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BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1918.

Post Office Buildings,
Middleton,
March, 1919.

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 1918.

This report is again in much less detailed form than those issued in normal times, and is on the same lines as that of last year.

The population is estimated by the General Register Office as 28,500 for birth-rate, and 25,436 for death-rate calculation, the latter representing the civil population only.

The birth-rate is again considerably lower than in any previous year, and is actually lower than the death-rate.

The death-rate is, as the result chiefly of the epidemics of Influenza, higher than last year. The actual number of deaths exceeding the number of births by 68.

The Infantile death-rate is much lower than ever before, and the actual number of deaths of infants under a year old is the lowest ever reported in the Borough.

Measles was again epidemic in the Borough and a large number of people died during the two severe epidemics of Influenza which occurred in July and November.

I desire to express my sincere thanks to the Committee for their kindness and consideration, during a most trying and arduous year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK J. WHEELDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1918.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Population Census, 1911 | 27,983 |
| Population Estimated, 1918 | 28,500 |
| Population Estimated, 1918 | 25,436 |

(Civil population only for purposes of Death-rate calculations.)

| | 1918. | 1917. |
|---|-------|-------|
| Number of births | 372 | 414 |
| Annual rate per 1,000 inhabitants | 13 | 14.5 |
| Number of deaths | 440 | 391 |
| Annual rate per 1,000 inhabitants | 17.2 | 15.3 |
| Deficit of births under deaths | 68 | — |
| Excess of births over deaths | — | 23 |
| Infantile deaths under a year old | 30 | 47 |
| Infantile death-rate per 1,000 births | 80 | 114 |
| Deaths of children aged 1—5 years | 41 | 28 |
| Number of illegitimate births | 23 | 30 |
| Number of deaths of illegitimates | 5 | 7 |
| Deaths from Zymotic diseases | 23 | 24 |
| Rate per 1,000 inhabitants | .9 | .93 |
| Deaths from Respiratory diseases | 95 | 72 |
| Rate per 1,000 inhabitants | 3.7 | 2.8 |
| Deaths from Tuberculosis of Lungs | 30 | 33 |
| Rate per 1,000 inhabitants | 1.17 | 1.29 |
| Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis | 8 | 12 |
| Rate per 1,000 inhabitants | .31 | .47 |
| Deaths from Cancer | 35 | 39 |
| Rate per 1,000 inhabitants | 1.37 | 1.52 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of births registered in the borough during the year was 366. Of these 194 were boys and 172 girls. The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 12.8.

Six births which occurred outside the borough were transferred, making a total of 372, which gives a rate of 13.

This is a decrease in number of 42, and in rate per 1,000 of 1.5 from the figures in 1917.

The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.7 per 1,000 of total population.

The illegitimate births registered, amounted to 22, and one occurred outside the borough and has been transferred. The total 23 is 7 less than the number in the previous year, and 3 less than in 1916.

The percentage of all births was 6.2 as compared with 7.2 in 1917, and 5.5 in 1916.

Twin birth occurred in one case of illegitimacy.

In all there were twins born in 7 cases; in five there were a boy and a girl, in one twin girls, and in the other twin boys.

Deaths.

The deaths registered in the borough amounted to 363. This is 44 more than in 1917, 46 more than in 1916, and 14 less than in 1915. The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 14.2 as compared with 12.4 in 1917.

Eighty-eight deaths of Middleton residents, which were registered outside the borough, have been transferred.

Eleven deaths of persons who resided in other localities, or were soldiers on furlough, have to be subtracted.

The total deaths of Middleton people was therefore 440, 49 more than in 1917. The death-rate was 17.2. This is 1.9 higher than the previous year.

The annual death-rate per 1,000 inhabitants for England and Wales was 17.6.

Of the total deaths 220 were males and 220 females.

The 88 persons whose deaths were registered in districts outside the borough died in the following places:—

| | | | |
|--|----|--------------------------|---|
| Oldham Union Hospital . | 30 | Prestwich Lunatic Asylum | 2 |
| „ Mental Wards .. | 19 | Lancaster „ „ | 2 |
| „ Children's Ward | 2 | Rainhill „ „ | 2 |
| Manchester Royal In- | | Whittingham „ „ | 1 |
| firmary | 10 | Christie Hospital | 1 |
| Oldham Royal Infirmary | 4 | Barnes' Convalescent | |
| Marland Fever Hospital | 2 | Home | 1 |
| St. Mary's Hospital, | | Ainsworth Sanatorium ... | 1 |
| Manchester | 2 | Home for Incurables, | |
| Nursing Home in Man- | | Manchester | 1 |
| chester | 1 | Rusholme | 2 |
| Chadderton 2, Heywood 1, Bolton 1, and Pendleton 1 | 5 | | |
| Total ... | | | |
| 88 | | | |

The difference between the number of deaths and the number of births was 68. This presents the natural decrease in the population of the borough, and is made up of a decrease of 23 males and a decrease of 45 females.

The number of illegitimates who died in the year was 5.

Two of these were born in 1918, two in 1917, and one in 1915. The percentage of all deaths was 1.1.

Deaths Arising from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases.

From this class of disease there were 23 deaths, a decrease of one from the previous year. Thirteen were due to Measles, five to Whooping Cough, and two to Enteric Fever. There were no deaths certified as due to Diarrhœa, but three were attributed to Gastro Enteritis, or Enteritis.

There were no deaths from either Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

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

| | | Number of Deaths. | | Rate per 1,000. | | Percentage of all Deaths. |
|------|-------|-------------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1918 | ..... | 23 | ... | .9 | ... | 5 |
| 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 |

The following table gives the number of deaths from each disease in each of the past ten years :—

| Disease. | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Smallpox | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | 2 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | — |
| Scarlet Fever | — | 4 | 5 | — | 2 | 5 | — | 2 | — | — |
| Typhoid Fever ... | 6 | 2 | — | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough . | — | 6 | 16 | — | — | 15 | — | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Measles | 4 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 13 |
| Diarrhœa | 5 | 8 | 32 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 17 | 39 | 71 | 17 | 8 | 47 | 18 | 22 | 24 | 23 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Two cases died in Hospital, both Typhoid—brother and sister.

