

[Report 1915] / Medical Officer of Health, Castleford U.D.C.

Contributors

Castleford (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1915

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**URBAN DISTRICT OF
CASTLEFORD.**



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year ending 31st December,
1915.

Castleford :
Henry Fawbert and Sons, Printers, Carlton Street.

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1916.



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Urban District Council of Castleford.



Medical Officer's Report

for the year ending 31st December,
1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CASTLEFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Second Annual Report on the health of your District, for the year ending, December 31st, 1915.

This year has been a very unsatisfactory one for your Sanitary Department, seeing a great amount of such beneficial work of Privy Conversions, and Street Improvements, have had to be passed over owing to the war conditions, and therefore it was impossible for me to press your Council for improvements, that might be postponed, but which must be done at the first opportunity when we return to happier times.

Housing Scheme.

Unfortunately your scheme for Housing Accommodation has also had to be delayed, and this is very greatly to be regretted owing to the great scarcity of houses for the working class. The want is so urgent that unless some private building is soon begun, I consider, that at whatever cost, your Council should make arrangements to go on with your intended scheme.

Streets.

As to the Streets some of them are quite unfit to walk over, even in strong boots; so what must they be for the little children

going and coming from school? I do urge your Council to at once see that footpaths, where absent, either in the front or back streets, are at once made; so that the children may be protected from the risks of damp feet, and therefore from illnesses which are the result of colds; and by so doing you will be greatly helping to reduce our death rate.

The following are a few of the Streets I beg to call to your attention:—

1. The passage from Wheldon Lane to Alfred Street and Morley Street.
2. Malt Kiln Lane.
3. Regent Street.
4. Long Acre and Back Long Acre—Garden Street.
5. Crowther Street
6. Ridgefield Street
- } The Streets connecting these two.
-
7. The Bottom end of Lower Oxford Street, and the Cross Street going to Glebe Street.
8. Pretoria Street connections between Lower Cambridge Street and the bottom end of Ambler Street.
9. St. Nicholas Street and Ashton Street.

Health Visitors.

Miss Caddick and Miss Thorpe came to us and began work on March 16th, and continued here until the end of the year. They did good work both in the home visits when they were able to report to me cases of overcrowding and illnesses, &c., &c, and also when Mothers and Infants came to the Council Rooms. Under the Notification of Births Act they were, at once, able to get in touch with the Infants and Mothers, and were on the whole very well received. You have frequently discussed the question of an Infant Welfare Centre with a medical consultation, but up to now it has not been thought to be possible. There is no doubt that your properly trained Health Visitor is able to tell whether an infant or child is ill or no; and if so, she can then see that the parents consult their own medical man, and by so doing bring the parents to get medical advice earlier than they otherwise would have done.

The total number of visits made by the Health Visitors was—

For the Castleford Urban District Council	...	3034
„ West Riding County Council	...	5893

Population.

The Registrar General has notified me that the estimated population must be taken as 23,102, which was the civil population of our area on August 15th, 1915, as taken by the National Register; no attempt is made to increase this number by allowance for members of the fighting force because only civil deaths can be tabulated for local areas, and therefore under these circumstances the civil population is obviously the proper one to use for the calculation of death rates.

Births and Birth Rates.

There were 688 births registered in the District, viz.:—346 males and 342 females, which gives the annual birth rate at 29·7 per 1,000. There were six inwardly transferred births, which gives a total of 694 births, viz.:—349 males and 345 females, and the nett birth rate of 30 per 1,000. Of the above there were 30 illegitimate births, of which 13 were females, and 17 males; of these three females and three males were inwardly transferred. Last year there were 861 births registered, viz.:—435 males and 426 females, giving a nett birth rate of 34·5 per 1,000. The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year is 21·8.

Deaths and Death Rate.

There were 381 deaths registered during the year, viz.:—193 males and 188 females, giving an annual death rate of 16·5 per 1,000. In addition there were 54 inwardly transferred deaths from public institutions outside our District, giving a corrected total of 435 deaths, with an annual death rate of 18·8 per 1,000.

No uncertified deaths were registered during the year.

Last year there were 378 deaths, giving a death rate of 15·1 per 1,000.

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year is 15.1.

Classification of Deaths.

Classification of deaths according to ages :—

Under one year	...	...	...	...	115
1 year and under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	49
2 years	„	5	„	...	31
5 „	„	15	„	...	18
15 „	„	25	„	...	14
25 „	„	45	„	...	45
45 „	„	65	„	...	85
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	78
Total					435

Infantile Mortality.

From the above table it is seen that out of a total of 435 deaths 115 were in Infants under one year of age, which gives an Infantile Mortality of 165 per 1,000 births, which is the highest, but one, since 1910 (year). Among this number there are 19 deaths due to Premature Birth, Congenital Debility or Malformation, and without these, which it appears to me we have very little, if any, power to remedy, the Infantile Mortality would still stand at the alarming figure of 138 per 1,000 births.

