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BOROUGH OF LEIGH.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1923.





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Collins & Darwell Ltd., Printers, Hope Street, Leigh.

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BOROUGH OF LEIGH, 1923.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Chairman :

Alderman HENRY ISHERWOOD, J.P.

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor T. R. GREENOUGH

Alderman GRUNDY, J.P.	Councillor GRUNDY
„ W. HINDLEY	„ T. HINDLEY
Councillor BETTON	„ HIGENBOTTAM
„ ATHERTON	„ MACK
„ COLLIER	„ PARRY
„ FAIRHURST	„ YATES

Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN	Councillor GRUNDY
The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	„ MACK
Alderman GRUNDY	„ PARRY
Councillor FAIRHURST	„ YATES

CO-OPTED WOMEN.

THE MAYORESS (Mrs. E. Wright)	Mrs. E. ISHERWOOD
Mrs. B. COLLIER	Mrs. E. HOUGHTON
Mrs. M. HOLDEN	Mrs. M. A. HARDY

Staff of Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. CLAY BECKITT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

EDWIN JACKSON, A.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :

WILLIAM T. FROST, Cert. R. San. I.

ARTHUR N. NICKLIN, Cert. R. San. I.

Health Visitors :

Miss A. B. BELYEA.

Miss DUNCAN.

Clerk :

S. CUNNINGHAM.



Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1923.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the Borough of Leigh.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Health and Sanitation of your Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1923.

This is the third of the present series of Ordinary Reports as distinguished from the periodic Survey Reports.

The shortage of houses is still causing extreme overcrowding with its accompanying interference with health and comfort. The inconvenience experienced is causing a feeling of dissatisfaction and unrest very prejudicial to the well-being of those concerned.

I regret to have again to report a diminution in the number of births. The figure is now below that of the average of the last 10 years by 5 per 1,000. It is 853 compared with 897 last year.

The birth-rate is for the first time below that of England and Wales, but well above the rate of most Lancashire towns, as the following table of comparison shows :—

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

District	Popula- tion	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Death Rate	DEATH RATE FROM								
					Pulmon- ary Tuber- culosis	Non-Pul- monary Tuber- culosis	Other Respira- tory Diseases	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Scarlet Fever	Diphth- eria	Enteric Fever
ACCRINGTON	44,180	14.2	58	12.3	0.76	0.22	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHADDERTON	29,340	17.0	110	13.7	0.54	0.17	3.3	0.10	0.17	0.06	0.03	0.10	0.00
COLNE	25,260	15.2	111	12.7	1.10	0.27	2.05	0.03	0.03	0.31	0.03	0.03	0.03
DARWEN	38,980	15.4	78	13.5	0.56	0.25	2.92	0.30	0.00	0.60	0.30	0.30	0.00
FARNWORTH...	28,890	17.8	69	12.0	0.7	0.2	2.9	0.1	0.1	0.17	0.00	0.03	0.00
LANCASTER	40,990	17.2	83	12.1	1.07	0.24	0.09	0.02	0.17	0.9	0.02	0.02	0.07
LEIGH	46,750	18.2	85	12.1	0.91	0.27	3.08	0.00	0.17	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.04
MIDDLETON	28,870	14.7	72	12.3	0.65	0.20	1.14	0.20	0.03	0.13	0.10	0.03	0.00
NELSON	40,380	14.2	76	11.1	0.47	0.27	1.7	0.04	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.02
SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY	32,000	17.0	104	12.3	0.90	0.31	1.65	0.06	0.37	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.06
WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH	30,090	19.8	83	12.0	0.86	0.33	2.19	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00
CHORLEY	31,300	18.3	92	12.3	0.67	0.09	1.88	0.32	0.09	0.28	0.00	0.03	0.00
ENGLAND AND WALES	...	19.7	69	11.2									

The progressive fall in the infantile death rate is a very pleasing feature however; the deaths under one year were 73, making a rate per 1,000 births of 85. The following table shows the number of deaths and rate for each of the last 10 years :—

Year.	No. of deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 births.
1914	142	115
1915	185	165
1916	136	134
1917	106	116
1918	135	143
1919	100	101
1920	130	106
1921	131	119.5
1922	88	89
1923	73	85

The arrangements you have from time to time approved for the care of the mothers and babies must I think receive credit for such striking diminution in the loss of infantile life.

This contention is amply verified when the death rate of infants belonging to the Welfare Centre is compared with that of the infants who have not come under the influence of the service.

