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REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY & HOUSING CONDITIONS
OF THE
KIRKHAM URBAN DISTRICT,
FOR THE YEAR 1920.



CHARLES COURT, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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REPORT

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KIRKHAM URBAN DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary administration of the Urban District of Kirkham for the year ended 31st December, 1920.

The statistics with regard to the number of births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The numbers of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for inward and outward transfers.

AREA.—The area of the Kirkham Urban District, according to the last census return, is 857 statute acres.

POPULATION.—During the war period the Registrar-General, for statistical purposes, has used two populations, one the "birth-rate population" which included all elements

of the population contributing to the birth-rate, and the other the "death-rate population" which excluded all non-civilian males whether serving at home or abroad.

In 1920 demobilisation had reached a stage at which the Registrar-General felt that the distinction between "birth-rate populations" and "death-rate populations," made during the period when a large part of the male population was under arms, might in general be discontinued. A single estimate of population is now shown applicable to both births and deaths. This estimate for Kirkham is 3,829.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.—The total number of births reported by the Registrar-General as belonging to the Urban District of Kirkham was 99 : males 50, females 49, an increase of 48 as compared with the year 1919. Illegitimate births numbered 6 : males 3, females 3.

The birth-rate for the Urban District, calculated on the estimated population above referred to, viz. : 3,829, was equal to 25·8 per 1,000, an increase of no less than 12·6 per 1,000 as compared with last year, and exceeding the average of the 10 years 1910-1919 by 7·2 per 1,000. The birth-rate for the year under report is the highest recorded since 1907.

The provisional birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1920 was 25·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.—The nett deaths actually belonging to Kirkham for the year 1920 were 45 : males 19, females 26. This includes 37 deaths registered as occurring within the Urban District and 8 inward transfers (the latter were deaths of persons belonging to Kirkham occurring in hospitals and infirmaries outside the district). Last year the nett deaths numbered 58.

The tabulated statement below, supplied by the Registrar-General, analyses the causes of death distinguishing males and females :—

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
All Causes (Civilians only)	19	26
Enteric Fever .....	..	..
Small-pox .....	..	..
Measles	1	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .....	..	..
Influenza	2	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	..	3
Rheumatic Fever .....	..	..
Meningitis .....	..	..
Organic Heart Disease	2	1
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	..	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	..
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) .....	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	..	..
Alcoholism .....	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	1
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever .....	..	1
Congenital Debility, etc. .....	..	3
Violence, apart from Suicide	1	..
Suicide .....	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	5	10
Causes ill-defined or unknown .....	..	..
Special Causes (included above):—		
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....	..	..
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		
Illegitimate .....	..	3
Illegitimate .....	..	1
Total Births	50	49
Legitimate	47	46
Illegitimate	3	3

Population (for Births and Deaths) 3,829.

The death-rate for 1920, calculated on the estimated population, was 11·7 per 1,000 as compared with 15·7 last year, 17·3 in 1918, 20·0 in 1917, and an average of 17·3 for the 10 years 1910-1919.

The death-rate for the year under report is the lowest ever recorded for the district. England and Wales in 1920 had a death-rate of 12·4 per 1,000.

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.—Under this head only 1 fatality was recorded, viz. :—measles. The epidemic death-rate equalled 0·26 per 1,000, against 0·54 in the preceding 12 months, and an average of 1·68 for the 10 years 1910-1919. This rate is also the lowest recorded for the district. In 1907 it was exactly the same.

PHTHISIS (PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS).—Four deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis: males 3, female 1, producing a death-rate of 1·04 per 1,000, as compared with 0·81 last year and an average of 1·35 for the preceding decennial period.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA.—Bronchitis and Pneumonia each contributed 4 deaths, and Influenza 2 deaths, as compared with 4, 5, and 2 deaths respectively last year.

CANCER.—Only 3 deaths were registered as due to this disease, as against 7 in 1919.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The deaths of infants under the age of 1 year numbered 3, as compared with 8 in the preceding 12 months. The infant death-rate calculated per 1,000 registered births was 30, the lowest rate recorded for the district. Last year the infant death-rate was 156, and the average for the 10 years 1910-1919 was 162.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1920 was 80 per 1,000.

