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Borough of Middleton.

Arths

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1917

J. Verity, Printer, "The Electric Press," Middleton.

Post Office Buildings,

Middleton,

March, 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough during the year 1917.

This report is much less detailed than those issued in normal times, and is on the same lines as last year's, but for greater convenience is in printed form instead of the type-written form of last year.

The population is estimated by the General Register Office as 28,469 for purposes of Birth-rate calculations, and 25,539 as the civil population for Death-rate calculation. The actual civil population at the beginning of 1918 was 26,300, based on the issue of meat ration cards.

The birth-rate is again considerably lower than ever before, and the actual number of births is nearly 100 less than in 1915.

The death-rate is very slightly higher than in the previous year, but includes only the civil portion of the population. Even then, the birth-rate for the year is exceeded by the death-rate to the extent of .8 per 1,000 inhabitants.

The Infantile Death-rate is considerably higher than that of last year, but the actual number of deaths of infants has only been less in 1916, during the past twenty years.

There has been a great decrease in the number of notifications of infectious diseases, with the exception of Measles which occurred in severe epidemic form during the year, and entailed a great amount of extra work on the department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

FREDK. J. WHEELDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1917.

Census, 1911 27,983.

Population Estimated, 1917, 28,469 for Birth-rate purposes.

Population Estimated, 1917 (Civil), 25,539 for Death-rate purposes.

Actual Population beginning of 1918, based on issue of meat ration cards, 26,300.

		On population of 26,300.	
Number of births	414	...	
Annual rate per 1,000 inhabitants...	14.5	...	15.7
Number of deaths	391	...	
Annual rate per 1,000 inhabitants ...	15.3	...	14.8
Excess of births over deaths	23	...	
Infantile deaths, under a year old ...	47	...	
Infantile death-rate per 1,000 births	114	...	
Deaths of children aged 1—5 years	28	...	
Number of illegitimate births	30	...	
Number of deaths of illegitimates ...	7	...	
Deaths from seven principal Zymotic diseases	24	...	
Rate per 1,000 inhabitants .....	.93	...	.91
Deaths from Respiratory diseases...	72	...	
Rate per 1,000 inhabitants	2.8	...	2.7
Deaths from Tuberculosis of Lungs	33	...	
Rate per 1,000 inhabitants	1.29	...	1.25
Deaths from other forms of Tuber- culosis	12	...	
Rate per 1,000 inhabitants .....	.47	...	.45
Deaths from Cancer	39	...	
Rate per 1,000 inhabitants	1.52	...	1.48

Total number of infectious diseases		
notified	805	...
Number of cases of Tuberculosis		
notified	94	...

N.B.—All the calculations in the body of this report are based on the population as calculated by the General Register Office, viz., 28,469 for birth-rate purposes, and 25,539 for death-rate purposes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered in the borough during the year was 411. Of these 214 were boys and 197 girls. The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 14.4.

Three births which occurred outside the borough were transferred, making a total of 414, which gives a rate of 14.5.

There is a decrease in number of 43, and in rate per 1,000, of 1.3 from the figures in 1916.

The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.8 per 1,000.

The illegitimate births registered in the borough amounted to 29, and one occurred outside the borough and has been transferred. This number, 30, is four more than in the previous year, and fourteen more than in 1915.

The percentage of all births was 7.2, as compared with 5.5 in 1916.

Twin births occurred in four cases of illegitimacy.

In all there were twins born in 12 cases; in four there were twin boys; in three, twin girls; and in five, a boy and a girl.

DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the borough amounted to 319. This is two more than in 1916, and 58 less than in 1915. The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 12.4.

Seventy-five deaths of Middleton residents which were registered outside the borough have been transferred.

Two deaths registered in the borough of persons who reside in other localities, and one death of a soldier on furlough have to be subtracted.

The total deaths of Middleton people were therefore 391, six more than in the previous year. The death-rate was 15.3. This is 1.1 per 1,000 higher than in 1916.

The annual death-rate per 1,000 inhabitants for England and Wales was 14.4.

Of the total deaths 184 were males and 207 females.

The excess of births over deaths was 23. This, which is the natural increase of the population, was made up of an increase of 33 males and a decrease of 10 females.

The number of illegitimates who died in the year was 6 of those born in 1917 and 4 others, aged 5, 8, and 16 months, and 11 years respectively. The percentage of all deaths was 2.4.

The ward distribution of the deaths was :—

	Registered in Borough.		Registered out- side Borough.		Total.	
	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.
North Ward ...	49	50	6	13	55	63
Central Ward..	47	61	20	6	67	67
South Ward ...	59	50	10	10	69	60

East Ward ...	60	58	...	9	11	...	69	69
Parkfield Ward	57	63	...	25	24	...	82	87
West Ward ...	44	33	...	5	6	...	49	39
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		
	316	315	...	75	70	...	391	385
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		

The three deaths which were transferred occurred in North, South, and East Wards.

