

[Report 1921] / Medical Officer of Health, Ilkley U.D.C.

Contributors

Ilkley (England). Urban District Council. nb2008024124

Publication/Creation

1921

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

A-35 JUL 22

No. 1457/1561

Ilkley Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

J. N. RICHARDSON, M.D., M.R.C.S.,

Licentiate in Sanitary Science ;

FOR THE YEAR

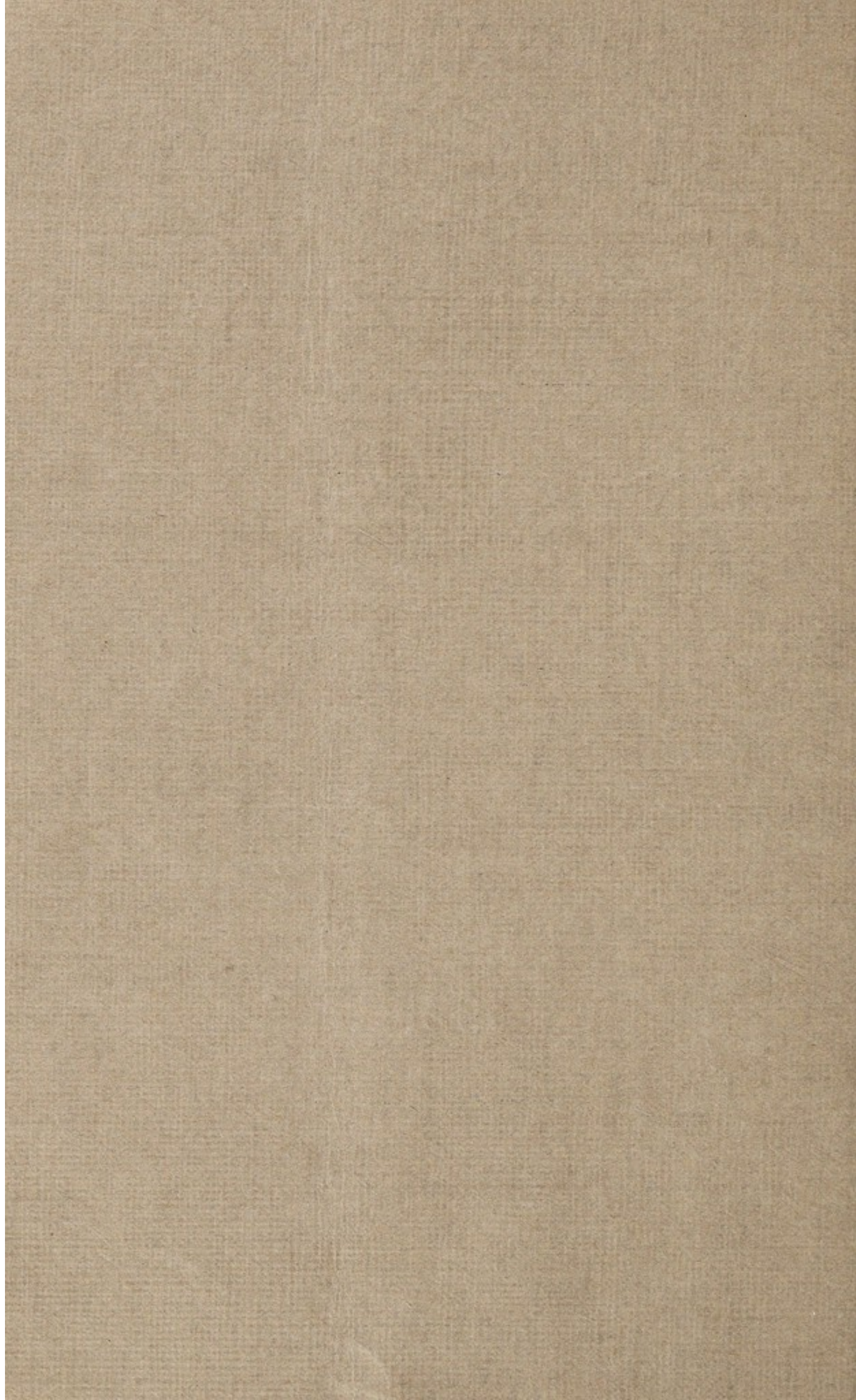
1921

ILKLEY

WILLIAM WALKER & SONS (OTLEY) LTD.,

"FREE PRESS & GAZETTE" OFFICE.