The rate for the whole of England and Wales is 110.

Various Causes of Infantile Deaths.

The various causes of Infantile Deaths under one year.

Measles	...	...	...	...	6
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	9
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	4
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	4
Convulsions...	...	...	...	...	8

Bronchitis	7
Pneumonia	19
Enteritis	30
Congenital Malformations...	1
Premature Births	8
Atrophy Debility and Marasmus	10
Other Causes	8
Total ...	115

There are 13 more cases of death from Pneumonia than last year, and 26 cases less due to Premature Birth. Enteritis shows 30 deaths under one year, and with 10 between 1 and under 2 years, we get the large number of 40 Infants lost through this disease which is the chief cause of our Infantile Mortality, and no doubt mostly due to improper and careless feeding; and also with leaving the milk about, instead of at once covering it up, it gets contaminated by the flies, which so readily pass from the privy middens to the houses. This mortality is very disheartening after having two well qualified Health Visitors working for us for over nine months of the year.

Various Causes of Death at all Ages.

The various causes of death at all ages were:—

Enteric Fever	9
Measles	44
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	14
Diphtheria and Croup	1
Influenza	2
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	18
Tuberculous Meningitis	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases	9
Cancer, Malignant Disease	13
Meningitis	6
Organic Heart Disease	24

Bronchitis	50
Pneumonia (all Forms)	46
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	42
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	9
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	19
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)	17
Suicide	3
Other Defined Diseases	98
Diseases, Ill-Defined or Unknown	1
Total	435

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

There were 113 deaths during the year caused by the Zymotic Diseases as follows :—

Enteric Fever	9
Scarlet Fever	1
Diphtheria	1
Influenza	2
Whooping Cough	14
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	42
Measles	44
Total	113

This gives an Annual Zymotic Death-rate of 4·8 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 2·7 per 1,000. You will note that the cause of the increased Death-rate is due to the Epidemic of Measles.

The rate for England and Wales is 1·3.

Infectious Diseases.

182 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, viz. :—

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	6
Erysipelas		15
Scarlet Fever		88
Enteric Fever		16
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		25
Other Forms of Tuberculosis		27
Total		182

Last year there were 320 cases notified; and this great number was due to the Epidemic of Scarlet Fever, specially during the first half of the year; whereas this year we have only 88 cases notified as compared to 208 last year.

Diphtheria.

Of the six cases of Diphtheria notified, four were removed to the Joint Hospital—the other two being isolated and treated at home. The Disease resulted in one death.

Erysipelas.

Of the 15 cases of Erysipelas notified, all were treated at home, and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever cases, viz. :—88 were spread equally over the whole year, being most prevalent in the Weilbeck Ward with 30 cases; and the least in Wheldale Ward, viz. :—8 cases. As last year there was only one death. 79 cases were treated at the Joint Hospital.

Enteric.

There were 16 cases reported during the year, and 14 of these were removed to Hospital. The disease resulted in 5 deaths. During November we found mussels which were offered for sale to be markedly polluted (upon Bacteriological Examination,) therefore the consumption of mussels from these layings was stopped, but no cases were traced to these mussels.

Tuberculosis.

There were 25 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 27 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis. This is a slight decrease upon the number notified last year.

There were 18 deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which gives an Annual Death Rate of .77 per 1,000. The rate last year was .52 per 1,000; and from other forms of Tuberculosis there were 15 deaths. Wherever possible cases are sent to a Sanatorium for treatment.

Bronchitis.

50 deaths were due to Bronchitis. 7 of these were in Infants of under one year; and 24 in those of 65 years of age and upwards.

Pneumonia.

46 deaths occurred during the year; and 19 of these were in Infants under one year of age. One can not help thinking that if more care were taken to guard the very young children from the danger of "catching cold" we should have less deaths from either Bronchitis or Pneumonia. I also note that 8 were in children between one and under two years of age.

Diarrhoea.

I have already drawn your attention to the fact that 30 Infants under one year lost their lives from this disease, and when I now add that 10 more deaths took place at one and under two years of age, we find that 40 deaths out of 42 for the year occurred in Infants under two years of age. It seems to me that with this disease we have great scope for the Health Visitor to help to correct wrong

feeding, and also to urge the parents to seek Medical Advice at the first onset of the disease, when of course there would be much more chance of saving life.

Measles.

Unfortunately this year we were visited by a severe Epidemic of Measles which raged specially during October, November, and December, and which has been the cause of 44 deaths altogether, of which 41 were in children under 5 years of age. During October there were 7 deaths; November, 24 deaths; and December, 6 deaths.

I feel sure that many of these children might have had a good chance of being saved if only the parents had understood that a child, with an apparent cold, was then possibly in the early stage of Measles, and had at once treated their children seriously and kept them warm in doors, instead of allowing them to run about until the rash made its appearance.