The 75 persons whose deaths were registered in districts outside the Borough died in the following places :—

Oldham Union—		Lancaster Lunatic Asylum	2
Hospital	30	Prestwich Lunatic Asylum	2
Children's Ward ...	3	Ancoats Hospital	1
Mental Ward.....	10	Christie's Hospital	1
Manchester Royal In-		Crumpsall Union Hospital	1
firmary	7	Barnes Convalescent Hos-	
Oldham Royal Infirmary	3	pital	1
Marland Fever Hospital	4	Ainsworth Sanatorium ...	1
St. Mary's Hospital	5	Chadderton	1
Nursing Home in Man-		Levinstein's, Blackley ...	1
chester	1		
Nursing Home in Old-		Total ...	75
ham	1		

DEATHS ARISING FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

From this class of disease there were 24 deaths, an increase of 2 over the number in 1916, and six more than in 1915. Six were due to Diphtheria, 3 to Whooping Cough, 7 to Measles, and 2 to Typhoid Fever. There was only one death certified as due to Diarrhœa, and that was described as Dispeptic, and five to Enteritis or Gastro Enteritis.

The figures for the past ten years are as follows :—

	Number of deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Percentage of all deaths.
1917	24	.93	4.6
1916	22	.8	5.7
1915	18	.6	4
1914	47	1.6	11.1
1913	8	.28	2.1
1912	17	.6	4
1911	71	2.5	15.2
1910	39	1.4	9.5
1909	17	.6	4.2
1908	43	1.85	9.7

The following table gives the number of cases of each disease in each of the past ten years.

Disease.	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	5	2	3	1	—	—	4	6	6	6
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	4	5	—	2	5	—	2	—
Typhoid Fever .	1	6	2	—	1	1	9	1	1	2
Measles	17	4	16	17	15	3	6	9	2	7
W h o o p i n g										
Cough	4	—	6	16	—	—	15	—	3	3
Diarrhœa	15	5	8	32	1	2	8	2	8	6
	43	17	39	71	17	8	47	18	22	24

Four cases died in hospital, viz. :—3 cases of Diphtheria and 1 of Typhoid. One of the Diphtheria cases was associated with Puerperal Fever.

DEATHS ARISING FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Forty-five deaths were due to this class of disease, an increase of 2 over the number in 1916. Three cases died in the Union Hospital, and one at the Ainsworth Sanatorium, from Tuberculosis of the lungs. One case of Tuberculosis, other than Pulmonary, died at the Barnes Convalescent Home, Cheadle.

The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 1.76, and the percentage of all deaths 11.5.

The following are the figures for the past ten years :—

	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
All Tubercular Diseases ..	53	46	33	43	49	29	43	51	43	45
Rate per 1,000	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.	1.5	1.8	1.58	1.76
Phthisis only	42	28	25	31	37	21	35	41	32	33
Rate per 1,000	1.57	1.	.89	1.1	1.3	.73	1.2	1.47	1.2	1.29

The age incidence of the deaths was :—

		Other Tubercular			
		Phthisis.		Diseases.	Total.
Aged	1— 5 years	1	...	6	7
„	5—15 „	2	...	1	3
„	15—25 „	6	...	2	8
„	25—45 „	15	...	2	17
„	45—65 „	6	...	1	7
„	over 65 „	3	...	—	3
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
		33	...	12	45

The deaths from Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary were certified as follows :—

Tubercular Meningitis ...	8	Peritoneum	2
Spinal Disease.....	1	Cervical Glands	1

Of the patients who died during the year, the notification of the disease was made as follows :—

Notified in 1917	26	Notified in 1915	5
„ „ 1916	11	„ „ 1914	1
		„ „ 1912	1

And one case, not notified, died of Tubercular Peritonitis in the Barnes Convalescent Home, Cheadle.

The Ward distribution of the deaths was :—

	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular		Total.
		Diseases.		
North Ward	5	...	1	6
Central Ward	6	...	2	8
South Ward	4	...	3	7
East Ward	6	...	5	11
Parkfield Ward	9	...	1	10
West Ward	3	...	—	3
	33	...	12	45

The sex incidence was :—

	Males.		Females.	Total.
Phthisis	15	...	18	33
Other forms ...	7	...	5	12
	22	...	23	45

DEATHS FROM DISEASE OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

From this group of diseases there were 75 deaths, in comparison with 71 in 1916, and 118 in 1915. The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 2.9, and the percentage of all deaths 19. These figures were 2.5 and 18.4 in 1916.

These deaths were attributed, as primary cause, to the following diseases :—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Pneumonia	14	...	8	...	22
Broncho-Pneumonia	5	...	5	...	10
Bronchitis	17	...	19	...	36
Asthma	1	...	3	...	4
Empyema	1	...	—	...	1
Pleurisy	1	...	—	...	1
Chronic Congestion	—	...	1	...	1
	39	...	36	...	75

In the returns from the General Register Office, the number of deaths from all diseases of the Respiratory Organs is given as 72, and the rate per 1,000 is 2.8.

DEATHS ARISING FROM CANCER.

During the year there were 39 deaths from this cause. This is nine more than in 1916, and 5 more than in 1915. The rate per 1,000 was 1.48, and the percentage of all deaths 10.

The sex, age, and region affected were :—

	Females.		Males.	
Breast	4	...	—	54, 50, 50, 45.
Uterus	4	...	—	57, 57, 71, 76.