1922.



ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit a Report on the sanitary condition of the Urban District of Ilkley for the year 1921.

In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health (Circular 269) on the grounds of economy, "the question of revising the particulars to be included in the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health, by the omission of details as to conditions which do not vary from year to year, and the curtailment of the information asked for in certain years," has been considered, I am directed that the Annual Report for 1921 be drawn up on the lines indicated below.

"Annual Reports of a full and detailed character (referred to in the Circular as Survey Reports) will normally be required at intervals of not more than five years." In other years Medical Officers of Health should be asked to prepare an Annual Report of a more simple character (referred to in the Circular as an Ordinary Report). The Annual Reports for the years 1919 and 1920 will be treated as constituting the first of the series of Survey Reports. The present Report is accordingly treated as an Ordinary Report.

During the year there have been no noteworthy conditions prejudicial to the health of the community. After a mild winter, the summer was exceptionally dry, with a large amount of sunshine. There was a notable diminution in the amount of sickness, with the result that the death rate was reduced to 9·7 per 1,000, which quite equals that of the best years before the war.

There has been no considerable amount of unemployment, notwithstanding the fact that the building trade has been almost

at a standstill. The high cost of labour and materials has prevented many necessary repairs from being carried out. Three small houses only have been built, of the the bungalow type.

The district has again been fortunate in the small number of infectious cases which have occurred, although there were in many districts extensive epidemics of scarlet fever and diphtheria. There were indications towards the close of the year that the local area would not be able to escape an epidemic, and that in the near future a considerable increase in the number of cases of those diseases might be expected.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Further experience of the scheme adopted by the Local Authority, in co-operation with the County Council, has proved successful. Under this arrangement, the County Council School Nurse attends each week at the Centre, and in addition acts as Home Visitor. The removal of the Centre to the rooms at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, which took place early in the Summer, enables the work to be carried on more conveniently, and as the situation is equally central, the facilities provided are appreciated by all concerned. There is ample provision for the work; a large and comfortable waiting room, convenient consulting room, weighing room, and kitchen have been secured; all are very clean and well warmed.

The attendance keeps very good, and it is evident that the mothers appreciate the advantages of the Centre.

There has been an increase in the number of attendances during the year to 1,476, and the total since the Centre was instituted is over 2,400.

Short Addresses are given at intervals on different subjects. Valuable assistance is given by voluntary workers in the distribution of clothing and infant foods.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

The attendance not having proved satisfactory, the Clinic was discontinued, but as the Child Welfare Work at the Centre has included most of the School cases, the loss has not proved serious.

I have repeatedly drawn attention to the danger arising from slop water or "tipper" closets. It is impossible to prevent them from becoming foul, and there is no doubt that flies often carry contamination from them to food in the adjoining houses. They are a constant source of expense from the fact that they so frequently become obstructed. Children often throw things down, and they become blocked by stones, clothing, play-things, and other

articles too numerous to mention. The difficulty in prevailing upon owners at the present time to make any alteration involving expense, renders the task of converting them into ordinary water-closets almost impossible, without compulsory powers. In my opinion, diphtheria will always be a danger whilst these antiquated and disgusting forms of sanitation are so numerous. I hope that powers may soon be obtained to enable the Sanitary Authority to deal with them effectively.

THE CENSUS.

In the Annual Report for 1920, the following paragraph occurs on the subject of the estimated population of the district :—

“The provisional figures on which the population of the district is estimated by the Registrar General are taken at 8,321 for both the birth rate and death rate. The approaching census will probably show that this estimate is below the actual number of inhabitants on account of the fact that all available housing accommodation is fully utilised.”