So many infants were absent from the following Schools, that on October 29th, I asked for them to be closed for one month, viz. :—

Wheldale Infants.

Pontefract Road Infants.

Temple Street Infants.

Welbeck Street Infants.

Then on Nov. 12th, St. Joseph's Infant School had the number reduced to 46 out of 105, so that I was obliged to close this also for one month. During the time of closing all these schools were properly disinfected.

Water.

The supply is through the Wakefield Corporation, and has been clear and of a good quality.

Milk Supply.

The Milk Supply for our District is got from 26 persons, who are registered under the Dairies and Cowsheds, &c. Order. Of these

six are Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Milk Purveyors; and 20 are Dairymen and Milk Purveyors only. There are this year 3 Cow-sheds in the District, viz : - One which is in a fair condition; one is now undergoing alterations, whilst the other is unsatisfactory. These premises are frequently inspected and the great necessity of cleanliness is constantly impressed on the owners.

Slaughter Houses.

There are now 15 in the District, all being subject to annual license, and all are inspected as often as possible. Two were found dirty, one has been repaired, and one new one has been licensed and opened. If only it had been possible, there ought to have been a Public Slaughter House erected, and so to have done away, once for all, with any further private ones being erected.

Factories and Workshops' Act.

There are now 149 Premises on the Register, which number includes 22 Bakehouses, of which 12 are Domestic Bakehouses. These latter are regularly inspected, and have been found generally satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses.

As last year there are four in the District registered to accommodate 190 persons, which have been regularly inspected, and some action has been taken, viz. :—(1) With regard to necessary cleansing; (2) Sleeping in unregistered rooms; (3) The separation of the sexes.

Housing and Towns Planning Act.

Under this Act, 182 Houses have been inspected.

Do.	55	„	were found satisfactory.
Do.	114	„	were found to require repair.
Do.	13	„	totally unfit.
Do.	75	„	were made reasonably fit.
Do.	52	„	awaiting repairs or closure.
Do.	2	„	obstructive buildings demolished.

The following Streets have been Sewered, and Surfaces formed, Back Hugh-Ambler Street (whole length); Back Middle Oxford Street; Crowther Place; Beancroft Road; Commercial Street.

Back West Armitage Street has been Sewered only.

Your Council may be pleased with even this amount of improvement; and so far, I see no chance of yet taking in hand so many of the Streets, which really require your attention except as I have started earlier on in my report.

Public Health Laboratory.

The Bacteriological Laboratory at the County Hall, Wakefield, undertakes all examinations of specimens sent from this district. Specially in two cases we had the faeces and urine examined in a suspect carrier but the result was negative.

Scavenging.

In your District we now have 2425 privies in connection with middens, including 6 privies which have open middens.

Also there are 42 privies with pail or tub receptacles, you having had 6 converted during the year. Then there are 41 waste water closets against 44 of last year, you having converted 3.

During the year there have been 43 privies converted into water closets, which includes the 6 pail closets already mentioned.

14 water closets have been added to existing buildings, and 25 made in connection with new buildings.

The emptyings have been under the control of Mr Tate, and I believe the work has been done as well as possible with his existing helpers and the carts at his disposal, but I think we should aim at more frequent emptyings, say, each ashpit should be cleared at least 12 times a year, as the accumulation of this refuse is a great danger and in some cases acts as a source from which certain diseases are spread.

I am glad to notice in a recent return of the L.G.B. that in the Tabular Statements of Incidence of Infectious Diseases that Castleford per 1,000 of Population has its rate of Infectious Diseases much lower than in a number of other towns with similar circumstances in the West Riding.

In all Infectious Cases notified personal visits are made to the house so as if possible to find out the source of Infection. Also after recovery or after removal to Hospital, the house, bedding, and clothing are disinfected; and the house is specially inspected as to its Sanitary condition.

Your Sanitary Inspector has again made a very full report of his work, and personally I have nothing but praise for the way in which he has carried out his duties; and I must also testify to the courteous way in which he has always assisted me when called upon.

I append Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 to this report.

I am, Yours faithfully,

WM. KEMP.

Medical Officer of Health.

19th April, 1916.

**TABLE 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous years.
District : Castleford Urban.**

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor-rected Number	Nett.		Numb'r	Rate.	of Non-registered in the District.	of residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Numb'r per 1000	Rate	Numb'r	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	20389	777	777	38.1	296	14.5	—	16	104	133	312	15.3
1911	23244	756	760	32.6	348	14.9	1	38	116	152	385	16.5
1912	23815	825	828	34.7	229	12.5	2	49	95	115	316	14.5
1913	24457	762	773	31.6	382	15.6	3	44	144	186	423	17.2
1914	24958	853	861	34.5	330	13.2	—	48	104	120	378	15.1
1915	23102	688	694	29.7	381	16.4	—	54	115	165	435	18.8

Area of District in Acres—564 (land and inland water.)

