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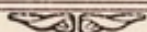
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DROYLSDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

1919

Urban District of Droylsden.

Area: 1,144 acres.

Population: At Census, 1901	11,097
At Census, 1911	13,259
1919 { For Death Rate, 1919	13,122
For Birth Rate, 1919	13,669

Number of Inhabited Houses:

At Census, 1901	2,447
Average number of persons per house ...	4·53
At Census, 1911	2,992
Average number of persons per house ...	4·43
At end of 1919	3,187
Average number of persons per house ...	4·11
Birth Rate for 1919	17·8
Death Rate for 1919	13·9

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health *For 1919*

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as to the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year 1919.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Droylsden Urban District lies between the City of Manchester and the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, which are situated west and east of it respectively. On the north it is bounded by the Failsworth Urban and the Limehurst Rural Districts, and on the south by the Audenshaw Urban District. It forms practically part of the City of Manchester.

Geologically, the district is situated upon clay, overlying shale and coal.

The surface of the district is generally flat, and is at a mean altitude of 300 feet above ordnance datum.

Houses are built principally along the three main thoroughfares of the district.

Mills and factories are situated along the banks of two canals, and most of the land in the rest of Droylsden is un-built upon.

The industries of the district are mainly cotton spinning and weaving, cloth finishing and dyeing, but a large number of colliers and men engaged in the iron and steel industry in adjacent districts reside in Droylsden.

There is no evidence to show that the influence of any particular occupation has any detrimental effect on public health.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number and description of Factories and Workshops in the District are as follows:—

Description of Works.	No.	Description of Works.	No.
Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills	8	Boot and Shoe Manufacturer...	1
Bleachers and Dyers	2	Mineral Water Manufacturer...	1
Chemical Manufacturers	3	Textile Machinery Manufacturer	1
Cement Manufacturer	1	Mews	1
Steam Laundry	1	Tripe Boilers	2
Metal Foundries	2	Fodder Stores	2
Tin Smiths	3	Tailors	3
Shoeing and General Smiths...	2	Station Goods Yards	2
Plumbers	6	Bakehouses	28
Painters and Decorators	2	Sterilised Milk Depot	1
Builders' Yards	6	Coal Depots	13
Joiners	3	Slaughter Houses	8
Coach Builder	1	Cold Stores and Ice Plant	1
Electrical Engineers	2	Wholesale Provision Dealer ...	1
Gasworks	1	Shippens and Farmsteads	20
Grocers' Sundries Manufacturer	1	Manufacturing Chemist	1
Pickle and Preserve Manufactur- ers	2	Shirt Manufacturer	1
Cask Maker	1	Cotton Waste Dealers	2
Engineering Tool Works	4	Knitted Coats Manufacturer* ...	1
Cycle and Motor Works	2	Upholsterer	1
Wringing Machine Manufactur- er	1	Post Office	1
General Waste Dealers	3	Town's Store Yard	1
Monumentalists	2	Cemetery	1
Printer	1	Sewage Disposal	1
		Refuse Destructor	1
		Total	157

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.

During the year the births of 244 infants (127 males and 117 females) were registered. Of these births five males and seven females were illegitimate.

The birth rate for the year is 17.8 per 1,000, a slight increase compared with last year, but still much below the average.

DEATH RATE.

During the year the deaths of 183 persons were registered. This gives a death rate of 13.9 per 1,000. Of these deaths 19 (11 males and 8 females) were children under one year of age.

Measured in proportion to the recorded births, this gives an infantile mortality of 77 per 1,000.

Diseases of the respiratory organs such as bronchitis and pneumonia, caused 39 deaths, or 21 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 15 per cent. in 1918, and 22 per cent. in 1917.

All tubercular diseases caused 18 deaths or 9.8 per cent. of the total deaths as compared with 7 per cent. in 1918, and 14 per cent. in 1917. Sixteen of these deaths were caused by phthisis, which gives a phthisis death-rate of 1.21 as compared with 1.17 in 1918.

