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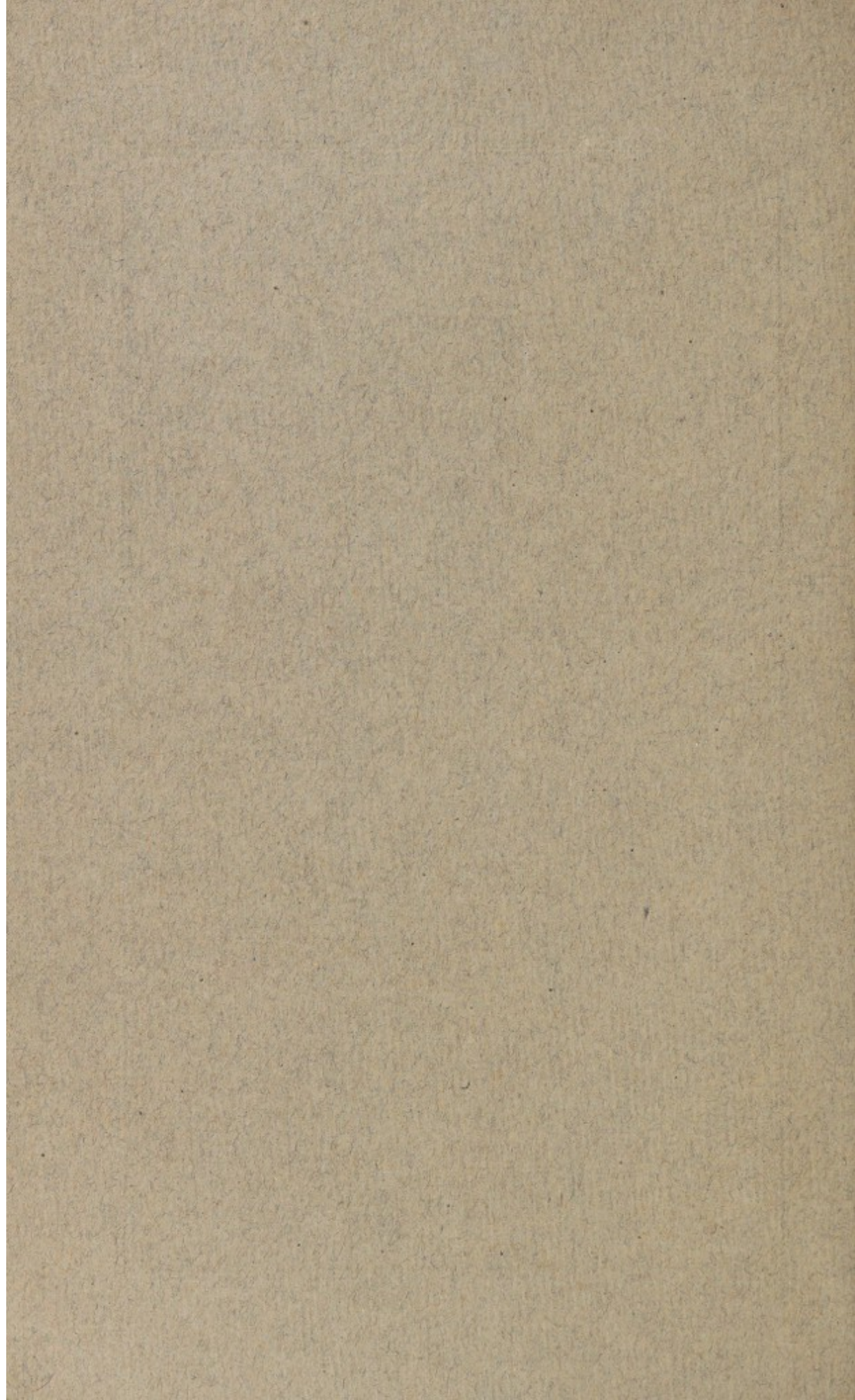


THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
FOR THE  
**Urban Sanitary District of Prestwich**  
**For the Year 1925.**

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W. H. JAMES & Co., TOWNLEY STREET, MIDDLETON.  
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**PRESTWICH URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**FOR THE YEAR 1925.**

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PRESTWICH,

APRIL, 1926.