Total population at all ages	...	...	23,101
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,575
Average number of persons per house	...	...	5

At Census, 1911.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the year 1915.

Name of District : CASTLEFORD URBAN.

NOTIFIED DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						Total Cases removed to Hospital	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Carlton Ward.	Hightown Ward.	Half Acres Ward.	Redhill Ward.	Welbeck Ward.	Wheldale Ward.		
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65								65 and upwds
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	6	...	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Erysipelas ...	15	...	...	2	2	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ...	88	...	21	55	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79	
Enteric Fever ...	16	...	1	7	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum ...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Pulmonary															
Tuberculosis ...	25	...	...	2	10	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	27	3	7	14	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
TOTALS ...	182	8	33	81	23	25	11	1	13	10	12	15	30	8	96

Isolation Hospital—Normanton and District Joint Hospital.

Sanatoria—Cardigan Sanatorium, Wakefield; Balby Sanatorium; Morton Bank, Sanatorium.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death, during the year 1915.

Name of District—CASTLEFORD URBAN.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond 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	...	435	115	49	31	18	14	45	85	78
	Uncertified	...	Nil.								
Enteric Fever	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	1	4	4	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	44	6	19	16	3	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	14	9	3	2	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	1	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary											
Tuberculosis	...	...	18	...	...	...	2	5	9	2	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	6	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	9	1	1	2	3	...	2	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	3
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	6	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	24	...	...	...	3	1	6	13	1
Bronchitis	...	...	50	7	4	...	...	...	2	13	24
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	45	19	8	4	2	...	4	5	4
Other diseases of respiratory											
organs	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	42	30	10	...	1	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diseases undefined	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Nephritis & Brights Disease	...	...	9	...	2	...	...	...	2	5	...
Other defined diseases	...	...	98	16	1	1	...	2	9	25	44
Other accidents and diseases											
of Pregnancy and Partu-											
rition	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Congenital Debility and											
Malformation, including											
Premature Birth	...	...	19	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding											
Suicide	...	...	17	...	...	3	1	5	3	5	...
Suicides	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
All causes	...	...	435	115	49	31	18	14	45	85	78

TABLE IV.

District : Castleford Urban. Infantile Mortality.

1915. Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.		1-2 weeks.		2-3 weeks.		3-4 weeks.		Total under one month.	1 and under 3 months.	3 and under 6 months.	6 and under 9 months.	9 and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
	Certified	Uncertified	Certified	Uncertified	Certified	Uncertified	Certified	Uncertified						
All Causes	...	...	16	3	2	2	2	23	115	21	21	28	22	115
Measles	...	...							6	1	1		5	6
Whooping Cough	...	...							9				3	9
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...							4				1	4
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...							1					1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...							4					4
Convulsions...	...	...	1		1		2		8				1	8
Bronchitis	...	...							7					7
Pneumonia (all Forms)	...	...			1				19				6	19
Enteritis	...	...					1		30				6	30
Congenital Malformations	...	...	1						1					1
Premature Birth	...	...	7						8					8
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	...	...	6	2			1		10					10
Other Causes	...	...	1	1				2	8					8
Totals	...	...	16	3	2	2	2	23	115	21	21	28	22	115

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 664 ; Illegitimate, 30.

Nett Deaths in the Year—Legitimate 108.
Illegitimate, 7.

Urban District Council of Castleford.



SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CASTLEFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Third Annual Report, shewing the work done in this Department during the year ending, 31st December, 1915.

The year has been a strenuous one, and though one cannot record the carrying out of Sanitary Improvements on a large scale, a number of minor works have been executed.

Appeals have been made by the Government for economy in the matter of Public Works, and this has had its natural effect in restricting expenditure on improvement of a more private character. Sanitary progress has been further retarded by the withdrawal of skilled labour from civil employment, to meet the country's needs in other directions.

Notwithstanding this, owing to the enormous wastage of human life in the devastating war which still continues, it becomes more than ever necessary for Local Authorities to do all in their power to conserve the lives still left to the nation, and to see that those yet to be born have a fair chance of growing up to be good and healthy citizens.

Housing.

The question of housing accommodation becomes more and more acute.

Many cases exist of two and three families occupying one house of 4 or 5 rooms. It has been found that soldier's wives with their families, have sometimes pooled resources by living together in one house. Any relief in the matter of the houses thus vacated, appears to have been promptly counter-balanced by the influx of workers taking the places of the men who have left.

In dealing with overcrowding it is found that in many cases, lodgers are simply moved on to create similar conditions elsewhere.

The shortage of houses, and the unsatisfactory character of many of those existing, must have a considerable effect upon our high infantile death rate.

When the war is over, and we are able to return to normal conditions, expenditure in housing may be found to be a profitable investment as regards saving of life, and a better standard of health.

