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BOROUGH OF LEIGH.

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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1924.

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





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## BOROUGH OF LEIGH, 1924.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Chairman :

Alderman HENRY ISHERWOOD, J.P.

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor T. R. GREENOUGH, J.P.

Alderman GRUNDY, J.P.	Councillor GRUNDY
„ W. HINDLEY	„ T. HINDLEY
Councillor ATHERTON	„ HIGENBOTTAM
„ BETTON	„ 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. A. Horrocks)	Mrs. E. HOUGHTON
Mrs. E. WRIGHT	Mrs. M. A. HARDY
Mrs. E. ISHERWOOD	

## Staff of Public Health Department.

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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 Nurses :

Miss A. B. BELYEA.

Miss C. A. SMITH.

Miss M. A. BOYDELL.

Miss L. M. GOULDEN.

Clerk :

S. CUNNINGHAM.

†Contribution to salary by the Exchequer.

\* Engaged half time in School Work.

## Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1924.

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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, 1924.

This is the fourth 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. The resulting overcrowding is reflected in the less clean condition of the houses and occupants. It is extremely difficult to keep a small house, with few conveniences for cleansing, free from vermin, however great the desire, and where the management of the house is divided between two or three families it becomes almost impossible. Such circumstances and their specified results abound in the town.

I regret to have again to report a diminution in the number of births. It is 831 compared with 853 last year. The rate is for the second 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	Population (estimated) 1924.	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Death Rate	DEATH RATE FROM								
					Pulmonary 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	43,860	13.4	76.4	13.9	0.61	1.82	0.18	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00
ASHTON-U-LYNE	44,040	17.6	77.0	13.2	0.68	0.20	2.77	0.24	0.00	0.18	0.06	0.02	0.00
CHORLEY	31,490	17.4	104.0	12.7	0.50	0.28	2.12	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.03	0.03	0.12
CREWE	47,520	15.5	76.3	11.5	0.694	0.147	1.641	0.126	0.042	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.00
DARWEN	39,060	16.28	67.0	14.9	0.53	0.12	2.99	0.02	0.07	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEWSBURY	55,120	17.8	89.0	14.3	0.94	0.12	3.39	0.018	0.16	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.00
ECCLES	46,020	16.7	91.8	11.8	0.78	0.09	2.21	0.21	0.24	0.11	0.00	0.04	0.04
KEIGHLEY	42,500	14.72	107.0	14.21	0.72	0.09	2.91	0.00	0.25	0.10	0.04	0.02	0.00
LANCASTER	40,580	15.6	70.0	—	0.86	0.246	0.147	0.098	0.024	0.14	0.00	0.04	0.00
<b>LEIGH</b>	<b>46,960</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>84.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.02</b>
NELSON	40,220	11.9	72.0	13.3	0.59	0.22	2.26	0.00	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.00
WAKEFIELD	54,214	20.3	90.0	13.9	0.80	0.38	2.79	0.17	0.13	0.29	0.02	0.04	0.02
ENGLAND AND WALES	...	18.8	75.0	12.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The only redeeming feature in connection with the low birth rate is the continued diminution of the deaths amongst infants. During the year 70 children under 1 year died, making a rate of 84 per 1,000 births. 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.
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
1924	70	84

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 831 children born 424, or over 51 per cent., were brought to the Welfare and registered on the books. Of this 51 per cent. only 8 died, while of the remaining 49 per cent. 54 died. If the 29 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 25 who would have an equal chance of survival to the Welfare infants. The disparagy 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 the interval between feeds; the regularity of the meals is also insisted on.

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 on the service is well invested.

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, middle 1924) ... ..	46,960
Density of Population per acre ... ..	7.38
Number of Inhabited Houses (beginning 1924)...	9,585
Number of New Houses Certified in 1924 ...	124
Total at end of 1924 ... ..	9,709
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1923)	10,230
Number of Persons per House ... ..	4.83
Rateable Value ... ..	£234,067 15s. od.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£866
Poor Rate ... ..	7/-
General District Rate ... ..	5/6

## 2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1924.

			Total.		Male.		Female.
Births	{	Legitimate ...	791 ...		395 ...		396
		Illegitimate ..	40 ...		18 ...		22
Deaths	...	...	570 ...		287 ...		283
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth ...					{ from sepsis, 1 { from other causes, 2		

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total, 70. Legitimate, 63; Illegitimate, 7

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 16.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages), 5.

