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Borough of Pontefract.



Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
Year ended 31st December 1936.





Borough of Pontefract.



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OF THE

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PONTEFRACT :

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, (part time):

W. T. HESSEL, M.B., Ch.B.

Other appointments held:

School Medical Officer, and

Medical Officer for Child Welfare Clinic.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR:

A. B. JACKSON.

Other appointments held:

Designated Officer under the following:—

Public Health (Meat) Regulations,

Housing Regulations,

Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act,

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, and

Chief Inspector under Shops Acts.

ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR:

L. WALSH, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., C.R.San.I. (Foods).

HEALTH VISITORS:

L. TOMLINSON, State Registered Nurse, Certified Midwife,
(also appointed Infant Protection Visitor).

F. FOSTER, State Registered Nurse, Certified Midwife,
Health Visitors Certificate of R.S.I. (part time).

CLERK:

E. W. CLEAVER.

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Report of The Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1936.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Pontefract.

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a report on the Health of the Borough during the year 1936. This is my fifteenth Annual Report, and it is compiled in accordance with the requirements indicated by the Minister of Health in Circular 1561. Sanitary Administration, Housing and Food Inspection are discussed fully in the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, duly submitted in accordance with the requirements of The Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

PART ONE.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The area of the Borough is 4,078 acres, and the approximate areas of the wards are :—

West Ward	1,198 acres
South Ward	861 ,,
East Ward	707 ,,
North Ward	640 ,,
Mill Hill Ward	623 ,,
Central Ward	49 ,,

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population is 19,650, an increase of 150 on the figure for 1935.

According to the rate books the number of inhabited houses was 4,791 at the close of the year.

The rateable value of the Borough is £104,850 ; and the sum represented by a penny rate £398.

The chief industries carried on in the area are coal-mining and the manufacture of sugar confectionery, whilst other occupations absorbing a substantial amount of labour are fell-mongering, malting, cabinet making, box making, the manufacture of glass machinery, and market gardening. There appears to be no adverse influence of any particular occupation on the public health. Building activity is still predominant in various parts of the Borough, and new housing estates are gradually taking the place of green fields.

Through the courtesy of the Manager of the Pontefract Employment Exchange I am enabled to give unemployment figures for 1936. Table I indicates the monthly position.

Table I.

Month	Wholly unemployed			Temporarily suspended		
	Men	Women	Juven'ls	Men	Women	Juven'ls
January	1,051	104	273	70	50	16
February	1,033	104	214	48	39	24
March	934	112	186	31	39	20
April	926	92	243	28	25	10
May	890	88	181	159	47	19
June	919	96	139	1,405	104	108
July	871	67	103	223	80	41
August	941	69	194	207	55	40
September	864	67	159	153	19	16
October	870	83	123	33	13	2
November	860	74	152	59	29	6
December	872	72	118	76	53	20

At the close of 1935 the number of totally unemployed men, which provides a reliable indication of the unemployment position, was 1,103, and I am pleased to report that the year under review was marked by a falling tendency, for whilst the figure for January 1936 is 103 more than in January 1935, the figure for December 1936 is 231 less than in December 1935.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live births :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	172	152	324
Illegitimate	8	8	16
Totals	180	160	340

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 17.30

Stillbirths :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	11	16
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Totals	5	11	16

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 44.94

Deaths :	Male	Female	Total
All causes	145	107	252
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.8			
Puerperal causes :			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	Deaths		0
Other puerperal causes	2		5.62
	—		—
Total	2		5.62
Certain other causes :			
Cancer	36		
Measles (all ages)	2		
Whooping cough (all ages)	3		
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	2		
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :			
All infants per 1,000 live births			73.53
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			77.16
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			0

NOTES ON BIRTHS.

356 births were registered, 3 less than in the previous year ; 16 of these were stillbirths. 365 births were notified to me under the provisions of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, 16 of which were stillbirths ; 325 were notified by midwives and 40 by doctors. The figures relating to registered births differ from those relating to notified births by reason of adjustments made respecting transferred registrations.

The birth rate remains almost the same as for 1935, and Table II shows favourable comparison with other districts. A noteworthy feature is the decline from 1.13 to 0.81 in the still-birth rate.

Table II.

	Rate per 1,000 population	
	Live births	Stillbirths
England and Wales... ..	14.8	0.61
122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.9	0.67
143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	15.0	0.64
London Administrative County	13.6	0.53
Pontefract	17.3	0.81

Table III gives the number of births notified during each month of the year, distinguishing male from female, and legitimate from illegitimate births.

Table III.

Month	Male		Female		Total births
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
January	10	0	13	0	23
February	15	1	11	2	29
March	15	2	8	2	27
April	17	1	20	2	40
May	13	2	11	2	28
June	23	0	13	0	36
July	15	2	14	1	32
August	16	0	15	0	31
September	16	0	14	1	31
October	8	1	16	2	27
November	10	2	11	0	23
December	15	0	22	1	38
Totals	173	11	168	13	365

NOTES ON DEATHS.

252 deaths were registered, an increase of 26 on last year's figure, giving a death rate of 12.8. This is the crude death rate which, before being used for comparative purposes, must be multiplied by 1.10, the areal comparability factor for Pontefract. This gives a corrected death rate of 14.1. Table IV is introduced for the purpose of comparison.