The tabulated statement below compares the birth-rate and death-rates for 1920 with those of the preceding year and the mean of the 10 years 1910-19.

		Per 1,000 of Population.					Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births
		Birth-rate	Death-rate	Epidemic Death-rate	Phthisis Death-rate		
1920	.. .. .	25·8	11·7	0·26	1·04	30
1919	.. .. .	13·2	15·7	0·54	0·81	156
Mean of 10 years (1910-1919)	..	18·6	17·3	1·68	1·35	162	

Increase or Decrease in 1920 on—

Previous year	... + 12·6	... - 4·0	... - 0·28	... + 0·23	... - 126
Ten years' average	+ 7·2	... - 5·6	... - 1·42	... - 0·31	... - 132

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1920 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births		Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1915	3,616	..	62	15.6	44	..	3	9	7	112	50	13.8
1916	Est. Civilian Population :— For Births 3,880 For Deaths 3,566	..	58	14.9	59	..	..	16	9	155	75	21.03
1917	For Births 3,719 For Deaths 3,336	..	60	19.1	53	..	..	14	8	133	67	20.0
1918	For Births 3,673 For Deaths 3,278	..	68 Males.. 34 Females 34	18.5	52	..	..	5	4	58	57 Males.. 23 Females 34	17.3
1919	For Births 3,836 For Deaths 3,682	..	51 Males.. 24 Females 27	13.2	47	..	1	12	8	156	58 Males.. 30 Females 28	15.7
1920	3,829	..	99 Males.. 50 Females 49	25.8	37	..	..	8	3	30	45 Males.. 19 Females 26	11.7

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The population of the Kirkham Urban District was 3,793 inhabitants at the Census 1911, and the estimated population as given by the Registrar-General for 1920 is 3,829.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.—Kirkham is a small urban district, and forms part of the Fylde Union, and is situated half-way between Preston and Blackpool on the combined Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways. Its area comprises 857 statute acres. Kirkham itself is distinctive from other parts of the Fylde by being hilly in character, the other parts being generally speaking decidedly flat and low-lying. Three hills connect the east and the west ends of the town, thus presenting a somewhat switchback appearance.

The soil is mainly sand, clay, and loam, and sub-soil sand and gravel in parts, thus lending itself to a good natural drainage.

The ancient town of Kirkham is partly built on middle sand and part on the upper boulder clay, the northern extension of these beds being cut off by a bluff, forming the southern limit of a large "swamp hollow," through which the Roman Road and the Railway were carried. Between Church Street and Mill Street the bluff is very steep, and has been worn back into a cliff about 50ft. high, entirely composed of sand, the base of which is concealed by peat, so that the middle drift at this place attains a thickness of at least 60 feet. (It might be mentioned here that this portion of land, locally known as "The Close," is now used as a recreation ground, having been bequeathed to the town a few years ago by a former Chairman of the Fylde Union.)

As regards the middle sands at the Willows (the west end) they have a continuous outcrop by Wrongway Brook, which used to be a boundary line between the townships of Kirkham and Wesham.

THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS are chiefly industrial, a large proportion of the population being engaged in cotton mills, spinning and weaving. Others are engaged in trades in neighbouring towns, and also in agriculture in the rural districts. From personal observation I find that the majority of mill workers suffer from ^{the mills} anæmic and dyspeptic ailments, partly due to the atmosphere and to a wrong dietary, especially the latter.

Kirkham has natural advantages, such as its healthy atmosphere due to its rural surroundings, its nearness to the sea, and its good drainage resulting from its elevated position. Another advantage which might be mentioned is its proximity to the neighbouring health resorts on the coast, and also to the large towns of Manchester, Liverpool, and Preston, etc.

The Educational facilities are also good, especially those of the local Grammar School, which is well equipped and so thoroughly up-to-date, including the study of Agriculture in its curriculum.

With all these conditions, and the Housing Scheme in hand, there is no reason why the future of the town should not be a progressive one.

WORKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—This is very good and accommodation is provided not only for the Kirkham Urban District, but also for the Fylde Rural District, Blackpool, Fleetwood, St. Annes, Lytham, and Poulton. The total number of inmates on December 31st, 1920, was 242.

THE COTTAGE HOMES in Moor Street for destitute children from the Fylde district consist of modern semi-detached houses, each of which is supervised by a foster mother. The total number of children on December 31st, 1920, was 60—38 boys and 22 girls.

THE POOR LAW RELIEF for the Kirkham Urban District amounted to £226 for the year 1920.

THE USE OF HOSPITALS FOR GRATUITOUS RELIEF are two Isolation Hospitals, viz. :—The Fylde Conjoint Isolation Hospital at Moss Side for Infectious Diseases, and the Preston, Fylde, and Garstang Hospital, at Elswick, for smallpox. There is also a Sanatorium at Elswick for tubercular patients.

The Preston Royal Infirmary is used for serious accidents and surgical operations. The Fylde Union Infirmary at Wesham also receives necessitous cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is under the control of the Fylde Water Board. The water is an upland surface water, of good quality, of a soft and peaty nature. There are no sources of contamination, and no cases of lead poisoning have occurred.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No rivers and streams pass through the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—In all the main and several of the side streets the main sewers consist of socketed tiles ; in only two of the side streets do the sewers consist of egg-shaped tiles. These are 15 in. in diameter. The main sewer empties into a sewerage farm at Freckleton, where there are settling tanks, and thence to the River Ribble.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—This consists of fresh water closets, pail closets, and privies. The number of each at the present time is as follows :—

Fresh water closets	...	...	595
Tippler closets	...	...	28
Pail closets	...	...	16
Privies	...	...	177
Ashbins	...	...	374
Dry ashpits	...	...	46

Twenty-nine privy closets, and one pail closet have been converted to fresh water closets during the year.

SCAVENGING.—This is carried out by the Council with covered carts, under the Inspector's supervision. A weekly removal of ashbins and pail closets is effected, and the privies and ashpits when required. The disposal of house refuse is in tips. The scavenging has been carried out as fully as possible,

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. — Systematic inspections have been made by the Inspector, dealing principally with defective privies and paving of back yards. A complete detail of these particulars are given in the Inspector's Report.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.—There are only two offensive trades in the district—one a rag and bone store, the other a tripe boiler. These are carried out in a satisfactory manner.

There is only one registered lodging-house in the town at the present time, which has accommodation for 75 persons. The lodging house has been frequently inspected both during the daytime and night, and found well kept. At the present time alterations in converting privies into water closets are in hand in connection with this dwelling.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE—During the year 1920, 29 privies have been converted into water closets, and some back yards improved. Other sanitary requirements of the district are still the conversion of remaining privies into water closets, substitution of ashbins for ashpits, and the flagging of back yards.

SCHOOLS.—There are four schools, the sanitary condition and water supply of which are satisfactory. I have again to draw attention to the condition of the Willows R.C. School playground, which has not yet been asphalted.

Owing to an epidemic of measles, there were two School Closures in March and April, viz. :—(1) *C.E. School*, Infants' Department for four weeks ; Senior Department for two weeks. (2) *Willows R.C. School* was also closed for four weeks.

Whenever any infectious disease has occurred the precautions are :—First, exclusion of all infected families ; then, if this is not sufficient to eradicate the complaint, the school is closed for a limited period. The schools are always disinfected after closure for infectious diseases.

FOOD.

THE MILK SUPPLY is both good and adequate. There are nine cowkeepers, who are all registered, and the dairies and cowsheds are systematically inspected.

The County Analyst declared all samples of milk (8) taken to be genuine.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER 1918.—Action with regard to this matter has been undertaken by the County Council, who have given assistance to certain necessitous cases through the Health Visitor.

MEAT.—Since the recent decontrol of the sale of meat, the cattle and sheep have been killed at the various slaughter-houses. During the war only one slaughter-house was used, which considerably facilitated the inspection of meat. The condition of the slaughter-houses is good, but at the present time there is no public abattoir.