To the Urban Sanitary Authority of Prestwich.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1925.

**General Description of District.**

The Urban Sanitary Authority of Prestwich is practically an outlying suburb of Manchester, and is distant therefrom about four miles. It is 384 feet at the highest point (Simister Lane) above sea level, and 317 feet in Prestwich Village. It covers an area of 2,448 acres. It includes the village of the same name, together with the hamlets of Rooden Lane (Heaton Park), Rainsough, Simister Lane, and Sedgley Park.

### **Geology.**

A considerable part of the District, including the County Asylum and the villages of Prestwich and Rooden Lane, stands on the coal measures. The remainder is on the Permian and new red sandstone formations. All these formations are overlaid by superficial deposits, consisting of glacial sand and clay, excepting a small and thinly populated part of the District in the valley of the River Irwell where the superficial deposits consist of post glacial river gravel.

The District is largely residential, and the majority of the inhabitants are engaged in Business in Manchester and Salford.

Approximately there are 600 employed in the bleaching, dyeing, and tape mills in the District, which are situated in the rural portions. The health of the employees is well maintained.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is not extensive, and is principally confined to the aged and widows.

The inhabitants avail themselves of the use of the Manchester and Salford Hospitals to which the Sanitary Authority contribute yearly.

### **Population Density.**

There are 4620 houses inhabited, an increase of 108 on last year. Calculated upon the population 19,450, gives an average of 4.2 per house.

### **Rateable Value.**

The rateable value of the District is £133,892, an increase of £4,002 on last year. A penny rate represents £520.



**Water Supply.**

The Water Supply is derived from the Corporation of Manchester and Bury and District Joint Water Board, and for drinking purposes supplies the villages of Prestwich, Rooden Lane (Heaton Park), and Rainsough.

The Manchester water is from the Woodhead Reservoir, and is of good quality.

The Bury water requires more filtration and more frequent hydrant flushing, otherwise is of good quality.

Simister Lane District is supplied by the Heywood and Middleton Water Board, and gives every satisfaction. The supply is constant and not intermittent. There are a few outlying farms and houses supplied from wells and springs.

**Rivers and Streams.**

The River Irwell forms part of the boundary of the District, and Salford for short distance. There are several small streams, the water of which is principally impounded and used for bleaching and dyeing purposes. It was ascertained that one of the principal water-courses was polluted by domestic sewage which was duly reported to the Health Committee, and at the time of writing steps are being taken to divert the drainage into its proper course.

**Sewage and Sewage Disposal.**

The Sewage Disposal Works are modern and consist of detritus and settling tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and land. The storm water is treated in tanks and on cinder filters.



The outlying village of Simister Lane is without a proper drainage system owing to distance and physical conditions. A few of the houses and farms in Simister Lane are provided with cesspools, which receive regular attention. There are some signs of this neighbourhood developing and in the near future the question of the drainage system will have to be considered.

#### **Scavenging.**

This is carried out by the Sanitary Authority, and is satisfactory. The ashbins are emptied weekly, and shop refuse called for twice a week. Ashpits are cleaned systematically every few weeks. Complaints have been frequently made as to the inattention to the periodical removal of the contents of the Ashpits, etc., due, I understand, to the breakdown of the haulage transport system. The Council should make provisions for disarrangements of this nature.

#### **Closet Accommodation, etc.**

There remain 73 middens. Number of closets attached to these middens 97. The number of pail closets in the district 115, freshwater closets 5329, and the number of waste water closets is 214. The number of dry ashpits is 528, and the number of portable receptables is 3651.

#### **Milk Supply.**

The Milk Supply of the District is produced within and some is also imported from the surrounding districts. Notwithstanding the visits to the dairies by the Veterinary Surgeon and Sanitary Inspector, great carelessness is still evident in the cleansing of the

utensils and in the distribution of the milk through the district. The distributors consist of boys whose hands are not always of the cleanest, which come in contact frequently with the milk as it is poured from the larger to the smaller utensils. More care also might be taken as regards the clothing of distributors of milk. I would suggest coats of washable material be worn by all those who have the dealing out of milk to the public.