Table IV.

	Death rate per 1,000 population
England and Wales ...	12.1
122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	12.3
143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	11.5
London Administrative County	12.5
Pontefract... ..	14.1

The principal certified clauses of death classified into age groups are set out in Table V.

Table V.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Age groups							All ages			
	Under 1 year	1 & under 2 years	2 & under 5 years	5 & under 15 yrs.	15 & under 25 yrs.	25 & under 45 yrs.	45 & under 60 yrs.	60 years and over	Males	Females	Totals
Measles ...		1	1						2	0	2
Whooping cough ...	1	2							2	1	3
Diphtheria ...				2					1	1	2
Influenza ...						1	1		2	0	2
Tuberculosis, pulmonary ...					3	4	3	1	6	5	11
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary ...				1	1	1	1		2	1	3
Cancer ...						1	11	24	19	17	36
Diabetes ...						1	1		0	2	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage ...						3	14		8	9	17
Heart disease ...				2	6	12	41		35	26	61
Other circulatory diseases ...								3	2	1	3
Bronchitis ...	2					5	4		5	6	11
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	7	2	3	1	2	2	8	4	21	8	29
Peptic ulcer ...						1			1	0	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	2								1	1	2
Appendicitis ...					2	1			2	1	3
Cirrhosis of liver ...						1			1	0	1
Other digestive diseases ...						1		1	0	2	2
Nephritis ...					1	1	1	2	2	3	5
Puerperal causes (other than sepsis) ...						2			—	2	2
Congenital causes, etc. ...	11								8	3	11
Senility ...								11	5	6	11
Suicide ...							1		1	0	1
Other violence ...			2	1	1	1	3	2	9	1	10
Other defined causes ...	2	1	1			3	8	6	10	11	21
Totals ...	25	6	7	7	10	23	60	114	145	107	252

Of the 252 deaths, 114 (45 per cent. of total deaths) were of persons 60 years or over, whilst 25 were of children under 1 year (10 per cent. of total deaths). Female deaths remain the same as last year, 107, the increase of 26 being in the male sex; 119 in 1935 and 145 in the year under review. This increase was caused by an unduly high number of male deaths from pneumonia—21 compared with 4 in the previous year—and an increase of 13 in male deaths due to heart disease—35 compared with 22 in 1935.

Heart disease was by far the principal cause of death in both sexes, 61 certificates attributing death to this condition. A slight increase was shown in deaths from cancer, there being 36, 5 more than in 1935.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate for the Borough is 74, and when compared with the general statistics in Table VI may appear excessive. I would point out, however, that in a small district where a comparatively low number of births is recorded, each infant death seriously affects the mortality rate; for this reason comparison with the average rate for a number of years should be made. The average rate for the decennium 1926—1935 is 77, and for the quinquennium 1931—1935 is 67. The present figure of 74 compares favourably with these.

Table VI.

	Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	Total deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales... ..	5.9	59
122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	8.2	63
143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	3.4	55
London Administrative County	14.4	66
Pontefract	5.9	74

That this rate is decreasing appreciably is evinced by the following table in which are given the average numbers of infant deaths and average mortality rates for the triennial periods since the year of my first Annual Report.

Table VII.

Triennial period	Infantile mortality	
	Average number of deaths per year	Average rate per 1,000 live births
1922-24	49	108
1925-27	40	93
1928-30	31	79
1931-33	31	79
1934-36	19	54

From this table it will be seen that had the average mortality rate over the period 1922—24 prevailed throughout the past three years, the number of infant deaths occurring during the latter period would have been doubled.

The causes of infant deaths are classified in age groups in Table VIII. 7 deaths occurred during the first week of life, all due to congenital conditions. Respiratory ailments, occurring mainly between the ages of 3 and 12 months, were responsible for 9 deaths, an increase of 5 on last year's figure. This, together with 2 fatalities from infantile diarrhoea—absent in 1935—is the principal cause of the increase in the mortality rate from 50 to 74.

Table VIII.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Age groups							All ages under 1 year			
	Under 1 week	1 & under 2 weeks	2 & under 3 weeks	3 & under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Males	Females	Totals
Pneumonia ...		1				2	2	2	5	2	7
Bronchitis ...					1		1		1	1	2
Diarrhœa ...				1	1				1	1	2
Whooping cough ...							1		1	0	1
Inanition ...	1								1	0	1
Premature birth ...	3								3	0	3
Congenital malformation ...	1								1	0	1
Congenital pyloric stenosis...					1				1	0	1
Imperforate anus ...				1					1	0	1
Spina bifida ...	1								0	1	1
Meningocele ...					1				0	1	1
Asphyxia pallida ...	1								0	1	1
Convulsions ...						1			1	0	1
Staphylococcal pyæmia ...					1				1	0	1
Pyelitis ...							1		1	0	1
Totals ...	7	1	0	2	5	3	5	2	18	7	25

Table IX indicates the monthly incidence of infant deaths. The deaths due to respiratory diseases occurred during the first four months of the year ; it will be recollected that the climatic conditions at this period were exceptionally cold and wet. Diarrhœal diseases are amenable to preventive measures so far as environmental conditions are concerned, but despite continued improvements in housing conditions and sanitary circumstances, one must expect isolated instances of deaths due to such infections.

