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MIRFIELD URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Sanitary Inspector

For the Year
= 1938 =



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MIRFIELD URBAN DISTRICT



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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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Mirfield Urban District Council

LIST OF MEMBERS

<i>Chairman:</i> Councillor CECIL WALKER, J.P.	
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i> Major W. J. M. Sproulle, M.C.	
Councillor C. E. Sutcliffe, J.P.	Councillor A. Kilner, C.C.
" J. Jackson, J.P.	" P. Stead
" C. W. Thornton	" H. Lockwood
Col. J. Walker, D.S.O., J.P.	" W. Benn
Councillor S. Fretwell	" J. W. Jenkins

THE HOUSING AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

consists of the whole Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

<i>Chairman:</i> Major W. J. M. SPROULLE, M.C.	
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i> Councillor W. Benn	
Councillor C. Walker, J.P.	Councillor A. Kilner, C.C.
" J. Jackson, J.P.	" H. Lockwood
" J. W. Jenkins	" P. Stead
Councillor S. Fretwell	

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

<i>Clerk:</i> Mr. F. L. Parker.
<i>Treasurer:</i> Mr. H. Glendinning.
<i>Surveyor:</i> Mr. H. L. Trees.
<i>Medical Officer:</i> Dr. J. A. Smith, M.C., M.B., Ch.B.
<i>Sanitary Inspector:</i> Mr. W. E. Sharp, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Chief Rating and Valuation Officer:</i> Mr. A. E. Ledgard.
<i>Collector:</i> Mr. E. R. Brearley.
<i>Electrical Engineer:</i> Mr. T. Gerrard.
<i>Fire Superintendent:</i> Mr. J. T. Harrison.
<i>Parks Superintendent:</i> Mr. H. W. Hunter.

THE LIVERSEDGE AND MIRFIELD JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor W. Benn	Councillor C. W. Thornton, J.P.
" J. Jackson	" P. Stead
Major W. J. M. Sproulle, M.C.	

CLERK

J. Fawcett, King Street, Mirfield,

MEDICAL OFFICERS

Drs. Pick and Smith.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health for Mirfield

*Messrs. The Chairman and the Members of
the Mirfield Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of Mirfield Urban District for the year 1938.

This Report is in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health contained in Circular 1728, and contains information under the following heads:—

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
General Provision of Health Services in the Area.
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
Inspection and Supervision of Food.
Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

I desire to express my thanks to Mr. W. E. Sharp, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent, for his able assistance during the year and for drawing up certain portions of this report.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

James A. Smith

Vital Statistics.

Area: (in acres) 3,394.

POPULATION: Census, 1931—12,099. Estimated, Mid-Year 1938—11,920. (This represents the resident population of the area, which is not necessarily comparable with the population enumerated at the Census).

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1938): 4,000 approx.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS: 4,104 approx.

RATEABLE VALUE: £51,988.

SUM PRODUCED BY PENNY RATE: £201.

LIVE BIRTHS:—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Children	71	66	137
Illegitimate „	4	5	9
Total Births ...	<u>75</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>146</u>

BIRTH RATE—(per thousand of estimated population) 12.25.

STILL BIRTHS:—	Males	Females	Total
	5	3	8

RATE—(per thousand total Births) 51.95.

DEATHS:—	Males	Females	Total
	72	89	161

DEATH RATE—(per thousand of estimated population) 13.51.

MATERNAL MORTALITY:—

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth during 1938 from:—

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	1

RATE—(per thousand total births) 6.49.

INFANTILE MORTALITY:—

Number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Legitimate	...	...	6
Illegitimate	...	...	0
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	6
			<hr/>

The deaths under one year of age were from the undermentioned causes:—

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility and Premature Births	...	...	...	...	4
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	6

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births: 41.1.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: 43.8.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: Nil.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions have been improving steadily, if slowly for the past ten years, but during these last three years, a much more rapid rate of improvement has to be recorded. Since the advent of the scheme by the Local Authority for the clearance of unfit houses, and amelioration of overcrowding, a tremendous impetus has been given to house building, and our district is well to the fore with its three year's scheme, which will be completed during 1939. One of the worst features of our social conditions for years past has been over-crowding, even although probably not to the degree that obtains in many parts of the country, especially in large cities. This has now been tackled in a thorough fashion, and a comprehensive survey was made, when it was found that 190 houses were overcrowded, involving 965 persons. This is being effectively dealt with by the Council's re-housing scheme now in progress.