Diseases of the zymotic or infectious class caused 20 deaths. The epidemic death rate for the year is .30 as compared with .78 in 1918.

The following table shows the number of deaths from the chief zymotic diseases during the last ten years:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles	11	7	9	3	5	5	3	6	0	0
Scarlet fever ...	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1
Whooping cough	13	2	9	3	3	3	11	1	6	1
Diphtheria ...	5	4	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	1
Enteric fever ...	2	2	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	17
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	32	15	21	6	15	13	17	9	52	20

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1919 and previous Years.

Year	Population Estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected No.	Rate		Number	Rate	Of Non Resident Registered in the District. 8	Of Residents not Registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate					Number.	Rate per 1000 nett Births.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1912	13500	322	325	24	160	11.8	2	43	38	116.9	201	14.8
1913	13700	302	305	22.26	145	10.5		41	35	118	186	13.5
1914	13900	329	331	23.8	160	11.5		39	40	120.8	199	14.3
1915	13329	313	315	23.6	184	13.8		43	41	130	227	17
1916	{ 12951 14091		277	19.6					27	97	192	14.8
1917	{ 12701 14158		250	17.6					19	76	176	13.8
1918	{ 12727 14260		239	16.7					16	66	214	16.8
1919	{ 13122 13669		M 127 F 117	17.8					19	77	M 90 F 93	13.9

Causes of Death	Males.	Females.
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	0
Diphtheria	1	0
Influenza	9	8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	7
Tubercular Meningitis	0	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	0
Cancer	5	11
Rheumatic Fever	1	0
Meningitis	0	1
Organic Heart Diseases	5	8
Bronchitis	12	9
Pneumonia	9	6
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	2
Diarrhœa	1	0
Appendicitis	2	0
Nephritis	2	3
Parturition	0	1
Congenital Debility	5	2
Violence	4	1
Suicides	1	0
Other defined diseases	21	32
	—	—
	90	93
Total	183	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	11	8
Total	19	

POOR LAW RELIEF.

The Ministry of Health have directed that this report should contain a statement indicating the amount of Poor Law Relief and the extent to which hospitals and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised, and I append the following copy of a letter which I have received on the subject from Mr. H. Hall Daley, Clerk to the Guardians.

[Copy Letter.]

Ashton-under-Lyne,
April 12th, 1920.

Dear Sir,—

Your Annual Report, 1919.

Reference yours of the 26th ultimo, I have now the pleasure to inform you that during the year ended December 31st, 1919, residents of Droylsden who received relief from my Board are classified as follows:—

Department.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Hospital	11	15	5	31
Institution	13	21	4	38
Outdoor relief	19	54	55	128
Asylums	11	6	0	17
	54	96	64	214

Without the expenditure of considerable time and trouble it is not possible to inform you of the cost of maintenance of the foregoing in the Hospital, Institutions, and Asylums, because we should have to ascertain for each individual the number of days he was maintained, and then reckon at the current flat rate of 21s. for the Hospital, 10s. 6d. for the Institution, and 17s. 6d., 19s. 3d., and 21s. 7d. in the Asylums (changing rates during the year). Moreover, an individual may, and often is, included in figures for the three indoor departments.

Excluding administration expenditure, the actual cost of outdoor relief for the year was £866 5s. 7d., but this includes additional grants for Peace and Christmas Days.

Yours faithfully.

(Signed) H. HALL DALEY.

Fred G. Pell-Ilderton, Esq., M.B.

In addition to the above, advantage is taken by the residents of Droylsden to the splendid hospital facilities afforded to them by the close proximity of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, Ancoats Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary, St. Mary's Hospitals, and many other institutions set apart for special diseases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

The district is amply provided with Water from the service mains of the Manchester Corporation. The water is of excellent quality, and the supply constant except in times of severe drought, when the only resulting disadvantage is that the supply is curtailed during the night time.