Table IX.

CAUSES OF DEATH	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Pneumonia ...	2	1	3	1									7
Bronchitis ...	1	1											2
Diarrhœa ...								1		1			2
Whooping cough ...				1									1
Inanition ...	1												1
Premature birth ...		1		1								1	3
Congenital malformation ...						1							1
Congenital pyloric stenosis ...						1							1
Imperforate anus ...							1						1
Spina bifida ...									1				1
Meningocele ...							1						1
Asphyxia pallida ...							1						1
Convulsions ...			1										1
Staphylococcal pyæmia ...			1										1
Pyelitis ...		1											1
Totals ...	4	4	5	3	0	2	3	1	1	1	0	1	25

I would draw attention to the sex division of infant deaths. Of the 25 deaths registered in the year under review only 7 were in females. During the last decade 60 per cent. of infant deaths occurred in the male sex.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis ; 2 were classed to other puerperal causes, giving a maternal mortality rate of 5.62 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths due to the seven principal zymotic diseases (smallpox, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, enteric fever and diarrhœa) was 9, giving a death rate of 0.46 per thousand of the population.

PART TWO.

General Provision of Health Services.

MATERNITY SERVICES.

It is pleasing to record that increased use is being made by expectant mothers of the facilities provided at the Ante-Natal Clinic, held twice monthly at the Headlands Road Centre. During the year 198 expectant mothers made 788 attendances.

In cases of emergency, obstetric difficulty, puerperal fever and pyrexia and unsuitable home conditions, patients are sent to Leeds, Wakefield and Edenfield Maternity Hospitals by agreement; there were 9 such cases in 1936. The services of a consultant gynæcologist are retained, and arrangements are made with the local nursing association in cases for which home nursing is required.

There are three midwives practising independently in the area. A scheme is in operation whereby the Council grants assistance in necessitous cases towards the fees of midwives, and in 1936 contributions were made in 31 cases.

34 gallons of fresh milk and 8,316 pounds of dried food were supplied by the Council to expectant and nursing mothers; free in necessitous cases, and at cost price in others.

INFANT WELFARE.

One session per week is held at the Headlands Road Clinic. Total number of attendances at the centre during the year :

(i) by children under 1 year of age	3,655
(ii) by children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	1,495

Total number of children who first attended at the Centre during the year, and on the date of their first attendance were :

(i) under 1 year of age	226
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years ...	14

HEALTH VISITING.

The Council employ two health visitors, the equivalent of whole-time service devoted to visiting and attendance at the Centre being $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Number of visits paid during the year :

(i) to expectant mothers :				
(a) first visits ... ..	...	...	...	29
(b) total visits ... ..	...	...	...	53
(ii) to children under 1 year of age :				
(a) first visits ... ..	...	...	...	355
(b) total visits ... ..	...	...	...	1,970
(iii) to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years :				
total visits ... ..	...	...	...	3,433

The Senior Health Visitor is appointed Infant Protection Visitor for the administration of Part I of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by Part V of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932. One child was registered as being received for reward at the end of the year.

GENERAL SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory of the West Riding County Council at Wakefield. The arrangements are satisfactory and sufficient to the requirements of the Borough. The following specimens were sent to the laboratory from the Borough during 1936 :—

Blood for Widal Reaction ... ..	...	...	...	11
Sputa for tubercle bacilli ... ..	...	...	...	56
Swabs for b. diphtheriæ ... ..	...	...	...	35
Urine and fæces for b. typhosus ...	...	...	...	2
Urine for tubercle bacilli and general examination ... ..	...	...	...	25
Milks for tubercle bacilli ... ..	...	...	...	3
Milks for bacterial content ... ..	...	...	...	3
Waters for bacteriological examination ...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous specimens ... ..	...	...	...	63
Total number of specimens examined ...	...	...	...	204

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is maintained by the Pontefract Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and an annual grant is made by the Council towards its maintenance.

The motor ambulance of the Pontefract Joint Hospital Board is used for the removal of patients suffering from infectious diseases.

These arrangements are satisfactory.

Nursing in the Home.

The Pontefract District Nursing Association, a voluntary organisation, is responsible for this service, and one nurse is employed. The number of cases attended during the year was 73, entailing 425 visits.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Facilities are available at the Pontefract General Infirmary, where out-patients' clinics are held.

Hospitals.

There is no municipal hospital in the Borough. The Pontefract General Infirmary, a voluntary institution, admits general and accident cases.

PART THREE.

Housing and General Sanitary Matters.

These matters are dealt with in detail in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which I endorse and recommend for careful consideration.

HOUSING.

The outstanding work in connection with housing during the year under review was the Overcrowding Survey, and the statistics prepared have already proved of great value in directing the housing policy of the Council.

The number of cases of overcrowding in the Borough (186) does not appear excessive, only 4.3 per cent. of working class families being overcrowded. The percentage for England and Wales is 3.8. The figure would have been much higher had overcrowding been determinable by means of a "bedroom" standard.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

The public water supply continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Drainage.

All developed areas are sewered. The disposal works continue to meet the requirements of the area. One complaint

was received from the West Riding Rivers Board ; the trouble was rectified. The three main sewers date back to about 1850, and are inadequate. A comprehensive scheme for the renewal of the main drainage has been submitted by the Council to the Minister of Health.