As I have urged in previous Annual Reports, our district would benefit greatly by having its own Maternity Home, and although we have the advantage of the services of such a home as the one at Green Lea, Huddersfield, which is most efficiently staffed and conducted, still it is at least five miles away, and that involves a ten mile journey for relatives visiting. A maternity home in our midst would be not only convenient and pleasant, but would save a good deal of time and expense, sometimes not easily bourne.

Another service that is lacking in Mirfield is a Swimming Bath. If we are to make an effort at helping to make the Youth of to-day anything like fit, the provision of a swimming bath is, I think, a necessity, and the National Fitness Council would surely be a great help, with its grant towards the cost of inaugurating this service. I commend this for the consideration of the ratepayers and the members of the Urban District Council.

Another step in the direction of improving the fitness of our Youth should be the establishment—or the use of buildings and apparatus already in being—of a gymnasium.

The schools of Mirfield compel attention. There are eleven schools, and I should place only three as fit for their job. These are Hopton Council, Grammar School, and Battysford C. of E. The others are inadequate in varying degree, and out of date. Most of them are church schools.

I am still getting complaints that the water is too dirty for drinking, and on investigation I consider these complaints fully justified. Hopton is the district most affected despite the efforts of the authorities at Huddersfield.

Cancer and the Death Rate.

The death rate has fallen from 14.83 per 1,000 estimated population, in 1937, to 13.51 in 1938, although this figure is still higher than the one for the whole country. The death rate from Cancer fell from 1.94 in 1937, to 1.01 in 1938. Out of 161 deaths in our district 12 were caused by Cancer, that is, 1 out of every 13½. It is an undoubted fact that the overwhelming dread of cancer that possesses almost everyone in every grade of society, is a great obstacle in the way of checking the ravages of the disease. Rather than run the risk of having their worst fears confirmed, many sufferers refrain from medical examination, and it should be stressed that if they do seek medical advice at an early stage, in many cases it is possible to combat the growth, and to

eradicate it completely, but it must be tackled early. Medical men in the various Cancer Research Departments are doing a great deal to find the cause and a cure, or even amelioration, and various forms of treatment apart from surgical interference are being investigated, but I believe too much stress is being put on the value of Radium and X-Rays. Early diagnosis with surgical interference can and does in many cases effect a cure.

Vital Statistics.

POPULATION.

The estimate of Resident Population for Mid-Year 1938, is 11,920. This is the figure sent out from the office of the Registrar General at Somerset House. For the previous year the figure was 11,870, so there is an increase of 50. The birth rate is higher and the death rate lower than last year.

BIRTHS.

146 births were registered in 1938; 4 more than in the previous year.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered was 161, 72 being males and 89 females.

	Average for 5 years	Year 1938
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	... 54.46	41.1
(Death under one year per 1,000 births).		

DIARRHOEA	... ..	1.41	Nil
(Deaths in children under 2 years per 1,000 births).			

MATERNAL DEATHS DUE TO, AND ACCIDENTS OF CHILDBIRTH (Rate per 1,000 births)

	Average for 5 years	Year 1938
Puerperal Sepsis	... 3.59	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	... 1.36	6.4

TABLES SUMMARISING THE VITAL STATISTICS.

					Average for 5 years 1933-1937	Year 1938
BIRTH RATE	...	...	...	...	13.23	12.25
					Average for 5 years 1933-1937	Year 1938
DEATH RATE						
From all causes	...	...	...	...	14.26	13.51
Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	...	0.55	0.08
Respiratory Tuberculosis				...	0.27	0.08
i.e., Phthisis						
Tuberculosis—all other forms	...	...	...	...	0.1	0.08
Cancer and Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	...	1.8	1.01
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	4.12	5.03

The above rates are per 1,000 estimated population.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Birth rate	12.25	11.96	12.2	14.36	14.88
Death rate	14.26	14.83	15.08	12.57	14.79
Zymotic disease	0.55	0.84	0.25	0.42	0.42
Phthisis	0.27	0.00	0.59	0.17	0.34
Other Respiratory disease	0.84	1.01	1.36	0.59	1.86
Infantile mortality	41.1	49.3	49.0	41.0	67.0

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Ings Grove.

Fridays 2 to 4 p.m. Provided by the W.R.C.C.

Day Nurseries—None.

School Clinic: Ings Grove. Mondays and Fridays 9 to 12.
W.R.C.C.