Of the 853 children born 387, or over 45 per cent., were brought to the Welfare and registered on the books.

Of this 45 per cent. only 4 died, while of the remaining 55 per cent. 69 died. If the 35 infants be excluded who died during the first month and therefore practically condemned before coming under the influence of post-natal environment, there still remains 34 who would have an equal chance of survival to the Welfare infants.

The disparity in results cannot be attributed to any one factor, but I consider the most potent to be feeding.

If the child is not breast-fed the diet very irregularly administered usually consists of condensed milk, patent foods, unclean cow's milk improperly diluted, etc., whereas at the Centre breast feeding and dried milk only are prescribed and with precise directions as to quantity and regularity.

Of the superiority of dried milk over other foods for infants, except breast milk, I am convinced on the following grounds :—

- (a) Its comparative purity.
- (b) Economy and safety of storing in small houses.
- (c) Low susceptibility of contamination.
- (d) Less danger of older children purloining it at the expense of the infant.

On taking a survey of the work carried out during the year in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare and the results thereof, I am satisfied the right lines are being pursued and the money spent thoroughly justified.

I have to acknowledge indebtedness to various charitable agencies for assistance in circumstances of distress and difficulty outside the scope of the Municipal Organisation.

Particularly I would mention the Save the Children Fund, the Needlework Guild, the District Nursing Association, the Guild of Help, the Leigh Health Society and the Women's Guild of Service.

My thanks are due to the ladies who so generously give their services week by week to assist in carrying on the work at the Welfare Centre.

Without their help the paid staff would have to be enlarged or the work considerably diminished.

A very large amount of work has been done by the department during the year and I have to thank every member of the staff for their hearty co-operation.

At the same time I would like to take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the cordial support always afforded me by the Health Committee and the Council.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area acres (Census 1921)	6,359
Population (Census 1921)	45,545
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	46,750
Density of Population per acre	7.35
Number of Inhabited Houses (1923)	9,551
Number of New Houses Certified in 1923 ...	34
Total at end of 1923	9,585
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1923)	10,230
Number of Persons per House	4.87
Rateable Value	£231,757 10s. od.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£855
Poor Rate	7/-
General District Rate	5/6-

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1923.

		Total.		Male.		Female.
Births	{ Legitimate	... 827	...	423	...	404
	{ Illegitimate	.. 26	...	12	...	14
Deaths	... ..	568	...	319	...	249

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth ... {from sepsis, 1
 {from other causes, 5

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total, 73. Legitimate, 71 ; Illegitimate, 2

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages), 8.

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 3.

Specify any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment :—

Cancer, with a death-rate per 1000 of population	...	...	0.95
Bronchitis	„	„	1.49

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Phthisis Death-rate.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.
1922	21'1	14'5	1'07	89
1923	18'2	12'1	0'91	85
Mean of 10 years 1913-1922 ...	23'21	15'7	1'19	127
Increase or Decrease in 1923 on—				
Ten Years' Average..	- 5'0	- 3'6	- 0'28	- 42
Previous Year ...	- 2'9	- 2'4	- 0'16	- 4

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH, 1923.
GENERAL DISEASES, estimated on the figures given by the Registrar General.

	No. of deaths.	Per cent. of total of deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 of population.
1 Epidemic Diarrhœa ...	3	0'52	0'06
Specific Fevers ...	5	0'88	0'10
Influenza ...	17	2'99	0'36

2. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

a Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	43	7'56	0'91
b Other Tubercular Diseases ...	13	2'28	0'27
c Cancer ...	45	7'92	0'95

3. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASE.

a Congenital Debility ...	27	4'75	0'57
---------------------------	----	------	------

LOCAL DISEASES.

1 Heart and Circulatory System ...	70	12'32	1'49
2 Respiratory System—			
a Bronchitis ...	70	12'32	1'49
b Pneumonia ...	70	12'32	1'49
3 Urinary System ...	13	2'28	0'27
4 Reproductive System—			
Parturition ...	5	0'88	0'10
Puerperal Fever ...	1	0'17	0'02

VIOLENT CAUSES.