Ovary	1	...	—	...	46.
Abdomen	1	...	—	...	23.
Tongue	1	...	1	...	57, 59.
Œsophagus	1	...	—	...	78.
Stomach	7	...	5	...	49, 55, 59, 59, 64, 66, 66, 66, 69, 69, 74, 74.
Bowel	1	...	4	...	46, 54, 56, 60, 67.
Liver	3	...	1	...	49, 63, 67, 73.
Scrotum	—	...	1	...	43,
Bladder	1	...	—	...	68.
Peritoneum	1	...	—	...	55.
Thyroid	1	...	—	...	57.
Larynx	—	...	1	...	53.
	<hr/> 26		<hr/> 13		

INFLUENZA.

Two deaths only were certified as due to this cause.

NEPHRITIS, OR BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

Twenty deaths occurred from this class of disease. Of these eight died of Uraemia as the immediate cause, and two of Cerebral Hæmorrhage.

The ages at death were :—

Aged 5-15	25-45	45-65	Over 65.
1	2	7	7

In three cases the Nephritis was secondary to Rheumatic Arthritis, Empyema, and Cerebral Hæmorrhage respectively.

Eleven were males and nine females.

CEREBRAL HÆMORRHAGE AND OTHER BRAIN AFFECTIONS.

There were 47 deaths caused by one or other of this group of diseases :—

Cerebral Hæmorrhage	19
Cerebral Thrombosis	3
Cerebral Embolism	1
Lateral Sinus Thrombosis	2
Cerebral Softening	7
Hemiplegia	3
Epilepsy	3
Cerebral Tumour	2
Dementia	2
Peripheral Neuritis	2
Non-Tubercular Meningitis	2

and one each of Disseminated Sclerosis and Imbecility.

LONGEVITY.

Of the total deaths, 124 were 65 years or over. This is 31.7 per cent. as compared with 29.3 per cent. in 1916, 29.6 per cent. in 1915, 23.5 per cent. in 1914, and 27.3 per cent. in 1913.

There were 67 who were between 70 and 80 years of age, 17 between 80 and 90, and two over 90 years.

Eighteen of those over 70 died in Institutions outside the Borough.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

Sixteen inquests and twelve enquiries were conducted by the Coroner. Seven inquests were held outside the Borough

on the deaths of Middleton residents, and an inquest and an enquiry were held on two cases of persons who died in the Borough but resided in other districts.

The cause of death in all cases was stated to be as follows :—

	Inquests.				Enquiries.			
	In Borough.		Outside.		In Borough.		Outside.	
Natural causes...	4	...	2	...	12	...	—	—
Accident	5	...	5	...	—	...	—	—

The accidental deaths were due to :—Drowning 3, Fall 3, Poisoning 1, Ether Anæsthesia 1, Acid Burns 1, Fractured Femur 1.

The deaths from natural causes included :—From

Heart failure	10	Apoplexy	1
Convulsions	1	Premature Birth	1
Irritant Bronchitis	1	Epiplesy	1
Pneumonia	1	Erysipelas	1
Bronchitis	1		

The ages of the persons whose deaths were investigated by the Coroner were :—

	Inquest.				Enquiry.			
	In Borough.		Outside.		In Borough.		Outside.	
Under 1 year	1	...	—	...	1	...	—	...
Aged 1- 5 years	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...
„ 5-15 „	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...
„ 15-25 „	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...
„ 25-45 „	—	...	1	...	1	...	—	...
„ 45-65 „	5	...	4	...	3	...	—	...
„ over 65 „	2	...	1	...	6	...	—	...
Total ...	9	...	7	...	12	...	—	...

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Measles, was 60. This is a decrease of 70 from the number in the previous year, and of 80 from the number in 1915.

The details are as follows :—

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Scarlet Fever	214 ...	87 ...	65 ...	6
Diphtheria	20 ...	31 ...	46 ...	39
Enteric Fever	43 ...	9 ...	3 ...	4
Erysipelas	19 ...	21 ...	14 ...	9
Puerperal Fever	— ...	1 ...	2 ...	2
	296 ...	149 ...	130 ...	60

The cases sent to Hospital were :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Total.
Cases	4 ...	20 ...	1 ...	25
Deaths	— ...	3 ...	1 ...	4

The total number of other cases notified was :—

Measles	652
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6
Tuberculosis	94
From Schools—	
Whooping Cough	56
Chicken Pox	11
Mumps	12

SCARLET FEVER.

Six cases only were notified.

The ages of the persons affected were :—3, 4, 5, 5, 13 and 17 years.

There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of this disease was 40, six less than in the previous year. One of the cases of Puerperal Fever was complicated by Diphtheria.

The case mortality was 150 per 1,000 affected, and the rate per 1,000 inhabitants .23.

Twenty cases were sent to hospital, and of these three died. One of these cases was complicated by the existence of Puerperal Fever.

The monthly incidence was

January	7	July	1
February	4	August	1
March	6	September	2
April	5	October	2
May	6	November	2
June	1	December	3

The ward distribution was :—

North Ward	7	East Ward	6
Central Ward	2	Parkfield Ward	7
South Ward	4	West Ward	14

The age incidence was :—

Aged	1-2	years	.....	1
„	2-5	„	.....	12
„	5-10	„	.....	18

„	10-15	„	.....	6
„	15-25	„	.....	2
„	25	„	.....	1

The last of these cases was the Puerperal Fever patient.

Two cases occurred in each of three houses.