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 9.

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

Cancer, with a death-rate per 1000 of population	...	...	1'02
Bronchitis	„	„	1'46

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Phthisis Death-rate.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.
1923 ... ..	18'2	12'1	0'91	85
1924 ... ..	17'6	12'1	0'76	84
Mean of 10 years				
1914-1923 ...	22'3	15'2	1'16	117
Increase or Decrease in 1924 on—				
Ten Years' Average..	- 4'7	- 3'1	- 0'40	- 33
Previous Year ...	- 0'6	- Nil	- 0'15	- 1

## SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH, 1924.

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	Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	9	1·57	0·19
	Specific Fevers ...	21	3·67	0·44
	Influenza ...	19	3·32	0·40
	Whooping Cough ...	5	0·87	0·10

## 2. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

a	Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	36	6·30	0·76
b	Other Tubercular Diseases ...	9	1·57	0·19
c	Cancer ...	48	8·40	1·02

## 3. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASE.

a	Congenital Debility ...	28	4·90	0·59
---	-------------------------	----	------	------

## LOCAL DISEASES.

1	Heart and Circulatory System ...	69	12·07	1·46
2	Respiratory System—			
	a Bronchitis ..	69	12·07	1·46
	b Pneumonia ...	52	9·10	1·10
3	Urinary System ...	10	1·75	0·21
4	Reproductive System—			
	Parturition ...	2	0·35	0·04
	Puerperal Fever ...	1	0·17	0·02

## VIOLENT CAUSES.

1	Accidents ...	21	3·67	0·44
2	Suicides ...	4	0·70	0·08
	Other Diseases ...	167	29·27	3·55

## Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1924.

	Birthrate 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
<b>Leigh</b> ... ..	<b>17.6</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>10.83</b>	<b>84</b>
England and Wales ... ..	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.44	7.3	75
105 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000) ... ..	19.4	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.12	0.08	0.40	9.2	80
155 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000) ... ..	18.9	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.36	6.2	71
London ... ..	18.7	12.1	0.01	...	0.29	0.03	0.11	0.12	0.44	8.4	69

### 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... ..	2·83
Diphtheria ... ..	0·55
Enteric Fever ... ..	0·06
Puerperal Fever .. ..	0·06
Erysipelas ... ..	0·57

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 1924 :—

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED											HOSPITAL					
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-25 years	25-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
Smallpox ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	26	—	2	1	—	—	6	6	5	6	—	—	—	1	20	1	—
Erysipelas ...	27	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	8	5	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	133	—	5	9	14	13	55	23	6	8	—	—	—	3	93	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trench Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	5	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	40	2	5	4	1	1	4	3	—	6	6	8	—	52	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11	8	6	—	18	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—
Females	15	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	4	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis—Males	23	—	1	1	—	2	4	1	2	—	1	3	—	3	—	—	—
Females	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	5	7	6	1	—	—	6	—	—	—
Measles and German Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Any other Diseases notified in the District	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	336	13	13	16	16	17	72	39	29	64	26	26	5	133	120	3	3

## TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 87 newly ascertained cases of all forms of Tuberculosis notified during the year, with 45 deaths, giving a death-rate of 0·95 per 1000, of which 0·76 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. No deaths due to Tuberculosis occurred in cases which had not been previously notified as suffering from the disease.

## PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	All Ages		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			
Pulmonary	27	22	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	18	
Non-Pulmonary	15	23	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	1	5	2	7	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	3	6
Totals	42	45	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	3	1	6	4	11	11	18	9	4	9	4	9	4	9	4	9	21	24		

## OCCUPATION OF NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

Under 5 years	...	...	7
Scholars (5 to 14 years)	...	...	15
Domestic	...	...	11
Coal Miners	...	...	12
Labourers	...	...	2
No occupation	...	...	15
Clerk	...	...	1
Iron Driller	...	...	1
Cotton Operatives	...	...	10
Weavers	...	...	4
Warehouse Girl	...	...	1
Brass Moulder	...	...	2
Binder...	...	...	2
Publican	...	...	1
Chemist's Packer	...	...	1
Electrician	...	...	1
Printer	...	...	1
Hairdresser	...	...	1
Brewery Worker	...	...	1

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number Notified.	CASES.		Vision Un-impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
10	10	—	10	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 and Measles were prevalent amongst children.

## 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 Nurses meet the demand as far as possible in the case of children suffering from Measles, Diarrhœa, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, &c.

## MIDWIVES.

No midwife is 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. 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 Nurses. An Ante-Natal Clinic is held weekly on Monday afternoons at Stone House under the care of an Honorary Surgeon. Although every inducement is held out, it does not receive the support of the expectant mothers it deserves. There still exists an indifference almost amounting to a prejudice to seeking advice or guidance before the event. Continuous education alone will overcome it. The following are a few of the details of the work for 1924 :—

- 424 babies were entered on the books.
- 2382 attendances by infants.
- 999 consultations.
- 78 ante-natal consultations.
- 8 deaths of babies on the books.
- 312 pints of fresh milk were given.
- 8897 lb. packets of dried milk were given.
- 14575 lb. packets of dried milk were sold.
- 105 4 oz. pots of virol were given.
- 1719 4 oz. pots of virol were sold.
- 18 maternity bags were lent.
- 347 articles of clothing distributed to necessitous cases.
- 154 oz. emulsion were given.
- 35 bottles of Horlicks sold.
- 60 bottles of emulsion sold.

The Health Visitors' work is summarised thus :—

Primary Visits	...	...	...	...	819
Re-visits	...	...	2889	{under 1 year, over 1 year,	905 1984
Still-births	...	...	...	...	35
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	168
Attandances at Centre	...	...	...	...	391
Visits to Workshops	...	...	...	...	31
Interviews	...	...	...	...	574
Ante-Natal Visits...	...	...	...	...	34
Puerperal Fever Visits	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	593

(b) **Day Nurseries.**—There is 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 School 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	11	—	11
No. of cases admitted to Pulmonary Hospitals	36	—	36
No. of cases admitted to General Hospitals...	11	13	24
No. of cases granted Skin Hospital Treatment	8	3	11
No. of cases granted X-Ray examination ...	6	4	10
No. of cases granted Dispensary Supervision, with provision of Special Nourishment...	1	—	1
No. of cases granted Dispensary Supervision or Dispensary Treatment...	273	85	358
No. of cases under supervision on 31st December, 1924	206	83	289
Pulmonary	131	6	137
Non-Pulmonary	57	71	128
Combined (Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary)	188	6	24
	206	83	289

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
N.S.P.C.C.	...	...	3	3	0
Total	...	...	£117	12	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.—Four 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 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 ...	5	22	27
Sputum ...	1	8	9
Faeces ...	—	—	—
Blood Test	—	1	1

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. Twenty-eight doses were supplied during the year.

## INFLUENZA VACCINE.

Influenza vaccine is stocked for the free use of local medical practitioners. Their attention has been called to the fact. 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 :	
Part II., Sections 22, 30 and 33	{ By Order of the Local Government Board, dated 1st May, 1913, which Order repealed the fol- lowing 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.
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 Habitation 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, 19·85 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	...	...	...	9709
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	8535
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	853
Privies	...	...	...	150
Pails	...	...	...	7

Two hundred and twenty-one 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 was in the hands of the Borough Surveyor till December. House refuse removal was carried out by the Health Department up to the same date. A Cleansing Department was then formed to undertake these duties including the Destructor

### (1) Ashpits and Bins in the District :—

Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	4000
Wet Ashpits	...	...	...	70
Bins	...	...	...	2025

