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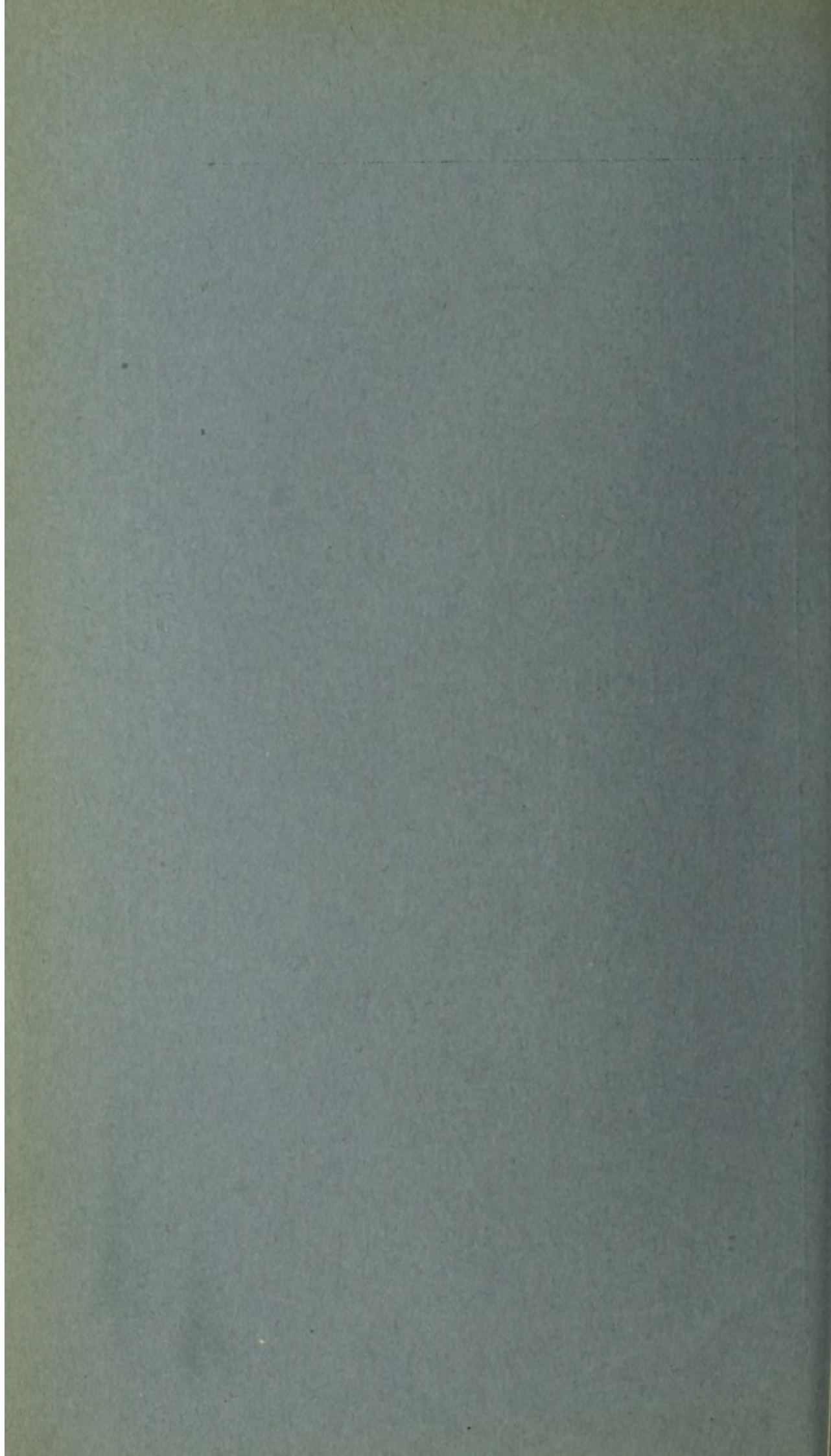


COUNTY BOROUGH OF HALIFAX
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

.....

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE BOROUGH
For the Year 1926.

CYRIL BANKS,
M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Sheff.),
Medical Officer of Health.





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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE CITY OF BOSTON
FOR THE YEAR
1887

JOHN A. COOK, M.D.,
JOHN A. COOK, M.D.,
JOHN A. COOK, M.D.,
JOHN A. COOK, M.D.,
JOHN A. COOK, M.D.,

Health Committee

(as on Dec. 31st, 1926).

Mayor.

COUNCILLOR A. H. GLEDHILL, J.P.

ALDERMAN W. M. BRANSON, J.P., *Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR JOHN FOSTER, *Vice-Chairman.*

Alderman T. HEY, J.P.	Coun. W. GREENWOOD.
„ A. W. LONGBOTTOM,	„ F. SHARP.
„ A. WALTERS. J.P.	„ H. THORP.
Councillor P. BARRETT.	„ L. LUMB.
„ J. BROADBENT.	„ F. SYKES.
„ M. WILLIAMSON.	„ M. LIGHTOWLER
Coun. E. W. LYON.	J.P.

Sub-Committees

Appointed by the Health Committee.

Health Services and Hospital Sub-Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN.	COUNCILLOR SHARP.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.	„ GREENWOOD.
ALDERMAN HEY.	„ THORP.
„ WALTERS.	„ LIGHTOWLER.

Cleansing Sub-Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN.	COUNCILLOR BARRETT.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.	„ SYKES.
COUNCILLOR BROADBENT.	„ WILLIAMSON.
„ LUMB.	„ LYON.

Accounts Sub-Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN.	COUNCILLOR WILLIAMSON.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.	„ BARRETT.
ALDERMAN WALTERS.	„ LYON.
COUNCILLOR SYKES.	

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The Health Committee with the following additional Members:—
MISS DOROTHY WRIGHT. MRS. LAVINIA LUMB.
MRS. E. WHITAKER. MISS FLORENCE WHITLEY.
MRS. M. A. TAYLOR, J.P. MRS. MARY E. WILLIAMSON.

Welfare of the Blind Sub-Committee.

ALDERMAN W. M. BRANSON.	COUNCILLOR WILLIAMSON.
COUNCILLOR SHARP.	„ LYON.
COUNCILLOR BROADBENT.	

Staff of the Health Department

(as on December 31st, 1926).

*CYRIL BANKS, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Medical Officer of the
Medical Services of the Corporation.

*WILFRID SMITH, M.Sc. M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Clinical Tuberculosis Officer and
Resident Medical Officer, Sanatorium.

*A. LATCHMORE, M.D., Ed.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer to Maternity and
Child Welfare Centre.

*F. W. WATERWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer.

J. POLLARD, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., (Vict.)

Veterinary and Meat Inspector.

‡ H. G. CLINCH, M.Inst. F.E.E.

Chief Sanitary and Smoke Inspector.

†F. TEAL. †J. G. WALSHAW. †E. WILSON. †H. LEAPER.
District Sanitary Inspectors.

†H. H. HAGUE, Assistant Meat Inspector.

T. FEARNLEY, Shops Inspector.

||§*ELSIE R. ORAM, Senior Health Visitor.

*L. WOLSTENHOLME. *E. MARSHALL. ||§*M. H. SUTCLIFFE.

§*G. BRIGGS. §*M. MOORE. *E. G. TINDLE.
Health Visitors.

J. W. JACKSON, Chief Clerk.

†CHARLES CARLTON. H. WRIGHT. H. CARLTON.
C. MASTERMAN. Assistant Clerks.

F. WILSON, Matron, Fever Hospital.

*W. DAVIDSON, Matron, Sanatorium.

P. SHARPE, Removal Officer.

*Salary contributed to, under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

†Certificate Sanitary Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

‡Royal Sanitary Institute Certificates as Sanitary, Meat and Smoke Inspector,
and in advanced knowledge of Inspectors' duties.

§Certificate Central Midwives Board.

||Health Visitor's Certificate.

The Analyst for the Borough is
Mr. H. T. LEA, B.Sc. (Hons.) M.Sc.; F.I.C.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF HALIFAX.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1926.

INTRODUCTION.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health
Committee.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the 54th Annual Report on the health of the Borough, dealing with the year 1926. As the Report for 1925 was, by order of the Ministry of Health, a five yearly "Survey" the present one has been put in more condensed form, for economy of printing expenses and time.

* * * *

The illness and subsequent death of Dr. D. M. Taylor deprived the Corporation of a valued servant, and the staff of the Health Department realised that they had lost a highly esteemed colleague. Dr. Taylor has been associated with the health services of Halifax since 1910, first as School Medical Officer and, since 1st July, 1913, as Medical Superintendent of the Shelf Sanatorium, Tuberculosis Officer and Assistant Medical Officer of Health. The Council Minutes of August, 1926, contain a resolution placing on record the Council's appreciation of Dr. Taylor's services.

During the transition period, Dr. Taylor's work was undertaken by Dr. Elenora J. Howie, and after her marriage, by Dr. Marjorie Back—very ably in both instances. Dr. Wilfrid Smith was appointed to the permanent position and took up duty on December 1st, 1926, and I have every confidence in his ability to carry out the duties entrusted to him.

* * * *

The vital statistics for the year show that according to the estimate made by the Registrar General the population has fallen as low as 96,300. There were more births than deaths, but apparently the Registrar General has figures indicating that considerable migration from the town is taking place. The year was a fairly healthy one, judging by the deathrate, which was low, and it is particularly pleasing to record that the infantile mortality was the lowest on record, being only 79 per 1,000 births, or 2 per 1,000 less than the previous lowest (81 in 1912). But the general deathrate and the infant mortality for Halifax are higher than the average for England and Wales, or for the 105 great towns (see page 9). Fortunately infectious disease was less prevalent than usual.

* * * *

The two outstanding events of the year were the opening of the new Infant Welfare Centre in Northgate, and the removal of the headquarters of the Health Department from the Town Hall to the offices in the new Tramway Building in Powell Street.

The Borough Engineer and his assistants are to be congratulated on their excellent work in connection with these buildings. The two shops in Northgate by skilful handling have made an ideal infant welfare centre, with waiting and consultation rooms, perambulator shelter and ample office accommodation for the Health Visitors. Not only have more mothers been attracted to the new centre than were in attendance at the former clinics in Wade Street and Range Bank, but these larger numbers have been dealt with much more easily, with less fatigue to the staff and greater comfort and convenience to the visitors. The official opening of the premises on June 16th, by Dame Janet Campbell, M.D., of the Ministry of Health, was an important event in the history of the work among the mothers and infants of Halifax. The new offices in Powell Street were occupied on November 23rd, 1926. They are light, airy, quiet and convenient of access, and it would be hard to imagine more suitable headquarters for a Health Department. Naturally the members of the staff are

delighted with the change, and I readily take this opportunity of expressing appreciation of the progressive spirit shown by the Health Committee in relation to the new offices and the Northgate premises.