Scavenging.

Controlled tipping is in operation throughout the district. 9,665 tons, 96 per cent. of the refuse collected, were disposed of in this way. 397 tons were sent to farmers. The total cost of collection and disposal was £4,086.

Swimming Baths.

Bacteriological control has been maintained. On one occasion the water was unsatisfactory, but this matter was soon rectified, and steps were taken to obviate the recurrence of similar trouble.

Schools.

There are 13 elementary schools in the Borough, and their sanitary condition is satisfactory. It was not found necessary to close any school on account of the occurrence of disease.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Milk Supply.

Farms and dairies were duly inspected, and samples of graded milks were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Meat Inspection.

An efficient meat inspection service is maintained, and food premises are carefully supervised.

Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Laboratory is available for the submission of specimens of foods.

PART FOUR.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year, notifications were received relating to 222 cases of notifiable diseases, a decrease of 33 on the previous year's figure. This was mainly due to a reduction in the number of cases of diphtheria, there being 37 less than in 1935. The number of notified cases of chickenpox fell from 45 to 27, whilst on the other hand, increases were recorded in scarlet fever, enteric fever, pneumonia, ophthalmia neonatorum and erysipelas.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1936.

Table X gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases.

Table X.

DISEASES	Total notified cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet fever	68	67	0
Diphtheria	14	14	2
Enteric fever	4	4	0
Pneumonia	54	0	9
Puerperal fever	1	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	2	1	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	0	0
Erysipelas	18	0	0
Chickenpox	27	0	0

Table XI gives the total number of notified cases classified into age groups.

Table XI.

DISEASES	Age groups										All ages				
	Under 1 year	1 & under 2 years	2 & under 3 years	3 & under 4 years	4 & under 5 years	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 yrs.	15 & under 20 yrs.	20 & under 35 yrs.	35 & under 45 yrs.	45 & under 65 yrs.	65 years and over	Males	Females	Totals
Scarlet fever ...			3	4	7	29	10	5	6	4			32	36	68
Diphtheria ...					1	7	4		2				4	10	14
Enteric fever ...								1	2	1			1	3	4
Pneumonia ...	1	2	3	2	1	8	3	5	7	11	8	3	29	25	54
Puerperal fever ...									1				.	1	1
Puerperal pyrexia ...									2				.	2	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	4												2	2	4
Erysipelas ...							1			2	8	7	9	9	18
Chickenpox ...	1	3	2	3	3	12	2		1				17	10	27
Totals ...	6	5	8	9	12	56	20	11	21	18	16	10	94	98	192

Table XII indicates the monthly incidence of notifiable diseases.

Table XII.

DISEASES	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet fever ...	4	4	10	5	4	3	3	5	8	8	3	11	68
Diphtheria ...	6	5			1			1			1		14
Enteric fever ...				3						1			4
Pneumonia ...	6	12	9	2	4	10	1	1		7	1	1	54
Puerperal fever ...							1						1
Puerperal pyrexia ...					2								2
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...				2					1	1			4
Erysipelas ...	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2		4	2		18
Chickenpox ...	6	4	1		2		2	3	4	1	2	2	27
Totals ...	24	27	21	13	14	14	9	12	13	22	9	14	192

NOTES ON NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

68 cases of scarlet fever occurred, an increase of 8 cases on the previous year. 67 cases were admitted to hospital ; 1 case was satisfactorily isolated and treated at home. The disease was present throughout the year, the highest monthly incidence being 11 during December. 29 cases were in children between the ages of 5 and 10 years. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

A substantial decrease was recorded in the number of notified cases of diphtheria, there being 14 as compared with 51 in 1935. Most of these were of a severe type, and included 2 cases of laryngeal diphtheria. Complications of multiple neuritis occurred in several instances. A supply of anti-toxin is available for the use of medical practitioners, and treatment with large doses of this has, in many cases, proved successful.

In my report for 1935, I expressed the hope that the artificial immunisation service inaugurated in that year would be the means of reducing materially the incidence of diphtheria. It would appear that this service has been a success. 1,422 injections were given, 535 children receiving treatment ; many other cases were dealt with by medical practitioners. None of the persons notified as suffering from diphtheria had received toxoid anti-toxin treatment.

Pneumonia.

54 cases of pneumonia were notified as against 25 in the previous year. The disease was particularly prevalent during the first six months of the year, 43 cases occurring during this period ; the highest monthly incidence being 12 in February.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

4 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified ; 3 were treated at home and 1 in hospital. There were no deaths and in all cases vision was unimpaired.

Enteric Fever.

4 cases of enteric fever were notified, 3 relating to persons normally resident at Brotherton, and who had been admitted to the Pontefract General Infirmary prior to diagnosis. Upon macroscopic examination all these cases showed marked agglutination to the bacillus typhosus.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality are classified in Table XIII.

Table XIII.

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1 and under 5			2	1				
5 and under 15	1			2				1
15 and under 25	1	6		2	2	1	1	
25 and under 35	2	2	4			2		
35 and under 45	4				1	1		
45 and under 55	1				1	1		
55 and under 65	2				2		1	
65 years and over	1							
Totals	12	8	6	5	6	5	2	1

Primary notifications were received respecting 30 cases, and 1 case was added to the register otherwise than by formal notification, giving a total of 31 new cases which is a decrease of 19 on last year.