For adulteration under the Food and Drugs Act samples of milk are taken periodically by the County Police. In this matter I would recommend a more frequent examination of samples to be taken at the dairies and also in the act of distributing. This might also be applied in the taking of samples of foodstuffs.

#### **Schools.**

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools are good. Fumigation of the School rooms is carried out by the local Authority four times a year and as occasion requires.

It was necessary to close Simister Lane School a few days before the Christmas Holidays owing to an outbreak of Scarlet fever.

#### **Open Spaces.**

Prestwich has a piece of land called Gardner Mount with an area of about 8 acres, and also at Heaton Park a Recreation Ground consisting of a Bowling Green and Playground for the children, covering an area of 1 acre 4040 square feet. These open spaces are well patronised by the public and children.



### **Smoke Observations.**

Two observations have been taken. No prosecutions have been made. The time limit for emission of black smoke per  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour is two minutes.

### **Bakehouses.**

Five bakehouses are at present on the register, nine confectioners, six fish and chip shops, one pork shop, and nine meat shops where sausage is prepared. The condition of all is good.

### **Slaughter-houses.**

Four exist in the district and are limewashed periodically. They are fairly well maintained, but the great disadvantage is that they are too near dwellings. The odour from the newly slaughtered meat is distinctly perceptible.

### **Offensive Trades.**

None exist in the District.

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

During the fifty-two weeks of the year 1925, 101 male and 89 female deaths, making a total of 190, and 110 male and 130 female births, making a total of 240, have been registered in the district. That is an increase in deaths of 28 and a decrease in births of 28 on the previous year.

Of the 240 births, 2 males and 3 females were illegitimate, a decrease of 8 on the previous year.

Calculated upon the estimated population of 19,450, the deaths represent an annual death-rate of 9·6. The births belonging to the district, 240, represent an annual birth-rate of 12·2.

Of the 190 deaths, 16 were children under one year, giving an infantile mortality of 66 under one year to 1,000 births.

	Birth- rate	Death- rate	Deaths Resp. under 1 Tuber- yr. to culosis 1,000 Births
Mean of five years 1920-24...	15·0	9·4	0·62 53
1924 ... ..	13·7	8·3	0·35 37
1925 ... ..	12·2	9·6	0·66 66
Increase or Decrease in 1925			
or mean of 5 yrs 1920-24	2·8	0·2	0·04 13
Previous year... ..	1·5	1·3	0·31 29

Prestwich death rate for the year was the lowest in the whole County.

#### Notifiable Diseases.

88 cases have been notified, viz. :—Scarlet Fever 31 ; Pneumonia 13 ; Erysipelas 9 ; Diphtheria 5 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis 25 ; Other forms of Tuberculosis 3 ; Ophthalmia 1 ; Encephalitis Lethargica 1. The Scarlet Fever was mostly confined to Simister Lane during the year, and owing to precautions taken, no outbreak of any consequence occurred in Prestwich or Heaton Park.



### **Bacteriological Examinations.**

The Authority have an arrangement with Manchester University for the examination of Sputa. Suspected cases of Diphtheria, etc. During the year 36 specimens were examined, viz. :—

Blood tests 2 ; Sputum 19 ; Throat swabs 14 ; Water 1.

### **Ambulance Facilities**

Ambulance facilities for infectious cases are provided for by the Bury Joint Hospital Board, and for accident and other cases arrangements have been made with the Manchester Police

### **Public Health Staff.**

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part time), and a whole time Sanitary Inspector. One half of the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector's Salaries being repaid to the County out of the County Fund. There is also a Health Visitor who is paid wholly by the Council.