* * * *

The opening of the new orthopaedic centre at the School Clinic, in which the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees have taken a share, is another progressive movement, which is likely to result in a lowering of the proportion of seriously crippled people in the population in years to come. This work cannot be done cheaply, but the expenditure is likely to prove a very sound investment.

* * * *

My personal thanks to the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation in the work of the department appear each year in the preface to the Report; this is not a mere formality, but an expression of a deeply-felt obligation. This remark applies also to my thanks to the Committee, and to the Council generally, for the support and encouragement given.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRIL BANKS,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
POWELL STREET,
HALIFAX.

23rd March, 1927.

REPORT.

Statistics.

AREA (acres) 13,984

POPULATION.—The following figures show the variations which have occurred in the population over a period :—

1901 Census	...	...	...	...	104,944
1911 Census	...	...	...	...	101,553
1921 Census (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	100,700
1922 Registrar-General's Estimate	...	...	...	...	100,500
1923	"	"	"	...	99,840
1924	"	"	"	...	98,750
1925	"	"	"	for Birthrate...	98,090
1925	"	"	"	for Deathrate...	97,860
1926	"	"	"	for Birthrate...	96,300
1926	"	"	"	for Deathrate...	96,130

The explanation of the difference between the "Deathrate population" and the "Birthrate population" is that non-civilians are not included when calculating the deathrate, but they are included when calculating the birthrate.

Standardising figure for Deathrate... .. .944

This is the figure by which the deathrate of Halifax must be multiplied in order to correct for the peculiar age and sex distribution of the Halifax population. The resulting figure enables a more accurate comparison to be made between the deathrate of Halifax and that of other towns.

Structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census 1921) 26,506

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) 26,830

Rateable value £670,145

Sum represented by a penny rate £2,500

Births.

Legitimate Males 667 ... Females 671 ... Total 1,338

Illegitimate Males 32 ... Females 30 ... Total 62

Total Births 1,400.

Birthrate per 1,000 population 14.5

Average 10 years, 1880-1889.....	29.3
„ „ 1890-1899.....	24.2
„ „ 1900-1909.....	20.0
„ „ 1910-1919.....	15.9
„ 5 „ 1921-1925.....	15.6
1925.....	14.5
1926.....	14.5

Deaths.

Males 690	...	Females 685	...	Total 1,375
Deathrate per 1,000	...	...	...	14.3
„ „	(Standardised)	...	...	13.5

Average 10 years, 1880-1889.....	21.0
„ „ 1890-1899.....	18.6
„ „ 1900-1909.....	15.3
„ „ 1910-1919.....	15.6
„ 5 „ 1921-1925.....	14.9
1925.....	16.9 Standardised.....15.9
1926.....	14.3 Standardised.....13.5
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of,	
Childbirth—From Sepsis.....	
1	
„ From other causes.....	7

Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year.....	111
Rate per 1,000 births.....	79
(Legitimate 75, Illegitimate 161).	

Average 10 years, 1880-1889.....	159
„ „ 1890-1899.....	159
„ „ 1900-1909.....	121
„ „ 1910-1919.....	101
1920.....	96
1921.....	99
1922.....	110
1923.....	90
1924.....	96
1925.....	93
1926.....	79

Summary of Deaths.

(Based on the Registrar General's "Short List" of causes of death).

Cause of Death	Number
Enteric Fever	1
Smallpox	—
Measles	2
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	10
Diphtheria and Croup	9
Influenza	14
Erysipelas	3
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	62
Tuberculous Meningitis	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease	161
Rheumatic Fever	3
Meningitis	8
Organic Heart Disease	202
Bronchitis	151
Pneumonia (all forms)	88
Other Diseases Respiratory Organs	11
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	11
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	10
Cirrhosis of Liver	4
Alcoholism	—
Nephritis and Brights Disease	39
Puerperal Fever	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	7
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	40
Violent Deaths (excluding suicide)	34
Suicide	9
*Other defined Diseases	487
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	—
Total	1,375

*The following classifications are included in the "Other Defined Diseases" group:—			
Diseases of Brain and Nervous System	...	...	128
" Circulatory System (not otherwise defined)	...	...	109
" Digestive System ( " " )	...	...	34
" Urinary System	...	...	11
Old Age (not otherwise defined)	...	...	77
Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	...	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	3

	Year	Birthrate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Deathrate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Births	
			ALL CAUSES	Enteric Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	TOTAL DEATHS under one year
England and Wales ...	1926	17.8	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.10	0.07	0.22	8.7	70
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ...	1926	18.2	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.22	11.8	73
HALIFAX ...	1922	15.9	14.9	0.009	0.00	0.10	0.009	0.19	0.02	0.23	3.7	110
	1923	15.2	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.30	7.2	90
	1924	14.9	15.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.73	6.7	96
	1925	14.5	15.9	0.04	0.00	0.18	0.01	0.10	0.09	0.40	4.2	93
	1926	14.5	14.3	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.10	0.09	0.14	7.8	79

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1926 have been used for England and Wales, but to the middle of 1925 for the 105 towns. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards the group of towns.

Cancer.

In view of the interest now taken by the public in regard to Cancer, the following hints, which appeared in last year's Report, may be repeated :—

1. There is always a chance that cancer can be cured if discovered early.
2. Do not get into a state of worry about cancer--if you suspect that you have it, go and ask your doctor to examine you to settle the question.
3. If your doctor says you have cancer do not waste time but submit to treatment at once.
4. Have nothing to do with people who advertise cancer-curing remedies ; they are only after your money ; cancer cannot be treated by post.
5. If you see or feel a small lump or nodule about your body which puzzles you, consult your doctor at once ; do not wait for pain, for cancer may not be painful in the early stages. This especially applies to lumps in the breast.
6. Persistent cracks or sores or small swellings about the lips, nose, cheeks or tongue, should be reported to the doctor at once.
7. Chronic indigestion may be due in some cases to cancer of the stomach.
8. Unusual discharges or bleedings from any of the openings of the body, especially after forty years of age, should be reported to the doctor at once. This especially applies to women.
9. Constant irritation such as may be caused by ill-fitting false teeth or by excessive smoking, should be remedied.
10. Mule-spinners and chimney sweeps should look out for the effects of constant irritation caused by oil or soot respectively, upon the thighs or lower parts of the body, and should consult a doctor when anything unusual is noticed.
11. Once more—Do not delay !

General Provision of Health Services.

(Arranged as required by the Ministry.)

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Corporation :—

Tuberculosis—The Sanatorium at Shelf provides accommodation for 25 early and 25 other cases. It is provided by the Halifax Corporation and receives cases from other districts, including Lancashire County and West Riding County.

The Health Committee has a call on 10 beds at the Bermerside Residential School, and they are filled by children in the pre-tubercular stage, or by children suffering from tuberculosis of a non-infectious character.

Maternity Hospital—The Maternity Homes in connection with St. Luke's Hospital and the Royal Halifax Infirmary appear amply to meet the needs of the town, but the arrangements by which the Corporation assisted persons to enter these institutions were not greatly used, and for the present no arrangement is in force.

Hospital for Children—The Education Committee has an arrangement with the Royal Halifax Infirmary with reference to operations on tonsils and adenoids, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee an arrangement with the same Institution for the treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Fever Hospital—The Corporation provides the Stoney Royd Fever Hospital which admits cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric and other fevers from Halifax, and from the areas of neighbouring Local Authorities. Accommodation for 52 cases.

Small Pox—The Halifax Corporation maintains the Small Pox Hospital at Belle Vue, Mount Tabor, which has accommodation for 36 patients. This hospital is subsidised by the Brighouse Joint Hospital Board and the Urban District Councils of Luddenden Foot, Midgley and Sowerby.

Venereal Diseases.—The Corporation has an arrangement with the Royal Halifax Infirmary for both out-patient and in-patient treatment. See page 53.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:—

(a) *For Infectious Cases—*

The Corporation's Motor Ambulance Service, worked from Stoney Royd Hospital, serves Halifax and the other districts from which cases are admitted to the hospital.

(b) *For non-Infectious and Accident Cases—*

(1) The Corporation's Motor Ambulance Service, worked by the Fire Brigade (Tel. 107).

(2) The Ambulance Service of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society.
Commandant—Mr. A. E. Rawbon (Tel. 1697).
Transport Officer—Mr. L. Chambers (Tel. 1831).

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES—

The following are all provided by the Halifax Corporation :

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (2). See page 57.

School Clinic, Horton Street—

Medical Inspection—Two half-days per week.

Minor Ailments—Six half-days per week.

Dental—Treatment, six half-days per week. Inspection, one half-day per week.

Ophthalmic—Two half-days per week.

Remedial Exercises—5 full days.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is now in operation.

Tuberculosis Dispensary, 8, Clare Road. See page 49.

Venereal Diseases Clinic, Royal Halifax Infirmary. See page 53.

Public Health Officers of the Corporation:—

These are set out in the introductory pages of the Report.

NURSING IN THE HOME—This is provided by:—

Halifax District Nursing Association.

Siddal Nursing Association.

Illingworth Nursing Association.

Luddenden Nursing Association.

General Nursing is not subsidised by the Local Authority.

MIDWIVES—See Maternity and Child Welfare Section, page 54.

CHEMICAL WORK—All chemical analyses are performed by Mr. H. T. Lea, M.Sc., the Borough Analyst. This work includes not only the analysis of samples taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts (page 37), but also the examination of water from wells and other sources, which from time to time occupy the attention of the officers of the Health Department.

Legislation in Force.

List of Adoptive Acts, etc., Relating to Public Health in force in the District.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

A Local Act, 4 Geo. IV., cap XC.

Halifax Improvement Act, 1853.

Halifax Water and Gas Extension Act, 1876.

Halifax Corporation Acts, 1882, 1900, 1902, 1905, 1911, 1924, 1926.

Provisional Orders—Halifax Orders, 1851, 1881 and 1924.

Sanitary Circumstances

AND

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(including the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector).

Water.

In the last Annual Report extensions of the public water-mains into suburban areas were foreshadowed, and the preliminary work in connection therewith took place during the year. During 1927 extensions at Exley, Ludenden, Northowram and Bradshaw will probably be completed.

The Health Department, apart from pressing for these extensions, is of course not concerned with the matter, but is closely concerned with the adequacy and purity of domestic supplies.

Arising out of complaints by medical men or occupiers or through inspections under the Housing Act 1925, fifteen samples of domestic water supplies have been submitted for chemical analysis and seven for bacteriological examination.