Only two houses are not supplied with water direct from the mains. These houses are situated and derive their water supply, which is of good quality, respectively, as follows: "Uplands," Greenside, private well in garden; Gartside Farm, spring near farm.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The pollution of the rivers and streams in the district is of negligible amount, and such slight pollution as does exist cannot be further obviated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

An excellent main scheme exists in Droylsden.

The sewers which are on the combined system are ventilated by perforated manhole covers at the ground level.

The sewers are so constructed that the whole of the sewage finds its way to the Sewage Disposal Works by gravitation. Owing to the extremely small gradient of some of the sewers a considerable amount of silting occurs in certain lengths, this being particularly noticeable in the Edge Lane sewer (south).

The uniform system of ventilating the sewers by open manhole covers at the ground level is objectionable, and at times gives rise to a nuisance.

In recent years many of the insanitary sewers have been relaid but many old sewers of an insufficient character still remain and these are being substituted at a rapid rate by properly laid stoneware pipe sewers, so that the work of converting the remaining privy closets to the water-carriage system can be carried out.

With the exception of 47 houses the whole of the dwelling-houses, mills and workshops, in the district are connected with the main drainage system.

These houses are scattered in remote parts of the district, and it is the intention to bring the drainage from them into the main sewers as quickly as possible.

During the past ten years active measures have been taken to remedy the very unsatisfactory system of house drainage formerly in vogue.

In over 1,000 cases since 1910, the whole of the existing yard drains, slopstone drains, etc., have been removed and substituted by properly constructed cement-jointed socketed earthenware pipe drains, with trapped gullies at all inlets. This work has been undertaken at the same time as the conversion of closets to the water carriage system.

Very few houses at which the drainage is inefficient now remain in the district and these cases are being dealt with as rapidly as possible. In almost every instance the water test is applied to new drains.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Outfall Works are situated at Sunny Bank at a distance of some 300 yards from a few isolated dwelling-houses.

The Sewage Disposal Works were remodelled in 1910, and consist of an Inlet Chamber, 2 Catchpits, 4 large Precipitation Tanks, 2 Bacterial Filters, with fixed spray nozzles, and a small Measuring Chamber at the outlet. The initial flow of storm water is provided for by two large tanks formerly used as precipitation tanks.

The system works well and the effluent, which eventually enters the river Irwell, and samples of which are frequently taken by the Inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee, does not usually give cause for complaint, although the standard is sometimes below the regulations of the Joint Committee.

The effluent will be considerably improved, and I hope prove quite satisfactory after the provision of suitable Humus Tanks at the outlet of the filters. A contract has been entered into for the construction of these Humus Tanks and the work will be commenced almost immediately.

The precipitated sludge from the tanks is ordinarily converted into Pressed Sludge Cakes by means of a sludge pressing plant consisting of three presses worked by an air compressor, the latter being driven by a small steam engine fed by waste steam from the Refuse Destructor.

During the serious shortage of labour the practice of pumping sludge into lagoons in the Greenside Valley, had, of necessity, to be revived: this system is now only used during an emergency.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Considerable progress was made during the year with the conversion of privy closets to the water carriage system. This work had been practically discontinued during the previous three years, but with the return of suitable labour progress was again made possible.

During the year 1919, as a result of notices issued by the Council, there were 100 privy middens converted to the water carriage system.

I append the following table showing the number of privy closets converted to the water carriage system during the past 12 years, and in connection with the matter I may mention that the whole of the cost and expense of the work has been borne by the owners respectively, no grant of any kind having been made by the District Council towards the cost:—

1908.....	63	1914.....	191
1909.....	54	1915.....	56
1910.....	117	1916.....	4
1911.....	419	1917.....	1
1912.....	402	1918.....	0
1913.....	281	1919.....	100
			Total... 1,688

At factories, workshops, and schools 10 privy closets were abolished and 2 new w.c.'s provided.