### **Housing Statistics for the Year.**

Number of new houses erected during year	180
(a) By the Local Authority ...	6
(b) By other bodies or persons ...	174
Number of houses in course of erection under Council Building Schemes ..	50
Financial Assistance by means of Subsidy	61 at £100
"                    "                    "	69 at £75
Amount of Subsidies...	£11,275

**Unfit Dwelling Houses.**

1	Total Number inspected for housing defects	286
2	Number of houses inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	4
3	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	Nil
4	Number of houses (exclusive of (3) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation) ... ..	Nil
	Remedy of defects without service of formal notice. Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority ...	264

**Action under Statutory Powers.****A—Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act, 1925—**

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners ... ..	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	Nil



## B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	242
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	222
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	18

## C—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15, Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1

D—Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owners or converted to workshops, &c. .	1
--	---

**Notifiable Sanitary Improvements during the year.**

General sanitary improvements in the houses of the working classes and satisfactory attention has been given during the year to these dwellings.

A Sub-Committee is now engaged enquiring into a system of refuse disposal other than by tipping by land.

The abolition of privy middens is still being carried out. In the outlying district of Simister the whole of the sanitary conveniences are on the conservancy system.

**Chief Sanitary requirements of the District.**

- 1 A drainage scheme for the Simister Area.
- 2 Public conveniences.
- 3 The efficient disposal of domestic refuse other than by tipping.
- 4 The continued abolition of privy middens.

**PARTICULARS OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.**

Number of complaints .. .. .	73
„ „ Informal Notices .. .. .	223
„ „ Statutory Notices .. .. .	23
„ „ References to Surveyor .. .. .	78
„ „ References received from Surveyor .. .. .	115
„ „ References received from Health Visitor .. .. .	5
„ „ Petroleum Licences granted .. .. .	21
„ „ Carbide of Calcium .. .. .	2
„ „ Game Licences .. .. .	3
„ „ Pawnbroker's Licence .. .. .	1
„ „ Legal proceedings for Nuisance abatement .. .. .	1
„ „ Legal proceedings, Fines, Costs, and Order .. .. .	£1 15 0

Works carried out by the Health Committee  
in default of compliance with notices:—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Section 25 .. .. .	£14 10 0
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Section 46 .. .. .	£5 5 0
Public Health Acts 1875, Section 36 .. .. .	£15 18 0
Total .. .. .	£35 13 0



Number of applications for Certificates as to condition of dwellings "not in all respects reasonably fit" ... ..	2
--	---

The inspection of the dwellings complained of resulted in the finding of minor defects which did not render the same unfit.

### **Swine Fever.**

The disease broke out in one pig farm in the district. Three pigs out of 107 took suddenly ill, one of which died. Five others were slaughtered and buried, two of these were subjected to a post-mortem and parts of which were submitted for bacteriological examination. These examinations proved that the outbreak was Swine Fever.

Precautionary measures were immediately instituted with the result that the disease was eradicated.

### **The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.**

The above Regulations came into operation on the 1st of April, 1925. On February 17th, 1925, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Sanitary Inspector met the Local Slaughter-house keepers and the Meat Dealers, and Articles and Clauses of the Regulations were fully explained.

The following resolution was submitted to the meeting, and carried unanimously "That the slaughtering of cattle in the district be carried out so as to facilitate the work of the Inspector, and the notices of intention to slaughter be delivered at the Town Hall between the hour of 9 and 10 o'clock a.m.

So far the meat dealers have responded most favourably to the requirements of the Regulations, and carried out the idea of protecting as far as possible the meat by covering it against mud, dust, and other impurities.

I would like to see the notices asking Customers not to handle the meat in the shops put in prominent places, as I am afraid this habit is too prevalent.

The following table shows the number of notices received, and the number of animals slaughtered in the District from the 1st April to 31st December, 1925:—

No. of Notices Received	No. of Beasts	No. of Calves	No. of Sheep	No. of Lambs	No. of Pigs
395	156	21	356	1196	148

The amount of meat found diseased 365½-lbs.