The sanitary arrangements at the houses implicated were :—

Water Closets	14
Waste Water Closets	22
Sanitary Can	1

The milk supply was derived from nineteen different farms, the highest number of houses supplied by any one farm being 5.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

Four cases only were notified during the year. One case was treated in hospital, and there were two deaths, including the hospital case. The ages of the persons affected were 16, 40, 48, and 58 years respectively.

The sanitation and cleanliness of the houses was in each case good.

ERYSIPELAS.

Nine cases were notified, a decrease of 5 from the number in 1916.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Two cases of this disease occurred, one of which is included in the figures for Diphtheria as the case was removed to hospital on account of developing this disease. Both these cases died.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Six cases were notified during the year .

DIARRHŒA.

There were no cases attributed to Zymotic Diarrhœa.

There were, however, one case of death from Dyspeptic Diarrhœa, and five cases from Enteritis or Gastro Enteritis.

MEASLES.

A very severe epidemic of this disease occurred during the year. The total number of cases was 812, and in 41 instances the disease was described as German Measles.

A special report on the outbreak was made to the Health Committee in June, 1917, and copies sent to the Local Government Board and the County Council.

There were seven deaths, giving a case mortality of 8.6 per 1,000. The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was .27.

The notification was fairly satisfactory as regards first cases in the house affected, but the uncertainty of the regulations as regards the later cases arising in the same houses leads to considerable difficulty in ascertaining their occurrence.

The numbers notified were 449 by doctors, 195 by parents or guardians, and 168 were not notified, but were traced by the nurses in the course of their visiting.

The following Table gives the monthly returns and the localities affected :—

Month.	Cases Not		Total		Ward.					
	Not'fd.	Not'fd.			N.	C.	S.	E.	P.	W.
January ...	19	9	28	...	3	2	5	2	6	10

February .	115	23	138	...	54	40	14	2	18	10
March ...	181	26	207	...	18	24	45	43	36	41
April	144	40	184	...	32	41	17	36	38	20
May	144	41	185	...	11	25	17	48	46	38
June	26	13	39	...	4	3	10	12	6	4
July	2	13	15	...	2	—	—	—	5	8
August ...	3	1	4	...	—	1	—	3	—	—
September	3	—	3	...	2	—	1	—	—	—
October ...	2	2	4	...	—	—	2	1	—	1
November	4	—	4	...	1	—	1	1	1	—
December	1	—	1	...	—	—	—	1	—	—
<hr/>										
Total ...	644	168	812	...	127	136	112	149	156	132

It is evident from this Table that the whole of the Borough was affected by the epidemic, and, roughly, equally in each ward.

The number of houses in which more than one case occurred was, two in 81 houses, three in 4 houses, four in 8 houses, and six in 1 house.

There were therefore 694 houses in which cases of Measles occurred.

The age incidence was :—

Under	Aged	Aged	Aged	Aged	Over
1	1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	15
year.	years.	years.	years.	years.	years.
25	33	259	414	47	34

410 were males and 402 females.

There were 548 cases among children aged 4 to 13 years, which includes the greater number of those of school age, and it was considered advisable to close the infant department of the following schools :—

St. Leonard's, Feb. 26th to Mar. 19th.

St. Michael's, Mar. 26th to April 9th.

Durnford Street, April 23rd to May 7th.

It was necessary to utilize the services of the School Nurse in addition to those of the Health Visitor in order to cope with the great amount of visiting entailed by so many cases occurring in such a short period. Practically every house was visited, from which notifications were received, and instructions given as to isolation, nursing, and the necessity for medical attendance. The number of visits made was 805 first visits and 139 re-visits. Total 944.

The school premises were sprayed with disinfectant solution.

Disinfection of the houses was quite impossible under the conditions of shortage of labour, and the large number of cases; nor do I think any disinfection other than plenty of fresh air and cleanliness is necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications of all forms of Tuberculosis amounted to 94, in comparison with 114 in 1916, and were derived as follows :—

	Tuberculosis		Other forms of		
	of Lungs.		Tuberculosis.		Total.
Private Notifications ...	47	...	24	...	71
Sanatorium	14	...	—	...	14
Hospital	—	...	4	...	4
Poor Law Hospital	3	...	2	...	5
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	64	...	30	...	94
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Eighteen were notified from Sanatoria as well as privately, and one from the Union Hospital. One case notified from the County Asylum could not be traced, and one was notified from Manchester on change of address.

Of the cases of other forms than pulmonary, five cases were notified by Hospitals as well as privately.

One case was not notified, a patient who died of Tubercular Peritonitis at Cheadle Convalescent Hospital.

The ward distribution was :—

	Phthisis.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.
North Ward	6	4
Central Ward	8	3
South Ward	21	6
East Ward	13	11
Parkfield Ward	14	5
West Ward.....	2	1
	64	30

The age incidence was :—

	Phthisis.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.
Aged 1-5 years	1	7
„ 5-15 „	10	11
„ 15-25 „	12	5
„ 25-35 „	13	3
„ 35-45 „	10	2
„ 45-65 „	16	2
„ over 65 „	2	—
	64	30

The sex of the patients was :—

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis of the Lungs	32	32
Other forms of Tuberculosis	13	17

The following were the various forms of Tuberculosis other than pulmonary from which the patients were suffering :

Disease of	Number	Disease of	Number
Glands	15	Wrist Joint	1
Meninges	9	Peritoneum	2
Hip Joint	1	Testicle	1
Skin	1		

TREATMENT.

