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BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

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*Annual Report*

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OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

AND OF

**The Inspector of Nuisances**

FOR THE YEAR

1912.

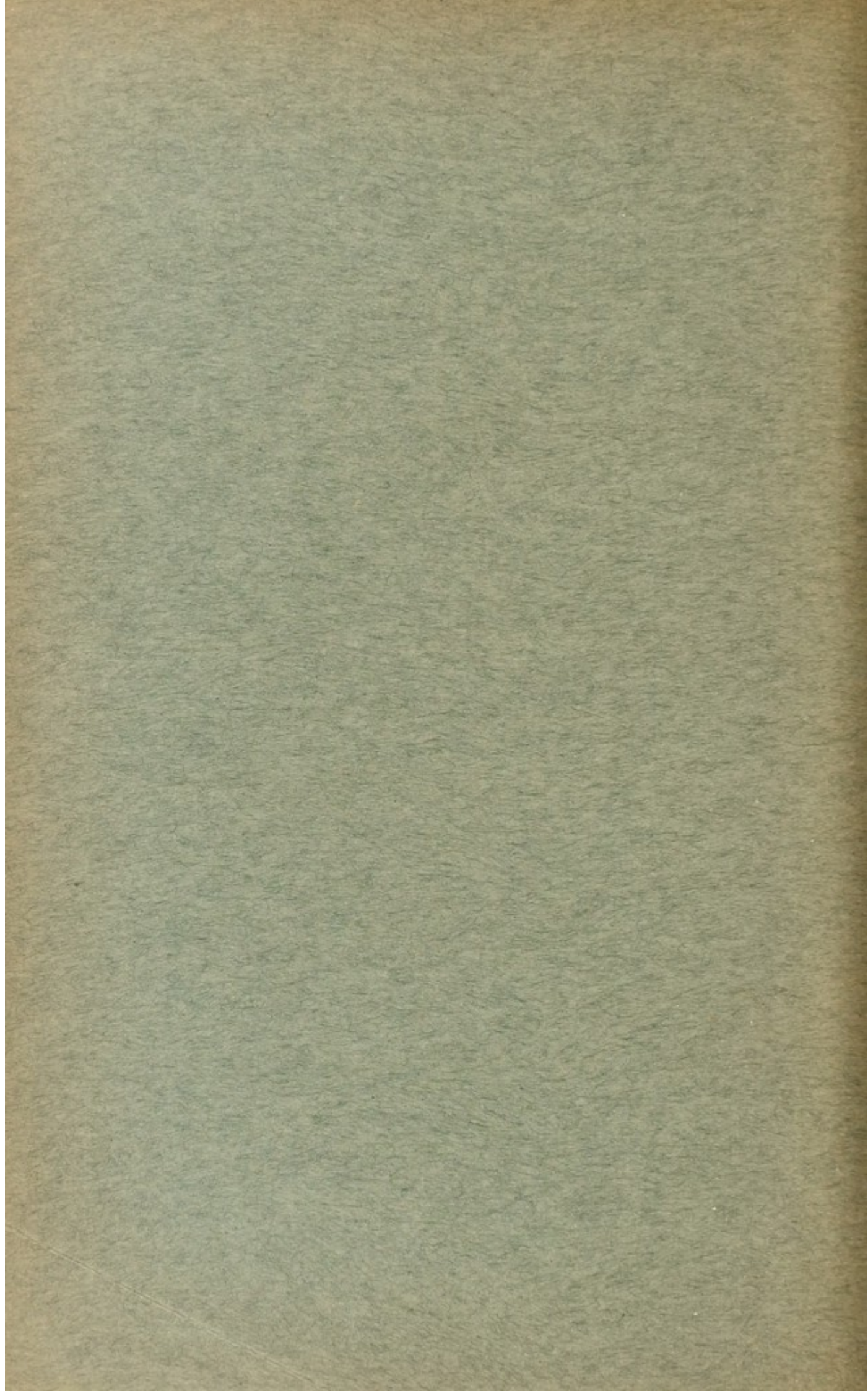
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PRESTON :

MATHER BROS., Printers, &c., 31, Lune Street.

1913.



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MEMBERS OF  
**THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

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THE MAYOR,  
(Councillor J. H. WOOD).

Alderman EDWARD JACKSON (Chairman).

Councillor JOHN MATHER ( Vice-Chairman).

Alderman S. Kent.

Councillor W. HEYWOOD.

„ A. HILTON.

„ T. J. HILTON.

„ J. E. HILTON.

„ A. McDONALD.

„ F. MONK.

„ J. PEARSON.

„ J. TOMLINSON.

„ H. L. WHITESTONE.

Medical Officer of Health ... FREDK. J. WHEELDON, M.R.C.S.

Inspector Nuisances...CHARLES HENRY NORTON, A.S.R.I.

Health Visitor..... NURSE TORROP.

Clerk ..... Miss A. LEONARD.

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1912.

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Post Office Buildings,

Middleton,

February 28th, 1913.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough, for the year 1912.

The Birth Rate shows a further decrease from that of the previous year of 1.8 per 1,000, being the lowest recorded, with the exception of 1906; and the actual number of births registered in the Borough has only been less in the years 1904, 1906, and 1907.

The Death Rate is, however, very low this year—15.1 per 1,000. The lowest rate previously recorded being only .5 less.

The Infantile Death Rate also presents a much more satisfactory result, in that it is 64 per 1,000 Births less than last year, and only in two years previous has it been lower than this year. This is principally due to the absence of any epidemic of Summer Diarrhœa.

There has been a considerable decrease also in the number of Infectious Cases Notified, and with the exception of Measles, which has been very prevalent on three occasions during the year, a very satisfactory, comparative, freedom from infectious disease in the Borough during the year.

Nurse Hoyle's resignation of the joint post of Health Visitor and School Nurse, took effect at the end of May, and Nurse Torrop commenced her duties as full-time Health Visitor in June. This arrangement has been very successful, and fuller attention has been paid to the necessary visiting in connection with the Notification of Births Act, and the cases of Tuberculosis, than was possible under the previous conditions of part time work.

I again desire to express my thanks to the members of the Staff for their loyalty and their indispensable co-operation in the ever increasing work of the department, and also to the Committee for the courtesy and consideration I have invariably experienced.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours Faithfully,

F. J. WHEELDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

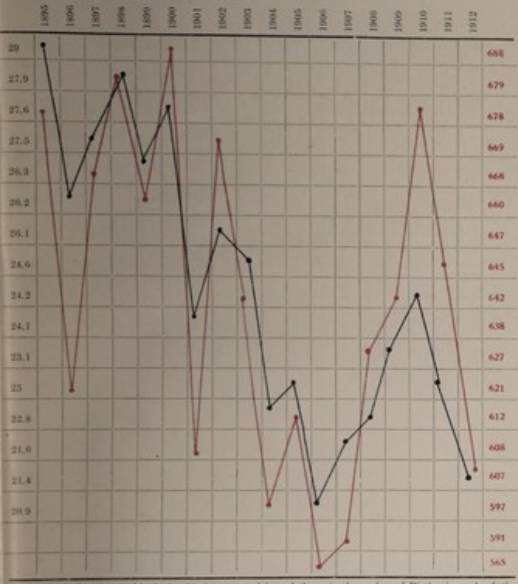


Diagram showing in black the Birth-rate, and in red the actual number of Births in each of the last eighteen years.

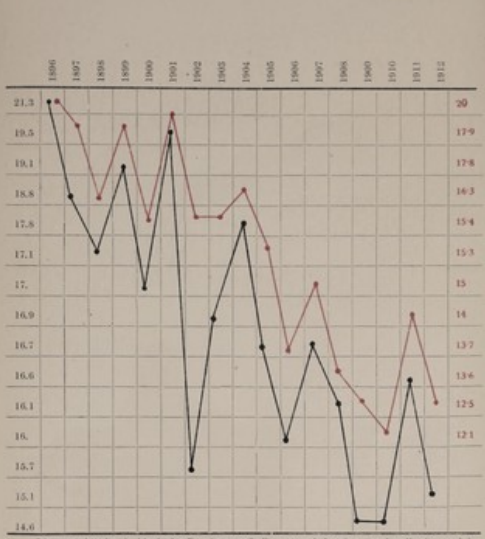


Diagram showing in black the Death-rate of all persons belonging to the district, and in red of persons whose deaths were registered in the Borough for the past seventeen years.

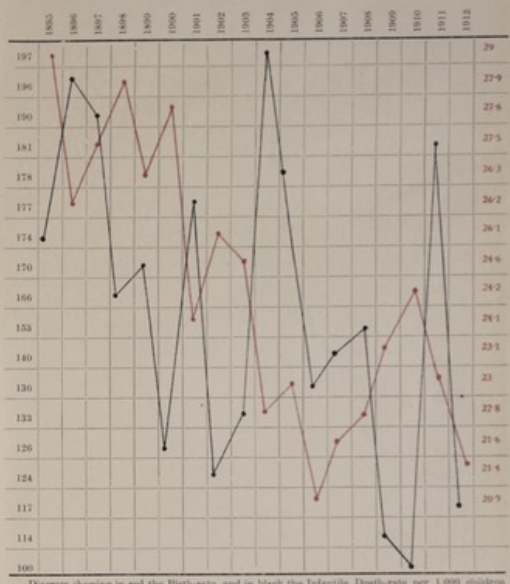



Diagram showing in red the Birth-rate, and in black the Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 children born, for the past eighteen years.





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**BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.****Area 4,741 Acres.**

**SITUATION AND SOIL.**—Middleton is situated in the County of Lancashire, about six miles North of Manchester, five miles South of Rochdale, and four miles West of Oldham.

It is connected with each of these towns by a service of tram-cars, and is the terminus of a Branch line from the main line to Yorkshire from Manchester. The greater part of the Borough lies in the watershed of the Irk, whose tributaries, the Whit Brook and Wince Brook, join it in the centre of the town.

The Borough is hilly, and the height above ordnance datum varies from 230 feet at Rhodes to 350 feet at Middleton Junction, and about 500 feet at Hebers and Slattocks. The soil is generally clay, and in some parts of the Borough is gravel and sand. The climate is humid.

The industries are Cotton Spinning, Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, and some Weaving. The population is chiefly of the artisan class in the town, and there is a fairly extensive agricultural population in the surrounding district.

**POPULATION.**—Census 1911, 27,983. Estimated 1912, 28,300.

The Borough is divided for Municipal and Poor-Law Purposes into Six Wards:—

	Census.	Estimated.	Acreage.	Number of persons to an acre.
North Ward .....	4359	4372	1835	2.37
Central Ward .....	4377	4426	134	32.6
South Ward .....	4674	4762	677	6.9
East Ward .....	5683	5747	494	11.5
Parkfield Ward .....	5061	5118	404	12.2
West Ward .....	3829	3872	1197	3.2

The average density of the population for the whole Borough is 5.9 per acre.

HOUSES. Census 1911, 6,547 inhabited, 211 empty, and 24 in the course of construction. Average number of persons per house, 4.27.

**Rateable Value — £126,939.**

**Consolidated District Rate 4/7 in the £, made up as follows :—**

s.	d.	
2	2	in the £ for Improvement Purposes (including 11d. in the £ for Water Deficiency).
1	1	in the £ for Sewer Purposes.
0	5	„ Lighting.
0	11	„ Highway.
<hr/>		
4	7	Total.
<hr/>		

**Poor Rate 3/7 in the £, made up as follows :—**

s.	d.	
1	0	for relief of the poor.
0	9	County Rate
1	9½	Borough Rate (including 1/1½ for Education).
0	0½	Other Expenses of Overseers, Salaries, &c.
<hr/>		
3	7	Total
<hr/>		

**Poor Law Relief.** The amount expended on Poor Law Relief (out-door) during the year was £612.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR, 1912.**

Population — Census 1911, 27,983.

Estimated 1912, 28,300.

