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Contributors

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REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

HOLMFIRTH

FOR 1938.



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Holmfirth Urban District.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

In presenting my annual report for the year 1938, I have complied with the instructions and form laid down in Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health, dated 25th October, 1938.

On April 1st, 1938, the old Urban District of Holmfirth was altered. The new urban district consists of the old Urban Districts of Holmfirth, Holme, Honley, and New Mill, together with portions of the old Urban Districts of South Crosland and Thurstonland and Farnley Tyas. There has been a slight adjustment of the boundaries of some of the old urban districts, with the result that a small portion of the old New Mill Urban District has been added to the Penistone Urban District.

In my report I have treated this district as now constituted as if it had been in existence for the whole of the twelve months of 1938 except in so far as it is now altered by the addition of portions of South Crosland and Thurstonland. These latter portions of the district have been included in my report for the last nine months of the year but not for the first three months. I have given separate vital statistics for Holme, Honley, and New Mill for the first quarter of the year, but as vital statistics for small districts for a short period of time are very misleading I have compiled vital statistics for the whole of 1938 from the new and old Holmfirth districts, together with the old Holme, Honley, and New Mill districts for the first quarter of the year. These will give a more satisfactory basis for comparison with future years, but will not be absolutely accurate, as they do not include the portions of South Crosland and Thurstonland and Farnley Tyas for the first quarter of the year. It is to be noted that the area, population and rateable value of the district are considerably increased. As regards industries, housing and living conditions and sanitation, the new district is very similar to the old. Honley is perhaps rather more urbanised and New Mill and Holme rather more rural in nature than the old Holmfirth district.

APPENDIX I.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	17,565 acres.
Population (estimated mid. 1938)	18,870
Number of inhabited houses	5,987
Rateable Value	£85,878
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£340

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

LIVE BIRTHS.				Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1000 popul'n
Holme (1st Jan. to 31st Mar.)	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Honley do. —all legitimate	...	...	...	18	10	8	16·05
New Mill do. —all legitimate	...	...	...	12	9	3	11·65
Holmfirth (old district 1st Jan. to 31st Mar. and new district 1st April to 31st Dec.)				205	102	103	12·36
				198	97	101	legitimate
				7	5	2	illegitimate
Holmfirth (composite for whole of 1938) ...				235	121	114	12·45
				228	116	112	legitimate
				7	5	2	illegitimate

STILL BIRTHS.				Total.	M.	F.	Rate per 1000 total births (live and still)
Holme (1st Jan. to 31st Mar.)	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Honley do.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
New Mill do.	...	...	...	2	2	0	142·8
				(1 legitimate ; 1 illegitimate)			
Holmfirth (old district 1st Jan. to 31st Mar. and new district 1st April to 31st Dec.)				6	3	3	28·43
				(all legitimate)			
Holmfirth (composite for whole of 1938) ...				8	5	3	32·92
				(7 legitimate, 1 illegitimate)			

DEATHS.				Total.	M.	F.	Crude death rate per 1000 population	Adjusted death rate
Holme (1st Jan. to 31st Mar.)	...	...	...	1	0	1	12·82	10·36
Honley do.	...	...	...	25	9	16	22·3	22·7
New Mill do.	...	...	...	17	8	9	16·5	18·8
Holmfirth (old district 1 Jan. to 31 Mar. and new district 1 Apl. to 31 Dec.)				221	98	123	13·32	13·56
Holmfirth (composite for whole of 1938)				264	115	149	13·99	14·26

				Deaths.	Rate per 1000 Births
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES ...				0	0
All Districts from Puerperal Sepsis ...				0	0
Do. from other Puerperal causes...				0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.				Total.	Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.
Holme (1st Jan. to 31st Mar.)	...	...	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Honley do.	...	...	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
New Mill do.	...	...	...	166·66	166·66	Nil.
Holmfirth (old district 1 Jan. to 31 Mar. and new district 1 Apl. to 31 Dec.)				53·65	55·55	Nil.
Holmfirth (composite for whole of 1938)				55·31	57·01	Nil.