All cases have been passed on to Dr. Stewart, the Tuberculosis Officer, and visited by Nurse Tweedy, who is attached to the Dispensary. She has made 85 reports on houses visited, and where defects in the accommodation has been found, notice has been served on the owners of the house to make the necessary repairs.

The sleeping room and bedding of each patient who has been sent to a Sanatorium is disinfected, and also, in all cases where a patient has died at home.

Fifty-two notices of the offer of Sanatorium Treatment have been received from Dr. Lissant Cox, the Central Tuberculosis Officer, and thirty-seven notices of admission.

Four were cases notified in 1915, and twelve cases notified in 1916.

Thirty-eight cases have had their discharge notified, eight of which were notified in 1916.

Of the cases other than pulmonary, fourteen have been treated in Hospital, viz., nine at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, three at Pendlebury Children's Hospital, one at the Skin Hospital, and one at Booth Hall Infirmary.

Dr. Stewart has kindly provided me with the following abridged report on the work carried out in connection with the Tuberculosis Dispensary in Middleton :—

REPORT OF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1917.

“ During the year 1917, forty-eight insured patients (new cases), including four discharged soldiers, applied for treatment. Thirty-seven of these were pulmonary, and eleven were non-pulmonary. Of the thirty-seven pulmonary cases, twenty-one were sent to Sanatorium, six to Hospital for advanced cases on account of home circumstances, and ten were granted Domiciliary treatment only. Of the eleven non-pulmonary cases, five were sent to Manchester Royal Infirmary for surgical treatment, and six were granted Domiciliary. Of the thirty-seven pulmonary cases who applied for treatment, seven, including one discharged soldier, were in the third stage of the disease when they applied. This represents a great improvement on the figures for 1916.

Thirty non-insured patients (new cases) applied for treatment during the year. Of these, sixteen were pulmonary and fourteen non-pulmonary. Of the pulmonary cases, seven were sent to Sanatorium, four to Hospital for advanced cases, and five were granted Dispensary treatment. Of the non-pulmonary cases, six were granted Surgical treatment in Manchester Royal Infirmary, two were sent to Leasowe Sanatorium, and six were granted Dispensary treatment.

Splints, crutches, etc., were supplied in three cases.

During the year, one hundred and eighty-six new patients were sent to the Dispensary for diagnosis, etc., by their doctors.

There were seven hundred and twelve re-attendances of old patients for supervision and extensions of treatment.

One hundred and fourteen examinations of sputum were carried out at the Laboratory, with a positive result in twenty-two cases, and negative in ninety-two.

The Tuberculois Nurse paid four hundred and thirty-three Domiciliary visits during the year.

All the cases notified to the Medical Officer of Health were visited, with six exceptions, three of whom could not be traced, and in three cases the visit was not necessary.

Special attention was paid to the cases where tubercle bacilli were found in the sputum. Of thirty-eight such cases, twenty-five had a separate bedroom. Three had a separate bedroom, but during part of their illness were sleeping in the living room. Seven slept in the living room throughout the whole of their illness."

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Whooping Cough.

Fifty-six cases were notified by the Head Teachers from the schools, in comparison with 72 in 1916.

The great majority occurred in West Ward.

Chickenpox and Mumps.

Eleven cases of the former and twelve of the latter were notified from the schools in the year, in comparison with 93 cases of Chickenpox in 1916.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Blood for Typhoid Bacilli	2	6	8
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli ...	—	2	2
Sputum for Tubercular Bacilli	6	19	25
	8	27	35

All these specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under a year old amounted to 47, the same number as in 1915, and 10 more than in 1916. The lowest previous number in any year of the last twenty was 59 in 1913.

The rate per 1,000 births was 114, and the percentage of all deaths 12. In 1916 the rate was 79 and the percentage 9.6.

The average figures for the previous ten years were 593 births, 72 Infantile deaths, 120 deaths per 1,000 births, and 16.9 per cent. of all deaths.

The Infantile death-rate for the whole of England and Wales was, in 1917, 97 per 1,000 births.

Of the 47 infants who died in 1917, 4 died outside the Borough, two from premature birth, and 2 from Marasmus.

The deaths of two infants were investigated by the Coroner.

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

	Infectious Diseases.	Enteritis and Diarrhœa.	Wasting.	Respiratory.	Premature Birth.	Convulsions.
1908	4	23	15	16	25	4
1909	2	8	19	13	18	5
1910	7	11	15	13	11	4
1911	13	39	9	15	14	9
1912	3	11	10	13	15	7
1913	1	10	7	14	15	4
1914	8	11	18	8	12	7
1915	2	4	10	13	3	4
1916	—	8	4	7	7	3
1917	1	5	11	9	9	—

Of the 5 babies who died from Enteritis and Diarrhœa, four were attributed to Enteritis and one to Acute Dyspeptic Diarrhœa.

Of the deaths from wasting diseases 7 were attributed to Marasmus and four to Malnutrition. In addition to these five were certified as due to congenital weakness and two to imperfect development. Nine deaths were of twin children, both dying in four cases, and one in a fifth.

Fifteen children died before they were a month old, and of these 9 did not live a week.