The actual figures of the Census were 9,105, bearing out the correctness of the forecast. As the Census was taken in June there were already a certain number of visitors in the district, but to counterbalance this influx, a considerable proportion of the resident population had gone on holiday, so that I estimate the net population of the district at 9,000. If this estimate is accepted, the death rate equals the low figure of 9·7 per 1,000, whilst the birth rate equals 13·7 per 1,000. The estimate of the Registrar General for the year 1921 is 8,590, which for the reasons above stated I consider to be considerably below the correct total of the population at the time the Census was taken. On the latter estimate the death rate rises to 10·2 per 1,000, and the birth rate to 14·4 per 1,000.

HOUSING.

No change has taken place during the year in the general housing conditions of the district. In common with other towns, stagnation prevails in the building trade on account of the excessive cost of labour and materials. With the exception of three small bungalows, no new dwellings have been erected.

The district is fortunate in the fact that most of the houses are of recent construction and this is particularly the case in regard to cottages. Building operations were very active for many years before the War, and a large addition to the number of cottages resulted. In consequence of their recent erection, most of these cottages are in good condition and with few exceptions are free from the structural defects of those of an earlier date.

In one case only was it urgently necessary that a closing order

should become operative, and this was due to dilapidation in an old cottage. With few exceptions the general type of cottages is not of the back-to-back variety so common in many towns. The great majority of them are healthy well-lighted dwellings, with good through ventilation.

The whole of the housing accommodation is fully appropriated, and there were four cases of overcrowding.

A Housing Scheme has been adopted by the District Council, of which the following are the details. A plot of land of upwards of ten acres has been purchased in a healthy and suitable situation. Plans for the erection of upwards of 100 houses for the working-class have been approved. Tenders for the erection of these houses have been submitted, but could not be approved on account of excessive cost.

There is no unhealthy area in the district.

APPENDIX.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	3,822
Population (Census, 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	9,105
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	1,946
Number of Families, or Separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	2,045
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£63,094 15 3	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£250 0 0	

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	120	68	52	Birth Rate (R.G.) 14·4
	Illegitimate	4	1	3	
Deaths	...	88	43	45	Death Rate (R.G.) 10·2
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:					
	From Sepsis	...	...	...	1
	From other Causes	...	...	...	0
Deaths of Infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births:—					
	Legitimate	...	...	...	56
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	0
	Total	...	...	...	56
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					
	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					
	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					
	...	...	...	...	0

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospstal.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	17	12	1
Scarlet Fever	15	7	0
Enteric Fever (including (Paratyphoid)	4	3	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	1
Pneumonia	13	0	8
Other Diseases generally ... Erysipelas ...	1	0	0
Notifiable	1	0	0
Other Diseases Notifiable Pertussis			
Locally	35	0	0
Tuberculosis—			
M.	5	0	1
F.	3	0	0
Total	8	0	0
(a) Pulmonary			
Total	8	0	0
(b) Non-Pulmonary	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0	0	0

One case of diphtheria died, aged 8 years; one of puerperal sepsis died, aged 44; and one of pulmonary tuberculosis, at 18. There were no deaths from non-notified cases of tuberculosis.

The local medical practitioners give prompt notification of all cases of tuberculosis and make free use of the facilities afforded by the Laboratory of the County Council for the confirmation of diagnosis.

The local Tuberculosis Officer is always willing to give his assistance to secure the best results of treatment.

In cases of primary notification of tuberculosis, the premises are visited and inspected. Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Authority.

The death rate from tuberculosis was '11 per 1,000 per annum.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

A number of cases of influenza occurred during the first quarter of the year, and 4 deaths resulted.

Whooping cough was very prevalent during the first six months, but had almost disappeared at the end of the year. No case resulted in death.

With these exceptions no causes of sickness and invalidity have been specially noteworthy in the district during the year.

Cancer and malignant disease caused the largest individual number of deaths, 12 persons dying of these conditions.