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

Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	105,290
Ashpits emptied	...	...	...	43,574
Loads removed	...	...	...	11,143
Weight of Refuse	...	...	...	15,933 tons
Dealt with at Destructor	...	...	...	10,660 tons
Delivered to Tips	...	...	...	5,273 tons

## (e) Canal Boats Acts.

Inspected ... ..	60
Registered and in use ... ..	149
No New Boats was registered ... ..	—
No infringements was reported ... ..	—

## (f) Slaughter-houses.

Registered ... ..	13
Licensed ... ..	6
Total ... ..	19

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 eighty-seven 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 .....	26	1	20	1
Erysipelas .....	27	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	133	3	93	2
Enteric Fever.....	3	1	2	—
Puerperal Fever.....	3	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	—	—	—
Chicken-pox (voluntary)	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	40	46	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	6	—	5	—

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 twenty-nine premises were disinfected during the year, on account of the following diseases :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	125
Enteric Fever	..	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	24
Phthisis	...	...	...	65
Cancer	...	...	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	..	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	..	..	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—
Schools :—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	1
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	3

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

There are 49 Cowkeepers registered and 28 purveyors of milk not keeping cows. One hundred and sixty-four 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 1924 the following samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Milk	...	...	...	63
Butter	...	...	...	10
Margarine	...	...	...	13
Lard	...	...	...	9
Cheese	...	...	...	14
Pepper	...	...	...	9
Cocoa	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	8
Cream of Tartar	...	...	...	3
Bicarbonate of Soda	...	...	...	5
Baking Powder	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	137

Four prosecutions for the sale of adulterated milk were undertaken, with a conviction in each case.

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

Beef	...	...	...	4584 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	200 „
Fish	...	...	...	19052 „
Fruit	...	...	...	1230 „
Rabbits	...	...	...	90 „

(k) **Summary of Inspections.**—

In connection with Infectious Diseases (a) Primary	...	199
(b) Revisits	...	304
Under Section 17 Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909	...	Nil
Slaughter-houses	...	187
Piggeries	...	161
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	101
Milk Shops	...	63
Bakehouses...	...	98
Common Lodging-houses	...	12
Houses let in lodgings	...	46
Vans and Tents	...	18
Offensive Trades	...	190
Factories	...	20
Workshops and Workplaces	...	181
Schools	...	73

Smoke Observations...	...	...	...	...	41
Ice Cream Makers	...	...	...	...	47
Canal boats	...	...	...	...	60
Ashpits emptied	...	...	...	...	43574
Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	...	105290

## (l) Notices Served.

(a) Informal.	...	...	...	798
(b) Statutory	...	...	...	265

## (m) Nuisances.

Number dealt with	...	...	3098
,, reported to Health Committee			761
,, abated after notice	...		652
,, ,, without notice	...		2446

The nuisances arose in connection with the following conditions :—

Defective House Drains	...	...	...	772
,, Gullies	...	...	...	391
,, Sink Pipes	...	...	...	150
,, Water Closets	...	...	...	587
,, Privies	...	...	...	40
,, Spouting	...	...	...	304
,, Roofs	...	...	...	202
,, Pavements, Channelling and Yards	...	...	...	58
Dis-repair of Houses	...	...	...	307
Filthy Houses	...	...	...	12
Damp Houses	..	...	...	202
Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	..	24
Dis-repair of Ashpits	...	...	...	49

## 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 Nurses	.. Miss A. B. Belyea.	Children's Training C. M. B., R. S. I., Cer- tificate for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses	School Nurse. ...
do.	...Miss C. A. Smith..	General and Fever Training	do.
do.	.. Miss A. N. Boydell.	General Training C. M. B. Cert. Q. V. J. I.	do.
do.	...Miss L. M. Goulden.	General Training and C. M. B.	do.
Clerk	...S. Cunningham		

## 9.—HOUSING.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) by private enterprise ... ..	106
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme ... ..	18

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

60

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.—

*Inspection—*

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	1054
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... ..	100
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	Nil
(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 ... ..	1054

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 ... ..	689
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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	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners ... ..	Nil
(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
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*B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	265
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by Owners .. .. .	228
(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 ...	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(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 1924—Conversion of privies.  
Chief Sanitary Requirements of District—Houses and completion of  
Conversions.