Of children between the age of 1 and 5 years there were 28 deaths. The number in 1916, was 29; and in 1915, 39. The average for the previous ten years was 32.7.

They amounted to 7.1 per cent. of the total deaths for the year.

The causes of death in these children were :—

	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5
	years.	years.	years.	years.
Infectious Diseases	3	2	1	3
Respiratory Diseases.....	5	1	1	1
Tubercular Diseases	1	3	2	1
Convulsions	1	—	—	—
Laryngitis	—	—	—	1
Septic Tonsillitis	—	—	—	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—	1
	10	6	4	8

The total number of children who died before reaching the age of 5, when school life should begin, was 75; 9 more than in 1916, and 11 less than in 1915. They formed 19 per cent. of the total deaths during the year, and the rate per 1,000 births was 181.

INFANT WELFARE.

The attendance of mothers with their children at the centre was about double that of the previous year.

The following figures indicate the details :—

Notifications of Births.

By	By	By	Total	Not	Total
Doctors.	Midwives.	Parents.	notified.	notified.	births.
168	213	8	389	30	419

Visits Paid by Nurse Green.

First Visits, 417. Re-visits, 3,729. Total, 4,146.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

	Individuals.	Attendances.
For weighing and consultation ...	259	443

For consultation only	56	...	132
For weighing only	147	...	253
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total ...	462	...	828
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Number of new cases during the year, 167.

Under a Year Old.

	Individuals.		Attendances.
For weighing and consultation ...	232	...	405
For consultation only	10	...	69
For weighing only	132	...	217
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total ...	374	...	691
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Number of new cases, 132.

Over a Year Old.

	Individuals.		Attendances.
For weighing and consultation ...	27	...	38
For consultation only	46	...	63
For weighing only	15	...	36
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total ...	88	...	137
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Number of new cases, 35.

Nurse Green reports that of the children visited in connection with the Notification of Births, 16 were still-born.

As regards the manner of feeding, 317 were breast-fed, 64 bottle-fed, and 22 were having breast and bottle feeding.

A considerable amount of work was carried out in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre, other than the mere

giving of advice; for example, 35 cases of more or less prominent Umbilical Hernia were treated, and a case of club foot made 90 attendances at the office for moulding and massage.

Three cases of pregnancy consulted me as to their untoward symptoms, and Nurse Green, in the course of her visiting, gave advice to all patients desiring it.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

The details concerning this portion of the work of the Department will be found in Mr. Norton's Report following.

Sanitary Department,
Corporation Street,
Middleton.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1917.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.
Gentlemen,—

I have very much pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Twenty-second Annual Report on the work carried out by the department during the year 1917.

Owing to the requirements of the Army, there is still a great shortage of men required for the removal of house refuse, also for the abatement of nuisances and repairs to dwellings, which is so necessary for the health and comfort of the inhabitants of the Borough. Therefore the work has not been carried out in as satisfactory a manner as we would wish, but the best has been done under the circumstances, and we can only hope that in the near future the war will be ended and on the men's return to civil life we shall be able to recover lost ground.

Arthur Edwards, the Assistant Inspector, is still serving in the Army, and at present is on the Italian front.

I beg to acknowledge the assistance of Alfred Booth for the able manner in which he has carried out the duties of nightsoil foreman and disinfecter.

I beg to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Members of the three committees it is my privilege to serve, for their kindness and support in carrying out the duties of the department.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HY. NORTON,
Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANI- TARY DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1917.

Formal Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1875	14
Formal Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1875, re Black Smoke	4
Preliminary notices served re nuisances	115
Number of nuisances discovered	234
Number of nuisances abated	159
Number of nuisances unabated	98
Houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act	231
Preliminary notices served, Housing and Town Planning Act	13
Preliminary notices complied with	7
Houses reported to the H. and T. P. Committee	3
Canal Boats inspected	17
Notices served under the Canal Boats Acts	2
Samples of food taken for analysis	80
Samples of food reported unsatisfactory.....	7
Amount of diseased, unsound or unwholesome food seized	68lbs.
Cases of infectious disease reported	60
Patients removed to Marland Hospital for isolation...	25
Articles of clothing, bedding, etc., disinfected	691
Rooms disinfected in consequence of having been occu- pied by persons suffering from an infectious disease	204
Visits to cases of infectious disease	620
Visits to slaughter-houses	884
Visits to common lodging-houses	326
Visits to offensive trades	17
Visits to dairies and cowsheds	49
Visits to factories and workshops	134
Prosecutions re black smoke	5
Prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Acts	3
Prosecutions, slaughtering on unlicensed premises	1

NUISANCES.

During the year one hundred and fifteen preliminary notices have been served upon the persons responsible for the abatement of nuisances existing on premises belonging to them.

Two hundred and thirty-four nuisances were discovered, one hundred and fifty-nine were abated, and ninety-eight remained unabated at the end of the year.

A number of the nuisances abated were in compliance with notices served during the previous year.

In consequence of preliminary notices not being complied with, it was necessary to report fourteen cases to your committee, and in each case formal notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, were served, which had the desired effect, and in no case was it necessary to resort to the Police Court to obtain the abatement of nuisances arising on property.