5. SUMMARY FOR REFERENCE OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS,
HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS,
AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

There is no provision for General Home Nursing other than the services of a District Nurse provided by the Ilkley District Nurse Association. Voluntary subscribers to the Association are entitled to the services of the Nurse. The Local Authority assists the funds of the Association by a yearly subsidy of £20. The services of the Nurse are much appreciated, and consist of a daily round of visits to patients at the request of the local medical practitioners.

No provision is made for the home nursing of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever. The majority of these cases are removed to the Wharfedale Joint Isolation Hospital for treatment.

Two Nurses are provided by the West Riding County Council for the nursing of Measles. No epidemic of Measles has occurred in the district since these arrangements were made, and it is not possible to say to what extent their services would be available in such a contingency.

Midwives.—The County Council is the supervising authority. There are three Midwives practising in the district, two of whom possess the C.M.B. Certificate.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre for consultation and treatment is carried on by a combined scheme of the Local Authority and the County Council, and is the only Centre in the district. The address of the Centre is the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Leeds Road, Ilkley. A full description of the nature of accommodation, and by whom provided, appears in a previous page of this Report.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

1. *Tuberculosis.*—The County Council provides and controls Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis in different parts of the West Riding.
2. *Maternity.*—An arrangement was entered into by the Sanitary Authority with the Committee of the Ilkley Coronation Hospital in 1918 for the provision of Maternity facilities. Under this arrangement patients may be admitted to the hospital in all cases where difficulty or complications of labour render hospital treatment necessary; and also in those in which the home conditions are not satisfactory. Three cases of Cæsarion Section have been operated upon

with the best results. The Local Authority is responsible for the hospital charges in all cases where the patients are unable to pay.

3. *Children*.—Provision is also made for the treatment of children in the same hospital.
4. *Fever*.—The Hospital available for the district is the Wharfedale Union Joint Isolation Hospital at Menston, and is, as its name implies, for the use of the constituent authorities of the Wharfedale Union and is supported by them entirely.

The accommodation of the Hospital is as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	50	beds
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	16	„
Observation and Typhoid Fever	...				10	„
					—	
Total	...	...	...	...	76	„

5. *Smallpox*.—The Wharfedale Union also provides hospital accommodation in near vicinity to the Isolation Hospital.

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

Ambulance Facilities.—Infectious cases are promptly removed by the ambulance attached to the Wharfedale Joint Isolation Hospital. For non-infectious cases an excellent ambulance is owned by the Committee of the Ilkley Coronation Hospital, and is at all times available for service.

6. BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE.

The valuable assistance provided by the Public Health Laboratory of the West Riding County Council is fully appreciated and many examinations are made to verify diagnosis, particularly in cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases. The Medical Officer is qualified to receive free supplies of Salvarsan Substitutes for the treatment of suitable cases.

The following table indicates the value which the local medical men attach to bacteriological examination of all doubtful cases, especially for the detection of "carriers" in Diphtheria and Enteric Fever.

Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Wakefield.

Returns showing the number and various kinds of specimens

received for examination during the last year. Ilkley U.D.C. Sanitary District :—

Widal Re-action	...	...	...	19
Ringworm	...	...	...	6
Sputa (for Tubercle Bacilli)	...	...	...	14
Swabs (for B. Diphtheriæ)	...	...	...	131
Urine (Typhoid)	...	...	...	3
Urine (for Tubercule)	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4
Total				178

Free supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are issued by the Sanitary Authority to the local Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria, if the patients are too poor to provide it otherwise.

Adoptive Acts.