The following statement gives particulars of the closet accommodation in the district, with information as to the number of each type of closet, remaining at the end of the year 1919:—

Number of Fresh Water Closets	3388
Number of Waste Water Closets	39
Number of Pail Closets	18
Number of Privy Closets	321

And these are situate as follows:—

Premises.	Fresh Water W.C's.	Waste W.C's.	Pail Closets.	Privy Closets.
At Houses	2957	37	12	291
At Schools, etc.	153	0	0	26
At Factories and Workshops	278	2	6	4
	—	—	—	—
Totals	3388	39	18	321

The work of clearing away privy closets is now proceeding with great rapidity, and I am happy to say that the District Council have determined to stamp out the conservancy system with the utmost despatch.

SCAVENGING.

The work of refuse removal is carried out by administration and is performed in a satisfactory manner.

Middens and ashpits are cleansed in the night-time, and the refuse from movable ashbins is collected in the day time. Ashpits and middens are emptied from time to time as required, and dry refuse is ordinarily collected at weekly or fortnightly intervals according to circumstances.

730 loads of night-soil were removed from 1,038 middens and ashbins, and 1,855 loads of dry refuse were removed in the day time. The cost of this work was £1,426. Receipts for the removal of Trade Refuse amounted to £24 3s. 2d.

3,428 tons of refuse were collected during the year, and of these, 2,238 tons were burnt in the Refuse Destructor at a cost (including repairs to Destructor and removal of clinkers) of £627. The Refuse Destructor was closed during the first four months of the year in consequence of the stokers having to be withdrawn and placed upon urgent highway repairs, and during this period all nightsoil was stacked at the Destructor for future burning, and all dry refuse was tipped in the Green-side Valley in such a manner and position as would not lead to the creation of a nuisance.

The steam from the Destructor is utilised for the purposes of sludge pressing, stone crushing, mortar making and steam disinfecting.

Movable galvanised metal ashbins with proper covers are being substituted for ashpits, and middens, and the following table gives an indication of the number of houses at which such substitution has taken place during recent years:—

1910.....	104	1915.....	60
1911.....	407	1916.....	1
1912.....	485	1917.....	0
1913.....	314	1918.....	0
1914.....	216	1919.....	83

Total1670

In order to facilitate the provision or renewal of dilapidated and unserviceable ashbins the Council keep in stock a large number of portable galvanised metal ashbins with covers and these are retailed to owners of property at a fraction above cost price. During the year 1919, 163 ashbins were sold in this manner, the price realised being £108 4s. 0d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

During the year inspections of premises made by the Inspector of Nuisances resulted in the discovery of 914 nuisances at 403 houses as follows:—

List of Nuisances Abated in 1919.

Insanitary privy closets	100
„ middens and ashpits	83
Defective drains relaid	130
„ yard gullies removed	70
„ slop waste pipes repaired	41
„ downspouts renewed	23
„ yard walls rebuilt	57
„ paving of backyards	74
Dilapidated ashbins renewed	135
Defective house roofs made watertight	17
„ house floors repaired	10
„ chimney flues repaired	4
„ kitchen grates reset	3
„ windows repaired	11
Insufficient water supply to houses	8
Broken slopstone replaced	1

Flooded houses	2
Damp walls and ceiling	4
Defective roof gutters renewed	5
Dangerous gable walls repaired	2
Falling house walls rebuilt	5
Defective plaster on walls and ceiling	12
Defective wash-boilers replaced	2
Dirty walls and ceilings cleansed	3
Stoppages removed from w.c. drains	9
Waste water closet repaired	1
Defective cone on w.c. renewed	1
Insanitary pail closet renewed	1
Yard drains choked	31
Street grids stopped	1
Ashpit grids stopped	5
Water overflowing from midden	1
Defective w.c. cisterns	3
Burst w.c. pipes	8
Passage drains stopped	9
Manhole choked	1
Foul smells from manhole	1
Accumulation of rubbish and filth	5
Fumes and black smoke	1
Flooded back passages	3
Overcrowding	1
Accumulation of manure	1
Miscellaneous	29
Total	914

The attention of H.M. Inspector of Factories was called to two premises where the Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act was not affixed, as required by the Act.

Immediate and active steps were taken to obtain the remedy of these defects or nuisances, and for this purpose 162 Informal and 45 Statutory Notices were served upon the owners or agents of the respective premises.

