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Contributors

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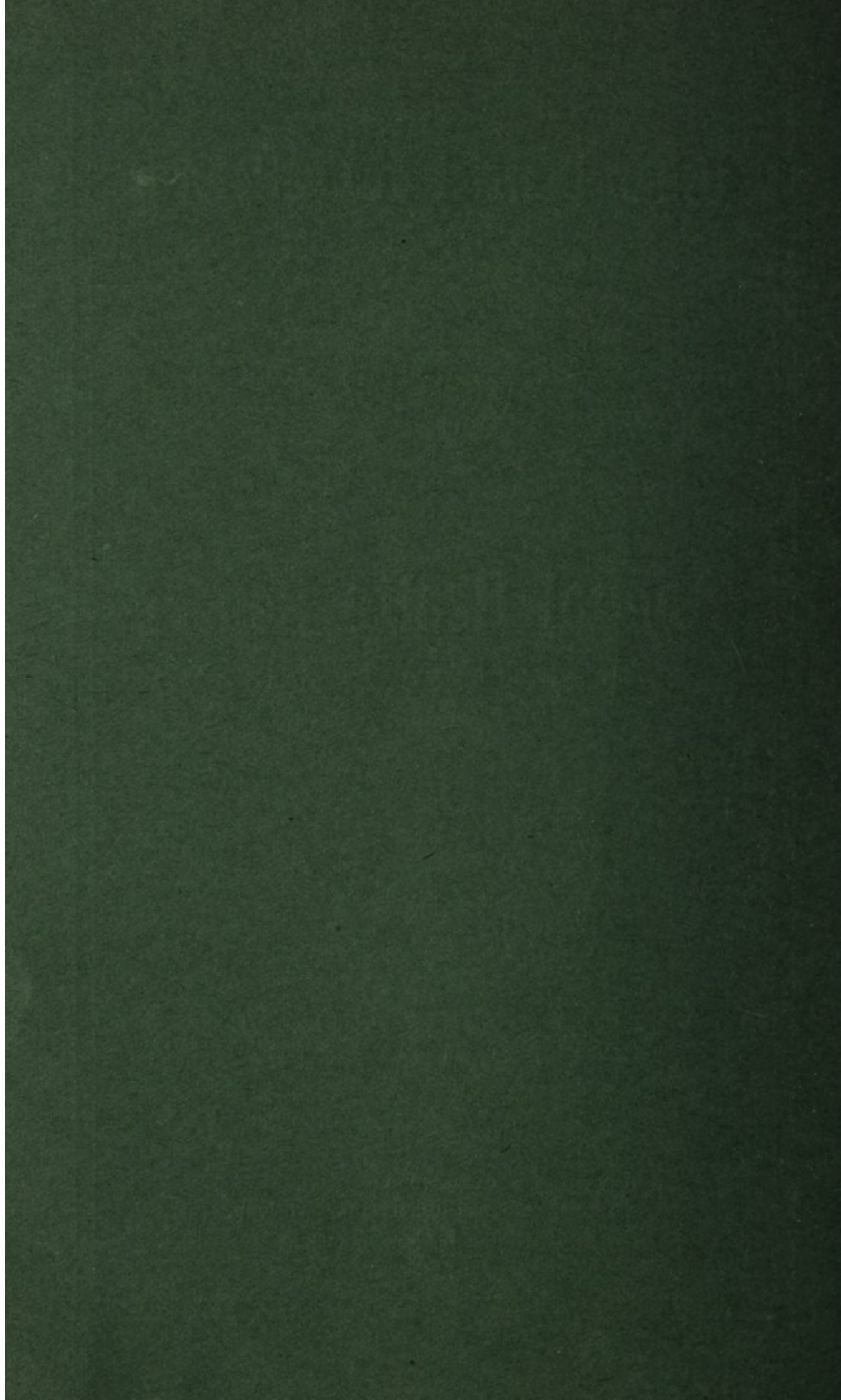
Urban District of Castleford.



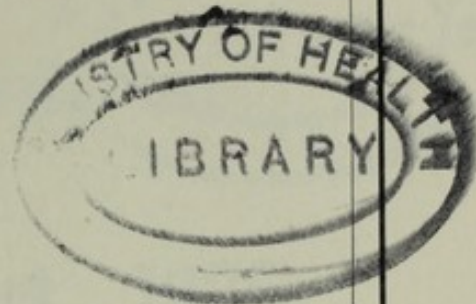
Annual Health Report

Year Ending December 31st, 1925.

CASTLEFORD :
WILSONS, PRINTERS (CASTLEFORD), LIMITED.
1926.



Urban District of Castleford.



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Medical Officer of Health : WM. KEMP, M.B.

Sanitary Inspector & Cleansing Supt. :

T. E. BIRTWISLE, M.S.I.A.

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Urban District of Castleford



Annual Health Report

For the year ending December 31st 1927

By the Medical Officer of Health, J. H. WILKINSON, M.D.

Printed and Published by the Castleford Press, Ltd., Castleford

1928. Price 1s. 6d. net.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD.



Annual Health Report, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you my twelfth Annual Report, being a report on the health of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1925, and also a survey of public health matters during the past five years as required by the Ministry of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	..	564 acres.		
Population (at Census of 1921)	..	..	24,185	
Estimated population (1925)	..	..	24,940	

The town of Castleford is situate in the valley of the River Aire near its confluence with the River Calder, and forms a natural drainage area for the higher districts surrounding.

It has but a moderate altitude, ranging from 37 ft. in the lower parts to 105 ft. above sea level, O.D., in the higher parts.

The subsoil varies from clay to gravel and sand overlying shales and sandstones on the upper coal formation.

The area, though small, is thickly populated and closely built upon, the population density yielding the high figure of 44·2 persons per acre.

The rateable value is relatively low owing to the fact that some of the chief industrial undertakings of the neighbourhood, with their revenue producing properties, are situate just outside the Urban District boundaries.

The community is of an essentially industrial character, mostly dependent as a means of livelihood upon coal mining, together with such other industries as the manufacture of glass bottles, chemicals, bricks, pottery, confectionery, &c.

Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	4,675
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)		4,965
Rateable value equals	..	£100,558
Produce of a Penny Rate equals	..	£400

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births and Birth Rate.—I have had 596 births notified to me during the year, including 24 stillborn and 24 illegitimates, the males being 316 and females 280.

The number registered and received from the General Register Office, Somerset House, is 571, of which 302 were males and ~~296~~ 269 females, which gives an annual birth rate of 22·8 per 1,000 of the population. Of these 18 males and 13 females were illegitimate.

In the preceding year the number registered was 623, of which 324 were males and 299 females. Of these 17 males and 11 females were illegitimate, the birth rate being 24·9 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths and Death Rate.—There have been 331 deaths both notified and registered at Somerset House, which number includes 64 inwardly transferred deaths. This gives an annual death rate of 13·2 per 1,000, which is slightly lower than for the year 1924, which was 13·9 per 1,000; that of England and Wales is 12·2.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth—
from Sepsis, 2.