1 Accidents ...	31	5'45	0'66
2 Suicides ...	6	1'05	0'12
Other Diseases ...	139	24'46	2'97

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1923.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diph- theria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under 1 Year
Leigh	18.2	12.1	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.17	0.02	0.78	3.5	85
England and Wales	19.7	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.7	0.44	7.7	69
105 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	20.4	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.12	0.09	0.40	9.9	72
155 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	19.8	10.6	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.38	6.4	69
London	20.2	11.2	0.01	...	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.13	0.45	10.2	60

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

The following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in the district :—

Smallpox
 Cholera
 Membranous Croup
 Erysipelas
 Scarlet Fever
 Typhus Fever
 Typhoid Fever
 Enteric Fever
 Continued Fever
 Relapsing Fever
 Puerperal Fever
 Cerebro-Spinal Fever
 Acute Poliomyelitis.
 Encephalitis Lethargica
 Ophthalmia Neonatorum
 Tuberculosis
 Malaria
 Dysentery
 Trench Fever
 Acute Primary Pneumonia
 Acute Influenzal Pneumonia

SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Case Rate per 1000 living, Leigh.
Small Pox	0'00
Scarlet Fever... ..	3'70
Diphtheria	0'83
Enteric Fever	0'08
Puerperal Fever	0'06
Erysipelas	0'42

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified, Number of Deaths from these Diseases, Number of Cases removed to Hospital, and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1923 :—

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-8 years	9-13 years	14-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60 and over	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Group ...	39	—	—	2	1	14	4	4	4	9	1	1	33	1
Erysipelas ...	20	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	9	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	173	1	6	8	21	59	46	8	1	9	1	2	124	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	2
Puerperal Fever ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Polio-myelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	23	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trench Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	53	1	4	2	4	12	5	4	4	13	3	70	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	21	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	—	8	3	26	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis—Males	28	—	—	—	4	—	—	5	3	12	6	17	—	—
Females	17	—	—	—	1	5	3	3	—	4	—	8	—	—
Measles and German Measles ...	19	—	1	1	2	3	4	4	—	3	1	5	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ...	10	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Any other Diseases notified in the District	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	486	26	11	14	32	22	99	71	31	63	19	132	166	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 85 newly ascertained cases of all forms of Tuberculosis notified during the year, with 56 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1·19 per 1000, of which 0·91 was due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Dispensary and Sanatorium treatment is carried out by the County Council ; also institutional treatment of surgical Tuberculosis. The Chief Dispensary of one of the County Areas is situated in the Borough. Five deaths due to Tuberculosis occurred in cases which had not been previously notified as suffering from the disease.

PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	All Ages		Under 1 year		1-2		2-3		3-4		4-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-35		35-45		45-65		over 65		Deaths			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Pulmonary	21	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	4	4	...	5	8	12	3	6	4	1	...	...	26	17			
Non-Pulmonary	17	19	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	5	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	...	...	1	1	...	...	8	5		
Totals	38	47	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	6	7	7	4	3	9	12	15	3	6	5	2	...	...	34	22		

OCCUPATION OF NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

Under 5 years	...	...	10
Scholars (5 to 14 years)	...	...	21
Domestic	...	...	14
Cotton Operatives	...	...	14
Coal Miners	...	...	10
Labourers	...	...	2
No occupation	...	...	10
Tram Driver	...	...	1
Clerk	...	...	1
Iron Moulder	...	...	1
Iron Worker	...	...	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number Notified.	CASES.		Vision Un- impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
23	22	1	23	Nil	Nil	Nil

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

From information received by circularising the general practitioners, consulting death returns, and cause of absence from School of elementary school children, I gather Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases have been the cause of an unusual amount of sickness in the district. Whooping Cough was very prevalent amongst children. School closure was not found necessary.

5.—NURSING ARRANGEMENTS AND HOSPITALS.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—A local District Nursing Association, supported entirely by voluntary contributions, carries on a very useful work. Two fully-trained Nurses are engaged and render very highly appreciated service in the homes. They are not allowed to visit infectious cases. There is no definite scheme of co-operation between the Association and the Health Department of the local authority, but constant reference from one to the other is carried out by the staffs. The Corporation does not subscribe to the funds of the Nursing Association. Occasionally a local private trained nurse is available for engagement, but such services are usually supplied through private nurses' homes in one of the neighbouring towns.

(b) **Infectious Diseases.**—The Health Visitors meet the demand as far as possible in the case of children suffering from Measles, Diarrhœa, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, &c. A local voluntary organisation—Women's Guild of Service—supplies, free of charge to the patients, a non-practising midwife to attend cases suffering from Puerperal Fever. The

midwife engaged with the case is then able to continue her ordinary practice after disinfection, but is expected to contribute some portion of her fee to the funds of the Guild. The arrangement has worked admirably, and is thoroughly appreciated by midwives and medical practitioners. The Local Authority has no interest in the scheme, and has not contributed to the funds of the Guild.