Tuberculosis: Huddersfield T.B. Dispensary.

Tuesdays 2 p.m. W.R.C.C.

Venereal Disease: Dewsbury Infirmary. Mondays 3 p.m.

Thursdays 7 p.m. Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Men:

Tuesdays 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays 7 to 9 p.m. Women
and children: Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. Fridays 6 to 8 p.m.

Dental and Ophthalmic Clinics are held as required at Ings
Grove. W.R.C.C.

NURSING.

The work of the District Nursing Association has been carried out by Nurses Lodge, Givens and Latimer, who are all fully trained and qualified nurses, and each is a qualified midwife.

MIDWIVES.

Mrs. J. Abbot, 42 Old Bank, Greenside.
Misses Givens, Latimer & Lodge, District Nurses,
Knowle Road.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY and SANATORIA.

These are in the hands of the West Riding County Council.

A dispensary is provided at 1 Peel Street, Huddersfield, which is too far from Mirfield.

Cases requiring institutional treatment are sent to one or other of these County Sanatoria, but provision must be still inadequate, since some patients experience long waits as a rule before a place is found for them at any of the following institutions: Middleton in Wharfedale, Ilkley; Morton Banks, Keighley; Dean Head, Horsforth; Cardigan Carr Gate, near Wakefield; Hearn Hall, Stanhope, Wakefield; High Wood Hospital for Children, Brentwood, Essex.

CROSSLEY FEVER HOSPITAL.

Mirfield U.D.C. is a constituent member of the Liversedge and Mirfield Joint Hospital Board, and accommodation is reserved for infectious diseases at the Joint Hospital at Crossley, Mirfield.

The hospital meets the requirements of the districts conveniently and efficiently. It is well situated, soundly governed and efficiently yet economically managed and staffed and fulfils its functions admirably.

It has accommodation for 38 beds, including the observation block, but heretofore it has frequently accommodated conveniently and quite effectively considerably more than this number. During the year the following cases were admitted from Mirfield:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	30
Diphtheria	...	...	3

The hospital is available for admission of the following diseases:—Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid (Enteric) and Paratyphoid and Erysipelas, and if accommodation warrants it, also Puerperal Fever and Encephalitis.

**A Table showing the Causes of Death during 1938
in the Mirfield Urban District.**

Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	1	—	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1	—	1
Syphilis	—	—	—
General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	7	12
Diabetes	1	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	4	9	13
Heart Disease	28	32	60
Aneurysm	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Disease	4	4	8
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	4	7
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	—	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
Other Disease of Liver	—	2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	6	11
Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	2	3	5
Senility	2	6	8
Suicide	1	1	2
Other Violence	7	1	8
Other Defined Diseases	5	9	14
Causes Ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—
TOTAL All Causes...	72	89	161

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1938 in the Mirfield Urban District.

Age Periods		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 and under 10	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 and under 15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 and under 20	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 and under 25	...	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 and under 35	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 and under 45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 and under 55	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 and under 65	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	...	2	2	3	3	1	—	1	—

Tuberculosis had previously been notified in both cases when death occurred.

STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECORDED DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Sanitary District—Mirfield U.D.

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.												Cases removed to Hospital.			
Small-pox	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria including Membranous Group	Typhoid	Enteric Fever										
						Pneumonia									
						Puerperal Pyrexia									
						Cerebro-Spinal Fever									
						Acute Poliomyelitis									
						Acute Polio-Encephalitis									
						Acute Encephalitis Lethargica									
						Typhus Fever									
						Relapsing Fever									
						Continued Fever									
						Dysentery									
						Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
						Erysipelas									
						Respiratory Tuberculosis (New Cases only).									
						Other Forms of Tuberculosis (New Cases only).									
						Contracted in this Country									
						Contracted Abroad									
						Induced in Institutions									
						Chicken-pox									
						Measles (excluding German Measles)									
						Whooping Cough									
						Other Diseases (Please Specify)									
						Small-pox									
						Scarlet Fever									
						Diphtheria									
						Enteric Fever									
						Other Diseases (Please Specify)									
—	31	3	1	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	3	—

* Not notifiable in Mirfield U.D.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1938.