At the end of 1919 there remained 18 Informal and 15 Statutory Notices not complied with, but the work in each case has since been carried out.

I again have to call attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the two public urinals. These are very obsolete and in a state of decay. Modern fittings and water flushing apparatus should be provided without delay, and it is also highly desirable that suitable public conveniences and lavatories for both sexes should be provided in the district.

The state of the back passages in the district calls for immediate attention.

With few exceptions the whole of the passages are unpaved and in many cases are almost impassable in wet weather, and are a serious menace to health.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The number and character of these premises and occupations is as follows:—

	No.	Registered.	Remarks.
Slaughter Houses	8	... Yes. ...	Clean.
Dairies and Cowsheds.....	20	... Yes. ...	Clean.
Milkshops	45	... Yes. ...	Clean.
Bakehouses	28	... Yes. ...	Clean. (one underground).
Offensive Trades	—	... 3 ...	Fish friers not Registered.
Outworkers	6	... Yes. ...	Clean.
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	... — ...	—
Other Lodging Houses ...	Nil	... — ...	—

The Outworkers are engaged at their own homes mainly in the sewing of shirts for firms in Manchester. The work is only part time, and almost negligible. No cases of infectious disease have occurred at any of the houses, and the intervention of the Health Department has not been necessary in any case.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

The premises affected by this Act, which prohibits the sale and use for the purpose and manufacture of certain articles of unclean flock manufactured from Rags, have been inspected, and it was found that in no instance were rag flocks permitted to be introduced on the premises.

SCHOOLS.

There are three Public Elementary Schools of modern construction and two other Day Schools of earlier date. The sanitary condition and water supply of these schools is good. It has not been found necessary during the year to close any schools for the purpose of preventing the spread of infectious disease, but the schools were thoroughly disinfected during each of the usual holidays and at such other times when children's diseases were prevalent in the district.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

No special local arrangements are in force for ascertaining the wholesomeness of the milk produced within or imported into the district, but it is understood that samples of this food are taken for analysis by the Inspectors of the Lancashire County Council, who are the Local Authority under the Sales of Food and Drugs Acts.

Samples of milk for the purpose of detecting adulteration are frequently taken from milk retailers by the police.

A boy suffering from ringworm was discovered delivering milk for a farmer, and was immediately stopped.

The services of a Veterinary Surgeon are called in with respect to suspected tuberculosis in milch cows when and as required.

The administration of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders is carried out effectively, and the sanitary condition of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops in the district leaves little scope for improvement.

Considerable structural repairs and improvements have been carried out at Oaks Farm during the year, and when completed will entitle these premises to rank as a model farm.

Two Certificates of Registration were granted to cow-keepers.

The Milkshops are well kept, and are usually found quite satisfactory.

The cleanliness of the milk vessels and measures have given no cause for complaint, but the protection of the milk from dust by suitable covering is not always carried out when it should be.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

The administration of this Order has been undertaken by the Lancashire County Council, through the medium of the Droylsden Infant Welfare Centre.

OTHER FOODS.

The following articles of food which were found to be unsound or unfit for human consumption were condemned during the year:—

Ham	20 lbs.	Oranges.....	28 cwts.
Bacon.....	30 lbs.	Butter.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ cask.
Ground rice.....	10 cwts.	Eggs.....	110.
Onions.....	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.		

The Slaughter-houses are generally in good condition, but in four cases they are in very undesirable proximity to dwellings, in some cases the Slaughter-house forming the back room of the premises.

The floors and walls are well constructed and in a good state of repair.

Only three of the Slaughter-houses are at present in use, and these for the slaughter of pigs only.

During the past two or three years the practice of slaughtering live cattle and sheep by local butchers has been discontinued, all supplies being obtained from the Manchester Dead Meat Markets, where the meat is subjected to inspection by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Manchester Corporation.

