ANNUAL REPORTS. 1918.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Sanitary Committee of

The Urban District Council of Milnrow.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my 19th. Annual Report on the health of your District in 1918 and regret that it is not nearly so satisfactory as was my last one.

The Birth Rate is by far the lowest we have ever had and the Death Rate is the highest for many years past. This high Death Rate is largely caused by four epedemics of infectious desease, by measles, whooping cough and influenza. All these were largely complicated by pnuemonia and together caused 31 deaths.

The Census Population in 1911 was	8584.
The Estimated Population in 1918 was	8356.
The Estimated Civil Population in 1918 was	7458.

BIRTH RATE.

During 1918 exactly 100 births, 52 males and 48 females were registered in the Milnrow District. The births last year were 112.

The Birth Rate for 1918 is	11.9.
The Birth Rate for 1917 was	12.8.

There were 7 illegitimate births during 1918.

The low birth rate was largely due to the absence of many men at the war and will probably be higher this year.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 17.7.

DEATH RATE.

During 1918 the number of deaths was 160. 73 being male and 87 female.

In 1917 the deaths were 94.

The Death Rate for 1918 is	21.4.
The Death Rate for 1917 was	12.6.
The Death Rate for England was in 1918	17.6.

The following died out of the District:-

9 in Rochdale Union Infirmary.
6 in Rochdale Infirmary.
2 in Prestwich Asylum.
1 in National Projectile Factory
1 at Coles Green, Leigh.
1 at Memorial Nursing Home, Swinton Grove.
1 at Blackpool.
1 at Anson Road, Rusholme.
1 at Oldham Infirmary.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During 1918 325 cases of Zymotic Diseases were notified as against 59 in 1917.

The epedimic death rate this year is 2.01. Last year was nil.

The cases notified during 1918 were as follows:-

Diseases.	Cases.	Hospital.	Death.
Diphtheria and Croup.	3.	2.	
Erysipelas.	4.		
Scarlet Fever.	14.	12.	
Enteric.		1.	2.
Opthalmia Neonatorum.	1.		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	22.	8.	9.
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	5.	3.	2.
Measles	276.		2.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were mild in character and no deaths resulted. Many of the measles were complicated with pneumonia. The schools were closed from February 22nd. to March 4th.

PHTHISIS.

Twenty cases of tuberculosis with eleven deaths occurred during 1918. This is an increase over 1917 when there were 12 cases with 7 deaths.

It is to be feared that the great prevalence of influenza this year will be followed by an increase of Tuberculosis this year owing to the diminished resistance to the latter disease. The Phthisis death rate was thi year 1·20. and last year 0·51.

INFLUENZA.

There were only two very serious outbreaks of this disease one in July and the other in November. Many of the cases were complicated with Pneumonia and this proved to be very deadly, 20 deaths resulting.

Hand-bills and posters giving advice about and precautions to against the disease were largely distributed during the outbreaks and the schools were closed from October 29th. to November 18th. as a large number of cases occurred amongst the children.

GENERAL DISEASES.

The deaths from general diseases were as follows:-

	1918.	1917.
Cancer.	9.	10.
Bronchitis.	13.	9.
Pneumonia.	8.	11.
Pnuematic Fever.	3.	
Accidents.	3.	2.
Suicide.	1.	
General Diseases.	52.	29.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During 1918 there were 11 deaths under 1 year as against 9 last year. The Rate per 1000 births this year is 110 and last year it was 80, the mean of 10 years being 115. The mortality rate has been much lower of late years than it was formerly. This is no doubt due to better sanitation, general improved conditions and to the good work done by the Health Visitor.

SCAVENGING.

There are now in the District

Fresh water closets.	240.
Waste water closets.	78.
Pail closets.	1283.
Privy Middens.	91.
Ashpits. Open and covered.	202.
Ashbins.	739.

One privy closet has been converted to a pail closet. Two pail clos have been converted to water closets and eight new water closets have been provided during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No complaints have been received from the Factory Inspector.

