

[Report 1921] / Medical Officer of Health, Cannock U.D.C.

Contributors

Cannock (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1921

Persistent URL

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

License and attribution

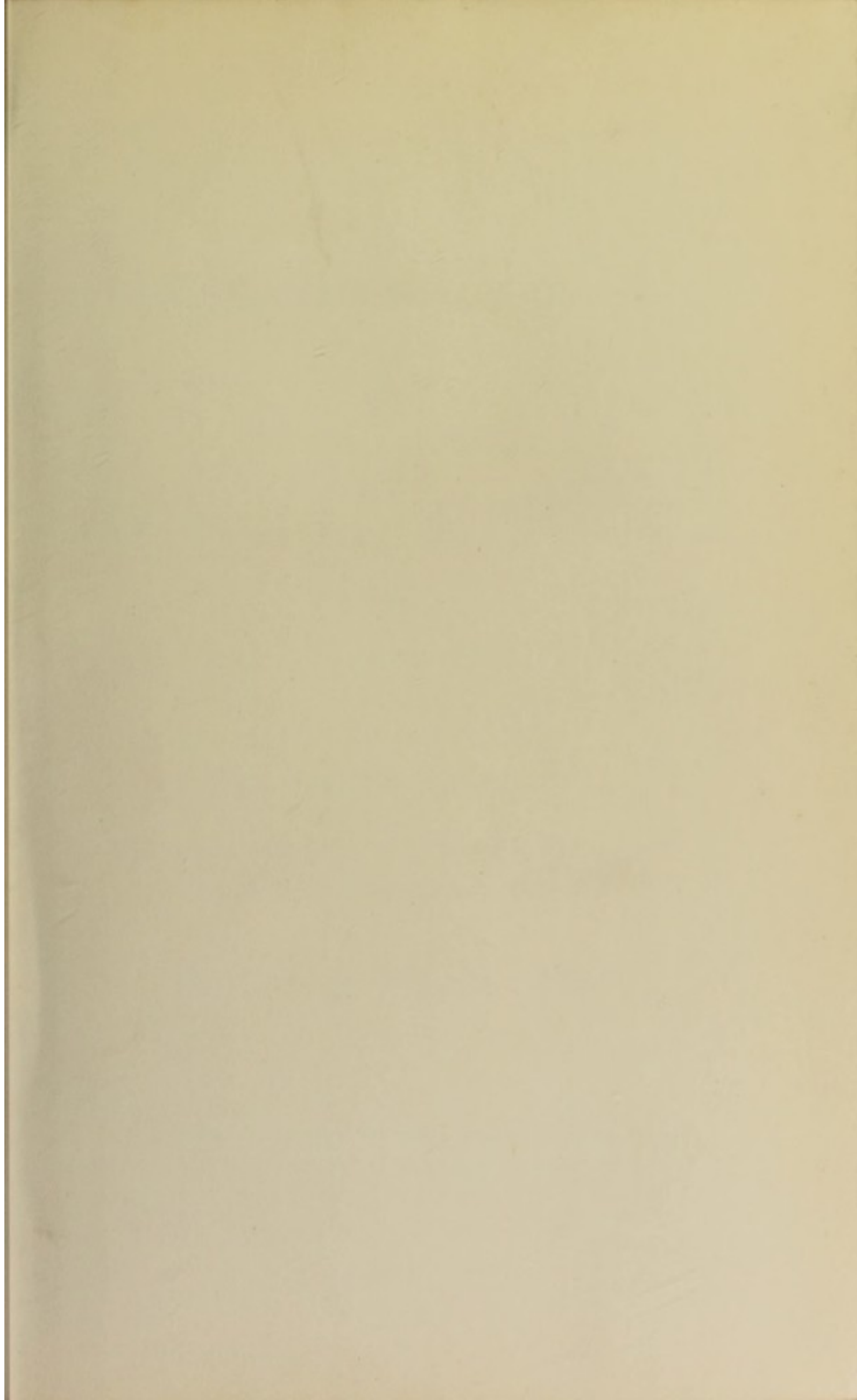
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