The Bakehouses mostly are small, and, as in the case of some Slaughter-houses, they are usually situated in undesirable proximity, if not actually within, the dwelling portion of the premises. There is one mechanical bakery, and this is of modern construction, and along with the others, is well kept. The underground bakery is almost entirely below the street level, but having regard to the satisfactory manner in which it is maintained, no reason has so far been found to justify its condemnation.

The Offensive Trades consist of two Tripe Boilers, one Rag and Bone Dealer, and 14 Fish Friers, and no complaints have been received with respect to any of these.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Acts, 269 cases of infectious disease were notified.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the last ten years:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	18	15	15	9	9	8	9	13	6	2
Erysipelas	12	10	9	8	14	14	10	7	15	18
Scarlet fever ...	88	31	32	45	81	50	19	13	24	24
Enteric fever ...	19	11	7	8	5	26	4	1	1	1
Puerperal fever.	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	0
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	...	23	52	55	41	47	43	47	39	33
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	24	22	21	23	27	10	5
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	6	6	11	8
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	118	231	63	116
Totals ...	140	92	118	152	176	170	233	349	172	269

On receipt of the notification of infectious diseases enquiries are instituted as soon as possible into the causes of infection, and the premises examined to ascertain if insanitary conditions exist, and such, where found, are caused to be immediately remedied.

Complete isolation of the patients from non-infected members of the household is insisted upon, and when the patients are sufficiently recovered the houses and infected articles therein are thoroughly disinfected by means of formaldehyde vapour and izal fluid.

Disinfectant in liquid and powder form is supplied free during the progress of illness resulting from infectious disease, and any householder may at any time receive free supplies of disinfectants on making an application accompanied by a satisfactory reason, at the Council Offices.

A Steam Disinfector (Alliotts' Patent) is in use at the Destructor Works and a suitable four-wheeled Van and a small Hand Van are available for conveying infected articles to and from the Disinfecting Station.

During the year, 64 premises were disinfected by the Council, as follows:—Schools, 16; Houses—After Tuberculosis 12, Scarlet Fever 33, Diphtheria 2, and bugs 1.

A general Order of the Local Government Board made Malaria, Dysentery, Trench Fever, Acute Primary Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, Enteric Fever, Relapsing Fever, and Typhus Fever compulsory notifiable diseases from March 1st, 1919.

Under the Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910, 16,000 units of Diphtheria Anti-toxin were administered by practitioners to patients resident in the district suffering from diphtheria.

There were no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica and no "Return" cases of Scarlet Fever. The cases of Malaria were all traced to foreign origin.

A General Order of the Ministry of Health directed that Measles and German Measles should cease to be compulsory notifiable diseases after December 31st, 1919.

Arrangements made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory for the examination of swabs taken from throats suspected to be diphtheritic, sputum collected from patients suspected to be tubercular, and blood collected from patients suspected to be suffering from enteric fever, by practitioners in attendance on the residents in the district resulted in 13 bacteriological examinations being made:—Blood 1, swabs 4, and sputum 8.

A weekly report is submitted by the School Attendance Officer indicating the prevalence of diseases amongst school children and at no time during the year was it found necessary to adopt school closure.

The third wave of the Influenza epidemic invaded the district during February and March. The number of people attacked was again very large, and the cases generally of a severe type. A handbill suggesting various precautions which might be taken against the disease was distributed throughout the district.

Deaths from Influenza numbered a total of 17 as compared with 44 in the previous year.

Notifications of Tuberculosis by Medical Practitioners are carried out in a satisfactory and thorough manner, and no action has been found necessary for enforcing the regulations or ensuring prompt notification.

A number of cases of smallpox were notified in the City of Manchester of people residing near the boundary of Droylsden, and action was taken to deal promptly with any cases which might have arisen in this district, but fortunately none occurred.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Lancashire County Council are the supervising authority under the Midwives Act, and the provisions of these statutes are carried out entirely by them.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre established in the district is conducted by the Lancashire County Council, as is also the School Medical Service.

Upon the receipt of notifications of Puerperal Fever prompt inquiries are instituted, and the result of the investigation transmitted to the County Medical Officer, who at his discretion causes further inquiries to be made by the County Inspector of Midwives. No case of Puerperal Fever was, however, notified during the year.