The following return shews the number of houses inspected during the year, for the purpose of the Regulations made under the Housing, &c., Act, 1909.

Improvements were carried out at Wilton's Yard, Bridge Street, and Prospect Terrace, Carlton Street, involving the demolition of two obstructive buildings, conversion of privies, reconstruction of drains, and general repairs to the houses.

Two houses in Back Bridge Street were found to be unfit for habitation, and quite beyond repair.

The owner has expressed his willingness to close, but as the tenants are unable to find other accommodation, the houses are still occupied.

The York Street and Castle Street area, is still in a most deplorable condition, both as regards streets, closet accommodation, and the back-to-back houses. Very little beyond certain minor repairs has been done since my last report.

Housing Return, 1915.

No. of Houses inspected, under the Regulations ...	182
„ „ Found fit for Habitation	55
„ „ Found to require Repair	114
„ „ Found totally unfit for Habitation...	13
„ „ Made reasonably fit for Habitation	75
„ „ Awaiting Repairs or Closing ...	52
„ Obstructive Buildings Demolished	2

Infectious Disease.

It is pleasing to record that there was a considerable diminution in the number of cases of infectious disease which occurred, in comparison with the previous year.

As will be seen from the figures below, there were 181 cases notified, as against 320 cases during 1914.

The usual investigation was made into each case as regards history, contacts, &c., the house inspected, and any necessary measures taken for the isolation of the patient if nursed at home, also for repairs, or removal of nuisance about the dwelling.

On the removal of the patient to Hospital, or on the termination of illness if nursed at home, the infected house was at once disinfected by means of spraying and fumigation, and the bedding and clothing in most cases disinfected by steam at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

No. of Medical Certificates received (including Duplicate Notifications)	185
No. of Cases of Infectious Disease notified (including Tuberculosis)	181
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	96
„ Houses Disinfected	120
„ Rooms Disinfected	404
„ Schools Disinfected (temporarily closed on account of Measles)	5
„ Visits to Houses and Premises <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	664
„ Visits to Schools <i>re</i> Infectious Disease ...	18

SANITARY WORKS.

Night Scavenging.

The work of Night-Soil Removal has been carried out under the immediate direction of Mr. Tate, the night foreman, who has made good use of the means available for the purpose.

The number of Ashpit Emptyings was 11,040, and the number of loads carted 9,874.

The average number of carts worked per night was 5.46, and the number of loads removed per cart per night was 6.006.

The Wet Ashpits were emptied and disinfected 8.33 times during the year.

Considering the distance which has to be covered in carting from certain parts of the Districts to the tip at the Old Sewage Farm, I think the number of loads removed per cart per night very satisfactory.

I do not think, however, that the same can be said in reference to the intervals of Ashpit Cleansing.

It is of the essence of Sanitation that the removal of refuse, and faecal matter in particular, from the neighbourhood of the dwelling, should be effected as rapidly as possible.

The Midden Privy is a necessary evil, which it would appear, will have to be suffered for some time yet, merely on the score of cost of conversion.

It is assumed, and I believe there are good grounds for the assumption, that the conservancy system is responsible for a large proportion of our infantile mortality, and it is therefore essential that strenuous efforts be made to restrict its potentialities as an agency of disease.

In the arrangements for Night Scavenging it has been taken for granted that the costly and tedious carting to the Sewage Farm, would be relieved by the disposal of night-soil by rail to farmers, the railway yard being readily accessible to certain portions of the District.

It is found, however, that farmers insist upon suiting their own convenience in the matter, and their requirements as to time and quantity frequently do not coincide with the periods when such would afford the desired relief.

It therefore follows that during bad weather or harvesting operations, the rate of Ashpit Emptying quickly falls, and this just when it is most dangerous from considerations of Public Health.

I beg to suggest that arrangements should be made so as to allow of the Monthly Emptying of Ashpits as a minimum, and also obviate the periodic dislocation which arises from the causes already mentioned.

Night-Soil was disposed of during the year as follows :—

	Loads.
By Rail to Farmers	3402
To Council's Tips at Sewage Farm	4347
To Fields outside District	2125

Privy Conversions, Drainage &c.

The work of privy conversions has not been pressed as it otherwise would have been, owing to urgent appeals for economy, though economy in this direction may be doubtful. Something has however been done in the matter.

The machinery provided by the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, has been made use of in this connection, the work being carried out under my direction for the Council in default of owner and half the cost of conversion recovered.

The conversion of privies to water-closets would be greatly facilitated by the Central Authority allowing Local Authorities to make a grant to owners, in suitable cases, the work being done by the owners themselves. Such an arrangement would obviate a considerable amount of work which at present has to be performed by officers of Local Authorities in regard to plans, specifications, obtaining of tenders, &c., and in some cases proceedings at Court for the recovery of the proportion of the cost due from the owners.