The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population but for London and the towns (including Mirfield) to civilians only.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 total population		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever	Small pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under Two years	Total Deaths under One year		
England and Wales	15.1	0.6	11.6	0.0	0.0	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.....	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.0	0.0	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57		
148 Smaller Towns														
Estimated Populations														
25,000—50,000 Census 1931	15.4	0.6	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51		
London.....	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57		
MIRFIELD	12.25	0.67	13.51	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.08	0.0	41.1		

INFECTIOUS DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Disease	Hopton	Battysford	Eastthorpe	Northorpe	Total
Scarlet	1	4	4	22	31
Diphtheria	—	1	2	—	3
Pneumonia	1	3	—	2	6
Erysipelas	—	—	2	2	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	1
Total	2	9	8	26	45

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases notified during 1938.

Cases.			Vision un-impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
1	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Notification of Infectious Disease Cases during 1938.

(Not including Tuberculosis, for which see separate table).

Disease.	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	All Ages	Removals to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	—	3	4	4	11	6	6	7	2	3	1	48	33	7

Table showing causes and age distribut

CAUSES OF DEATH				
	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and over
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—
General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	—	—	—	—
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm	—	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—
Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 yrs.)	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Births, Malformations, etc.	4	—	1	—
Senility	—	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—	—
Other Violence	—	—	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	1	—	—	—
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	6	—	2	—

of the nett deaths occurring in 1938

Age at Death

15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards	Total Deaths at all ages
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	4	5	2	12
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
—	—	—	—	2	6	5	13
—	1	2	2	9	20	26	60
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	3	5	8
—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
—	2	1	—	3	—	—	7
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
1	—	—	1	6	1	2	11
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	1	7	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
2	—	1	1	—	1	—	8
—	1	2	—	4	5	1	14
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	5	6	6	32	46	51	161

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

This is part of the Crossley Hospital and consists of a separate block on the North side, well removed from the other fever block. There are two large wards, two observation wards, which meet the requirements of the district. No cases were admitted from Mirfield during 1938.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

Good use continues to be made of the serum which is available for any definite or suspected case of diphtheria in our district.

GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The Mirfield Memorial Hospital is a great asset in a community like ours, and good use is made of the 16 beds available. In addition there are 2 cots for children. This is not nearly enough and I consider the hospital is in need of a separate ward for children only. This would be a great boon. Considerable use too is made of the facilities at the Infirmary and Hospitals at Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield and Dewsbury.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious Cases: Two Motor Ambulances are available, one for ordinary infectious diseases and a separate vehicle for small-pox cases only.

Accidents and non-infectious diseases: Two Motor Ambulances are available—the Ravensthorpe Motor Ambulance and the Mirfield Motor Ambulance. These fill the requirements of the district very effectively.

Telephone numbers are Dewsbury 291, Mirfield 105. Both Ambulances available in Mirfield at the same charges.

ACTS AND ORDERS IN FORCE.

The following are in force in the district:—

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

Part III with the exception of those sections repealed by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

Part II repealed in the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Part II. Sections 13-19 inclusive. Sections 21-23 inclusive. Section 35.

Public Health Clean Meat Regulations.

BYELAWS IN FORCE.

Cleansing of Footways	...	...	...	...	1874
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	1874
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	1932
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	1922
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	1929
New Street and Buildings	...	...	...	...	1932

SCAVENGING.

Conversions to water carriage system continue to make headway, and all round, the condition of the district is much improved. Details of conversions and improvements will be found in the part of the Report dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS.

There is nothing to add to or detract from observations in previous reports. Hopton Council School continues to be the only really satisfactory Elementary School Building in the district.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Under our present system of private Slaughter-houses, with unrestricted hours of slaughtering, it is almost impossible for accurate supervision of all carcasses at each abattoir, to be carried out. In view of the large amount of meat that is being seized and condemned I fear that the food supply of the people is not sufficiently protected. Is there no method of curtailing hours of slaughter, or making it imperative that all carcasses must be seen by a meat inspector before being cut up or taken from the slaughter-house? If not, I suggest it is high time that a public abattoir was installed where all carcasses can be viewed before disposal and where hours of use would be restricted.

MILK SUPPLY.

This is very satisfactory and continues to improve. In nearly every case where samples of milk were taken and examined, these proved satisfactory under test.

ANNUAL REPORT *of the* **Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent**

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Mirfield Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my tenth Annual Report of the sanitary conditions appertaining to your district at the end of the year 1938; that part relating to the cleansing department extending to the end of the financial year, that is to March 31st, 1939.

Considerable progress has again been made with regard to the conversion of privies and ashpits. Several privies which could not have been converted owing to lack of sewerage accommodation have been abolished through slum clearance. The time is rapidly approaching when all privies capable of conversion will be complete, when further sewer extensions will have to be considered, or in some cases, small sewage disposal plants installed.