MIDWIVES.

No midwives supplied or subsidised by the Public Health Authority. There are 16 midwives practising in the district. The service is sufficiently supplied, but the work is very unevenly distributed, a few midwives having nearly all the practice.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) **Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.**—There is one centre, situated at Stone House, St. Helens Road, and is provided by the Local Authority. Meetings are held weekly on Monday afternoons for weighing, consultations and distribution of food. Ante-natal consultations are carried out at Stone House at the same time. No medical treatment is carried out; cases requiring it are referred to their own doctor. An instructional Sewing Class is held weekly on Tuesday afternoons under the supervision of the Health Visitors. The following are a few of the details of the work for 1923 :—

387 babies were entered on the books.

2217 attendances by infants.

1957 consultations.

96 ante-natal consultations.

4 deaths of babies on the books.

70 pints of fresh milk were given.

10630 lb. packets of dried milk were given.

8279 lb. packets of dried milk were sold.

30 4 oz. pots of virol were given.

1073 4 oz. pots of virol were sold.

22 maternity bags were lent.

473 articles of clothing distributed to necessitous cases.

88 oz. Emulsion (given).

17 bottles of Horlicks sold.

The Health Visitors' work is summarised thus :—

Primary Visits	...	...	...	...	794
Re-visits	...	...	2616	{under 1 year, 1520 over 1 year, 1096	
Still-births	...	...	...	...	35
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	292
Attandances at Centre	...	...	...	...	333
Visits to Workshops	...	...	...	...	28
Interviews	...	...	...	...	268
Ante-Natal Visits...	...	...	...	...	30
Puerperal Fever Visits	...	...	...	...	11

(b) **Day Nurseries.**—There are none in the district.

(c) **School Clinics.**

Clinic.	Sessions per Week.	Accommodation.
(1) Inspection	... One	... 2 Waiting Rooms and 1 Consulting Room
(2) Minor Ailment Treatment	... Six	.. Waiting Room, Dressing Room
(3) Ophthalmic	... One as required	... Waiting Room, Ophthalmic Room
(4) Aural	... One	... Waiting Room, Consulting Room
(5) Dental	... Four	... Waiting Room, Surgery, Recovery Room
(6) Operative (Tonsils and Adenoids)	.. One as required	... Waiting Room, Anæsthetic Room, Operation Room, Recovery Room.

All the Clinics are held at Stone House, St. Helens Road, and are provided by the Leigh Education Committee.

(d) **Tuberculosis.**—This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council. The central dispensary of one of the areas is situated in the town. The following statement showing treatment, etc., was supplied by the Consulting Tuberculosis Officer :—

	Adults. 15 and over.		Children.		Total.
No. of cases admitted to Sanatoria	...	14	...	2	16
No. of cases admitted to Pulmonary Hospitals	42	...	—	...	42
No. of cases admitted to General Hospitals...	7	...	14	...	21
No. of cases granted Skin Hospital Treatment	7	...	6	...	13
No. of cases granted the provision of Special Surgical Appliance...	...	2	...	3	5
No. of cases granted Dispensary Supervision, with provision of Special Nourishment...	5	...	—	...	5
No. of cases granted Dispensary Supervision or Dispensary Treatment...	...	287	...	100	387
No. of cases under supervision on 31st December, 1923	...	238	...	91	329
Pulmonary	...	140	...	13	153
Non-Pulmonary	...	81	...	74	155
Combined (Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary)	...	17	...	4	21

The County Tuberculosis Dispensary, 13 Church Street, is open each Wednesday and Friday at 10 o'clock and also on the second Thursday in each month at 6-30 p.m. for patients who are working. Close co-operation has thus been maintained between Medical Practitioners, including the School Medical Officer, who regularly sends children with suspicious symptoms, and the Tuberculosis Staff. Working in close association with the Dispensary, there is a voluntary Care Committee which meets monthly at the Dispensary for the purpose of providing clothing, nourishment, &c., for poor consumptives in order to enable them to persevere with their long course of treatment and prevent their becoming chargeable to the Guardians.

(e) **Venereal Diseases.**—The scheme for treatment is administered by the County Council.

There is no centre for treatment in the town, but a choice can be made from Bolton, Wigan, Manchester, Salford and Warrington, all very accessible, and fares are paid in necessitous cases.