Deaths from Tubercular Diseases.

Thirty-eight deaths were due to this class of disease, a decrease of seven from the number last year. Six cases died outside the Borough, three in Asylums for the insane, one at a Sanatorium, one at the Union Hospital, and one surgical case at the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 1.49 and the percentage of all deaths 8.6.

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

| | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| All Tubercular Diseases .. | 46 | 33 | 43 | 49 | 29 | 43 | 51 | 43 | 45 | 38 |
| Rate per 1,000 ... | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.58 | 1.76 | 1.49 |
| Phthisis only | 28 | 25 | 31 | 37 | 21 | 35 | 41 | 32 | 33 | 30 |
| Rate per 1,000 ... | 1 | .89 | 1.1 | 1.3 | .73 | 1.2 | 1.47 | 1.2 | 1.29 | 1.17 |

The age incidence of the deaths was :—

| | | Other Tubercular | | | | |
|------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|--------|-----|----|
| | | Phthisis. | Diseases. | Total. | | |
| Aged | 1-5 | 0 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| „ | 5-15 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 |
| „ | 15-25 | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | 6 |
| „ | 25-45 | 14 | ... | 1 | ... | 15 |
| „ | 45-65 | 8 | ... | 2 | ... | 10 |
| „ | over 65 | 2 | ... | 0 | ... | 2 |
| | | — | — | | | |
| | | 30 | 8 | 38 | | |

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

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Tubercular Meningitis ... | 4 | General Tuberculosis ... | 2 |
| Tubercular Peritonitis ... | 1 | Tubercular Knee | 1 |

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

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|----------------------|---|
| Notified in 1918 ... | 17 | Notified in 1915 ... | 1 |
| „ „ 1917 ... | 8 | „ „ 1914 ... | 1 |
| „ „ 1916 ... | 2 | „ „ 1913 ... | 1 |
| | | „ „ 1909 ... | 1 |

There were seven cases not notified, four of Tuberculosis of the Lungs, of which two died in Lunatic Asylums; and three cases of other forms of Tuberculosis, of which one died in a Lunatic Asylum.

Eight cases had been treated in Sanatoria, and one case of Phthisis died whilst at a Sanatorium.

The Ward distribution of the deaths was :—

| | | Other Tubercular | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------|-----------|--------|----|
| | | Phthisis. | Diseases. | Total. | |
| North Ward ... | 5 | ... | 0 | ... | 5 |
| Central Ward ... | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | 6 |
| South Ward ... | 5 | ... | 2 | ... | 7 |
| East Ward | 8 | ... | 2 | ... | 10 |
| Parkfield Ward | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 4 |
| West Ward | 4 | ... | 2 | ... | 6 |
| | | — | — | | |
| | | 30 | 8 | 38 | |

The sex incidence was :—

| | Males. | | Females. | | Total. |
|-----------------|--------|-----|----------|-----|--------|
| Phthisis | 14 | ... | 16 | ... | 30 |
| Other forms ... | 2 | ... | 6 | ... | 8 |
| | — | | — | | — |
| | 16 | | 22 | | 38 |
| | — | | — | | — |

Deaths Arising from Disease of the Respiratory Organs.

From this group of diseases there were 95 deaths in comparison with 75 in 1917, 71 in 1916, and 118 in 1915. The rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 3.7, and the percentage of all deaths 22. These figures were 2.9 and 19 in 1917.

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

| | Males. | | Females. | | Total. |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----|----------|-----|--------|
| Pneumonia | 23 | ... | 12 | ... | 35 |
| Broncho Pneu- monia | 6 | ... | 5 | ... | 11 |
| Bronchitis | 25 | ... | 21 | ... | 46 |
| Pleurisy | — | ... | 2 | ... | 2 |
| B r o n c h i a l Asthma | — | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| | — | | — | | — |
| | 54 | | 41 | | 95 |
| | — | | — | | — |

In the returns from the General Register Office, the number of deaths from all diseases of the respiratory organs is given as 44 males and 39 females, total 83; a rate of 3.2 per 1,000

In addition there were 71 deaths certified in which one or other of these diseases was given as the secondary cause of death and which was in most cases the determining cause. The total deaths, therefore, in which disease of the respiratory organs was either the primary or secondary influence was 166 or 38 per cent. of the total deaths.

Deaths Arising from Cancer.

During the year there were 35 deaths from this cause; this is four less than the number in 1917 and five more than the number in 1916. The rate per 1,000 was 1.37 and the percentage of all deaths 8.

The sex, age, and region affected were :—

| | Males. | Females. | Ages. |
|--------------------|--------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Breast | 0 | 5 | 37, 51, 62, 64, 65. |
| Throat | 3 | 0 | 52, 58, 66. |
| Tongue | 1 | 0 | 48. |
| Oesophagus | 5 | 0 | 54, 59, 64, 66, 69. |
| Stomach | 4 | 0 | 41, 50, 62, 66. |
| Liver | 1 | 2 | 45, 60, 61. |
| Gall Bladder | 0 | 1 | 85. |
| Bowel | 3 | 4 | 51, 59, 60, 61, 69, 77, 78. |
| Bladder | 1 | 1 | 62, 71. |
| Scrotum | 1 | 0 | 40. |
| Abdomen | 1 | 0 | 67. |
| Hand | 1 | 0 | 84. |
| Face | 0 | 1 | 53. |
| | — | — | |
| Total ... | 21 | 14 | |
| | — | — | |

There were also four cases certified, two as obstruction of the bowels, and one each tumour of stomach and tumour of lungs.

Epidemic Influenza.