HOLMFIRTH (composite figures for whole year)—

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)...	...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	42

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the sanitary authority or by the County Council:

- A** 1. **FEVER.**—Fever cases are treated in the Colne and Holme Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Meltham. This Hospital provides for the needs of the Colne and Holme Valleys, and is under the management of representatives of the various District Councils situate in these areas.
2. **SMALL POX.**—These cases are treated at Moor Top Hospital, Meltham, a branch of the Fever Hospital. Isolated cases have been treated at the Huddersfield Small Pox Hospital, by arrangement with the Huddersfield Medical Officer of Health.
- B** 1. **TUBERCULOSIS.**—Cases of Tuberculosis are treated in the various Sanatoria provided by the West Riding County Council.
2. **MATERNITY.**—There is a ward allotted to Maternity cases at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, Thongsbridge. The West Riding County Council provides a grant to this Hospital for necessitous cases. One hundred cases were treated during 1938.
3. **CHILDREN.**—There is no special children's hospital in the neighbourhood.
4. **ORTHOPÆDIC.**—There is no Orthopædic hospital in the district.
5. **OTHER.**—Other hospitals in the district are: (a) General—Royal Infirmary at Huddersfield; (b) Cottage—The Holme Valley Memorial Hospital at Thongsbridge.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases.—From the Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Meltham.
- (b) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.—Private motor ambulances may be obtained from Messrs. G. W. Castle and Son, Holmfirth, to whom the Local Authority pay a retaining fee, or from Huddersfield.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity cases can receive treatment at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.

Child Welfare Centres and School Clinics are provided by the West Riding County Council in Holmfirth, and managed by their officials.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary provided by the West Riding County Council officials at Holmfirth has been closed. Patients have now to attend at the West Riding Tuberculosis Dispensary at Huddersfield.

The treatment centre for Venereal Diseases is at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

There are no Day Nurseries, Orthopædic Clinics, or public Artificial Light Clinics in the district.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

These consist of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, Dr. T. S. Davy, of Beech House, Holmfirth, and two Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Sam Bray, of Cliffe, Holmfirth, for the old Holmfirth and Holme districts, and Mr. Irvin Haigh, of Jackson Bridge, for the old Honley and New Mill districts.

Nursing in the Home.

- (a) General.—There are three District Nurses in the district. One at Holmfirth and one at New Mill are controlled by a Ladies' Committee of the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital and maintained by voluntary subscriptions. There is no grant from the Local Authority or County Council. At Honley there is one District Nurse who does both the district nursing and the midwifery. She is under the control of a Ladies' Committee at Honley. She is maintained by voluntary subscriptions with the help of a grant from the County Council.

In cases of severe illness a nurse would be provided for a child of necessitous parents by the Infant Welfare Centre at Huddersfield.

- (b) Infectious Diseases.—In cases of a serious epidemic of infectious disease, such as Measles, a nurse would be provided by the West Riding County Council.

Midwives.

There are two Midwives practising midwifery solely in the district, one at Holmfirth and one at New Mill. They are maintained by voluntary subscriptions together with a grant from the County Council, and are under the

control of a Ladies' Committee of the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital and under the supervision of the West Riding County Council. At Honley there is one Midwife, who also does the district nursing, as mentioned above.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The Holme Valley Memorial Hospital is registered as a Nursing Home. Private wards may be obtained.

Maternal Mortality.

The investigation of maternal deaths and cases of Puerperal Fever is carried out by the local Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the Medical Practitioner in charge of the case.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The undermentioned is a list of the Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., in force in the District.

Bye-Laws were made by the Local Board for the district of Holmfirth on 8th February, 1886, and confirmed by the Local Government Board on February 25th, 1886. Certain amending bye-laws were made by the Council on December 10th, 1917, and confirmed by the Local Government Board on February 12th, 1918. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted June 13th, 1891.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part II., III., IV., V., and VI., and Section 95 Part VII., came into force in this district on March 5th, 1914.

Bye-Laws for the regulation of Offensive Trades were made by the Council on June 15th, 1914, and allowed by the Local Government Board on August 17th, 1914.