Sanitary Conveniences for the women at the Milnrow Spinning.Co.Ltd. have been made private by fixing partitions and doors, the latter having bee provided with inside fasteners.

I beg to thank Mr.Warrington for the kind and efficient help he has given me as Inspector during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN CHADWICK.M.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 5 of the Housing (Inspection of the District) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the inspection of dwelling houses under Section 19 of the Housing, Town Planning etc., Act,1909.

Year ending 31st.December 1918.

Number of dwelling houses inspected during theyear under and for the purpose of the sub-section (1) 12

Number of such dwelling houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to the health as to be unfit for human habitation. 12

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to making of closing orders.

Number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders. 3

Number of dwelling houses which, after the making of closing orders, were made fit for human habitation.

Houses demolished.

General character of defects found to exist in the dwelling houses inspected.

Insufficient closet accommodation.
Open and foul ashpit.
Defective drainage.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LADY HEALTH VISITOR FOR 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Milnrow.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 4th Annual Report upon the work done:-

The Notification of Births Act.

The Rate of Infantile Mortality is 80 per 1000 Births.

During 1918 I have paid:-

Visits to houses where births had recently occured.	100.
"Following" up visits.	859.
Visits in connection with Ophthalmia Notifications.	8.
Pre Natal Visits.	26.
Total Visits.	993.

Of the infants visited there are:-

Naturally fed babies.	83.
Artificially fed babies.	12
Mixed feeding.	1.

The great majority of deaths of infants under one year are those of bottle-fed babies.

Many of these deaths can undoubtedly be traced to insufficient food, neglect and mismanagement.

It is rarely that children are wilfully neglected but they often are through inexperience, carelessness and ignorance.

The most frequent mistakes made in this district are those of irregular feeding, over feeding and improper feeding, the giving of patent foods and pobs before the age, at which the digestive organs are capable of dealing with starch.

The old fashioned tube feeding bottle is still in use, but is gradually being replaced by the more cleanly modern feeder, practically all the babies have the so-called "Comforter" against the use of which there is much to be said.

In many cases the babies are now provided with cosy wool vests in place of the cottom garments formerly worn.

The majority of the older children are comfortable clothed with flannel under-garments.

The work this year has been chiefly infant visiting. Any insanitary conditions brought to my notice are reported to, and dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr.Warrington for his kind courtesy given to me in taking up this appointment.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

Jessie Mac Ritchie.

Qualified Nurse &.London Obstit.Loc.C.M.B.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SANITARY AND HOUSING INSPECTOR,1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Milnrow Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Fifth Annual Report of the Sanitary circumstances in your District for the year 1918.

The continuance of the war again prevented any extensive Sanitary Improvements in the District. owing to difficulties in supply and labour. Attention has been particulary paid to the inspection of houses in which infectious disease has occured, the abatemmnt of nuisances requiring immediate attention , inspection of bakehouses, workshops, cowhouses, slaughterhouses, meat and other food.

The outbreak of measles during the first six months of the year entailed a considerable number of visits to investigate the cases schools were visited to ascertain the absentees, who were visited and cases were found that had no doctor in attendance and no notification had been received. The schools were closed from February 22nd 1918 to the 4th March 1918.

During the last quarter of the year influenza became epidemic and the schools were closed two weeks from the 29th October 1918 to the 18th November 1918. Warnings and advice as to precautions to be taken respecting influenza were printed on posters and handbills, the latter being distributed to all the scholars in the schools, the posters being posted about the district and sent to the various clubs and shops.

The drainage of twenty houses in Shaw Road was found to be defective and after notifying the owner he agreed to relay the whole drainage of these houses and bring it up to date. This is a splendid improvement, three cases of diphtheria having occured in this property death occuring in one instance during the last three years.

On two occasions I was called to examine carcases of two cows in shippons. The animals had been ill, the Veterinary Surgeon called in and the animals not being able to recover have been stuck and dressed by butchers to be sold as food for man. On examination the carcases were found to be deceased and unfit for human food, were condemned and destroyed. One carcase was effected with tuberculosis and the other with inflamation of the kidneys.