Vital Statistics for Years 1921 to 1925.

Year.	Popula- tion.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			
		Un- cor- rected numb'r	Nett numb'r	Rate.	Regis- tered numb'r	Rate.	Transferable Non- residents registered in District.	Transferable residents registered outside the District.
1921	24,670	735	735	29·7	343	13·9	..	53
1922	24,910	688	688	26·7	300	12·04	..	56
1923	24,790	549	549	22·1	342	13·7	..	57
1924	25,000	623	623	24·9	348	13·9	..	45
1925	24,940	571	571	22·8	331	13·2	..	64

Causes of Death. Taken from the Registrar General's Table.

Enteric Fever	..	..	..	2
Measles	..	..	..	3
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	6
Diphtheria	..	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	..	5
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	27
Other Tubercular Diseases	..	..	..	7
Cancer, Malignant Disease	..	..	..	33
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	3
Diabetes	..	..	..	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	..	..	..	12
Heart Disease	..	..	..	41
Arterio-Sclerosis	..	..	..	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	28
Pneumonia—all forms	..	..	..	43
Ulcer of Stomach	..	..	..	2
Diarrhœa &c., under 2 years	..	..	..	7
Appendicitis	..	..	..	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	1
Nephritis	..	..	..	13
Puerperal Sepsis—other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy	..	..	..	3

Causes of Death—*continued*

Congenital Debility, Malformations and Premature					
Births	..	..	..	..	29
Suicide	..	..	..	..	1
Other Deaths from Violence			..	..	12
Other Defined Diseases	..		..	..	42
Causes ill defined	..	..	..	..	1
					331

Infantile Deaths.—There were 66 deaths registered in your District of infants under 1 year of age.

The Registrar General's corrected figure for infant deaths is 64, which gives the rate per 1,000 births as follows :—legitimate 99·8, illegitimate 12·2, making the total infant death rate to be 112.

The rate for the year 1924 was 125 per 1,000 births.

The deaths have been chiefly due to premature births and Pneumonias.

Deaths from Diarrhœa under 2 years of age numbered 7.

The various causes of death are as follows :

Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	15
Measles	..	..	..	..	2
Gastro-Enteritis	..	..	..	..	7
Cardiac Disease	..	..	..	..	2
Premature Births, Malformations, &c.				..	26
Pertussis	..	..	..	..	3
Other defined Diseases		..	..	..	7

Deaths under One Year, giving the Ages at Death.

DISEASES.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	2-6 months	6-12 months
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	8
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gastro-Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	2
Cardiac	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..
Premature Births, with Malformations, &c.	16	2	3	2	23	3	..	..
Pertussis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Other defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals available.

- (1)—TUBERCULOSIS. A Tuberculosis Centre is provided at Pontefract by the West Riding County Council.
- (2)—MATERNITY. Arrangements are made for the reception of cases at Leeds Maternity Hospital and Wakefield Maternity Home.
- (3)—CHILDREN. Special cases treated at Leeds General Infirmary or Pontefract Infirmary.
- (4)—FEVER. The Council is a constituent authority of the Normanton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Committee; infectious cases, where removal is necessary, are received at the Committee's Hospital at Aketon.
- (5)—SMALL-POX. The Joint Committee provide for the reception of cases at their Glass Houghton Small-Pox Hospital.
- (6)—OTHER. None at present. A scheme for the provision of a Maternity Hospital is in existence, and it is expected that a commencement of building operations will be made in the near future.

Hospital Accommodation.

There is at present no Hospital accommodation within the area.

Considerable advantage is taken by the inhabitants of the District of the facilities for treatment ~~of fever~~ ^{offered} by the General Infirmary at Leeds, and the Pontefract Dispensary.

In connection with the local Miners' Welfare Scheme, a new Hospital for the District is now in course of erection, and nearing completion. This will undoubtedly prove to be a great benefit to the community, particularly for urgent surgical and medical cases where any delay in obtaining treatment might involve serious risk.

Poor Law Relief.

The following figures kindly supplied by the Relieving Officer give some indication as to the amount of relief administered during two normal weeks (summer and winter).

Week ending 13th June, 1925.

Persons relieved : 100 men, 167 women, 235 children. Total,
502 persons, at a cost of £138/17/-.

Week ending 19th December, 1925.

Persons relieved : 108 men, 171 women, 322 children. Total,
591 persons, at a cost of £147/7/5.

Institutional Provision FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

Where such is required accommodation is provided by the Poor Law Authorities at Paradise Gardens, Pontefract.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) INFECTIOUS CASES. Ambulance provided by Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.

(b) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES. Two Motor Ambulances, maintained by the Urban District Council.

A Motor Ambulance is also provided at each of the local Collieries.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Address.	Accommodation.	By whom provided.
Sagar St. (Old Council Offices)	5 Rooms comprising : Reception, Lecture & Consulting Rooms, and Stores	Urban District Council of Castleford
Temple St. (Primitive Methodist Church)	Chapel divided by Screens, forming Lecture, Weighing & Consulting Rooms	Ditto.
Duke St. (Wesleyan Methodist Church)	Chapel used as Lecture Room, 2 other rooms for weighing and consultation.	Ditto.

SCHOOL CLINIC at Wesley Street School, provided by the West Riding County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS. Dispensary at Linden Terrace, Pontefract, provided by the West Riding County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES. Treatment Centres at General Infirmary, Leeds, and General Infirmary, Wakefield, provided by West Riding County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the Local Authority.

Part Time.

WM. KEMP, M.B., C.M., Edin.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Whole Time.

T. E. BIRTWISLE, Sanitary Inspector.

Qualifications : Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Nuisances, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Officers—*continued.*

Also Certificates of Victoria University, and Exam. Board
of San. Insp. Assocn.

Appointments held : Sanitary Inspector.

Designated Officer under Housing Regulations.

Designated Officer under Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

Inspector under Factory and Workshop Acts.

Inspector under Shops Acts.

Inspector under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Inspector under Petroleum Acts.

Inspector under Celluloid and Cinematograph Film Act.

Inspector under Fabrics (Misdescription) Act.

Inspector under Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

B. Wade, Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Qualification : Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as
Sanitary Inspector.

M. H. ROBERTSON (MISS), Health Visitor.

Qualification : C.M.B., Royal Sanitary Institute.

F. POTTS (MRS.), Health Visitor.

Qualification : C.M.B., Royal Sanitary Institute.

W. PARTON, Junior Clerk.

Contribution is made under the Public Health Acts to salaries
of Medical Officer of Health, and Sanitary Inspector, and by
Exchequer grants to salaries of Health Visitors.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL. Two District Nurses, provided by the
Castleford and District Nurses Association, supported entirely by
voluntary contributions.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. None.

Midwives.—None employed or subsidized by the local
Authority.