14 deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis, a decrease of 9 on 1935. 11 of these had been notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, thus 21 per cent. of the total number of deaths from tuberculosis were non-notified cases.

Table XIV summarises particulars contained in the register of tuberculosis notifications.

Table XIV.

Particular in register	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total in register
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Number of cases on register at the commencement of year 1936	77	58	42	24	201
(b) Number of cases notified under the Regulations of 1930 for the first time during the year 1936	11	8	6	5	30
(c) Number of cases restored to register having been removed previously	0	0	0	0	0
(d) Number of cases added to register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	1	0	0	0	1
(e) Number of cases removed from register during year	13	3	9	4	29
(f) Number of cases remaining on register at end of year 1936	76	45	57	25	203

It will be seen from the above table that there were 2 more cases on the register at the close of the year than at the commencement, whilst 29 cases were removed from the register for reasons which are classified in Table XV.

Table XV.

Entries relating to—	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(1) Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered	3	0	2	1	6
(2) Persons who have died	7	1	5	0	13
(3) Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district	3	2	2	3	10
Totals ...	13	3	9	4	29

CANCER.

Facilities are available at the Pontefract and Leeds General Infirmaries for diagnosis and treatment.

19 males and 17 females died from the disease during the year. This is an increase of 5 on last year's figure.

Table XVI indicates the sites of the disease in persons who died from cancer.

Table XVI.

Sites of disease	Deaths		
	Males	Females	Totals
Tongue ...	4	0	4
Pharynx ...	0	1	1
Oesophagus ...	1	0	1
Stomach ...	4	5	9
Abdomen ...	0	1	1
Colon ...	2	3	5
Rectum ...	2	0	2
Liver ...	2	1	3
Pancreas ...	1	0	1
Bladder ...	1	0	1
Spleen ...	0	1	1
Prostate gland	1	—	1
Vulva ...	—	2	2
Uterus ...	—	1	1
Spine ...	0	2	2
Arm ...	1	0	1
Totals ...	19	17	36

In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the work done during the year by each member of the Public Health Staff, and thank the members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee for their assistance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. HESSEL,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
to the Medical Officer of Health,
for the year ended 31st December 1936.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the Borough and the work done in my Department during the year ended 31st December 1936.

PART ONE.

Sanitary Circumstances.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Housing Consolidated Regulations require that the water supply of a house shall be examined as regards purity, adequacy and accessibility. The general position in the Borough is very satisfactory, water being fed to all but a few isolated premises by mains belonging to the Corporation. The public supply has been satisfactory in quantity, being constant and without restrictions. Bacterial control has been maintained, and has proved the water to be satisfactory in quality, as the following report on a sample of water drawn from a tap at the Headlands Road Clinic will show :—

Bacterial content.

Average number of organisms developing on agar plates incubated for 2 days at 37° C. per ml. of water	... ..	52
Average number of organisms developing on agar plates incubated for 3 days at 22° C. per ml. of water	3,150

Presumptive B. coli.

Number in 100 ml. of water	None
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Concerning accessibility of water supplies in connection with houses sharing the public supply, a few are still served by external standpipes. These will be dealt with in the near future. The question of accessibility also arose in connection with certain houses-let-in-lodgings, and this matter was outstanding at the end of the year.

At the commencement of 1936 there were 4 farms in the Borough obtaining their supplies from private wells. Samples from these were subjected to bacteriological examination and all

were shown to be unsatisfactory. At the close of the year 2 farms had been connected to the public mains, and notices had been served requiring the provision of satisfactory supplies in the remaining cases.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE.

It is estimated that there are the following numbers and types of sanitary conveniences in the district :—

Pail closets	...	...	...	...	16
Privies with middens	...	...	...	...	26
Waste-water closets	...	...	...	...	44
Water closets	...	...	...	...	4,897

3 privies and 36 waste-water closets were converted to the water-carriage system during 1936. Whilst further conversions from the conservancy system are not anticipated, it is hoped that the advent of the Public Health Act, 1936, with its new provisions respecting waste-water closets, will result in this latter type of convenience soon being abolished.

Only 88 houses are not connected to the public sewers ; these include houses served by pail closets and privies together with houses drained to cesspools.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are 4 common lodging houses on the register. 18 visits were paid during the year and there was little cause for complaint. General conditions were good, the various provisions of the Public Health Acts and Byelaws being satisfied.

Houses-Let-in-Lodgings.

There are 6 houses-let-in-lodgings on the register, an increase of 2 on last year, these being found during the Over-crowding Survey. Conditions are still unsatisfactory, and 3 notices are outstanding. 22 inspections were made.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There has been a decrease in the number of structures classed together under this heading, the number on the register at the end of the year being 5. 19 visits were paid, and conditions found to be poor. Section 80 of the Housing Act, 1935, clarified the position of a local authority regarding the inclusion of movable dwellings in clearance areas, by providing that if such a dwelling has remained in the same enclosure for two years it shall be considered a fixed structure, and if unfit may be included in a

clearance area. During the year the Minister of Health confirmed the Spittal Hardwick Lane Clearance Order providing for the demolition of 5 vans.