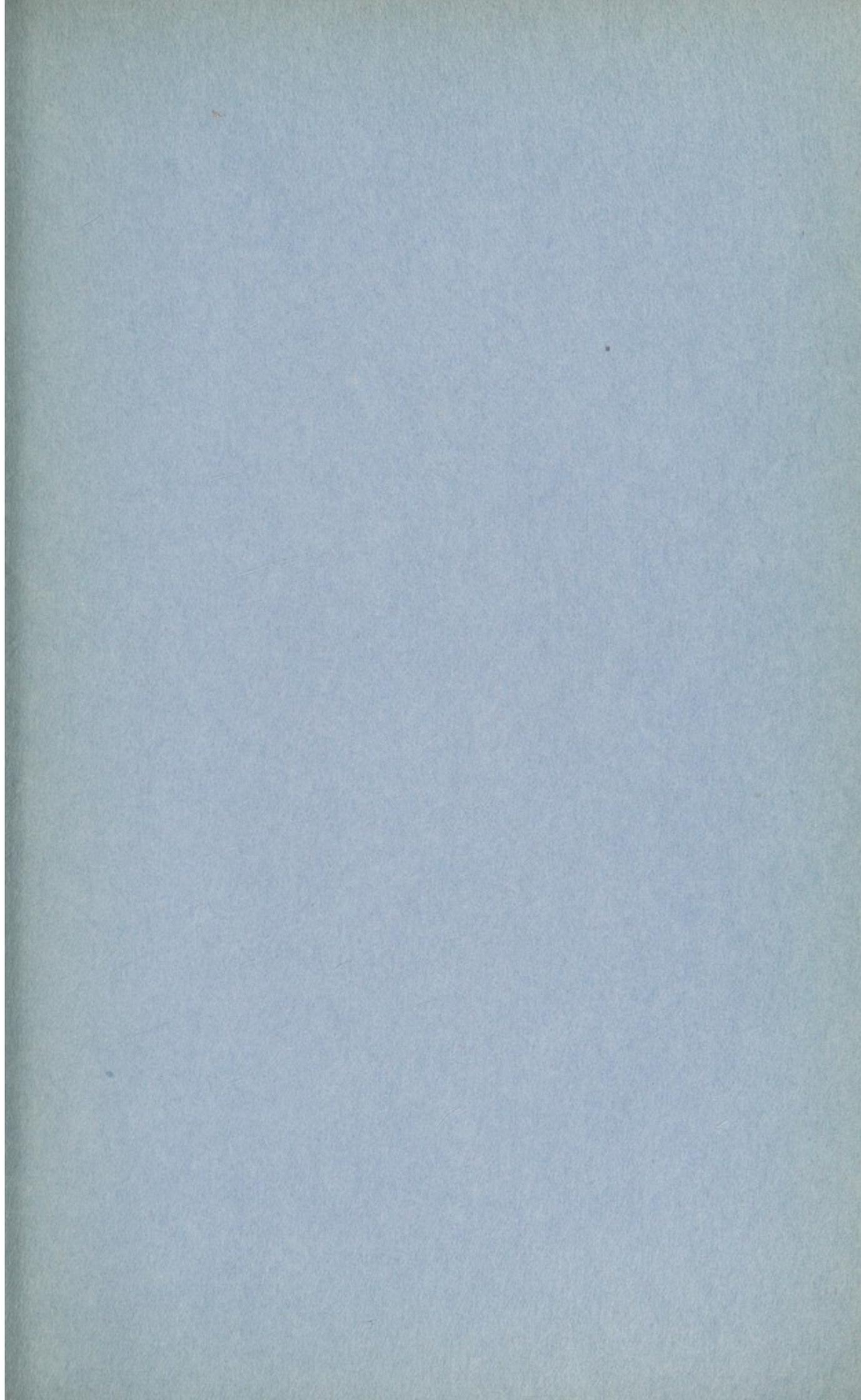
I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. CLAY BECKITT,  
Medical Officer of Health.







ms.