Number practising in District, Five.

Three hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

The other two are registered.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

General Public Health Acts; and Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Orders, as follows :—

Adoptive Acts.

The Infectious Diseases' Notification Act, 1889, was adopted on the 10th October, 1889, but by the Infectious Diseases' (Notification) Extension Act, 1899, this Act became General and not adoptive.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892, was adopted on the 1st January, 1896.

The Baths and Washhouses Act, 1846 to 1899, were adopted on the 18th September, 1902.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, was adopted on the 13th November, 1902, and came into force on the 31st December, 1902.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and Section 95 of Part 10—Local Government Board Order, dated 21st April, 1909, came into operation 9th June, 1909.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, was adopted on the 27th February, 1913, and came into force on 1st June, 1913.

The Public Health Act, 1925, adopted 28th October, 1925, came into force on 1st December, 1925.

Bye-Laws, etc.

Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were made on the 16th November, 1889.

Bye-Laws with respect to the Public Park were approved by the Local Government Board on the 30th January, 1903.

Bye-Laws as to Nuisances.—Nuisances in connection with the removal of offensive or noxious matter—Slaughterhouses, Cleaning of Footways and Pavements, Common Lodging Houses, Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation, and Management of a Mortuary were approved by the Local Government Board on the 6th October, 1910.

Bye-laws as to Whirligigs and Swings driven by steam power, and Firearms in Shooting Ranges and Galleries, were approved by the Local Government Board on the 18th October, 1910.

By an Order of the Council dated 24th November, 1910, and made under Section 112 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as amended by Section 51 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, the following Trades—namely, the trade of a Blood Drier, Tanner, Leather Dresser, Fat Melter, or Fat Extractor, Glue Maker, Size Maker, and Gut Scraper, were declared to be offensive trades. The said Order was confirmed by the Local Government Board on the 3rd February, 1911.

Bye-laws as to offensive trades were approved by the Local Government Board on the 1st May, 1911.

Bye-laws for the Management, Use and Regulation of the Public Baths, were approved by the Local Government Board on the 5th October, 1911.

Rules and Regulations with respect to the Fire Brigade were made on the 23rd January, 1914. Revised 27th December, 1917, and 26th March, 1924.

Bye-laws as to New Streets and Buildings were approved by the Ministry of Health on the 22nd March, 1926.

West Riding County Council Orders.

Orders Dividing District into Six Wards and increasing number of Councillors from 12 to 18, dated 1st March, 1895, and 10th April, 1895.

Order constituting the Normanton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Area dated 11th January, 1899.

Orders made under the Shops Act, 1912.

WEEKLY HALF-HOLIDAY ORDERS.

Dry, Wet and Fried Fish, confirmed 9th June, 1913.

Bakers and Confectioners, confirmed 10th January, 1918.

Beef, Pork and General Butchers, confirmed 18th June, 1920.

CLOSING ORDERS (EVENING).

Hairdressers, confirmed 8th October, 1912.

Non-perishable and Dry Goods, confirmed 8th August, 1919.

Beef, Pork and General Butchers, confirmed 18th June, 1920.

Orders under the Shops Act have been **revoked** as follows :

WEEKLY HALF-HOLIDAY ORDERS.

Tobacconists, revoked 1st November, 1924.

Bakers and Confectioners so far as same relates to Sweet

Confectioners, revoked 1st November, 1924.

CLOSING ORDERS (EVENING).

Drapers, Tailors and Milliners, revoked 8th August, 1919.

Boot and Shoe Dealers, revoked 8th August, 1919.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The supply for the whole of the District is obtained from the Wakefield Corporation, and is taken direct from the Mains.

All domestic supplies are on the constant system and generally water is laid on inside the houses.

The supply is ample and of good quality ; there is no plumbosolvent action.

The average daily consumption for domestic purposes is 12 gallons per head.

Rivers and Streams.—Control of river pollution is undertaken by the West Riding Rivers Board, whose Inspectors visit the area from time to time.

Some pollution of the Aire does occur in the industrial districts higher up the river, but this has been greatly reduced during recent years.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The sewerage system of the town is partly single and partly dual, and is generally sufficient. Surface water is drained directly into the River Aire, while foul sewage gravitates to the lowest point in the District from whence it is pumped and disposed of at the Sewage Disposal Works.

The Sewage disposal works are efficiently maintained, consisting of screening and sedimentation tanks, clinker and sand ærating filters, the final effluent being discharged into the River Aire.

Closet Accommodation.—The greater number of sanitary conveniences in the area are now on the water carriage system.

During the last year there were 122 privy conversions done, the average for the last 5 years being 81.

Estimates are now in course of preparation by your Sanitary Inspector with a view to a loan being obtained for the conversion of the whole of the accommodation on the conservancy system yet remaining.

For further details as to closet accommodation, scavenging, sanitary inspection, smoke abatement, registered premises, &c., see Sanitary Inspector's Report attached hereto, pages 35 to 44.

Other Sanitary Conditions.—I am pleased to note that during the period under review, some progress has been made in the matter of street improvements.

Several streets have been made up and taken over, while others have been temporarily repaired.

I understand from your Surveyor that he has schemes projected in this direction, which when carried into effect will prove of great value to your town.

Schools.—The schools of the town are generally in good sanitary condition, and have water supplies laid on direct from the mains. One new elementary school is now in course of erection to take the place of an unsatisfactory temporary building. School premises are specially disinfected during holiday periods and at other times when considered advisable.

There was no occasion for school closure during the year.

Housing.—As to general housing conditions there still exists a considerable shortage of houses for our community.

There were 13 new houses built during the year, and existing premises were altered so as to provide 5 additional tenements.

The reason of so little comparatively having been done in the matter of provision of new houses, is of course that our area is already fully built upon; and further, that the Central Authority would not allow a Government Scheme within our boundaries.

The extensive house building operations immediately outside the area do not appear to have made any appreciable difference. It would seem from a recent survey that any possible benefit from removals has been nullified by the influx of new-comers to the District.

The question of the provision of new houses has been for some time a matter of serious concern to your Council, and having regard to our very difficult and unusual position, it is now a matter for your consideration whether or not, schemes should be undertaken outside the District.

Overcrowding exists in various parts of the town, and action for abatement is rendered very difficult by the lack of accommodation.

As to fitness of houses, I regard the standard as generally good, particularly in the newer parts of the town.

The general character of the defects found are in respect of leaking roofs and eaves gutters, broken plaster work and floors, the latter being in many cases aggravated by the houses having been intended for occupation by one family, and now being occupied by two families or more.

Effective action in regard to unfit houses has not been practicable owing to the general shortage. Repairs of a more or less temporary nature have been carried out from time to time.

For further information and details as to Housing, see Sanitary Inspector's Report, pages 24 to 31.

Inspection of Food.—The Sanitary Inspector deals with these matters in detail in his Report, pages 31 to 34.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The subjoined table will show that during the past 5 years Scarlet Fever has been responsible for the greater number of cases notified, being 70·78% of the total.