As a result of information provided by the analyst's certificates, action has been taken and five houses have been fitted with services for the supply of town's water. In two cases affecting 12 houses lead piping to wells has been replaced, and in another case, affecting seven houses, lead piping from a hillside spring has been replaced by iron.

Several samples were taken from a well at an hotel in the outskirts, and eventually proceedings were taken against the owner under the Halifax Corporation Act, 1900, as a result of which the well was cleansed and protected from further pollution, and a soakaway cesspool within a few yards was abolished and the property re-drained.

Proceedings under the same Act were pending at the year end in another case affecting three houses and a dairy farm, in which the water supply was surface drainage from hillside agricultural land and also contained lead. A copper service for the supply of town's water was laid after the service of a summons on the owner and the case was adjourned, eventually being settled on payment by the owner of the fees for analyses, which may be regarded as a totally inadequate penalty in view of the fact that the owner had been pressed for fourteen months previously and had actually given an undertaking to proceed.

Rivers and Streams.

The Borough Engineer (Mr. Tipple) kindly supplies the following information :—

The whole of the sewerage of the Borough, with the exception of the district of Northowram and part of Warley, which fall to Brighouse and Luddenden Foot respectively, falls to the Sewage Works, where the effluent is treated, and no known pollution is taking place. Surface water in isolated cases is taken direct to water courses.

A few cesspools exist in outlying undrained districts, but systematic inspection and periodic emptying maintain them in a satisfactory condition, and no overflows to water-courses are permitted.

Storm water overflows to main sewers are periodically cleansed, and the volume automatically released to streams within the figure laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Sewerage.

The Borough Engineer (Mr. Tipple) kindly supplies the following information :—

The sewerage and drainage of the Borough are adequate to deal with the maximum sewage flow, and, generally, in a satisfactory condition.

Building development in the outer districts renders necessary, from time to time, extensions of the sewerage system. The conversion scheme will, likewise, call for minor extensions, and probably some replacement of old and worn sewers. Extensions have been laid during the year at Highroad Well (Lower Pond), High Grove Lane, Siddal Lane and Pinnar Lane.

The first section of the extension of the main sewerage of Bradshaw was laid during the year from School Lane to Scawsby Lane, and it is hoped that the entire length to Bradshaw Lane will be carried out by 31st March, 1927. It has been laid primarily to effect the satisfactory drainage of existing properties en route, but has been the means also of accelerating the conversion of goux closets in the area.

A portion of the Ovenden main sewer, between Dean Clough and Lee Bridge (suspended during the War), is being re-laid in cast iron pipes in the Hebble Brook.

The Sewage Disposal Works will, it is anticipated, be able to cope with the whole of the effluent of the Borough for some time to come. Slight modifications in method of treatment may, from time to time, be advisable.

Drainage.

Considerable alterations to existing drainage are being necessitated by the Conversions Scheme; in many cases drains which have carried sink and surface water for many years give trouble when water closets are connected.

Cement jointing was not in vogue in Halifax until about twenty years ago, and drains are often found to have lost alignment, with the result that sharp lips are formed internally. Another fault has been the use of pipes of too large diameter, and it is still difficult to convince plumbers and contractors that a 4-in. pipe will carry the drainage of ten or more small houses and will, even at a slight fall, clean itself, whereas the 9-in. pipe of former years allows the deposit of solids and consequent choking through lack of flushing power.

Intercepting traps are also a frequent cause of blockage and should not be used except in cases where there is a connection to the drain actually inside the house, which is only used at long intervals and the trap of which may become evaporated and unsealed, such as, for instance, drains in cellar floors. This remark does not apply to inside W.C.'s, which are used frequently and are provided with a ventilated soil pipe. That the use of the intercepting

trap is not understood is evidenced by the fact that in one case contractors were discovered fitting them on drains laid to receive only the connections from groups of outside closets.

2,371 visits were made by the Inspectors in connection with the testing of existing drains and the supervision of reconstructional work.

Closet Accommodation.

Efforts have been made during the year to accelerate the conversion of closets under the Corporation's Compulsory Scheme, and the Committee were advised to serve Notices in respect of several areas simultaneously instead of attempting to clear a great number of closets in one area only. This plan of serving Notices at a rate to keep about three months ahead of the contractors, and in several parts of the town, has resulted in a large increase in the rate of progress.

The Sanitary Inspectors have made 3,140 inspections in connection with the scheme.

The number of closets converted during the year was as follows :—

Converted voluntarily by owners but assisted by grant	...	...	...	...	...	956
Converted compulsorily						
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	1,429
(b) by the Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	267
Total conversions completed...						2,652

During previous years the numbers were as follows :—

Total conversions completed during	1925	...	1,241
do do do	1924	...	395

so that the total number of conversions completed since the inception of the scheme is now 4,288, at a cost to the Corporation of £22,296 7s. 5d.

The number of closets in the Borough as on December 31st, 1926, is as follows :—

Water closets	...	...	...	...	14,039
Privy middens in rural areas	...	...	...	...	286
Pail closets where water supply and sewers are available for conversions	...	...	...	...	12,510
Pail closets and privy middens in rural areas without a suitable water supply, or without sewers or both, approx.	...	...	...	...	2,000
Total ...					28,825

A total of 52 privy middens were dealt with during the year, 37 being converted to pail closets and 15 to water closets.

Public Conveniences.

One new urinal has been erected and efforts have been made to improve the cleanliness of all the public conveniences in the town.

Sanitary Defects.

The following Tables give details of the various sanitary defects remedied as a result of informal action, matters which were reported to the Health Committee for Statutory Action, and the various prosecutions necessary to enforce compliance with the Law.

A total of 1,046 visits were made to investigate complaints made to the Health Department, and appropriate action was taken in every case.

Sanitary Defects.

Details of sanitary defects remedied by owners or occupiers during the year, as a result of action by the Sanitary Inspectors :—

Choked yard drains cleared ...	...	...	24
„ gullies cleared ...	...	...	18
„ interceptors cleared ...	...	...	11
„ sewers cleared ...	...	...	10
„ sink waste pipes cleared ...	...	...	24
„ W.C. drains cleared ...	...	...	26
„ sink drains cleared ...	...	...	46
„ street gullies cleared...	...	...	25
„ area drains cleared ...	...	...	3
„ fallpipe drains cleared ...	...	...	2
Defective W.C. cisterns repaired ...	...	...	15
„ drainage relaid ...	...	...	28
„ fallpipe drains repaired ...	...	...	48
„ sink drains repaired ...	...	...	161
„ W.C. drains repaired ...	...	...	27
„ cellar drains repaired ...	...	...	8
„ yard drains repaired ...	...	...	20
„ sink traps replaced ...	...	...	63
„ soilpipes repaired ...	...	...	6
„ gully drains repaired ...	...	...	3
„ connection of drain to sewer replaced ...	...	...	5
Sinks fitted with proper waste pipes...	...	...	24
Houses redrained ...	...	...	72
Insanitary W.C.'s replaced ...	...	...	16
Doors of closets repaired ...	...	...	28

Doors of ash tub places repaired	...	...	24
Floors of ash tub places repaired	...	...	18
Walls and woodwork of ash tub places repaired	...	...	17
Dilapidated closets repaired or rebuilt	...	...	109
„ ash tub places repaired or rebuilt	...	...	25
Privies converted to Goux closets	...	...	37
„ „ to W.C.'s	...	...	15
Dangerous walls rebuilt or repaired	...	...	24
Animals kept so as to be injurious to health :—			
Pigeons	...	...	1
Fowls	...	...	1
Cats	...	...	2
Dogs	...	...	3
Pigs	...	...	1
Accumulation of manure removed	...	...	12
„ of rubbish removed	...	...	20
Dirty houses cleaned	...	...	35
Dirty yards cleared...	...	...	9
Overcrowded houses dealt with	...	...	10
Cellars illegally let as dwellings	...	...	4
Flooded cellars remedied	...	...	27
Defective water services repaired	...	...	6
Damp walls remedied	...	...	89
Polluted water supply to houses	...	...	4
Insufficient water supplies to houses...	...	...	31
Wash boilers provided	...	...	10
House roofs repaired	...	...	93
„ troughings repaired	...	...	110
„ floors repaired	...	...	63
„ windows repaired or replaced...	...	...	145
Defective stairs repaired	...	...	2
„ wash boilers repaired	...	...	7
„ walls and boarded round sinks	...	...	62
„ window cords replaced	...	...	60
Hand rails fixed	...	...	3
Sinks provided or old ones replaced...	...	...	92
Defective chimneys made good	...	...	16
„ fallpipes made good	...	...	53
„ cooking ranges made good	...	...	119
„ flashings made good	...	...	22
„ flagging made good	...	...	28
„ plaster work made good	...	...	87
„ doors repaired	...	...	28

Additional ventilation provided	...	...	19
Sewers piped or relaid	...	...	8
Additional urinal provided	...	...	1
Defective wash houses repaired	...	...	8
Sink waste pipes disconnected	...	...	7
Insufficient closet accommodation, additional closets provided	...	...	4
Overflowing cesspools cleared	...	...	2
Defective gas fittings repaired	...	...	5

Matters reported to the Health Committee for Statutory action were as follows :—

Housing Act 1925.

Defective houses	...	...	...	106
Closing orders	...	...	...	2
Failure to inscribe the name and address of the owner in tenant's rent book	...	...	...	1

Public Health Act 1875.

Offensive accumulations in houses	...	...	3
Black smoke	...	...	1
Houses so overcrowded as to be injurious to the health of the inmates	...	...	2
Defective drainage	...	...	4
Dirty houses	...	...	1
Illegal letting of cellars as dwellings	...	...	1
Insufficient closet accommodation (houses affected)	...	...	25
Insanitary closet accommodation	...	...	11

Public Health Act 1875.

Public Health (Amendment) Act 1890.

Halifax Corporation Act 1905.

Defective combined drains	8
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Housing of the Working Classes Act 1885.

Van dwelling overcrowded and unventilated	...	1
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Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922.

Registration of dairyman refused until premises were made fit	1
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Halifax Corporation Byelaws.

Failure to remove manure from stable	...	3
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Prosecutions during 1926.

Date	Act	Offence	Penalty
Feb. 2nd	Shops Act	Selling goods after 8 p.m. at an Exhibition	5/- costs
„ 2nd	do	do do do	5/- costs
„ 2nd	do	do do do	5/- costs
Mar. 2nd	Hx. Corpora- tion Act 1900	Letting a house with- out a proper water supply	Adjourned for 1 month
Apr. 27th	Hx. Corpora- tion Byelaws	Failure to remove manure	5/- costs
„ 27th	do do	do do do	10/- penalty
„ 27th	do do	do do do	10/- penalty
„ 27th	Shops Act	Breach of Closing Order	£1 penalty
„ 27th	do	Breach of Half-Holi- day Order	£1 penalty
May 11th	Hx. Corpora- tion Act 1900	Letting a house with- out a proper water supply	£2 and 5/- a day for 98 days
„ 11th	Public Health Act 1875	Defective drainage	£2 & Order
Nov. 9th	Housing Act 1925	Failure to inscribe name and address of landlord in tenant's rent book	5/- costs

Factories and Workshops.