Regulations were made by the Council under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order of 1885, on 24th May, 1909, to come into force on August 2nd, 1909.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the district was satisfactory in quality but not in quantity during 1938; 1,500,000 gallons of water had to be purchased from Batley Corporation during April and May to remedy this shortage, and water had also to be purchased from the

Huddersfield Corporation to remedy the shortage in the New Mill area about the same time.

During the year the scheme for the purchase of Holme Styes Reservoir, which I outlined in my last report, was carried into effect. Water from this reservoir treated with a temporary chlorination plant and run into the mains near Sandford's Mill, was pumped up into Greave Reservoir and used from May onwards whenever the existing supplies were running short. Holme Styes Reservoir has a capacity of 68,000,000 gallons, with a gathering ground of 550 acres. As the water is largely moorland surface water, and as there are several farms on the gathering ground, it is unfit to drink in its raw state. A chlorination and filtration plant has been erected below the dam where the water is treated before being used. The suspended matter is first coagulated and then the water filtered. This water is then treated with lime to neutralise its acidity, and finally the water is chlorinated to sterilise it, after which it is fit for human consumption. These complicated procedures are all carried out automatically and the water tested daily. Frequent bacteriological tests have also been carried out, and the water after treatment has always been found to be pure. As regards the gathering ground, it is to be hoped that eventually all the farms in the gathering ground will be purchased by the Council. In the meantime arrangements have been made to prevent the farm drainage getting directly into any water courses, and the privy middens are emptied regularly by the Council. Repairs have been carried out to the dam of the reservoir and to the tunnel and valve shaft through it. The water is supplied to the town through a 9in. gravity main, whilst to supply the higher levels water is pumped up into Greave Reservoir by electrically operated pumps after treatment. Compensation water has to be released into the river for the mills below under the terms of the agreement, and for this purpose leakage water from the tunnel and filters is collected in a concrete tank and allowed to pass into the river over an automatic recording gauge.

About 6,000 yards of 9in. iron pipes have been laid from the reservoir through Holmfirth to New Mill Square, coupling up with the New Mill mains; about 350 yards of 6in. pipe have been laid from Holme Styes up to Greave Reservoir, and about 750 yards of 6in. pipe from the 6in. main at Cross to connect with the 4in. main in Scholes Moor Road. The cost of the whole scheme has been about £27,000. It is hoped that in future there will be no more water shortages in Holmfirth.

Extensions of the water supply during the year were 350 yards of 2in. pipes and 814 yards of 1½in. pipes at Victoria, New Mill, and to the housing estates at Fieldhouse, Nether Thong, and Honley.

The water supply at Holme was found to be contaminated. The gathering ground above the reservoir was cleaned up, poultry and cattle removed and the ground limed. Two different supplies found to be polluted were taken out from the reservoir and one new supply found to be pure water was re-piped and added to the reservoir. The supply to the village has since been pure and satisfactory in quantity.

During the year 59 samples of water were examined bacteriologically from various parts of the district. Forty-five of these were satisfactory and 14 unsatisfactory. Fourteen samples were also examined chemically and found to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensive alterations have been made in the sewerage of the area; only new property has been connected to the existing sewers. Twenty yards of 9in. sewer have been laid in Long Lane, Honley, and 80 yards of 6in. earthenware pipe sewers laid at the top of Park Head Road, Holmfirth.

Rivers and Streams.

The inspection of these is carried out by the West Riding Rivers Board. No action has been taken or required of the Local Authority.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 36 privy middens and 11 tub closets were converted to the water carriage system. Eighteen additional water closets were provided for old property; 112 new water closets were installed in new houses. The total closet accommodation for the whole new district is 1,421 privy middens, 228 tub closets, 21 waste water closets, and 3,622 water closets. The Local Authority have under consideration a scheme to give a grant of £5 or half the cost of conversion, whichever is the least, to owners for the conversion of each privy midden or tub closet to the water carriage system.

Scavenging.

There has been no change in the system during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLMFIRTH U.D.C.