Births ...	{	Males .....	290	Total .....	607
		Females .....	317		

Annual Rate per 1,000 of population .....21.4

Deaths ..	{	Males .....	225	Total .....	428
		Females .....	203		

Annual Rate per 1,000 of Population .....15.1

Excess of Births over Deaths ..... 179

Deaths of Infants under a year old ..... 71

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births ..... 117

Deaths of Children aged 1-5 years ..... 28

Total Deaths from seven Principal Zymotic Diseases ..... 17

Annual Rate per 1,000 Inhabitants ..... .6

Total Deaths from Tubercular Diseases ..... 49

Annual Rate per 1,000 Inhabitants ..... 1.7

Total Deaths from Respiratory Diseases..... 113

Annual Rate per 1,000 Inhabitants ..... 3.9

Total Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified ..... 55

**BIRTHS.**

The number of Births registered in the Borough during the year was 600. Of these 287 were boys and 313 girls. To these must be added 7 births transferred to the district, but registered outside. The total was therefore 607, and the Birth Rate per 1,000 inhabitants 21.4. There is a decrease of 38 in number, and 1.8 in rate from the corresponding figures for 1911.

The Birth Rate is the lowest recorded in the Borough, with the exception of that for the year 1906, which was .5 per 1,000 less.

~~The Birth Rate for England and Wales was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1912, as against 24.4 in 1911. This is again the lowest recorded, and the rate for Middleton is \_\_\_\_\_ per 1,000 lower.~~

The Illegitimate Births registered amount to 17, and 5 of the transferred Births were illegitimate. The total was therefore 23, a decrease of 2 from the number in the previous year.

There were 12 multiple Births in the year—all twins. In ten cases they were boy and girl, and in the other two, 2 boys and 2 girls.

The Ward distribution of the Births registered in the Borough were as follows :—

	No. of Births.	Rate per 1,000
North Ward .....	108	24.7
Central Ward .....	92	20.7
South Ward .....	91	19.1
East Ward .....	117	20.3
Parkfield Ward .....	109	21.3
West Ward .....	83	21.4

The Notifications received under the Notification of Births Act, which was adopted in the Borough in 1908, amounted to 574. Of these 29 were still-born children.

Number Notified by Doctors .....	224
„ „ Midwives .....	326
„ „ Parents .....	24
„ not Notified .....	41

The number of un-Notified Births is again 33 per cent. less than in the previous year, and the same practice has been followed, of sending a letter to the parents of the child, calling attention to the neglect of their legal obligations.

### DEATHS.

The Deaths registered in the Borough amounted to 354, a decrease of 40 from the number for 1911, an increase of 14 over the number for 1910, of 6 over that for 1909 ; and a decrease of 31 from the figures for 1908.

The rate per 1,000 of Population was 12.5, in comparison with 14, 12.1, 12.5, and 13.6 in the four previous years.

There were 74 Deaths of Middleton people who died in other districts, which deaths have been transferred to Middleton. This number compares with 74, 69, 59, and 69, the numbers transferred in 1911, 1910, 1909, and 1908.

The total deaths of Middleton people during the year was, therefore, 354 plus 74=428 ; and the Death rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 15.1. This rate is the lowest recorded, with the exception of the years 1909 and 1910, when the rate was 14.6.

It is 1.5 per 1,000 less than that of the previous year, ~~and is per 1,000 higher than the rate per 1,000 for England and Wales.~~

Of the total deaths 225 were males and 203 females. The excess of births over deaths was 179, of which 65 were males and 114 females. This, the natural increase of the population of the Borough for the year, compares as follows with that of the four previous years.

#### NATURAL INCREASE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Year 1912.....	65	114	179
„ 1911.....	108	71	179
„ 1910.....	159	119	269
„ 1909.....	106	129	235
„ 1908.....	84	99	183

The number of Illegitimate Children who died in the year amounted to 9. Of these seven were under 6 months old, two of which died in the Workhouse, and the other two at 13 months and 3 years respectively. Of the multiple births (12), both babies died in three cases, and one in each of four others. In one of the three cases the babies died in the Workhouse.

The Ward distribution was as follows :—

	Registered in Boro'	Registered outside Boro'	Total.	Rate per 1,000.
North Ward .....	43	11	54	12.3
Central Ward .....	55	10	65	14.9
South Ward .....	78	11	89	18.7
East Ward .....	62	10	72	12.5
Parkfield Ward .....	74	25	99	19.3
West Ward .....	42	7	49	12.6
TOTAL .....	354	74	428	15.1

The Death Rates for each Ward give practically opposite results to those of the year 1911, in that, in 1912 North and West Wards have the lowest rates, whilst in 1911 the same Wards had the highest rates.

The 74 persons whose deaths were registered outside the Borough, died in the following Institutions and places:—

Oldham Union Hospital.....	24
Oldham Children's Hospital.....	6
Oldham Union Asylum.....	12
County Asylum, Winwick.....	2
County Asylum, Prestwich.....	1
Rochdale Workhouse .....	1
Bury Workhouse.....	1
Manchester Royal Infirmary .....	11
Manchester Northern Hospital.....	1
Manchester St. Mary's Hospital.....	1
Oldham Royal Infirmary.....	3
Marland Hospital (fever).....	1
Nursing Home (Yorkplace).....	1
Nursing Home (Swinton Grove).....	1
Home for Incurables (Harrogate).....	1

Three Cases from Manchester, and one each from Chadderton, Blackpool, Colwyn Bay and Penmaenmawr—7.

Total ..... 74

#### DEATHS ARISING FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Deaths from this class of causes amounted to 17, of which 15 were attributed to Measles, and one each to Enteric Fever, and Zymotic Diarrhœa. The figures for the last six years are as follows:—

	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907
Number of Deaths .....	17	71	39	17	43	41
Rate per 1,000 .....	.6	2.5	1.4	.6	1.85	1.5
Percentage of all Deaths ....	4	15.2	9.5	4.2	9.7	9

The following Table gives the numbers for each disease for the past five years, and the Ward distribution of the Deaths which occurred in 1912.

Disease.	No. of Deaths.					Ward Distribu- tion, 1912.					
	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	N.	C.	S.	E.	P.	W.
Small Pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	5	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	1	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever.....	1	6	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	17	4	16	17	15	1	1	6	1	4	2
Whooping Cough ....	4	—	6	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa .....	15	5	8	32	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total .....	43	17	39	71	17	2	1	6	2	4	2

There were no Deaths during the year from either Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria, and only one Death from Diarrhœa.

#### DEATHS ARISING FROM PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

From this class of disease there were 49 deaths, the rate per 1,000 of the population was 1.7, and the percentage of all deaths 11.5. This is a further increase over the figures for 1911 of six deaths; the rate per 1,000 is .2 higher, and the percentage of all deaths 2.3 higher. Of the 49 deaths, eight occurred outside the Borough, six in the Workhouse Infirmary, one in Prestwich Asylum, and one at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

The following Table gives the figures for the past ten years :—

All Tubercular Diseases .....	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Number of Deaths ...	44	41	56	51	51	53	46	33	43	49
Rate per 1,000 .....	1.7	1.5	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.7
Phthisis only.										
Number of Deaths.	30	27	40	42	43	42	28	25	31	37
Rate per 1,000 ....	1.19	1.02	1.5	1.55	1.57	1.52	1.	.89	1.1	1.3



The age incidence was :—

	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular Disease.	Total.
Under a year old .....	—	1	1
1 to 2 years .....	—	3	3
2 to 5 years .....	—	—	—
5 to 15 years .....	—	3	3
15 to 25 years .....	5	—	5
25 to 45 years .....	16	3	19
45 to 65 years .....	16	1	17
Over 65 years old .....	—	1	1
Total .....	37	12	49

The Deaths from Tuberculosis other than Phthisis were certified as follows :—

Tubercular Meningitis .....	4
Tubercular Peritonitis .....	3
Tubercular Laryngitis .....	1
Spinal Caries .....	2
Hip Disease .....	1
General Tuberculosis .....	1
Total .....	12

The Ward distribution of the persons who died in Middleton was :—

	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular Cases.	Total.
North Ward .....	4	4	8
Central Ward .....	4	2	6
South Ward .....	7	—	7
East Ward .....	8	3	11
Parkfield Ward .....	5	2	7
West Ward .....	2	—	2
Total .....	30	11	41

## DEATHS ARISING FROM CANCER AND OTHER MALIGNANT DISEASES.

During the year there were 21 deaths attributed to this class of disease. The rate per 1,000 was .74, and the percentage of all deaths 5. These figures gave an increase of 5 deaths over those of the year 1911.

The Sex, Age, and Region Affected were :—

	Males.	Females.	Ages at death.
Breast .....	—	3	42, 56, 58.
Uterus .....	—	2	40, 59.
Vagina.....	—	2	68, 73.
Stomach .....	—	2	53, 75.
Œsophagus.....	1	—	74,
Liver .....	5	2	37, 51, 52, 53, 59, 68, 71
Bowel .....	2	1	57, 59, 86.
Larynx .....	—	1	51.
Total .....	8	13	

The deaths attributed to malignant disease show a steady decrease in the last seven years, i.e.:—

Year.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Per cent. of all Deaths.
1906.....	27	1	6.2
1907.....	30	1.1	6.6
1908.....	28	1	7
1909.....	27	.98	6.6
1910.....	22	.78	5.4
1911.....	16	.57	3.4
1912.....	21	.74	5

### DEATHS ARISING FROM DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

From this group of diseases there were 113 deaths at the rate of 3.9 per 1,000 inhabitants, and a percentage of 26.4 of all deaths. The figures for the last eight years were :—

Year.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Per cent of all Deaths.
1905.....	105	3.9	23.6
1906.....	74	2.7	17.1
1907.....	106	3.9	23.2
1908.....	85	3.1	19.1
1909.....	88	3.2	21.6
1910.....	74	2.6	18
1911.....	71	2.5	15
1912.....	113	3.9	26.4

Sixty-three deaths were due to Bronchitis, thirty to Pneumonia, seventeen to Broncho Pneumonia, and three to other diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

The age incidence was :—

	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Broncho Pneumonia	Other Diseases.
Under a year old .....	6	2	5	1
1 to 2 years .....	1	...	5	...
2 to 5 years .....	1	2	...	...
5 to 15 years .....	...	1	1	...
15 to 25 years .....	...	4	...	...
25 to 45 years .....	4	6	1	...
45 to 65 years .....	12	9	2	...
Over 65 years.....	39	6	3	2
Total .....	63	30	17	3

The Ward distribution was :—

North Ward .....	15
Central Ward .....	20
South Ward .....	20
East Ward .....	18
Parkfield Ward .....	28
West Ward .....	12

### DEATHS ARISING FROM INFLUENZA.

The number of Deaths attributed to Influenza as a primary cause, was five ; but in addition four other cases occurred where the disease was certified as a secondary cause of death. In one case only, was the disease uncomplicated. In the other cases the complications were certified as Pneumonia in four ; and Bronchitis, Diabetes, Meningitis, and Heart Disease, respectively, in each of the remaining four.

DIABETES MELLITUS—There were eight deaths from this cause.

CEREBRAL HÆMORRHAGE—Twenty-six deaths were attributed to this cause.

### LONGEVITY.

Of the total deaths, 123, 28.9 per cent. were 65 years old, or over. There were 71 deaths of persons whose age was between 70 and 80 years ; 19 between 80 and 90 years ; and one over 90.

Sixteen of the deaths over 65 years occurred in the Workhouse, and 34 were attributed to Senile Decay.

### INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The Uncertified Deaths are those in which no certificate was given by a Registered Medical Practitioner, nor an inquest held by the Coroner as to the cause of the death. In all cases the Coroner made an Official Enquiry.

There were 24 Inquests and 7 Enquiries. Four of the Inquests were held outside the Borough, in the cases of residents of Middleton.

The causes of death in all the cases were stated to be :—

Natural Causes .....	21
Accident .....	3
Found Drowned .....	2
Suicide .....	5

The Accidental Deaths were—One each, from Burns, Septic Poisoning from Injured Elbow, and Gas Poisoning.

The Suicides were 2 each by hanging and drowning, and 1 from poisoning.