The cases were chiefly of a mild character, and in the period above mentioned there have been only 12 deaths from this cause.

Full particulars of our methods of procedure were sent to the Ministry of Health in reply to their "Scarlet Fever Inquiry" of 1924.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free on request to local medical practitioners.

There have been very few cases which might be classed as "return" cases.

Table showing Incidence of Infectious Diseases during Years 1921 to 1925 inclusive.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Totals
Scarlet Fever	45	62	148	59	30	344
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	16	9	11	7	8	51
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	1	..	1	6
Malaria	..	1	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	6	7	13	6	7	39
Puerperal Fever	1	1	..	1	1	4
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Pneumonia	4	7	4	7	1	23
Enteric Fever	2	4	3	5	3	17
	77	93	180	86	51	487

Examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is undertaken by the West Riding County Council. The provision of this service is found to be very advantageous, and

use is made of the facilities available by the medical men of the district.

There has been no necessity for action under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Intimations of sickness among school children are sent in by the Education Authority and are followed up when deemed desirable.

The deaths from Influenza since 1920 number 30.

Disinfestation of verminous premises by means of spraying and fumigation is undertaken by the Sanitary Department, and directions given in respect of bedding and clothing.

Steam disinfection in cases of infectious disease is done at the Isolation Hospital.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	30	20	..
Diphtheria	8	7	1
Enteric Fever	3	3	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..
Pneumonia	1	..	..
Erysipelas	7	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	..	..

The above table shows that 51 cases were reported to me, of which number 30 were treated in hospital.

In 1924 we had 86 cases notified.

Cases Notified from the various Wards.

Wards.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Enteric	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Totals.
Half Acres	4	..	1	..	..	..	2	7
Red Hill	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	4
Welbeck	19	5	..	1	1	..	2	28
Hightown	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wheldale	2	1	..	2	..	..	2	7
Carlton	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
	30	8	1	3	1	1	7	51

Deaths due to seven principal Zymotic Diseases.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	..	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	..	..	..	..	2
Measles	..	..	..	..	3
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	6
					—
Total ..					12

The Zymotic Death Rate equalled 0·4 per 1,000. It was 1·2 per 1,000 of the population in 1924.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 93 cases reported, including one transferred, of which number 79 were lung cases. 21 of these were treated in Sanatoria.

In the year 1924 we had 101 cases reported.

The notifications were distributed throughout the various Wards as follows :

Half Acres	..	..	..	..	13
Red Hill	..	..	..	..	14
Welbeck	..	..	..	..	25
Wheldale	..	..	..	..	14
Hightown	..	..	..	..	14
Carlton	..	..	..	..	13
					—
Total	..				93

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1 ..	1	1	7	2	2	..	1	1
5 ..	10	3	1	..	..	..	..	..
10 ..	2	5	2	1	..	2	..	..
15 ..	7	5	..	..	1	2	1	..
20 ..	5	3	..	..	2	1	..	1
25 ..	14	3	..	..	3	2	..	..
35 ..	5	4	..	..	3	4	..	1
45 ..	9	2	..	..	5	..	..	..
55 ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
65 and upw'ds	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Totals	54	26	10	3	16	13	3	3

At the beginning of 1925 we had 187 cases on the Register, and on December 31st of that year the number was 258.

The rise in numbers does not necessarily mean that the disease is on the increase to the extent that the figures might imply, but I would rather suggest that it is due to medical advice

being more readily sought and the Regulations in respect of Notification being better carried out.

One of the undoubted causes of the spread of Tuberculosis is the objectionable habit of spitting in streets and public places. I would suggest that much good might be done by having suitable notices displayed throughout the District drawing attention to this as being a menace to the Public Health.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.

It was not found necessary to take action under either of the above mentioned measures.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

That the interest in connection with this work is well maintained is abundantly shown by the following figures.

At the three Centres we have had during the year 3,731 attendances of babies, 2,169 of mothers (including visitors) and 1,009 of children. Then, your Health Visitors, Nurse Robertson and Nurse Potts, have made between them 6,201 visits, besides giving lectures and advice at each Clinic upon some points as to the management and health of the child.

Practical work in the cutting-out of simple garments, and the weekly savings bank, have helped to sustain interest in the work, while the social side has been cultivated by picnics in the country during the summer months.

Our thanks are due to the Voluntary Committee of Mothers for their continued help and support.

The increased readiness with which mothers consult me about themselves and their babies is very promising, the value of such consultations being that the advice of their own medical

attendant is frequently sought where otherwise the need for such advice would have been unrecognised.

Dried milk, virol, and lactagol are supplied at the Clinics to necessitous cases at cost price.

Orthopædic cases are treated at the Children's Department of the Leeds General Infirmary.

Details of Ophthalmia Neonatorum for 1925 are set out in the table below :—

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths.
Notified	Treated					
	At home	Hospital				
1	1	—	1	—	—	—

GENERAL.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector attached hereto furnishes considerable additional information in respect of Sanitary administration, and should be read in conjunction with the foregoing.

In reviewing the health of the District during the last 5 years, I am pleased to record that while various necessary improvements await execution, considerable progress has been made.

The introduction of motor transport for the collection and removal of refuse has been highly successful from a sanitary standpoint, and this service has never been so efficient as it is to-day.

Sewers have been extended and re-constructed in some parts, while new works in this direction are contemplated.

The works in connection with the water undertaking from which your supply is derived have been considerably extended.

Increased Hospital accommodation for the District will very shortly be available; the matter of atmospheric pollution is receiving careful attention; and it is with every confidence that I look forward to the future.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WM. KEMP,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TOWN HALL,

CASTLEFORD,

29th June, 1926.

URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD.

Annal Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Year ending 31st December, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my thirteenth Annual Report, as a statement of the work of the Sanitary and Transport Departments for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

A considerable amount of work has been done during the year, for the safeguarding and improvement of public health, and which has only been rendered possible by the consistent support of the Council.

Whilst keeping efficiency in the foreground strict attention has been paid to economy, and it is gratifying to record that costs are slightly lower than for the preceding year.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The provision of houses for the people continues to be a most intractable problem, the solution of which is rendered still more difficult by our restricted area, and is aggravated by the inability of prospective tenants to pay an economic rent.

After conferring on our need of houses with representatives of the West Riding County Council, I was instructed by your Council, near the close of the year, to ascertain what our requirements were in this direction.

A survey of housing throughout the District was accordingly made, and while the bulk of the work was done during the present year, it seems desirable in view of the importance of the results obtained, to include extracts from the survey in this Report, and which are as follows :—

“The Survey may be regarded as supplementary to the one made in 1920, the object being to ascertain how far conditions have changed in respect of Housing during the intervening five years.