I herewith furnish statement of sanitary work done, coming under my notice and supervision during 1938.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations:—

Number of inspections made during 1938	532
Number of Cowsheds registered ...	83

Nuisances:—

Number of inspections during 1938 ...	718
Number reported during 1938	168
Number in hand at close of 1937 ...	21
Number needing abatement	189
Number abated during 1938	187
Number outstanding at the end of 1938	2
Number of notices served informal... ..	148
Number of notices complied with informal	148
Number of notices served statutory... ..	41
Number of notices complied with statutory	39

Sewerage and Drainage: Development during 1938:—

Number of lineal yards of 6-inch sewer laid	80
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Closet Accommodation:—

Number of Pail Closets in district at the close of 1938	62
Number of Privies with covered middens at the close of 1938	950
Number of Privies converted into Pail Closets	0
Number of additional Pail Closets ...	0
Number of Privies converted into Water Closets	13
Number of additional Water Closets provided to old property	18
Number of additional water closets provided to new property	50
Number of Water Closets in district at end of 1938	1750

SCAVENGING.

This work is carried out by the Council's workmen under my supervision, and I trust to your satisfaction.

The approximate weight of refuse disposed of is as follows:

To Tips	2932 tons.
To Farmers	1022 tons.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
SAM BRAY,
Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLMFIRTH U.D.C.

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the sanitary conditions obtaining in the Honley and New Mill districts of your area. A summary of the inspections made during the year are as follows:

Dwelling Houses under Public Health Acts	188
Dwelling Houses under Housing Acts...	691
Farms and Cowsheds	351
Meat and other Foods	448
Slaughter Houses	354
Workshops	22
Bakehouses	24
Factories	42
Smoke Observations	14
Drains Tested	26
Houses or Schools Disinfected... ..	10
Informal Notices served... ..	102
Informal Notices complied with	92
Statutory Notices served	Nil.

Scavenging.

Two motor wagons each with two men and driver are fully engaged carrying out the scavenging of my area, and in the Honley area the refuse is disposed of by means of destruction and the remainder is by tipping and disposal to farmers. I would call attention to the nuisance of refuse receptacles which are being frequently filled with garden refuse, and adds considerably to the work of the scavengers.

Sanitary Conveniences.

The number of Privies or Tub Closets converted to W.C.'s during the year are as follows: Closets 11, Privy Middens 24. There have also been 78 W.C.'s installed for new houses.

Smoke Observations.

A number of observations have been made during the year, and with the exception of two or three cases, where cautions were issued, the tests have proved satisfactory.

Cows and Cowsheds.

Systematic inspections of farms have been made, and the whole of the cowsheds in the district have been inspected with the Veterinary Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture. The buildings and cattle were generally found to be in a clean condition. There are no additions to the list of accredited milk dealers

Meat Inspections.

Regular inspections of all meat killed in the district have been made. The carcasses have been of a good standard, and the meat found unfit for food was surrendered and destroyed. This comprises one whole carcase of beef and parts or organs of 19 beasts and 21 pigs.

Housing.

Five clearance areas, comprising 27 houses, have been confirmed by the Ministry, and the occupants re-housed on the Bradshaw Avenue estate. The number of new houses erected in the districts are as follows:

By the Local Authority	50
By private enterprise	28

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee for the interest displayed in all matters referred for their consideration, also to all Officials of the Council for their valuable assistance.

I am, your obedient servant,

IRVIN HAIGH,

Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

Shops.

Seventy-nine inspections were paid under the Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3). Unsatisfactory conditions were found in two cases and these were both remedied.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two privately owned swimming baths open to the public in the district. In both of these filtration and chlorination of the water is carried out.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action has been taken or required.

Smoke Abatement.

Thirty-five observations were taken during the year. Five cautions were given for emitting excessive black smoke. No legal action was taken.

Other Sanitary Conditions.

Provision for disposal of the dead is made at the mortuary attached to the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. There is also a mortuary at Calf Croft, Honley.

Schools.