The list given below shews the number and nature of sanitary alterations executed during the year. In 24 cases the works were done by the Council in default of owners' compliance with Statutory Notice.

There are a number of yards which require paving, but it is thought undesirable to press for this to be done until such time as privy conversions, with the necessary drainage works can be carried out.

No. of Privies converted to Water-Closets (including 6 Pail-Closets)	43
„ Slop (tipper) Closets converted to Water-Closets	3
„ Additional Closets provided to existing buildings	14
„ Water-Closets provided in connection with new buildings	25
„ Privies demolished (not required)	4
„ Wet Ashpits abolished	22
„ Dry Ashpits abolished or disused	18
„ Ashbins provided	73
„ Defective Water-Closets repaired or renewed	29
„ Defective Urinals repaired	12
„ Drains relaid or repaired	57

No. of Drains newly provided to existing buildings	55
„ Yard surfaces repaired or relaid ...	27
„ New Sinks provided ...	30
„ Defective sink waste pipes repaired ...	29
„ Disused wells filled up... ..	4

It is estimated that the sanitary conveniences now existing in the District are in the following proportion :—

Water-Closets	1872
Slop (Tipper) Closets	41
Pail Closets	42
Privies (midden)	2425
Wet Ashpits	1325
Dry Ashpits	127
Ashbins	1937
Public Urinals	4

There were 13 new houses built during the year, all being provided with water-closets, and galvanized iron covered ashbins

Food Inspection.

A large number of visits were paid to the various slaughter-houses, shops, and markets for the purpose of food inspection.

Generally the food offered, or in course of preparation, for sale was found to be of good quality. There appears to have been a tendency for certain butchers to take risks in buying of cattle on account of the high prices now being realized.

Food found unfit for human consumption and surrendered for destruction was as follows:—

- 1 Carcass of Beef with all organs (Generalized Tuberculosis.)
- 4 pairs of Ox Lungs.
- 1 Ox Liver.
- 1 Hamper of Rabbits, containing 62.
- Quantity of Mushrooms, 220 lbs.

Reason was found to suspect during the Autumn that mussels, exposed for sale in the District, and derived from certain layings on the Lancashire Coast, were polluted with sewage and unfit for human consumption.

Two samples were obtained and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Wakefield, for bacteriological examination.

Dr. Sutherland reported that the mussels were highly polluted with organisms of sewage^{origin.} and quite unfit for food.

In view of the possibility of another Enteric Fever outbreak, further supplies were at once stopped from coming into the town, and formal representation made under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1915, to the Local Authority in whose District the the layings were situate.

Proceedings were afterwards taken by the said Local Authority with a view to these layings being closed.

Slaughter-Houses.

There are now 15 slaughter-houses in the District, all of which are licensed annually.

Advantage was taken of a change of tenancy of one slaughter-house, to object to a renewal of the license, on the grounds of proximity to a dwelling-house, and difficulty of approach. Your Council upheld the objection, and the license not being granted, the premises have since been converted into a bake-house.

One old slaughter-house has been demolished and a new one erected on an adjoining site. In granting the license to erect, it was understood that the licensee would not claim compensation in the event of a public slaughter-house being provided and the renewal of his license refused.

I beg to again remind you that the work of meat inspection could be much more efficiently dealt with if a public slaughter-house were provided.

One case of slaughtering on unlicensed premises occurred. The practice was discontinued after warning was given.

All occupiers of slaughter-houses in the District were circularised in respect of the Maintenance of Live Stock Order 1915 and warned against the slaughtering of calves contrary to the provisions of the Order. There were no contraventions discovered.

Milk Supply.

There are now 26 persons registered in the District under the the Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

Of these, six are registered as Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Milk Purveyors, and twenty as Dairymen and Milk Purveyors only.

There are three cowsheds in the District housing some 10 cows. One cowshed is in fair condition, one is now undergoing alterations, whilst the other remains structurally unsatisfactory.

I understand from some of the dealers that difficulty is being experienced in maintaining their supplies, owing to a shortage of milch cows on the neighbouring farms.

In view of the importance of the supply of good milk as a food for infants and young children, it has been suggested, by at least one competent authority that during the period of the war, milk should no longer be made into butter, since Margarine provides an almost perfect substitute.

Such a course would result in immediate increase of the available milk supply, which appears to be so greatly needed.

Milk Samples.

There were 18 samples of milk procured for analysis. Two were found to be slightly adulterated, and one other while genuine was of very poor quality.

The above samples were taken in accordance with the arrangement made with the West Riding County Council, under which they defray the cost of analysis.

There were no prosecutions.

Factories and Workshops.

There are now 149 premises registered under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in this District.

These include 22 Bakehouses, of which number 12 are Domestic Workshop Bakehouses.

There is one Underground Bakehouse.

These premises were frequently inspected, and generally found to be in fair condition.