Inquiries were made so as to provide information on the following points :—

- 1.—Number of rooms in houses.
- 2.—Occupants, number of.
- 3.—Separate families, number of.
- 4.—Lodgers, married and single.
- 5.—Place of work. Inside or outside of Castleford.
- 6.—New-comers to Castleford since 1920.

Attention was also paid to the structural type and condition of houses, those unfit for habitation, and unhealthy areas where improvement or reconstruction schemes are required.

For the purpose of survey the District was divided up into nine areas.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimated the population of Castleford up to the middle of 1924 to be 25,000.

Rateable Value equals £100,558.

A rate of a penny in the pound yields £400.

The number of inhabited houses at the Census of 1921 was shewn to be 4,675, the great majority being typical working class dwellings.

"The number of existing houses in the District is estimated to be 4,856, of which 93 have been erected since 1920.

EXISTING HOUSES AND OCCUPANCY.

Detailed inquiries were made in respect of 4,753 houses. These were found to be occupied by 5,762 families, and a total of 23,339 persons.

It will be seen therefore that there are 1,009 families in excess of the number of available houses. (The 1920 survey shewed 785 families in excess of available houses).

The number of houses occupied by two or more families and originally intended for one family only, was found to be 961. (The 1920 survey shewed this figure to be 738).

There were 265 houses found to contain more than two occupants per habitable room—R.G. standard for overcrowding—the total number of occupiers being 2,534. (The 1920 survey shewed 338 houses to be overcrowded on this standard).

The number of occupants per house throughout the District is estimated to be 5 approx.

To provide a house for each separate family it will appear from the foregoing figures that 1,009 houses are required, not taking into account houses requiring demolition.

As the houses now overcrowded are generally those containing more than one family, it is assumed that provision for each family will practically cover existing overcrowding.

PLACE OF WORK.

Inquiries into place of work shewed that 1,474 tenant-occupiers and 440 lodgers were engaged at work in Castleford. Of those working outside Castleford 2,364 were found to be tenant-occupiers and 985 lodgers.

NEW-COMERS.

Inquiries in respect of persons who have come to reside in the District since 1920 shewed 287 such persons to be tenant-occupiers and 582 lodgers, excluding 108 female lodgers.

“ From this it will be seen that the relief in house shortage which might reasonably have been expected on account of house building activity outside the District has been more than counter-balanced by the number of new-comers who are tenant-occupiers.

STRUCTURAL TYPES AND CONDITION OF HOUSES.

The houses generally throughout the District are of the type known as working class houses containing four to six rooms, with through ventilation. Yard space at rear is usually ample, with sanitary conveniences situate in the yards. About half the houses are provided with water closets, the remainder being on the conservancy system.

A number of houses require extensive repairs, whilst some are structurally unfit for human habitation. These conditions cannot be adequately dealt with while the existing house shortage continues.

All the houses in the District of the “ back-to-back ” type have been placed in the category of “ unfit ” houses.

Leaving out of account “ unhealthy areas ” which are dealt with later, there are 208 “ unfit ” houses, comprising 25 “ through,” 99 “ back-to-back,” and 84 “ single ” houses. Of these it is estimated that 97 will be made fit, leaving a nett total of 111. Including “ unhealthy areas ” the total number of “ unfit ” houses is as follows :—

37 “ through ”, 102 “ back-to-back ” and 130 “ single ” houses.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

It was decided during the last survey to officially represent four areas as “ unhealthy areas ” requiring improvement schemes. As the conditions are unchanged, the following paragraph is repeated from the last Report.

“ On account of the crowding of buildings on space, want of proper light and ventilation, houses unfit for human habitation and bad arrangement of premises generally, it has been found desirable to officially represent four areas of the town as

‘unhealthy areas’ with a view to the preparation and carrying out of improvement schemes.

“The clearance of these areas will involve the demolition (wholly or partially) of 96 houses, occupied by 480 persons approx.

One of the conditions of financial assistance is that houses are to be provided for those persons displaced in the carrying out of the improvement, and this fact will need to be remembered in the Council’s scheme for the provision of new houses.

The land to be acquired by the Council in respect of the four unhealthy areas is equal to 4.72 acres approx.

From the foregoing figures, the houses required to meet the needs of the District may be estimated as follows :—

In respect of number of families in excess of number of houses	1,009
To provide for growth of population during next 3 years	300
To re-house person displaced by clearance of unhealthy areas	96
To replace other “unfit” houses ..	111
	— 1,516
Deduct for decrease of population during next three years on account of building activity outside District	300
	—
Nett estimate of houses required	1,216

Information as to number of houses, and rooms therein, families occupying, overcrowding &c. in the respective survey areas is given in the tables 1, 2, 3, annexed hereto.”

Table 1.—Shewing Number of Families Occupying Houses.

Survey Area.	No. of Houses.	Pop.	Houses occupied by			Total Fams.
			1 Fam.	2 Fam.	3 Fam.	
Wheldale	747	4158	580	159	7	919
Healdfield	298	1464	248	53	5	361
Pontef. Rd. Tri. .	161	668	152	9	..	170
Castlefields ...	1077	4837	887	185	5	1272
Roundhill	454	2052	382	72	..	526
Half Acres	644	3300	479	153	10	815
Hightown	191	919	153	31	8	239
Church	607	3203	445	150	12	781
Town	574	2738	474	95	5	679
Totals ...	4753	23339	3792	907	52	5762

Table 2.—Shewing Number of Rooms in Houses.

Survey Area.	No. of Houses.	Houses containing			
		1 & 2 Rooms.	3 & 4 Rooms.	5 & 6 Rooms.	7 or more Rooms.
Wheldale	747	1	634	109	3
Healdfield	298	..	218	61	19
Pontef. Rd. Tri. .	161	..	10	119	32
Castlefields	1077	..	417	618	42
Roundhill	454	2	232	201	19
Half Acres	644	9	422	196	17
Hightown	191	10	123	55	3
Church	607	12	296	285	14
Town	574	44	393	106	31
Totals	4753	78	2745	1750	180

Table 3.—Shewing Number of Houses Overcrowded.

Survey Area.	No. of houses	No. of houses overcrowded.	No. of occupants in houses overcrowded.
Wheldale	747	76	748
Healdfield	298	13	126
Pontef. Rd. Tri....	161	..	..
Castlefields	1077	10	102
Roundhill	454	11	109
Half Acres	644	45	454
Hightown	191	18	158
Church	607	39	392
Town	574	53	445
Totals	4753	265	2534

The following information is required by Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health, 10th December, 1925.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of houses erected during the year :

(a) Total

13

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(i) By the Local Authority

None

(ii) By other bodies or persons

7

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	259
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	259
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	197

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	177
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3.—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	None
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners (under Sect. 28 Housing Act, 1919)	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	None
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	None

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	None
--	------

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—

- (a) By Owners None
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. None

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders None
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made None
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit None
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders None

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a)—Milk Supply.

The supply is almost entirely produced outside the District, and is brought in by rail, motor and horse transport.