A small proportion of the 151 houses comprising the third year programme have been completed and occupied. It was a source of disappointment that the whole scheme was not completed by the end of 1938 as was anticipated, but as this could not be done owing to delay in the passing of the plans and the acceptance and approval of the tenders, which was not the fault of the Council, the scheme will be completed during 1939. A further report of unfit houses still to be dealt with is in course of preparation for your consideration at an early date. Overcrowding is being dealt with as houses become available, and those still outstanding will in due course be dealt with. All new cases are due to increases in the family, or increased ages of the children coming within the meaning of adults. Several cases were decrowded owing to voluntary removals and marriages.

Constant samples of water from shallow wells both for chemical and bacteriological examination have been taken, and several suspicious wells have been, or are in the process of being closed and Huddersfield Corporation water installed.

The two scavenging waggons purchased last year are giving excellent service. The one which deals with the bulky nature of the refuse was considered to be almost dustless in loading, but has been the cause of many complaints owing to the refuse being blown out when emptying the bins. Ashes and paper combined are most difficult to handle and care must be exercised to prevent dust. This has been done by educating the scavengers in the methods to be adopted in the case of high winds blowing directly into the vehicle and by several alterations to the vehicle. These remedies have proved satisfactory.

I have addressed several meetings of ladies and gentlemen during the winter months and have particularly stressed the difficulties of this department in dealing with loose waste paper and have tried to impress on all concerned to help by tying into parcels all waste paper instead of putting it loose into bins as at present. I am hoping these talks will have the necessary effect and will in due course assist considerably in reducing the expenditure on collection and disposal. The increase in the number of new houses in the district has caused a large increase in the work.

The tip in Stocks Bank Road is rapidly nearing completion, and other accommodation will have to be found.

Costings this year have considerably increased, most of which have been caused by the spare waggon carrying covering and levelling materials for the refuse.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Sub-committee, and in particular to the Chairman and Members of the Housing Committee, for their wholehearted support and interest in all matters relating to the work of the department; also to all officials of the Council for their valuable assistance which has been gratefully appreciated.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. Sharp.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) WATER.

The district receives the bulk of its water supply from the Huddersfield Corporation. The supply is constant and direct to the houses.

In addition to the above there are 14 shallow wells, 4 springs and one private reservoir, supplying 62 houses. On this latter means of supply 55 houses are solely dependent and 7 houses partly dependent. These waters have been chemically and bacteriologically examined and in three cases doubtful results were reported. This state of affairs is now being remedied.

One of the above wells has been closed and arrangements have been made to supply Corporation water to four others.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Except in isolated cases the district is well provided with sewers. No other extension has been made during the year. When the Wellhouse Building Site has been completed it will be possible to sewer a greater part of Crossley Lane. Provision for this has already been made.

Plans for a scheme of sewage disposal have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the combined treatment of both domestic and trade waste on model lines.

(iii) RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Calder runs through the district and is in a polluted state when it enters the district. Any pollution from domestic sewage is very small and is from isolated houses only. The manufacturers treat their own trade waste and discharge their effluent into the river, which is under the supervision of the West Riding Rivers Board.

(iv) SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Closet accommodation, December 31st, 1938:—

Number of Privies	...	...	...	...	346
" Privy Ashpits	...	...	...	...	196
" Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	...	27
" Dust Bins	...	...	...	...	3463
" Water Closets	...	...	...	...	3650
" Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	72
" Pail or Tub Closets	...	...	...	...	42
" Privies discontinued	...	...	...	...	79

Number of Water Closets provided during the year is as follows:—

By conversion of privies to water closets ...	40
By provision of extra closet accommodation to existing property where insufficient ...	9
By provision to new property ...	308
By conversion of waste water closets to W.C.	4
By conversion of tub closets to chemical closets	2

			Total ...	363	
	Privies.	W.C.	Waste W.C.	Tub Closets.	Bins
Eastthorpe Ward ...	57	972	26	0	940
Hopton Ward ...	73	568	32	30	585
Battysford Ward ...	108	1126	14	10	941
Northorpe Ward ...	108	912	0	2	997
Total ...	346	3578	72	42	3463