Bakehouses were found to be dirty in two cases, whilst one Bakehouse was found to be overcrowded.

The question of fire-exits from factories has been raised, and it seems reasonable to say that a fatal accident should not be awaited before steps are taken to render such premises safe in this respect.

I suggest the desirability of your Council making Bye-Laws under Sect. 15 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, with a view to enforcing the provision of suitable means of escape in case of fire in all Factories and Workshops within the District.

Shops Act, 1912.

A large number of visits were paid with a view to enforcing the provisions of the Shops Act.

While the spirit of the Law appears to be well observed generally, considerable difficulty is met with in enforcing the Affixing of Notices as to Weekly Half-Day Closing, and Assistants' Half-Holidays.

There appears to be some evasion by the proprietors of Small Mixed Businesses, as to Weekly Closing for non-exempted trades. It is probable that this can only be satisfactorily dealt with by summary proceedings.

Orders made under the Act, and in force in the District are as follows :—

Two Weekly Half-Day Closing Orders (Tobacconists, and Fish Dealers).

Three Evening Closing Orders (Tailors, Drapers and Milliners, Boot and Shoe Dealers, Hairdressers).

The following cases were dealt with during the year.

Complaints Received	4
Assistants not having proper Meal-Times	3
Notice not Exhibited <i>re</i> Employment of Young Persons	1
Do. Do. Assistants' Half-Holidays	8
Do. Do. Weekly Half-Day Closing	8
Shops Open beyond Closing Hour	7
No Separate Sanitary Conveniences where both Sexes were employed	4

The requirements of the Act were in each case complied with after warning.

There were no prosecutions.

Petroleum Acts.

The Petroleum Acts are administered in your District by this Department.

There were 23 visits paid to premises Licensed for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit.

Three Contraventions of the Regulations were found, viz. :—

Improper means of Storage	2
Light in Store contrary to Provisions of License ...	1

The necessary alterations were made without recourse to prosecution.

The following Licenses were issued :—

To keep Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	...	8
„ Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	...	1

One License lapsed owing to the Store being found structurally unsatisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are four Common Lodging Houses in the District registered to accommodate 190 persons.

Speaking generally they are fairly well conducted, though several Contraventions of Bye-Laws were discovered. The keepers were in each case cautioned, with the desired result.

No Special Provision is made for escape in case of fire, all the staircases (with one exception) being of wood, and constructed internally.

The possibility of serious catastrophe in the event of an outbreak of fire should I think engage your serious attention in the near future.

I am of opinion that an external iron ladder or staircase accessible from each floor, should be provided at these premises.

Offensive Trades.

Two premises only are registered for the carrying on of Offensive Trades, the said trades being Gut Scraping and Tripe Dressing respectively.

I am of opinion that it would be an advantage if Fish and Chip Frying were added to the list of Offensive Trades, the registration of which is compulsory.

Keeping of Animals, &c.

At the commencement of the Summer, circulars were served upon all occupiers of Stables, calling their attention to the Bye-Laws requiring Manure Removal at least once a week.

Posters and Handbills were also distributed throughout the District shewing how disease germs and filth are carried into dwellings by flies, probably bred in the nearest rubbish heap.

Pig-Keeping is very popular in the District, and the gradual enforcement of the Bye-Laws with regard to distance of Piggeries from dwellings has met with strong opposition.

Some 25 cases of Swine, Fowls, &c., kept so as to be a nuisance were dealt with, of which 21 were abated.

There appears, however, to be in some quarters almost as much solicitude for the welfare of pigs as for that of babies. A notable instance of this recently occurred, where on visiting a house I found a young pig on the hearth, sharing with the baby the attentions of the house-wife, and being fed from a bottle. While such things are possible, I fear there is little hope of any material advancement in the saving of infant life. Many factors will contribute to the solution of that problem, one of which will be the practical education of the next generation in such matters.

Notices Issued, Reports, &c.

No. of Notices Issued	...	...	}	Informal	467
No. of Notices complied with	...	...			443
No. of Notices Issued	...	...	}	Statutory	192
No. of Notices complied with	...	...			35

The majority of the Statutory Notices issued were for Privy Conversions and Works in connection therewith. A large number were allowed to remain in abeyance on account of the war.

No. of Reports to Committees or Council	...	15
„ Special Reports to M.O.H.		4
„ Letters written		241

Miscellaneous.

The amount of rainfall in the District during the year, as registered by the rain-gauge at Queen's Park (per Mr. Wilson) was 25.05 inches.

The average rainfall for Great Britain is about 30 inches annually.

A Sanitary Survey was made of the District in November last by Mr Brookes, of the County Medical Officers' Department. A number of recommendations were made as a result, by the County Medical Officer, in respect of Street Paving, Housing Improvements, &c. It was pointed out that the Council already had these matters in mind, and the opportunity was awaited of carrying them into effect. It is hoped that with a return of happier times this will be possible.