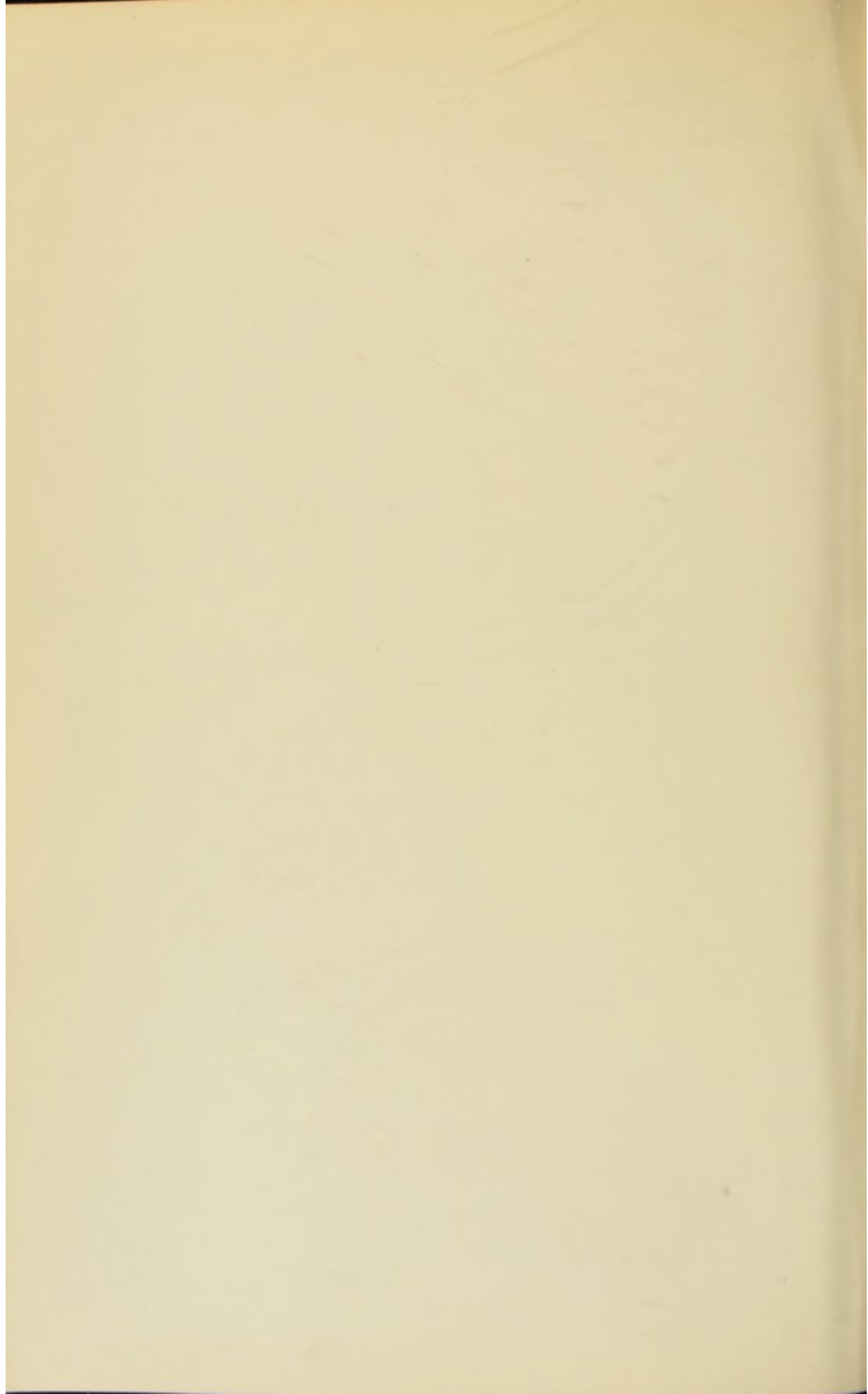
This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

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



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





Cannock Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. M. CLENDINNEN,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Diplomate of Public Health, University of Cambridge ;

Fellow Society of Medical Officers of Health.

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

Printed, by order of the Urban District Council,
by Evans's the Printers, Hednesford.

CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health,

W. M. CLENDINNEN, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(Diplomate of Public Health, University of Cambridge),

For the Year 1921.