There appears to be no inadequacy as regards quantity, and speaking generally it is of good quality. The method of distribution is usually by means of a hand-can from which it is ladled into the consumer's jug, a method which is open to considerable objection on grounds of liability to contamination of the milk by dust, when the hand-can is opened in the street.

A supply of "Grade A" milk has recently been obtained for the town, and while the quantity taken is at present small, it is hoped that its use will increase as the public learn to appreciate its value, particularly for the feeding of infants and older children.

There is only one cowshed in the District; there are three cows kept. The cowshed is in fair structural condition.

Regulations made under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885 are in force in the District, and which are well observed.

Milkshops and purveyors' utensils were frequently inspected.

- (i) No action was found necessary in respect of tuberculous milk or cattle.
- (ii) There were no applications for licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1922.
- (iii) There were no refusals or revocations of registration of retailers, nor of licences for graded milk.
- (iiii) There were no samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination.

The dual register kept under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, shews the following :—

Retail Purveyors of Milk	..	..	..	30
Cowkeepers	..	..	..	1

(b)—Meat and other Foods.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are well observed by the traders engaged in the sale of meat in the District.

Notices as to regular and occasional slaughter are received by me, and as far as practicable inspections are made during or shortly after slaughter. The number of private slaughter-houses renders this somewhat difficult, and provision of a public slaughter-house with powers to eliminate all private slaughter-houses would greatly facilitate prompt and efficient inspection.

There are at the present time upwards of 20 butchers carrying on business in the town, who are without facilities for slaughtering, and in consequence a considerable quantity of dead meat is brought in.

The amount of ready killed meat brought into the District, was greatly increased during the year by restrictions imposed on the movement of live cattle, in consequence of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease.

There is reason to believe however, that the provision of a well-equipped public slaughter-house would in the long run be appreciated by all concerned.

There have been no arrangements made for meat marking under the Regulations.

The meat generally is found to be of good quality.

Condemned meat is usually destroyed at the Council's destructor.

The administration of the Regulations in respect of stalls, shops, stores and vehicles, has given rise to no serious difficulty.

The shops generally have closed fronts, the traders taking a pride in keeping their shops clean.

Informal action was taken in one case of a stall in the Market place without the prescribed coverings, and which were at once provided on attention being called to the omission.

The following table shows the number of slaughter-houses on the Register during the past five years.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered ..	None ..	None ..	None
Licensed ..	16 ..	15 ..	15

At four of the slaughter-houses structural alterations had to be carried out so as to comply with the new Regulations.

There were no prosecutions during the year.

Food found unsound or unfit for human consumption was as follows :—

1 Carcase of Beef (Generalized Tuberculosis)	38 stones
1 Carcase of Pig (Jaundice)	5½ stones
Corned Beef 5 tins	30 lbs.
Mussels, 1 bag	16 stones
Dripping	56 lbs.
Cranberries, 20 baskets	400 lbs.
Pears, 13 boxes	

All the above was surrendered and destroyed.

(c).—The shops where food is sold and places where food is prepared are frequently visited, and usually found to be in fair condition.

In one case sausage and potted meat were found to be made under unsatisfactory conditions. The premises have now been altered and improved.

The bakehouses in the town are maintained in fair condition, and are regularly limewashed and cleansed. There are 17 on the Register, of which number 7 are domestic bakehouses.

Attention is paid to these, to see that tables, utensils, walls, &c., are kept clean, and that water supply and washing arrangements are satisfactory.

Ice-cream is frequently found to be made under very unsatisfactory conditions, and powers for the adequate control of premises where this popular commodity is prepared are very greatly needed.

Bye-laws in respect of the trade of fish-frying are also required, so as to secure that premises shall be suitable for the purpose, and be properly equipped.

(d).—There have been no cases of food poisoning in the area.

(e).—*Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts*, 10 samples of milk were taken, in accordance with the arrangements existing with the West Riding County Council, and in addition to the samples taken by their Officers.

Four of the samples taken, from one purveyor, and whose milk was already under suspicion, were found to be adulterated, and prosecution was undertaken. Penalties of 25/- in each of the 4 cases, were imposed.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

As in previous years this branch of work has engaged a good deal of attention, always with a view to the ultimate abolition of closet accommodation on the conservancy system.

Owners are generally found to be reluctant to incur expense in this direction, an attitude which is doubtless influenced by depression of trade in the District.

Procedure has been chiefly under the provisions of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1907, Section 39.

There were 122 privies converted to water-closets, of which number 78 were executed by this Department in default of owner, and a proportion of the cost recovered in accordance with the Statute, 41 were carried out by the owners under special arrangement and a proportion of the cost paid to them, and the remainder were done by owners voluntarily.

The following summary shows the works carried out under this head during the year :—

Privies converted to water-closets	..	..	122
Slop-closets converted to water-closets	..	..	3
Water-closets (additional) provided to existing buildings	..	..	22
Water-closets provided to new buildings	..	..	13
Ashpits (wet) abolished	..	..	66
Ashpits (dry) abolished	..	..	1
Ashbins provided in substitution for ashpits	..	..	137
Ashbins provided for new buildings	..	..	13
Drains re-constructed or repaired in connection with existing buildings	..	..	152
Drains, water-closets, &c., opened and cleansed	..	..	178
Drains provided to new buildings	..	..	30
Sinks and water provided to existing buildings	..	..	11

The systematic cleansing of house gullies has proved itself to be well worth while. Blockages of drains must in many cases be prevented, and when such are discovered they are usually cleared immediately. The vexatious delays involved in serving notices on owners, and where such are recalcitrant, in executing works in default, are by this means avoided.

Particulars are now in course of being prepared for the purpose of making applications for a loan towards the cost of converting all the privies remaining in the District into water-closets.

The various types of sanitary convenience now existing in the town are estimated as follows :—

Privies in connection with ashpits	..	..	1954
Pail closets	..	..	28
Water-closets	..	..	2713
Slop closets (tippers)	..	..	19
Ashpits in connection with privies	..	..	1106
Ashpits (dry)	..	..	97
Ashbins	..	..	2689

The number of houses provided with movable ashbins in substitution for ashpits, during the last 5 years, is as follows :—

Year.	Houses.
1921	77
1922	37
1923	140
1924	85
1925	131

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND TRANSPORT.

There is again an increase in the amount of refuse removed and disposed of.

The figures for the year are as follows :—

By Motors.	By Horses.	Total.
14,576 tons	272 tons	14,848 tons

The previous year's total was 14,524 tons.

Disposal was effected by tipping at the Fryston tip, burning at the Council's destructor and by rail to farmers, for land cultivation, the latter accounting for 2,536 loads.

The intervals of emptying for wet ashpits ranged from 3 to 4 weeks, and for dry ashpits 1 to 4 weeks, according to capacity.

Ashbins are emptied weekly.

Market refuse is removed daily, and shop refuse weekly.