The Health Department acts as an information bureau to patients and medical practitioners.

The County Council supplies outfits for the collection of specimens and examinations free of charge. Salvarsan substitutes are also supplied free to approved medical practitioners. The service provided is decidedly adequate, but patients fail to embrace the full benefit by stopping treatment prematurely. Some compulsory means to ensure full course is necessary before the expenditure entailed can be considered remunerative.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

1. Tuberculosis.—Institutional accommodation is provided entirely by the Lancashire County Council. There is no County residential institution in the Borough.

2. Maternity.—There is no provision in the district for normal or abnormal cases of maternity. Cases are obliged to go to St. Mary's Hospital Manchester, the Leigh Union Hospital (situated outside the Borough), or the Bolton Nursing Home. Provision is greatly needed; the overcrowded condition of many houses, with the lack of accommodation, leads to situations of positive indecency. The risk of infection is also enormously increased.

3. Children.—No provision has been made for hospital treatment of children. The Local Authority subscribes £26 5s. od. per annum to the Manchester Children's Hospital. Most cases requiring hospital treatment find their way to this institution, and a few to the Leigh Infirmary.

4. Fever.—The Infectious Disease Hospital for the Borough of Leigh is under the control of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, and is for the districts of Leigh Borough, Atherton, Tyldesley and Golborne Urban Districts, and Leigh Rural District. It is situated at Astley, outside the Borough. There are 128 beds for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Measles, Puerperal Fever, &c.

5. Smallpox.—Provision is made through the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, which has a hospital containing 32 beds for a population of approximately 100,000, situated at Astley, near the isolation hospital for other infectious diseases. There was no case reported during the year.

6. Others.—Nil.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO HOSPITALS, &c.

			£	s.	d.
Manchester Eye Hospital	...	...	8	8	0
Manchester Ear Hospital	...	...	5	5	0
Manchester Royal Infirmary	...	...	50	8	0
St. Mary's Hospital	...	...	3	3	0
Manchester Children's Hospital	...	...	26	5	0
Leigh Infirmary	...	...	10	10	0
Royal Salford Hospital	...	...	10	10	0
Total	...	...	£114	9	0

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

None is provided.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases.—A motor ambulance for removal of infectious cases to the Sanatorium at Astley is provided by the Joint Hospital Board, and is housed at the Sanatorium.

(b) For non-infectious cases.—Two motor ambulances are provided by the Local Authority and housed at the Fire Station. Cases of accident within the Borough are removed free. A moderate charge is made to others ; this is modified or excused in necessitous cases.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements exist with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for the bacteriological examination of swabs and sputum, the carrying out of Widal test, and examination of cerebro-spinal fluid. Telegraphic communication is made to the medical practitioner in cases of positive results, and a report by post is sent in every case to this department.

The following table shows the number submitted during the year, with the results :—

Specimen.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swab ...	1	19	20
Sputum ...	3	7	10
Faeces ...	—	—	3

Diphtheria anti-toxin and swabs are supplied by the Local Authority, and special arrangements are made to facilitate the distribution to medical practitioners so that they may always have in their possession one swab and a preliminary dose of serum for immediate use. They are encouraged to administer an early application even to very doubtful cases of the disease. Thirty-doses were supplied during the year.

INFLUENZA VACCINE.

Influenza vaccine is stocked for the free use of local medical practitioners. They were circularised of the fact last year. None has been applied for this year.

PRIVATE AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Name of Act.	Date of Adoption.
Leigh Corporation Act	... September, 1903
Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1879	... In or about 1879
Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889...	27th November, 1889
Private Street Works Act, 1892	... 30th July, 1895
Libraries Act, 1892	... 27th September, 1892
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 :	
Parts II. and III.	... 26th April, 1892
Parts IV. and V.	... 9th November, 1900
Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 :	
Part III.	... 11th March, 1902
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890...	14th October, 1902
Museum and Gymnasiums Act, 1891	... 11th March, 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 :	<div> By Order of the Local Government Board, dated 1st May, 1913, which Order repealed the following Sections of the Leigh Corporation Act, 1903 : Sections, 151, 167 (so far as relates to Sec. 34 of the Act of 1907), 210, 211 and 212. </div>
Part II., Sections 22, 30 and 33	
Part III., Sections 34, 36, 37, 49 and 51	
Part IV., Sections 55, 56, 63, 64 and 65	
Part V. (whole)	
Part X. (whole)	