During the year seventy letters were written respecting nuisances. No preliminary notices, no statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1875.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Houses inspected during the year numbered 350, 325 of which were inspected owing to the occurence of infectious decease, 13 were ordinary inspections and twelve were inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act 1909.

There are no means of abating over-crowded houses owing to no unoccupied houses being available. In one particular instance there is an over-crowded house with a family of five, living room and scullery the size of the living room, which also serves as bedroom is 10'-0" X 15'-8" X 7'-9" high. The provision of houses with three bedrooms is very important tovprevent over-crowding also it is an advantage to have a spare bedroom for isolation in the case of sickness and also for the separation of the sexes.

Re-inspections, additional visits and appointments respecting nuisances amounted to 38. 188 visits were paid to bakehouses, no cause being found for complaint. 31 visits were paid to factories and workshops. One complaint was received from the lady Factory Inspector respecting the in-sufficient closet accommodation for women, at Messrs. John Holroyd and Co. Harbour Lane,Milnrow. This matter has received attention. Doors and inside fasteners have been provided for the water closets for the use of the women at the Milnrow Spinning Co.Ltd. 156 visits were paid to cowhouses, which require attention as to white-washing and cleansing owing to shortage of labour.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Seventy visits were paid to slaughterhouses, the condition of which as to cleanliness was satisfactory. Since the Government Slaughterhouses were instituted no slaughtering has taken place except by special permission. The meat was of good quality only livers, lungs and mesenteric fat having to be condemned. a total of 131 lbs. The total weight of meat slaughtered and condemned in shippons as previously mentioned was 833 lbs. 897 lbs of frozen meat was condemned and destroyed owing to being unwholesome, 2 hams weighing 36 lbs. were condemned and destroyed for the same reason. The total amount of meat condemned and destroyed was 1897 lbs.

No smoke observations were made during the year.

INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

The following cases of infectious decease were notified during the year:-

Diphtheria	3.
Scarlet Fever	14.
Phthisis	22.
Tuberculosis (other forms)	5.
Measles	276.
Erysipelas	4.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1.
	325.

Thirty houses with a total of eighty six rooms were disinfected. Disinfection was not carried out were measles occured.

SCAVENGING.

Fresh Water Closets	240.
Waste Water Closets	78.
Pail Closets	1283.
Privy Middens	91.
Ashpits (open & covered)	202.
Ashbins	730.

Changes that occured are as follows:-

Privy Closets to Pail Closets	1.
Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets.	2.

Five new inside Water Closets were provided at Garden House, Slip Inn, 49 & 118 Newhey Road, new water closets were provided at 7, 9,11, Huddersfield Road and two pail closets abolished. Two open and foul ashpits and a covered one were abolished and six ashbins provided in lieu thereof.

DRAINAGE.

Seventy drains were re-constructed and nine new drains, two inspection chambers were built, twenty-four trapped gullies were fixed and one new connection was made to the sewer. One hundred and seventeen inspections were made of drains. Seventeen drains were unstopped.

The following is a list of the houses in this District with a rental not exceeding £16 per annum:-

Tenements consisting of one room without through ventilation.	3.
Tenements consisting of one room and scullery without through ventilation.	8.
Back-to-back houses.	324.
Other houses without through ventilation.	61.
Total without through ventilation.	396.
Houses with through ventilation but no secondary exit.	277.
Houses with through ventilation, secondary exit and space at the back.	1543.
	2216.

HOUSING ACT 1909.

Houses Inspected.

Situation.	Houses.	Defects.
7,9,11 Huddersfield Rd.	3.	Defective drainage, insufficien closet accommodation, open and foul ashpit.
4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 Berry's Mill Yard.	9.	Defective drainage, insufficie closet accommodation and damp walls.

I hav much pleasure in concluding this Annual Report by expressing my best thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and Sewerage Committee for their support given me in the discharge of my duties as Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

TOM WARRINGTON. A.R.San.I., C.I.I.

Sanitary and Housing Inspector.