The ages were :—

	Inquest.	Enquiry.
Under a year old .....	2	2
5 to 15 years .....	2	...
15 to 25 years .....	3	...
25 to 45 years .....	2	2
45 to 65 years .....	10	1
Over 65 years.....	5	2
Total .....	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There was a very considerable decrease in the number of deaths of infants under a year old, from the number in 1911. In comparison with 117, a number only exceeded three times in any year of the past sixteen, there were 71 only, and with the exception of the year 1910 this is the lowest number of infantile deaths ever recorded.

The rate calculated on the number of Births Registered in, and transferred to, Middleton during the same period, was 117 per 1,000, and the percentage of all deaths was 16.6.

The following Tables give for comparison the figures for the past 18 Years, the annual rate per 1,000 births, and the percentage of all deaths :

Year.	No. of Births.	No. of Deaths of Infants	Annual Infantile Death Rate.	Percentage of all Deaths.
1895	669	117	174	25.8
1896	621	123	196	24.3
1897	660	126	190	27.9
1898	679	113	166	27.1
1899	647	110	170	23.3
1900	688	87	126	20.5
1901	608	107	177	21.7
1902	668	83	124	20
1903	638	90	133	20.5
1904	597	119	197	25.4
1905	612	109	178	24.5
1906	565	77	136	17.8
1907	591	83	140	18.2
1908	627	96	153	21.6
1909	642	73	114	18
1910	678	68	100	16.5
Average for 17 years.....	645	117	181	25.1
	637	100	156	22.2
1912	607	71	117	16.6

The number of deaths of children under a year old, the Infantile Mortality rate, the number of Births and the Birth Rate per 1,000 inhabitants in each ward was :—

	Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000 inhabitants.	Deaths under 1 year old	Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births.
North Ward ....	108	24.7	7	65
Central Ward ...	92	20.7	10	108
South Ward .....	91	19.1	11	120
East Ward .....	117	20.3	11	94
Parkfield Ward .	109	21.3	23	211
West Ward .....	83	21.4	9	108

Parkfield Ward again, as in last year's Report, presents the highest Infantile Death Rate. North Ward had a remarkably low Mortality, although the Birth-rate was the highest in that Ward.

The figures for the last seven years of the more common causes of death, were as follows :—

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Infectious Diseases	6	11	4	2	7	13	3
Diarrhœal Diseases	19	17	23	8	11	39	11
Wasting Diseases...	14	8	15	19	15	9	10
Respiratory Diseases .....	9	15	16	13	13	15	13
Premature Birth ...	8	13	25	18	11	14	15
Convulsions .....	12	9	4	5	4	9	7

There was a decrease in the number of deaths from Infectious and Diarrhœal Diseases of 38, from the number for the year 1911.

Twenty-five babies died before they were a month old, and of these thirteen were prematurely born.

Four deaths were investigated by the Coroner, an inquest being held in two. They were all deaths from Natural Causes.

There were 28 deaths of children, aged 1 to 5 years, as compared with 48 in 1911; and 42, 38, 25, 54, 48, and 54 in each of the past six years.

	Ages 2-2		2-3		3-4		Total.	Total.
								1911
Infectious Diseases .....	8	...	3	...	—	...	11	21
Diarrhœal Diseases ....	1	...	—	...	—	...	1	1
Wasting Diseases.....	1	...	—	...	—	...	1	2
Respiratory Diseases ...	6	...	—	...	3	...	9	10
Convulsions .....	2	...	—	...	—	...	2	3
Tuberculosis .....	3	...	—	...	—	...	3	5
Purpura .....	—	...	—	...	1	...	1	—
Other Diseases and Accidents .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	6
Total .....	21	...	3	...	4	...	28	48

All the deaths from Infectious Diseases were cases of Measles, usually complicated by Broncho Pneumonia.

Nurse Torrop Reports on the subject as follows :—

“ In connection with the Notification of Births Act there have been 1,440 visits paid, the number of re-visits depending on the condition of the home, in some cases no second visits were necessary, and were not paid unless specially requested to do so.

Of the Infants whose births were notified during the year, 41 have died ; 22 within a few days of birth. 396 infants were breast fed at the time of the first visit, and 118 brought up by hand. The majority of mothers are too fond of giving their babies Patent Foods, thinking that milk does not contain sufficient nourishment. An excellent table for hand fed infants is drawn up in the book of instructions given to each mother.

The milk covers supplied during the summer months have been much appreciated, and been in constant use. In nine cases I have found the bottle with a long india-rubber tube used, and in six cases I have persuaded the mother to provide a boat-shaped bottle in its stead.

Thrush, or Frog, as it is popularly called, is much too common an ailment, being regarded by the Mothers as a natural accompaniment of infancy. Midwives could do much to help in this matter by teaching the mother how to keep the Baby's mouth clean, and impressing on her the necessity of doing so.

A baby with a comforter is the rule, unfortunately, not the exception. It owes its popularity to the fact that it stops the baby crying, and so saves the mother the trouble of ascertaining the cause and endeavouring to remedy it. The excellent leaflets, published by the N.S.P.C.C., have been distributed in connection with this matter.

The Dorcas Bag, provided by the Middleton Poor Children's Aid Society, has been lent 20 times, and returned in a



satisfactory condition, except on one occasion. These bags are now provided with woollen vests for the babies, instead of cotton shirts as formerly, and I am persuading the mothers to buy them afterwards, and so clothe their babies correctly from the first. The barras also are now made of flannelette, as being more hygienic. The 30s. Maternity Benefit gives one a great opportunity of impressing on the mothers the duty of providing suitable clothing for their infants."

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND NOTIFICATIONS.

The number of cases of Infectious diseases during the year, excluding Phthisis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum, was 55; a further decrease of 24 from the number in 1911.

The following Table gives the number of cases notified in the last ten years :—

	Years	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Small Pox .....		31	3	13	13	...	...	1	...	6	...
Scarlet Fever .....		52	535	73	81	43	23	20	100	48	36
Diphtheria .....		17	6	14	14	54	33	18	11	6	3
Enteric Fever.....		2	5	4	5	7	9	18	6	3	5
Erysipelas .....		24	22	22	15	8	19	26	20	14	9
Puerperal Fever.....		1	2	2	5	5	1	1	...	2	2
Total .....		127	573	128	133	117	85	84	137	79	55

The Notifications received each month from the separate Wards and the cases sent to Hospital are shown in this table :—

Table showing the Notifications received each month from each Ward. \* The asterisks indicate cases sent to Hospital.

Disease	Scarlet Fever.					Diphtheria.					Enteric Fever.					Erysipelas.					Puerperal Fever				
	N.	C.	S.	E.	P.	W.	N.	C.	S.	E.	P.	W.	N.	C.	S.	E.	P.	W.	N.	C.	S.	E.	P.	W.	
January ...	1	1	...	...	...	7***	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
February ...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
March ...	***	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
April ...	4*	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
May ...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
June ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
July ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
August ...	...	...	...	2**	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
September ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
October ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
November ...	...	...	...	...	...	3***	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
December ...	2**	2	2	1*	3**	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals ...	8	6	2	3	5	12	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	
Sent to Hospital	6	1	...	3	2	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

36—20\*

3—1\*

5—3\*

9

2

**SCARLET FEVER.**

Thirty-six cases were notified, a decrease of 12 from the number in 1911.

The Cases were again very mild in type, and made good recoveries without complications. Twenty cases were treated at Marland Hospital.

The ages of the patients affected were:—

1 to 5 years.....	12
5 to 10 years.....	20
10 to 15 years.....	3
15 to 20 years.....	1
Total .....	<u>36</u>

More than one case occurred in each of eight houses. There were three in each of two, and two in each of six. There were, therefore, only 26 houses infected.

The Sanitary arrangement in the 26 houses were—Water Closets, 6 ; Waste Water Closets, 15 ; Sanitary Can, 2 ; Privy, 3.

Three houses were farms, and two had very bad drainage with no traps. In one case the house drain was in a very bad condition, and the drainage had formed a cesspool against the side of the house, owing to the complete collapse and consequent stoppage of the old brick drain.

In no other cases were the drains found to be faulty. One house was found to be very dirty.

The milk supply to the various houses was delivered from 15 different farms, and in two cases, only condensed milk was used.

The following is a list of the Schools, and the number of cases where the children affected, or the children from the infected houses attended:—

Rhodes Infant .....	6	Elm Street .....	2
Rhodes Council .....	4	Birch .....	1
Thornham.....	5	Parkfield .....	3
St. Leonard's .....	2	Durnford Street.....	4
Tonge .....	1	Wesleyan (Middleton Junction).....	1

**DIPHTHERIA.**

• Three cases only occurred in the year, one each in South, West, and Parkfield Wards.

The ages of the persons affected were, 5, 4, and 3 years respectively. The milk supply came from two farms, and the sanitary arrangements were W.W.C., 2, and Sanitary Can, 1. They each attended a different school, those affected being Rhodes Infants, St. Peter's, and Durnford Street. In one case the house was found to be very dirty.

The arrangement for the supply of Anti-Diphtheritic Serum free of charge, is continued as in former years.

**ENTERIC FEVER.**

Five cases of this disease occurred, three of which were sent to Hospital, and of these, one died. Two were in Parkfield Ward, and one each on South, Central, and East Wards.

The ages of the patients were : 12, 26, 30, 32, and 54 years.

The Sanitary appliances consisted of Waste Water Closets in each case.

The milk supply was from a different source in each household affected.

The condition of the house was clean in four and fair in one.

**ERYSIPELAS.**

Nine cases were notified, a decrease of five from the number in the previous year.

**PUERPERAL FEVER.**

Two cases occurred, one of which died. The cases were notified to the County Medical Officer, for investigation by the Inspector of Midwives.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case only occurred in the year, and was notified to the County Medical Officer. This baby died.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1912, there has been added to the previous regulations as to Notification of cases of Phthisis from Poor Law Institutions, Hospitals, and Sanatoria, new regulations making the disease compulsorily notifiable by private practitioners.

There have been, therefore, three separate classes of notifications received during the year.

(1.) Poor Law, either of residents of the Borough who were treated in the Workhouse Hospital, or of persons under the care of the District Medical Officer.

The regulations concerning this class came into force in 1909, and four forms have been used for the purpose of notification.

FORM A—to notify the admission of the patient to the Poor Law Infirmary.

FORM B—to notify that the patient is under the treatment of the District Medical Officer.

FORM C—to notify that the patient has left the Poor Law Infirmary, and is made by the Workhouse Master in order to give the patient's new address.

FORM D—is used by the Relieving Officer of the district to notify any change of address of the patient.

The following table gives the number of patients, the Notifications received, and the after history of the case since 1909.

January 1913 is included, because the New Regulations coming into force in February, 1913, alter the method of notification.

	1909	1910	1911	1912	Jan. 1913	Total.
Number of Patients ....	8	5	10	14	2	39
Notifications.....	11	17	12	26	2	68
Form A .....	4	6	3	11	1	25
Form B .....	4	4	6	8	1	23
Form C .....	3	6	3	7	...	19
Form D .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
Died.....	1	4	5	9	1	20
In Workhouse, 1913 ....	1	...	...	...	...	1
In Middleton, 1913 .....	5	...	2	3	1	11
Left District .....	1	1	2	1	...	5

Two notified cases, one from Crumpsall Workhouse, and one from Rochdale Workhouse could not be traced.

The total number of persons notified was 37. Twenty have died and eleven are at present living in Middleton. The apparent error in the figures of the table is due to the fact that some of these cases are in and out of the Workhouse several times, for example: one man who is now living at a lodging-house in Middleton, has, since 1909, been notified ten times.

(2). Hospital and Sanatorium Notifications:—This order came into effect in 1911. Thirteen notifications were received in that year, and of these one died. In 1912 there were 16 notifications, and of these three died, and one left the town. They were all notified from the Manchester Consumption Hospital.

There remain in Middleton, therefore, 24 cases at the beginning of 1913.

(3). Private Practitioners Notifications:—During the year there were 52 cases notified. Of these 29 died, and one left the town. Five cases were notified by Hospital as well as privately, and four cases were notified by the Poor Law Authorities, as well as privately.