No carcasses were condemned for tuberculosis, but the carcass of a frozen sheep and a quarter of beef allotted to one of the butchers were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The number of slaughter-houses in use in the district at the dates mentioned are :—

	In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered	4	3	3
Licensed	0	0	0
Total	4	3	3

OTHER FOODS.—Careful inspections are made every week of all food exposed for sale in the various shops and the premises where food is stored. There are seven bakehouses. Notice was given to one to carry out structural alterations. Otherwise the condition of these bakehouses is satisfactory.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUG ACTS.—The following samples were taken by the County Constabulary during the year ended December 31st, 1920 :—Milk 8, Coffee 3, Ground Ginger 2, White Pepper 1, Tartaric Acid 1, Zinc Ointment 1, Cream of Tartar 3, Chlorate of Potash Lozenge, 2.

All samples purchased were declared by the County Analyst to be genuine.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

A register is kept of all Factories and Workshops in the district, which are visited periodically :—

Factories	4
Workshops	28
Bakers and Confectioners ..	7

1.—INSPECTION of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of			Prosecutions.
	Inspections.	Written Notices.		
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	73	..		..
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	95	3		..
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	..	..		..
Total	168	3		..

2.—DEFECTS found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	3	3	..	..
Want of ventilation .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances	1	..	..	..
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..	..
{ unsuitable or defective .. .. .	..	..	..	..
{ not separate for sexes .. .. .	..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	1	1	..	..
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	5	4	..	..

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—*Homework*.—Nil.

4.—*Registered Workshops*.—Number of workshops on the Register at the end of the year :—

Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	9
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	3
Joiners	...	...	...	...	4
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	1
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	4
Tinsmiths	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmakers...	...	...	...	...	3
Tailors	...	...	...	...	3
					—
Total number of Workshops on Register...					28

5.—*Other Matters*.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	0
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901)—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector)	1
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year	0

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 2 cases were notified, viz. : 1 Puerperal Septicæmia which terminated fatally at home, and a case as Diphtheria, which, however, proved a negative one on bacteriological examination.

In addition, under the Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 10 cases were notified: 8 Pulmonary and 2 Non-pulmonary. One of the pulmonary cases was that of an ex-soldier who came from Manchester, and was notified by the M.O.H. of that district.

Of the Tubercular cases, 10 patients received Sanatorium treatment during the year : 3 at Elswick, 3 at High Carley, 2 at Luneside, 1 at Bowdon, 1 at Bull Hill, Darwen.

MEASLES.

Owing to the withdrawal of the order for Notification of Measles, there is no definite idea of the number of cases beyond the closure of two schools due to this disease. However, one death occurred of a child aged 17 months from Broncho-pneumonia following Measles.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was one notification, and as it occurred in a lodging-house, it was removed to the Isolation Hospital. However, on bacteriological examination, it proved a negative case as mentioned before.

PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA.

This is the first case that has occurred for some years. It was attended at home, and unfortunately terminated fatally.

SMALL-POX.

There have been no cases of Smallpox during the year.

Number of Primary Vaccinations	...	47
Number of Exemptions	... ..	30

With regard to the control over Infectious Diseases, in all cases of diphtheria, bacteriological examination of swabs is made, and anti-toxin is used at once.

Inquiries in homes and schools to discover "contacts," exclusion of all suspects, and isolation of "return" and "carrier" cases (if any) are made.

On receipt of a notification of an infectious disease, a visit is made by the Inspector, and all precautions taken to prevent its spread. The people are prevailed upon to make use of the Isolation Hospital.

Any cases treated at home are visited by the Inspector, the patient isolated, the children (if any) are kept from school. After recovery (or otherwise) a thorough disinfection of clothes and of premises takes place.

Where non-notifiable infectious diseases occur, and about which school intimations are received, exclusion from school and isolation as much as possible are made. In all cases the schoolrooms are disinfected.

The notification of Tuberculosis is fairly well carried out. Of course, there is occasional late notification, due in most cases to the relatives omitting to send for assistance in time.