Date of
Resolution
Adopting Acts.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Part or Sections in force: I., II., III., IV.	...	...	Dec. 4, 1889
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Sections adopted: Secs. 17, 19, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32, comprised in Part II.	...	...	Nov. 6, 1890
Secs. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 47, 49, 50 and 51, comprised in Part III.	...	...	Apl. 1, 1891
Secs. 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 67, comprised in Part IV.	...	...	Apl. 1, 1891
Part VI. and Part X. have been adopted.			
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	...	...	Apl. 1, 1891
Notifications of Births Act, 1907	...	...	June 7, 1911
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...	Apl. 7, 1897
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Portion)...	...	...	Nov. 5, 1913

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

A full Report of the Sanitary Inspector is shown separately after this Report.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

	Salary.
Medical Officer of Health, J. N. Richardson, M.D.; also M.O. of Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	£150
Sanitary Inspector, Henry West	£224
Also Superintendent House Refuse Removal, Petroleum and Drainage Inspector	£36

	Salary.
Home Visitor and Nurse to Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Nurse Broughton. Hospital trained Nurse and C.M.B. Certificate ; is also West Riding County Council School Nurse. The Local Authority contributes towards her salary	£35

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time officer. The M.O.H. and Home Visitor part time.

9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	3
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	0

1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	58
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	105
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

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	92
--	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0
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B.—Proceedings under 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 :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. N. RICHARDSON, M.O.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TOWN HALL,

ILKLEY,

December 31st, 1921.

TO THE ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished in the Sanitary Department during the year 1921.

This being the nineteenth of such Reports that it has been my privilege to submit, and having spent this period as your Sanitary Inspector, I cannot help looking back over the intervening years and asking the somewhat important question: "What effect has the work in which I have been engaged had on the general health and comfort of the inhabitants?"

There have been valuable improvements made in the sanitary condition of the district during this period, and the past twelve months has not been an exception in that respect, for the department has been fully occupied.

Sanitary defects, in both public and private drainage, must of necessity occur through lapse of time, if for no other cause, and with this knowledge, much general and public good is effected by keeping strict supervision over all drainage, the testing of each house as to its general sanitary condition as it becomes vacant, and having all defects remedied before occupation by the new tenant. This practice I have found to be most salutary and satisfactory, and to have led to a general improvement in the sanitary condition of the houses. I find people are alive to its importance and advantages, as shown by the many requests for drainage and sanitary fittings to be tested.

All new drainage, whether it is reconstruction work or drains to new houses, are tested, generally by the water test, before they are allowed to be covered over. I find this to be very satisfactory, both to owners of property and the sanitary authority, as it ensures the minimum of trouble and expense in future years, particularly where inspection chambers are provided at suitable points.

There have been 1,387 nuisances dealt with; 915 received the attention of the owners, and 472 minor defects, affecting the drainage of private houses, mostly partial stoppages to drains and gullies of a temporary character, when the cost was likely to be small, have been attended to by the Council's workmen.

The following is a summary of the sanitary defects remedied:

they vary in character, but all have a more or less detrimental effect on the health of the community :—

Abattoir inspections	285	Walls and ceilings repaired ...	21
Accumulations of manure or other refuse removed	50	Inquiries into cases of infectious disease	95
Ashpits dilapidated and removed	1	Inspection of houses on com- plaint or otherwise	163
Black smoke	3	Inspection of houses under Hous- ing and Town Planning Act, 1909	105
Burial grounds, inspections of ...	4	Inspection of work in progress	612
Bakehouses, inspections of	20	Letters calling attention to de- fects	305
Cement or otherwise foul sinks removed and glazed sinks provided	10	Miscellaneous defects remedied	93
Cowsheds, dairies and milk-shops, inspections of	29	Overcrowding abated	3
Drains—		Poultry and animals removed ...	9
Cleansed on complaint or by Council's staff	401	Re-inspection of houses, etc. ...	7
Tested with smoke or chemicals	59	Schools inspected	4
Tested with water	52	Sewers blocked or otherwise defective	9
Inspection chambers provided	50	Sink or other waste pipes re- newed, disconnected or trapped	51
Inspection air-tight covers pro- vided	61	Smoke observations taken	9
Reconstructed	9	Swill tubs so kept as to be a nuisance	2
Repairs to	30	Swine so kept as to be a nuisance	2
Soil pipes removed, repaired and ventilated	29	Urinals inspected in connection with hotels and other premises	25
Gullies replaced	131	Water Closets—	
Dustbins provided	80	Additional W.C.'s provided...	40
Dustbins, unnecessary deposit of liquid filth into	70	Flushing apparatus provided or repaired	126
Factory, workshop, and work- places inspections	104	New pedestals provided	53
Houses—		Structural defects remedied	42
Cement concrete floor provided in basements	5	Waste-water closets blocked...	72
Floors, new to living rooms provided or repaired	5	Water running to waste	61
Filthy condition of	2	Window-sashes hung or other- wise made to open full size ...	21
Roofs repaired	46	Window areas, filthy condition of	27
Through ventilation provided	1	Yard Pavement provided or re- paired in connection with dwelling-houses	6
Walls made dry by the in- sertion of damp courses or other methods	1		