Offensive Trades.

The business of fish frier is carried on at 24 premises in the Borough. All shops are provided with modern stoves which effectually destroy noxious fumes. Other offensive trades are carried on at 3 premises in the Borough, and include the businesses of tripe-boiling, fellmongering, glue-making and fat-extraction. 67 visits were paid and general conditions were good ; 2 nuisances arose, and were abated as the result of informal action.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

26 visits were made to factories and 29 to workshops, and general sanitary conditions were found to be satisfactory. In 5 cases it was necessary to serve informal notice for the remedy of defects, and at the close of the year these had been complied with.

There are 10 bakehouses on the register. This is 1 less than in the previous year, 2 bakehouses having been closed, and 1 new bakehouse opened. All premises were found to be maintained in clean condition and good repair. There are now no underground bakehouses in the Borough.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Although offensive fumes from trade processes and oil-driven vehicles contribute considerably to the vitiation of the atmosphere, smoke from the burning of soft raw coal continues to be the major cause of pollution. Whilst coal is regarded as a finished product instead of the raw material it really is, very little can be accomplished.

16 smoke observations of boiler chimneys were made, and in 7 cases cautions were given. In 3 of these statutory notices were served.

No stokers employed in the Borough have taken advantage of the course of lectures and the examination established by the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and secured the certificate of proficiency granted by the Committee.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

The number of inspections made for nuisances was 261, and 71 nuisances were found. 4 nuisances were in hand from

1935, bring the total requiring abatement to 75. At the end of the year 69 had been abated and 6 nuisances were outstanding.

Statutory notices were served in 4 cases, each notice being complied with. No legal proceedings were necessary.

Housing defects remedied under the Housing and Public Health Acts are classified on page 36, the above figures being exclusive of all housing defects.

PESTOLOGY IN RELATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Eradication of Vermin (*Cimex Lectularius*).

The control of bed-bug infestation has become more important as old unfit houses have been demolished and the tenants removed therefrom to new estates. Control was effected in three ways ; the prevention of dissemination of vermin, the destruction of vermin in houses, and the elimination of harbourages in houses.

The transfer of infested furniture and bedding from one house to another is the main factor in dissemination. Actually, very few removals from unfit houses took place during 1936, but 59 visits were paid to Corporation houses utilised for the rehousing of persons displaced from slum areas, and results proved that the methods adopted by the Department for supervising clearance removals were satisfactory. During the year, 110 unfit houses were demolished, the majority being infested with bed-bugs. Precautions were taken to prevent the dissemination of vermin caused by the carting away of infested materials for use elsewhere.

There is some evidence that vermin is disseminated by trade in second-hand furniture and bedding. I hope to make a thorough investigation into this matter in 1937.

31 houses on Corporation Estates were inspected at the request of the House Management Committee ; 19 were found to be verminous, and 7, being severely infested, were thoroughly treated, cleansed and re-decorated before being re-let. In 12 houses infestation was mild ; in 2 of these cases the House Management Committee gave the tenants concerned notice to cleanse, and in a further case a statutory notice was served. 9 infestations responded to treatment with insecticide.

3 privately owned houses were reported to be verminous, and were disinfested by the tenants consequent upon informal action.

In cases of severe infestation the following measures were adopted :—Pre-heating of rooms, removal of wallpapers, wood-work and other fittings, application of heat locally by blow-lamp and application of a contact insecticide in the form of a spray.

In houses disinfested by the Corporation, walls were afterwards colour-washed (wallpaper being a possible harbourage for vermin), and in some cases picture-rails in bedrooms were not replaced. Much could be done to eliminate harbourages in newly-erected houses by the introduction of modified forms of skirtings, picture-rails and architraves.

Other Insectile Infestations.

Several requests were made for advice on ridding premises of various insect pests. In all cases such assistance was given. The number of complaints regarding house-fly infestations has declined rapidly since the abolition of almost all the privy-middens and many of the dry ashpits in the area.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The number of visits paid during the year in connection with the destruction of rats and mice was 68. Many properties in the Borough are particularly liable to rat infestation, and consequently requests are often received for advice on the subject. During the past year considerable time was spent in this direction. I am of the opinion that if the rat menace is to be combated successfully periodical disturbances must be effected in all harbourages. In this respect the Council has sought to set an example to the public by the observation of quarterly rat weeks, when all Corporation premises liable to infestation are subjected to preventive treatment.

National Rat Week was observed from the 2nd to the 7th November, and the suggestions of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries with regard to the destruction of rats and mice were adopted so far as appropriate to the circumstances of the area. I am pleased to report that the campaign in Pontefract proved successful.

PART TWO

Foods and Food Premises.

The usual routine procedure was maintained in connection with the inspection of foods, the premises in which they are prepared, stored or offered for sale, and the various processes involved in their preparation and distribution.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Every effort was made to inspect the carcasses and viscera of all animals slaughtered within the area, and the following table gives the number of visits made to slaughterhouses for that purpose.

Table A.