Factory and Workshops Act 1901.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890, Section 22.

Halifax Corporation Act 1900, Section 130.

Workshops.

The number of workshops (excluding bakehouses) on the register at the end of 1926 was 488. This is 50 less than at the end of 1925; these are accounted for partly by the introduction of motive power having converted them into factories, and partly through bad trade.

436 visits were made to workshops and 105 to factories and the various conditions necessitating action by the Inspectors are set out in the Table.

Rather more time was devoted to this work than was the case in 1925.

Twenty notices under Section 5 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, were received by H.M. Factory Inspector, sixteen being in respect of factories and four of workshops.

Of these the following were remedied during the year, including 3 factories carried over from the end of 1924 :

Factories ... 15 Workshops ... 5

Notices in respect of which no action by the Department was considered necessary :

Factories ... 1 Workshops ... Nil.

Notices outstanding at the year end, 3.
The following Table shows the various defective conditions remedied during the year :—

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. Informal (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	154	22	—
Workshops ... (including Factory Laundries)	506	21	—
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers Premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	660	43	—

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector (4)	
Offences under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of cleanliness ...	25	22	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	2	1	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation:				
Insufficient, unsuitable, or defective ...	21	20	...	...
Not separate for sexes...	4	4	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse.. (S. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... (Excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921.)	2	2	...	...
Total ...	54	49	...	...

Bakehouses.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Ministry of Health Act, 1919.

S.R.O. 958 of 1926.

The number of bakehouses, including factories, on the Register is 118. In connection with these 336 visits were made, and the following defective conditions were discovered and remedied :—

Defective W.C. ...	...	...	...	I
Coke fumes in bakehouse ...	...	...	...	I
Defective fallpipe ...	...	...	...	I
Insufficient ventilation ....	...	...	...	I

Limewashing overdue (not carried out within the Statutory 6 months	...	...	...	14
Dirty closet	...	...	...	1
Defective ceiling	...	...	...	1

Sanitary Condition of Places of Public Amusement and Refreshment.

Ministry of Health Circular 120 of 1920.

All the Theatres, Cinema Theatres, Cafes, Dance Halls, etc., were inspected during the year, and except for three cases of insufficient or unsuitable sanitary accommodation which were under action at the year end, they were found to be generally satisfactory.

The following Table shows the number of visits made to such premises :—

Theatres	...	...	...	7
Cinema Theatres	...	...	...	22
Dance Halls	...	...	...	5
Cafes	...	...	...	37
Markets	...	...	...	21
Total				92

Local Authorities need direct powers to deal with the sanitary conditions of offices, and any buildings used for meetings or as places of public amusement.

Smoke Prevention.

Mr. Clinch reports :—

Boiler Smoke.

A total of 94 observations of thirty minutes duration have been taken of the various chimneys in connection with steam boilers, and the average emission of black smoke was .739 minutes in thirty. Seven observations showed smoke to be emitted in excess of the limit allowed, but five of these were in respect of one chimney.

This case was reported to the Committee and a Statutory Notice was served.

Formal observations were discontinued a few weeks after the commencement of the coal dispute, as no good purpose could have been served by harassing manufacturers who were trying to keep the wheels of trade turning by the use of so-called coal, more fitted in many cases for road making than for steam production.

An essential part of my campaign during previous years has been the use of low grade fuels and the methods then taught were found of great value during the stoppage by engineers and stokers.

Early in the year the Committee accepted my suggestion that any emission of black smoke exceeding an aggregate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes in thirty minutes, timed to bursts of not less than thirty seconds, be held to constitute an offence under the Public Health Act, 1875.

115 visits have been made to factories *re* smoke, and engineers have been given all the assistance possible during a difficult period. Formal observations had not been resumed at the year end.

I have delivered various lectures during the year both of a technical nature and otherwise, and the local public are now quite convinced as to the advantages of life under a clean sky, but they are not, as a whole, prepared to sacrifice the joys of the blazing cob of coal which can be poked, persuaded or kicked as desired.

Domestic Smoke.

It is certain that very many more gas fired and electrically operated domestic cooking and heating appliances have been fitted during the year 1926 than ever before, and the sale of broken and graded coke from the Corporation's Gas Works has been phenomenal, but the need of the moment is a fuel which has the virtues of coal, and can be treated like coal, but which will not smoke.

My offer to advise on smokeless methods of heating and cooking is being taken increased advantage of, and I have again to report an entire absence of hostile criticism.

West Riding Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

I have attended every meeting of the Executive of the above Committee as the representative of the Halifax Corporation. I am of opinion that the Committee will be able to perform an exceedingly useful work.

Shop Inspection, etc.

The Inspector under the Shops Acts 1912 to 1921, also under the Children's Byelaws, the Fabrics (Misdescription) Act, and the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, has carried out the following work :—

Half-holiday Closing Visits	...	...	775
Assistants' Half-holiday Visits	...	...	578
Children's Bye-Law	"	...	747
Registration & Administrative Visits	...	...	573
Special	"	...	269
Fabrics (Misdescription) Act	"	...	300
Shops Early Closing	"	...	527
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act Visits	...	...	493
Shops without Assistants Half-holiday Notice (Sec. 1)			50
Do. Young Persons'	"	(Sec. 2)	29
Do. Mixed Business	"	(Sec. 10)	269
Do. Half-holiday Closing Notice		(Sec. 4)	90
Do. Seats for Female Assistants		(Sec. 3)	1
Contravention of Mealtimes		(Sec. 1, Sub. 5)	11
Do. Assistants Half-holiday		(Sec. 1, Sub. 1)	29
Do. Half-holiday Closing		(Sec. 4)	252
Do. Early Closing Act or Orders		(Sec. 5)	211
Do. Young Persons' Hours		(1920 21 Act) (Sec. 2)	1
Do. Children's Bye-Laws	...	...	49
Warning Notices sent	...	...	20

Prosecutions.

At the Borough Court on Tuesday, 2nd February, 1926, three stallholders at a local Exhibition were prosecuted for keeping their stalls open for retail sales after 8 p.m. It was pointed out that these cases were taken as a warning, and a dismissal on payment of costs was asked for. To this the Court assented, by dismissing each case on payment of costs, 5s.

A local hairdresser was before the Court on Tuesday, 27th April, 1926, on two charges—

- (1) For not displaying his Mixed Business Notices (4R.) either in his shop or in his window, and
 - (2) For dressing ladies' hair at 8-35 p.m. on Thursday, the 18th February, 1926, "his Weekly Half-holiday."
- The Magistrates inflicted a fine of £1 in each case.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

National Rat Week, 1st November, 1926.

Number of premises that are or have been rat-infested during the year	...	...	...	106
Premises temporarily clear after Rat Week	...	...	...	31
Premises where numbers were reduced	...	...	...	49
Premises at present rat-infested	...	...	...	57
Visits paid to rat-infested premises...	...	...	...	660

Number of rat tails brought to the Health Department during the year	... ..	910
Number of rat tails brought to the Health Department during Rat Week	... ..	188
Number of rats killed in addition	... ..	234

The necessity for the destruction of the rodents seems to be generally understood, and the occupiers of rat-infested premises are usually keen in their desire to clear their premises.

Housing.

Housing Statistics for the year 1926.

It will be noticed that the work of housing inspection under the Housing Act 1925, has been increased from 1,204 in 1925, to 1,521 in 1926, and of these 1,127 were subsequently made fit structurally as a result of action by the Department.

The present procedure is to concentrate on blocks of property which are obviously in need of repair, and after inspection, the owner is supplied with a complete specification of the works required together with a letter requesting attention. Later on the Inspector meets his architect, surveyor or contractor, and it is decided now to carry out the work. The original inspection is but the beginning, and an enormous amount of work is involved in the supervision of the repairs.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	238
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) By the Local Authority	47
(ii) By other bodies or persons	160

The above figures were kindly supplied by the Borough Engineer.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1.—Inspection.

1. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,521
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2. Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	462
3. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
4. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1,127
2.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	997
3.—Action under Statutory Powers.	
A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.	
1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	106
2. Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	77
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	18
3. Number of dwellinghouses 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 dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	21
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	17
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	3

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

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	2
2. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing Orders were made					2
3. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit	...	...			1
4. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	None
5. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders					None
6. Number of houses demolished on service of a Closing Order			...		1

Houses Let in Lodgings (Furnished Rooms).

701 visits have been made to 191 "Furnished Rooms," most of which are now beyond the scope of the Byelaws, now practically useless, owing to the fact that the rentals exceed the 6s. per week specified. This being the case, the Public Health Act 1875, has been used so far as overcrowding and dirty conditions are concerned, and Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925, for structural conditions generally.

The following Table shows the conditions dealt with in such premises during the year :—

Overcrowding	...	...	1	Defective fallpipes	...	2
Defective cooking range	...	...	2	" soil pipes	...	1
Dogs kept in rooms	...	...	1	" baluster	...	1
Choked drainage	...	...	2	" wall	...	1
Defective plasterwork	...	...	7	Dangerous wall of house	...	1
" roof	...	...	3	Dirty beddings	...	2
" windows	...	...	2	" room	...	2
" floorboards	...	...	2	Want of limewashing	...	4

Practically the whole of these have been dealt with only after the service of Statutory Notices and great delay, and there is urgent need for new Byelaws. Most of the above matters were in connection with property owned by one man.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are still 10 Common Lodging Houses registered in the town and these are supervised by the Police. 59 visits have been made to them by the sanitary inspectors in connection with the efforts of the Department to guard against the dangers of unnotified cases of smallpox.

Tents, Van-Dwellings, etc.

A total of 169 visits have been made to moveable dwellings, and in four cases insanitary conditions were discovered and dealt with. These were as follows:—

Lack of water supply	...	...	I
Lack of sanitary accommodation	...	...	I
Overcrowding	...	...	I
Absence of ventilation	...	...	I

All these cases concerned vans on which had been mounted improvised dwellings; the van dwellings visiting the town in connection with the seasonal fairs maintained their excellent record.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(Compiled from reports of the Veterinary Inspector and the Chief Sanitary Inspector).

Milk Supply.

Action taken as to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle.

Mr. Pollard, the Veterinary Inspector, reports as follows :

20 samples of milk were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli; 19 of these were mixed samples of milk, and one taken direct from a suspected cow was reported as containing tubercle bacilli.