The total number of cases in Middleton at the beginning of the year 1913 amounted to :—

Under treatment by the District Medical Officer .....	11
Under treatment at Hospital, or cured.....	24
Under treatment by Private Practitioners	18
	<hr/>
Total .....	53
	<hr/>

Nurse Torrop has visited a number of these cases, and the following is her report on this branch of her work :—

“ I have investigated 59 cases of Phthisis, of these 27 are private ones ; 21 hospital, and 11 Poor Law. As regards sleeping accommodation, in 36 cases the patients shared the bedroom with one or more occupants, and in 19 cases the patient had a room to himself ; of these 19 cases, 9 were private ones, 8 hospital, and 2 Poor Law. The four cases not accounted for were 2 Poor Law ones, who had left the district, and 2 Hospital patients, the latter were at work, and I found the house closed when I called to make inquiries. In 8 of the 36 cases I have mentioned, the sleeping accommodation was very bad. The bedroom being occupied by as many as five people in some instances, seven of these cases were poor law, one Hospital, and 3 of them were living in lodging houses.

The following are examples of the conditions found as regards sleeping accommodation.

Three Poor Law patients in common lodging houses.

A Poor Law patient sleeping with two children, 10 and 6 years old.

A Poor Law patient sleeping in same room as father, boy of 12, and 2 girls, 15 and 13.

A Poor Law patient sleeping with husband, and in same room as mother (71), and two girls, 4 and 10 years old.

Hospital patient sleeping with brother, and another brother sleeping in same room.

Poor Law patient sleeping with husband, and sleeping in same room as three children, 17, 7, and 6 years of age.

It is often difficult to insist on separate bedrooms for various reasons. I must take into consideration the size of the family, the rent they can afford to pay, the difficulty of separating the sexes; in two cases, owing to poverty, only one bedstead was available, and in another case the house was old, and the bedroom over the kitchen was infested with bugs and beetles.

I have rarely found the windows open on inspecting the bedrooms, and I have taken the opportunity to open the windows wide and throw the bedclothes back, giving a practical as well as a theoretical lesson on the value of fresh air and sunshine, and explaining the necessity of airing the room and the bed, on one occasion the bedding was damp with perspiration. The fact that it dirties the curtains is one great objection raised to open windows, and to overcome this difficulty, I have to persuade the careful housewife of the much greater importance of health. I have generally found the patient careful as regards expectoration, the chief means of spreading infection. Sputum bottles are provided when requisite.

I have usually found the people have requested me to call again, and welcomed my visits. My advice has been asked on many matters on which the Doctor in attendance should rightly have been consulted; it is, however, an easy matter to refer people to the proper authority, and I regard it as a very hopeful sign that they should be so ready to ask for advice and help. On a second visit I have frequently found any suggestions I have made have been carried out."

### **NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**

*Measles.*—The importance of this disease, from the point of view of its prevalence, its morbidity, and the serious effect that it has upon the school attendance, is my excuse for reviewing the course followed by this fever during the year 1912, at some length.



From May, 1911, to February, 1912, the Borough was practically free from Measles. The disease appeared at the latter date at Bowlee, and from then till the end of December, there occurred cases during every month, and there were three distinct epidemics.

The number of cases notified by the head teachers of the schools was 222, and these cases were all investigated by Nurse Hoyle up to May, and Nurse Holt from May to the end of the year. In addition a house to house inspection was made at Thornham, and practically every case that occurred in that Parish was accounted for, and an effort was made in other parts of the Borough to find as many as possible of the cases that were not notified. The Nurses are able to do very useful work in this connection, in cautioning the parents and guardians of children against treating the disease in the casual manner which has previously been the custom, and to gradually educate them to the necessity for medical attendance in most cases of measles. There is no doubt that during 1912 many more cases of Measles were treated by the Doctors than ever before, and probably that accounts for the very considerable lower percentage of the cases ending fatally. In 1911, 13 per cent. of the number of cases notified, died, whilst in 1912 only 6 per cent. died. These figures are only approximately correct, as necessarily in the absence of any proper scheme of Notification, a large number of cases are only heard of by me from the Registrars' returns of deaths, but they afford the only evidence on which one can form an opinion.

I do not think there can be any objection to voluntary notification by parents, of cases occurring in their houses, and I would suggest that at the beginning of the next outbreak, the experiment should be tried, by informing the people by means of posters and hand-bills that the notification of all cases is desirable.

The Notifications received from each school in each month, were as follows :—

	Bowlee	National	Parkfield	Thornham	Durnford St.	Elm Street	St. Peter's	St. Gabriel's	Rhodes	Tonge	Total
February ....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
March .....	15	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
April .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
May .....	...	2	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
June .....	...	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	7
July .....	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	6
August .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...	6
September ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
October .....	...	4	...	...	25	...	...	...	2	1	32
November ....	...	37	3	...	22	...	2	1	6	29	100
December ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	6	39
Total ...	16	52	7	10	49	1	6	3	42	36	222

In addition to this number, the other cases found in the course of her visiting by Nurse Holt, and at Thornham in the house to house visitation, amounted to 109, so that a total of 329 cases was accounted for in the year.

The age incidence of the cases was as follows, the groups corresponding roughly with the period before the school age, the period in the Infant school, the period in the upper school, and after leaving school.

Under 4 years .....	35—11%
4 to 7 years .....	226—69%
7 to 13 years .....	58—17%
Over 13 years.....	10— 3%

The deaths from Measles all took place in November, 3 ; and December, 11 ; and one death of a Middleton baby occurred in the Workhouse from Measles complicated with Tuberculosis of the lungs, 5 weeks after the attack of Measles.

The ages at which the disease was fatal were :—

Under 1 year.....	3
Aged 1 to 2 years .....	8
Aged 2 to 3 years .....	3
Aged 5 years .....	1

The two earlier epidemics each occurred in parts of the Borough (Bowlee and Thornham) which are isolated from the rest of the Borough by long distances of open country, and this accounts for the fact that each of these outbreaks was limited to the district concerned.

In the Thornham epidemic there were 59 cases, and, as there had not been for twenty years previously, an outbreak there, practically every child was attacked. The age incidence was also greatly varied for the same reason. The comparison of the percentage of cases in the various age groups in this, with those of the Middleton epidemic at the end of the year is as follows :—

	Thornham Epidemic.		Middleton Epidemic.	
	Cases.	Per cent.	Cases.	Per cent.
Under 1 year .....	6	10	24	10.4
4 to 7 years .....	12	20	184	80
7 to 13 years .....	32	54	21	9.1
Over 13 years.....	9	15	1	.4
Total .....	<u>59</u>		<u>230</u>	

This comparison emphasises the effect of an attack of Measles on a community which had been free for a long period, and which therefore had a large majority of persons who had not been rendered immune by an attack of Measles in early childhood.

As regards the schools, the procedure adopted was the same as in previous years. School closure was avoided, and exclusion of affected children relied upon as the only rational course to be taken. Children from houses in which a case of Measles occurred were excluded if attending the Infant School lest they should develop the disease at school, and so infect their immediate neighbours in the

class. In the case of the elder children from infected houses, who were in the upper school, they were allowed to continue their attendance, because, in the unlikely event of their developing the disease, there is little danger of communicating it to their neighbours, for the reason that the great majority were immune from infection, because they had already had measles.

In the Thornham epidemic, School closure occurred automatically on May 23rd for the Whitsuntide holiday. The number of cases of school children attacked before that date was 14, and the number after was 30.

No method has yet been found which has the least effect in diminishing the extent of these outbreaks of what is the most serious and most commonly fatal of all the diseases of childhood, and the only possible action to take is, by means of the educative services of the Health Visitor to impress upon the public the necessity of considering this fever a dangerous and frequently fatal one, and by insisting on more careful nursing and proper treatment, reduce the mortality and the danger of complications.

### **WHOOPIING COUGH.**

Forty cases of this disease were notified by the teachers during the year. This compares with 133 cases in 1911, and 107 in 1910.

There were no deaths from this cause.

The schools affected were—Tonge, 1 case ; Durnford Street, 14 ; National, 21 ; St. Gabriels and Parkfield, 2 each.

The highest number reported in one month, was 12 in May.

### **CHICKEN POX.**

Ninety cases of Chicken Pox were notified. The Schools affected were—Tonge, 21 cases, in February and March ; Parkfield, 13, in March, June, July, and September ; Durnford Street, 19, in May, June, July, and September ; St. Peter's, 6, in May, June, and July ; St. Gabriel's, 13 in June, August, October, November, and December ; and Rhodes, 7, in July and August.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Fifty-nine Specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, in Manchester, of which the following are details :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Blood for Typhoid Bacilli .....	2	7	9
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli .....	13	34	47
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli ....	1	2	3
Total .....	16	43	59

Five samples of milk were also sent for examination, and all gave a negative result as regards Tubercle Bacilli.

### NURSE'S VISITS.

The following is a resumé of the visits paid by the Health Visitor during the year :—

In connection with the Notifications of Births Act .....	1440
Visits in connection with overcrowding, dirty houses, neglected children, Tuberculosis, &c.....	760
Total .....	2200

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

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#### WATER SUPPLY.

This is abundant and of first rate quality. It is governed by the Heywood and Middleton Joint Water Board. The gathering ground is upland moor, and is irreproachable. The warning given in previous years is still necessary, on account of the low degree of hardness of the water, namely : that especially in the early morning, when the water has been in the lead pipes of the service during the night, it should be allowed to run for some time from the tap before any is taken for drinking.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no further information to be given on this subject, they are all foul, and the Wince Brook is certainly worse than the rest. The Nuisance arising from these streams has not been quite so bad perhaps, during the year, but that is not due to any improvement in their condition, but simply to the wet, cold summer.

## DISINFECTION.

The Thresh Stream Disinfector is in use for the treatment of infected bedding and clothing, and the house disinfection is carried out by means of Formalin Vapour. This is employed after all cases of Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid, as soon as possible after the patient has been removed to hospital, or has been declared to be free from infection by the doctor in attendance.

The houses in which cases of Phthisis have occurred are also disinfected and the bedding and clothing treated in the Steam Disinfector, in practically every instance where death has ensued.

Spraying is used for disinfection of the Schools.

## HOSPITAL.

Cases of Infectious Disease—Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric—are sent to Marland Hospital under an agreement with the County Borough of Rochdale, to whom it belongs.

The cases are conveyed in the best possible manner in our own brougham ambulance.

The number of cases of each disease sent to Hospital during the year was as follows:—

Scarlet Fever .....	20
Diphtheria .....	1
Typhoid Fever .....	3

One case of Typhoid died in Hospital.

### DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The number of Sanitary Can Closets converted during the year to the Water Carriage System, was 178. This compares with 110 in 1911, 203 in 1910, and 334 in 1909.

The following figures give the numbers of each type of Closet accommodation existing in the Borough at the end of the year.

Water Closets.....	2095
Waste Water Closets .....	3059
Sanitary Cans .....	604
Privies .....	10

The Privies are practically all attached to farm houses in the Borough.

The conversions to the Water Carriage System are slowly bringing about an improvement in the Sanitation of the borough, and I again suggest that more rapid progress should be made in this matter, both from the point of view of the Public Health, and also of the expense of collection, and the annoyance resulting from the passage through the streets of the contents of the Sanitary Cans.

The Ashpit refuse is destroyed at the Refuse Destructor, and only the resulting clinkers are placed on tips.

During the year 4,961 loads of ashes were removed, and the cost amounted to:—

(1) Refuse Destructor:—Working Expenses, £504; Capital Charges, £372; Total, £876.

The working expenses include cost of removing clinkers, and are credited with the allowance made by the Electricity Committee for Steam raised by the Destructor.

(2) Cost of Disposal at Tips, £44; Comprised of men's wages, levelling and rents.

Fifty-five old ashpits have been converted to the wall or portable bin system during the year, and the following are the

numbers of each type of receptacle existing in the Borough at the end of the year :—

Wall Bins (Quines) .....	479
Portable Bins .....	1299
Brick Ashpits.....	1621
Uncovered Ashpits .....	77

I earnestly suggest that greater activity should be exercised in lessening this insanitary state of affairs. Each one of these 1698 Ashpits is a source of disgust and annoyance, and is a constant danger to the health of the inhabitants.