GENTLEMEN,

This report is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. Full and detailed reports are intended, in future, to be made once in five years.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ...	...	...	8010
Population (1921) ...	...	...	32,930
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ...	...	...
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ...	...	...
Rateable value ...	...	...	£127.666
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	£430

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.
Births—legitimate	...	944	486	458
illegitimate	...	35	20	15

Birth rate (R.G.), 29.7.


Deaths	390	212	178
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Death rate (R.G.), 11.8.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1921.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under one Year.	Cannock	Bridgtown	Hednesford	Littleworth	Chadsmoor	Heath Hayes
All causes { Certified ...										98						
{ Uncertified ...										3						
Overlain			1		1	1	1		1	1					2	1
Syphilis										2						
Tuberculous Meningitis ...									1	1	1					
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)																
Convulsions		1			1	1	1			3			1	1	1	
Bronchitis						1				1						
Pneumonia (all forms) ...			1		1	1	3	1	6	12	3		2	4	3	
Diarrhoea				1	1	1	3	1	2	8	5	2			1	
Enteritis			1	2	3	3	2	4		12	1		1	5	3	2
Injury at Birth	2				2					2	1		1			
Atelectasis	2				2					2	1			1		
Congenital Malformations ...	2	1	1	1	5					5	1	1	1		1	1
Premature Birth	18	1	1		20	1				21	6	1	3	4	3	4
Atrophy, Debility and																
Marasmus	7	2	6	3	18	3	3	1	1	26	4	4	4	5	5	4
Other causes	4		1		5					5	3	2				
Totals	35	5	12	7	59	12	13	7	10	101	26	10	13	20	20	12



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

<https://archive.org/details/b29090830>

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

(a) From Sepsis	...	...	2
(b) From other causes	...	...	1

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births:—

Legitimate	...	...	101
Illegitimate	...	...	171
Total	...	...	104

Average of previous five years, 97.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	—
„ „ Diarrhœa, under 2 years of age	...	24

It is to be noted, as regards the general death rate and birth rate, that the figure taken for population for 1920 was too high, and the rates given consequently were too low.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The rise is entirely due to the increased number of deaths under one month from prematurity, etc., and to diarrhœal deaths consequent on the hot, dry summer, as shown below.

RATES PER 1,000 BIRTHS.

Deaths under one month	...	...
Five years, 1916—1920	...	...	43
1921	...	...	61·2

Deaths from specified causes:—

	Diarrhœal	Respiratory	Congenital*
5 years 1916—1920	6·6	21	48·1
1921	20·6	13·4	60·1

* Includes premature birth, congenital malformations, atrophy, debility and marasmus, atelectasis, syphilis.

In 1911 when similar weather prevailed the diarrhœal rate was 30, or just 50 per cent higher than 1921.

In past years the “congenital” deaths have on occasions given a much higher rate than in 1921.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Particulars are in the accompanying tables.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases notified	...	11
Cases treated—		
(a) At home	...	9
(b) In hospital	...	2
Result—		
Vision unimpaired	...	10
„ impaired	...	1
„ lost (blindness)		0
Death	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notification of Tuberculosis has been fairly well carried out during the past year. Three of the unnotified fatal cases were not known to be tubercular until an operation or P.M. was performed. I have communicated with the practitioners concerned in the other cases.

TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH VISITING.

Primary Visits	...	66
Re-visits	...	796
Special Visits	...	14
Useless Visits	...	56

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Three cases of encephalitis lethargica were notified in January : a man, aged 53 ; a woman, aged 34 ; and a baby of 3 months.

All occurred in Hednesford Ward but in different houses, and no connection between them was established.

The cases were investigated by the late Dr. Farrar, of the Ministry of Health. No deaths occurred. Some mental change has been noticed since the illness in one of the patients. One or two abortive cases also occurred.

Four cases of Enteric Fever were notified from one house. All were removed to Wolverhampton General Hospital. One death occurred. The source of infection was not discovered the first case being that of a child aged six years, who had not been away from home. There is little doubt that the other cases were infected in the home from the first.

Cases of Diphtheria numbered 78 ; there were eight deaths giving a mortality of ten per cent.