The number of deaths caused by Influenza, of Middleton people was as follows :—

| | |
|--|----|
| Registered in the Borough | 63 |
| Registered in the Borough (Soldiers) | 2 |
| Registered outside the Borough | 3 |
| | — |
| Total ... | 68 |
| | — |

In eleven cases Influenza was certified as the secondary cause of death, the primary cause being as follows :—

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Pneumonia | 3 | Dysentery | 1 |
| Broncho Pneumonia ... | 1 | Exophthalmic Goitre ... | 1 |
| Bronchial Asthma | 1 | Phthisis | 1 |
| Cancer of Throat | 1 | Locomotor Ataxia | 1 |
| Abscess of Breast | 1 | | |

In three cases only was Influenza certified as the cause of death, without complications.

The secondary causes of death were as follows :—

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------------|---|
| Pneumonia | 33 | Heart failure | 3 |
| Broncho Pneumonia | 14 | Acute Gastritis | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 3 | Abortion, Septicaemia ... | 1 |

The ward distribution of the deaths was :—

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| North Ward | 11 | East Ward | 13 |
| Central Ward | 20 | Parkfield Ward | 10 |
| South Ward | 10 | West Ward | 4 |

These figures include the two soldiers who died in Central Ward and the three deaths registered outside the borough, who all belonged to East Ward.

The age incidence was :—

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|----|
| Under 1 year old | 1 | Aged 15-25 | 9 |
| Aged 1-2 years | 2 | Aged 25-35 | 13 |
| Aged 2-5 years | 5 | Aged 35-45 | 8 |
| Aged 5-15 years | 6 | Aged 45-55 | 9 |
| | | Aged 55-65 | 6 |
| | | Over 65 years | 9 |

The sex of the cases was :—

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Males | 30 |
| Females | 38 |

The soldiers and the cases registered outside the Borough were all Males and their ages 10, 16, 24, 25 and 44 years respectively.

One death occurred in January, 1918. The first death in the July epidemic occurred on the 3rd of the month, and there were 18 further deaths during that month, the last being on July 26th.

The second epidemic commenced in October, the first death occurring on the 16th, followed by four others in that month.

In November there were 29 deaths and in December there were eleven deaths, the last one on December 26th.

The totals for the two epidemics were :—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| July | 19 |
| October, November, December | 45 |

The three deaths registered outside the Borough also occurred in the month of November.

The first epidemic commenced at the end of June when the Infant Department of one school had to close down owing to all the Teachers but one being away from School owing to Influenza. During the week following June 24th, three Schools notified 152 children absent. In consequence of this prevalence all the Schools were closed from July 1st to July 8th, and further from July 8th to July 15th.

On October the 23rd and the following week 245 cases were notified from four Schools, and on November 4th and the following week all Schools were visited and 664 children were found absent from Senior Departments, and the Infant Departments varied as to attendance from 83 per cent. to 50 per cent.

The Schools were again closed from November 19th to December 2nd, and were all sprayed with formalin solution and well flushed with fresh air.

The greater severity and longer continuance of the second epidemic was probably due to the period of the year and the weather conditions. In July the weather was warm and generally very fine and clear, and this I think helped considerably in shortening the period of epidemic. A curious point which was noticed by all the Medical Attendants on the cases was the few instances of a second attack occurring in the second epidemic to patients who had had Influenza in July. It appeared as if the actual cause of the disease in the second epidemic was not exactly the same as that causing the disease in the first epidemic, although those who had Influenza in July appeared to be immune against the Influenza in October and November. There was also some difference in the type; there were more fatal cases in the second outbreak and especially of the form where the initial symptoms were followed by a profound toxæmia with very slight indications of pneumonia and yet with much cyanosis and dyspnoea, and a fatal termination in from three to five days.

The frequency of epistaxis as one of the symptoms, was very marked and especially in the first epidemic.

As to administrative action by the Sanitary Authority, not much could be undertaken as all of the medical men in the Borough were overwhelmed with work and there was little opportunity for taking any action.

The Cinematograph Theatres were all visited and children of school age prohibited from visiting them during the periods of school closure.

The intervals between performances were lengthened and the ventilation during the intervals was increased. Very little good can be done, however, by merely prohibiting children, if adults are allowed to congregate together in such places during the same periods.

The Health Visitor and the School Nurse assisted in the nursing of severe cases with great benefit and should be utilised to the fullest extent possible in any further outbreak of the same character.

Nephritis or Bright's Disease.

Eighteen deaths occurred from this class of disease; of these six died of Uraemia and two of Cerebral Haemorrhage as the immediate cause.

The ages at death were :—

| Aged 15-25. | 25-45. | 45-65. | over 65. |
|-------------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1 | 3 | 7 | 7 |

Six were males and twelve females.

Cerebral Hæmorrhage and other Brain Affections.

There were 59 deaths caused by one or other of the following diseases :—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage | 22 |
| Cerebral Thrombosis | 4 |
| Cerebral Embolism | 2 |
| Cerebral Softening | 10 |
| Hemiplegia | 3 |
| Epilepsy | 5 |
| Non-Tubercular Meningitis | 2 |
| Dementia | 3 |
| Imbecility | 2 |
| General Paralysis of the Insane | 2 |
| Locomotor Ataxia | 2 |
| Puerperal Insanity | 1 |
| Peripheral Neuritis | 1 |

Longevity.

Of the total deaths 113 were 65 years old or over; this is 25.6 per cent., as compared with 31.7 per cent. in 1917, and 29.3 per cent. in 1916.

There were 57 who were between 70 and 80 years old, 16 between 80 and 90 years, and 2 over 90.

Inquests and Uncertified Deaths.

Twelve Inquests and nine Enquiries were conducted by the Coroner. Seven inquests were held outside the borough, on the deaths of Middleton people, and three inquests were held on three cases of persons who died in the borough, but who resided in other districts.

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

| | Inquests. | | Enquiries | |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|---|
| | In Borough. | Outside. | In Borough. | |
| Natural causes | 2 | 2 | ... | 9 |
| Accident | 5 | 4 | ... | — |
| Found dead | 1 | — | ... | — |
| Found drowned | 4 | — | ... | — |
| Suicide | 2 | 1 | ... | — |
| Inhalation of gas | 1 | — | ... | — |
| | 15 | 7 | ... | 9 |

The accidental deaths were due to :—Drowning, 1; Fall, 4; Run over, 3; Hoist, 1.