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The Factories on the Register number 31 and include :—

Aerated Water and Bottling Depots	1	Electricity Works	1
Bakers and Confectioners	3	Gas Works	1
Breweries	1	Joiners	7
Boot Repairing	2	Laundries	2
Blacksmith	1	Letterpress Printing	1
Cabinet Making and Uphol- stering	2	Motor Repair Works	5
Destructors	1	Pork Butchers	1
		Wheelwrights	1
		Whitesmiths	1

The Workshops on the Register number 73 and include :—

Bakers and Confectioners	...	8	Joinery	...	...	2
Blacksmiths	...	1	Laundries	...	...	2
Boot Repairing	...	13	Milliners	...	...	4
Cabinet Making and Upholstering	...	5	Plumbers	...	...	6
Cycle Repairing	...	3	Picture Framing	...	...	1
Dressmaking	...	10	Painters	...	...	9
French Polishing	...	1	Tailors	...	...	4
Golf Club Making	...	1	Tin Plate Working	...	...	2
Harness Making	...	1				

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Gut Scraper and Tripe Boiler ... 1

The house gullies, about 19,000 in number, have been periodically cleaned out, two men are employed for this work, and they devote a good part of their time to cleaning out and disinfecting the gullies, inspection chambers, and disconnecting traps to private house drainage systems. This is work voluntarily undertaken by the Council, and forms no part of their statutory duty, but they decided years ago to carry the work out, solely with the idea of safeguarding the public health. This work is carried out by few Councils in the country. This is a privilege which householders do not always realise and appreciate at its proper value.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—One hundred and five houses have been inspected under the above Acts, and a number of minor defects, such as defective sink waste pipes, sanitary fittings, etc., were located, and all were remedied by the owners after intimations had reached them. Fifty-eight house-to-house inspections were made under the provisions of the Public Health Acts. No very serious sanitary defect was found during the visits to these premises.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.—There are fourteen cowsheds within the district and eleven purveyors of milk. Frequent inspections have been made of the former during the year. Hygienic conditions have received due attention, and both cattle and cowsheds are kept in a cleanly condition, though constant reminders have to be given, particularly in regard to the regular grooming of cattle. The care taken in handling of milk is generally satisfactory, and the condition of the tins and other utensils is not overlooked. The milk is mostly taken from the farmer direct to the consumer, with one exception. Thirty-five samples of new milk have been submitted to the Public Analyst, thirty-two of which he certified as "genuine new milk." Of the remaining three, 1 as having 2·8 per cent. of added water, 2 containing only 97·3 per cent. and 86·7 per cent. respectively of the minimum