Quarter ended	Number of carcasses examined					Number of visits
	Beef	Veal	Mutton and lamb	Pork	Total	
31st March	345	22	542	488	1,397	307
30th June	299	25	467	359	1,150	290
30th September	296	26	481	334	1,137	340
31st December	341	20	517	614	1,492	369
Totals	1,281	93	2,007	1,795	5,176	1,296

Of these 5,176 carcasses, 4,956 were found to be free from disease in carcase and organs, and were passed as fit for human consumption.

Diseased conditions were found in some part of the carcase or in some organ in 220 cases. In 5 instances the entire carcase and all organs were condemned, whilst in 215 cases the diseased portions or organs were removed, the remaining parts being passed as fit.

Details of carcasses, parts and organs condemned, together with the conditions responsible for condemnation are given in the appended list.

Tuberculosis :

Beasts—

Carcasses and viscera	...	...	...	2
Quarters	...	...	...	2
Heads	...	...	...	29
Lungs, sets	...	...	...	46
Livers	...	...	...	8
Kidneys	...	...	...	4
Spleen	...	...	...	1
Mesentery	...	...	...	1

Pigs—					
Carcase and viscera	...	...	...	...	1
Heads	...	...	...	...	45
Lungs, sets	...	...	...	...	21
Livers	...	...	...	...	21
Mesenteries	...	...	...	...	10
Actinomycosis :					
Beast's head	...	...	...	...	1
Abscesses :					
Beasts' livers	...	...	...	...	18
Bacilliary necrosis :					
Beast's liver	...	...	...	...	1
Cysticercus tenuicollis :					
Pig's liver	...	...	...	...	1
Echinococcus veterinorum :					
Beast's lungs, set	...	...	...	...	1
Sheep's liver	...	...	...	...	1
Distomatosis :					
Beasts' lungs, sets	...	...	...	...	10
Biliary cirrhosis :					
Beasts' livers	...	...	...	...	31
Strongyles rufescens :					
Sheeps' lungs, sets	...	...	...	...	9
Cystic kidneys :					
Beasts' kidneys	...	...	...	...	2
Cirrhosis :					
Pigs' livers	...	...	...	...	8
Pneumonia :					
Beasts' lungs, sets	...	...	...	...	5
Pigs' lungs, sets	...	...	...	...	17
Moribund :					
Carcase and viscera of sheep	...	...	...	...	1
Carcase and viscera of pig	...	...	...	...	1
High blood-content :					
Beasts' lungs, sets	...	...	...	...	3
Pigs' lungs, sets	...	...	...	...	3

In no case was it necessary to use statutory powers and seize any of the above-named, all being voluntarily surrendered.

There are 8 private slaughterhouses and no public abattoir in the district. The provisions of the Council's byelaws, the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and the Slaughter

of Animals Act, 1933, were generally well observed. Certain minor offences occurred, and warnings produced the desired effect.

There are 32 licensed slaughtermen in the Borough. Difficulty has been experienced in assessing the ability of certain applicants for licences, for whilst no unlicensed persons may stun or slaughter an animal (S.A.A., 1933, s. 3), he may not be considered to be a fit and proper person for a licence until he has given proof of his ability to stun or slaughter (S.A.A., 1933, 2nd schedule, clause 5).

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 17 cowkeepers on the register, 9 of whom are wholesale traders. 23 cowsheds are registered, and all were inspected during the year, 63 visits being made for this purpose. 16 were found to be in satisfactory structural condition, whilst in the remaining 7 cases considerable improvement is necessary.

The County Veterinary Officer examined the dairy cows in March and again in September, the average number inspected being 182. It was found necessary to slaughter 9 cows under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 6 of which were affected with pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 with tuberculosis of the udder and 1 with tuberculous emaciation. Although the number of tuberculous animals was high, the Veterinary Officer reported that the health of the remainder of the cattle was good.

The number of retail milk sellers on the register at the end of the year was 32, 9 of whom came from other districts to sell milk in the town.

The provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, relating to registration and notices, cleanliness of dairies, conveyance and distribution of milk, were on the whole well observed, it being necessary to serve only 4 notices for the remedy of defects.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

This Order came into operation on the 1st June, 1936, revoking the previous Orders of 1923 and 1934. The Order sets up a new system of milk grading, and prescribes the following special designations for milk :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” A milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination and a tuberculin test for freedom from tuberculosis.

“ Accredited ”	A milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination but not necessarily a test for freedom from tuberculosis.
“ Pasteurised ”	A milk which has been retained at a temperature of 145 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit for at least thirty minutes to destroy any disease germs.

The designations “ Certified,” “ Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) ” and “ Grade A ” are abolished and the new designations mentioned above are the only ones recognised by the Ministry of Health, apart from the two sub-grades of “ Tuberculin Tested ” ; these are “ Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) ” and “ Tuberculin Tested Milk (Certified), ” meaning respectively, “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk which has been pasteurised and “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk which has been bottled on the farm.

No “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk and only a comparatively small quantity of “ Accredited ” milk is retailed in the Borough. Ungraded raw milk, and “ Pasteurised ” milk continue to have the largest sales, those of the latter having been considerably increased during the year under review.

One licence for the production of “ Pasteurised ” milk is in force ; the plant concerned was satisfactorily operated, there being a well-established routine for pasteurising, cooling, bottling and cleansing. Strict attention to cleanliness was observed at all stages.

