.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 736

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) by owners 729

(b) by local authority in default of owners —

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 451

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made 4

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 2

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 18

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders —

(b) Mainly under Public Health Acts.

In addition to the housing work outlined above, other work, of which the following is a summary, was carried out by the inspectors during the year. (The work of scavenging, removal of refuse, and care of sewers is entirely dealt with by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's department.)

Number of houses inspected (not included in preceding section) 6210

Number of re-inspections of houses 36293

Number of unhealthy conditions reported and investigated 6117

Number of formal notices given 1265

Number of informal notices given 3136

Number remedied after formal notice and without proceedings 1265

Number of cases in which proceedings had to be taken	—
Number abated after proceedings	—
Defects referred for action:—	
(a) to Borough Engineer and Surveyor	293
(b) to Water Engineer	268
(c) to Borough Treasurer	58
Number of excavations made for the purpose of testing the condition of house drains	140
Number of smoke tests applied to drains of premises reconstructed under the supervision of this department	198
Number of water tests applied to drains	50
Number of smoke tests applied to the drains of new buildings, in conjunction with the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's department	221
Number of smoke observations taken	60
Number of smoke nuisances from factory and other chimneys reported to the Health Committee	—
Number of schools specially examined by the sanitary inspectors	35
Number of cowsheds inspected	8
Number of inspections of dairies and milkshops	875
Number of inspections <i>re</i> offensive trades	155
Number of sewer ventilators inspected	20
Number of street gullies inspected	18
Number of caravans inspected	104
Number of caravans re-inspected	167
Number of back passages inspected	93
Number of investigations regarding the keeping of pigs, fowls, and other animals	31
Miscellaneous inspections (not included above)	1010

(c) **Actual defects in domestic dwellings dealt with under (a) and (b) above.**

The following is a summary of sanitary improvements effected at dwelling houses during the year under the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts:—

<i>Houses—</i>		New sash cords provided	2364
Roofs repaired	1550	Window fasteners renewed	1210
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired	872	Windows made to open	621
Rainwater gutters repaired or renewed	759	Firegrates repaired	1489
Down spouts repaired or renewed	475	Ovens repaired or renewed	354
Down spouts disconnected from drains	140	Plastering to firegrates repaired	1224
Walls pointed or repaired	3072	Hearthstones repaired or renewed	456
Lighting improved	66	Floors relaid or repaired	2451
Ventilation improved	222	Skirting boards repaired or renewed	469
Windows repaired	952	Wall plaster repaired	4332
		Ceiling plaster repaired	2043

Walls cleansed	2778	Drains disconnected from sewer	2
Ceilings cleansed	2635	Drains—inspection chambers provided	—
Doors repaired	1679	Drains ventilated	12
Door fasteners repaired or renewed	3244	Drains cleansed	910
Sinks repaired or renewed ...	293	Self-cleansing gulleys provided	13
Sink waste pipes repaired ...	386	<i>Water closets—</i>	
Sink waste pipes trapped ...	38	Roofs repaired.....	577
Washing boilers repaired ...	520	Walls repaired.....	705
Washing boilers—new pans provided	116	New basins fixed.....	202
Washing boilers—firegrates repaired	373	Connections repaired	523
Washing boilers—flues repaired	181	Cisterns repaired or renewed.	252
Dampness remedied	317	New flush pipes fixed.....	20
Nuisances from animals abated	81	Provided with a sufficient supply of water	136
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired	1212	Doors repaired or renewed ...	675
Yard surfaces—proper means of drainage provided	11	Seats repaired or renewed...	200
Sufficient water supply provided	10	<i>Ashpits—</i>	
<i>Drainage—</i>		Provided with roofs	43
New drains constructed	20	Provided with doors	61
Old drains reconstructed.....	117	Roofs repaired.....	103
Drains repaired	185	Walls repaired.....	119
		Cemented inside ..	87
		Abolished.....	346
		Ashbins provided...	1202
		<i>Miscellaneous—</i>	
		(not included above)	3584

(d) Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Acts, 1920-1923.

During the year no applications for certificates under section 2 of the Act were received.

(e) Theatres, music halls, &c.

(Ministry of Health Circular No. 120, dated 25th August, 1920).

33 visits were made to theatres, music halls and other places of entertainment in which the conditions as to ventilation, structure of dressing rooms, &c., had been found not to be satisfactory and which had previously been reported upon to the Health Committee and to the Clerk to the Borough Justices for the information of the licensing authorities.

(f) Rats and mice.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the district inspectors under the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

No. of premises inspected	139
No. of visits and re-visits	933
No. of notices served on occupiers	121
No. of notices served on owners	72
No. of premises satisfactorily dealt with	138
No. of premises still under observation or where work is being carried out	4

(g) Inspection of lodging houses, &c.

During the year the inspector of common lodging houses, &c. paid regular visits to common lodging houses, and houses let in lodgings, and to the Corporation tenement dwellings.

Registered common lodging houses (14 in number):	
Day inspections	3490
Night inspections	126
Insanitary conditions reported and dealt with	26
Houses let in lodgings (333 in number):	
Day inspections	958
Night inspections	—
Insanitary conditions reported and dealt with	48
Corporation tenement dwellings (132 in number, visited weekly):	
No. of visits	3648
Insanitary conditions reported and dealt with	212

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS, 1901 AND 1907.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (s. 132), requires the Medical Officer of Health in his annual report to the Council to report specifically on the administration of that Act in workshops and workplaces. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

1.—Inspection of factories, workshops and workplaces.

Premises	No. of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	39	6	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	1652	31	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)...	42	4	—
Total.....	1733	41	—

2.—Defects found in factories, workshops and workplaces.

Particulars	No. of defects			Number of prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	57	57	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	3	3	—	—
Other nuisances.....	8	8	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshops' Acts—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101)....	—	—	—	—
Other offences	5	5	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total.....	78	78	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Home work.—Lists were received from employers as follows:—
 From employers sending twice in the year—3 lists (8 workmen).
 From employers sending once in the year—4 lists (2 contractors, 9 workmen).

In each case the work handled was the making of wearing apparel.

Registered workshops.—The workshops on the register at the end of the year were:—

Bakehouses	67
Confectioners	49
Boot repairers	90
Cabinet making and upholstery	35
Dressmaking	45
Millinery	31
Tailoring	37
Laundries	39
Joinery and carpentry	28
Saddlery and harness making	7
Smiths	18
Wagon repairers	14
Motor and cycle repairers	14
Other workshops	66
	540

Other matters.

Workshops removed from the register	—
New workshops opened and placed on register ...	5
Underground bakehouses discontinued	—
Number of underground bakehouses on the register at the end of the year	22
Instances of failure to affix abstract dealt with...	—

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

Pursuant to the provisions of the above Act, 27 visits were made.

At the time of these visits the rag flock being used or stored on the premises was to all appearance in a satisfactory condition; no samples were, therefore, taken for the purpose of analysis.

POISONS AND PHARMACY ACT, 1908, AND ORDERS, 1909.

Visits were made to 6 shops and premises in the Borough, in which insecticides containing poison were likely to be kept for sale, but no infringement of the Act was reported.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

General arrangements.—Provision has been made by the local authority for carrying out the requirements of:—

1. The Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915.
2. The Midwives' Acts, 1902 and 1918.
3. The Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.

The authority's scheme now includes:—

1. Inspection of midwives practising in the area.
2. Health visiting.
3. The provision of four postnatal clinics.
4. The provision of an antenatal clinic.
5. The supply of free milk, etc., for necessitous mothers and infants.
6. Home visiting in connection with cases admitted to the Birkenhead Day and Resident Nurseries.
7. The provision of treatment at the Borough Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital, of cases of complications arising before, during, and after confinement, and of cases of confinement where the home conditions are bad.
8. The payment in whole or in part of fees to medical practitioners called in by midwives to attend to difficult cases of confinement.
9. The payment in whole or in part of fees to midwives in attendance upon temporarily necessitous cases.
10. The provision of home nursing for children under five suffering from certain diseases, and for expectant and nursing mothers.
11. Financial support of certain institutions engaged in work in the interests of mothers and infants belonging to the Borough, namely, The Birkenhead Day and Resident Nurseries, The Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association and St. Faith's Home for Mothers and Babies.