Number of inspections of slaughter-houses	...	395
Number of inspections of Meat shops and food stores	...	61

#### **Number of Premises on Registers.**

		No. of inspections
No. of Factories	18	30
„ Workshops	29	48
„ Workplaces	4	4
„ Outworkers	2	2

#### **Nuisances found to exist in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

An emission of excessive black smoke	...	2
Privy midden abolished and flush water closet substituted	...	1
Re-construction of drains	...	1
Bakehouses found dirty	...	3
Slopwater from bakehouse flows over footpath	...	1



**Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops.**

				No. of inspections	
No. of Cow-keepers	...	...	14	...	—
„ Cow-sheds	...	...	25	...	68
„ Milk-shops	...	...	14	...	28

During the year, visits were paid to the Milk farms in company with the Veterinary Surgeon (W. Packman, M.R.C.V.S.) and in no instance did he deem it advisable to procure samples of milk for bacteriological tests.

In several cases it was found necessary to caution the cow-keepers with regard to the cleanliness of the Cow-sheds and the cattle.

No samples of milk were procured for examination for tubercle bacilli or cowdung.

**General Inspections.**

Number of Inspections of Dwellings	...	...	286
„ „ Nuisances found to exist	...	...	361
„ „ re-inspections of Nuisances in process of abatement	...	...	238
„ „ Tests applied to drains	...	...	28
„ „ School premises inspected	...	...	12
„ „ Inspections of vans and tent dwellings	...	...	5
„ „ School rooms fumigated	...	...	34
„ „ „ „ sprayed	...	...	2
„ „ Rooms in private dwellings fumigated	...	...	71
„ „ Rooms stripped of old and dirty wallpapers	...	...	15
„ „ Inspections re cases of Infectious diseases	...	...	58

Number of Re-inspections cases of Infectious diseases ... ..	16
„ „ Stables and piggeries inspected ...	35
„ „ Meet shops inspected ... ..	61
„ „ Inspections of Slaughter-houses ...	395
„ „ Inspections of Fried Fish Shops ...	5
„ „ Visits to small-pox contacts .. ...	4
„ „ Bedding and other articles burnt after cancer and other infectious diseases ... ..	10

#### Nuisances Abated.

Defective and choked water-closets .. ...	8
„ and choked waste water-closets ...	3
„ slop-stone pipes .. ...	6
„ Bath and lavatory waste pipes ...	10
„ deep socketless gullies .. ...	8
„ drains .. ...	16
„ eaves, gutters and downspouts ...	37
„ house roofs ... ..	11
„ Rainwater downspouts untrapped ...	2
„ plastered internal walls .. ...	5
„ door jambs .. ...	2
„ slop-stone skirting ... ..	1
„ Mortar joints of windows and doors ..	6
„ unventilated soil-pipe inside house ..	1
„ pail-closets ... ..	2
„ flooring boards in bedroom ... ..	1
„ pavement of yards ... ..	16
„ and bulged ceilings in house ... ..	2
Choked drains .. ...	16
Damp walls of house .. ...	4
Dirty house walls and ceilings ... ..	2
Insufficient privy accommodation ... ..	21



Drains abolished in middens	...	...	...	11
Insufficient " Ash-pit " accommodation	...	...	...	111
Deep ash-pits abolished	...	...	...	11
Worn out slop-stone renewed	...	...	...	1
Skirting boards to bedroom provided	...	...	...	1
Foul state of watercourse	...	...	...	1
Insufficient ventilation—windows made to open				10
Open joints of brickwork at junction of yard and house wall	...	...	...	1
Soil-pipes ventilated by rainwater pipes	...			2
Accumulation of offensive matter	...	...		7
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...	...	...	25
Total				361

#### Conservancy System.

No. of privies abolished	...	...	...	21
„ middens attached to privies abolished	...			12
„ pail-closets abolished	...	...	...	Nil
„ privy converted to pail-closet	...	...		1
„ Ash-bins provided in lieu of privy middens and ash-pits	...	...	...	20
„ Privies existing in the District	...	...		97
„ Middens	„	„	„	73
„ Pail-closets	„	„	„	115
„ Ash-pits	„	„	„	528
„ Ash-bins	„	„	„	3651

#### Water Carriage System.

No. of water-closets provided in lieu of privies				14
„ waste water-closets converted into flush water-closets	...	...	...	3
„ waste water-closets existing in the District				214
„ flush water-closets existing in the District				5329

**CAUSES OF DEATH.**

In Prestwich Urban District, 1925.