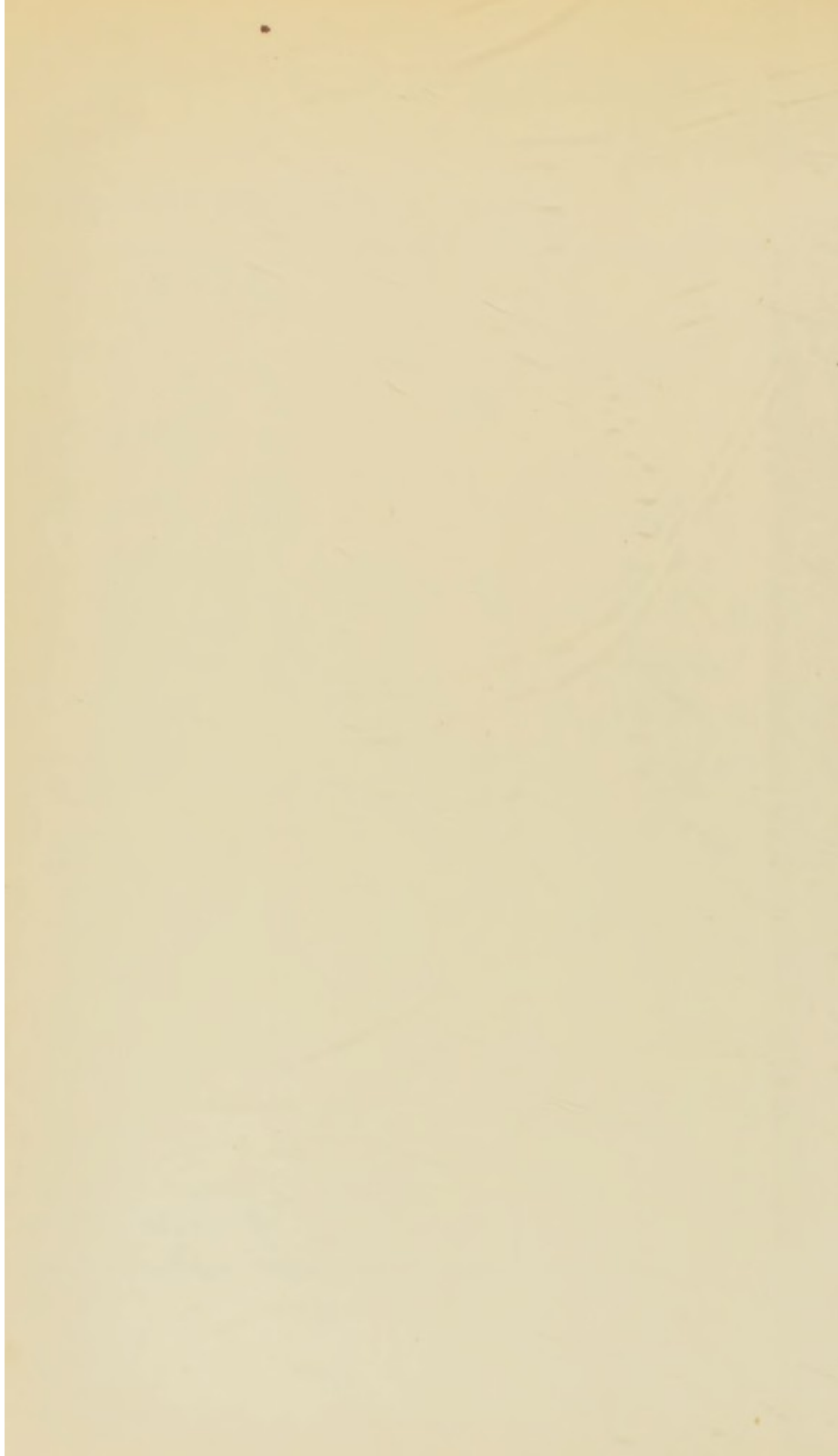
Notifiable Disease Deaths, 1921.