The infant welfare or postnatal clinics are held at Hamilton Square, Brassey Street, St. Paul's Road, and Mount Grove. The Hamilton Square clinic was opened in 1916; Brassey Street and St. Paul's Road clinics in 1919; the Mount Grove clinic in 1923.

The antenatal clinic, which is held at No. 9, Hamilton Square, was opened in 1920.

The arrangements for home nursing came into force on 1st July, 1919. An agreement between the Corporation and the Birkenhead District Nursing Society provides for the nursing at home of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum; of measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea, and poliomyelitis in children under the age of five years; and of illnesses of women associated with pregnancy and confinement.

The steady development in the work of the maternity and child welfare centres—both prenatal and postnatal—has put an increasing

strain on the accommodation available and has taxed severely the resources of the staff and voluntary workers engaged. The premises used, never ideal, are now obviously unsuitable and inadequate; and steps should be taken in the near future to provide up-to-date clinics in which this work, the importance and essential character of which is now universally recognised, may be carried on with the maximum of convenience and efficiency.

STAFF.

The executive medical staff engaged on maternity and child welfare work at the end of the year consisted of Dr. Deacon (antenatal clinic, and Hamilton Square and Brassey Street postnatal clinics; Dr. Leete (St. Paul's Road postnatal clinic); and Dr. Foster (Mount Grove postnatal clinic).

In addition to the Chief Health Nurse and the Inspector of Midwives, the equivalent of the whole time of six nurses was, throughout the year, nominally available for infant welfare work.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

Work under this section is concerned with the administration of the Midwives' Acts, 1902 and 1918; the visiting of the homes of midwives, inspecting their instruments, etc., advising them on the details of their work and on their duties as set out in the above Acts, and in the rules issued by the Central Midwives' Board.

Number of midwives.—During the year 1926, 80 midwives entered their names on the local register as practising in the Borough. Of these, 10 subsequently left the district, and their names have been removed from the register accordingly. 6 midwives gave notice of change of addresses.

Of the 80 midwives, 73 were trained and 7 untrained.

Number of cases attended by midwives.—The cases attended by midwives alone (no doctor being in attendance) numbered 2,568; over three-quarters of the total births in the Borough.

Visits of inspection.—The inspector of midwives paid 158 quarterly and 248 special visits of inspection.

Interviews in office.—55 midwives were interviewed during the year.

Cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia in practice of midwives.—The inspector investigated 9 cases of puerperal fever and 4 cases of puerperal pyrexia.

Cases requiring medical help.—421 cases were notified by midwives in which medical aid had been called in, as against 424 last year. The inspector made 251 special inquiries regarding cases requiring medical help.

Notifications received from midwives.—41 cases of stillbirths were notified; 10 cases were notified of infants receiving artificial feeding; 5 cases were notified in which death had occurred in the practice of midwives; 2 cases of laying out a dead body were notified.

Supply of silver nitrate to midwives.—Supplies of a collod preparation of silver nitrate were issued to 2 midwives at cost price.

Ophthalmia neonatorum.—32 cases were notified during the year.

Notified	Treated at home	Treated in hospital	Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Deaths
32	26	6	31	1	—	—

Employment of, or subsidy to, practising midwives by the local authority.—No practising midwives are employed or subsidised by the Birkenhead Local Supervising Authority.

HOME VISITING OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS, MOTHERS, AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Home visiting.—The following is a summary of the visits paid by the health nurses in connection with expectant mothers, mothers, and young children:—

- 3011 routine first visits were paid to infants.
- 3950 routine revisits were paid to infants under 1 year.
- 9746 routine visits were paid to children over 1 year and under 5 years old.
- 47 first visits and 16 revisits were paid in connection with the investigation of stillbirths.
- 357 visits were paid in connection with cases of pneumonia.
- 31 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were visited and kept under supervision.
- 115 first visits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 26 revisits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 125 visits were made in connection with deaths of infants.
- 4078 visits were made in connection with miscellaneous matters.

Cases reported for special action.—The following cases after being visited were reported for special action:—

- 10 cases of sanitary defects in houses were passed to the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
 2 cases were referred to the Charity Organisation Society.
 3 cases were referred to the Invalid Children's Association.
 1 case was referred to the Poor Law Relieving Officers.

POSTNATAL CLINICS.

The main features of the work carried out at these clinics were set out in my annual report for 1923.

At the end of the year the clinics were being held as follows:—

- Hamilton Square clinic: Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.
 Brassey Street clinic: Thursday afternoon, 2 to 5 p.m.
 St. Paul's Road clinic: Tuesday afternoon, 2 to 5 p.m.
 Mount Grove clinic: Friday afternoon, 2 to 5 p.m.

The following table gives an indication of the work done at the clinics during the year:—

	Hamilton Sq. (99 sessions)		Brassey Street (51 sessions)		St. Paul's Road (51 sessions)		Mount Grove (50 sessions)	
	1st visits	Re- visits	1st visits	Re- visits	1st visits	Re- visits	1st visits	Re- visits
Attendances made by infants under 12 months	467	5676	356	4566	268	3374	166	1972
Attendances made by children aged 1—2 years.....	37	688	3	701	7	412	7	372
Attendances made by children aged 2—5 years.....	31	380	8	232	5	177	15	71
Examinations of children by Doctor.....	464	4753	340	2927	271	1342	174	995
Mothers advised by Doctor regarding their own health...	21	229	28	118	15	67	42	82

Voluntary workers.—I have again to express appreciation of the kind assistance given by voluntary workers at the various clinics.

Supply of Milk.—Dried milk was sold at the clinics to suitable cases.

During the year supplies of milk were given free under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, to

- 161 expectant mothers
 125 nursing mothers
 187 children.

Milk is given only to—

- Nursing mothers who are actually suckling their children ;
- Expectant mothers in the last three months of pregnancy ;
- Children up to twelve months whose mothers are unable to nurse them ;

and to these only when the doctors at the clinics have satisfied themselves, by a medical examination of the cases on whose behalf the applications have been made, that the supply is essential on grounds of health.

ANTENATAL CLINIC.

During the year a report (No. 109) was issued by the Medical Research Council (under the administrative direction of a committee of the Privy Council) which has an important bearing on the work of antenatal clinics, and of antenatal supervision generally.

This report set out the results of a clinical and pathological study of 1,673 cases of dead-births and of deaths among newly-born children.

Among the conclusions reached by the investigators (Dr. Eardley L. Holland and Dr. Janet E. Lane-Claypon)—

1. Maternal ill-health during pregnancy is a factor which is probably of great importance in relation to the occurrence of dead-births.

2. A very high proportion—not less than 25 per cent., and perhaps more—of all dead-births are due to the accidents and complications associated with manipulation by midwife or doctor at birth. Such manipulation is often necessary in the interests of either the mother or the child, but *efforts should be directed towards the reduction of the need for obstetric interference.*

“ If pelvic contraction were discovered sufficiently early before the onset of labour there can be little doubt that measures would be taken which would result in a saving of infant life and of much maternal suffering and possibly consequent ill-health. If the urine of pregnant women were examined repeatedly during pregnancy there would be less need for rapid intervention and manipulation in cases of toxæmia. Similarly, if attention were paid to the occurrence of hæmorrhage during the later months of pregnancy equally good results would almost certainly be secured, and the cases such as those described in the present report would be, in large measure at any rate, avoided. . . .

“ The women of this country are only gradually beginning to appreciate the importance of antenatal supervision, and some of them are not as yet prepared to accept it at all. The medical profession as a whole have, perhaps, not as yet been aware of the value of antenatal supervision as a prophylactic measure of a general kind, and further education of many of the practising midwives is also required.

“ If antenatal supervision were effectively used by all pregnant women, many deaths such as are shown in this report would not occur, and such deaths might even perhaps be eliminated in certain classes considered.”

At the Birkenhead antenatal clinic 51 sessions were held during the year; 483 new cases were seen, and 2,217 revisits were made. The total attendances thus numbered 2,700 visits.

