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Ilkley Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER

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

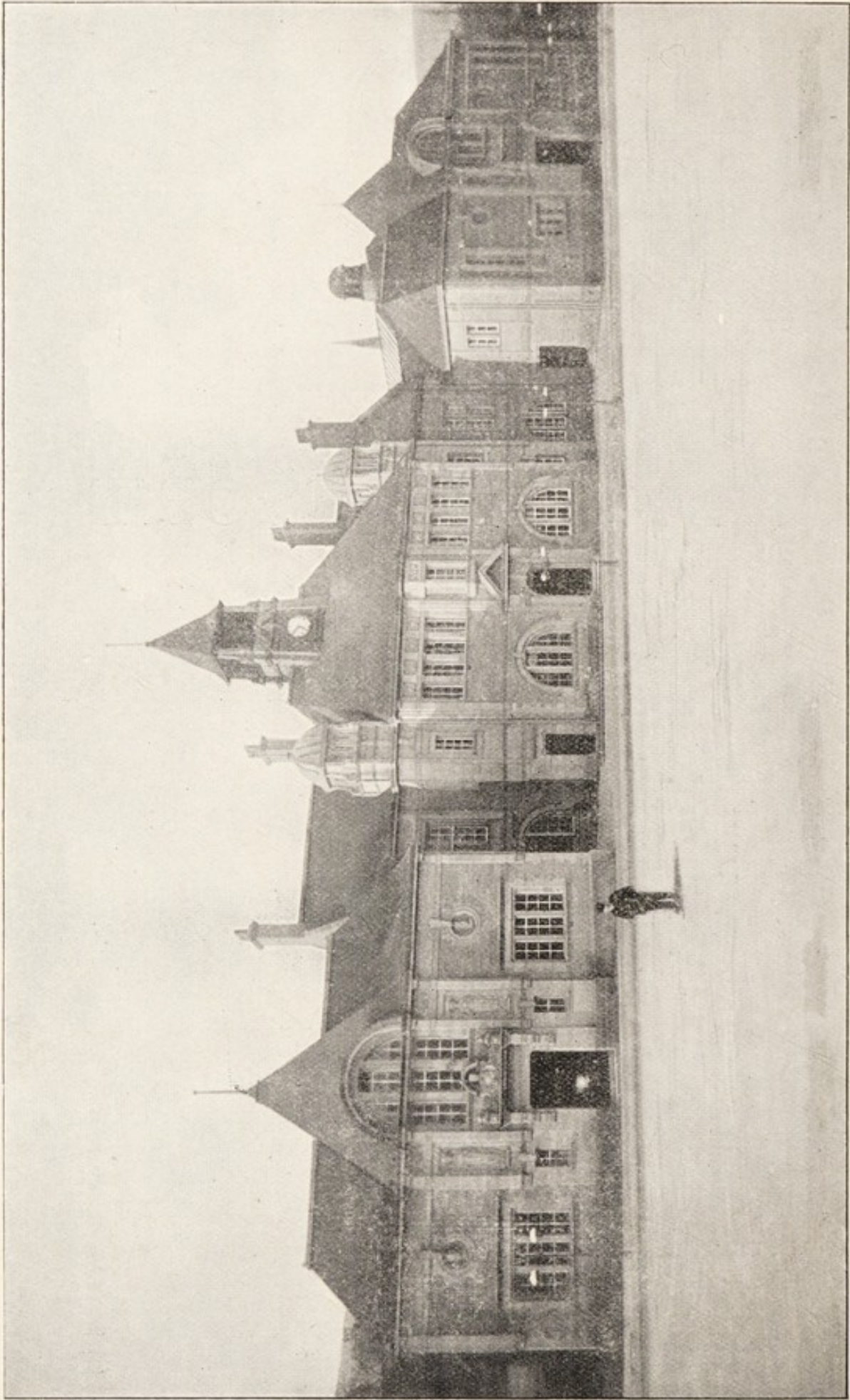
*Licentiate in Sanitary Science ;
Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health ;*

FOR THE YEAR

1911

ILKLEY :
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1912



TOWN HALL, ILKLEY

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ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

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

GENTLEMEN,

Many alterations have been made by the Local Government Board in the form and extent of the Annual Report of Medical Officers of Health. The statistical tables at the end of the Report have been reduced from five to four and are different in character. Greater care is now given to an accurate record of "Transferable Births and Deaths." Many paragraphs are inserted and much further information is given to meet the requirements of the Board.