[illegible]



Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1921.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.													Total	Total Deaths	TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	Under 1	At Ages—Years.														
		1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over				
Diphtheria	1	2	2	4	10	31	18	6	2	2			78	8	7	
Erysipelas							1		1	3	4	1	10	1		
Scarlet fever			2	4	2	18	17	5	1	1			50		1	
Enteric Fever						1		1			2		4	1	4	
Puerperal Fever									4		1		5	2		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	{M F					1	3	2	3	1	6		16	15		
						1	2	3	11	2	2		21	10		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	{M 1 F					4	1						6	4		
						2	3	1	2	1			9	4		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	11												11	1	2	
Dysentery						1							1		1	
Pneumonia						2			1				3	11		
Encephalitis Lethargica	1								1		1		3			
Acute Poliomyelitis		1											1	1		
Totals... ..	14	3	4	8	12	61	45	18	26	10	16	1	218	58	15	



5. SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

DISTRICT NURSING.

There are three Nursing Associations, viz :—Cannock, Hednesford, and Chadsmoor. They are affiliated to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and employ one Nurse each.

They are financed by collections in the homes and at the collieries, and by voluntary subscriptions.

The Council subsidise each Association by a grant of £25 per annum, in consideration of the Nursing of Measles, Whooping Cough, Epidemic Diarrhoea, Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Poliomyelitis being undertaken. One quarter of the district still remains to be provided for in the matter of District Nursing.

MIDWIVES.

No Midwife is now employed or subsidised by the Council.

Fifteen Midwives practice in the district, of whom, eight are certified and seven bona fide. Some of the Certified Midwives attend only a small number of patients and it cannot be said that the provision for midwifery is satisfactory.

An improved service is one of the chief requirements needed to pull down the Infant Mortality, more than one third of the total in 1921 occurring in the first week of life.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

1. Wesleyan Sunday Schools, Walsall Road, Cannock.

2. Victoria Street, Hednesford.

Both provided by Council. Weekly Sessions.

Accommodation at each.

Assembly room, Weighing room, Doctor's room.

Total attendances of Infants	...	2408
------------------------------	-----	------

HEALTH VISITORS' WORK.

Primary visits paid to Infants	...	966
--------------------------------	-----	-----

Re-visits	...	5116
-----------	-----	------

Special visits	...	138
----------------	-----	-----

Visits to Measles	...	55
-------------------	-----	----

Useless visits	...	530
----------------	-----	-----

Visits to children over one year included in above	2361
--	------

SCHOOL CLINICS.

Minor Ailments.

1. Church Street, Cannock.

2. Victoria Street, Hednesford.

Accommodation : — Waiting room, Treatment room, Inspection room, Bath, at each ; also Vermin Disinfector at Cannock.

Total attendances of children	...	9,570
-------------------------------	-----	-------

HOSPITALS.

I.—Tuberculosis.

The following Institutions provided by the County Council:—
Sub-dispensary, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, consisting of two rooms in a cottage. Adults, Tuesdays, 3 p.m. ; children, Fridays, 3 p.m.

SANATORIA.

1. Children's, Himley; early pulmonary and certain non-pulmonary cases.
2. Groundslow, Tittensor, females only.
4. Edge View, Kinver, males only.
5. Yarnfield, females; early cases.

Surgical Tuberculosis :—

1. Birmingham Orthopædic Hospital.
2. Cripples' Aid Society, Stoke.

II.—Maternity.

No hospital.

III.—Children.

No hospital.

IV.—Fever.

Cheslyn Hay Hospital, Rural District Council. Is occasionally used by the Urban District Council.

V.—Small Pox.

Arrangements are being made jointly with the Rural District Council.

VI.—Hednesford Accident Home.

Sixteen beds; voluntary institution.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) For infectious cases the Council have a horsed ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases the collieries have three or four vehicles, one of which depends on motor traction. Further provision is desirable.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Clinics at Wolverhampton and Walsall hospitals.

6. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Under arrangements made by the County Council with Birmingham University, the following examinations were made.

SWABS FOR DIPHTHERIA.

	Positive	Negative
Private Practitioners	20	35
M.O.H. ...	32	250

SPUTUM FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

	Positive	Negative
Tuberculosis Officer	1	1
Private Practitioners	2	7

WIDAL BLOOD TEST.

Four specimens were sent, of which one was positive and three negative.