The suicides were by hanging, 1; from fire escape, 1; and in front of train, 1.

The deaths from natural causes included :—

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Heart failure..... | 8 | Senile decay | 1 |
| Convulsions..... | 1 | Apoplexy | 1 |
| Consumption..... | 1 | Bronchitis | 1 |

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

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

The three cases of inquest held in the borough on non-residents are included in these figures. They were :—Suicide, 1; found drowned, 2.

Prevalence and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum and Measles was 42, as compared with 1917 when there were 60.

The details for the past five years were as follows :—

| | 1914. | 1915. | 1916. | 1917. | 1918. |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Scarlet Fever | 214 | 87 | 65 | 6 | 8 |
| Diphtheria | 20 | 31 | 46 | 39 | 22 |
| Enteric Fever | 43 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Erysipelas | 19 | 21 | 14 | 9 | 8 |
| Puerperal Fever | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Total ... | 296 | 149 | 130 | 60 | 42 |

The cases sent to Hospital were :—

| | Scarlet | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------|----------|--------|
| | Fever. | Diphtheria. | Enteric. | Total. |
| Cases | 4 | 11 | 2 | 17 |
| Deaths | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

The total number of other cases notified were :—

| | 1918. | | 1917. |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Measles | 254 | ... | 644 |
| Tuberculosis | 94 | ... | 94 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 4 | ... | 6 |
| From Schools : | | | |
| Whooping Cough | 68 | ... | 56 |
| Chickenpox | 49 | ... | 11 |
| Mumps | 9 | ... | 12 |

Scarlet Fever.

Eight cases only were notified during the year.

The ages of the persons affected were : 3, 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14 and 14 years. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

The number of cases notified was 22, 17 less than in 1917. Eleven cases were sent to Hospital. There were no deaths.

The monthly incidence was :—

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| February | 3 | July | 2 |
| March | 2 | August | 4 |
| April | 2 | September | 2 |
| June | 1 | October | 6 |

There were no cases in January, May, November, and December.

The Ward distribution was :—

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Central Ward | 4 | Parkfield Ward | 3 |
| East Ward | 9 | West Ward | 6 |

There were no cases in North and South Wards.

The age incidence was :—

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|------------------------|---|
| Under 1 year old | 1 | Aged 5-10 years | 9 |
| Aged 1-2 years | 1 | Aged 10-15 years | 3 |
| Aged 2-5 years | 5 | Aged 15-20 years | 1 |
| Over 20 years ... | 2. | | |

Two cases occurred in one house.

The sanitary arrangements in the houses concerned were :—

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Water Closets | 11 |
| Waste Water Closets | 9 |
| Privy | 1 |

The Milk supply was derived from fifteen different farms, and in three cases Condensed Milk only was used. In no case was there more than two houses supplied by the same farmer.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

Three cases only were notified. Two cases occurred in one house in January and February, both were removed to Hospital and both died. The ages of the persons affected were 14, 19 and 38 years.

The sanitation and cleanliness of the house were in each case good.

Erysipelas.

Eight cases were notified, one less than in 1917.

Puerperal Fever.

One case only was notified during the year. The patient died.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Four cases were notified. They were all sent to Hospital, two to the Union Hospital at Oldham and two to the Eye Hospital, Manchester. All four made good recoveries.

Measles.

Following on the year 1917 when there was a bad epidemic of Measles, it was rather remarkable that another should occur in 1918, and of much greater severity as regards the Mortality rate.

In 1917 there were 812 cases with a mortality of 7, at the rate of 8.6 per 1,000 cases, whereas in 1918 there were 333 cases, with 13 deaths, a case mortality rate of 39 per 1,000.

Notification was fairly well carried out, considering the quite unnecessary ambiguity of the regulations, to which is due the large number, 79, of cases which were not notified, and which had to be searched out as the result of gossip among the neighbours, and in one case of an anonymous letter.

By doctors there were 203 cases notified, by parents 51, and, as before stated, 79 were not notified, but were traced by the Health Visitor in the course of her work.

The monthly returns and the localities from which notifications were received were as follows :—

| Month. | Cases Not | | Total Cases. | Ward. | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| | Noti- fied. | Noti- fied. | | N. | C. | S. | E. | P. | W. |
| February | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| March | 41 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 39 |
| April | 57 | 15 | 72 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 40 |
| May | 75 | 19 | 94 | 18 | 23 | 34 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| June | 25 | 30 | 55 | 22 | 12 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| July | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| August | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October | 23 | 6 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| November | 21 | 7 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 1 |
| December | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total ... | 254 | 79 | 333 | 51 | 49 | 58 | 66 | 20 | 89 |

There were no cases in January and September.

This table shows quite clearly that the trouble started in West Ward in March, and spread from there to North, South and Central Wards. A fresh and quite localised outbreak occurred in East Ward in October and November.

The number of houses in which more than one case occurred was, two in 48 houses, three in 4 houses and four in 4 houses.

There were therefore 268 houses in which cases of Measles occurred.

The age incidence of the cases was :—

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Under 1 year. | 1-2 years. | 2-5 years. | 5-10 years. | 10-25 years. |
| 16 | 29 | 150 | 130 | 8 |

There were 135 cases in children of school age, that is from 4 to 13 years. No Schools were closed.

The visiting by the Health Visitor was as follows :—

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| First Visits | 324 |
| Re-visits | 170 |
| Total ... | 494 |

Tuberculosis.

The notification of all forms of Tuberculosis amounted to 89 in comparison with 94 in 1917 and 114 in 1916, and were derived as follows :—

| | Tuber- culosis of Lungs. | Other Forms of Tuber- culosis. | Total. |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--------|
| Private Notifications | 41 | 19 | 60 |
| Sanatorium | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Hospital | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Poor Law Hospital | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Army Medical Board | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Tuberculosis Officer | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| M.O.H., Salford and Chad- derton | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | — | — | — |
| | 65 | 24 | 89 |
| | — | — | — |

Thirty cases were notified from Sanatoria as well as privately. Seven cases were notified by the Army Medical Board at Bury as the result of their examination for the Army. These cases were not previously known to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

There were six cases not notified.