Condition with regard to pregnancy.—The condition of the 483 cases with regard to pregnancy, at the time of their first attendance, was as follows:—

- (a) 56 were in their first pregnancy.
- (b) 310 were in their second or subsequent pregnancy (79 of these patients had attended the clinic during a previous pregnancy; 56 had attended during two previous pregnancies; 21 had attended during three previous pregnancies; and 2 had attended during four previous pregnancies.
- (c) 117 were not pregnant (5 attended the clinic for a second year and 1 for a fourth year).

Attendances.—The attendances made during the year were as follows:—

Attendances made by the new cases as classified above:

(a)	79
(b)	2354
(c)	167

Attendances made during 1926 by patients who were attending the clinic at the end of 1925 100

2700

Abnormalities.—The abnormalities or diseases found to be present in the new cases who attended the clinic during 1926 were as follows:—

- (a) Women who came to the clinic in their first pregnancy

Abnormality	No. of cases
Venereal disease	1
Other defects	1

- (b) Women who came to the clinic in their second or subsequent pregnancy

Abnormality	No. of cases
Venereal disease	10
Albuminuria	2
Rheumatism	1
Hernia	1
Other defects	3

- (c) Women who were not pregnant when they first attended the clinic

Abnormality	No. of cases
Debility after confinement.....	22
Retroversion of uterus	13
Venereal disease	14
Conditions associated with menopause	7
Hæmorrhoids	3
Nephritis	2
Enlarged liver.....	3
Rheumatism	4
Hernia	1
Prolapse of uterus	3
Irregular menstruation	8
Other defects	30

Progress of pregnancies.

- (a) Of the 56 women who came in their first pregnancy
- 41 were delivered before the end of 1926, having 17 boys and 24 girls
 - 1 had a miscarriage
 - 2 have left the town and have not been traced
 - 12 were not delivered before the end of the year.
- (b) Of the 310 in their second or subsequent pregnancy
- 205 were delivered before the end of the year, having 100 boys and 108 girls (including 3 sets of twins and 7 still-born children)
 - 9 had miscarriages
 - 10 left the district
 - 86 were not delivered before the end of the year.

Maternity outfits.—13 outfits were lent out and 9 were returned during the year. 4 outfits were still in use at the end of the year.

OTHER PROVISION MADE BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Cases dealt with at Borough Hospital.—During the year 2 cases were admitted into the Borough Hospital under the terms of the agreement; the number of bed days being 54.

Cases dealt with at Maternity Hospital.—During the year 13 cases were admitted into the Maternity Hospital under the terms of the agreement; the number of bed days being 331.

Cases dealt with by the Birkenhead District Nursing Society.—During the year the Society's nurses paid 1,011 visits to 50 cases, as per agreement between the Society and the Corporation. In addition 1,447 visits were paid to 85 cases in children under 5 years of age not included in the agreement.

Cases of confinements attended by medical practitioners.—In 147 cases where doctors were called in to difficult cases of confinement the doctors' fees were paid by the Corporation under the provisions of the Midwives' Act, 1918. Recovery of the fees paid were made in 3 of the cases.

Cases of temporarily necessitous cases attended by midwives.—In 36 cases where midwives attended temporarily necessitous cases of confinement the midwives' fees were paid by the Corporation under the provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.

AGENCIES ASSISTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The Corporation gives financial support to certain other institutions, etc., for general services rendered in connection with maternity and child welfare work.

Birkenhead Day and Resident Nurseries.—Here accommodation is provided for 24 day children and 14 boarders.

Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association.—Arrangements are made by this association to send children to convalescent homes, and to provide massage treatment for cases of infantile paralysis, etc.

St. Faith's Home for Mothers and Babies.—Here accommodation is provided for unmarried mothers and their children—22 beds for babies and 12 for mothers.

The grants made by the Corporation to the above agencies for the current financial year were as follows:—

Birkenhead Day and Resident Nurseries	£100
Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association	50
St. Faith's Home for Mothers and Babies	50
	£200

AGENCIES NOT PROVIDED OR ASSISTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Other agencies whose work in Birkenhead touches the welfare of mothers and infants, but which are not provided or assisted by the Birkenhead Corporation, are the following:—

The Birkenhead Union.

The Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital.

The Charity Organisation Society.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The Naval and Military War Pensions Committee.

The Sisters of Charity (St. Elizabeth's) Welfare Centre,
Claughton Road, Birkenhead.

The Gynæcological Clinic at the Borough Hospital.

HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

Staff.—Dr. A. R. Balmain, who was engaged during the earlier part of the year whole time on the work of school medical inspection and treatment, left Birkenhead on 30th June to engage in research work in London. He was succeeded by Dr. Anna M. Williams, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., who took up duty on 16th August.

Dr. Deacon, Dr. Foster and Dr. Hood have carried out school medical service duties throughout the year, Dr. Foster having charge of the X-Rays Clinic at the Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital.

Recent developments.—The present report contains a review of the first complete year of the new Orthopædic clinic, which was opened in November, 1925 (page 88). The success of this clinic has much exceeded expectations.

Prospective arrangements calling for consideration.

1. *Partially blind children.*—The provision of special facilities for this class of child is urgently required. In my annual report for 1925 this subject was fully dealt with, and the essential features of special classes for partially blind children discussed. At the end of 1926 there were 53 children in this category. Definite deterioration has taken place during the past year in the sight of 16 children out of the 54 referred to in my 1925 report as cases which should be dealt with in special classes.

2. *Open-air school.*—Reference has been made in previous reports to the need for an open-air country school for sub-normal children. The need is an urgent one and should receive early consideration.

3. *Extension of dental inspection and treatment.*—It is hoped that during 1927 the existing dental scheme (which affects only one section of the school population) will be extended. The usefulness of routine dental inspection and treatment has been clearly demonstrated.

4. *Provision of operative treatment for cases of nose and throat obstruction.*—Facilities should be provided for this form of treatment during the coming year. A considerable number of severe cases of adenoids and enlarged tonsils is discovered annually in the course of school medical inspection: cases where the associated obstruction to respiration is affecting the general health and frequently causing deafness, chest weakness, anæmia and debility. For these cases suitable operative treatment should be available.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT (ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS).

(A) INSPECTION.

Number of elementary schools and school children.—The number of elementary schools in the borough is:

Council Schools	16	
Voluntary Schools	19	Total 35

The recognised accommodation of these schools on the 31st December, 1926, was:

Council Schools	13,418	
Voluntary Schools	12,745	Total 26,163

The average number of scholars on the rolls during the year was:

Council Schools	11,542	
Voluntary Schools	12,274	Total 23,816

The average attendance was:

Council Schools	10,217	
Voluntary Schools	10,756	Total 20,973

Children inspected.—The following elementary school children were medically inspected during the year:—

1. At Routine Inspections	7246
2. At Special Inspections in the ordinary schools	216
3. As prospective entrants to the Institute for Boys, the Girls' Secondary School, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, Higher Tranmere High School for Girls, The Convent Secondary School, St. Francis Xavier's College and the Catholic Institute	296
4. As entrants to the Cloughton Road Special School for Mental Defectives	24
5. Under the Employment of Children Bye-laws	107
Total	7889

Re-examination of defective children.—During the year 4,189 re-examinations of defective children were made by the Assistant Medical Officers.

Co-operation of parents.—Parents attended at the examination of 4,928 (68.1 per cent.) of the 7,246 children dealt with at routine inspections; and 281 (94.9 per cent.) of the 296 prospective entrants to secondary schools.

Increasing appreciation of the work of the school medical service is evidenced by a steadily rising percentage of parents' attendances—

1922	59.2%
1923	60.4%
1924	62.9%
1925	66.7%
1926	68.1%

Vaccination.—In the ordinary inspections children were examined as to vaccination marks. Of the 7,246 children examined

1693 (23.3%)	showed no marks.
2684 (37.0%)	showed one mark.
743 (10.3%)	showed two marks.
300 (4.2%)	showed three marks.
1826 (25.2%)	showed four or more marks.

It will be seen from the following figures, relating to the past ten years, that there has been a progressive decline in the number of children who are vaccinated—

Year	Percentage
1917	85.3
1918	86.6
1919	84.6
1920	81.8
1921	81.7
1922	80.6
1923	78.2
1924	78.9
1925	77.1
1926	76.5

Infectious diseases.—Enquiry was made at each inspection as to the infectious diseases from which the children had suffered in the past. The information elicited is summarised in Table S 5.