The public urinals are cleansed and disinfected daily, with additional attention at week-ends.

The tip at Fryston, having regard to its isolated position, its nominal rent, and its accessibility, is a great asset from the standpoint of refuse disposal.

Complaints were received of smells from the disused claypit recently used as a tip at Oxford Street, from residents of the neighbourhood, the smells being apparently due to dissolved organic matter in the water. The water was treated with chlorine in the form of "Chloros," which proved an effective remedy.

Costs.

The amount charged to scavenging account for the year is £5,637 13s. 0d.

This sum includes £3,918 11s. 6d. for wages, an increase over the previous year's wages bill of £75 9s. 2d.

The sum of £1,395 10s. 7d. is charged to scavenging in respect of transport.

The following table shows our scavenging costs for the last 5 years.

Year.			Total Cost.		Wages only.	
			£		£	
1921	..	..	7,316	..	5,103	
1922	..	..	6,686	..	4,289	
1923	..	..	5,121	..	3,635	
1924	..	..	5,862	..	3,843	
1925	..	..	5,637	..	3,918	

The work of refuse collection and removal is chiefly done by means of the Council's 5 Ford 1-ton wagons. The Morris "tonner" is now largely engaged on work for the Surveyor's department, viz. :— carrying of road materials and picking up sweepings.

The 2 horses yet remaining are generally engaged on gulley cleansing and sweeping, and the 1 pony on picking up sweepings.

The total charge to Transport account amounts to £1,828 12s. 9d., shewing a reduction against the figure for the year previous, which was £2,146 9s. 4d.

Of the total cost, £1395 10s. 7d., as already mentioned, is charged to scavenging, the remaining £443 2s. 2d. being allocated to other departments.

The change from horse to motor transport has been fully justified, both from the standpoint of efficiency and economy.

With horse transport it was formerly extremely difficult to overtake arrears of work due to fog, sickness, or other causes. With mechanically propelled vehicles, such difficulties are readily overcome.

Motor repairs are carried out by our own mechanic in the repair shop at the Council's depot. By this means vehicles are efficiently and economically overhauled and repaired as found necessary, and with a minimum loss of time.

Work done by motor vehicles during the year was as follows :—

Number of shifts worked—1,879.

Number of loads hauled—17,051=14,576 tons (est.).

Distance travelled—50,950 miles (estimated).

Petrol consumption equalled 5,552 gallons, yielding a miles per gallon figure of 9.17.

Analysis of Costs per Ford wagon engaged on house refuse collection.

STANDING CHARGES PER ANNUM.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Interest on Capital (present value £150 at 5%)				7	10	0			
Depreciation at 20% (5 years' life)				..	30	0	0		
Insurance				..	7	13	0		
Licence Duty				..	23	0	0		
Garage (Rent Allowance)				..	10	0	0		
							78	3	0

RUNNING COSTS PER ANNUM									
Driver's wages at £3/5/7½ per week (aver.)				170	12	6			
Fillers' wages, 2 at £2/17/9½ per week (aver.)				300	8	2			
Petrol and Oil				..	87	1	2		
Repairs (Replacements, tyres, tools, &c.)				69	5	0			
Repairs (Labour, &c.)				..	41	12	9		
							668	19	7
							£747	2	7

Removing 50 tons of refuse per week (average) or 2,600 tons per year, the above figures yield cost per ton at 5/8·9

For the previous year the figure was 5/8·1. Our cost per ton shows an increase therefore of 0·8 of a penny per ton, which is more than accounted for by the advance in wages.

Taking running costs with the same figures for wages as in the previous year, our cost per ton for 1925 would be 5/4·4. Extensive repairs were carried out to several vehicles during the year, including one new body.

A spare engine was also purchased, and which has proved a most useful acquisition when overhauls are required.

Motor Ambulances.

The two motor ambulances maintained by the Council, viz. :—

Ford—On loan from the Home Service Ambulance Committee ;

Morris—purchased in 1924 ;
continue to render good service.

The service is free to residents of the District, and is available to persons residing in the adjoining Urban and Rural Districts on payment of a fee of £1 per journey .

The large number of calls for conveyance of patients to hospitals in Leeds, Wakefield, &c., is evidence of the need for such facilities.

Ambulance Costs per Annum.

STANDING CHARGES		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Interest on Capital Cost—							
Morris only, £380 at 5% ..	..	19	0	0			
Depreciation—Morris only, at 20% ..	..	76	0	0			
Insurance—Ford	..	7	4	6			
Insurance—Morris	..	9	9	0			
Garage, (Rent, &c.)	..	20	0	0			
					131	13	6
RUNNING COSTS.							
Drivers' Fees and Wages	..	122	15	10			
Petrol and Oil	..	37	19	8			
Repairs, Painting and Replacements ..	..	22	19	1			
Repairs (proportion of Labour) ..	..	52	0	0			
First Aid Appliances	..	5	13	11			
					241	8	6
					373	2	0
Receipts in respect of Patients conveyed from							
outside Districts amounted to ..	..				145	19	0
					£227	3	0
Leaving a Nett Cost of							
The number of calls received was ..	..	..	560				
Distance travelled was	..	..	10,866 miles				
Petrol consumption amounted to ..	..	..	598 gallons				

Yielding the figure of 18·1 M.P.G.

The cost per mile equalled 8·24 pence.

The Ambulances are now garaged at the Council's Depot in Wheldon Road.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Disinfection of premises after all cases of infectious disease is carried out by means of spraying and fumigation. There were 74 houses disinfected during the year.

Bedding and clothing of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever are treated by steam at the Aketon Isolation Hospital.

We have no apparatus available for the efficient disinfection of bedding and clothing of Tuberculosis patients. Disinfectant is supplied to the home, and directions given as to its use. On the termination of a case, the patient's room is sprayed and fumigated.

Premises infested with vermin are dealt with by fumigation or spraying with insecticide, or both.

It is desirable that the "Velox" disinfector which the Council already possess, and awaits the provision of a suitable building, be installed and brought into use as early as possible.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

Smoke Abatement.

This matter has received serious consideration and attention during the year.

Owing to our community being chiefly engaged in coal mining, and in consequence the majority of the householders burning what is known as "colliers' coal," a fuel of low quality supplied monthly at a nominal cost, it is probable that a high proportion of the smoke in the area is discharged from the domestic chimney. Notwithstanding this, however, there is considerable pollution of the air from steam raising and process plants, much of which might be avoided. A number of observations were taken, and the attention of the firms concerned was drawn to the nuisance, as a result of which there has been some improvement. The provision of apparatus for the burning of smokeless fuel is now under consideration by one of the firms above mentioned. In addition to air pollution occurring within the area, a considerable amount is caused by chimneys and process plants situate just beyond our borders.

The nuisance of noxious fumes from chemical works in the neighbourhood has been greatly reduced.