Every week notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the Council. The Tuberculosis Officer afterwards visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and where necessary domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death or removal to a sanatorium the dwellings are always disinfected.

The County Council have appointed a part time Health Visitor who on receipt of notification of a birth visits each case and gives necessary advice. There is also a resident qualified Midwife, who attends the majority of the labours in the district.

As to Ophthalmic Neonatorum, instructions have been given to the midwives to take precautions to prevent this disease occurring, and if it occurs, to notify it at once and action is taken thereon. These notifications are sent on immediately to the County Council.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff consists of a Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector, who are both part time officials. The work of the Inspector includes that of Surveyor, District Rate Collector and Building Inspector.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in the neighbourhood, viz. :—The Fylde Conjoint Isolation Hospital at Moss Side, the Smallpox Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Elswick, also the Fylde Union Infirmary at Wesham.

As to the Isolation Hospital, of the two cases of infectious diseases, one was treated there, the other case being treated at home.

As to hospital administration, committees are formed consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the conjoint area.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.—You have adopted the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act and the Public Health (Amendment) Act.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—There have been two examinations of swabs for the detection of the diphtheritic germ, both of which proved negative.

There were also two examinations of sputum for the purpose of diagnosing Tuberculosis, one of which proved negative.

The chemical and bacteriological work is undertaken by Professor Delépine, of Manchester.

I will now conclude my Report, which I am sure you will consider the most satisfactory that we have ever had for the Kirkham Urban District.

The Birth-rate 25·8 per 1,000 is the highest recorded since 1907, when it was exactly the same.

The Death-rate 11·7 per 1,000 is the lowest ever recorded for the district.

The Epidemic Death-rate 0·26 per 1,000 is the lowest recorded for the district ; in 1907 it was exactly the same.

The Infantile Mortality, 30 per 1,000, is also the lowest rate ever recorded for the district.

The same statistics for the whole of England and Wales of the estimated population in 1920 are as follow : The Birth-rate, 25·4 per 1,000 ; the Death-rate, 12·4 per 1,000 ; the Infantile Mortality, 80 per 1,000.

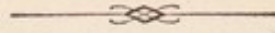
Thus, after comparing the above statistics, we have every reason to be gratified with the conditions of health during the year 1920.

I am, yours obediently,

CHARLES COURT.



KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Ninth Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1920. During the year 64 notices have been served with regard to the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of insanitary conditions, chief of which were defective privies, drains, and backyards. Several water closets had become blocked during the year, in most cases the cause was due to insufficient flushing. These were remedied as soon as they were discovered. The Fylde Water Board have now allowed the use of syphon cisterns, and when these become more in use we may look forward to a great reduction in the number of water closets becoming blocked up.

SCAVENGING.

The Scavenging of the town is carried out satisfactorily by our own men and carts under my personal supervision.

The number of privies are gradually being reduced in number, and this year 29 privies and 1 pail closet have been converted into water closets, and 3 water closets erected in connection with new houses which have been built.

The following list gives the number of privies which have been converted into water closets during the last nine years :—

During	1912	...	...	15
„	1913	...	...	23
„	1914	...	...	17
„	1915	...	...	82
„	1916	...	...	23
„	1917	...	...	3
„	1918	...	...	9
„	1919	...	...	23
„	1920	...	...	29 and 1 pail closet.

During this period the whole of the cost of conversion has been borne by property owners, and all new property erected has been provided with freshwater closets.

The following is the number of water closets, tippler closets, latrine closets, pail closets, privies, and ashbins in the town at the present time :—

Water closets	...	...	...	556
Tippler closets	...	...	...	28
Latrine closets	...	...	...	39
Pail closets	...	...	...	16
Privies	...	...	...	177
Ashbins	...	...	...	374
Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	46

The pail closets and ashbins are emptied once a week, and the privies when required.