1. Physical Features and General Character of the District.

"Ilkley is situated on the banks of the River Wharfe. The valley in the immediate vicinity of Ilkley is closed in on three sides by hills. On the North and Westwards, they are gently undulating and park-like; on the South, their rough and rocky slopes are crowned with precipitous escarpments, which form their summit. The slopes of the hills on either side of the valley descend to a level portion rarely more than half a mile in width, along which flows the beautiful river Wharfe. The slopes bounding the valley on either side are deeply cut by streams descending from the hills above. The sides of the streams are in most cases thickly grown with trees. South of the Wharfe, the hillside beneath the great escarpment of grit-rock, is in great part covered with masses of stones, which have fallen from the superincumbent rocks. From the summit of the Ilkley grit escarpment, which is 1000 to 1100 feet above the sea level, there extends successive plateaux of moorland, the surface of which is composed of sandstones with intermediate beds of shale rising in tiers to a height of 1323 feet.

The surface of Rombald Moor, where not absolutely bare rock, is covered with heather, grass, or bog-moss, the decay of which produces peat. The moors serve for the pasturage of sheep, and the breeding and rearing of grouse and other game, and constitutes an ideal rambling ground for those in quest of the renewal of health. Ilkley has always been famous for its delightful situation, the picturesque beauty of its surroundings, its health-restoring springs of pure and mineral waters, and the cheerful invigorating effects of its atmosphere. From early British times to the present there has been no period when the town was not."

Social Conditions. The population of the district is mainly residential, and consists of the "well-to-do" and those who supply their needs, such as domestic servants, gardeners, and tradesmen. The building trade employs a considerable number. In the summer the wants of visitors provide work. There are several large hotels and hydropathic establishments. The Coronation Cottage Hospital provides gratuitous medical relief to the poorer patients, those who are able to afford to do so, pay according to their ability. The amount of outdoor Poor Law relief was £260 for the year. There are three convalescent homes.

2. The House Accommodation, especially for the working classes, is both adequate and good. The supervision over erection of new houses is strict, both with regard to sanitary requirements and accommodation.⁵

The number of cottages for the working classes exceeds the demand. There is no evidence of overcrowding.

The number of houses inspected as required by Article V of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, was 195.

The defects discovered and remedied are tabulated in the Sanitary Inspector's Report (*vide infra*). Under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, 40 houses were inspected. One closing order was made on account of structural defects. Action is also being taken which will shortly lead to the closing of five cottages on account of structural defects, want of sufficient air space and ventilation.

3. All Plans of Proposed New Buildings or alterations of existing buildings, have to be submitted to the Sanitary and Building Committee, and are critically examined by the Surveyor and Inspector before being passed, as to their compliance with our bye-laws.

4. The System of Sewage Disposal is by means of filter beds, the sewage being chemically treated by Alumino-Ferric, before reaching the river; and after many years of experience has proved quite satisfactory.

The water supply being abundant there is no difficulty in flushing the sewers. No complaints have been made of any nuisance arising therefrom.

After filtration the sewage effluent is discharged into the River Wharfe, which carries a large stock of fish, trout, grayling, &c. The excellence of the fishing attracts a large number of anglers, and is a proof that the effluent has no harmful effect on the fish. The various streams flowing into the river are clean and unpolluted.

5. Excrement Disposal is by means of water closets and slop water closets. The latter, I am persuaded, are a danger to health, and closely associated with outbreaks of Diphtheria, and possibly Scarlet Fever.

The number of water closets is 2,243, slop closets or "tippers" 506, privies 76.

Every opportunity that occurs of converting these slop closets or "tippers" into water closets is taken advantage of by the Sanitary Authority, and result in a great many having now been altered to modern requirements.

6. The Removal and Disposal of House Refuse is carried out systematically by the Council's servants, and taken to the Destructor, a satisfactory solution of a problem that was increasing in difficulty.

There are 476 ashpits and 1,065 ashes bins. The latter are now much more extensively used, and from the facility they afford for emptying and the fact that they are provided with a lid to keep out the rain they are in every way preferable.