Defects found requiring medical or dental treatment.—Out of the 7,462 children inspected at routine and special inspections, 1,729 were found to have defects requiring medical attention. The defects found were as follows:—

	Code Group.	Special Cases.
<i>Skin Diseases</i>		
Ringworm	9	5
Scabies	8	4
Impetigo	25	11
Other diseases	13	6
<i>Eye Defects</i>		
Defective vision and squint (for further details see Table S 2)	373	58
External eye disease	53	11
<i>Ear Defects</i>		
Defective hearing	22	8
Ear disease	44	5
<i>Teeth defects</i>	477	26
<i>Nose and Throat Defects</i>		
Enlarged tonsils	184	1
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	40	2
Adenoids	51	4
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>		
Definite	1	1
Suspected	3	—
<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>		
Glands	1	—
Other forms	1	—
<i>Other Defects or Diseases</i>	470	48

A full statement regarding the defects found, setting out the number of defective children, is given in Table S 2. In Table S 7 the defective children are classified according to the schools attended.

(B) TREATMENT.

The parents or guardians of all children found at routine examinations to be defective are informed immediately of the need for medical advice or treatment. They are later visited at their homes by the Health Nurses and urged to obtain this advice or treatment, the Assistant Medical Officers making periodical re-examinations in the schools to ascertain what action has been taken.

During the past year the Health Nurses paid 1,407 visits to the homes of defective children in connection with "following up"—1,246 first visits and 161 re-visits; and 3,802 re-examinations of defective children were made by the Assistant Medical Officers. In addition, the Nurses paid 77 special visits.

Treatment of children found, at medical inspections held during 1926, to be suffering from defects which required medical attention.—As has been stated above, 1,571 out of the 7,246 children examined at routine or special inspections in elementary schools during 1926 were found to be suffering from defects requiring medical attention; of these 1,571, 587 or 37.4 per cent. received treatment before the end of the year.

Details of the various types of ailment treated will be found in Table S 4.

Treatment carried out at the Eye Clinic.—Children who were found by the Assistant Medical Officers to require spectacles, and whose parents were not in a position to secure the necessary attention privately, were seen at the Eye Clinic by Dr. Balmain and Dr. Williams, who were capably assisted by Mr. Norman Wilson.

During the year 465 new cases were examined, 520 children attended for re-examination, and 636 pairs of spectacles were supplied. The total cost of all the spectacles which were ordered during the year was £139 14s. 5d. The amount recovered from the parents was £109 7s. 7d.

The following is a summary of the visual defects of cases (new or re-examined) for whom spectacles were prescribed during the year:—

			%
Hypermetropic group:	Hypermetropia	189	26.9
	Hyp. astigmatism	290	41.2
Myopic group:	Myopia	86	12.2
	Myopic astig.	90	12.8
	Mixed astig.	49	6.9
		704	100

31 children who were submitted to refraction were found to be emmetropic and not in need of spectacles.

The following conditions were also recorded among the new cases who attended the clinic:—

Leucoma	16
Amblyopia	10
Nystagmus	4
Interstitial keratitis	3
Optic atrophy	2
Coloboma of iris and choroid with nystagmus	1
Coloboma of disc	1
Retino-choroiditis	1
Paralysis of recti	1
Injury to eye	1

The new cases of strabismus noted during the year were as follows:—

Convergent: Right eye, 37; left eye, 67; alternating, 8.
Divergent: Left eye, 2; alternating, 1.

Blind and partially blind children.

(1) *Totally blind children.*

At the beginning of 1926 there were 8 *totally blind* children of school age on the register. During the year the name of 1 girl was taken off (on her parents' removal to Liverpool) and 5 were added; leaving 13 at the end of the year.

(2) *Partially blind children.*

At the beginning of 1926 there were 54 *partially blind* children of school age on the register. During the year the names of 10 children were removed (on their becoming over school age), and 9 new cases were added. At the end of 1926 there were 53 cases on the register. Of these, 50 were attending ordinary elementary schools (27 boys and 23 girls), and 3 boys were excluded from school.

Myopia	8
Myopia and nystagmus	3
Myopic astigmatism	2)
Myopic astigmatism and nystagmus	1
Mixed astigmatism	1
Mixed astigmatism and nystagmus	1
Mixed astigmatism and retino-choroiditis	1
Hypermetropic astigmatism and nystagmus	1
Hypermetropic astigmatism and retino-choroiditis	2
Hypermetropia and retino-choroiditis	2
Optic atrophy	2
Dislocated lenses	1
Interstitial keratitis	1
	—
	53

Of 32 children in the myopic group who were on the register in 1925, and who were re-examined during 1926, the visual defect of 16 had grown worse; in 1 case it had improved.

Treatment carried out at the X-Rays Clinic.—During the year 36 cases were treated for ringworm at the X-Rays Clinic by Dr. Foster.

189 exposures to X-Rays were given; the average duration of exposure, which is strictly regulated by the pastille dose, was about 16 minutes.

As a result of the apparatus at the Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital being out of order for several months the work carried out at this clinic was much curtailed.

Treatment carried out at the General School Clinic.—Details of the work of this clinic, where cases of external eye disease, ear inflammation, skin disease, etc., are treated, will be found in Tables S 4 and S 6.

The number of children who received treatment at the Clinic was 2,235; the total attendances numbered 13,473.

Treatment carried out at the Orthopædic clinic.—This clinic was opened in November, 1925. The clinic is held every Saturday morning at the premises in Albion Street occupied by the Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association; the surgeon (Mr. Hartley Martin) attending on the third Saturday of each month, and the after-care sister weekly.

All forms of crippling disease in children are dealt with at the clinic. The cases fall into three main groups:—

(a) *Tuberculous cases.*—For the cost of these the Health Committee is responsible.

(b) *Non-tuberculous cases under school age.*—For these the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee is responsible.

(c) *Non-tuberculous cases of school age.*—These cases are chargeable to the Education Committee.

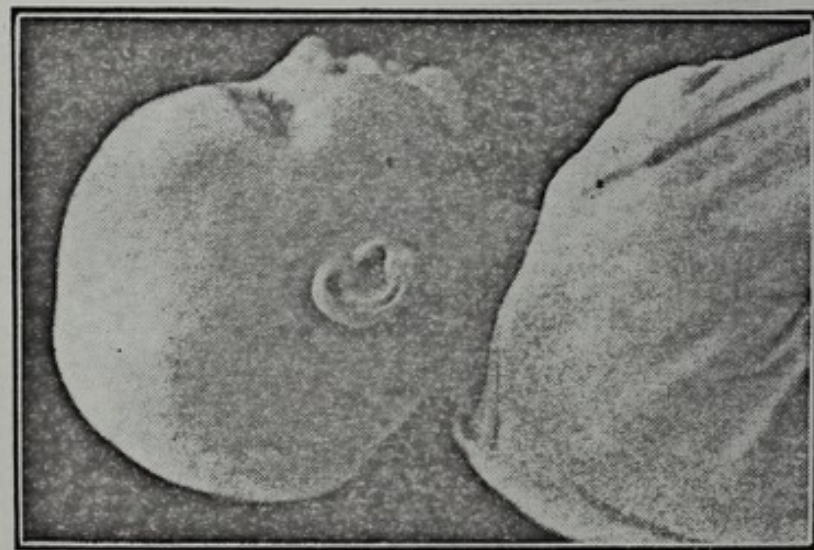
During 1926, the first full year, no fewer than 124 new cases were dealt with.

	Under school age	Of school age	Over school age	Total
Tuberculous	2	13	—	15
Non-tuberculous	51	58	—	109
	53	71	—	124

All these cases were examined by Mr. Hartley Martin, who, in addition, carried out *re-examinations* as follows:—

	Under school age	Of school age	Over school age	Total
Tuberculous	1	15	1	17
Non-tuberculous	58	127	—	185
	59	142	1	202

X-RAYS TREATMENT OF RINGWORM.



ONE MONTH AFTER EPILATION.

X-RAYS TREATMENT OF RINGWORM.



TWELVE MONTHS AFTER EPILATION.