The annoyance and danger arising from the mere collection of the refuse from these receptacles should be enough to condemn them utterly.

### **SLAUGHTER-HOUSES**

#### AND OTHER PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There are ten Slaughter Houses in the Borough, of which three are licensed and the remainder registered. They have been frequently visited by Mr. Norton, who has made 732 visits. They have been found generally satisfactory.

The Bakehouses have also been regularly visited and no serious cause of complaint has been found.

The Common Lodging Houses, of which there are seven registered in the Borough, have been visited 380 times, and were generally in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Forty-nine visits were made in connection with offensive trades.

Eighty-three visits were made to farms during the year, and the conditions found were fairly good generally. There is still much to be desired in the matter of ventilation of the shippens and the cleanliness of the cattle, especially in winter when they are kept in the shippens. It cannot be too often insisted on that milk should be sold in a perfectly clean condition, and absolutely free from contamination by dust and dirt. Consumers should bring



to the notice of the seller any evidence of carelessness in this respect they may find at the bottom of the receptacle in which their milk has been allowed to remain for some time without disturbance.

The importance of receiving the milk from the seller into a clean vessel should not be forgotten. I think that a fair proportion of cases of complaint of the bad keeping qualities of milk are due to the fact that the purchaser is not sufficiently careful to thoroughly cleanse the inside of the jug into which the milk is poured.

### SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition and Water Supply of the schools in the Borough is generally good. In the course of my frequent visits I have not found any serious cause for complaint, and the duties of the caretakers are carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

The alterations at Rhodes School (Infant) in the provision of new offices and the asphaltting of the playground, has removed one great cause of complaint in previous reports.

### FOOD.

**Milk Supply.**—This is generally of good quality, and is almost entirely conducted by farmers, whose farms are within the Borough boundary, delivering the milk direct to the consumer.

Forty-two samples of milk were taken by Mr. Norton during the year, and were submitted to the County Analyst for report. Of these one was reported slightly deficient in fat, and containing 4 per cent. of added water, and one 8 per cent. of added water. Proceedings were taken against the vendor in the latter case and a fine of £1 and costs was inflicted.

Five samples of milk were submitted for examination to the Pathological Laboratory in Manchester, and all gave negative results as regards Tubercle Bacilli.

**Other Foods.**—Meat Inspection is carried out by Mr. Norton as thoroughly as possible in the course of his visits to the slaughter-houses. Fourteen hundred and twelve pounds of Meat were

seized and destroyed as unfit for human consumption. Two whole carcasses and parts of two others were condemned for Tuberculosis.

**Fish.**—120 lbs. were seized and destroyed.

**Fruit.**—80 lbs. of unsound fruit were destroyed. This was submitted for inspection by the owners.

Twenty-six samples of food were taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, of which the following are particulars :—

Coffee, Pepper, and Lard, four samples of each ; Mustard, one sample ; Ground Ginger, two ; Margarine and Irish Butter, three each ; Butter, five.

The Irish Butter samples all contained an excess of water, but were reported passable, and the Ground Ginger samples were reported to contain 1 per cent. of sand. No prosecutions were undertaken.

### HOUSING.

In the Annual Report for 1911, twenty-five houses were tabulated as being, for various reasons, unfit for habitation, and condemned by the Housing and Town Planning Committee. Eighteen of these houses were in Boardman Lane, Rhodes, and at the end of 1912, with the exception of one, they had been made habitable, by taking in the house back to back with them, or by practically rebuilding. Two houses are permanently closed, and in the case where no remedy has been applied, the difficulty of getting the tenants out owing to their inability to obtain another house, is the reason given for not having done so.

The two houses in Butcher Yard have been closed and are unoccupied, and the houses in Greengate Street, Middleton Junction, have been satisfactorily dealt with, and are now good artisan dwellings.

During the year 1912, twenty-two houses were reported upon by Mr. Norton to the Committee, and they have been condemned and closing orders made on the owners.

The following is a Tabulated Statement of these houses, with the various defects found, and the action taken by the committee :

Situation of House.	Defects.	Action taken by Committee.
1, Schwabe Street	Damp walls, no back door, and unpaved yard.	Condemned
1, Pitt Street	Damp, no back door, and bad ventilation.	Condemned
Hole Bottom	Damp walls, no back door, fast windows, bad ventilation, no system of drainage, dilapidated privy, no ashpit accommodation, and water supply a long distance away from house.	No action taken.
61, Back Evans Street	Back to back house, and a foul brick-built ashpit.	Condemned
9, Yates Street	Back to back house, untrapped drain connected to sewer, pail closet, and a large brick-built ashpit.	Condemned
11, Yates Street	Back to back house, damp walls, earthenware gully trap connected to sewer, pail closet, and a large brick-built ashpit, and bad ventilation.	Condemned
1, off Yates Street.	Back to back house, damp walls, pail closet, and a fixed brick receptacle for ashes, and bad ventilation.	Condemned
2, off Yates Street.	Back to back house, damp walls, bad ventilation, defective kitchen floor, pail closet, and a fixed brick receptacle for ashes.	Condemned

Situation of House.	Defects.	Action taken by Committee.
36, Hannah Street	Back to back house, smoky chimney, no ashpit.	Condemned
Off 36, Hannah Street	Back to back house, dirty, and uncovered portable bin.	Condemned
42, Hannah Street	Back to back house, fixed brick ashpit, and an unpaved passage.	Condemned
Off 42, Hannah Street	Back to back house, dirty, damp walls, defective back yard, and a foul brick-built ashpit.	Condemned
1a off Oldham Road.	This house is situated in a back yard, and has no back door, dampness over scullery sink, fireplace made up in bedroom, dirty walls, defective back yard, downspout connected to an untrapped drain, and a foul brick-built ashpit.	Condemned
5a, Leater Street	This house is situated in a back yard, and has no back door, damp walls, unpaved yard, downspout connected direct to untrapped drain, and a foul brick-built ashpit.	Condemned
37, Union Street	Kitchen walls damp, unpaved backyard, a dilapidated building, dangerous bedroom ceilings and floor, and a foul open ashpit.	Condemned

Situation of House.	Defects.	Action taken by Committee.
39, Union Street	A dilapidated building, defective and dangerous bedroom floor and ceiling, damp walls, unpaved backyard, and a foul open brick built ashpit.	Condemned
1, Back Gilmour Street.	This house is without back door, defective roof, outer wall of front bedroom damp, bad ventilation, and a foul brick ashpit.	Condemned
1, Taylor Street.	This house is without back door, bad ventilation, damp walls, defective bedroom floor.	Condemned
24, Corporation Street.	Back to back house, large foul ashpit to four houses.	Condemned
26, Corporation Street.	Back to back house, one large brick-built ashpit to four houses.	Condemned
2, off Corporation Street.	Back to back house, bedroom fireplace made up, one large foul brick ashpit to four houses.	Condemned
4, off Corporation Street	Back to back house, bedroom fireplace made up, and one large foul brick-built ashpit to four houses.	Condemned

In the case where no action was taken, the house is closed and will be demolished.

Seven of the Closing Orders have been determined, the houses having been made habitable, and they are now occupied. Repairs and alterations are in six other cases at present proceeding, and four, houses are closed,

**House to House Inspection** :—Mr. Norton has, during the year, examined 236 houses, and has reported on them in the course of his Annual Report to the Housing and Town Planning Committee.

**New Houses** :—

Number of houses erected in 1912...	71
Passed for Habitation.....	71
Houses in course of erection at end of year.....	72

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.**

One hundred and twenty-four visits have been paid to the Workshops in the Borough, and the conditions found were, generally, quite satisfactory.

In one case Mr. Norton notified H.M. Inspector of Factories that an occupier of a workshop had not posted the abstract of the Act in a conspicuous position in the workshop, and this was at once remedied.

**LOCAL ACTS AND ADOPTION ACTS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.**

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted February 5th, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted February 5th, 1891.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892, adopted October 8th, 1892.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, adopted July 1st, 1908.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, making Ophthalmia Neonatorum a Notifiable Disease, adopted June 1st, 1910.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part II., Section 34 to 38, and 43 to 51 in Part III., Part IV., V., and VI., and Sections 93 and 95, Part X., came into operation April 11th, 1910.

Sections 79 and 81 of Part VII. and Part VIII., approved, came into force February 3rd, 1910.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part IV., came into operation October 1st, 1911.

The Middleton Corporation Act, 1910.

Byelaws relating to :—

Offensive Trades, made on May 29th, 1883, allowed August 1st, 1883.

New Streets and Buildings, made on October 25th, 1894, allowed May 3rd, 1895.

Sanitary Conveniences, made on July 4th, 1895, allowed August 12th, 1895.

Water Closets and Waste Water Closets, made on April 1st, 1903, allowed July 10th, 1903.

New Streets, made on December 7th, 1904, allowed October 10th, 1905.

Houses Let in Lodgings, made on April 7th, 1909, allowed June 5th, 1909.

Regulations relating to :—

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, made February, 1911, came into operation April 1st, 1911.

Management of Sanitary Conveniences, made on October 25th, 1894.

Inspection of New Drains and Buildings, made October 1st, 1896.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. Norton, who has supplied me with many of the details in this portion of the Report, which will be found amplified in his Report, which follows ; of Mr. Harrison, the Borough Treasurer, for the figures as to the cost of removal of ashes ; of Mr. Welburn, the Borough Surveyor, for the figures as to new houses built in the year ; and to Mr. Quarmby, the Clerk to the Guardians, for the figures referring to outdoor relief.

**TABLE I.**  
**VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1912 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 registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1907	27,280	.....	591	21.6	411	15	...	45	83	140	456	16.7
1908	27,500	.....	627	22.8	375	13.6	...	69	96	153	444	16.1
1909	27,750	.....	642	23.1	348	12.5	...	59	73	114	407	14.6
1910	28,000	.....	678	24.2	340	12.1	...	69	68	100	409	14.6
1911	28,000	643	645	23	394	14	2	74	117	181	466	16.6
<b>1912</b>	28,300	600	607	21.4	354	12.5	...	74	71	117	428	15.1

Area of District in acres  
(land and inland water) } 4,741

Total Population at all ages, 27,983 }  
Number of Inhabited Houses, 6,547 }  
Average number of persons per house, 4.2 }  
At Census of 1911 (cf. Census Vol. V.)



**TABLE II.**  
**Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1912.**

Notifiable Diseases.	Number of Cases Notified.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality. ( <i>e.g.</i> Parish or Ward) of the District.						Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.					1 North Ward.	2 Central Ward.	3 South Ward.	4 East Ward.	5 Parkfield Ward.	6 West Ward.		
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45								45 to 65
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) .....	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas .....	9	1	...	1	3	2	2	1	...	4	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	36	12	23	1	...	...	...	2	3	5	...	12	...	20
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever .....	5	...	1	...	3	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
Relapsing Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	73	...	...	15	36	22	...	12	18	12	...	5	...	...
Totals .....	128	15	25	17	44	25	2	22	25	24	19	24	...	24

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1912.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District (a)									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non- Residents in Institu- tions in the District (a). 11
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 2. 4	2 and under 5. 5	5 and under 15. 6	15 and under 25. 7	25 and under 45. 8	45 and under 65. 9	65 and upwards. 10	
ALL CAUSES—										
Certified (c) .....	421	69	21	7	13	18	64	108	121	421
Uncertified .....	7	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	7
Enteric Fever .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Small Pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	15	3	8	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza .....	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	...
Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) .....	37	...	...	...	...	5	16	16	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	4	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	8	...	1	...	3	...	2	1	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease .....	21	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	7	...
Rheumatic Fever .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Meningitis.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease .....	43	...	...	...	2	3	8	20	10	...
Bronchitis.....	63	6	1	1	...	...	4	12	39	...
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	47	7	5	2	2	4	7	11	9	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis .....	13	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis.....	5	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Alcoholism .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .....	16	...	...	...	...	1	5	9	1	...
Puerperal Fever .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Preg- nancy and Parturition .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .....	28	27	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .....	5	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...
Suicide .....	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	...
Other Defined Diseases .....	99	15	2	1	2	1	10	19	49	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS .....	428	71	21	7	13	18	66	109	123	...