The number of privies, pail closets, and ashbins emptied, and the number of loads of nightsoil, ashbin refuse, and street-sweepings carted during the year are as follows :—

Privies emptied and disinfected	...	1145
Privy pails	... ..	878
Ashbins emptied	... ..	18720
Loads nightsoil carted to tip	...	1088
„ ashbin refuse	... ..	592
„ street-sweepings	... ..	273

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The following is the list of cases of infectious diseases notified and the number of disinfections during the year :—

Number of cases notified of Scarlet Fever	...	...	0
„ „ „ Diphtheria (negative case)	...	...	1
„ „ „ Enteric	... ..	...	0
„ „ „ Measles	... ..	...	0
„ „ „ Erysipelas	... ..	...	0
Number of cases notified of Puerperal Fever	...	...	1

„	„	„	Tuberculosis	{ Pulmonary	8
				{ Other forms	2
Number of Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	4
Total number of disinfections	...	...	...	...	17

All cases were visited upon receipt of notification. After the removal of patients for either Hospital or Sanatorium treatment the rooms were thoroughly disinfected with formalin. All cases that were treated at home were visited from time to time, disinfectants supplied, and instructions given for the proper isolation of the patients to prevent the spread of the disease. At the termination of a case treated at home all the rooms were well disinfected with formalin.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

There are 28 workshops and 7 bakehouses in the town which have been inspected periodically. Notice to limewash the walls and ceilings in the case of two workshops and one bakehouse were complied with on being notified. A notice has also been sent to the owner of one of the bakehouses to carry out some repairs to the wall at the rear of the bakehouse. With these exceptions the workshops and bakehouses have been found to comply with the requirements as regards cleanliness, air space, and light. There has been an addition of 3 workshops, 2 of these were granted temporary registration until more suitable accommodation was available and 1 workshop has been done away with.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one lodging-house which is situated in Marsden Street. It is a large building, well-arranged, and has sleeping accommodation for 42 men and 33 women, besides separate dayrooms for men and women on the ground floor. These premises have been regularly inspected both during the daytime and the night, and there has been no case of overcrowding.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades in the town : one a rag and bone store and the other tripe-boiling. These premises are visited regularly and they have not been the cause of any complaint.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are only three Registered Slaughter-houses in the district, which have been regularly visited both during slaughtering operations and after. They are all provided with a good supply of water for cleansing purposes, and they have been kept clean and well limewashed. All the refuse is removed in galvanised bins with covers immediately after slaughtering.

FOOD.

Careful inspections of all food exposed for sale has been made. The whole carcase of a frozen sheep and one quarter of a carcase of frozen beef have been condemned as unfit for human food and destroyed.

BLACK SMOKE NUISANCE.

Ten observations have been made of the amount of black smoke which issued from the factory chimneys of the town. The period of emission of black smoke varied from 2 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes per hour during the observation.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS ORDER.

There are 9 Registered Cowsheds and Dairies in the district. 121 inspections have been made to these places, which have been kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Total number of visits and inspections	...	7892
Number of preliminary notices served by		
Inspector	... ..	64
Number of statutory notices served by order		
of Council	... ..	4

Number of nuisances remedied	85
Number of houses disinfected	17
Number of schools disinfected	4
Notice to provide liquid manure tank for farm yard	1
Slopstone waste pipes repaired... ..	6
Drains opened out and defects rectified ...	17
New drains and gullies put in	14
Defective spouts and gutters repaired... ..	5
Privies converted into water closets	29
Pail closets converted into water closets ...	1
Notice to remove manure from stables and cowsheds	3
Water closets blocked up	15
Drains in backyards blocked up	9
Number of backyards flagged or concreted ...	10
Notice to limewash workshops and bakehouses	3
Defective water closet cisterns repaired ...	3
Defective roofs repaired	2
Notice to clean out watercourses	4
Inspections to factories, workshops and bake- houses	168
Inspections of drains and sanitary conveniences to schools	51
Number of dwelling-houses demolished ...	8
Number of buildings demolished	1

HOUSING, Etc., ACT.

While present conditions exist everyone realises that the demolition of houses is not desirable, if they can be made and kept habitable, and the Ministry emphasises this in Part I of the Manual; though in specifying repairs required to houses which will eventually be demolished due consideration must be had to the possible life of the house, and the likelihood of its being necessary to consider, at some near future date, the possibility of demolition of the property as part of a general clearance scheme,

The problem of the unfit house is, however, one which cannot be dealt with effectually until sufficient new houses are available to provide the required accommodation.