There is one secondary school and 15 elementary schools in the district. These have been inspected during the year. They vary in structure and cleanliness according to their age, conditions in the more modern ones being good. All are provided with water for drinking and washing, and all except ~~two~~ ⁴ have the water carriage system. At Hade Edge school there are tub closets and at Field End School earth closets. I understand that the conversion of these at the latter school is still under consideration. There are no sewers near the Hade Edge School. Considerable alterations have taken place at the Netherthong School. The water carriage system has been installed and structural alterations are being carried out to the school buildings and playground. These are not yet completed. The school children are periodically inspected by the County School Medical Officers. Free milk is provided for necessitous children at all the schools, and milk may also be purchased. Dinners are provided at some of the schools.

Health Education.

No special action has been taken.

Rag Flocks Act, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the district to which these Acts apply.

HOUSING.

Number of new Houses erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority	72
(b) By private enterprise	54

—
Total 126

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) a—Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	371
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing and Consolidated Regulations	233
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	687

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	118
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	32

2—Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	35
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3—Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	0
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(B) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	0
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(3) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners:—	
(a) To render houses fit for human habitation	47
(b) As to usage other than for human habitation	0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 8
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms closed in pursuance of—
 - (a) Closing Orders 23
- (3) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the closing orders in respect of which were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit 3

4—Housing Act, 1935: Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 15
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 15
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 100
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 39
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 258
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars Nil

5—Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority.

Total 396

Housing.

During 1938, owing to the Amalgamation of Districts and to Air Raid Precautions, very little fresh work was done as regards housing problems. Repairs to houses were slowly carried out.

In the old Holmfirth district, seven fresh closing orders were made during 1938. As a result of statutory notices previously served, four houses were demolished, six houses closed, two closing orders determined, the houses having been made fit, and 18 undertakings to repair houses carried out during the year.

The position at the end of 1938 as regards all houses in respect of which proceedings have been taken under the 1930 and 1936 Housing Acts, was as follows: Demolition Orders made, 20; houses demolished, 17; Demolition Orders outstanding, three; Closing Orders made, 90; complied with 64; determined, the houses having been made fit, two; Closing Orders outstanding, 24. Undertakings accepted from owners to render the houses fit, 67; complied with, 36; undertakings outstanding, 31. Unfit houses in regard to which representations had been made but no decision had been reached by the Council, 25.

In the old Holme district there was one Closing Order outstanding. This was determined in 1938, the house having been rendered fit. In the old Honley area the five Clearance Orders, comprising 27 houses, made in 1937, were confirmed by the Ministry of Health. Three other houses were demolished and one closed. Three fresh Demolition Orders were made. The position at the end of 1938 in regard to houses dealt with by formal action was: Clearance Orders made, five (27 houses); Clearance Orders confirmed, five. Demolition Orders made, 13; houses demolished, seven; Demolition Orders outstanding, six. Closing Orders, made, eight; complied with, eight. In addition to these, eight houses were rendered fit by informal action on the part of the Sanitary Inspector.

In the old New Mill district, the position at the end of 1938 was as follows: Demolition Orders made, 24; houses demolished, 14; Demolition Orders outstanding, 10. Closing Orders made, 11; houses closed, 11. Undertakings accepted from owners to render the houses fit, three; undertakings carried out, three. In addition to this formal action, 27 unfit houses were rendered fit by informal action on the part of the Sanitary Inspector.

Re-Housing.

During the year 72 houses have been erected by the Council, 34 at Honley at Grasscroft Road, 22 at Holmfirth, at Fieldhouse 12, and Fairfields 10, and 16 at New Mill, at Long Road, Scholes. These houses were erected for displaced persons under the 1930 and 1936 Housing Acts or the Overcrowding Act. Houses are also in course of erection at Scar End, Brockholes, and 25 at Holmfirth, as follows: 16 at Fieldhouse, three at Cliffe and six at Netherthong.

Overcrowding.

At the end of 1937 there were 53 cases of overcrowding, comprising 354 persons, remaining in the districts. After the amalgamation

of districts three of these cases were taken over by the Penistone district. During 1938, 39 cases of overcrowding, comprising 258 persons, were relieved (this figure includes the three cases removed to Penistone). Most of these cases were found accommodation in houses built by the Council. One fresh case of overcrowding was reported during the year. Thus at the end of 1938 there only remained 15 cases of overcrowding, involving 100 persons. Nine of these cases were in the old Holmfirth district and six in the old New Mill district.