Disinfection of the clothing and equipment of a midwife who has been in attendance upon a case of Puerperal Fever is insisted upon.

Eight cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year. On notification inquiries are made, and the details forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health, who, if he sees fit, conducts further inquiries through his own officials.

Severe cases are frequently sent as in-patients to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent more or less during the whole year, the former particularly during

the Summer months, but never attained great proportions. The Measles cases were of a very mild type, and although 116 notifications were received of houses where Measles were present, not one death resulted. One death was registered as having been caused by Whooping Cough.

I am of opinion that the notification of Measles, and visiting by a Health Visitor of cases of Measles, is of little practical use, and the money spent is largely wasted.

Diseases like Measles. Whooping Cough, and Scarlet Fever should be made the subject of research in the same way in which Mediterranean Fever and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were investigated, and a large Government grant made for the purpose.

Zymotic Diarrhœa was practically non-existent during the year under review, and only one death was registered from that cause.

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

The Inspector of Nuisances, who also acts as Superintendent of the Removal of House Refuse, Designated Officer under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, etc., is Mr. Frank Schofield, and he has the part-time assistance of one clerk.

The Inspector of Nuisances is fully occupied and performs his duties with marked ability and in a conscientious manner.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Owing to insufficient means of isolation at home, seven cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria were removed to the Hyde Hospital for Infectious Diseases, where six beds are retained (one for smallpox and five for other diseases) at an annual rental of £66. As many beds as required in addition to the above, are available up to the limit of accommodation of the Hospital. Payments during the year for the maintenance of patients amounted to the additional sum of £67. One of the cases of Scarlet Fever died whilst in Hospital.

The following Acts have been adopted by the Council:—

Title of Act.	Date Act came in force in District.
The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889	1st June, 1893.
The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	29th Dec., 1902.
The Private Street Works Act, 1892	26th Aug., 1901.
The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Parts 2, 3, and 4)	1st Sept., 1906.
The Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2 and 3) (certain sections thereof), Parts 4 and 6, and Sections 95 comprised in Part 4	17th Nov., 1913.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order were made on July 22nd, 1902.

Revised By-Laws regulating new streets and buildings, sewerage, removal of excrement and refuse, water closets, etc., were sanctioned in the year 1908 on the lines of the Board's model series.

By-Laws regulating slaughter-houses were sanctioned on October 16th, 1903.

HORSE AMBULANCE.

The Horse Ambulance which is owned by the Urban District Council was utilised 39 times for the removal of private cases of illness and for one accident case. The receipts were £14 3s. 9d. against an expenditure of £33 3s. 6d

DROYLSDEN CEMETERY.

Droylsden Cemetery was opened on July 25th, 1896, the site contains 15 acres of which a portion is laid out as a Park.

The Cemetery belongs to and is managed by the District Council and up to the end of 1919 there were 5917 interments

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

An Infant Welfare Centre on voluntary lines was opened in the Wesleyan School in 1916, and has performed very valuable work. The Institution was taken over by the Lancashire County Council some 12 months ago.

DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The District Sick Nursing Association employ two whole-time nurses for the visitation of the sick. No nursing facilities are provided by the District Council, but a small grant is made annually to the funds of the District Nursing Association.

HOUSING.

In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health I have prepared a short statement giving information of certain matters in connection with general housing conditions in the district, and, as required by the Ministry, have included this information as an Appendix to my report.

I am, Gentlemen.

Your obedient servant,

F. G. P. ILBERTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX

DROYLSDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSING

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1919

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

GENTLEMEN,

I submit the following information relating generally to the Housing Conditions in the District, as required of me by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the directions contained in "Memorandum 9/Med.: as to Contents and Arrangement of the Annual Report of Medical Officers of Health for 1919."

The total number of houses in the district is 3,198, of which approximately 2,500 are suitable for the working classes.

No new houses for the working classes were erected during the year, neither are there any in course of erection.