proportion of fat, having regard to the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901. A warning was issued to the vendors in each case.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.—There were entered in the Register on December 31st, 1921 :—31 factories, 73 workshops, 8 bakehouses, and 1 outworker. 104 inspections have been made, and in a few instances preliminary notices have been sent to the occupiers drawing their attention to defects which in the main were of a minor character, and have been complied with. Three notifications were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, all of which have received attention.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.—Daily inspections have been made at the Public Abattoir, and I found all slaughtering to be carried out in a satisfactory manner. The number of animals slaughtered during the year were 499 beasts, 339 calves, 3,566 sheep and lambs, and 890 pigs. During the year 728 lbs. of beef, 30 lbs. of mutton, 151 lbs. of pork, and 738 lbs. of livers and other internal organs were detected as being unfit for food and were surrendered. The above were destroyed at the Destructor Works.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—The staff engaged upon this work was 3 horses and carts with one filler to each, and one $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons electric vehicle with 2 and sometimes more fillers, four days a week during the first three months of the year, and during that period the bins were cleared weekly and in quite a number of cases twice a week, and where applications were made owing to any special circumstances, bins were cleared more often than that. With the commencement of the financial year April 1st, the Council decided that the collection of refuse from all bins should be once in ten days, in order to bring down the cost of this sanitary service, and the staff was reduced to 2 horses and carts, with one filler to each, and the electric wagon to 3 days a week with 2 fillers. The ten days clearance proved very unsatisfactory, and I received many complaints and requests from householders for dust bins to be cleared, which had the effect of disorganisation. Unfortunately, when this system was launched it was the time of the great coal stoppage, which accentuated the difficulties of the householders very considerably, as they had little or no fire to destroy waste paper, vegetable matter, etc. In many cases before collection the bins got chock full, resulting in the lids being pushed off, the contents scattered, and in wet weather becoming soaked, which means extra weight and extra cost of removal, and in fine weather they become dangerous as fly breeding grounds. During this period I was without the services of the electric wagon for some weeks. A ten days collection of refuse is not the high standard in sanitation as befits a health resort such as Ilkley. I

consider once a week is the maximum length of time that should lapse between the visits. I would prefer a system of clearance of twice weekly. I reported to the Sanitary Committee at their meetings each month of the difficulties I was experiencing with the new system. In June I was given instructions to clear certain sections of the town more frequently, with a result that the causes of complaint disappeared. So at the present time the dust bins are being cleared as follows: About half the town once in ten days, and the remainder weekly, with a few exceptions that are cleared twice a week.

It is regrettable to find householders and owners who do not appreciate the sanitary cleanliness of proper dust bins, and allow these receptacles to become in a decrepit state before they will provide a new one. The cost of dust bins is becoming more reasonable and I hope the many interviews that have had to be made before a new one could be provided will disappear.

The Destructor has continued to consume all the town's refuse, with the exception of the periods when it was closed down for repairs, and such refuse as was of no calorific value. The repairs have been somewhat extensive during the year, and I reported to the Committee that the furnaces, etc., would require reconstruction at a very early date. I was instructed to get out particulars, and a contract has been let to the New Destructor Co., Ltd., to carry out the work which will shortly be started.

No revenue from salvage has been received during the year, there being no market for this material. I do not consider much now can be done in the way of salvage from house refuse, as markets, wages, etc., stand at present, but I am of opinion the refuse could be made better to handle and destroy if it passed over a suitably arranged screen to take out the fine dust before reaching the furnaces, as this is quite inorganic and could then be taken direct on the land or tip.

The sale of ground mortar has been well maintained during the year.

The sum of £2,025 has been expended in the collection and disposal of 3,192 loads of household refuse by team labour, and the clearing of 28,122 dust bins by the electric wagon. 2,940 loads were carted to the Destructor Works, and 252 loads were taken to Cocken End and other tips.

The electric wagon delivered the contents of 21,092 dust bins at the Destructor Works, and the refuse from 7,030 dust bins were tipped at Cocken End tip. The foregoing show the collection, cartage, and tipping by team labour cost on an average 8s. 10d per load.

PETROLEUM ACTS.—Under the provisions of the above Acts and Orders made thereunder by the Secretary of State, 50 licenses to store petrol were granted, the total quantity to be stored being 8,752 gallons.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.—Nine observations for black smoke were made of the chimneys with steam boilers at the various works. Three of these do not show good results, being taken at the Council's Electric Generating Station.

I am,

Yours obediently,

HENRY WEST, Assoc., R.S. INST.,

Sanitary Inspector.