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

	Date when made by Council.	Approved by Government Department.
Prohibition of Book-making, Betting or Wagering in Public Places	...16th Oct. 1900 ...	—
Compulsory Lighting of Vehicles	...13th Mar. 1900...	3rd May 1900
Prevention of Danger from Telegraph Wires, &c.	...12th Mar. 1901...	7th Oct. 1901
Markets	...30th Aug. 1901...	15th Oct. 1901
Omnibuses	...10th Sept. 1901...	26th Oct. 1901
Management, Use and Regulation of the Public Baths	...10th Sept. 1901...	29th Oct. 1901
Drainage of Existing Buildings	... 8th April 1902...	31st May 1902
New Streets and Buildings	...10th June 1902 ...	13th Aug. 1902
Slaughter-houses	...14th Oct. 1902 ...	29th Nov. 1902
Offensive Trades	...14th Oct. 1902 ...	29th Nov. 1902
Common Lodging-houses	...14th Oct. 1902 ...	29th Nov. 1902
Nuisances	... 9th Nov. 1903...	2nd Jan. 1904
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures used for Human Habi- tation in the Borough of Leigh	...13th Oct. 1908 ...	23rd Dec. 1908
Provision of Means of Escape in case of Fire in certain Factories and Workshops in the Borough of Leigh	... 8th June 1909 ...	2nd July 1909
For the Good Rule and Government of the Borough of Leigh and for the Prevention of Nuisances	...11th May 1909 ...	—
Rear Lights on Vehicles	... 8th Oct. 1912 ...	28th Nov. 1912
For Regulating the Employment of Children and Street Trading by Young Persons	...10th Aug. 1920...	22nd Jan. 1921
Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...12th Mar. 1901 ...	—
Regulations as to Internal Water Fittings, Service Pipes, &c.	...March 1907 ...	—
Regulating the Travelling and Pre- vention of Nuisances in Motor Omnibuses	...13th June 1922 ...	23rd Aug. 1922
Pleasure Grounds	...12th Dec. 1922 ...	7th Feb. 1923

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **Water Supply.**—Purchased in bulk from the Liverpool Corporation. It is frequently chemically examined and found satisfactory. The lead solvency action found to exist some years ago is effectively checked by systematic treatment. Service reservoir equals one day's supply. Average daily consumption per head, 19·86 gallons. The provision is far from satisfactory both on account of lack of permanency of the supply and the insignificant storage capacity.

(b) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—The whole of the Urban portion of the district is sewered. There is no separate system for surface water. The sewage is treated by the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewerage Board, situated in the Borough, by means of bacteria filter beds. The effluent is satisfactory.

(c) Closet Accommodation.

Number of Houses	...	...	...	9585
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	8089
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	853
Privies	...	...	...	373
Pails	...	...	...	5

Twenty-two conversions of privies to fresh water closets were carried out during the year. The remainder are being converted where a sewer is available.

(d) **Scavenging.**—Street scavenging is in the hands of the Borough Surveyor. House refuse removal is carried out by the Health Department.

(1) Ashpits and Bins in the District :—

Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	3884
Wet Ashpits	...	...	...	186
Bins	...	...	...	1800

(2) Number of Ashpits, Bins and Pails emptied :—

Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	94,360
Ashpits emptied	...	...	...	50,177
Loads removed	...	...	...	10,901
Weight of Refuse	...	...	...	16,024 tons
Total cost of removal	...	...	...	£3,708
Cost per ton	...	...	...	4s. 7·75d.
Dealt with at Destructor	...	...	...	11,210 tons
Delivered to Tips	...	...	...	4,814 tons

(e) Canal Boats Acts.

Inspected	55
Registered and in use	149
New Boats registered	6
No infringements were reported ...	—

(f) Slaughter-houses.

Registered	14
Licensed	6
Total	20

They are all private, mostly small, and scattered about the district. They are kept clean, well whitewashed, and the occupiers carry out the Bye-laws. One hundred and ninety-one inspections were made during the year. No complaint was reported to the Authority.