The estimated population for Birth Rate purposes is 13,669, and for Death Rate 13,122.

No important change in the number of the population occurred during the year or is anticipated in the near future.

At the end of the year there was an estimated shortage of 561 dwelling-houses in the district. and to meet this shortage the Housing Scheme of the Council for the provision of a first installment of some 251 houses will shortly be commenced.

The site, plans and layout of this Scheme have already been approved by the Housing Commissioner, to whom the House Plans had also been submitted at the end of 1919. (The first sod was cut on April 24th, 1920.)

Overcrowding exists to a considerable extent. it being estimated that 279 houses are required to relieve overcrowding alone.

The causes of overcrowding are. primarily, the cessation of building of dwelling-houses during the past few years, and the clearance of a large number of houses in an adjacent district to enable extensive works to be erected for the manufacture of heavy ordnance. causing a large influx of iron workers into the district.

No special measures can be taken to deal with this overcrowding until additional houses are provided.

The general standard of houses in the district is good, on the whole. but there is found a general tendency on the part of owners to shirk repairs or renewals of an expensive nature.

In the case of houses found to be unfit. the general character of the defects were serious dampness, dilapidation, and decay.

Notices requiring the remedy of defects at 363 houses were served under the Public Health Acts, and defects at a further 40 houses were made good without the necessity of serving notices.

Nine Closing Orders were issued under the Housing. Town Planning, &c., Acts, 1909 and 1919.

Many difficulties are encountered in remedying unfitness of houses owing to the high cost of repairs, a general inability to promptly secure labour and materials, and the reluctance of owners to carry out substantial repairs or improvements during the operation of the Rents and Mortgages (Restriction) Acts, which limit rents to pre-war amounts.

The Water Supply is good, constant, and of excellent quality, all houses, with the exception of two, being connected to the service mains of the Manchester Corporation.

Very few Closets on the conservancy system now remain, and these are being converted to the water carriage system with the utmost despatch, and the few remaining middens are being removed and substituted by movable galvanised metal ashbins with loose covers.

During the year 1919, 100 privy closets were converted to the water carriage system, and 48 middens and ashpits were abolished and galvanised metal bins provided in their stead.

There are no unhealthy "Areas" in the district.

The existing Bye-Laws, so far as they relate to houses, operate in a satisfactory manner, but the need has been found for new Bye-Laws relating to tents, vans, sheds, etc., and it is proposed to adopt the Model Bye-Laws of the Local Government Board (now the Ministry of Health) at an early date.

STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

No. of dwellings in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation by householders	1
Action under Section 17 of the House Act of 1909:	
(a) No. of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of the section	16
(b) No. of dwelling-houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation	9
(c) No. of dwelling-houses the defects of which were remedied without making of Closing Orders	Nil
Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919:	
(a) No. of Orders for repairs issued	7
(b) No. of cases in which repairs were carried out by the Local Authority	Nil
(c) No. of dwelling-houses voluntarily closed which could not be made fit without reconstruction	Nil

Closing Orders:

(a) No. of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	9
(b) No. of Closing Orders made.....	9
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in regard to which Closing Orders were determined on the houses being made fit for human habitation	Nil

Demolition Orders:

(a) No. of Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) No. of houses demolished by the pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(c) No. of houses demolished voluntarily ..	Nil

Obstructive Buildings:

(a) No. of representations made (Section 38 of the Housing Act of 1890)	Nil
(b) No. of buildings demolished	Nil
(c) No. of representations still under consideration...	Nil

The Staff engaged in Housing Work is as follows:—

Designated Officer under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, Mr. Frank Schofield (Inspector of Nuisances to the Urban District Council).

Architect for the new Housing Scheme, Mr. Charles Hall (Engineer and Surveyor to the Urban District Council).

Architectural Surveyor, Quantity Surveyor, and Clerk of Works, Mr. Laurence Flood.

Architectural Assistant and Assistant Clerk of Works, Mr. A. H. Amor.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. P. ILBERTON,

Medical Officer of Health