Antitoxin for Diphtheria is supplied free to Medical Practitioners.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS IN FORCE.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3	1903
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	1914
Bye-laws, New Streets and Buildings	1878
„ Slaughterhouses ...	1878
„ Nuisances ...	1915
„ Cleansing of footways and pavements	1915
„ Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	1915
„ Management of Mortuary ...	1915
„ Common Lodging Houses ...	1915
Regulations, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	1914

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:—

At the end of 1921 there were

Wet Ash pits	...	...	...	1959
Dry fixed Ash pits	...	...	...	950
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	620
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	2538
Pans	...	...	...	119
Dustbins	...	...	...	1232

During the year, 42 Water Closets were substituted for 29 Privies.

WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Number of Inspections made	...	...	2176
Number of Notices served—			
(a) Preliminary	...	...	162
(b) Statutory	...	...	124
Result of service—			
(a) Nuisances abated after service of Preliminary Notice	...	...	111
(b) After Formal Notice	...	...	14
Improvements to Houses, e.g., repairs to walls roofs, floors, windows, etc. (220 sash cords fixed)			
...	...	...	937
Rooms cleansed	...	...	69
Spouting provided or repaired	...	...	89
Yards paved	...	...	10
Paving repaired	...	...	22
Improvements to Closets, Drains, etc.			374
(516 yards new drains were laid.)			
Wash Houses—			
New sanitary sinks	...	...	34
Other Improvements	...	...	126
Other Improvements, to external walls, chimneys, coalhouses			140

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

I presented a report in December, which may be summarised as follows:—Of 29 of these premises in the district, 19 are registered, 6 on annual licence, and 4 on continuing licence.

In case of one subject to annual licence, it was not renewed. One registered slaughterhouse is not in use at present. Nine of the premises are at a distance of 12 yards or less from the nearest house, five are at a distance of 30 yards or more, and the remainder are at distances between 12 yards and 30 yards.

In the case of three premises the water supply required improvement.

Where there is sanitary accommodation in the yard, in the great majority it is in the form of a water closet. In five cases where the accommodation is of privy midden type, the desirability of conversion to the water carriage system was pointed out. In one case there was an open cesspit close to the window of the slaughterhouse.

In eight cases where horses are kept, the stable is in air communication with the slaughter chamber.

In two cases pigs are fed in the fasting pen. In two or three cases pigs are kept in the yard within the prohibited distance from the house.

In several cases rats infest the premises. Proper receptacles for garbage etc, as required by the Bye-laws, are not provided and nuisances exist from accumulations of manure.

Instructions were given for remedy of these matters to be required and a further report will shortly be presented.

The Sanitary Inspector reports 1323 visits to Slaughterhouses and Meat Shops. Food surrendered during the year was 7 cwts. 3 qrs. 14 lbs.

The Council have recently declined to grant licences for additional slaughterhouses. It is desirable that new slaughterhouse bye-laws should be adopted, those in force having been made in 1878.

In several cases sausages and other meat products are made up in the slaughter chamber. In one case domestic clothes washing is done in the slaughter chamber.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

There is a Thresh Steam Disinfector in the Council Yard and a small steam disinfector in the Cannock School Clinic.

Rooms are disinfected by formalin or sulphur and 141 were done during the year in connection with infectious disease, including tuberculosis. Four shelters and two schools were sprayed and fumigated.

Lots of bedding, steam disinfected, numbered 27.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that "there are 42 cowkeepers using 50 cowsheds and keeping 213 cows. The cowsheds have been visited periodically. There are 14 milk purveyors."

It will be seen that there are many small traders and few, if any, really comply with the regulations, either in the matter of their methods or their premises.

I have dealt with this subject in previous reports and I hope that in the coming year improvements will be effected.

CANAL BOATS.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that he made 104 inspections and that no contravention of the Canal Boats Act was found.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health }
" " Child Welfare } W. M. Clendinnen, M.B., D.P.H.
" " (School) }

Sanitary Inspector, John Turton, C.S.I., Meat Certificate.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss E. Wright, C.M.B., three years Hospital trained.
" E. H. Jones, C.M.B., " District " Diploma
Sanitary Training College.
" F. E. Beresford, C.M.B., Infirmary trained four years.
Mrs. L. G. Montague, C.M.B., three years Hospital trained,
Health Visitors and School Nurses Certificate, R.S.I.
Clerk, Maternity and Child Welfare, and School Medical
Service, Miss E. M. Croxall.