Shortage of Houses.

There is still a shortage of working class houses to let at reasonable rents. I should estimate that about 100 houses would be required to meet this shortage. It is to be remembered that practically all the houses built by the Council in recent years have been occupied by tenants displaced under the Housing Acts.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk supply of the district is satisfactory in quality. Eleven licences, one for the production of Grade "A" T.T. milk, and ten for the production of Accredited Milk, are in force in the district. Nine samples of milk from these producers have been examined during the year. Five were found to be satisfactory and four were unsatisfactory. The administration of the Acts has not caused any difficulty, and there have been no prosecutions during the year. Eight hundred and eighty-three inspections have been made under the Acts. The milk cows are inspected several times a year by the County Veterinary Officer, together with the Sanitary Inspector. One hundred and sixty-three farms have been visited and 1,284 cows inspected. One tuberculous cow was discovered during the year and slaughtered; otherwise the health of the cows as a whole has been good and they are clean and well cared for. The condition of the cowsheds structurally is not good and there is a great lack of dairies. Fifty-four notices were served on milk producers during the year to bring these up to standard. Of these 23 have been complied with, seven have done part of the work, six have ceased to produce milk, and 18 have not been complied with.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

(i) Meat inspection, including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking meat under the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat. The meat inspections during the year have been 600. There are 18 slaughter houses. Meat is not marked in this area. Two whole carcasses of beasts and parts of 37 carcasses were condemned for Tuberculosis.

(ii) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles.—There is a considerable improvement since the passing of the Act. All shops are now covered in, and meat is carried about in an improved manner.

(iii) The management of Public Slaughter Houses.—There are none.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

There have been no reported cases of food poisoning during the year, and no action has been taken or required by the Local Authority under the Food and Drugs Act.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

No specimens have been tested by the Local Authority during 1938. Such examinations could be carried out by the Public Analyst at Huddersfield.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

General.

No special action has been taken or required in regard to the diseases notifiable under the Regulations of 19th October, 1927.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Wakefield by Medical Practitioners in charge of the case when required.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests or of the artificial methods of immunisation against Scarlet Fever.

The premises occupied by persons suffering from infectious diseases and the articles exposed to infection are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector after removal of the case to hospital or release from quarantine.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There was some Influenza in the New Mill district at the beginning of the year, but there was no widespread Influenza epidemic in 1938. There was an epidemic of Measles in the Scholes and Wooldale areas in the latter part of the year.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Fifty-eight cases of notifiable infectious disease occurred during 1938 in the whole of the area. These were comprised as follows: Pneumonia, 27 cases; Scarlet Fever, 17 cases; Diphtheria, 6 cases; erysipelas, 5 cases; Puerperal Pyrexia, 2 cases; and Para-typhoid, 1 case.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-seven cases were notified, of which only two were due to Influenza. There were nine deaths from this disease.

Scarlet Fever.

Seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, and all were removed to hospital. Ten of these cases were amongst school children, but there was no epidemic.

Diphtheria.

Six sporadic cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Only three of these cases were in school children. None of these three had been immunised against Diphtheria. All were isolated in hospital and recovered.

During the summer I immunised 130 school children against Diphtheria. Seventy-six of these children were from the old Holmfirth and Holme district schools, 31 from old New Mill district schools, and 23 from the old Honley district schools.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia occurred at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. The other case was in Honley, and was removed to the Green Leas Hospital, Huddersfield. Both were mild cases due to concurrent diseases.

Paratyphoid—B.

The one case of Paratyphoid B was in a baby. The father of this child, who had had the disease some years ago, was found on examination to be a carrier. He was warned how to conduct himself. The case was treated at home and recovered.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT. Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the Year, 1938.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified	Under 1 year.												Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
		1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 25 years.	25 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	Over 65 years.		
Scarlet Fever	17	..	..	4	1	7	1	2	2	1	..	1	..	17	..
Diphtheria	6	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	6	6	..
Pneumonia.....	27	..	..	..	2	5	1	1	1	1	3	2	..	2	9
Erysipelas	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid B.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS.....	58	0	1	5	3	12	4	4	4	9	1	11	8	25	9

Hospital for the Treatment of Infectious Diseases—
The Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Meltham.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum.