The Ward distribution was :—

| | Phthisis. | Other Forms of Tuberculosis. |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| North Ward | 7 | 4 |
| Central Ward | 12 | 1 |
| South Ward | 14 | 6 |
| East Ward | 15 | 7 |
| Parkfield Ward | 10 | 3 |
| West Ward | 7 | 3 |
| | — | — |
| | 65 | 24 |
| | — | — |

Of the unnotified cases, three were cases of Phthisis and three of other forms of Tubercular disease.

The age incidence was :—

| | Phthisis. | Other Forms of Tuberculosis. | | Total. |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|----|--------|
| Under 1 year old | 0 | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Aged 1-5 years | 0 | ... | 4 | 4 |
| „ 5-15 „ | 1 | ... | 12 | 13 |
| „ 15-25 „ | 18 | ... | 2 | 20 |
| „ 25-45 „ | 29 | ... | 4 | 33 |
| „ 45-65 „ | 14 | ... | 1 | 15 |
| Over 65 years | 3 | ... | 0 | 3 |
| | — | — | — | — |
| | 65 | | 24 | 89 |
| | — | — | — | — |

The sex of the patients was :—

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Tuberculosis of Lungs | 33 | 32 | 65 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis | 6 | 18 | 24 |

The following were the various forms of Tuberculosis other than Phthisis :—

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Cervical Glands | 8 | Skin of Face | 2 |
| Hip | 5 | Abdominal | 3 |
| Meninges | 3 | Shoulder | 1 |
| Spine | 1 | Chest Muscles | 1 |

All cases notified were passed on to Dr. Stewart, the Tuberculosis Officer, and were visited by Nurse Tweedy, who is attached to the Dispensary. I have received 84 reports from her as to the condition of the houses, and all defects have been enquired into and remedied as far as possible. The sleeping room and bedding of all patients, who have been sent to a sanatorium or have died, have been disinfected.

Forty-two notices of the offer of Sanatorium treatment have been received from Dr. Lissant Cox, the Chief Tuberculosis Officer for the County, and 30 notices of admission to, and 38 of discharge from Sanatoria.

Two of the notices of admission were cases notified in 1917 and of the discharge notices ten were of patients notified in 1917 and one in 1916.

Of the cases other than Pulmonary, three were notified by Hospital Authorities as receiving treatment, one each at Pendlebury, the Skin Hospital, and the Oldham Union Hospital.

Dr. Stewart has again 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 1918.

During the year 1918, forty-seven *insured* patients (new cases), including ten discharged soldiers, applied for treatment.

Forty-four of these were pulmonary cases, and three were non-pulmonary.

Of the pulmonary cases, twenty-three were sent to Sanatoria, eight to Hospitals for advanced cases, on account of home circumstances, and ten were granted Domiciliary treatment only.

In three cases, no treatment of any kind was required. The three non-pulmonary cases required Domiciliary treatment only.

Of the forty-four pulmonary cases, only five (including one discharged soldier) were in the third stage of the disease when they applied.

Thirty-four *non-insured* patients (new cases) applied for treatment during the year. Of these, thirteen were pulmonary and twenty-one non-pulmonary. Of the pulmonary cases, seven were sent to Sanatoria, five to Hospitals for advanced cases, and one required Dispensary treatment only.

Of the non-pulmonary cases, fourteen received surgical treatment in Manchester Royal Infirmary, two were sent to Leasowe Sanatorium, and five required home and dispensary treatment only. Splints, crutches, etc., were supplied in four cases.

During the year, 209 new patients were sent to the Dispensary by their doctors, for diagnosis, arrangements for treatment, etc.

There were 953 re-attendances of old patients for supervision and extensions of treatment.

One hundred and seventy-two examinations of sputum were carried out at the Laboratory, with a positive result in 35 cases, and negative in 137.

The Tuberculosis Nurse paid 558 Domiciliary visits during the year.

All the cases (84 in number) notified to the Medical Officer of Health were visited, and reports were made on the Housing Conditions. Sixty defects were reported, and twenty-two of these had been remedied by the end of the year.

Special attention was paid to "open" cases, i.e., cases where tubercle bacilli were present in the sputum. Twenty-one of these cases were able to have a separate bedroom, six had a separate bed, and seven could not be isolated and slept, while at home, with other members of the families. Hospital treatment is recommended in all cases where isolation cannot be carried out at home, and these patients are retained in the Institution, if they are willing to stay, so long as the home conditions are unsatisfactory.

There has been an improvement in the amount of accommodation available for chronic and advanced cases. It is hoped that further provision will be made in the near future.

There are at present very few Sanatorium beds available for children suffering from non-pulmonary forms of the disease (e.g., tuberculosis of the hip joint and of the spine, etc.). The results of treatment of such cases in Institutions like Leasowe, have been exceedingly good, and it is hoped that provision for all cases requiring it will soon be made.

I wish to express my very hearty thanks to Dr. Wheeldon and the doctors of the borough for their co-operation, which is all-important, in the efforts that are being made to deal with this disease.

J. L. STEWART.

Non-Notifiable Diseases.

Whooping Cough.

Sixty-eight cases were notified by the Head Teachers from the schools, in comparison with 56 in 1917, and 72 in 1916.

These came chiefly from Durnford Street (19), National (33), and Tonge Schools (9).

Chickenpox and Mumps.

Forty-nine of the former and nine of the latter were notified from the schools in the year, in comparison with 11 cases of Chickenpox in 1917, and 93 in 1916.

Bacteriological Examinations.

| | Positive. | Negative. | Total. |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Blood for Typhoid Bacilli | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli ... | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Sputum for Tubercular Bacilli | 7 | 31 | 38 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total ... | 14 | 37 | 51 |

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 30, seventeen less than in 1917, and seven less than in 1916. The lowest previous numbers in any year of the last twenty were, 47 in 1917, 37 in 1916, 47 in 1915, and 59 in 1913.