The above are whole time officers to whose salaries contribution is made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, (whole time) D. P. Nash, C.S.I.

9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- (a) Total 100.
- (b) As part of a municipal housing scheme, 68.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects.
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, 479.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation.

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.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under, sec. 28 of Housing Town Planning, etc, Act 1919.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 15
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—
 - (a) By Owners 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close. 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied.

(a) By Owners.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act 1909.

Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 0

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit 0

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

Amidst all the talk of economy, it seems necessary to raise a voice in the hope that some reasonable proportion may be observed in this matter.

Whatever may be the truth as regards the rest of the country, it is not a fact that shortage of houses in this district has been exaggerated, nor is it true to say that fewer dwellings are needed because young couples are postponing marriage. No, the people are herding together under deplorable conditions which are conducive of all kinds of evils.

Here is a man, a miner, perchance a discharged soldier, who with his wife and family, has to carry out all phases of daily existence in one room : cooking, eating, washing clothes, sleeping in it, day after day, his dirty pit clothes under one end of the bed and the domestic coals under the other.

The most remarkable thing is the wonderful patience of the people.

There are over 500 applicants for houses still unsatisfied, many of them discharged service men.

Remarks regarding the serious state of disrepair of many of the existing houses, detailed in former reports, still apply.

I am not in a position to supply some of the figures required in the appendix of the Ministry of Health.

I have lost all confidence in the Sanitary Inspector, and have no hope of regaining any.

Prosecutions against two families for failing to notify, and exposing children suffering from, scarlet fever were taken, and convictions secured.

Two lectures, illustrated by lantern slides, were given at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CANNOCK,