(g) **Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.**—The following table shews the number of infectious diseases notified in the Borough during the year, with the number of cases removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for isolation and treatment :—

	No. of Cases notified.		No. of Deaths.		No. of Cases removed to Hospital.		No. of Deaths in Hospital.
Diphtheria	39	...	1	...	33	...	1
Erysipelas	20	...	—	...	1	...	—
Scarlet Fever	173	...	2	..	124	...	2
Enteric Fever.....	4	...	2	...	2	...	2
Puerperal Fever... ..	3	...	1	...	2	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	23	..	—	...	—	...	—
Chicken-pox (voluntary)	10	...	—	...	—	...	—
Pneumonia	53	...	70	...	—	...	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	1	..	1	...	1	...	1
Encephalitis Lethurgica	4	...	1	...	3	...	1

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Health Department. All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal or convalescence of infectious patients. Other premises are

frequently disinfected on request and where necessity is apparent. The Schools are also frequently disinfected—particularly during periods of epidemics or the known presence of an infectious child. Private Schools are treated on request. Formaline lamps are used for buildings and a steam disinfectant is available for clothes, bedding, etc. Two horse vans are supplied, one for collecting, the other for returning the materials. Two hundred and ninety-seven premises were disinfected during the year, on account of the following diseases :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	163
Enteric Fever	..	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	....	...	40
Phthisis	...	...	...	84
Cancer	...	...	...	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	..	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Schools :—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1

(h) **The Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops** are frequently inspected and suggestions for minor improvements carried out.

There are 45 Cowkeepers registered and 21 purveyors of milk not keeping cows. Ninety-one inspections were made during the year. The premises and methods of handling the milk are fairly satisfactory. No case was reported to the Authority.

(i) **Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.**—The Lancashire County Council carry out the duties under these Acts. Samples for Analysis are taken by the County Police.

The local Police Superintendent reports that during 1923 the following samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	80
Butter	...	...	...	...	7
Margarine	...	...	...	...	7
Lard	...	...	...	...	8
Cheese	...	...	...	...	10
Pepper	...	...	...	...	6
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	7
Cream	...	...	...	...	2
Sauce	...	...	...	...	1
Jelly	...	...	...	...	1
Jam	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	131

There were no prosecutions during the year.

(j) In addition the following unsound food was condemned and destroyed :—

Beef	...	...	...	2412 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	847 „
Fish	...	...	...	20431 „
Fruit	...	...	...	1127 „
Rabbits	...	...	...	84 „

(k) **Summary of Inspections.—**

In connection with Infectious Diseases (a) Primary	...	226
(b) Revisits	...	383
Under Section 17 Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909	...	Nil
Slaughter-houses	...	191
Piggeries	...	167
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	91
Milk Shops	...	68
Bakehouses	...	111
Common Lodging-houses	...	19
Houses let in lodgings	...	48
Vans and Tents	...	25
Offensive Trades	...	177
Factories	...	21
Workshops and Workplaces	...	174
Schools	...	101

Smoke Observations...	...	...	...	...	54
Ice Cream Makers	...	...	...	...	63
Canal boats	...	...	...	...	55
Ashpits emptied	...	...	...	...	50177
Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	...	94360

(l) Notices Served.

(a) Informal.	...	...	...	674
(b) Statutory	...	...	...	530

(m) Nuisances.

Number dealt with	...	...	2813
„ reported to Health Committee			436
„ abated after notice		..	403
„ „ without notice		...	2343

The nuisances arose in connection with the following conditions :—

Defective House Drains	...	...	...	...	724
„ Gullies	...	...	...	...	382
„ Sink Pipes	...	...	...	...	107
„ Water Closets	...	...	...	...	591
„ Privies	...	...	...	...	42
„ Spouting	...	...	...	...	271
„ Roofs	...	...	...	...	101
„ Pavements, Channelling and Yards	...	...	...	...	61
Dis-repair of Houses	...	...	...	..	283
Filthy Houses	...	...	...	...	16
Damp Houses	..	...	...	...	191
Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	..	...	17
Dis-repair of Ashpits	...	...	...	...	27

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Office held.	Name.	Qualifications.	Other offices held.
Medical Officer of Health...	J. Clay Beckitt...	M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P., D. P. H.	School Medical Officer Med. Off. M. & C. W.
Chief Sanitary Inspector...	Edwin Jackson...	A. R. S. I.	Inspector under the Canal Boats Acts. Rat Officer
Sanitary Inspector...	Wm. T. Frost ...	Cert. R. S. I	...
do.	...Arthur N. Nicklin	do.	...
Health Visitor ...	Miss Belyea	...General Training C. M. B., R. S. I., Cer- tificate for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses	...
do.	Miss Duncan	...General Training, Fever Training and C. M. B.	
Clerk	...S. Cunningham		

9.—HOUSING.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) by private enterprise	...	...	...	...	18
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	16

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme...