The average number of cases dealt with per session by the surgeon was, approximately:—

First examinations	10
Re-examinations	17

Out of the 124 new cases seen, 111 were selected as suitable for treatment. Of this number, 21, or 19 per cent., were found to require hospital treatment, and were sent to Leasowe Hospital.

The following table gives an indication of the nature of the treatment prescribed for the new cases seen during the year:—

Nature of case	Treatment required						Total
	Observation only	Splints and surgical boots	Splints and surgical boots with massage	Massage and muscle education	Hospital treatment	Unsuitable for treatment	
Tuberculous Arthritis and Osteitis	9	2	—	—	4	—	15
Non-Tuberculous Arthritis and Osteitis	3	—	—	—	1	—	4
Infantile Paralysis.....	1	5	6	3	2	—	17
Spastic Paralysis	3	—	—	6	2	1	12
Rickets	16	5	—	—	10	—	31
Deformities—							
(a) congenital	1	—	2	—	1	—	4
(b) acquired	7	4	4	11	1	2	29
Other cases sent for diagnosis	1	—	—	—	—	11	12
	41	16	12	20	21	14	124

Treatment of uncleanness.—The average number of visits paid during 1926 by the Health Nurses to each school in the Borough was 18; the total examinations numbering 40,433.

The number of individual children found by the Health Nurses to require attention was 3,067, as compared with 5,130 in 1925. In every case the parents were informed. In 54 cases of persistent neglect notices were served; and 17 children were compulsorily cleansed at the cleansing station. The Nurses paid 8 visits to the homes of children (4 first visits, 4 re-visits).

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT (ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS).

(A) INSPECTION.

Scope of past year's work.—The work of dental inspection and treatment proceeded during 1926 on the lines of the curtailed scheme decided upon by the Education Committee and described in my annual report for 1922. This scheme was concerned chiefly with the periodical re-inspection and treatment of *those children who had been examined in the original dental inspection* which was carried out during 1921 and the first part of 1922; children born in the years 1914, 1915, and 1916 being dealt with.

Number inspected.—5,029 children were dentally inspected during the year as follows:—

Aged nine years	810
Aged ten years	1546
Aged eleven years	1622
Aged twelve years	1051
	5029

The figures for the preceding year (1925) were:—

Aged eight years	40
Aged nine years	1564
Aged ten years	2782
Aged eleven years	1509
	5895

Number requiring dental treatment.—Of the 5,029 children inspected, 3,098 (61.8%) were selected as requiring treatment, the parents being advised to obtain this treatment privately, or, if unable to do this, at the Dental Clinic.

Cleanliness of teeth.—The children examined were classified according to cleanliness of teeth as follows:—

Clean	1268
Fairly clean	2876
Dirty	885
	5029

Condition of gums.—The following figures show the condition of the gums of the children examined:—

Gums healthy	4038
Gums inflamed	793
Gums septic	198
	5029

Condition of bite.—This was found to be as set out below:—

Bite good	3570
Bite fair	1102
Bite bad	357
	5029

(B) TREATMENT.

Notices were sent out to the parents of the 3,098 children found to require dental treatment, with the following results:—

Refused to have treatment done	326	(10.5%)
Stated that treatment would be obtained privately ...	796	(25.7%)
Requested treatment at the Dental Clinic	1976	(63.8%)
	3098	

Treatment at the Dental Clinic.—Of the 1,976 children for whom treatment at the clinic was requested

1570 were treated before the end of the year
319 did not attend when sent for
87 were awaiting treatment at the end of the year
1976

In addition to the above 1,570 children treated at the clinic following on inspections held in 1926, 91 were treated who had been inspected in 1925 and had not been treated before the end of that year; and 399 children who were brought by the parents on their own initiative to the clinic were also treated. The total number of children treated at the clinic during 1926 was therefore

Following on 1925 inspections	91
Following on 1926 inspections	1570
Brought by parents on their own initiative	399
	2060

Details of treatment carried out.—This was as follows:—

Temporary teeth extracted	2173
Temporary teeth filled	44
Permanent teeth extracted	276
Permanent teeth filled	1739
Total extractions	2449
Total fillings	1783
Anæsthetics—general	—
local	1421
Scalings	1209
Dressings	529

The total number of attendances at the clinic numbered 2,584.

The number of treatments completed during the year was 1,915. 1,074 parents paid 1s. each and 24 parents 6d. each for treatment; the total amount paid being £54 6s. 0d.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT (SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.)

The powers and duties of local education authorities with regard to medical inspection and treatment in secondary schools and continuation schools are set out in Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921.

Schools at which medical inspection is carried out.—Medical inspection is arranged for at the following schools:—

	No. on Roll.
(a) Provided by the Local Education Authority—	
The Birkenhead Institute (Boys)	509
The Girls' Secondary School	360
Park High School	171
Rock Ferry High School	201
(b) Not provided by the Local Education Authority—	
The Higher Tranmere High School for Girls	225
The Convent Secondary School	322

There are no continuation schools provided by the local education authority at which medical inspection has to be carried out.

Scope of medical inspection.—The existing arrangements provide for the examination once in each year of every child in the schools inspected; and for the re-examination of children found to be defective

The opinion of the Board of Education in this connection is expressed in Circular 1153:—"In view of the many defects that may arise during the critical period of adolescence, the Board attach great importance to arrangements being made for all pupils to come annually, as a matter of routine, under medical supervision."

Birkenhead Institute.—At the annual inspection 408 children were inspected. Included in that number there were 57 children now examined for the first time as secondary school children. 117 were found to have defects requiring medical or dental advice, the defects found being as follows:—

Defective teeth	62
Defective vision	45
Nose and throat defects	6
Deformities	1
Heart disease	7
Other defects	21

Girls' Secondary School.—At the annual inspection 324 girls were examined—221 in the senior school and 103 in the junior school.

Included in the above total (324) there were 48 children now examined for the first time as secondary school children.

Of the 324 children examined, 46 were found to have defects requiring medical or dental attention; the defects found being as follows:—

Defective teeth	32
Defective vision	7
Deformities (spinal curvature, pigeon chest)	3
Heart and circulation defects	5
Skin disease	1
Other defects	1

All the children found to be defective were kept under observation and re-inspected later in the year. By the end of the year 31 out of the 46 had received appropriate treatment as shown below:—

	Treated by end of year	Per- centage.
Defective teeth	8	25
Defective vision	4	57
Deformities	2	67
Heart, etc., defects	—	—
Skin diseases	1	100
Other defects	1	100

Higher Tranmere High School for Girls.—At the annual inspection 46 children were inspected. 5 were found to have defects requiring medical or dental advice, the defects found being as follows:—

Defective teeth	4
Deformities	1

Rock Ferry High School.—At the annual inspection* 89 children were inspected. 30 were found to have defects requiring medical or dental advice, the defects found being as follows:—

Defective teeth	14
Defective vision	7
Nose and throat defects	3
Deformities	1
Heart	3
Other defects	6

*This inspection was not completed before the end of the year.

Park High School.—At the annual inspection 113 children were inspected. 25 were found to have defects requiring medical or dental advice, the defects found being as follows:—

Defective teeth	14
Defective vision	5
Nose and throat defects	1
Deformities	1
Heart	1
Other defects	6

Convent F.C.J.—At the annual inspection 303 children were inspected. 46 were found to have defects requiring medical or dental advice, the defects found being as follows:—

Defective teeth	34
Defective vision	7
Nose and throat defects	2
Deformities	1
Other defects	2

MISCELLANEOUS.

Examination of entrants to the Girls' Secondary School, the Birkenhead Institute, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, Higher Tranmere High School for Girls, The Convent Secondary School, St. Francis Xavier's College, and the Catholic Institute.—

The average ages of the children attending the school, and their classification, are shown below:—

Class	Boys		Girls	
	Average chronological age	* Average educational age	Average chronological age	* Average educational age
1	13	8½	13	8½
2	11	7	12	7½
3	10	6	12	6½
4	9	6	9½	5
5	8	4½	9	4½
6	9	—	9½	—

*Educational age based on Dr. Cyril Burt's Educational Age Tests.

School dinners have been provided throughout the year at a cost to the parent of 2d. per day.