7. The Water Supply of the District is derived from the moorlands, and is excellent in quality. There are five reservoirs situated from 1000 to 500 feet above the sea level, having a storage capacity of 8,562,000 gallons, fed from 24 springs of exceptional purity. The average daily supply is 350,000 gallons.

Name of Reservoir.	Capacity.	Height.	No. of Houses supplied.	Population supplied.
Ghyll Head	187,000 gals.	951 feet	68	300
Weary Hill	40,000 "	957 "	38	162
Hill Top	160,000 "	620 "	711	3010
Old	75,000 "	520 "	1066	4520
Panorama	8,100,000 "	821 "		

The surplus water from the higher reservoirs overflows into the lower. The Panorama reservoir is not used except in times of drought. The supply is ample and constant. The water from the Ghyll Head

reservoir has been the cause of some anxiety to the Waterworks Committee, as it was found to have a certain plumbo solvent action. It is proposed to remedy all defects by putting down mechanical filters, and it is confidently expected that the result will be satisfactory.

8. Places over which the Council has supervision.

THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR is the property of the Council, it is well kept and clean. The Sanitary Inspector visits it daily and reports that he is quite satisfied with the way in which the work is carried out. He has seized and condemned 4 carcasses of tuberculous animals during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS. With a view of complying with the Council's regulations many milk vendors have erected suitable buildings for the sanitary storage of milk. I have found the milk vendors anxious to co-operate with the Council in their endeavours to maintain a pure milk supply. As some of our milk comes from outside our jurisdiction, we rely upon our neighbouring Sanitary Authorities exercising the same vigilant supervision over the dairies as we do ourselves, otherwise the chain of control is incomplete. Also if consumers are not fastidiously particular as to cleanliness of vessels in which the milk is received, and where it is kept, free from dust and flies, our labour to provide sweet milk will be in vain. There are 15 cowsheds within the district and 21 purveyors of milk.

Thirty samples of milk have been submitted to the Public Analyst, who certified them all as "genuine new milk." The milk supply of the district is good and wholesome and no action has been taken as to tuberculous milk.

The food supply of the district is very good, and no unsound food has been discovered.

The condition of the Public Bakehouses is satisfactory.

No action has been found necessary under "The Sale of Food and Drugs Act."

SCHOOLS. The accommodation of the Schools is fully adequate and satisfactory.

The Grammar School is rapidly increasing in popularity and is in every way conducted in a manner to conduce to the health of the boys.

The National Schools fully maintain the high standard of former years. The robust and sturdy appearance of the scholars is sufficient evidence of the sanitary state of the Schools.

The New Provided School at Ben Rhydding is increasing in numbers and is in a most healthy position; the sanitary arrangements are perfectly satisfactory.

The Governors of the Grammar School have recently erected a Sanatorium for the early isolation of suspected cases of infectious diseases, thus materially assisting the Sanitary Authority in dealing with outbreaks of that kind.

A Swimming Bath for the boys is shortly to be added to the School equipment, and will be a very valuable addition.

The County Medical Officer in his capacity as School Medical Officer closed the Infants' School for a fortnight in January on account of an outbreak of whooping cough.

10. Method of dealing with Infectious Disease is prompt removal to Isolation Hospital whenever rendered necessary by the surroundings of the patient. There were two fatal cases of whooping cough.

The houses were all thoroughly disinfected, and contacts warned and watched. My medical confreres loyally co-operate with the sanitary authorities in preventing the spread of infectious disease. Isolation Hospital accommodation is provided by the "Wharfedale Union Joint Isolation Hospital," at Menston, where there is accommodation for fifty-two patients. Four different diseases can be received and treated concurrently.

The early months of the year were marked by an extensive outbreak of whooping cough, 94 cases being notified during the year. Intimation of many of these cases was received from the school authorities, and was very useful in dealing with the exclusion of the afflicted children. The Infants School was closed for a fortnight, but the beneficial result was not very perceptible. The date of closing was January 30th, and of re-opening February 13th.

VITAL STATISTICS.

For the past five years the figures have been based upon an estimated population of 8,500 inhabitants. The result of the recent Census proved that this estimate was too high and that our population in the middle of the year would not exceed 8,000. The latter number is employed in this report and will explain the increase in the mortality rates over the preceding year.