The rate per 1,000 births was 80, and the percentage of all deaths 6.8. In 1917 the rate 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 575 births, 68 Infantile deaths, 117 deaths per 1,000 births, and 16.3 per cent. of all deaths.

The Infantile death-rate for the whole of England and Wales was in 1918, 97 per 1,000 births.

Of the 30 infants who died in 1918, two died outside the borough.

The death of one infant was investigated by the Coroner.

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

| | | Infectious Diseases | | Enteritis and Diarrhoea | | Wasting Diseases | | Respiratory Diseases | | Premature Birth | | Convulsions |
|------|-------|------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|-------------|
| 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 | ... | — |
| 1918 | ..... | — | ... | 2 | ... | 4 | ... | 9 | ... | 4 | ... | 3 |

Of the deaths from Wasting diseases one was due to Marasmus, two to Congenital Debility, and one to Gastric Catarrh. There were three deaths from congenital defects, viz., Microcephalus, Congenital Heart, and Meningocele. Two deaths occurred from Meningitis, one of which was Tubercular. The remaining three deaths were, one from accidentally falling out of bed and fracturing the skull, in a baby three days old, and the second from Septicaemia arising from Sepsis of the Umbilical cord in a baby 23 days old, the third from Influenza.

Ten babies died before they were a month old, and of these five did not live a week.

Of children between the age of 1 and 5 years there were 41 deaths. The number in 1917 was 28; in 1916, 29; in 1915, 39. They amounted to 9.3 per cent. of all the deaths.

The causes of death of these children were :—

| | 1—2 years. | 2—3 years. | 3—4 years. | 4—5 years. |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Infectious diseases | 9 ... | 4 ... | 3 ... | 1 |
| Respiratory diseases | 5 ... | — ... | 4 ... | 2 |
| Tubercular diseases | — ... | 2 ... | — ... | — |
| Convulsions | 1 ... | — ... | — ... | — |
| Influenza | 2 ... | 3 ... | 2 ... | — |
| Gastro Enteritis | — ... | — ... | 1 ... | — |
| Heart Failure (Coroner) | 1 ... | — ... | — ... | — |
| Encephalitis | — ... | — ... | 1 ... | — |
| | 18 ... | 9 ... | 11 ... | 3 |

The total number of children who died before reaching the age of five years, when school life should begin was 71, four less than in 1916, and fifteen less than in 1915. They formed 16.1 per cent. of the total deaths for the year.

Infant Welfare.

The attendance of mothers with children at the Centre was about 20 per cent. higher than in the previous year.

The following figures indicate the details :—

Notification of Births.

By doctors 127, by midwives 200, by parents 5, not notified 27, total 359.

Visits paid by Nurse Green.

| First Visits. | Re-visits. | Total. |
|---------------|------------|--------|
| 340 ... | 3,496 .. | 3,836 |

Infant Welfare Centre.

| | Individuals. | Attendances. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| For weighing and consultation ... | 320 | 588 |
| For weighing only | 155 | 235 |
| For consultation only | 73 | 183 |
| Total ... | 548 | 1006 |

Number of new cases during the year, 165.

Under a Year Old :

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| For weight and consultation | 268 | ..... | 516 |
| For weighing only | 135 | ..... | 212 |
| For consultation only | 32 | ..... | 105 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total ... | 435 | ..... | 833 |
| <hr/> | | | |

Number of new cases, 129.

Over a Year Old :

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| For weighing and consultation ... | 52 | ..... | 72 |
| For weighing only | 20 | ..... | 23 |
| For consultation only | 41 | ..... | 78 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total ... | 113 | ..... | 173 |
| <hr/> | | | |

Number of new cases, 36.

Nurse Green reports that of the children visited in connection with the notification of births 14 were stillborn, and as regards feeding 259 were breast fed, 58 were bottle fed, and 27 were having breast and bottle feeding.

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 1918.

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

I have very much pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Twenty-third Annual Report on the work carried out by the department during the year 1918.

The work of the department cannot be said to have been carried out as satisfactory as in pre-war time, owing to the difficulty of obtaining the men necessary to carry out the requisite work, but now that the war is finished, it is to be hoped that on the return of the men engaged in the building and other trades that we shall be able to bring up the arrears of work and secure the repairs to property, the removal of nuisances, and reduction of atmospheric pollution which is so necessary to the health and comfort of the inhabitants of the Borough.

Fortunately there are no slums in the Borough, and all the old privies having been abolished previous to the war the dangers of any nuisance or sickness arising from these sources were non-existent.

There are still about three hundred pail-closets to be converted, and a number of ashpits might be converted to the bin system, and as soon as circumstances permit this work might be undertaken.

I beg to acknowledge the assistance of Alfred Booth, who has carried out the duties of nightsoil foreman and disinfecter in a satisfactory manner.

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

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HY. NORTON,
Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Work Carried out by the Sanitary Department During the Year 1918.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1875 | 11 |
| Preliminary Notices re Nuisances | 123 |
| Formal Notice under the Public Health Act re Black Smoke | 1 |
| Number of Houses inspected, Housing and Town Planning Act | 281 |
| Canal Boats inspected | 31 |
| Notice served under Canal Boats' Acts | 1 |
| Samples of Food obtained for analysis | 90 |
| Samples of Food reported unsatisfactory | 10 |
| Number of Summonses under Food and Drugs Acts | 5 |
| Amount of Food seized | 3098½ lbs. |
| Number of Infectious Cases reported | 42 |
| Patients removed to Hospital for isolation | 17 |
| Number of Rooms Disinfected | 113 |
| Visits to Cases of Infectious Disease | 126 |
| Visits to Slaughter-houses | 280 |
| Visits to Common Lodging-houses | 257 |
| Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds | 98 |
| Visits to Factories and Workshops | 96 |
| Visits to Picture Palaces | 11 |
| Articles of Bedding, Clothing, etc., disinfected | 669 |

Nuisances.