Daily average supplied	86
Total cost for the year	£143/6/8

The weekly menu was:—

<i>Monday</i>	Soup; boiled suet and syrup pudding
<i>Tuesday</i>	Irish stew; milk pudding.
<i>Wednesday</i> ...	Potato pie.
<i>Thursday</i>	Irish stew; bread pudding.
<i>Friday</i>	Vegetable hot-pot; milk pudding.

Provision of meals.—No figures are available for the calendar year 1926. During the financial year, 1st April, 1926, to 31st March, 1927, 1,451 children have been supplied with 122,063 meals. Meals were provided five days per week, with the exception of Bank and Public Holidays.

Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association.—During the year cases of deformity, paralysis, etc., were from time to time referred to this Association, and valuable assistance was given—massage and other suitable treatment being provided.

The following table shows the number of massage cases among children of school age dealt with by the Association during the year:—

	Sent from School Clinics	Other cases	Total
Children under treatment at the end of 1925	32	29	61
New children treated during the year	27	13	40
Children discharged during the year—Sent to hospitals or died	16	10	26
Children who ceased attending before completion of treatment or left the town ..	16	9	25
Children under treatment at end of 1926	27	23	50

The 59 cases referred from the school clinics to the Association were as follows:—

Disease	No. of cases
Scoliosis	5
Chest deformity	25
Infantile paralysis	7
Spastic paralysis	1
Bronchitis (chronic)	2
Rickets	1
Post-pneumonia	2
Debility	2
Round shoulders	5
Rheumatism	1
Lordosis	1
High shoulders	1
Fracture	1
Flat feet	2
Wry neck	2
Chorea	1
	—
	59
	—

Assistance has also been given to children of school age in the following ways:—

	Sent from School Clinics	Other cases	Total
Children supplied with milk	134	271	405
Children supplied with tonics	266	274	540
Children supplied with surgical apparatus.. ..	30	78	108
Children sent to convalescent and country hospitals	52	70	122

In every case the parents pay something towards the cost of treatment.

TABLE S 1.

Return of Medical Inspections during 1926 (see note *a*).

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections (see note <i>b</i>)	
Entrants	2883
Intermediates	1917
Leavers	2416
Total	7246

Number of other routine inspections (see note *c*)

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of re-inspections (see note <i>e</i>)	7381
Number of special re-inspections (see note <i>d</i>)	3286
Total	10667

NOTES ON TABLE S 1.

- (*a*) The return refers to a complete calendar year.
- (*b*) This heading relates solely to the routine medical inspection of the three ordinary age groups, *i.e.*, to medical inspections carried out:—
- (i) in compliance with Article 7 of the Consolidated Regulations relating to Special Services—Grant Regulations No. 19;
 - (ii) on the school premises (or at a place specially sanctioned by the Board under Article 44 (*h*) of the Code);
 - (iii) for the purpose of making a report on each child on the lines of the approved Schedule set out in Circular 582.
- (*c*) Under this heading may be recorded *routine* inspections, if any, of children who do not fall under the three code age-groups, *e.g.*, *routine* inspections of a fourth age-group or of other groups of children, as distinct from those who are individually selected on account of some suspected ill-health for a "Special" Inspection.
- (*d*) A Special Inspection is a medical inspection by the School Medical Officer himself or by one of the Assistant Medical Officers on his staff of a child specially selected or referred for such inspection, *i.e.*, not inspected at a routine medical inspection as defined above. Such children may be selected during a visit to the school or may be referred for inspection by the teachers, health nurses, attendance officers, parents, or otherwise. It is immaterial for the purpose of this heading whether the children are inspected at the school or at the Inspection Clinic or elsewhere. If a child happens to come before the School Medical Officer for special inspection during a year in which it falls into one of the routine groups, its routine inspection is entered in Part A of Table S 1 and its special inspection in Part B. The inspection to be recorded under the heading of special inspections is only the first inspection of the child so referred for a particular defect. If a child who has been specially inspected for one defect is subsequently specially inspected for another defect, such subsequent inspection is recorded as a special inspection and not as a re-inspection.
- (*e*) Under this heading are entered the medical inspections of children who as the result of a routine or special inspection come up later on for subsequent re-inspection, whether at the school or at the inspection clinic. The first inspection in every case is entered as a routine or special inspection as the case may be. Every subsequent inspection of the same defect is entered as a re-inspection.
- Nothing is included under the head of special inspections or re-inspections except such inspections as are defined above. Attendances for treatment by a nurse or for examinations by anyone other than a doctor on the staff of the School Medical Service are not recorded as medical inspections. If, however, at any such attendance, a child is also examined by a member of the authority's medical staff, this is recorded as a special inspection or re-inspection as the case may be, even if treatment is also given; but such attendance may also of course be recorded as an attendance for treatment.

TABLE S 2.

A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection during the year ended 31st December, 1926.

Defect or disease (1)	Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment (5)
<i>Malnutrition</i>	40	5	39	—
<i>Uncleanliness</i>	—	—	—	—
(See Table S 4, Group V.)				
<i>Skin</i> Ringworm—Scalp	6	—	105	—
..... Body	3	—	61	—
..... Scabies	8	—	49	—
..... Impetigo.....	25	—	584	—
..... Other diseases (non-tuberculous).....	13	2	160	—
<i>Eye</i> Blepharitis	26	1	69	—
..... Conjunctivitis	5	—	120	—
..... Keratitis	—	—	12	—
..... Corneal opacities	2	—	20	—
..... Defective vision (excluding squint).....	278	14	80	—
..... Squint.....	95	7	28	—
..... Other conditions	20	4	74	—
<i>Ear</i> Defective hearing	22	5	27	—
..... Otitis media	35	—	116	—
..... Other ear diseases	9	—	23	—
<i>Nose and throat</i> Enlarged tonsils only	184	103	29	1
..... Adenoids only	51	12	13	1
..... Enlarged tonsils and adenoids.....	40	2	10	—
..... Other conditions	14	7	85	—
<i>Enlarged cervical glands (non-tuberculous)</i>	24	10	18	—
<i>Defective speech</i>	4	2	2	—
<i>Teeth</i> Dental diseases (see note a).....	477	2	55	—
(See Table S 4, Group IV.)				
<i>Heart and circulation</i> —				
..... Heart disease—Organic	24	16	10	—
..... Functional	38	31	15	—
..... Anæmia	73	5	83	—
<i>Lungs</i> Bronchitis	53	8	95	—
..... Other non-tuberculous diseases	38	33	93	—
<i>Tuberculosis</i> ... Pulmonary—Definite	1	2	2	—
..... Suspected.....	3	1	3	—
..... Non-pulmonary—Glands	1	—	1	—
..... Spine	—	—	1	—
..... Hip	—	—	—	—
..... Other bones and joints	—	2	—	—
..... Skin	—	—	8	—
..... Other forms.....	1	—	4	—
<i>Nervous system</i> Epilepsy	—	—	9	—
..... Chorea.....	2	—	10	—
..... Other conditions	5	3	14	—
<i>Deformities</i> Rickets	4	1	1	—
..... Spinal curvature	9	2	3	—
..... Other forms	25	3	15	—
<i>Other defects and diseases</i>	107	23	1195	—

TABLE S 2—Continued.

B. Number of *individual children* (see note *b*) found at *routine* medical inspection to require treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental diseases).

Group. (1)	Number of children.		Percentage of children found to require treatment (4)
	Inspected (see note <i>c</i>). (2)	Found to require treatment. (3)	
CODE GROUPS:			
Entrants	2883	514	17.8
Intermediates.	1947	400	20.5
Leavers	2416	657	27.2
Total (code groups)	7246	1571	21.7
Other routine inspections	—	—	—

NOTES ON TABLE S 2.

(a) The figures included in this space refer to the findings of the Medical Staff and not those resulting from dental inspection in the schools by the School Dental Surgeon. The findings of the School Dental Surgeon are recorded in Table S 4 Group IV.

(b) No individual child is counted more than once in this part of Table S 2, i.e., under B., even if it is found to be suffering from more than one defect.

(c) The figures in this column are the same as those given in Table S 1 A.

TABLE S 3.

Return of all exceptional children in the area (see note a).