The number of deaths registered in the year was the same as that of the previous year, but as 8 of these were non-residents, and 13 residents died away, the corrected number is 72, representing a death rate of 9 per 1000. Six deaths occurred in public institutions in the district and 7 in institutions out of the district.

Of the persons dying 1 reached the age of 95 years, 6 were between 80 and 90, 18 between 70 and 80, 12 between 60 and 70, 7 between 50 and 60, 13 were over 25 and under 50, 6 under 25, and 9 under 1 year.

The Infantile Mortality is at the rate of 83 per 1000 births.

The Zymotic Death Rate is .25 per 1000.

Births. The number of births registered during the year was 106, but the corrected number is 108, as 2 births are included which took place out of the district, the mothers being residents. 46 boys and 62 girls were born, 5 of the children were illegitimate.

The number of births is the lowest in the district since 1893, and emphasizes the necessity and importance of adopting the Notification of Births Act, 1907. The Council adopted the Act in the latter part of the year, and the Medical Officer has issued cards of instruction in the care and rearing of infants in all cases where a medical man is not in attendance. He will also visit such cases and advise the parents how to take the best care of the health of their children. The birth rate is 13.5 per 1000.

ZYMOTIC OR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 165 cases of infectious disease reported during the year. Diphtheria accounted for 10 of these cases, Scarlet Fever 25, Enteric Fever 3, Erysipelas 10, Measles 23, and Whooping Cough 94. The last serious outbreak of the two latter diseases was in 1896, when there were 147 cases of Measles and 88 of Whooping Cough. Of the 3 cases of Enteric Fever there is no doubt that the cause in 2 of the cases could be distinctly traced to infection contracted outside the district.

Bacteriological Diagnosis of Disease. The Public Health Laboratory of the West Riding County Council continues to render most valuable assistance in confirming the diagnosis of several infectious diseases. It is now a common experience to find evidence of these diseases in persons who are apparently quite healthy, but who at the same time are a source of danger to others.

The above fact was again verified in the case of a school teacher employed at a school outside the district, which was closed on account of an outbreak of diphtheria. She returned to Ilkley to await the re-opening of the school. On bacteriological examination it was discovered that the specific germ was present in her throat, and although in good health she was a distinct danger to those with whom she came in contact.

The following table indicates the value which the medical men of the district attach to bacteriological examinations in all doubtful cases. 74 swabs were sent for diagnosis of diphtheria. In all cases "swabs" are examined at intervals of a few days until one or more negative results are obtained.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY, COUNTY HALL, WAKEFIELD.

Return showing the number of specimens received from the under-mentioned Sanitary District during the year ended 31st December, 1911.

Sanitary District.	Serum.	Sputum.	Diphtheria.	Other.	TOTAL.
ILKLEY ..	1 ..	10 ..	74 ..	1 ..	86
U.D.C.				(water)	

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were two deaths from phthisis and two from other forms of tuberculous disease. There were no notifications of tuberculous disease.

Mr. Albert Wilson has, for a great many years kept a careful and accurate account of the Meteorological conditions of the district. These records he kindly places at the disposal of the Sanitary Authority. As in former years Mr. G. W. Worfolk, and Mr. T. C. Gill, of Silverwell Cottage, supply records of the rainfall. I wish to offer to each my thanks and appreciation of their valuable work.

To Mr. West (Sanitary Inspector) I acknowledge my indebtedness for his ready help on all occasions.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1911.

Made at 28 S. James' Road, Ilkley.

	Average Max. Temp. degrees.	Average Min. Temp. degrees.
January	... 42·4	... 35·0
February	... 45·0	... 33·8
March	... 44·3	... 35·6
April	... 50·8	... 39·1
May	... 62·8	... 46·0
June	... 65·5	... 47·6
July	... 72·5	... 51·9
August	... 71·1	... 54·2
September	... 64·1	... 45·9
October	... 52·8	... 41·0
November	... 45·8	... 37·5
December	... 46·5	... 37·6

Average Temperature for the year, 48·7°

Highest Temperature, 85·0° on August 8th.

Lowest Temperature, 21·2° on February 1st.

Mean Daily Range, 13·1°. Days with Frost, 40.