Owing to the prevailing conditions this work has been carried out under difficulties, and nuisances have often had to remain unabated for long periods owing to contractors and others not having the men to carry out the work after it has been placed in their hands.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

During the year thirty smoke observations have been taken, and black smoke was emitted for 2 hours 42 minutes and 25 seconds, giving an average of 2 minutes 42.41 seconds per observation.

The limit of five minutes' emission of black smoke per half hour has been exceeded on fourteen occasions, and five firms were summoned, and fines amounting to £3 7s. were

imposed by the magistrates; in four cases formal notices were served upon the offenders, and in the remaining cases letters of caution were sent by the Town Clerk.

The amount of black smoke discharged into the atmosphere is still on the increase, but owing to the difficulties under which manufacturers are working at the present time they are being more leniently dealt with than formerly.

But I would strongly urge upon them the necessity of making every effort to keep this nuisance within bounds, or they will make it necessary to return to the taking of more observations.

During the year I made representation to you on the nuisance arising from the discharge of dense smoke from steam motor wagons, and you communicated with the officials who carry out this work, but, unfortunately, they cannot take steps to have the nuisance abated. This nuisance is far worse than that arising from mill chimneys, for often the streets are full of smoke after the passing of one of these machines, and it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to remove this obnoxious nuisance from our midst.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Sixty cases of infectious disease have been reported during the year, which is a satisfactory decrease of seventy cases compared with the year 1916.

The cases reported were 6 scarlet fever, 39 diphtheria, 4 enteric fever, 9 erysipelas, and 2 puerperal fever.

I have visited and investigated each case, and taken such precautions as were necessary to prevent the spread of the various diseases, but although I tried to trace the source of infection it was only in a very few cases that I was able to say with any degree of certainty the cause of the infection.

Twenty-five patients were removed to Marland Hospital for isolation.

Two hundred and four rooms have been disinfected in consequence of having been occupied by persons suffering from an infectious disease.

In addition to the foregoing, one hundred and seventy-one rooms have been disinfected in consequence of having been occupied by persons suffering from consumption.

DISINFECTION OF BEDDING, CLOTHING, ETC.

Six hundred and ninety-one articles of bedding, clothing, etc., have been treated in the steam disinfecter, and in no case has any case of disease been traced to any article which has passed through the machine.

Unfortunately, two articles were damaged in the process of disinfection, otherwise the work has been carried out satisfactorily.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND ASHES.

				Nightsoil		Cost		
				Loads.		£	s.	d.
1917	.....	563	.....	215	19	8		
1916	.....	581	.....	167	4	0		
				Decrease	18	Increase	£48	15 8
				Ashes.		Cost.		Total Cost.
				Loads.		£	s.	d.
1917	.....	3769	.....	1195	5	9	.....	1381 6 5
1916	.....	3380	.....	1042	3	3	.....	1042 3 3
				Inc.	389	Inc.	£153	2 6
				Inc.	£339	3	2	

AMOUNT EARNED REMOVING CLINKERS.

		£	s.	d.
1917	.....	71	8	0
1916	.....	76	18	0
		<hr/>		
Decrease	...	£5	10	0
		<hr/>		

There has again been a considerable increase in the cost of removing the nightsoil and ashes, which is again due to increased charges for horses and men and wages.

Owing to the shortage of horses and carts and men this work has not been carried out in the satisfactory manner we should like, and numerous complaints have been received regarding accumulation of refuse on premises, but the best has been done under the circumstances with the limited number of men at our disposal, and the householders could help us considerably if they would only place ashes in the ashpits, paper, rags, etc., might be stored separately and dealt with in another way.

Paper could be stored in bags to be obtained from this department, and would be collected by Boy Scouts.

In many districts the collection of house refuse is being carried out by electric motor wagons in place of horses, and from inquiries the change has given satisfaction from every point of view. Therefore I would suggest that this matter be considered during the ensuing year.

Enquiries have been made respecting the disposal of the old tins accumulated at the destructor, but owing to the small quantity for disposal, and the cost of erecting plant to deal with them, this could only be carried out at a loss, so for the present they have to go to the tip. It is a pity that some use cannot be made of this material, for in districts where there is sufficient quantities they are disposed of at a profit.

Perhaps in the near future arrangements may be made for two or more Authorities to join and erect a plant jointly to deal with this and other waste in such a manner as to enable them to deal with it without any loss to the districts concerned.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Eighty samples of food have been taken and submitted to the County Analyst for analyses.

The samples taken were:—Milk 57, butter 7, coffee 6, margarine 3, cheese 1, lard 2, brown sugar 1, pepper 1, and tea 2.

Four samples of milk were reported to be 35, 11, 15, and 5 per cent. deficient in milk fat. In the first three cases the vendors were summoned, and in two cases the magistrates inflicted penalties of £1 and £10, and dismissed one; whilst in the fourth case, the deficiency was so little that no proceedings were taken.

One sample was reported to be slightly deficient in non-fatty solids, and no further action was taken in that case.

Two samples of milk were reported to contain 9 and 3 parts respectively per 100,000 by volume of sediment, partly cow dung. No proceedings were taken against the offenders in these cases, but they were written to, cautioning them against a repetition of the offence.