			Boys	Girls	Total
<i>Blind</i> (including partially blind) (see note b)	(i) Suitable for training in a school or class for the totally blind	Attending certified schools or classes for the blind	5	3	8
		Attending public elementary schools (see note c)	2	1	3
		At other institutions	-	-	-
		At no school or institution	2	-	2
	(ii) Suitable for training in a school or class for the partially blind	Attending certified schools or classes for the blind	-	-	-
		Attending public elementary schools (see note c)	27	23	50
		At other institutions	-	-	-
		At no school or institution	3	-	3
<i>Deaf</i> (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf) (see note d)	(i) Suitable for training in a school or class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb	Attending certified schools or classes for the deaf	3	7	10
		Attending public elementary schools (see note c)	-	-	-
		At other institutions	-	-	-
		At no school or institution	-	-	-
	(ii) Suitable for training in a school or class for the partially deaf	Attending certified schools or classes for the deaf	-	-	-
		Attending public elementary schools (see note c)	4	-	4
		At other institutions	-	-	-
		At no school or institution	-	-	-
<i>Mentally defective</i>	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority.) (see note e.)	Attending certified schools for mentally defective children	80	54	134
		Attending public elementary schools (see note c)	-	-	-
		At other institutions	-	-	-
		At no school or institution	-	-	-
	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year	Feeble-minded	1	-	1
		Imbeciles	-	-	-
		Idiots	-	-	-
<i>Epileptics</i>	Suffering from severe epilepsy (see note f)	Attending certified special schools for epileptics	-	2	2
		In institutions other than certified special schools	-	-	-
		Attending public elementary schools (see note c)	-	1	1
		At no school or institution	1	-	1
	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe (see note g)	Attending public elementary schools (see note c)	-	2	2
		At no school or institution	-	-	-
<i>Physically defective</i>	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis (see note h)	At sanatoria or sanatorium schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	-	2	2
		At other institutions	-	-	-
		At no school or institution	2	2	4
	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis (see note h)	At sanatoria or sanatorium schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	1	2	3
		At certified residential open air schools	-	-	-
		At certified day open air schools	-	-	-
		At public elementary schools (see note c)	9	5	14
		At other institutions	-	-	-
		At no school or institution	-	1	1

TABLE S 3—Continued.

<i>Physically defective (continued)</i>	Delicate children (<i>e.g.</i> , pre- or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anaemia, etc.) (see note <i>h</i>)	At certified residential open air schools	—	—	—
		At certified day open air schools.....	—	—	—
		At public elementary schools (see note <i>c</i>).....	66	58	124
		At other institutions	—	—	—
		At no school or institution	1	—	1
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis (see note <i>h</i>)	At sanatoria or hospital schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	7	12	19
		At public elementary schools (see note <i>c</i>).....	8	7	15
		At other institutions	—	1	1
		At no school or institution	3	1	4
	Crippled children (other than those with active tuberculous disease), <i>e.g.</i> , children suffering from paralysis, &c., and including those with severe heart disease (see note <i>h</i>)	At certified hospital schools	—	—	—
		At certified residential cripple schools	1	—	1
		At certified day cripple schools	—	—	—
		At public elementary schools (see note <i>c</i>).....	23	23	46
		At other institutions	—	—	—
		At no school or institution	—	—	—

NOTES ON TABLE S 3.

(a) This Table is a return of all children in the area for whom the Local Education Authority are responsible and who (except in the case of children suffering from epilepsy which is not severe) have been ascertained to be blind, deaf, defective or epileptic within the meaning of Part V of the Education Act 1921. It is the statutory duty of every Local Education Authority formally to ascertain all defective children in their area irrespective of the actual provision now made for their instruction in Special Schools. It is assumed by the Board of Education that every authority will have a complete list of such children compiled from returns made continuously during the year and kept constantly up to date. In order to secure uniformity, authorities are requested to make up this Table from their list of defective children as it stands on the last day of each calendar year.

Children who are living in residential schools in the area but who come from other areas are not included in this Table; but children are included who are living in residential schools outside the area and who are being maintained there by the authority.

For the purpose of this Table no child is included whose defect has not been ascertained by the School Medical Officer or a medical member of the authority's staff.

The definitions of defective children as given in the Act are as follows—

A blind child is a child who is too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children.

A deaf child is a child who is too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school.

Mentally and physically defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull and backward, are defective, that is to say, children who by reason of mental or physical defect are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools, but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in such special classes or schools as under Part V of the Act may be provided for defective children.

Epileptic children are children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary public elementary schools.

NOTES ON TABLE S 3—Continued.

(b) For the purpose of this return the Board require that children who are blind within the meaning of the Act should be divided into two categories, *i.e.*, (1) those who are totally blind or so blind that they can only be appropriately taught in a school or class for totally blind children, and (2) those who though they cannot read ordinary school books, or cannot read them without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school or class for the partially blind.

It should be understood that children who are able by means of suitable glasses to read the ordinary school books used by children without fatigue or injury to their vision are not included in this Table.

(c) The Board emphasises the fact that it should be understood that none of the children in this Table (except children suffering from epilepsy which is not severe) should in fact be attending public elementary schools. When the heading is retained, it is merely because at present the insufficiency of Special School accommodation makes it impossible to do better for some defective children than to allow them to attend the ordinary school. No space is left for the entry of children with infectious pulmonary tuberculosis attending public elementary schools, as these children should, of course, be promptly excluded from such schools.

(d) Children who are deaf within the meaning of the Act are classified for the purpose of this Table as (1) totally deaf or so deaf that they can only be appropriately taught in a school or class for the totally deaf, and (2) partially deaf, *i.e.*, those who can appropriately be taught in a school or class for the partially deaf.

(e) This category includes only those children for whose education and maintenance the Local Education Authority are responsible, and who are not eligible for notification to the Local Control Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act.

(f) In this part of the Table only those children are included who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act.

(For practical purposes the Board are of opinion that children who are subject to attacks of major epilepsy in school should be recorded as "severe" cases and excluded from ordinary public elementary schools.)

(g) In this part of the Table are entered the remainder of the epileptic children in the area, *i.e.*, children whose disease is of such a kind as not to unfit them for attendance at an ordinary public elementary school.

(h) The exact classification of physically defective is admittedly a matter of difficulty. The Board request School Medical Officers to record these defective children as accurately as possible under the selected sub-headings, taking care that *no child is entered under more than one sub-heading.*

TABLE S 4.

Return of Defects treated during the year ended 31st December, 1926
(see note a).

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness, for which see Group V).

Defect or disease (1)	Number of defects treated, or under treatment during the year		
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note b.) (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
<i>Skin</i> —Ringworm—scalp	101	5	106
body	59	—	59
Scabies	44	—	44
Impetigo	571	9	580
Other skin diseases	151	6	157
<i>Minor eye defects</i>	263	7	270
(external and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)			
<i>Minor ear defects</i>	152	10	162
(see note c)			
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	1157	23	1180
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, &c.)			
Total ..	2498	60	2558

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding minor eye defects treated as minor ailments—Group I.)

Defect or disease (1)	Number of defects dealt w			
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note b.) (2)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total (5)
Errors of refraction (including squint) (operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the report)	713	17	—	730
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	30	—	—	30
Total	743	17	—	760

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's scheme	704
(b) Otherwise	17

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's scheme	635
(b) Otherwise	17

TABLE S 4—Continued.

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Number of defects.				
Received operative treatment.			Received other forms of treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's scheme, in clinic or hospital (see note <i>b</i> .) (1)	By private practitioner or hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme. (2)	Total. (3)		
—	17	17	54	71

Group IV.—Dental Defects.

(1) Number of children who were—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

Routine age groups—aged 9	810
aged 10	1546
aged 11	1622
aged 12	1051
Special (see note <i>d</i>)	—

5029

(b) Found to require treatment 3098

(c) Actually treated 2060

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination (see note *e*) 521

(2) Half-days devoted to—Inspection 46

Treatment 302

318

(3) Attendances made by children for treatment 2584

(4) Fillings.....Permanent teeth 1739

Temporary teeth 44

1783

(5) Extractions.....Permanent teeth 276

Temporary teeth 2173

2449

(6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions —

(7) Other operations.....Permanent teeth 417

Temporary teeth 112

529

Scalings 1209

Local anæsthetics 1421

Group V.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions (see note *f*).