Number of Privies, Tipplers and Tub Closets converted or abolished during recent years:—1931—59, 1932—58, 1933—47, 1934—83, 1935—52, 1936—72, 1937—42, 1938—79.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Total number of Inspections.....	5374
Complaints investigated	59
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.....	398
Canal Boats	23
Dwelling Houses—Housing Act.....	
Public Health Act.....	196
Infectious Diseases	31
Drains Inspected and Approved.....	72
Factories and Workshops.....	145
Property under notice	333
Works in Progress	621
Schools	10
Slaughterhouses, Markets and Shops.....	1305
Infectious Disease Contacts.....	0
Van Dwellings	28
Offensive Trades	28
Bakehouses	44
Premises where nuisances were found.....	196
Entertainment Houses	5
Refuse Tips	154
Smoke Observations	68
Miscellaneous Visits	817

NOTICES SERVED.

Legal Notices Issued	40
Complied with	40
Letters or Informal Notices.....	420
Owners seen personally	51
Summonses taken out	0

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS
EFFECTED.

Drains reconstructed	49
Drains connected with main sewers.....	40
Drains not efficiently trapped.....	4
Sink pipes and drains repaired	4
Yard drains cleared	13
Drains ventilated	40
Cellar drains cleared	0
Eaves and fall pipes provided	6
Roofing	5
Water closets repaired	43
Defective wallplaster repaired	17
Waste pipes to disconnect	38
Water in cellars	4
Smoke nuisances.....	12
Poultry, pigeons and animals	6
Offensive accumulations	27
Wet ashpits abolished	44
Privies abolished	39
Privies converted	40
Dry ashpits abolished	19
Dust bins additional to new property.....	338
Insufficient ashes accommodation and closet accommodation	56
Overcrowding abated	30
Houses requiring cleansing	5
Additional lighting and ventilation to houses	18
Dampness remedied	16
Workshops limewashed	26
Bakehouses limewashed	12
Street Gullies cleansed	3
Number of nuisances found in 1938 ...	388
Number of nuisances in hand from 1937	6
Total requiring abatement	394
Total number abated	373
In hand (end of 1938)	21

SHOPS ACT 1934.

A systematic inspection is being carried out in conjunction with the Shops Inspector of the West Riding County Council.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Sixty eight smoke observations were taken during the year and in twelve cases offences were found to have been committed. The firms involved were communicated with and further observations proved negative.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council Houses found to be infested	...	0
Number disinfested	... ..	0
Other Houses found to be infested	... ..	41
Number disinfested	... ..	41

Vermicine and sulphur are employed for the disinfestation of individual houses by the Local Authority.

In the case of persons removed from condemned houses the disinfestation is carried out by Associated Fumigators Ltd., London, by Hydrocyanic Acid Gas. All bedding is dealt with by steam disinfestation.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

All premises and occupations within the district which can be controlled by the bye-laws are already so controlled. There are no lodging houses or underground sleeping rooms, and only occasionally do we get van-dwellings in the district.

SCHOOLS.

Upper Hopton Church	...	1	Boys, Girls and Infants, mixed
Hopton Council	.....	2	Infant, Boys and Girls, mixed
Nab School	.....	1	Boys and Girls, mixed
St. Paul's, Eastthorpe	...	2	Infants and Girls
Christ Church	.....	1	Infants
Knowle St. Peter's	.....	1	Infants
Knowle Council	.....	2	Infants, Boys and Girls, mixed
Lee Green	.....	2	Infants and girls
Northorpe St. Luke's	.....	1	Infants
Crowlees	.....	1	Boys
Grammar School	.....	1	Boys and girls, mixed

All schools have good water supply, but lavatory accommodation should be improved. All the schools have satisfactory closet accommodation with one exception. These are of the trough closet type. The School Managers are aware of this and as soon as the re-organisation of the schools is settled these will be converted to closets of the modern type. Everything possible is being done to ensure that no nuisance is committed in the meantime.

STATISTICS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES FROM JANUARY 1st, 1934 to DECEMBER 31st, 1938.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936 AND THE CORRESPONDING
SECTIONS OF THE HOUSING ACTS, 1930, 1935, Etc.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	Grand Total 34-38
Number of Demolition Orders made	21	27	2	18	8	76
Number of Houses Demolished	53
Number of Families Displaced	53
Number of Persons Displaced	216
Number of Notices issued to appear before Council to show cause why demolition order should not be made	134
Number of Undertakings given to put houses into satisfactory state of repair and render fit for human habitation	16

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED ... 118
(Inc. Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses).
(84 demolished as a result of informal action).