Atmospheric Pollution was created at various times during the year by the emission of irritant gases during certain processes, at the Chemical Works recently erected in Ings Lane.

The matter was taken up with the Proprietors by the Medical Officer of Health. The nuisance was found to arise from the manufacturing plant being put in use before completion owing to urgent national requirements. Abatement was promised, and this has since been largely effected.

I wish to record the valuable assistance rendered by the Health Visitors, Miss Thorpe and Miss Caddick, in visiting women's workshops and cases of Tuberculosis, during the period of their service from March to December, when they left to take up other appointments.

I also wish to thank my brother officers for their continued support in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

I append hereto tabulated statements shewing the number and nature of inspections made during the year, nuisances found and abated, &c.

The efficiency of the Department would be promoted by the provision of clerical assistance, and better office accommodation. I do not, however, propose to ask you to take any practical steps in the matter, until the termination of the war.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. ERNEST BIRTWISLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

19th April, 1916.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	...	141
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	664
Van Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	35
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	18
Tips	...	...	...	...	...	9
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	23
Offensive Deposits, Stagnant Water, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	34
Stables and Manure-Steads	...	...	...	...	...	207
Keeping of Pigs, Fowls, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	45
Ashpits or Ash-Bin Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	83
Defective Privies or Water-Closets	...	...	...	...	...	110
Housing Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	449
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	260
Works in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	337
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	318
Slaughter-Houses	...	...	...	...	...	208
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	90
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	48
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	60
Dirty Houses and Yards	...	...	...	...	...	42
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	76
Closing Orders, under Shops Act	...	...	...	...	Weekly	
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	...	...	...	...	155
Theatres <i>re</i> Sanitary Arrangements	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	16
Petrol Stores	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cellar Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	19
Street Gulleys improperly used	...	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	138
						3647

STATEMENT OF NUISANCES FOUND AND ABATED.

Nature of Nuisance.

			FOUND.	ABATED.
Defective Fall Pipes, Eaves Gutters, &c.	...	...	61	61
Defective Floors, Plasterwork, Windows, Roofs, Dampness, &c.	...	...	149	116
Drains Blocked ...	...	...	91	91
Drains Structurally Defective	...	...	51	43
Water-Closets Defective	...	...	29	29
Privies Defective	...	...	81	38
Ashpits Defective	...	...	32	30
Ash-Bins Defective or Missing	...	...	23	23
Water-Closet Accommodation Insufficient	...	...	6	6
Urinals Defective	...	...	12	12
Slop (Tipper) Closets, Defective or Foul	...	...	26	26
Sinks Defective, or want of	...	...	40	30
Sink Waste Pipes Defective	...	...	30	29
Cellar Flooding...	...	...	9	9
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	43	27
Manure-Steads Defective	...	...	7	7
Offensive Accumulations, Stagnant Water, &c.	...	...	22	22
Effluvium Nuisance, Gas, &c.	...	...	4	4
Overcrowding	...	...	24	23
Dirty Houses or Yards	...	...	15	15
Swine, Fowls, &c. (kept near to Dwellings)	...	...	25	21
Van Dwellings without Sanitary Accomoda- tion	...	...	3	3
Smoke (Domestic)	...	...	5	5
Street Gulleys, improper use	...	...	10	10

Common Lodging Houses.

Dirty Floors (spitting)	...	...	5	5
Want of Screens	...	...	1	1
Insufficient Separation of Sexes	...	...	1	1
Sleepers found in Kitchen	...	...	1	1

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-Shops.

Defective Floor in Dairy ...	...	...	2	2
Dairy not kept Clean ...	...	...	1	1
Cowshed not kept Clean ...	...	...	1	1
Cowshed Structurally Unfit ...	...	...	Discontinued	

Slaughter-Houses.

Floors Defective ...	...	...	3	3
Walls Dirty ...	...	...	2	2
Slaughter-House too near Dwelling, &c. ...	...	...	Discontinued	
Slaughtering on Unlicensed Premises ...	...	...	Do.	

Factories and Workshops.

Workshops Dirty ...	...	...	24	24
Bakehouses „ ...	...	...	2	2
Workshop Overcrowded ...	...	...	1	1
Bakehouse „ ...	...	...	1	1
Workshop Insufficiently Ventilated ...	...	...	1	1
Gas Stove in Workshop without Flue ...	...	...	2	2
Insufficient Closet Accommodation ...	...	...	1	1
Defective Water-Closet ...	...	...	2	2
Dirty Water-Closet ...	...	...	1	1
Water-Closet Ventilating into Workroom without Ante-Chamber ...	...	...	1	1
Abstract not Exhibited in Women's Workshop			1	1
			855	737

Miscellaneous Nuisances in Hand at close of 1914, now Abated ...	...	...	—	51
			855	788