One hundred and twenty-three Preliminary Notices have been served upon the persons responsible for the existence of nuisances arising from various causes owing to default or neglect on their part.

Two hundred and eighty-six nuisances were covered by the notices served.

Eighty-one of the Preliminary Notices were complied with leaving forty-two to be dealt with later.

Owing to twelve notices not being complied with it was necessary to report the cases to your Committee, who in each case ordered Formal Notices to be served under the Public Health Act, 1875.

Nine of the latter notices were complied with, two not complied with, and in one case the nuisance had been abated and the work carried out before the notice could be served.

In addition to the foregoing nuisances have been abated as per twenty Preliminary Notices served during the year 1917.

Owing to the difficulties still existing the work of carrying out repairs and alterations to property has not been carried out as rapidly as is desirable or necessary for the improvement or maintenance of the sanitation of the Borough.

Smoke Observations.

Only six Smoke Observations have been taken, and the amount of black smoke emitted was 20 minutes and 15 seconds, the average time being 2 minutes 22.5 seconds.

One firm exceeded the limit of five minutes emission of black smoke in the half-hour. On having their attention drawn to the excessive amount of black smoke emitted the firm placed an order for apparatus to be fixed on the boilers to try and prevent a recurrence of the nuisance.

Another firm which has given considerable trouble in the past are carrying out alterations which, when completed, are expected to be satisfactory.

With a few exceptions the chimneys have not been very bad, but there is room for further improvement as we are a long way behind the pre-war standard.

I have on several occasions called on firms when they have been discharging black smoke from their chimneys, and they have promised to try and keep within reasonable limits. I cannot say that this method has met with any success and am afraid that if the pre-war standard is to be attained pre-war methods will have to be adopted, which I am sure will be regrettable to and unpleasant to all concerned.

Manufacturers have for some time been hampered in this work by indifferent coal supplies and have had to contend with inexperienced firemen and every allowance has been made for their difficulties, but now that there is a probability of returning to more normal conditions it is to be hoped that we shall have fewer smoky chimneys and an atmosphere as free as possible from pollution and one fit to breathe.

Before leaving this matter may I again draw attention to the abominable nuisance caused by the discharge of smoke and noxious fumes by steam motor vehicles, which is considerably

worse than the nuisance from the mill chimneys, and some action is necessary if we are to be free from this nuisance.

Infectious Disease.

Only forty-two cases of Infectious Disease have been reported which is a decrease of eighteen cases compared with the year 1917.

The cases reported were eight of Scarlet Fever, twenty-two Diphtheria, three Enteric Fever, eight Erysipelas, and one of Puerperal Fever.

Seventeen of the patients were removed to Marland Hospital for isolation.

One hundred and thirteen rooms have been disinfected in consequence of having been occupied by persons suffering from infectious disease.

I have visited and investigated each case and taken such precautions as were necessary to prevent the spread of the diseases, and the teachers of the schools attended by the patients or children living in the same house have been notified that they must not be allowed to attend until a further notice was sent to say that they were free from infection.

Disinfection of Bedding, Clothing, &c.

Six hundred and sixty-nine articles of Bedding, Clothing, etc., have been disinfected in the Steam Disinfector, which has been carried out satisfactorily.

Removal of Nightsoil, Ashes, and Clinkers.

Twenty-seven thousand seven hundred and seven pails have been emptied, which made six hundred and thirty-one loads, and the cost was three hundred and six pounds ten shillings and sixpence, which is ninety-four pounds six shillings and tenpence more than the previous year.

Three thousand six hundred and eleven loads of house refuse have been removed. Three thousand one hundred and thirty-eight loads, weighing three thousand nine hundred and sixty-three tons and two quarters were delivered at the Destructor, and four hundred and seventy-three loads weighing six hundred and fourteen tons were taken to the tips.

Eighty-three loads delivered at the Destructor and all refuse taken to the Tip were not weighed, and the weights have been

estimated on the average weight of refuse delivered at the Destructor, which is one ton six hundredweight per load.

Taking the same estimate the total weight of refuse removed is four thousand five hundred and seventy-seven tons eighteen hundredweight two quarters.

Taking the number of houses in the Borough as per Year Book, the amount of refuse removed would be thirteen hundredweights three quarters, and the cost four shillings and ninepence-halfpenny per house.

The cost of removing the refuse for the year is one thousand six hundred and thirteen pounds fourteen shillings and threepence, which comes to seven shillings and threepence per ton.

The cost of removing house refuse is one thousand six hundred and thirteen pounds fourteen shillings and threepence, which is four hundred and eighteen pounds eight shillings and sixpence more than the previous year.

The refuse taken to the Tips is from the districts of Birch, Bowlee, and the Schools, and when the hopper and platform at the Destructor have been full then the refuse from Rhodes and Stakehill has had to be disposed of at the Tips.

One thousand six hundred and eighty-four loads of clinkers have been removed by the carts from the Destructor, and the amount received for removal is eighty-four pounds four shillings.

In addition to the foregoing twenty-seven tons fifteen hundredweights have been removed by the Gas Works motor wagon at a cost of four pounds seventeen shillings.

Food and Drugs Acts.

Seventy-three samples of milk, eight of coffee, three of butter, four of mustard, and two of pepper, have been taken and submitted for analysis.

Five samples of milk were reported to be adulterated with twelve per cent., twenty-one per cent., five per cent., ten per cent., and five per cent. of added water. In each case the vendor was summoned, and in three cases fines of £10, £25, and £2 were inflicted, and two of the cases were dismissed.

One sample of milk was reported to be slightly watered,

and one probably slightly watered; no action was taken in these cases.

One sample of milk was reported to contain three parts by volume per 100,000 of cow dung. In this case the vendor was written to and cautioned.

One sample of butter was reported to be genuine but very rancid and unfit for food. This sample had been seized under the Public Health Act, 1875.

One unofficial sample of mustard was reported to contain thirty-five per cent. of wheat flour. The vendor was cautioned.

The remaining samples were all reported genuine.

All the samples of groceries were taken unofficially.