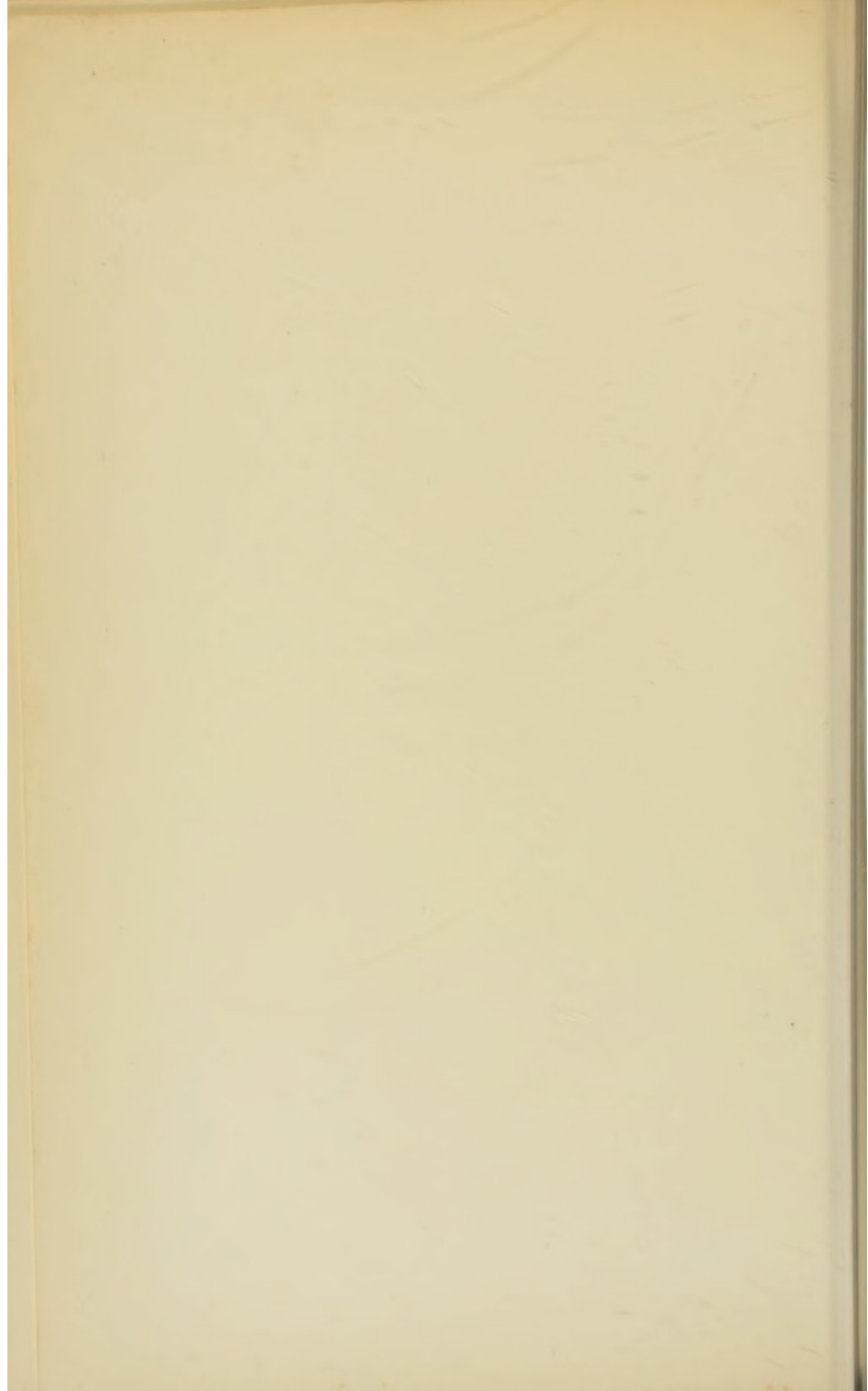
W. M. CLENDINNEN,

5th, April, 1922.



Causes of Death during 1921.

			Males	Females
1	Enteric Fever	... ..	1	—
2	Small Pox	... ..	—	—
3	Measles	... ..	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	... ..	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	... ..	—	—
6	Diphtheria	... ..	3	5
7	Influenza	... ..	5	1
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	... ..	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	... ..	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		15	10
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	4	4
12	Cancer—Malignant Disease	...	21	17
13	Rheumatic Fever	... ..	1	—
14	Diabetes	... ..	1	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	..	11	11
16	Heart Disease	... ..	15	23
17	Arterio-sclerosis	... ..	4	3
18	Bronchitis	... ..	14	7
19	Pneumonia—all forms	... ..	13	12
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	2	2
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		1	1
22	Diarrhœa, etc —under two years		19	5
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	—	1
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	... ..	—	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	4	—
26	Puerperal Sepsis	... ..	—	2
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	—	2
28	Congenital Debility, Malformation and Premature Birth	...	26	27
29	Suicide	... ..	2	—
30	Other deaths from Violence	...	12	3
31	Other defined diseases	...	35	39
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	3	2
	Total	...	212	178
	Special causes (included above)...		—	—
	Poliomyelitis	... ..	1	—
	Polioccephalitis	... ..	—	—





1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Premises 1	Number of		
	Inspection 2	Written Notices 3	Prosecutions 4
Factories, including factory laundries	3	3	---
Workshops, „ workshop laundries	---	---	---
Workplaces, other than outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this report	39	---	---
Total	42	3	---

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Particulars 1	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions, 5
	Found 2	Remedied 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector 4	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	2	1		
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	1		
Not separate for sexes ...	2	2		
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss 97 to 100)				
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork, which are included in part 3 of this report)				
Total	7	4		

3.—Home Work.

There is only one out-worker in the district, whose premises are satisfactory.

4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s 131) at end of the year					Number
Bakehouses—workshops	...	...	...	...	8
Shoeing Smiths	...	...	...	...	5
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	7
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	4
Tailoring...	...	...	...	...	8
Millinery	...	...	...	...	4
Garages ...	...	...	...	...	2
Bottling Stores	...	...	...	...	2
Upholstering	...	...	...	...	2
Saddlery ...	...	...	...	...	1
Mason ...	...	...	...	...	1
Sugar Boiling	...	...	...	...	1
Joinery ...	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of Workshops on Register ...					47

5.—Other Matters.

Class		Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Acts (s 133, 1901) ...		
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory & Workshop Acts (s 5, 1901)	Notified by H.M. Inspector... Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	7
Other ...	...	—
Underground Bakehouses (s 101) in use at end of year...		—