Under the Tuberculosis Order 18 cases were reported or found during the course of examination of the dairy cows within the Borough, of these 4 were not confirmed. 212 cattle were examined under the Order, and of these 3 were suffering from tuberculosis of the udder.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

One licence was granted during the year for the production and sale of Grade A milk.

Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922 (Registration).

In connection with Section 12 of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922, three retailers were invited to appear before the Health Committee to show cause why they should not be refused registration, or crossed off the Register. In each case the retailer complied with the requirements of the Committee.

Summary of Bacteriological Examination of Samples.

During the year 30 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination as an index of general cleanliness, with results as follows :—

	Number of Bacteria per c.c.	Presence of Coli Bacilli detected in :—
1	22.800	1/100 c.c.
2	171.000	1. c.c.
3	2,120.000	1/100 ⁵ c.c.
4	57.000	absent ¹¹ from 1. c.c.
5	8.500	1. c.c.
6	630.000	1. c.c.
7	480.000	1/10 c.c.
8	330.000	1/100 c.c.
9	2,940.000	1/100 c.c.
10	1,080.000	1/10000 c.c.
11	600.000	1/100 c.c.
12	1.900	1. c.c.
13	292.000	1/1000 c.c.
14	1,069.000	
15	1.900	absent from 1. c.c.
16	265.000	overcrowded
17	108.666	do.
18	10.533	1/10 c.c.
19	540.000	1/100 c.c.
20	1,240.000	1/1000 c.c.
21	15.200	1. c.c.
22	28.800	1. c.c.
23	16.800	1/10 c.c.

24	5.500		1. c.c.
25	476.000		1/100 c.c.
26	26.433	absent from	1/100 c.c.
27	23.800		1/100 c.c.
28	280.000		1. c.c.
29	295.000		1/100 c.c.
30	110.800		1/100 c.c.

At the first glance, some of the worst results would lead one to be pessimistic about the local milk supply, but these investigations have been helpful in bringing about an improvement; for example, numbers 3 and 25 are from the same producer, the earlier result having led to successful action. Number 9 was from a source outside the Borough, and the retailer discontinued purchasing from this supply. Samples 16 and 17 were from outside sources; in case 14 the retailer who took the supply ceased purchasing, with the result that the producer sold his cows. Number 21 is an excellent example of what can be accomplished as the report on this producer's milk 18 months ago was decidedly unfavourable. Number 24 was taken from a large churn in the street, and is excellent.

Clean Milk Propaganda.

In the County Clean Milk Competition, one Halifax competitor was successful in winning the Gold Challenge Cup and Gold Medal in his Class.

I have to record that the Local Association made arrangements with the Leeds University and the Yorkshire Council of Agricultural Education, and held a clean milk demonstration at the farm of Mr. C. Wilkinson, in November.

A well attended meeting of dairy farmers and dairymen was held to discuss the new milk legislation, the meeting being addressed by the Medical Officer of Health, followed by the Veterinary Inspector, who continued the efforts of previous years by having a friendly talk on essentials in the production of clean milk, particularly on the importance of the cleansing of utensils by steam sterilisation. Progress will undoubtedly continue, but at present is slow.

Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Cowkeepers and Cowkeeper Dairymen. These are supervised by the Veterinary Inspector. An endeavour has been made to work to the Order. Lack of uniformity of administration in different sanitary areas is responsible for a feeling held by producers within the Borough, that they

are subject to unfair competition from producers outside the Borough who may not have been called upon to come up to the Halifax standard. Within the Borough, however, in spite of notices of extracts of the provisions of the Order having been sent by the Town Clerk to all registered Cowkeepers and Dairymen, a number still cherish the idea that the order is not Law, or that they have 18 months in which to provide a milk store, while others frankly state that they will not comply until they are compelled to.

The following alterations were carried out in the cowsheds and dairies :—

Number of dairies constructed	...	4
Alterations to cowsheds for light...	...	2
Alterations to cowsheds for floors...	...	8
New middenstead	... ..	1

Dairymen (not cowkeepers). These are supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors.

There are 114 persons whose premises are registered as Dairies, and 134 who are registered for the sale of only bottled sterilised milk under seal in which case registration of *premises* is not required.

198 visits were made to Dairies (in addition to the work of the Veterinary Inspector described above).

Meat Inspection.

Public Abbatoir.—The work of demolition and reconstruction has commenced, and with the favourable weather is proceeding at a rapid rate.

Private Slaughterhouses.

Registered	...	5
Licensed	...	—
		—
		5

No change during the year.

The approximate number of animals slaughtered therein during the year is as follows :—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
300	40	936	165

Meat Inspection, etc.

The following Table shows the number of visits paid to the slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, markets, etc. :—

Description of Premises				Number of Visits
Public Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	999
Private Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	77
Borough Market	...	...	...	244
Wholesale Market	...	...	...	279
Fasting Sheds...	...	...	...	210
Potted Meat Houses	...	...	...	149
Tripe Boiling Houses	...	...	...	73
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	1703
Cowsheds	...	...	...	940
Dairies	...	...	...	74
Other Visits	...	...	...	306
Total				5,054

The following Table shows the number of animals slaughtered during the year, the number condemned, and the total weight of the same :—

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Offals.	Total.
Number of Animals slaughtered at the public slaughter-house ...	9224	1967	23085	4212	lbs. ...	38488
Do. condemned..	33	10	22	30	...	95
Number Condemned on account of Tuberculosis ...	32	1	...	19	5983	52
Weight of those condemned in lbs	15865	520	1225	2435	7593	27638

The following Table shows the total weight of meat and offals destroyed on account of tuberculosis, and from other causes :—

Total Amount of Meat Destroyed	lbs. 23755
Total Amount of Offals Destroyed	7593
Total Amount of Meat Destroyed on account of Tuberculosis	20357
Total Amount of Offals Destroyed on account of Tuberculosis	5983
Total Amount of Meat Destroyed from other causes	3398
Total Amount of Offals Destroyed from other causes	1610
Total Meat and Offals Destroyed ...	31348

Condemned meat is dealt with by the Cleansing Department of the Corporation, being removed to the Charles-town Depot and sterilised by heat.

Kinds of Food Destroyed	Quantity in lbs.
33 Carcases of Beef	15865
Beef not in Carcase	3432
10 Carcases of Veal	520
22 Carcases of Mutton and Lamb	1225
Mutton other than Carcases	105
30 Carcases of Pork	2435
Pork not in Carcase	173
153 Rabbits	338
Fish	4738
Fruit and Vegetables	524
Canned Provisions	291
7 Pigeons	16
60 Eggs... ..	4
Total Weight ...	29666

In 2 cases a Justices' Order had to be obtained, but in all the rest the articles were surrendered.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

Slaughtering.—Owners or occupiers of private slaughter-houses have become accustomed to the provision of this Article, viz. :—Giving prescribed notice, although a prosecution was taken for failure to notify, which was not the first omission. Meat traders feel aggrieved at the way owners of pigs evade this Article.

Certain provisions of these Regulations particularly relating to the handling and carrying of (stiff) meat have not been carried out generally in any better spirit during the year. A tightening up was made towards the end of the year, although no prosecution was taken during 1926 for contravention.

Proceedings were instituted under these Regulations during the year as follows :—

Failure to give notice of slaughter. Penalty £3.

Failure to notify diseased condition. Penalty £1.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1907.

The Sale of Milk Regulations 1901 and 1912.

The Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Act 1907.

The Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations 1912 and 1917.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations 1923.

The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations 1923.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act 1906.

Rag Flock Act 1911.

Milk.

The 144 milk samples taken during the year from 104 retailers, have contained, on an average, 3.59 per cent. of fat and 8.95 per cent. of solids other than fat, the minimum for each being 3 per cent. and 8.5 per cent. respectively.

The following Tables give particulars as to the food-stuffs sampled with details relating to samples found to be adulterated :—

The following Table gives particulars of the various samples taken :—

Article	Number of Samples Procured			Number not Genuine			Number of Prosecutions	Amount of Fines imposed
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total		
New Milk	144	0	144	8	0	8	0	No prosecutions during the year
Condensed Milk	0	12	12	0	0	0	0	
Cream	3	14	17	2	1	3	0	
Lard	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	
Butter	1	7	8	0	0	0	0	
Jam	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	
Beer	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	
Apples	0	4	4	0	2	2	0	
Sponge Buns	9	14	23	6	5	11	0	
Cream of Tartar	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	
Mince Meat	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Margarine	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	
Malt Vinegar	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	
Ground Ginger...	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	
Baking Powder	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	
Rice	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	
Dried Fruits	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	
	163	115	278	16	8	24	0	

Adulterated Samples.

Serial Number	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
1	Apples	Informal	1 apple contained $\frac{1}{10}$ th gr. Arsenic per lb. Another apple contained $\frac{1}{10}$ th gr. per lb. and another one $\frac{1}{10}$ th gr. per lb.	Vendor interviewed and agreed to wash all apples before sale
2	Apples	"	$\frac{1}{10}$ th gr. Arsenic per lb.	Whole consignment withdrawn from sale. Later samples were free from arsenic
4	Sponge buns	"	23.1 grs. per lb. Boric Acid	
5	"	"	21.7	
6	"	"	16.8	
7	"	"	22.4	
8	"	"	18.2	
13	"	"	18.2	
14	"	Formal	23.1	By instructions of the Committee, warnings later were sent in each case to the Confectioners. Later samples were certified free from Boric Preservative
15	"	"	24.5	
16	"	"	17.5	
21	Sponge cake	"	20.3	
22	" buns	"	26.6	
90	"	"	4.4% deficient in fat	Warning letter sent
116	Milk	"	4.7%	Warning letter sent
118	"	"	3.7%	Warning letter sent
123	"	"	2.95%	No action
154	"	"	2.9%	No action
156	"	"	8.0%	No action, owing to special circumstances
216	"	"	2.5% added water	No action
229	"	"	2.9% deficient in fat	No action

Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act 1906.

Twelve samples were taken during the year, six of Fertilisers and six of Feeding Stuffs, all of which were satisfactory.

Rag Flock Act, 1911.

Three samples were taken during the year. The Public Analyst reported that although the amount of water soluble chlorides in two of the samples were greater than the 30 parts allowed (45 and 41 respectively), the flocks could not be described as unclean and no action was taken.

Report of Administration in connection with the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations 1912 and 1917, during the year ended 31st December, 1926.

1.—Milk and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.

	(a) No. of Samples examined for the presence of a preservative	(b) No. in which preservative was reported to be present, and percentage of preservative found in each sample
Milk	144	Nil
Condensed Milk..	12	Nil
Tinned Cream ...	2	Nil

2.—Cream sold as Preserved Cream.