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936 AND THE
CORRESPONDING SECTIONS OF THE HOUSING ACTS 1930, 1935, Etc.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	Grand Total 34-38
Number of Closing Orders made	7	9	...	15	17	48
Number of houses closed and not to be used for human habitation	25
Number of houses closed to be put in satisfactory state and rendered fit for human habitation	5
Number of families displaced from houses closed	26
Number of persons displaced from houses closed	66
Number of notices issued to appear before Council to show cause why Closing Order should not be made	78

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS DISPLACED ... 464.
(Inc. Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses)

TABLE GIVING STATISTICS RELATING TO RE-HOUSING AND OTHER INFORMATION FROM JANUARY 1st, 1934 TO DECEMBER 31st, 1938. CLEARANCE AREAS 1 TO 29.

62	27	22	22
to December 31st 1932			
Total Families Re-Housed by Local Authority			
Total Persons Re-Housed by Local Authority			
Total Families Otherwise Disposed			
Total Persons Otherwise Disposed			
Total Families Displaced			
Total Persons Displaced			
Total Families Remaining to be Re-Housed			
Total Persons Remaining to be Re-Housed			
Notices to Occupiers Regarding Removal to New Houses			
Number of Dwelling-Houses (Occupied) Considered for Demolition			
Number of Dwelling-Houses (Void) Considered for Demolition			
Houses Considered for Demolition (Grand Total)			
Number of Dwelling-Houses Transferred			
Number of Persons Displaced from Demolished Houses			

TABLES GIVING STATISTICS RELATING TO OVERCROWDING.

HOUSING ACT, 1935.

Number of persons in family	Number of families containing the number of persons in the first column, occupying dwellings with the permitted number shown at the head of this column.																												TOTALS—Families			
	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12	12½	13	13½	14	Overcrowded	Uncrowded	Grand Total		
1	29	9	109	1	1	24	32		3	2	3	16	5	5	1	1	2						1						335		335	
1½		1	2			1																								4	4	
2			10	3	335	1	2	119	204	2	10	14	32	84	11	21	22	12	9	1				1	1		1		936		936	
2½			1		79	1	2	38	49	1	3	31	8	33	3	6	13	2	1									1	253		254	
3			2	2	134		4	80	132	1	3	69	27	87	20	20	27	13	17	3		2	3			1	2	4	627		631	
3½					22			20	29	2	1	13	7	34	5	12	6	1	2										32	135	167	
4					31			63	83		9	39	16	72	12	18	19	7	4	1				1			1	31	315	346		
4½					13			6	12	1	4	10	6	18		6	4	1	1					2					13	62	75	
5					14			6	26	1	5	14	5	23	5	7	16	8	6		1	1	2		1	1	1	20	119	139		
5½					6			3	11	1		9		5	9	8					1								20	36	56	
6					6			4	12	1	1	7	1	6	6	8	8	2	1		1	1		1					24	43	67	
6½					1			1				2	1	3	1	2	4												2	18	20	
7					3			1				1	1	2	2	1	5	3	2										5	17	22	
7½					1						1				1	1	3												2	5	7	
8								2							1	2	1		1										2	5	7	
8½														1	1														2		2	
9																			1											1	1	
9½					1															1									1	1	2	
10													1																1		1	
10½																																
11																																
11½									1																				1		1	
12																																
12½																																
13																																
13½																																
14																																
Overcrowded	40	12	719	5	9	321	687	9	39	209	101	303	72	129	137	30	48	7	5	4	11	2	1	1	5			2912				
Uncrowded	3	2	308			16	26	1		2	1	1	1														161					
TOTAL	43	14	827	5	9	337	713	10	39	211	102	304	73	129	137	30	48	7	5	4	11	2	1	1	5					3073		

Dwelling-Houses	Over-crowded	Un-crowded	Total	Percentage of Over-crowding
Privately owned (including all Clearance Areas) ...	139	2547	2706	5-81
Confirmed Clearance Areas (Not Re-Housed) ...	28	111	139	20-14
Individual Unit Houses ...	4	69	73	5-48
Council Houses ...	2	365	367	0-54
Whole Area of Local Authority ...	193	3092	3285	5-84

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 954 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | 2625 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | 123 |
| (3) | | Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | | 24 |
| (4) | | Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:—

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	189
---	-----	-----	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:—

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | 17 |
| (2) | Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:— | | |
| | (a) By Owners | ... | 17 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | Nil |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|----|
| (1) | Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | 40 |
| (2) | Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | | | |
| | (a) By Owners | ... | ... | 19 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | | 21 |

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	8
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses Demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	17
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

4. Housing Act 1936:—Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	161
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	161
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	847
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	24
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	30
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	189
(d) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	

The arrangements for dealing with overcrowding are working satisfactorily.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The amount of milk produced within the district is approximately 4,200 gallons per week at the present time, the bulk of this is retailed twice daily.