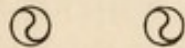


BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

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*SANITARY DEPARTMENT*

*Corporation Street, Middleton.*



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

**ANNUAL REPORT**

For the Year ended 31st December, 1912.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have very much pleasure in presenting for your consideration, my seventeenth Annual Report on the work carried out by this department during the year 1912.

On perusal, you will see that much work has again been carried out, under the various Acts and Regulations, in the interest of the health of the inhabitants of the Borough, and I am pleased to say that the greater part of the work has been carried out without having to resort to extreme and compulsory methods, which has made the carrying out of the duties much more pleasant than would otherwise have been the case.

Still, although the year's work has been more satisfactory than in former years, there remains much work to be carried out, if we are going to bring the Borough to that state of sanitation which is so necessary for the health and comfort of the inhabitants.

But however much work is done and however much money is spent in providing suitable and satisfactory dwellings with water closets and up-to-date sanitary appliances, it is all wasted unless the occupiers do their duty and keep the houses clean and free from any damage, other than fair wear and tear.

Owing to the passing of fresh Acts of Parliament, and the issuing of Regulations, much additional work keeps being added to the work of this department, which has increased to such an extent that during the year it was found necessary to appoint an assistant, who has been a very great help in carrying out the work.

In my last year's report, I drew attention to the state of confusion owing to the overlapping of duties. I am pleased to say that this has not been quite so pronounced as formerly, but still it exists, and for the efficiency of the department and the benefit of everyone concerned, I ask that this dual control business be ended.

I beg to acknowledge the able assistance received from the staff of the department, which is so necessary if the work is to be satisfactory.

I also beg to tender my heartiest thanks to the Chairmen and Members of the various Committees which it is my privilege to serve, for their kindness and support in the performance of the various and onerous duties of the department during the year.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HY. NORTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

### SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1912.

Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1875 .....	22
"    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    re black smoke .	4
"    "    "    Local Government Boards.....	
Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 5) Act .....	116
Informal Notices, re Nuisances .....	246
Houses condemned under Housing and Town Planning Act	21
Smoke Observations .....	86
Samples of Food submitted for Analysis .....	68
Diseased or unsound Food seized :—Meat .....	lbs. 1412
"    "    "    "    "    Fruit .....	" 80
"    "    "    "    "    Fish .....	" 120
Prosecutions re Black Smoke .....	15
Canal Boats Inspected .....	30
Cases of Infectious Disease reported .....	55
Patients removed to Marland Hospital .....	24
Rooms disinfected in consequence of having been occupied by persons suffering from an infectious disease.....	139
Visits to cases of infectious disease .....	170
"    Slaughter Houses .....	132
"    Common Lodging Houses .....	380

Visits to Offensive Trades .....	49
,, Dairies and Cowsheds.....	83
,, Workshops .....	124

### NUISANCES FOUND DURING 1912.

Sanitary can closets .....	228
Foul Ashpits.....	68
Foul Privies .....	4
Insufficient Ashpits .....	28
,, Closet Accommodation.....	13
,, Ashpit Accommodation .....	20
,, Closet .....	1
Closet without door.....	1
Dangerous Closet .....	1
Defective Closet Roofs .....	2
Choked Waste Water Closets .....	47
,, Water Closets .....	4
,, Drains .....	13
,, Downspouts .....	3
Defective water closets .....	2
,, drains .....	4
,, eaves gutters .....	3
,, sanitary can .....	1
,, back passage .....	1
,, back yards .....	30
,, waste pipes.....	24
,, downspouts .....	13
,, W.C. water pipe .....	1
,, kitchen floor.....	1
,, ashbins .....	10
,, channels .....	2
,, chimney .....	1
Ashpits without doors .....	2
Untrapped drains .....	99
Downspouts connected to drains .....	72
No channel from waste pipe to drain.....	3
Waste pipes connected to drains .....	3

Brick drain .....	1
Bell traps .....	3
Foul Inspection chamber .....	1
Choked gully .....	1
Dangerous downspout .....	1
Dirty backyard .....	1
Pigeon cote in backyard.....	1
Unpaved backyards .....	30
Dirty Dwelling houses .....	2
Dwelling-houses without back doors .....	6
Overcrowded Dwelling-house .....	1
No flush to W.C. ....	1
Accumulation of refuse.....	1
Offensive Manure heaps .....	2
Noxious fumes .....	1

#### **NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 1912.**

Sanitary can closets converted to water closets .....	178
Foul Aspits converted to ashbins .....	55
Sufficient ashpits provided.....	32
Additional closet accommodation provided .....	5
Portable ashbins provided .....	3
Portable ashbins repaired .....	2
Ashpit doors provided .....	3
Defective water pipe to W.C. Made good .....	1
"    drains                    "    " .....	3
"    channels                  "    " .....	1
"    back passages            "    " .....	1
"    sanitary cans            "    " .....	1
"    downspouts              "    " .....	2
"    W.W.C. tipplers          "    " .....	2
"    W.W.C. seat              "    " .....	1
"    bakehouse chimney      "    " .....	1
Choked W.W.C.'s opened .....	49
"    rainwater pipes opened .....	3
"    gully cleansed .....	1
"    drains opened and made good .....	14



Waste pipe disconnected from untrapped drain.....	1
Rainwater pipes       "       "       " .....	54
Earthenware traps substituted for bell traps .....	2
Channel provided from waste pipe .....	1
Drains trapped.....	23
Foul and offensive inspection chamber altered.....	1
Waste pipes repaired.....	26
Back yards repaired.....	29
Rainwater pipes provided.....	5
Eaves gutters provided.....	2
Houses provided with back doors.....	2
Dirty house cleaned.....	1
Dangerous closets repaired.....	2
A foul and offensive lodge cleansed .....	1
Offensive manure heaps removed.....	2
Offensive stable cleaned.....	1
Defective kitchen floors made good.....	2

**NUISANCES NOT ABATED DURING THE YEAR  
ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1912.**

Sanitary can closets.....	66
Privies .....	1
Insufficient closet accommodation .....	10
"       ashpit accommodation .....	14
Foul ashpits .....	23
Insufficient ashpits .....	2
Ashpits without doors .....	3
Rainwater pipes connected to untrapped drains .....	23
Untrapped drains .....	27
No channel from waste pipe to drain.....	2
Houses without back doors.....	4
Offensive manure heaps.....	2
Unpaved back yards.....	2
Defective waste pipes.....	14
"       rainwater pipes .....	3
"       eaves gutters .....	2
"       back yards .....	22

Defective ashpit roof .....	1
„ ashbin .....	1
„ cellar drain .....	1
„ kitchen floor.....	1
„ water closet .....	1
Closet not provided with proper door .....	1
Waste pipe connected to drain .....	1
Discharge of noxious fumes .....	1
Bell trap .....	1
No Flush to water closet .....	1
Choked W.W.C.'s .....	4
Choked drains .....	5
Ashes and domestic refuse to be carried through the house...	1
Overcrowded Dwelling-house.....	1
Closet without proper roof.....	1
Choked W.C.'s .....	3
A dirty house .....	1
Defective Dwelling-house roof.....	1

Two hundred and forty-six Preliminary notices have been served upon the persons by whose act, default or sufferance nuisances have been caused or allowed to exist on premises, requiring them to execute certain works in order that the abatement of the nuisance may be obtained.

One hundred and seventy-three of the Preliminary notices were complied with. A number of the notices not complied with were served near the end of the year, and will be complied with during the year 1913.

In twenty-two cases it was necessary to report the person in default to your Committee, who, in each case, decided to serve Formal Notice under the Public Health Act, 1875, and if this Notice was not complied with, to take proceedings in the Police Court against the person in default. The serving of this notice had the desired effect, and in no case was it necessary to institute legal proceedings against the offenders.

In addition to the notices already referred to, two hundred and twenty-eight Formal Notices have been served under the Local

Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 5) Act, requiring the conversion of privy and pail closets to closets on the water carriage system.

In compliance with these notices, one hundred and seventy-eight sanitary can closets have been converted to closets on the water carriage system, leaving sixty-six closets of which notices had been served, still unconverted at the end of the year.

The number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year shows an increase of sixty-five over the number converted during the year 1911; but even this is not satisfactory, and the number of conversions during the year 1913 ought to be considerably increased, in fact, seeing that there are only six hundred and four sanitary can closets in the Borough—and many of them being situated in places where there are no sewers—then, the coming year ought to see the whole of the closets, where conditions are favourable, on the water carriage system.

Fifty-five foul ashpits have been converted to the wall or portable bin system. This is a step in the right direction, still the number is very small when it is considered that in every notice for the conversion of a closet, it is included that there shall be proper and sufficient ashpit accommodation provided.

It would undoubtedly be to the advantage of everybody concerned, if, when alterations are being carried out, the ashpit accommodation received some attention, as it is very often left in its old and insanitary condition, or some other unsatisfactory arrangement permitted.

It would add greatly to the cleanliness of the back yards, if, wherever suitable, wall bins were provided, as it is an acknowledged fact that they are the most satisfactory, both from the hygienic and economical point of view.

The portable bin is certainly a great improvement on the old brick ashpit, but it is not to be compared with the wall bin for many reasons. The portable bin is, in the first instance, of less expense than the wall bin, and this, I am afraid, is its chief qualification

with many people ; but if they will only consider the cost of renewals of portable bins, I am sure that even on the ground of cost alone, they will certainly favour the wall bin.

Forty-nine choked waste water closets have been opened during the year. This nothing like represents the number which have been choked, as a large number have been attended to by the property owner, and a number have been opened by this department which are not included in the foregoing.

Of all the waste water closets which have been choked, I haven't come across half a dozen which has not been due to the carelessness and neglect of the tenants, and I think you will agree that in all cases where the chokage is due to neglect, the occupier ought to be made to pay for the removal of the obstruction.

You will readily observe that very little progress has been made with the flagging or paving of back yards. This is due to a large number of occupiers who prefer to make as much of the yard as possible into a small garden for the cultivation of a few flowers during the summer time. Therefore, I suggest that you give this matter your consideration, and fix the minimum amount of paving that may be considered necessary for each back yard.

During the year Nurses Holt and Torrop have drawn my attention to a considerable number of dirty and overcrowded houses. In dealing with this kind of nuisance I have endeavoured to obtain improvement by verbal warnings, which has met with some little success in the case of dirty houses ; but in the case of overcrowding I am afraid that it will be necessary to take one or two cases before the magistrates before some of the offenders realise that it is intended to put a stop to this kind of nuisance.

This nuisance is not by any means confined to those with a small income, for in many cases they have such an income that they could well afford to live in much larger and more suitable houses for the size of their families, whilst on the other hand there are families with small incomes whose houses are clean and satisfactory in every respect.

Since the adoption of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, of 1907, there has been a great improvement in the system of house drainage, as each drain is now tested before being passed as satisfactory, and in some cases, inspection chambers have been provided. This system might, with advantage, have been adopted much earlier, then our drainage system would have been brought up to date during the conversion of closets to the water carriage system.

During the year the Departmental Committee appointed to consider the advisability, or otherwise, of fixing intercepting traps on house drains, have issued their report, and have decided that the necessity of an intercepting trap has not been established.

In this Borough, although the bye-laws say that intercepting traps shall be placed on house drains, it is only in a very few cases where the trap has been placed on the drain, and as these few traps have not been a failure, I beg to suggest that you take into consideration the advisability of either rescinding or enforcing this portion of the bye-laws.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Removed to Hospital.	Rooms disinfect.
Scarlet Fever ...	9	1	...	5	1	...	1	2	2	1	3	11	36	20	106
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	5	3	16
Diphtheria .....	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	17
Erysipelas .....	...	3	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	9	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Total .....	11	4	3	5	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	12	55	24	139

I have visited and investigated the whole of the infectious cases reported, and have taken such precautions as seemed necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

Twenty-four patients suffering from a dangerous infectious disease have been removed to Marland Hospital for isolation purposes. One hundred and thirty-nine rooms have been disinfected, in consequence of having been occupied by persons suffering from an infectious disease.