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct 15

(1) Correct Statements made... .. 12

(2) Statements incorrect Nil

(3) No labels attached to receptacle into which the cream was poured by the vendor ... 3

Percentage of preservative found in each sample			Percentage stated on Statutory Label
No. of Sample...	131	0.41	0.4
"	... 132	0.40	0.4
"	... 133	0.34	0.4
"	... 134	0.29	0.4
"	... 135	0.12	0.4
"	... 164	0.32	0.4
"	... 165	0.40	0.4
"	... 202	0.25	0.4
"	... 203	0.34	0.4
"	... 204	0.29	0.4
"	... 205	0.28	No label attached
"	... 206	0.31	0.4
"	... 207	0.42	0.4
"	... 212	0.50	No label attached
"	... 213	0.40	No label attached

(b) Determination made of Milk-Fat in cream sold as preserved cream :—

- (1) Above 35 per cent. ... 15
 (2) Below 35 per cent. ... Nil

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed ... 3

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

Sample 205 was purchased by an agent.

Sample 213 contained 0.4 per cent. of Boric preservative. The cream was sold as preserved cream but the purchaser's container was not labelled. The vendor was communicated with and gave a written explanation to the Committee. No further action was taken.

Sample 212 (same remarks as for No. 213).

3.—Thickening substance—None detected.

The cafes and restaurants were all visited and the requisite Notices found posted up in accordance with the Act.

Borough Analyst's Commentary.

Mr. H. T. Lea, M.Sc., F.I.C., the Borough Analyst, has been good enough to supply the following brief commentary on the results of the analyses :—

Milk has naturally formed the greater part of the samples examined. I say naturally for two reasons, firstly, because it is produced within or in the near neighbourhood of the Borough, and unlike imported foods, is not examined by other analysts and, secondly, on account of its importance as food. When one considers the many difficulties which beset the farmer who produces milk in an industrial area, one must acknowledge that the samples as a whole have been extremely satisfactory, having had an average Fat content of 3.59, and an average Non-Fatty Solids content of 8.95. The excellence of these averages should serve as an inducement to the Health Committee to take very drastic action when a sample falls below the limit fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture of 3% fat and 8.5% non-fatty solids. Although 7 samples during the year fell below these limits the vendors were merely cautioned.

It is interesting to note that the twelve samples of Condensed Milk which were examined, all complied with the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations 1923, both as regards constitution and description.

Fish Friers.

There are about 173 fish friers in the town, and 97 visits were made to their premises during the year.

Owing to the dirty conditions discovered in a few cases, the inspection of fried fish shops now is being pressed and the occupiers of such premises will, in many cases be asked to improve their methods.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream.

Public Health Act 1875, and Halifax Corporation Act and Regulations made thereunder.

119 visits of inspection were made to 107 premises used for the sale or manufacture of ice cream.

In two cases the vendors were warned to stop making the commodity on account of unsuitability of premises.

The Halifax Corporation Act of 1926, which requires the owners or occupiers of premises used for the sale or manufacture of ice cream to register them with the Local Authority, should be of assistance to the Department, but it is a matter of regret that the Act did not give power to refuse registration.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

DISEASE	AGE PERIODS													Cases admitted to Hospitals	
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65 and upwards		Total
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	2
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	1	1	7	7	13	46	13	6	7	1	—	—	—	102	81
Deaths ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	2	4	9	7	26	13	5	9	2	3	—	—	80	71
Deaths ...	—	—	1	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	9	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4	3
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	—
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	16	24	—	—	54	9
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	5	5
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenzal ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	3	—	1	10	—
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Primary ...	4	1	4	2	2	7	2	4	10	5	8	—	5	54	8
Deaths ...	3	5	—	1	—	1	—	2	6	4	19	—	11	52	—
Tuberculosis—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	4	9	9	37	12	17	3	3	92	63
Deaths ...	1	1	—	1	1	—	3	9	15	12	17	2	2	62	—
Other Forms	—	2	2	—	—	12	14	4	5	1	3	—	—	43	1
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	1	—	7	—
Total Notification	14	6	17	18	22	97	52	32	81	43	58	19	19	459	245
Total Deaths	4	7	1	5	3	2	8	12	25	17	42	14	14	140	—

For notes on these figures see following pages.

Enteric Fever (Typhoid).

Only three cases of this disease were notified and in one of them the diagnosis was subsequently amended. One of the cases, believed to be due to eating insufficiently cooked mussels from a polluted source, died. The particulars regarding the mussels were communicated to the proper authority, and a newspaper paragraph published locally advising the thorough boiling of all mussels.

Smallpox.

No case of smallpox was notified, but the unusual prevalence of the disease in the country resulted in many Halifax persons who were "contacts" with cases in other towns, being kept under observation by the Department.

The smallpox hospital which was mobilised during 1925 for the reception of cases from Brighthouse, remained open until the end of January, 1926. With such an unvaccinated population as the country now possesses smallpox seems likely to remain as an endemic disease; efficient vaccination is capable of removing the danger and completely banishing smallpox from our midst. Those who are accustomed to dealing with smallpox know this, but a large section of the general public seems to prefer to take its opinions from vociferous anti-vaccinists, whose opinions are founded upon lack of knowledge and opportunities for experience. Persons who develop smallpox really deserve no sympathy, because they can by vaccination (and re-vaccination at intervals) keep off the disease if they wish to do so.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever was singularly scarce during 1926, there being only 102 cases, with one death.

Diphtheria.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of diphtheria, and on the whole it was of rather dangerous type. There were 9 deaths certified as due to this complaint, but as two of these were patients who were not notified to me as suffering from diphtheria during life, and only came to my notice after death had been certified as due to diphtheria, I am not in a position to accept the diagnosis without question.

Of the seven deaths which undoubtedly resulted from diphtheria, some of them could probably have been avoided had medical aid been summoned at an earlier stage.

Attention is drawn to the need for **IMMEDIATE** medical advice in ailments of children, and especially when there is anything wrong with the throat, or when breathing is difficult. Diphtheria is a disease which comes on with very slight symptoms, and the patients are always more seriously ill than they seem to the inexperienced. The antitoxin treatment of Diphtheria, which is of such remarkable value when applied early, is of little use when several days have been wasted in the hope that domestic remedies may cure. Parents should keep diphtheria always in mind and send for the doctor early when a child is poorly.

Puerperal Fever.

Four cases of puerperal fever were notified, with one death. Three were treated at the Royal Halifax Infirmary and one at home.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

On October 1st, 1926, a new Regulation came into force under which the notification of septic conditions associated with childbirth became more comprehensive by the inclusion of certain cases which, though not within the classification of puerperal fever as originally defined, came within a new definition of Puerperal Pyrexia. It is possible that this may lead to a greater knowledge of the nature and extent of the conditions referred to. During the last quarter of the year three such cases were notified, but it is too soon to express any opinion as to the working of this new Regulation.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following Table classifies the notified cases :—

Cases.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Death
Notified	Treated.					
	At Home	In Hospital				
8	7	1	8	—	—	—

Encephalitis Lethargica.

*Five cases of this disease (known popularly as sleepy sickness) were notified, with three deaths. The accurate diagnosis of this disease (which has only become known to the present generation during the last ten years though traceable in past history) presents difficult problems. Probably some certified cases have really been suffering from something else ; on the other hand, on account of the difficulty of diagnosis, other cases are missed in the

acute stage and are only recognised when distressing after-effects become apparent. Thus one death during the year was due to the after-effects of encephalitis occurring two years previously. The Department has endeavoured in various ways to assist the Ministry of Health in its attempts to solve the mystery which surrounds the illness.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Only one case was notified and this fortunately recovered under modern serum treatment at the Infirmary.

Pneumonia.

The absence of true influenza on a serious scale was one of the fortunate circumstances of the year, and there was only one death certified as due to influenzal pneumonia. Other forms of pneumonia continued to take heavy toll of life, though of course in many cases it was merely a terminal condition to some other illness. The notification figures for primary pneumonia are probably unreliable, as notification appears to be neglected.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There were some outbreaks of Measles, but the disease was not in a serious form, the deathrate being lower than the average. The usual steps were taken, namely the distribution of leaflets containing advice, through the schools and by house to house visits of the Health Visitors in districts specially affected.

Whooping Cough again showed itself as a serious menace to child life, and 10 deaths from this cause were reported.

On the whole, however, 1926 was not a bad year as regards infectious ailments.

The Fever Hospital, Stoney Road.

Owing to the smaller prevalence of scarlet fever the Hospital had a lighter year than usual, though the severity of type of diphtheria which prevailed gave rise to much anxiety during the nursing of the cases. Thanks to modern anti-toxin treatment many cases survived which, in an early era, would have proved hopeless; credit is due to Sister Baker for her skilful nursing of these cases.

The Hospital Sub-Committee spent much time in studying the Hospital, with a view to future policy, and visited hospitals in Leicester, Nottingham, Birkenhead and Wallasey to gain first hand knowledge of modern ward-design. Improvements in Stoney Royd Hospital are needed, and no doubt a scheme will be forthcoming in due course.

In the meantime every effort is being made by the Matron (Miss Wilson) to make up in service what the Hospital lacks in convenience, and there is no reason to believe that the patients are anything but happy and contented.

The following Table shows the number and classification of cases admitted, including those received from adjacent areas at the cost of the respective Local Authorities :—

Disease	Halifax	Greetland U.D.C.	Stainland U.D.C.	Elland U.D.C.	Shelf U.D.C.	Sowerby U.D.C.	Total
Enteric Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	81	4	2	2	2	1	92
Diphtheria	70	—	—	—	—	—	70
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Other Diseases (including observation cases) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Totals	161	4	2	2	2	1	172

Smallpox Hospital, Mount Tabor.

In the last Annual Report an account was given of the opening of the Smallpox Hospital to receive cases from the area of the Brighouse Joint Hospital Board in October, 1925. The Hospital was demobilised at the end of January, 1926, and was not required during the remainder of the year.

Disinfection.

The steam disinfecter is situated at the Borough Fever Hospital, Stoney Royd, and 7,513 articles of bedding, clothing, etc., were disinfected during the year. Also 138 library and other books were disinfected in a special apparatus which is provided for that purpose. 337 rooms in private houses were disinfected.

Cleansing Station.

This is at the Stoney Royd Hospital. 14 children were treated during the year, these being sent by the Education Committee, suffering from scabies and other conditions, and 6 other verminous persons treated.

Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATE.		
PERIOD	Respiratory only	All Forms
10 years average 1917-26 ...	'84	1'06
1926	'64	'70

The following Table shows the ages of the cases at the time of notification and at death :—

AGE PERIOD		TUBERCULOSIS							
		*NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	...	1	—	2	2	2	1	—	—
5 to 10 "	...	4	—	9	3	1	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	...	7	2	7	7	—	2	2	2
15 to 20 "	...	4	5	2	2	3	6	1	—
20 to 25 "	...	8	10	2	3	4	4	1	—
25 to 35 "	...	9	18	—	—	4	3	—	—
35 to 45 "	...	2	11	—	1	2	10	—	—
45 to 55 "	...	7	5	1	2	6	4	1	—
55 to 65 "	...	2	4	1	—	5	2	—	—
65 and upwards	...	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	...	45	58	24	20	29	33	5	2

*Includes primary notifications, and cases not notified during life, but first intimated by death returns.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total deaths from this disease was 15 per cent.

The following Table shows the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis remaining in the Borough on December 31st, 1926 :—

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
492	174	145	319	88	85	173

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action appeared to be called for.

Public Health Act, 1925 ; Section 62.

No action was taken.

Tuberculosis Scheme.

The illness and subsequent death of Dr. D. M. Taylor, resulted in a loss of continuity in the work among the tuberculous persons of the town. Fortunately the Council was able to secure the services of Dr. Elenora J. Howie, who acted as Resident Medical Officer at the Sanatorium and Tuberculosis Officer, from June to September, when she left to be married ; afterwards Dr. Marjorie Back continued the duties until the end of November. Thanks are due to these ladies for the excellent way in which they maintained the service. Dr. Wilfrid Smith commenced permanent duty on December 1st, 1926, as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, and Resident Medical Officer of the Sanatorium. The Ministry of Health requires the statistics relating to this work to be summarised on certain forms (T.53., T.54., T.55.) and this has been done, but in the interests of economy these tables are not reproduced in full in this Report. The following figures are, however, extracted from the Tables :—

Diagnosis.	Pul-monary.	Non-Pul-monary.	Total.
A—New cases (including contacts) :			
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	80	12	92
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—	6
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	17
B—Contacts :			
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	8	—	8
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous ...	—	—	—
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	20

Diagnosis.				Pul- monary.	Non-Pul- monary.	Total.
C—Cases written off Dispensary Register as :						
(a)	Cured	...	...	...	—	—
(b)	Diagnosis not confirmed or Non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error)	...	...	...	—	63
D—Number on Register Dec. 31st :						
(a)	Diagnosis completed	...	255	87	342	
(b)	Diagnosis not completed	...	—	—	6	
Number of persons on Dispensary Register on Jan. 1st						340
Number of persons transferred from other areas, and of "lost sight of" cases returned						4
Number of patients transferred to other areas and cases "lost sight of"						8
Died during the year						68
Number of observation cases under A (b) and B (b) above in which period of observation exceeded two months						2
Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts)						838
Number of attendances of non-pulmonary cases at Orthopaedic out-stations for treatment or supervision						3
Number of consultations with medical practitioners :						
(a)	At homes of applicants	...	...	...	...	12
(b)	Otherwise	...	...	...	...	192
Number of other visits by Tuberculosis Officer to homes						10
Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors for Dispensary purposes						2739
Number of						
(a)	Specimens of sputum, etc., examined	...	274			
(b)	X Ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work	...	...	...	—
Number of Insured persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December						56

Shelf Sanatorium.

Admissions and Discharges during the year :—

	Halifax cases	Other Cases	Total
Remaining in on December 31st, 1925 ...	23	16	39
Admitted during the year... ..	64	44	108
	87	60	147
Discharged during the year	60	46	106
Remaining in on December 31st, 1926 ...	27	14	41

Grouping of cases admitted during the year :—

A. *Non-Pulmonary* :—1 case (Scapula).

B. *Pulmonary* :—

Group 1. For observation—Two cases.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Group 2. Early cases ...	15	22	37
Group 3. Intermediate cases	20	31	51
Group 4. Advanced cases ...	13	7	20

We still have to deplore the small percentage of early, *i.e.*, really suitable Sanatorium cases.

The average length of stay was 139 days, as compared with 129, 124 and 117 days in the preceding three years respectively.

The condition of the patients discharged was as follows :

Improved.	No Change.	Worse.	Dead.	Total.
60	27	13	6	106

All the deaths were pulmonary cases and Halifax residents.

Tuberculosis After-care Committee.

The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee of the Halifax Council of Social Welfare continued its useful work in the manner described in previous Reports.

Bacteriological Examinations.

The arrangements are as follows :—

Diphtheria.

Swabbing outfits may be obtained from the Health Department, and after use may be posted direct to the Pathological Department, Medical School, Thoresby Place, Leeds. Positive results are telephoned or telegraphed direct to the practitioner, but negative results are communicated by post only.

Enteric Fever.

Blood outfits for the agglutination test are supplied by the Health Department, and may be sent direct to the above address at Leeds.

Tuberculosis.

Sputum and other material is examined only at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, 8, Clare Road, Halifax, and should not be sent to Leeds. Sputum must be sent in special outfits which will be supplied on the application of the practitioner.

Examinations 1926.

The following Table shows the number of examinations carried out either at the University of Leeds or at the Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year, either for the medical practitioners of the town, for the fever hospital, the clinics, or the Health Department :—

Sputum for Tubercle ...	...	...	315
Diphtheria Swabs ...	...	...	300
Hair for Ringworm ...	...	...	4
Agglutination Test (Widal) T.A.B. ...	...	...	2
Others (Pus, Fluids, etc.) ...	...	...	2
Total ...			623

In addition to the above, samples of milk from cows suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis of the udder have been taken by the Veterinary Inspector and submitted to bacteriological tests in other laboratories.

Issue of Sera and Vaccines.

Diphtheria Antitoxin :

As the Health Department is usually prepared to remove diphtheria cases to hospital on the shortest notice, the issue of diphtheria antitoxin for use in the town should be rarely required ; a supply is kept at the Health Department for issue in certain circumstances.

Botulism Antitoxin :

The Ministry of Health has placed botulism antitoxin at certain centres about the country. The nearest to Halifax are Manchester and Leeds. The Medical Officers of Health of these places are in charge of the supplies.

Venereal Diseases.

In conjunction with the County Authority, a joint clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases is held at the Royal Halifax Infirmary.

The clinic is open for women and children every Tuesday afternoon from 3-30 to 5-30, and from 6 to 8. For men, every Thursday between 6 and 8 p.m. Also an auxiliary treatment centre for men is open daily from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 6 to 8 p.m., and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. It appears that these arrangements are sufficient and adequate for the needs of the Borough. These times are likely to be altered early in the current year, with a slight reduction in the expenditure on the service.

There is a Medical Officer with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge of this clinic.

The following figures refer to local patients attending the Treatment Centre :—

Number of persons dealt with for the first time during the year, and found to be suffering from :—

				Local Clinic	Other Clinics
Syphilis	...	...	...	42	—
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	—	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	83	1
Conditions other than Venereal...				118	—
Total				243	1

Total attendances at the out-patient clinic	...	...	...	Local Clinic	6103	Other Clinics	10
Aggregate number of in-patient days					242		10
Number of doses of Salvarsan Substitutes given	...	...	...		432		—
Specimens sent to an approved Laboratory for :—							
Detection of Spirochaetes	...				3		—
Detection of Gonococci	...				—		—
Detection of other organisms	...				—		—
Wassermann Reaction	...	...			204		—
					—		—
Total	...				207		—

620 examinations for detection of Gonococci were carried out at the Treatment Centre.

There are 6 medical practitioners, not including the two officers of the clinic, in the Borough, qualified to receive free supplies of Salvarsan substitutes.

There were 99 specimens sent to the pathological laboratory provided by the Council, by the general practitioners during the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Midwives.

Number practising in the Borough of Halifax during the year	...	...	...	...	...	35
(This includes Midwives working in Institutions).						
Number holding the Central Midwives Board Certificate (by examination)	...	...	...	...	...	32
Number of <i>bona fide</i> Midwives (<i>i.e.</i> , holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board by virtue of having been in practice before 1902)	...					3
Number of cases in which Medical Aid was summoned by Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	142

26 medical aid notices were sent on behalf of the child, 7 for inflammation of eyes, 11 for feebleness, etc., and 8 for cases of skin affection (pemphigus, etc.).

Notification by midwives of intention to resort to artificial feeding, 11.

Notification by midwives of liability to be a source of infection, 3.

Midwifery Services Subsidised by the Corporation.

The Midwifery Service carried on by the Halifax District Nursing Association in the Bradshaw area is subsidised by the Corporation. The total number of cases attended by the Association's midwives, including those in Bradshaw, was 411 (a doctor being engaged in 81 of these cases).

The midwives attended 13 cases in Northowram, in one of which a Doctor also attended. The Bradshaw midwife had 55 cases, and in 12 of these a Doctor also attended.

The Luddenden Nursing Association also receives a small subsidy from the Corporation in respect of midwifery work within the Borough. During 1926 the Luddenden nurse, conducted in the Borough, one confinement and acted as maternity nurse in 8 cases.

Inspection of Midwives.

Dr. Latchmore supplies the following notes :—

Visits of inspection have been paid periodically, and the standard of work on the whole appears very satisfactory. It is gratifying to record that no case has occurred of damage to the eye of a newly born child from inflammation. This fact alone indicates that great care has been taken by the midwives.

Much anxiety has been caused during the year by the occurrence of the disease known as pemphigus neonatorum. Three deaths were notified from this cause. Many cases of a mild character recovered. Strict enquiry was made concerning these cases, and renewed precautions against umbilical sepsis were insisted upon. The course of the favourable cases suggested a localised and governable infection, whereas the fatal cases appeared to resemble a general septicaemia.

The decreased number of cases attended by the Halifax Nursing Association midwives appears to be due to the increased use which has been made of the Royal Halifax Infirmary Maternity Ward. 303 births were notified from the Royal Halifax Infirmary in 1926 compared with 144 in 1925. There were 193 births notified from St. Luke's (Maternity Home and Hospital) in 1926.

The increased use of institutions for midwifery cases necessarily involves less work for those midwives who attend women in their own homes, and in some cases these now cannot make a living.

Midwifery practice in England is gradually being freed from the irregularities which have so long hampered the art, and public opinion is becoming more enlightened as to the qualifications required of those who pursue this calling. In this connection the following notes on the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act 1926, may be of interest.

The Central Midwives Board has now obtained the sanction of Parliament to grant a special badge to certified midwives, but the badge is only to be issued after the consideration of individual applications for the same, and is returnable to the Board on the removal of the name of the holder from the Midwives Roll. This badge may become the visible hall mark of a well qualified midwife which doctors and patients will duly appreciate. Patients have frequently said in the past that uncertified women represented themselves as certified. Registration of Maternity Homes is now required by law, and inspection of these from time to time by the Local Supervising Authority is insisted upon. This applies to any house where one or more women may be admitted for confinement. The passing of this law should make hole and corner midwifery with all its malpractices, a thing of the past.