Nil

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.—

Inspection—

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	967
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	32
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	...	...	...	...	5
(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	...	...	...	...	967

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	891
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	530
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—				
(a) by Owners	...	...	...	498
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	Nil

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close | ... | ... | Nil |
|--|-----|-----|-----|

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | | | |
| (a) by Owners | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners | ... | ... | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

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

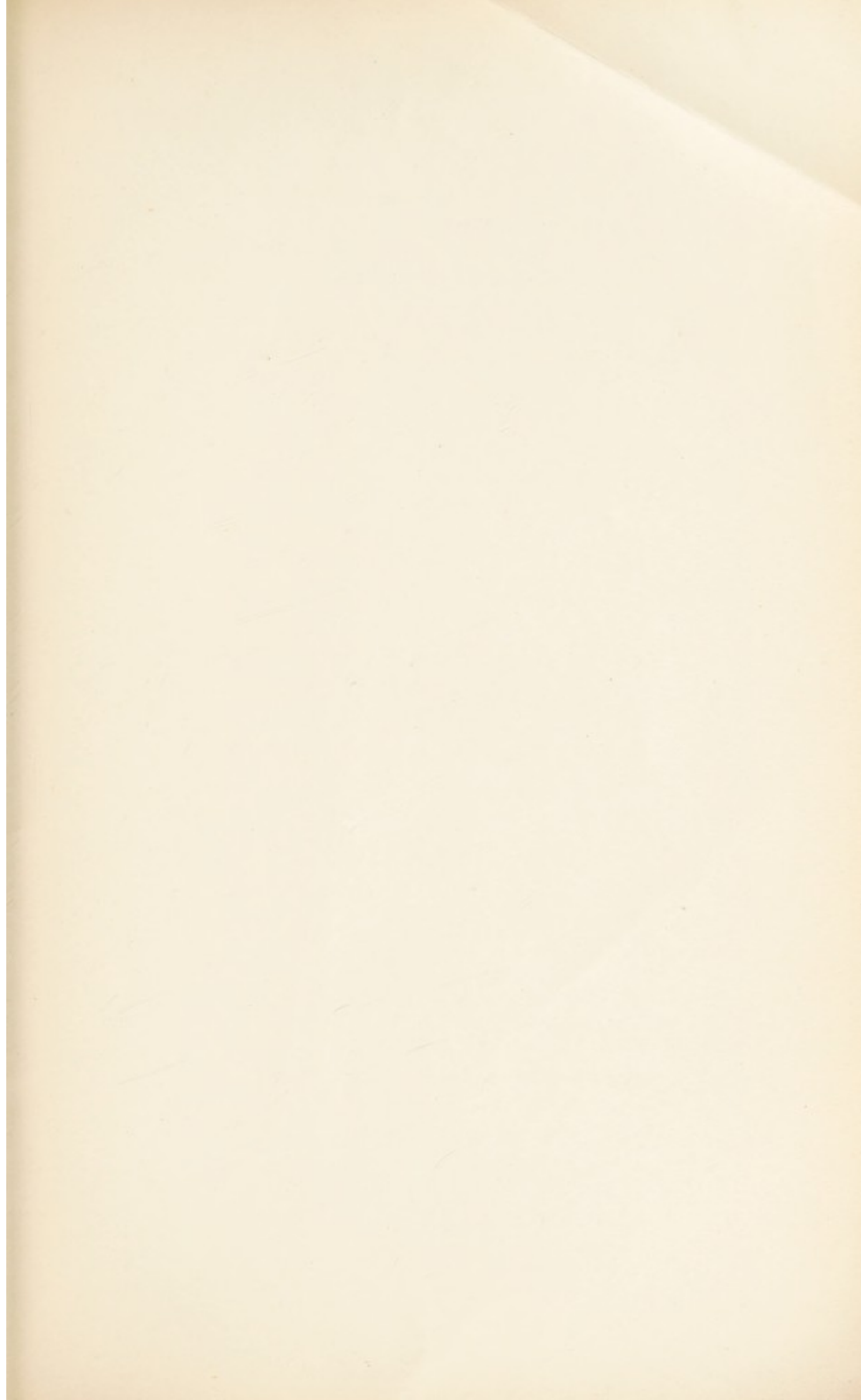
Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1923—Conversion of privies.
Chief Sanitary Requirements of District—Houses and completion of
Conversions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. CLAY BECKITT,
Medical Officer of Health.





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

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