The total number of occupied houses in the town is 874. Two houses in Marsden Street, and six houses and a brick building (at one time used as a smithy) in Hornby Square have been demolished.

An office in Mill Street has been converted into a bungalow.

The following plans have been submitted and approved by the Council during the year, viz. :—

Two houses in Marsden Street.

Mechanic's shop, Orders Lane.

Addition to Bankfield Mill, Sunny Bank.

In concluding my Report, the fact is apt to be overlooked that Kirkham is an ancient town, and as such it takes time to bring its sanitary condition up to that of a modern town. There are certain things in its favour : we have wide streets, no back-to-back houses, and no congested property, a thing which cannot be said of all ancient towns. In reviewing the reports for the last nine years, I am sure you will agree with me that there has been a great transformation in the sanitary condition of the town, and the report under review will bear me out in this. To obtain this has meant the hearty co-operation and determination of the Council, its officials, and property owners, to improve the conditions under which people live and work.

I am, yours obediently,

JAMES R. HOLMES,

M.I.H., A.R.S.I., N.D.A.

Sanitary and Building Inspector.

REPORT ON HOUSING.

The general housing condition of the Kirkham Urban District is good on the whole, with the exception of some of the houses in the older parts of the town. These houses will be dealt with as soon as new houses become available, which should be soon, as labour is now becoming cheaper, and is likely to become cheaper still.

There have been two houses erected (or perhaps more correctly, converted) during the year.

The population of Kirkham at the last census (1911) was 3,793 inhabitants, and the estimated population as given by the Registrar-General for 1920 is 3,829. There are 874 occupied houses in the district, thus giving a rate of 4·3 persons to each house. There is little doubt but that there would have been a larger number of houses built but for the Reform Order of Form IV in 1911, which restricted building almost entirely. Then in 1914 the war, we might say, practically put a stop on building dwelling-houses, and the condition of affairs was not relieved during the armistice as the price of labour and material was greatly enhanced.

The dearth of houses has led all over the country to many dubious devices, such as families being taken as lodgers on compassionate grounds, with the result in several cases that the tenant has become the lodger by the new-comer buying the house "over the head" of the former, and by a system of persecution, in the long run obtaining possession of the whole house. This has caused the old tenant a great deal of trouble and suffering.

Naturally, there has been some overcrowding, and to overcome this the Council have submitted a scheme for 130 working-class houses, and I might mention that the scheme and the site have been sanctioned. The difficulty however,

to me, is the price of the building of these cottages, the rent thereof, and the fall in the rate of wages. How will these matters be made proportionate?

We have no back-to-back houses, and no congested areas.

On considering the tables referring to Births, Deaths, Epidemic and Infantile Death-rate, there is proof of the healthy condition of the district.

All the houses are supplied with water from the Fylde Water Board's mains. This water is beyond reproach.

Closet accommodation is adequate, and the disposal of refuse is by tips.

At the present time no closing orders can be made as regards the old properties where the defects are irremediable until other houses have been built.

Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	3829
General Death-rate	...	...	per 1000		11·7
Death-rate from Tuberculosis	...		per 1000		1·04
Infantile Mortality...	...	...	per 1000		30
Number of Dwelling-houses of all classes			..		874
„ working-class houses			... ..		683
„ new „ „ erected			... ..		2

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Number of houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	23
Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17, Housing Act, 1910	...	...	...		6
Number of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	6

ACTION UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE
HOUSING ACT, 1919.

Number of orders for repairs issued	...	...	8
Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by Local Authority	...	...	Nil
Number of Dwelling-houses voluntarily closed by owner	...	...	Nil

CLOSING ORDERS.

Number of closing orders made	...	...	Nil
Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	18
Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	8
Number of Dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily	...	...	Nil

The present staff engaged in housing work consists of the Clerk to the Urban Council, the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, who are part time officials.

CHARLES COURT.