Number of cowkeepers producing milk	...	...	28
Number of cowkeepers producing and retailing milk	...	...	20
Retail purveyors only	...	...	20
Number of cowsheds	...	...	59
Approximate number of cows	...	...	400

During the year the following defects have been remedied:—

Insufficient lighting	...	...	5
Insufficient ventilation	...	...	4
Defective drainage	...	...	5
Interior reconstruction	...	...	5
Defective cowshed floors	...	...	5
New cowsheds erected	...	...	1

There are four farmers licensed by the West Riding County Council to produce and sell Accredited Milk, and one licensed to produce and sell Tuberculin Tested, two retailers have supplementary licenses for the sale of Pasteurised Milk, and one to sell Accredited Milk. The whole of the schools in Mirfield are being supplied with Accredited Milk.

Thirty-five samples were taken during the year for evidence of dirt. Four cases were found to be unsatisfactory and the vendors warned. Further samples proved satisfactory.

The general cleanliness of the cowsheds, cows and dairies continues to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of the slaughter-houses in the district is now ten. Seven of these are registered and three licensed.

Strict supervision is being exercised over the shops and slaughter-houses within the district. Frequent visits have been paid during slaughtering hours.

The number of animals, carcasses and organs inspected were:—

		Killed within the district.	Killed outside the district but retailed within.	Total inspected.
Cattle	...	1,078	598	1,676
Calves	...	150	50	200
Sheep and Lambs	...	2,050	884	2,934
Pigs	...	1,562	1,040	2,602

The following meat has been found totally unfit for food, and seized and destroyed:—

Beef	...	...	...	3,631 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	13½ lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	280 lbs.
Veal	...	...	...	80 lbs.
Offals	...	...	...	750 lbs.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	728	350	150	2,050	1,562
Number Inspected	728	350	150	2,050	1,562
All diseases except tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	14	25	—	40	6
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	1.92	7.14	0.66	1.95	0.38
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	—	—	1
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	8	11	—	—	14
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.37	4.92	—	—	0.96

The bulk of the meat condemned concerns one butcher only who deals in poor quality animals. Considerable time is taken up in inspection of the meat owing to the fact that this class of animal is most frequently found to be diseased in some part or other, and slaughter takes place daily. The remainder kill first-class animals and a very small proportion calls for the attention of this department.

Nine butchers buy their meat outside the district and three of these have stalls in the open market. Warnings in four cases have been issued for breaches of the Public Health (Clean Meat) Regulations, 1926, and were promptly complied with. Strict supervision is kept over all the meat brought into the district for sale in the open market.

During the latter part of the year numbers of poor class animals killed in the district decreased considerably.

With regard to the inspection of other foods these are inspected on the various food premises, and the shops and the stalls concerned.

SCAVENGING 1938-1939.

Number of Privies cleansed	...	...	4,152
Number of Dry Ashpits cleansed	...	...	324
Number of Dust Bins emptied	...	...	165,516
Number of Tub Closets cleansed	...	...	2,184
Number of Trade Premises cleared	...	...	530
Approximate weight of refuse	...	...	4,558 Tons
Disposed of as follows:—			
Stocksbank Tip	...	...	2,372 Loads
Other Tips	...	...	Nil
Total			<u>2,372 Loads</u>

COLLECTING COSTS.

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Scavengers' Wages	899	2	9½	
Drivers' Wages	338	0	0	
Petrol	114	19	9	
Oil, Grease	6	13	4	
Establishment	42	12	9	
Repairs	33	7	4	
Depreciation over 7 years	114	5	8½	
Licenses	74	12	4	
Insurances	16	4	0	
				<u>1,639</u>	17	11½

DISPOSAL COSTS.

2,372 loads at Tipman's Wages	<u>111</u>	19	9½
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GROSS COST ... £1,751 17 9½

TO DEDUCT.

	£	s	d
Trade Refuse	48 1 0
"No Claim" Insurance Bonus	2 16 8
			<u>50 17 8</u>
NETT COST	...		<u>1,701 0 1¼</u>