		Males	Females
	All Causes	101	89
1	Enteric Fever	—	—
2	Small Pox	—	—
3	Measles	1	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	2	—
6	Diphtheria	—	—
7	Influenza	8	3
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	6
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	13
13	Rheumatic Fever	—	—
14	Diabetes	—	2
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	5	9
16	Heart Disease	12	11
17	Arterio-sclerosis	7	3
18	Bronchitis	6	7
19	Pneumonia in all forms	7	4
20	Other respiratory diseases	1	—
21	Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	1	—
22	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	3
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	2
26	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy	—	—
28	Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	—	—



					Males	Females
29	Suicide ..	...	...	...	4	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	5	4
31	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	15	17
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included above)					...	—
Poliomyelitis ..					...	—
Polioencephalitis					...	—
Deaths of Infants		{	Total	...	8	8
under one year			Illegitimate	...	—	—
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Births					110	130
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Legitimate					108	127
Illegitimate					2	3
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Population ..					19,610.	

**TABLE A.****1—General Statistics.**

Area (acres) 2,448.

Population (estimated 1925) 19,610.

Number of inhabited houses, 4,620.

Rateable Value, £133,892.

Sum represented by penny rate, £520.

**Remarks on Vital Statistics.**

Although the death rate for Prestwich is the lowest in the County there has been an increase in the total deaths on last year, viz.: - Year, 1924—Deaths, 162; Year, 1925—Deaths, 190, that is an increase of 28.

As was the case last year Cancer and Heart disease claim the greater number of victims. The deaths of infants under one year have increased from 11 to 16. I would advise all mothers to attend the welfare centre regularly and to seek Medical Aid on the first signs of sickness in babies. Waiting for the morrow in the hope baby will be better is allowing the spectre of death to get a tighter grip on the thread of life.

The birth-rate for the district still continues to fall. During the year 240 births were registered as against 268 last year, a decrease of 28. On a ten years average this means a decrease of 2·7 per 1000 of the population.



# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

During the Year, 1925.

Total Cases Notified.

Years.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Hospital Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District.	Total Deaths
Smallpox .....	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	30	1	1	3	1	2	10	8	1	2	..	..	..	30	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria including Membraneous Croup	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	3	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid).....	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia .....	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	5	2	..	Nil	11
Puerperal Fever.....	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever...	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..





# TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 .....	...	...	2	...	...	1	2	1
5—10 .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 .....	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
15—20 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 .....	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...
25—35 .....	5	1	...	...	2	3	...	...
35—45 .....	1	3	...	...	5	2	...	...
45—55 .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	10	9	4	2	7	6	2	1

In November the Health Week was held and two appeals were made to the people, one by Capt. Spencer, Chairman of the Council, and the other by Mrs. Teare, Chairman of the Health Committee. This was the second Health Week held by the Prestwich Urban Council, and I must say it was very disappointing. The people do not seem to grasp the importance of the work done during Health Weeks, nor do they realise that the lectures and addresses given during such weeks are for each man, woman and child, young as well as old, living in the district. The lectures given during the week 7—14th November, were badly attended. In one case not one person attended, in

another case only 12. The lecture on Tuberculosis, I was glad to see, was well patronised, but that was the only exception. The mere increase of knowledge and particularly the knowledge of the ways and means of personal hygiene and well-being, can do nothing of itself to prevent disease and to safeguard health, unless it be understood, accepted, and practised. It must become common property, and the only way to understand that knowledge is by heeding the advice given by those who are authorities on the Public Education of the People in regard to Health.

Much good work has been done by the Health Visitor during the year.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. Windsor for his valuable assistance during the short time I have been Medical Officer. I also wish to thank the Council and Officials for their kind consideration and assistance.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY C. BURBIDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.