In all cases where a patient is suffering from an infectious disease, and there are children living in the same house and attending school, the schoolmaster is notified that the children must be kept from school until the patient has either recovered or been removed to hospital, when a further certificate is sent to inform him that the house has been disinfected, and the children may be allowed to return to school.

You will observe from the foregoing tabular statement that there has again been a considerable reduction in the number of cases of infectious disease, the numbers being fifty-five cases for the year under review, and seventy-nine cases for the year 1911; being a reduction of twenty-four cases.

The greatest reduction is in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, and it is rather singular that the greatest number of cases should be reported during the first and last months of the year. During the months of March and June, the Borough was entirely free from this disease, and I think that July would also have been classed as being free had not Nurse Holt in the discharge of her duties, visited a sick child and found the characteristic rash, and advised the parents to call in a doctor, who notified the case as one of Scarlet Fever. This shows the necessity of parents and guardians calling in a doctor, in order that the ailments of children may be definitely ascertained, for had it not been for the visit of the Nurse, this patient would in all probability have been allowed to play in the streets, if not sent to school, which might have been the means of starting a more or less costly and serious epidemic.

Five cases of scarlet fever occurred on three farms, all the patients were at once removed to hospital, and the neighbouring authorities, in whose districts the milk was sold were notified. The efforts to protect the milk supply from contamination, I think, were effective, as no complaints were received here of any case being traced to this source.

There has been an increase of two in the number of cases of Enteric Fever, and although the number of cases which have occurred are very few, it would have been much more satisfactory to report a reduction in the number of persons who had suffered from this disease.

It is most difficult to trace the origin of this disease, but in two of the cases there was very little, if any, doubt that the disease was contracted outside the Borough.

The reduction in the total number of cases reported, I attribute to the great care of those in charge of the patients to prevent the spread of the disease.

#### **STEAM DISINFECTOR.**

Five hundred and sixty-one articles of bedding, clothing, etc. which had been in contact with patients suffering from an infectious disease, have been treated in the Steam Disinfector, and in no case has any complaint been received that any article has been damaged in the process.

This shows the great amount of care that has been exercised in carrying out this important work.

In no case has any further case been traceable to any article which has passed through the Disinfector, which proves that the disinfection has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

I beg to acknowledge the services of Alfred Booth, who has carried out the duties of disinfection in a satisfactory manner.

#### **SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.**

During the year, eighty-six smoke observations have been taken, and black smoke has been emitted for a period of 4 hours, 50 min-



utes, and 50 seconds, whilst during the year 1911 one hundred and four observations were taken, and black smoke was emitted for 6 hours, 40 minutes, and 30 seconds.

The average time black smoke was emitted during 1912, was 3 minutes and 22 seconds, which shows a decrease of 32 seconds per observation, when compared with the previous year.

The limit of five minutes emission of black smoke per half hour has been exceeded on nineteen occasions, and fifteen firms have been summoned, and fines amounting to £5 10s. 6d., and costs £6 7s. 6d. have been inflicted by the magistrates. In the remaining cases Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, were served upon the offenders, two of the notices were complied with, one notice has not yet expired, and in the other case it was necessary to summon the offenders for failing to comply with the Formal Notice.

I am pleased to report a considerable reduction in the amount of black smoke discharged into the atmosphere, which is due to the manner in which you have dealt with the offenders when reported. This has caused those responsible for the working of the furnaces to be more careful in the stoking of the fires and the quality of the coal used.

But, notwithstanding the great improvement in the emission of black smoke there is still room for further improvement, for there are still a few firms who send up more black smoke than is necessary, and who could with a little care and attention, reduce the output very considerably, with benefit to themselves and improvement to the atmosphere.

I also beg to draw attention to the amount of black smoke emitted from chimneys situated on the borders of the Borough, but in the districts of other authorities. Some of these chimneys send out large quantities of black smoke, and when the wind is in certain directions the whole of the smoke is carried into this borough to the detriment of the inhabitants.

I have no wish or desire to interfere in any district but our own, but in order to protect the public of this borough from this abominable nuisance, I am afraid it will be my unpleasant duty to ask you to exercise your powers under the Public Health Act, and prosecute the offenders, with a view to securing the abatement of the nuisance.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND ASHES.

1912	Number of Pails.	NIGHTSOIL.		ASHES.		Total		Amount earned by removing Clinkers per Month. £ s. d.	Clinkers removed from Dest'r. £ s. d.	Clinkers carted to Sewage Works. No. of Loads.	1912
		No. of Loads.	Cost per Pail. d.	No. of Loads.	Cost per Load. s. d.	Cost per Month. £ s. d.	Cost per Month. £ s. d.				
Jan.	4,687	80	.961	497	3 1.449	77 11 0	96 6 3	471	177	27	Jan.
Feb.	3,825	68	.991	399	3 0.266	60 5 10	76 1 10	373	143	23	Feb.
March	3,775	68	1.005	370	3 2.157	58 16 0	74 12 6	365	126	25	March
April	3,673	65	.946	397	2 11.718	53 1 8	73 11 4	353	156	14	April
May	4,657	86	1.018	596	2 8.572	80 17 9	100 12 9	469	195	15	May
June	3,576	66	1.016	371	3 4.515	62 12 7	77 15 5	334	129	20	June
July	4,624	85	1.025	425	3 7.26	76 12 2	96 7 2	416	130	20	July
Aug.	3,520	65	.987	315	3 7.851	57 11 1	72 0 9	301	102	10	Aug.
Sep.	3,620	67	1.048	391	3 1.437	60 19 10	76 15 10	353	121	11	Sep.
Oct.	4,029	76	1.058	435	3 1.407	67 16 0	85 11 6	421	143	14	Oct.
Nov.	3,064	58	1.031	364	3 3.442	59 16 5	72 19 9	335	128	8	Nov.
Dec.	2,957	53	.977	397	2 11.234	58 5 8	70 15 10	367	153	10	Dec.
Total	46,007	837		4,961		780 6 0	973 10 11	4,558	1,703	197	Total

	£	s.	d.
Total cost of removing nightsoil and ashes for the year 1912 .....	973	10	11
Total cost of removing nightsoil and ashes for the year 1911 .....	968	9	5
Increase .....	5	1	6

	£	s.	d.
Cost per load ashes and pail refuse, 1912 .....	0	3	4.3
"    "    "    "    1911.....	0	3	3.543
Increase .....	0	0	0.757

Number of pails emptied, 1912.....	46007
"    "    "    1911.....	52842
Decrease .....	6835

Number of loads pail refuse, 1912.....	837
"    "    "    1911.....	938
Decrease .....	101

	£	s.	d.
Cost of emptying pails, 1912.....	193	4	5
"    "    1911.....	190	0	8
Increase .....	3	3	9

	£	s.	d.
Cost per load pail refuse, 1912.....	0	4	7.4
"    "    "    .....	0	4	0.621
Increase .....	0	0	6.779

Number of loads of ashes removed during year, 1912.	4961
"    "    "    "    "    1911.	4940
Increase .....	21

Cost of removing ashes, 1912.....	£	s.	d.
	780	6	0
"    "    1911.....	777	19	2
	<hr/>		
Increase .....	2	6	10
	<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.
Cost per load removing ashes, 1912.....	0	3	1.748
"    "    "    1911.....	0	3	1.759
	<hr/>		
Decrease .....	0	0	0.011
	<hr/>		
Number of loads of ashes delivered at destructor, 1912	4558		
"    "    "    "    "    1911	4626		
	<hr/>		
Decrease .....	68		
	<hr/>		
Number of loads of clinkers removed from destructor 1912 .....	1703		
Number of loads of clinkers removed from destructor 1911 .....	1583		
	<hr/>		
Increase .....	120		
	<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.
Amount of money received for removing clinkers from destructor, 1912 .....	85	3	0
Amount of money received for removing clinkers from destructor, 1911 .....	79	3	0
	<hr/>		
Increase .....	6	0	0
	<hr/>		
Loads of clinkers carted to Sewage Works, 1912.....	197		
"    "    "    "    1911.....	390		
	<hr/>		
Decrease .....	93		
	<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.
Amount earned carting clinkers to Sewage Works, 1912 .....	14	15	6
Amount earned carting clinkers to Sewage Works, 1911 .....	29	5	0
	<hr/>		
Increase .....	14	9	6
	<hr/>		

	£	s.	d.
Total amount earned during 1912 .....	99	18	6
Total amount earned during 1911 .....	108	8	0
Decrease .....	8	9	6

The following is a tabular statement of the number of loads of ashes which have been collected, the cost, and the average number of loads per day during each of the following years.

The number of working days is taken as three hundred and six per year.

Year.	No. of loads removed.	Avg. No. of loads per day.	Total cost per year.		
			£	s.	d.
1903 .....	7,667	24	1086	11	7
1904 .....	7,217	23	964	17	7
*1905 .....	6,736	22	969	0	6
1906 .....	5,870	19	829	2	7
†1907 .....	5,406	18	792	17	11
1908 .....	5,999	19	770	1	3
1909 .....	5,469	17	783	6	1
1910 .....	4,862	15	752	13	5
1911 .....	4,940	16	779	19	2
1912 .....	4,961	16	780	6	0

\* Removal of ashes taken over by this department on the 1st November, 1905.

† Removal of ashes from Stakehill, Slattocks, and Bowlee, taken over by the Corporation 1st April, 1907. The work of removing the ashes from these districts was previously carried out by contract, at a cost of £58 per year.

You will notice that there has been a small increase in the cost for removing nightsoil. This is largely due to not having sufficient work in the removal of nightsoil for the man and horse hired from the Watch Committee.

Arrangements have now been made whereby this will be remedied, and in future full work will be found, so that a considerable reduction in the expense of this work may be expected during the coming year.

There has also been a small increase in the cost of collection and removal of ashes. This is due to the additional houses which have been erected during the year.

Many complaints have been received of the nuisance caused by ashes being tipped into the streets, and having to lay there in heaps until fetched away by the carts, and taken away to the destructor.

This nuisance will, I am sorry to say, have to be tolerated for some time yet, as with large brick ashpits it is, in most cases, impossible to load the ashes direct into the carts, therefore, as a matter of necessity, we have to adopt the present insanitary and costly method.

This method of dealing with house refuse can only be obviated by the adoption of wall or portable bins being provided for the storage of dry ashes, when the ashes can be tipped into some receptacle or the bin be taken and tipped direct into the cart. This method would be much more sanitary and much less costly.

#### **FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.**

The following is a list of the articles which have been submitted to the County Analyst for the purpose of analysis :—

Article.	Number.	
Milk	.....42	Five samples were reported to be rich, one slightly deficient in fat, one contained four per cent. of added water, and one eight per cent. of added water.
Coffee.....	4	
Margarine ....	3	
Pepper .....	4	
Lard.....	4	

Gr'nd Ginger. 2	One sample was reported to contain a small amount of sand.
Irish Butter . 3	Three contained an excess of water, but were reported passable.
Mustard..... 1	
Butter ..... 5	
Total ....68	

From the foregoing statement, you will readily see that so far as food adulteration is concerned, although not so good as the previous year, is very good.

In only one case was it considered that the offence was of such magnitude as to justify proceedings being taken in the police court, when the vendor of the milk containing eight per cent. of added water was fined £1 1s. and £1 9s. costs.

In the other cases the vendors were watched, and further samples taken, which were found to be satisfactory.

I would here suggest that the vendors of articles of food should be more careful in the exhibition of notices warning purchases that they do not guarantee the article genuine. In several instances I have found the label only partially visible to the purchaser, and in one case the label was turned the wrong way altogether, and the blank side only being visible to the customers, of course, when this is pointed out to the vendor, the usual excuse of a mistake is made, but it is rather singular that these mistakes always occur on the visit of an Inspector. These mistakes may prove rather costly if proceedings are taken, as the law intends that the printed matter on the label shall be plainly visible to the purchaser so that they shall be aware of what they are paying for.