No case of Ophthalmic Neonatorum occurred during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Five fresh cases of Pulmonary and four cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been notified during the year. There have been nine deaths from this disease, five from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year
1 to 5 years
5 " 10 "
10 " 15 "
15 " 20 "
20 " 25 "
25 " 35 "
35 " 45 "
45 " 55 "
55 " 65 "
Over 65 "
TOTALS	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

APPENDIX II.

Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Birth		Crude Death		Rate	
	No. of	Rate	No. of	Rate	under	per 1000
	Births. per 1000.		Deaths. per 1000.		1 yr.	Births.
1st Jan. to 31st March, 1938—						
Holme.....	0	0	1	12.8	0	0
Honley	18	16.05	25	22.3	0	0
New Mill ...	12	11.65	17	16.5	2	166.66
Holmfirth (old area 1st Jan. to 31st Mar. and new area 1st April to 31st Dec.)—	205	12.36	221	13.32	11	53.65
Holmfirth (whole area from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec.)—	235	12.45	264	13.99	13	55.31

The following statistics are for all the old districts from 1st January—31st March, 1938; plus new Holmfirth district from 1st April—31st December, 1938.

Births.

Two hundred and thirty-five births have been registered during the year, of which 121 were males and 114 females. Seven of these births were illegitimate, five males and two females. The birth rate is 12.45 per 1,000 persons, compared with a birth rate of 15.1 for the whole of England and Wales. There were eight Still Births, of which five were males and three females, registered during the year. One of these males was illegitimate. This gives a Still Birth rate per 1,000 persons of 0.42, compared with a Still Birth rate of 0.60 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

There were thirteen deaths amongst infants under one year of age, of which four were males and nine females. All of these were legitimate. The causes of death were: Prematurity or congenital causes of difficult labour, eight cases; Meningitis, Broncho-Pneumonia, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Tetany and Tuberculosis, one each. The Infant Mortality rate is 55.31, compared with an Infant Mortality rate of 53 for England and Wales.

Deaths.

During the year 276 deaths were registered in the district. Fifty-four of these deaths were of persons belonging to other districts and were transferred out of the district for

burial. Forty-two deaths also occurred amongst persons outside the district belonging to the district, and these were transferred back into the district for burial. This gives a nett total of 264 deaths for the district. One hundred and fifteen of these were males and 149 females. The crude death rate is 13.99 per 1,000 persons. The adjusted death rate is 14.26, compared with a death rate of 11.6 for England and Wales.

Places of Death.

Sixty-three of the nett total of 264 deaths occurred in Public Institutions.

Ages at Death.

Of the nett total of 264 deaths, two were in persons over the age of 90 years, 149 were in persons over the age of 65 years, and 68 in persons aged between 45 and 65 years.

Causes of Death.

The chief causes of death were: Heart Disease, 71; other Circulatory Diseases, 20; Cancer, 42; Nephritis, 17; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 16; Pneumonia and Tuberculosis, nine each.

Maternal Mortality.

There were again no deaths from Puerperal causes during the year. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, compared with a maternal mortality rate of 2.97 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death in 1938.

The Registrar General's list of causes of death is as stated below:

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Measles	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	0	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2
Other Tuberculosis	3	2
Syphilis	1	0
Gen. Paralysis of Insane, etc.	0	0
Cancer	15	27
Diabetes	1	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	7	9
Heart Disease	28	43
Aneurysm	1	0
Other Circulatory	10	10
Bronchitis	0	6
Pneumonia	4	5
Other Respiratory	2	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	0
Other Liver Diseases	0	4
Other Digestive	0	2
Nephritis	9	8
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal	0	0
Congenital Causes, etc.	3	5
Senility	1	3
Suicide	1	0
Other Violence	4	2
Other Defined Causes	17	16
Ill-defined Causes	0	0
All Causes	115	149

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

T. S. DAVY, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