With a view to obtaining definite information as to the extent of air pollution in the District caused by soot, it was decided to instal a soot deposit gauge, and keep appropriate records. A standard gauge was obtained from Dr. Owens of the Meteorological Office, London, and records have been kept since 1st October last.

The monthly analyses have been made by E. P. Wilson, Esq., M.Sc., A.I.C., Chemistry Master of the Castleford Secondary School, who has very generously undertaken to do the necessary analytical work, entirely free of cost, as a matter of public interest.

The records of soot, together with rainfall for the last 3 months of the year are as follows :—

Month.	Rainfall in Millimetres.	Solids collected in English tons per Square Mile.		
		Undissolved Matter.	Dissolved Matter.	Total Solids.
October	68·7	18·92	11·53	30·42 tons
Novemb'r	66·7	15·31	16·24	31·58 tons
Decemb'r	56·3	18·54	11·30	29·84 tons

I desire here to acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Wilson for the very valuable aid he is rendering in this matter month by month.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Wm. Thompson, of "Hadleigh," Cambridge Street, for kindly allowing the gauge to be placed in his garden.

Shops Acts and Orders made thereunder.

The administration of the Shops Acts, and the various Weekly Half-Holiday and Closing Orders made thereunder, is carried out by this Department.

I find that by the better class shop-keeper, shops legislation is welcomed and appreciated as being in the best interests of all those engaged in the distributive trades, as well as the general public.

Considerable difficulty arises however in the case of the mixed business, and it often occurs that while a shop is legally open for the sale of some exempted commodity, other goods are being sold under cover of such exemption, to the detriment of the man who is loyally observing the letter and spirit of the law.

While in some cases it is probable that in a mixed shop non-exempted goods are sold from the fear of giving offence to a customer, there is good reason for believing that in other cases the practice is deliberate and intentional.

There were 6 prosecutions instituted for offences under the Shops Acts, 2 of which were taken to prove the practice above mentioned, and all were down for hearing on the same day. In the first case taken no defence was offered, but objection was raised that my authorization was not under the Common Seal of the Council. Although it was pointed out to the Bench that this was not required by the Act, the objection was upheld, and in consequence the remaining cases were withdrawn.

Subsequent cases have however been taken, and convictions obtained without alteration in the terms of my authorization.

Petroleum Storage.

The supervision of petroleum storage in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum Acts, is carried out by this Department.

There were 21 licences issued during the year, mostly for tank storage.

The quantity of petroleum spirit allowed to be stored under licence is 73,800 gallons.

Three licences were issued to store carbide of calcium, the quantity allowed being 3,072 lbs.

The regulations are well observed.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are 4 common lodging houses in the town, all of which are registered, with a total accommodation for 190 persons.

The premises are frequently visited and are found to be fairly well kept.

Offensive Trades.

There are 3 offensive trades registered and carried on in the District :—1 gut scraper, and 2 tripe dressers.

All are well conducted, and premises and utensils kept clean and in good order.

No complaints were received in reference to these trades.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 120 factories and workshops on the register, of which number 39 are factories and 81 are workshops.

Frequent inspections have been made, and seldom have contraventions of the Factory and Workshops Act been found.

Informal action was taken in several cases, and in which requirements were complied with.

The list of occupations and trades is as follows :—

Tailoring	7	Boiler Maker ..	1
Baker and Confectioner	17	Laundry	1
Milliner	6	Mineral Water Manuf.	2
Plumber	6	Cycle Repairer ..	4
Boot Repairing ..	12	Gas Works	1
Dressmaking	4	Glass Bottle Manuf.	2
Confectionery Manuf. ..	2	Tripe Dresser ..	2
Cabinet Making ..	4	Gut Scraper	1
Clog Making	1	Sausage and Pie Maker	10
Scale Repairing ..	1	Iron Founder ..	1
Picture Framer ..	2	Mortar Grinding ..	3
Blacksmith	4	Maltster	2
Joiner	5	Earthenware Manuf.	1
Printer	4	Brick Manuf. ..	2
Motor Engineer, &c. ..	7	Rug Manuf.	1
Saddler	2	Chemical Manuf. ..	1
Flour Miller	1		

Theatres and Cinemas.

These premises, five in number, have been inspected from time to time, and usually found to be kept in good condition.

Water-closet and urinal accommodation is adequate, and in good order at all these premises. Ventilation is natural and artificial, the latter being by means of wall and roof fans, and which are maintained in an efficient state.

Classified Statement of Inspections. *i.e.*—

Housing	485
Infectious Disease	85
Schools	24
Factories and Workshops (including Bakehouses)	168
Slaughter-houses	260
Offensive Trades	12
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	45
Common Lodging Houses	12
Shops	416
Works in progress	312
Refuse removal	146
Smoke, Fumes, &c.	98
Petrol Stores	25
Theatres, &c.	20
Van Dwellings	28
Miscellaneous	75
	2,211

Statement of Defects or Nuisances Found, and Results of Action.

				Found	Abated or Remedied
Defective roofs, eaves gutters, fallpipes, &c.	..			165	158
Dampness of walls, defective floors, &c.	..			148	135
Defective drains, water-closets, &c.	..	..		252	248
Defective privies	..	..	..	45	40
Defective ashpits or ashbins	..	..	..	268	260
Sink waste pipes defective	..	..	..	38	35
Yard paving defective	..	..	..	136	134
Cellars flooded	..	..	..	16	16
Houses dirty	..	..	..	15	15
Manure requiring removal	..	..	..	10	10
Smoke, defective chimney, &c.	..	..	..	12	12
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	48	45
Common lodging houses—					
Want of limewashing	..	..	..	2	2
Want of washing utensils	..	..	..	1	1
Slaughter-houses—					
Want of limewashing	..	..	..	6	6
Defective floors	..	..	..	4	4
Offal to remove	..	..	..	3	3
Utensils not cleaned	..	..	..	1	1
Factories and workshops—					
Water-closets dirty	..	..	..	3	3
Water-closets insufficient	..	..	..	2	2
Bakehouse dirty	..	..	..	1	1
Bakehouse roof defective	..	..	..	1	1
Bakehouse refuse to remove	..	..	..	2	2
				1,179	1,134

Summary.

Number of inspections during year	..	..	2,211
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Defects or Nuisances Found.

Number found during year	..	..	1,179
Number carried over from 1924	..	..	134
Number abated or remedied during year	..	..	1,134
Number carried forward to 1926	..	..	179

Notices Issued.

Informal Notices issued	..	..	..	438
Informal Notices complied with	..	..	..	410
Statutory Notices issued	..	..	..	135
Statutory Notices complied with	..	..	..	67

Of which a further 52 have been complied with
since close of year.

I again desire to acknowledge the valuable help which Mr.
BASIL WADE, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, continues to render
in the general work of the Department.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS ERNEST BIRTWISLE,

SANITARY INSPECTOR and
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, CASTLEFORD,
June 29th, 1926.