Milk ought to be produced under the cleanest of conditions, and dirty milk ought never to be sold to the public for human consumption, for it is so easily kept clean if cow-keepers will only take the trouble to keep the cattle clean, and see that the cows udders are washed before commencing to milk. Almost every cowkeeper in the Borough has at some time or other been cautioned about keeping his cattle

clean so as to prevent filth falling into the milk-pail, but they generally say that the milk is passed through a fine sieve before being sold to the public; but this only removes the solid filth, and it is not very pleasant to know that we are consuming food which has previously contained filthy matter, and it is to be hoped that there will be no further cause for complaint of dirt in our milk supply.

All the samples of groceries were taken unofficially, and the Analyst reported them to be genuine, which is very satisfactory.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are fifty-two cowkeepers and ten purveyors of milk registered in the Borough, and forty-nine visits have been paid to them.

In several instances it was necessary to draw attention to the dirty condition of the cowsheds and cattle, which were in an unsatisfactory condition.

The cleanliness of the cattle has not been maintained, and there is room for improvement in this direction, and unless cowkeepers pay more attention to this matter they are asking for trouble, for they are liable to be prosecuted if the milk contains any dirt, and they have only themselves to blame if they don't keep their cattle in a cleanly condition so as to prevent contamination of the milk from this source.

There is still the same reluctance on the part of farmers to provide sufficient ventilation for their cowsheds, which is so very necessary to keep the cattle in a healthy condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Eight hundred and eighty-four visits have been paid to the above, which, with one exception, were found satisfactory.

One slaughter-house was dirty, but the occupier gave it a thorough cleaning on having his attention drawn to its unsatisfactory condition.

One slaughter-house has changed ownership, and had considerable repairs done by the new owner, which improved it greatly, and the repair of another slaughter-house is in the hands of a contractor, who will carry out the work as soon as possible.

There has been one application for permission to slaughter on a farm, but this was refused. The applicant, however, did slaughter on the premises, but was caught, summoned, and fined £1 by the magistrates.

DISEASED, UNSOUND, AND UNWHOLSOME FOOD.

Only sixty-eight pounds of food have been seized which was unfit for human food. One was a cow's head which was diseased, and the other was a box of kippered herring which were decomposed.

In both cases I was called in to inspect the articles, so that no further proceedings were necessary.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Three hundred and twenty-six visits have been made to the eight common lodging-houses, which were found satisfactory.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

One hundred and thirty-four visits have been made to the factories and workshops, and in two instances the cleanliness of the closets was found to be unsatisfactory.

In each case a preliminary notice was forwarded to the owners, who had the closets cleaned, and no further cause for interference has been necessary.

OFFENSIVE TRADE.

Seventeen visits have been paid to the above, and found satisfactory.

SHOPS ACTS.

The shops have been visited under the above Acts, and found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner.

FOOD ORDERS.

Visits have been made under the above Orders, but with the exception of a few tarts having edible substances added to the exterior of the cake mixture, and in one case muffins being exposed for sale, nothing was found requiring any interference.

In the cases mentioned, the shopkeepers were cautioned, which had the desired effect without any further trouble.

POTATO DISEASE (INFECTED AREAS) ORDER.

Wart disease was found in the potatoes grown on the allotments at Stakehill and reported to the Board of Agriculture, whose Inspector visited the ground, and the place has been declared an infected area under the above Order.

There are now two places, Hollin Lane and Stakehill, where only potatoes which are immune from wart disease can be grown.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

Seventeen Canal Boats have been inspected, and two were found to be without certificates on board.

Notices were forwarded to the owners, who obtained the necessary certificates and placed them on board, so that the requirements of the Acts are now complied with.

The boats were registered for seventy-two persons, and occupied by thirty-seven men, six women, and one child.

The cabins were free from overcrowding, and the occupants from infectious disease.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACTS.

One case of parasitic mange occurred during the year. The horse was isolated, and the precautions taken were successful in preventing the spread of the disease.

Two licenses have been granted for the removal of pigs into the Borough from outside the County area.

RIVERS.

The improvement in the condition of the rivers passing through the Borough is still maintained, but there is ample scope for further improvement before they can be considered satisfactory.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

During the year I have continued the house-to-house inspection, and have visited two hundred and thirty-one dwellings. In some few instances I found defects mostly of a minor nature, some of which have been dealt with by preliminary notice, and the remainder will be dealt with as early as circumstances permit.

Three houses were reported as not being reasonably fit for habitation, and in one case the necessary work is in progress and in the others there are so many interested parties that there is great difficulty in finding the parties who will have to be served with copies of the notices.

MARKET RECEIPTS.

To the Chairman and Members of the Watch Committee.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to present the following report on the amount of money received from, and the number of stalls which have been occupied, the Market Ground during the year 1917.

Receipts.	1917.			Number of Stalls.
	£	s.	d.	
Corporation Stalls	115	18	9	848
Other Stalls	57	19	6	923
	<hr/>			<hr/>
Total ...	£173	18	3	1771
	<hr/>			<hr/>

COST OF CLEANING.

	£	s.	d.
1917	20	6	4
1916	18	1	6
	<hr/>		
Total (Increase) ...	£2	4	10
	<hr/>		

The total amount of money received shows a decrease of £6 13s. 5d., and of 64 stalls, on the previous year, whilst the cost of cleaning shows an increase of £2 4s. 10d.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HY. NORTON,

Market Inspector.