Days with Maximum Temperature 70° or over, 54.

“ “ 75° “ 34.

“ “ 80° “ 7.

REMARKS ON THE YEAR.

The Rainfall was 5 inches below the average of the last 15 years. The year was remarkable for its warmth and the beautiful weather from May to October, the three months July—September being especially fine and warm. December was also exceptionally warm, but with a heavy rainfall which tended to reduce the dryness of the year as a whole. The number of frosty nights (40) is remarkably small. In 1909 there were 95.

ALBERT WILSON.

RAINFALL IN 1911 AT

28 S. JAMES' ROAD, ILKLEY. 325 feet above sea level.

Month.	Total Depth. Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with 01 or more recorded.
		Inches	Date	
Jan.	1'21	'25	2	17
Feb.	3'73	'69	25	17
Mar.	1'64	'22	1	19
Apl.	1'33	'40	28	16
May	0'92	'30	3	13
June	3'00	1'20	24	12
July	0'90	'30	25	10
Aug.	1'95	'54	20	11
Sept.	2'98	'97	12	13
Oct.	2'80	'83	26	20
Nov.	3'76	'62	4	22
Dec.	6'54	'93	8	26
Total	30'76			196

BROOK STREET, ILKLEY. 295 feet above sea level.

Jan.	1'02	'16	12	11
Feb.	4'10	'82	25	14
Mar.	1'70	'28	1	13
Apl.	1'28	'37	28	10
May	0'91	'28	3	10
June	1'82	'55	29	7
July	0'81	'27	25	7
Aug.	1'90	'51	20	11
Sept.	3'07	'99	19	11
Oct.	2'83	'46	29	18
Nov.	3'56	'45	4	19
Dec.	6'75	'90	10	25
Total	29'75			156

SILVERWELL COTTAGE, ILKLEY. 904 feet above sea level.

Month.	Total Depth. Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours. Inches	Date	Number of Days with 01 or more recorded.	Mean Temperature
					for each Month
Jan.	1'18	'21	24	15	36'8
Feb.	3'90	'72	16	15	36'8
Mar.	1'51	'27	1	21	37'3
Apl.	1'35	'32	28	13	41'4
May	1'11	'43	3	13	52'4
June	3'39	1'33	24	11	55'5
July	1'02	'40	25	10	61
Aug.	2'27	'56	20	10	61'9
Sept.	3'23	1'04	12	12	54'5
Oct.	3'13	'84	26	19	46'5
Nov.	3'84	'69	4	21	40'3
Dec.	6'79	1'03	10	25	41'3
Total	32'72			185	

Attention is called to the circular issued by the Association of Master House Painters to householders, warning them of the danger of not stripping and washing walls before re-papering and colouring. Many obscure cases of outbreaks of infectious disease may be traced to neglect of this sanitary proceeding.

The binding material of most distempers is derived from animal or fish glue, and is a most fruitful medium for the growth of pathogenic germs.

In conclusion, I tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for the careful consideration they have given to every suggestion I have made to them, and also for their unfailing help and assistance in everything that affected the health and welfare of the inhabitants of Ilkley.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

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

Licentiate in Sanitary Science.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Town Hall, Ilkley,
Dec 31st, 1911.

TO THE ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year, showing the work done under the Public Health Acts, Factory and Workshop Acts, etc, the Council's Bye-laws and Regulations relating to Cowsheds, Drainage, etc.

There have been 645 nuisances attended to, 505 have received the attention of the owners, and 140 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 sanitary defects remedied during the year :—

Drains stopped or otherwise defective	98
Gullies blocked	95
Automatic or other water closets blocked	48
Water closets refixed	73
Sewers blocked	2
Sink and bath waste pipes renewed	44
Defective gullies replaced	102
Delapidated ashpits repaired or dust-bins provided	36
Visits paid to and inspections of cowsheds	30
Premises re-drained	40
Defective drains found by testing	30
Letters calling attention to defects	225
Accumulations of manure	23
Defective rain water conductors and eaves spouting	37
Visits and inspections of burial grounds	8
Swill tubs so kept as to be a nuisance	3
Privies converted into water closet	1
House drainage systems tested	57
Yards drained	12
Visits paid to houses where infectious diseases had occurred	60
Water in cellars	8
Filthy condition of window areas	4

Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	..	..	2
Water running to waste	..	..	40
Filthy condition of water closets and urinals	..	..	6
Filthy condition of cellars	..	..	2
Sink waste pipes disconnected	..	..	2
Back yards paved	..	..	21
Unnecessary deposit of liquid filth into ashpits	..	..	17
Defective condition of manure pits	..	..	2

There have been tested the drainage and sanitary fittings of 57 houses, 30 of which I found defective and 27 satisfactory.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS. There are 15 cowsheds within the district and 21 purveyors of milk, and the former have been inspected during the year and were kept in a cleanly condition and well lime-washed. Three cowsheds have been reconstructed and made to conform to the regulations.

Thirty samples of new milk have been submitted to the Public Analyst, who certified each as "genuine new milk."

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901. The whole of the workshops have been inspected at various times in accordance with the above Act. These all comply with the regulations, and have been kept in a cleanly and satisfactory condition. Upon three occasions I have had to draw the attention of the occupiers of workshops to their premises requiring limewashing; afterwards this was carried out.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR. Daily inspections have been made at the Public Abattoir, and all slaughtering was found to be carried out in a satisfactory manner. During the year I have condemned 4 carcasses of animals and 5 livers, which were destroyed.

REMOVAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE. The sum of £500 9s. 2d. has been expended in the collection and disposal of 3,922 loads of household refuse, all of which has been destroyed at the Destructor Works.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HENRY WEST, Assoc. R.S. Inst.,
Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE 1—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 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 1 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
1906	8500	122	122	14.3	84	9.9	9	7	14	11.4	82	9.6
1907	8500	113	113	13.3	78	9.2	5	5	10	88.5	78	9.2
1908	8500	153	153	18	72	8.4	5	5	7	45.7	72	8.4
1909	8500	138	138	16.2	86	10.1	7	8	14	101	87	10.2
1910	8500	139	139	16.3	67	7.9	3	0	5	36	64	7.5
1911	8000	106	108	13.5	67	8.4	8	13	9	83.3	72	9

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) : 3822.

Total population at all ages ...	...	7992	} At Census of
Number of inhabited houses	...	1882	
Average number of persons per house	...	4.25	
			1911

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						
		Und. 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65		65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	10		3	3	2	2		4
Erysipelas ...	10			1	2	4	3	
Scarlet Fever ...	25		6	15	3	1		23
Enteric Fever ...	3		1		2			1
Measles ...	23							
Whooping Cough ...	94							
Totals ...	165		11	19	9	7	3	28

Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation : Wharfedale Union Joint Isolation Hospital, Menston.

Total available beds : 52.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated : 4.

TABLE III. Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District								Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District						
	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards							
	All Ages														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
All causes { Certified ... { Uncertified...	1														
Whooping Cough ...	2						2								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	1	1				1									
Tuberculous Meningitis ...															
Rheumatic Fever ...															
Cancer, malignant disease ...															
Bronchitis ...				1											
Bronco-Pneumonia ...	1														
Pneumonia (all other forms) ...															
Other diseases of Respiratory organs...	3		1												
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...															
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...															
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...							1								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	1														
Suicides ...															
Other Defined Diseases ...					1	1	1	5	9	22					
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...									1	1					
	72	9	2	1	1	3	9	15	32	6					

TABLE IV

Infant Mortality.

1911. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under
1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 year				Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year	
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks							
All causes	}	Certified ...			2	2	1	1	2	2	9
		Uncertified ...						1			
Whooping Cough ...				1	1				1	2	
Diarrhoea ...								1		1	
Enteritis ...				1	1			1		2	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...									1	1	
Congenital Malformations ...						1				1	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...							1			1	
					2					8	

Nett Births in the year : legitimate, 103 ; illegitimate, 5.