One milk vendor was summoned for obstructing me when trying to obtain a sample of his milk, and although I had previously visited his farm and taken a sample of milk from one of his servants, he professed he did not know who I was, so the case was dismissed.

The same vendor was also summoned for refusing to supply me with milk for analysis. This case also was dismissed, the defence being that as a coin of greater value than required for the payment of the sample which required change to be given was an illegal tender, and the solicitor for the defence quoted in support of his contention a case decided over a hundred years ago. This was to me a new and novel point and one I never knew raised before, and whilst it is good law it is not common sense, for the custom is for tradespeople to receive larger coins than cover the value of articles purchased and to give change, and why the same custom should become illegal when purchasing samples of food to protect the public from food fakers is one that requires some explanation and immediate alteration.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Ninety-eight visits have been paid to the above during the year, and no improvement has been made in the lighting and ventilation. In several cowsheds where ventilators had been provided they were stuffed with hay or straw and rendered useless by the farmer.

In several cases it was necessary to draw the attention of the farmers to the dirty condition of the cowsheds, and in one

instance the occupier was written to. In each case the cow-sheds were cleansed, and there has not been any further cause for complaint.

There has been an improvement in the cleanliness of the cattle, and one farmer who has a large stock on having his attention drawn to the dirty condition of his cattle, had them all groomed and cleaned, which made a great improvement in their appearance, and reduced the danger of filth entering the pail during milking.

The dangers of a dirty milk supply can easily be overcome if farmers will keep their cattle clean, and they have only themselves to blame if there is any trouble from this cause.

Slaughter-houses.

Owing to the restrictions on the supply of meat, only three of the slaughter-houses in the Borough have been in use, and two hundred and eighty visits have been paid to these, which were found to be kept clean.

One slaughter-house is in an unsuitable condition, but the owner has placed the necessary repairs in the hands of a builder, who has promised to carry out the alterations as early as possible.

Diseased, Unsound, and Unwholesome Food.

Three thousand and ninety-eight and one quarter pounds of food have been seized, being unfit for human food. The food seized comprised five carcasses of beef, the animals having suffered from tuberculosis, one forequarter of beef, one piece of meat, portion of a sheep, two hams, and two pieces of bacon, all of which were decomposed.

In each case I was called in by the owners and the food was surrendered, so no further proceedings were necessary.

In addition to the foregoing, two persons brought some butter which they had purchased, and on examination it smelled very bad, and the taste was wretched and most unpalatable. I interviewed the vendor, who showed the butter he had left, which was as bad as the samples brought for inspection. A good many of the purchasers took the butter back to the vendor, and I seized it and took a sample to the Public Analyst, who reported that it was very rancid and unfit for food.

This case was reported, and the vendor was informed that in future he must report any food which was suspicious before sale, and not after, as such cases were liable to be dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

Common Lodging-houses.

Two hundred and fifty-seven visits have been paid to the above which were found carried on in a satisfactory manner.

Factory and Workshops Act.

Ninety-six visits have been paid to the Factories and Workshops, which were found to be carried on in conformity with the above Acts.

Shops Acts.

Shops have been visited under the above Acts, but in no case has any infringement of the Act been found.

Potato Disease (Infected Areas) Order.

Owing to the prevalence of Wart Disease in Potatoes grown in several parts of the Borough, the whole is now an infected area, and for the present only Potatoes of an immune variety are allowed to be grown.

Canal Boats Acts.

Thirty-one Canal Boats have been inspected, and only one boat was found to contravene the Acts by not having the certificate on board. A notice was forwarded to the owners who obtained the certificate and complied with the notice.

The Boats were registered for one hundred and thirty-four persons and occupied by fifty-eight men, fifteen women, and ten children.

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

Picture Palaces.

Owing to prevalence of Influenza regulations were issued regarding the ventilation, etc., of the above.

Eleven visits were made and the ventilation, especially in one building, was found to be unsatisfactory, otherwise the regulations were complied with.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts.

There have been two outbreaks of Parasitic Mange reported, and three horses have been attacked by the disease.

One of the horses was slaughtered, and the premises disinfected, and the place declared free from disease.

In the other case the disease was reported at the end of the year, and the horses were still isolated and under treatment on the 31st December.

Rivers.

The improvement in the Rivers is still maintained, but still unsatisfactory, and there is still plenty of room for further improvement, especially in the case of the River Wince, before they can be considered satisfactory.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

The House to House Inspection has been continued, and two hundred and eighty-one houses have been inspected. Several defects have been found, all of which can be dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

Two houses have been reported as not being reasonably fit for occupation, both of which were condemned.

Two houses reported were demolished along with four others in the same block, which had been unoccupied for a number of years and had become dangerous.

One house which had been condemned has been converted into a workshop.

One house which has been condemned for some considerable time is still occupied owing to the tenant not being able to obtain another house.

Two houses which have been condemned for a long time are still in abeyance owing to the owners not being able to carry out the necessary works, but it is expected that the work will be commenced very shortly.

Market Receipts.

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

I beg to present the following report on the amount of money drawn from and the number of stalls which have occupied the Market Ground during the year ended 31st December, 1918.

| Receipts. | 1918. | No. of | 1917. | No. of |
|------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | £ s. d. | Stalls. | £ s. d. | Stalls. |
| Corporation Stalls ... | 104 16 6 | 761 | 115 18 9 | 848 |
| Other Stalls | 44 11 8 | 777 | 57 19 6 | 923 |
| Total ... | £149 8 2 | 1538 | £173 18 3 | 1771 |

Cost of Cleaning.

| | £ s. d. |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1918 | 25 6 1 |
| 1917 | 20 6 4 |
| Total (increase) ... | £4 19 9 |

The amount of money received shows a decrease of £24 9s. 10d. and of 233 Stalls. The decrease in the number of Stalls will be the cause of the reduction in the receipts.

The cost of Cleaning the Market Ground shows an increase of £4 19s. 9d., which is probably due to the increased wages paid to the men who carry out this work.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HY. NORTON,

Market Inspector.