#### **RAG FLOCK ACT.**

The provisions of the above Act are now in force in the Borough. Any person having in his possession rag flock which does not conform to the standard of cleanliness fixed by the local Government Board, is liable to a penalty of £10 for a first offence, and £50 for a second or subsequent offence.



In accordance with your instructions, I have given notice to all concerned, so that they cannot say that they are not acquainted with the provisions of the Act.

### **CHILDREN'S ACT.**

Two persons were detected employing three boys under fourteen years of age after nine o'clock at night; they appeared before your Committee and cautioned against a repetition of the offence.

### **DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.**

Eighty-three visits have been paid to the dairies and cowsheds situated within the Borough, the majority were found to be kept clean and the conditions, except ventilation, were a great improvement on former years.

There is one great fault to be found in cowkeepers, and that is that they are afraid of allowing the cattle to have any fresh air whilst in the shippin, and in several instances I saw that the ventilators provided for the admission of fresh air were stuffed full of hay, in order, as the farmers said, to keep the animals warm. The condition of the atmosphere inside the cowshed can be better imagined than described, and must be bad for the health of the animals from which we obtain our milk supply.

I noticed a great improvement in the cleanliness of the cattle, many farmers washing the udders before milking, and some few make a practice of grooming the animals. This action will greatly improve the cleanliness of the milk supply.

I also found in some few instances some very dirty cattle, the filth being caked on to the hind quarters of the animals, some of which is bound to find its way into the milk pail during the milking process.

The buildings are very little altered since my last report, but owing to the cleaner habits of some farmers, the appearance of some cowsheds is very much improved.

Limewashing requires more attention, and the whole of the walls and ceilings should be limewashed not less than twice per year. Some farmers do not for some reason, limewash the ceiling, and having cautioned them so often it will be necessary to report any further offences to your Committee.

During the last session of Parliament a Milk and Dairies Bill was introduced and withdrawn. It is intended to again introduce the Bill during the present Session of Parliament, and it is to be hoped that some of its shortcomings will be remedied, and that it will make the owner responsible for structural alterations to all cowsheds, for without this provision, it will, like its predecessors, be of very little use in the direction for which it is intended.

#### **FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.**

One hundred and twenty-four visits have been paid to the workshops, which, with one exception, were found to be carried on in conformity with the Act.

In one case the occupier of a workshop had failed to keep the abstract under the above Act posted in a conspicuous place. The Factory Inspector was notified of the omission, and the owner afterwards obtained and posted the abstract as required.

There have been three notices of firms who employ outworkers ; two of them were from the Sanitary Superintendent for Manchester, and the other from a firm in this borough.

Both places have been visited and found satisfactory.

#### **CANAL BOATS ACTS.**

Thirty Canal Boats have been met and inspected during the year. Three captains of the boats did not produce the certificate when asked for, and were reported, and Formal Notices were forwarded to the owners, who complied with the notices and provided the necessary certificate.

The boats were registered for one hundred and twenty-nine persons, and occupied by fifty-two men, seven women, and fourteen children.

The cabins were clean and free from over-crowding and infectious disease.

### **FOUL RIVERS.**

The rivers which flow through the Borough are still in the same foul condition as when last reported upon, and are the cause of many complaints from the inhabitants who have the misfortune to reside on or near their banks.

The River Wince is the worst offender in this respect, especially on a Saturday afternoon, when the clows are raised and not less than a week's accumulation of decomposing filthy matter is allowed to flow down the stream.

The filthy condition of this river has been tolerated by the inhabitants of this Borough for a long number of years, and the time has now arrived when I think some action might be taken to reduce this abominable nuisance.

### **SHOP HOURS AND SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS ACTS.**

Visits have been paid to shops under the above Acts, which were found to be carried on in conformity with the Act.

On the 1st May last, the Shops Act, 1912, came into operation, and the administration of its provisions were assigned to this department, which has added considerably to the work and responsibility of the officials concerned.

The Act is most difficult to administer, as its provisions are mostly optional, and shopkeepers may still do almost as they like, providing they allow their assistants a half holiday per week, and time for meals.

The butchers have petitioned the Corporation, asking them to make an order and fix the half holiday, and also the times of closing at night. At the present time the necessary formalities are proceeding, and in a short time it is expected that their petition will be granted.

The most difficult part of the Act to administer is that relating to meal times, as there is no fixed time, nor is the proprietor of the shop required to fix a notice stating the time each assistant shall have his meals, and when your official makes inquiries, of course, he is just going to have his meal time, and will have more time than is required by the Act, and not being able to prove to the contrary we have to be satisfied with the explanation given.

In going round visiting the shops I have generally found a desire on the part of the shopkeepers to comply with the Act, and in only one instance was it necessary to report the case to your Committee, when the offender at once complied with the provisions of the Act.

#### **COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

Three hundred and eighty visits have been paid to the common lodging houses, which were found free from overcrowding, and infectious disease.

#### **SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**

There are ten slaughter houses in the Borough, to which seven hundred and thirty-two visits have been made. Everything was found satisfactory.

#### **UNSOUND AND DISEASED FOOD.**

There has been one thousand four hundred and twelve pounds of diseased or unsound meat seized, one hundred and twenty pounds of unsound fish, and eighty pounds of unwholesome fruit.

In each case the article was submitted for inspection by the owners, and on being pronounced unfit for food was formally seized and destroyed, so as to prevent its being used as human food.

Amongst the meat which was destroyed was part of the carcase of a cow, which was reported by the Manchester authorities as suffering from tubercle of the udder and giving tuberculous milk, which was being sold in Manchester.

After slaughter the carcass was examined, when the lungs, Pleura, and udder were found to be affected with tuberculosis.

The affected parts were seized and destroyed, the remainder being passed as fit for human food.

#### **CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.**

During the year there has been two cases of parasitic mange reported, in both instances the precautions taken for preventing the spread of the disease were successful.

During the month of July the Town Clerk received information from the Board of Agriculture that Foot and Mouth Disease had been detected in some cattle that had been brought from Ireland and landed in this country, and that all animals which had recently come from Ireland must be traced. This was done, and all the cattle which came from Ireland were detained and examined by the Veterinary Surgeon, who detained two of them on suspicion, but on further examination he pronounced them free from disease, and they were liberated.

For some time the movement of cattle was restricted in the district, but at the present time all restrictions are cancelled and farmers, butchers, and others, are allowed free movement of all cattle.

**HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.****To the Chairman and Members of the Housing and Town  
Planning Committee.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to make the following report upon the administration of the provisions of the above Act.

During the year 1911 there were twenty-five houses condemned, and at the present time the necessary work is not completed in ten of them, three have been closed, nine houses have been made into through houses, two pulled down, and in one case a side door has been provided so as to provide better ventilation. In each case where the work has been carried out to the satisfaction of your official, the Closing Orders have been determined by your Committee.

During the year 1912, twenty-two houses have been reported to your Committee, and in twenty one cases the houses have been condemned, and Closing Orders have been served upon the owners.

In one case no action was taken, as owing to certain alterations which had to be carried out, the house would have to be pulled down. It has since been closed, and it is intended to demolish it in a very short time.

Owing to the alterations which have been made to some of the houses, seven Closing Orders have been determined, and the houses are again occupied.

In six instances repairs are being carried out, so as to make the houses habitable.

Four houses have been closed, and no attempt or suggestion of alteration has been made.

The remaining cases are four back to back houses, and up to the present time the owner has not taken any action towards making them satisfactory.

In dealing with houses which can be made fit for habitation, I beg to suggest that in future they be dealt with under section fifteen of the Act, so that there need be no unnecessary disturbance of the occupiers, and if the owner does not carry out the repairs as specified in the Notice, then the Corporation can execute the necessary work and charge the cost to the owner. This course, I venture to think, will be better than making a Closing Order in every case, as there is a difficulty in getting the tenants out, as they can't get houses, and we can't very well obtain ejectment orders unless provision can be made for those displaced.

I have, in eighteen cases, served informal notices, and five of these have been complied with, whilst in several instances the work of repair is being carried out.

I have started making a house to house inspection, as required by the Act, and have examined two hundred and thirty-six houses.

Many defects have, of course, been found in the houses inspected, and will in due course have to be dealt with, but it is impracticable to deal with them all at once.

In some houses visited there is no provision made for the ventilation of bedrooms, which are without a fire place, in others there is a square hole cut into the ceiling, which is a very bad form of ventilation, and oftener than not this so-called ventilator is plastered over with paper so as prevent the occupants catching cold from the down draught which always occur where this form of ventilation is in use. In some houses which have been recently erected there are air valves fixed in the wall, but there is no provision for the escape of the vitiated atmosphere.

I beg to suggest that in all future cases some improved methods of ventilating bedrooms be adopted, which will allow the entrance of fresh air, and the escape to the outside of the vitiated air of the room.

In making these inspections, I also note the conditions of the houses as regards cleanliness, and am bound to say that a good many occupiers do not make the most of what there is. The tenants might, with a little care, tidiness, and cleanliness, put a

much better appearance on the house than at presents exists, in many cases the paint on the woodwork does not appear to have been washed down since it was put on, the paper on the walls dirty and torn, the walls and ceilings dirty and requiring limewashing or whitening, dirty windows through which daylight can scarcely penetrate, and which are again hung with heavy curtains, which makes the house very dark. Very often the flags of the floor are broken. This is due to the occupier trying to split wood by striking it on the flags, to the detriment of the latter. What to do with this class of tenant is a problem that requires solving, as persuasion, warnings, or threats, have no effect, and if they were housed in the best houses in the borough they would soon give them the appearance of slum property.



Sanitary Department,  
Corporation Street,  
Middleton.

**Market Inspector's Annual Report.**

**To the Chairman and Members of the Watch Committee.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present for your consideration, the following Report on the amount of money received from, and the number of stalls which have occupied, the Market Ground during the year.

Included in the report is a statement of the amount of money received for the hire of stalls provided by the Corporation.

## MARKET RECEIPTS.

1912.

	£ s. d.	Number of stalls.	Corporation Stalls. £ s. d.	Numbers	Cost of Sweeping. £ s. d.
January .....	14 0 3	253	4 3 10	50	1 9 0
February .....	10 6 6	218	3 17 4	47	1 3 1
March .....	9 15 10	196	3 17 4	47	1 5 0
April .....	12 3 10	239	4 8 4	50	1 4 5
May .....	12 7 6	257	3 16 8	46	1 11 5
June .....	10 6 4	206	4 0 0	48	1 2 3
July .....	15 11 10	295	5 0 0	60	1 10 3
August .....	44 6 6	248	3 8 4	41	1 5 0
September .....	11 17 2	232	4 1 8	49	1 3 6
October .....	10 5 11	225	5 5 9	64	1 7 0
November .....	10 6 9	220	6 0 2	73	1 2 7
December.....	11 1 4	226	5 13 0	71	1 2 0
Total.....	172 9 9	2815	53 12 5	649	15 5 6

	£	s.	d.
Receipts, 1912.....	172	9	9
„ 1911.....	181	12	10
Decrease .....	9	3	1
<hr/>			
Number of Stalls, 1912.....			2815
„ „ 1911.....			3082
Decrease .....			267
<hr/>			
	£	s.	d.
Cost of Sweeping, 1912.....	15	5	6
„ „ 1911.....	19	2	1
Decrease .....	3	16	7
<hr/>			

During the year the nineteen stalls owned by the Corporation have been used on six hundred and forty-nine occasions, and £53 12s. 5d. has been received for their hire.

There has been a decrease of £9 3s. 1d. in the amount of money received from the Market Ground, as compared with the previous year. This is accounted for by the decrease of 267 in the number of stalls which have occupied the ground during the year.

This year there is a decrease of £3 16s. 7d. in the cost of sweeping, which is satisfactory, especially seeing that previously the cost has increased every year.

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HY. NORTON,  
Market Inspector.



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