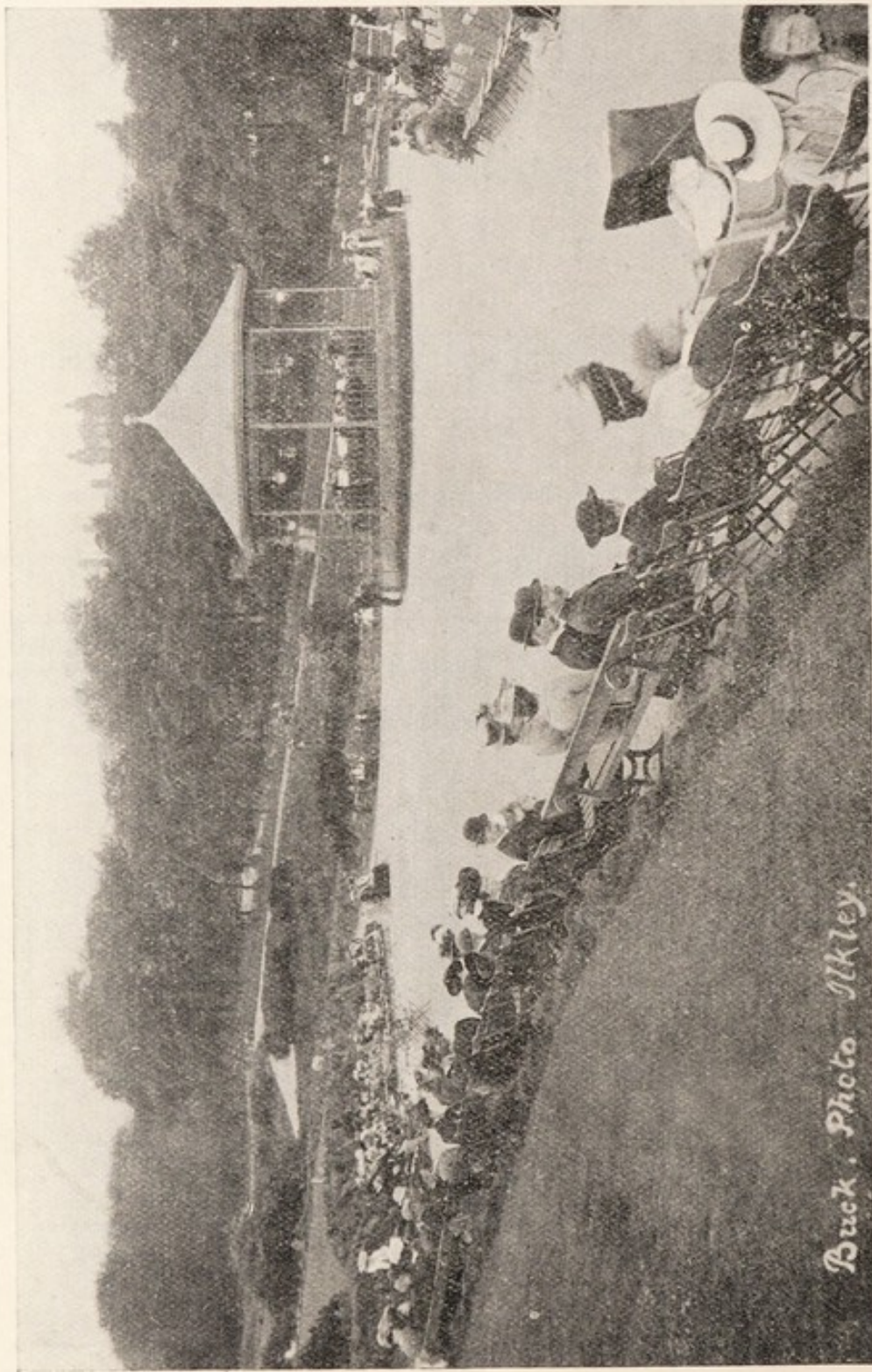
Nett Deaths in the year of : legitimate infants, 9 ; illegitimate infants, 0.

Vital Statistics of England and Wales compared with Ilkley.

From Dr. J. R. KAYE, County Hall, Wakefield.

The following are the chief Vital Statistics for the year 1911, as compiled from the recently issued report of the Registrar General:—

1911	Ilkley.	England and Wales.	Great Towns. (77)	Smaller Towns. (136)	England and Wales less the 213 Towns.
BIRTH-RATE	13·5	24·4	25·6	23·4	23·4
DEATH-RATE	9	14·6	15·5	13·8	13·9
Zymotic Death-rate	·25	1·88	2·29	1·98	1·40
Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births)	83·3	130	140	133	118



Buck, Photo. Ikley.

THE BAND KIOSK, West View Park