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by Health Nurses 18

(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by Health Nurses 40433

(iii) Number of individual children found unclean 3067

(iv) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority 17

(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken—

(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 —

(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws —

NOTES ON TABLE S 4.

(a) The Table deals with all defects treated during the year, however they were brought to the Authority's notice, *i.e.*, whether by routine inspection, special inspection, or otherwise, during the year in question or previously.

(b) This heading includes all cases that received treatment under definite arrangements or agreements for treatment made by the Local Education Authority and sanctioned by the Board of Education under Sections 16 and 80 of the Education Act, 1921. Cases which, after being recommended for treatment or advised to obtain it, actually received treatment by private practitioners, or by means of direct application to Hospitals, or by the use of hospital tickets supplied by private persons, etc., are entered under other headings.

(c) The Board request that if any treatment is given for more serious diseases of the ear (*e.g.*, operative treatment in hospital) it should not be recorded here but in the body of the School Medical Officer's Annual Report.

(d) The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by medical officers, parents, teachers, etc., on account of urgency. The number inspected in each age group is separately shown, as well as the total, but under "Specials" only the total number is given.

(e) It should be understood that all the cases entered under this head are also entered under head (c)

(f) A statement as to the arrangements made by the Local Education Authority for cleansing verminous children and a record of the cases in which legal proceedings were taken are included in the body of the School Medical Officer's report.

N.B.—Groups I—V above cover all the defects for which treatment is normally provided as part of the School Medical Service. The Board request that particulars as to the measures adopted by the Authority for providing treatment for other types of defect (*e.g.*, for orthopædic treatment) or for securing improvement in types of defect which do not fall to be treated under the Authority's own scheme and for which the Authority neither incur expenditure nor accept any responsibility, together with a statement of the effect of the measures taken, should be included in the body of the School Medical Officer's report; such particulars following the headings of Table S 2.

TABLE S 5.

Past Infectious Diseases (Elementary School Children).

(1) Children aged 3—7		No. of Cases.	Percentage.
No Infectious Disease	534	13.5	
Measles	2010	69.7	
Whooping Cough	1393	48.3	
Scarlet Fever	101	3.5	
Diphtheria	44	1.5	
Chicken Pox	806	28.0	
Mumps	444	15.4	
(2) Children aged 8—14		No. of Cases.	Percentage.
No Infectious Disease	323	7.5	
Measles	3827	87.7	
Whooping Cough	2192	57.1	
Scarlet Fever	344	7.9	
Diphtheria	144	3.0	
Chicken Pox	1918	44.0	
Mumps	1269	29.1	

Note.—The same child may have had more than one of these diseases

TABLE S 6.
Defects dealt with at the Minor Ailments Clinic month by month.

Month	NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES FOR TREATMENT							RESULTS	
	Ringworm	Impetigo	Scabies	Eye diseases	Ear diseases	Other defects	Total No. of attendances	No. cured	No. of new cases
January	74	334	9	133	42	205	797	25	49
February	78	424	4	233	126	432	1297	40	184
March	55	467	2	215	237	729	1705	37	72
April	50	371	22	230	111	480	1264	34	188
May	84	450	11	268	129	511	1453	55	202
June	83	536	22	235	138	475	1489	46	154
July	24	92	8	53	24	100	301	4	22
August	87	229	3	49	55	153	576	21	117
September	122	298	13	210	91	525	1259	66	212
October	101	347	1	201	94	392	1136	53	187
November	56	408	—	225	108	565	1362	71	218
December	48	273	4	180	91	238	834	46	117
Totals	862	4329	99	2232	1246	4805	13473	498	1722

TABLE S 7.
Number of children examined at Routine Medical Inspections in the Schools and number found defective in each School.

SCHOOL	Entrants	Intermediates	Leavers	Total ordinary inspections	Parents present	Number of defective children	Number of defects found	CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS										Totals					
								Malnutrition	Skin diseases	Eyes	Ears	Nostril and throat	Cervical glands (non-tuberculous)	Defective speech	Teeth	Heart and circulation	Lungs		Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	Nervous system	Deformities	Other defects and diseases
Bidston Avenue	116	88	71	275	221	74	84	—	—	18	6	16	—	—	23	9	7	—	—	—	1	4	84
Brassie Street Infants ..	98	60	—	153	120	30	34	—	1	4	1	5	1	—	6	6	3	1	—	—	1	5	34
Catleat Street	125	76	78	279	190	72	81	—	—	23	5	17	2	—	16	12	3	—	—	—	—	3	81
Hemingford St. Infants ..	97	60	—	157	140	10	11	—	4	1	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11
Laird Street	99	69	98	266	179	71	80	—	—	11	7	25	1	—	20	4	2	—	1	2	—	7	80
Mersey Park	106	90	67	263	193	55	61	—	2	6	2	16	3	1	18	1	4	—	—	—	3	5	61
Pilgrim Street	108	68	64	240	190	65	69	4	1	14	3	9	1	1	14	6	9	1	—	—	3	36	9
Rock Ferry	137	78	127	342	240	80	91	6	5	28	—	12	—	—	22	6	5	—	—	1	3	3	91
The Woodlands	123	72	83	278	198	19	19	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	13	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	19
Well Lane	88	108	109	305	206	63	64	2	4	11	1	15	2	—	16	2	3	—	—	1	1	6	64
Woodchurch Road	188	110	76	374	273	104	114	6	1	19	1	25	2	—	23	8	12	—	—	—	3	14	114
Park Road Temporary ..	26	6	—	32	28	7	7	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	7
Cleveland Street	84	39	—	123	94	24	28	—	—	7	4	1	1	—	8	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	28
Price Street	—	—	—	19	19	10	8	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Claughton H.G.	115	89	98	302	221	64	74	1	2	15	—	19	—	—	17	7	4	—	1	1	5	3	74
Holy Trinity	76	56	80	212	147	9	10	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	10

Our Lady's	148	74	84	306	208	86	100	5	5	24	5	20	1	—	15	10	7	—	—	—	2	6	100
Oxton	21	15	32	68	27	12	15	1	—	3	1	2	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	1	1	15
Rock Ferry H.G.	106	57	57	220	155	44	50	3	—	6	1	13	1	—	19	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	50
St. Andrew's	44	81	16	91	82	5	7	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
St. Anne's	107	52	75	234	177	73	90	2	3	26	5	14	—	—	10	7	14	—	—	—	2	7	90
St. Anne's R.C.	105	68	87	260	140	76	86	2	5	20	2	12	—	—	33	2	3	—	—	—	2	5	86
St. Catherine's	52	39	66	157	81	50	57	1	4	9	7	10	1	—	16	3	1	—	—	—	—	5	57
St. James'	48	35	38	121	81	42	50	1	1	13	3	5	—	—	14	8	3	—	—	—	—	2	50
St. John's	84	93	79	256	155	24	26	—	1	19	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	26
St. Joseph's	42	23	16	81	59	21	22	—	—	8	—	5	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	3	22
St. Laurence's	182	132	137	457	326	74	79	—	—	19	—	2	1	1	45	4	1	1	—	—	2	3	79
St. Luke's	75	64	81	220	164	64	74	4	3	18	1	10	3	—	20	5	3	—	—	—	2	5	74
St. Paul's	64	38	41	143	80	13	13	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	13
St. Peter's	72	45	73	190	100	59	66	1	2	20	4	15	—	—	9	4	6	1	3	—	1	3	66
St. Walburgh's	113	82	68	263	161	40	47	—	5	16	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	47
Tanmere H.G.	39	30	38	107	80	20	20	—	—	8	1	2	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Brassie Street Central ..	—	—	119	119	56	38	47	—	—	11	2	5	—	—	11	12	3	—	—	1	1	1	47
Hemingford St. Central ..	—	—	107	107	47	25	29	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	29
Temple Road Central	—	—	124	124	51	28	32	—	3	9	—	2	—	—	12	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	32
St. Hugh's Central	—	—	67	67	22	17	21	—	—	11	—	2	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	21
Conway Street Central ..	—	—	41	41	20	8	9	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	9
Combined Totals	2883	1947	2416	7246	4928	1571	1775	40	55	426	66	289	24	4	477	135	101	14	2	7	38	107	1775

* The number of defects found is in excess of the number of defective children, as one child may have several defects.