The Central Midwives Board now requires that each midwife shall pay ante-natal visits, and enter notes and observations concerning the patient's condition on a special form approved by the Board. The midwife must forthwith call in to her assistance a registered medical practitioner, in all cases of abnormality during pregnancy, as well as in labour and the lying-in period. Many difficulties must arise in requiring the use of such ante-natal records by midwives, as the competence of certified midwives in such special work differs greatly, but there can be no doubt that the trend of such focussing of attention on the ante-natal period is in the right direction *re* reducing maternal and infantile mortality.

Notification of Births Act, 1907 :—

Number of births notified...	} including births transferable to other districts.	{	1,452
Number of births registered			1,508
Ratio of notified to registered	...	...	96.28 %
Number of stillbirths notified	...	...	83

Number of notified births attended by Doctors with and without Midwives	410
Number of notified births attended by Midwives only	546
Number of notified births attended in St. Luke's Maternity Home and Hospital	193
Number of notified births attended in Royal Halifax Infirmary	303

Health Visiting Summary :--

Primary Visits	1,289
Visits, 1-5 years	4,655
Repeat visits under 1 year	5,311
Ante-natal visits	327

The Health Visitors also spend some part of their time in visiting cases of tuberculosis and mental deficiency. The total number of visits was smaller than in 1925 owing to a vacancy on the staff for six months.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Wade Street— Number of sessions, 53 (closed in May).

New cases, 170.

Re-visits, 1,561.

Average attendance per session, 32.6.

Queen's Road—Number of sessions, 91.

Tuesday ; Morning and Afternoon sessions.

New cases, 246.

Re-visits, 3,491.

Average attendance per session, 41.

Range Bank— Number of sessions, 18 (closed in May).

New cases, 51.

Re-visits, 378.

Average attendance per session, 23.8.

Northgate— Opened in May.

Number of sessions, 109.

New cases, 396.

Re-visits, 4,621.

Average attendance per session, 46.

Total new cases, 863.*

Increase on previous year, 102.

*Excluding births transferable to other districts, it will be seen that considerably more than half the infants residing in Halifax Borough have been brought to the Municipal Clinics. The increase in the numbers attending made it appear advisable to open two additional sessions at Northgate. This decision was made by the Health Committee towards the end of 1926, to take effect in January, 1927.

Total re-visits to clinics, 10,051.

Increase on previous year, 1,667.

Ante and Post-natal Clinics :—

Number of sessions, 44.

New cases, 80.

Total attendances, 302.

The Wade Street and Range Bank Clinics were closed at Whitsuntide, and the Northgate Clinic was opened officially on June 16th, by Dame Janet Campbell, M.D., D.P.H., Senior Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare, Ministry of Health, in the presence of many members of the Halifax Corporation. The work of the clinics actually began at Northgate on May 24th, as soon as the premises were ready for occupation.

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths of mothers in, or in consequence of, childbirth have been commented upon at some length in previous Reports. The figures for the last few years do not show the amount of improvement which is so desirable, though it is still hoped that with greater facilities for institutional accommodation at the time of confinement and more ante-natal supervision, the number of tragedies may be reduced.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
From Sepsis ...	3	3	3	0	1	1
From other causes..	9	7	7	6	7	7
Per 1,000 births ...	6·7	6·2	6·5	4·0	5·6	5·7

Orthopaedic Scheme.

The special clinic, established jointly by the Education, Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, and held in the School Clinic premises, commenced work towards the end of the year. It is presided over by Mr. F. W. Goyder, F.R.C.S., who has the assistance of one whole-time and two part-time masseuses and remedial gymnastic teachers. The clinic is well equipped with gymnastic and other apparatus. The object is to prevent children who suffer from rickets and other crippling diseases from becoming cripples. Obviously the little patients must be got hold of early, and that is why the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee is taking part in this work, instead of leaving the defects to be dealt with when the children reach school age.

Voluntary Workers.

The report on Maternity and Child Welfare would be incomplete if it omitted mention of the ladies who week by week and year by year, give their services to the clinic. Without them the work would be, if not impossible, beyond the power of the nursing staff in its present size. It is good to be able to record that at last one member (Mrs. Whitaker) has been included among the co-opted members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Propaganda Work.

A Health Week was conducted on behalf of the Health Committee by Mr. T. Bowen Partington, of the British Social Hygiene Council, from 15th to 21st February, 1926. Meetings were held on five evenings in the Town Hall, and on the Sunday two meetings were held in the Picture House. At all these gatherings films were shown. These related very largely to Venereal Diseases, but some general health films were also exhibited. The films proved an attraction, very large audiences being drawn together. Mr. Partington also addressed a Women's meeting, and gave dinner-hour talks at various mills.

In addition to this mass-propaganda, concentrated into the one week, there was a certain amount of other educational work done in a quieter way, directed towards special objects. Thus there was held a meeting, presided over by Alderman Dr. Branson, J.P., Chairman of the Health Committee, to which only those engaged in the production and distribution of milk were invited, and the Medical Officer of Health and the Veterinary Inspector addressed the gathering on the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, this meeting being a further attempt to interest the members of the milk trade in the production of really clean milk.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector gave several lectures and addresses during the year on health subjects, but there is a limit to the amount of lecturing that can be done by officers in a busy department. A great deal is heard in these days concerning the importance of public health propaganda, but perhaps too great an importance is sometimes placed upon it.

Your Medical Officer of Health has recently (in "Public Health," No. 5, vol. XL.) expressed his views on recent tendencies in Public Health propaganda work; one of these views is to the effect that the great advocates of Health Weeks, Health Exhibitions and mass meetings probably exaggerate the value of such things as educational forces. The greatest health educational work is done in our infant welfare centres, in the ante-natal clinics; and indeed every branch of a public health department, if properly conducted, is educational in the highest sense.

The organisation of special "Health Weeks" or Exhibitions takes the staff off their routine work from which they cannot well be spared, and in any case the results are probably not worth the time and money expended. It is pointed out in the article referred to that the qualities which make a good showman, useful as they may be in their proper sphere, are not desirable in a Medical Officer of Health, whose best service to the community can be rendered by attending to the routine work of his department and ensuring that it is working at the highest possible efficiency.

Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The work of the Halifax Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective has proceeded along its usual lines. The greatest difficulty the Committee has to contend with is in finding accommodation in institutions for female persons. Most of the institutions are full, and very heavy expenditure will have to occur in the country as a whole in order to provide sufficient accommodation for those who urgently require it.

Halifax cases are at present in the following Institutions:

- Mid-Yorkshire Institution, Whixley, near York.
- Gibbet Street Institution, Halifax.
- Pontville R.C. Special School, Ormskirk, Lancs.
- Stoke Park Colony, near Bristol.
- Royal Albert Institution, Lancaster.
- St. Francis R.C. Special School, Buntingford, Herts.
- Girls' Training Homes, Clapton.
- Wordsley Institution.
- Tenterden Union, Tenterden, Kent.

The following Table shows the position on December 31st, 1926:—

A. *Number of Cases "Subject to be dealt with."* :—

1.	Under "Order"	M.	F.	Total
(a)	In Institutions ...	24	13	37
(b)	Under Guardianship ...	—	—	—
2.	In "places of safety" ...	—	—	—
3.	Under Statutory Supervision ...	29	28	57
	Numbers of foregoing :—			
(a)	Attending Occupation Centres	—	—	—
(b)	Awaiting removal to an Institution ...	4	2	6
4.	"Subject to be dealt with," but action not yet taken :—			
(a)	Notified by Local Education Authority, Sec. 2 (1), (b) (v)	—	—	—
(b)	Otherwise "ascertained" ...	—	—	—

B. *Number of Cases who may become "Subject to be dealt with"* :—

1.	In Institutions or under Guardianship dealt with under Sec. 3—			
(a)	in regard to whom the Local Authority contributes under its permissive powers ...	—	—	—
(b)	Maintained wholly by parents, relatives or others ...	1	—	1
2.	Reported to Local Authority from any reliable source but as to whom it had not been decided whether they are "subject to be dealt with" or not :—	—	—	—
3.	Under Voluntary Supervision ...	—	—	—
	Numbers of foregoing attending Occupation Centres ...	—	—	—

Cases Notified by Local Education Authorities under Sec. 2 (1), (b), (v).

	M.	F.	Total
Sent to Institutions (by Order) ...	—	—	—
Placed under Guardianship (by Order)	—	—	—
Placed under Statutory Supervision ...	—	5	5
Placed in "Places of Safety" ...	—	—	—
Died or removed from area ...	—	—	—
Action not yet taken ...	—	—	—
Total ...	—	5	5

The particulars given above relate solely to cases under the care of the Statutory Committee, and have nothing to do with children of school age, who, so long as they are capable of receiving benefit from instruction in a special school remain under the care of the Education Committee. Particulars regarding them are to be found in the reports of the School Medical Service published separately, in which the work of the special school at Quarry House is described.

Medical Examination of Tramwaymen and Gasworkers. 10

The Medical Officer of Health carried out the following medical examinations on behalf of the Tramways and Gas Committees, including several consultations with usual medical attendants :—

Tramwaymen—

Applicants for employment or promotion	...	70
Return to work after sickness (other than cases certified by usual medical attendants)	...	5

Gasworkers—

Special examinations	—
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By E. GREEN, LIBRARIAN.

LONGITUDE = 1° 52' W.

HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL = 625 FEET.

The Mean Monthly Readings of the Earth Thermometer, four feet below the surface, were as follows:—

January, 42°	March, 44°	May, 46°	July, 55°	September, 56°	November, 46°
February, 42°	April, 44°	June, 50°	August, 56°	October, 53°	December, 44°

Highest Readings = 57° on August 23rd to August 30th.

Rain fell on 223 days, and measured 36·08 inches.

General Summary of Meteorological Observations

For the purpose of the present investigation, the following data were collected:

Station	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude	Barometer	Thermometer	Wind	Clouds	Humidity	Direction	Force	Time
1	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	10:00
2	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	11:00
3	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	12:00
4	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	13:00
5	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	14:00
6	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	15:00
7	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	16:00
8	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	17:00
9	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	18:00
10	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	19:00
11	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	20:00
12	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	21:00
13	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	22:00
14	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	23:00
15	34° 15' N	118° 15' W	1000	30.00	60.00	SE	1-2	80	SE	10	24:00

The following table shows the results of the observations:

The mean monthly barometer of the year 1911

January 1911

February 1911

March 1911

April 1911

May 1911

June 1911