To satisfy the standard required by the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, “ Pasteurised ” milk must not contain more than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre ; the results of 4 samples submitted for bacteriological examination were as follows :—

Sample No.	Bacteria per millilitre	Result
1	1,020	Satisfactory
2	2,360	Satisfactory
3	540	Satisfactory
4	8,600	Satisfactory

PART THREE.

HOUSING.

Work in connection with housing has continued to take up much time. Before the completion of the work set out in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, the Overcrowding Survey Report was required by the Minister of Health, and considerable difficulty was experienced in endeavouring to satisfy these requirements and at the same time to maintain routine housing duties. Details of housing inspections and procedure are tabulated below.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING 1936 :—

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	299
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	481
Number of dwellinghouses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	205
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	283
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	150
Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those just referred to) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	149

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	110
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING 1936 :—

Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit (all by owners) after service of formal notices ...	4

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	5
---	---

Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied (all by Local Authority in default of owners) after service of formal notices	5
Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	18
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were accepted—	
To convert two dwellinghouses into one dwellinghouse	8
To use premises for purposes other than human habitation	13
Proceedings under Part One of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
Number of Clearance Orders confirmed by Minister of Health	16
Number of Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed by Minister of Health	1
Number of Clearance Areas comprising Corporation property	1
Number of dwellinghouses included in the above Orders and Area	100
Number of dwellinghouses demolished (this does not include any of the 100 houses just mentioned, but refers to houses included in previous Orders made by the Council)	90

It will be seen from these statistics that during the year a total of 119 defective dwellinghouses were rendered fit, and that 108 dwellinghouses were demolished in pursuance of statutory action under the Housing Act. 2 unfit dwellinghouses were demolished voluntarily by the owner, consequent upon informal action.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

The Council's Slum Clearance Programme, submitted to the Minister of Health in 1933, provided for the demolition of 202 unfit houses, and the rehousing of dispossessed persons during 1934 and 1935. This programme was later amended, the final number of houses scheduled for demolition being 276 ; it was anticipated that the programme could be dealt with over a period of three years ending at the close of 1936.

The position at the 31st December 1936 is shown in Table B. Thus, for example, from the first column it will be seen that 84 dwellinghouses were proposed for demolition during 1934, and that all had been demolished by the close of the year under review ; from the seventh column it will be seen that of the 16 dwellinghouses scheduled as " individual unfits " for demolition in 1936, 15 had been demolished and 1 had been closed ; and so on. The final column provides a summary of the whole situation ; thus of the 276 houses included in the programme, 123 were actually demolished, 113 were very near demolition, 9 were closed and 4 were made fit. 21 houses have yet to be dealt with formally. These would have been dealt with had not work in connection with the Overcrowding Survey displaced all but the essential routine work of the Department for a considerable time.

Table B.

Position at 31st December 1936.	Number of dwellinghouses included in the Slum Clearance Programme											
	Proposed to be dealt with in Clearance Areas				Proposed to be dealt with Individually			All dwellinghouses proposed to be dealt with				
	During the year			Total	During the year			Total	During the year			Total
	1934	1935	1936		1934	1935	1936		1934	1935	1936	
Dwellinghouses demolished	84	6	6	96	11	1	15	27	95	7	21	123
Dwellinghouses not yet demolished but respecting which Clearance Orders have been confirmed	—	47	47	94	—	7	—	7	—	54	47	101*
Dwellinghouses not yet demolished but respecting which Demolition Orders have been made	—	4	—	4	—	5	—	5	—	9	—	9*
Dwellinghouses (owned by the Corporation) respecting which instructions for demolition have been given	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Dwellinghouses closed on undertakings being given that they will not again be used as such	—	2	—	2	3	3	1	7	3	5	1	9
Dwellinghouse in respect of which an undertaking to close has been given but not yet complied with	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dwellinghouses made fit for human habitation	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Dwellinghouse excluded from Clearance Order by Minister of Health	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dwellinghouses respecting which primary formal notices have been served	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4	3	1	—	4
Dwellinghouses not yet formally dealt with	—	18	—	18	—	3	—	3	—	21	—	21
Total number of dwellinghouses included in Slum Clearance Programme	84	81	58	223	17	20	16	53	101	101	74	276

* 14 of these dwellinghouses have been vacated.

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

I am again able to report continued activity in new housing. The number of houses erected by private enterprise was 184, an increase of 38 on last year's record. The majority of these can be said to be of the working class type, and although they are not available for general housing purposes—having been erected under the provisions of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts—it must be remembered that many houses will have been liberated (by persons who are now owner-occupiers) for general use.

Advances made by the Council under the provisions of the Small Dwellings Acquisitions Acts amount to the following sums :—

Year		£
1934	...	12,289
1935	...	60,018
1936	...	46,922

Two houses were erected by the Council at the Park Entrance, and 100 houses are in course of erection on the Monkhill Estate for the rehousing of persons now in unfit houses. Further schemes are projected in connection with overcrowding and the housing of aged persons, which will probably result in the erection of another 86 houses.

1937 has every appearance of being a record year so far as the erection of houses in Pontefract is concerned.

I would bring to your notice the fact that in several new houses the third bedroom has a floor area of less than 50 square feet. When computing for the purpose of ascertaining the "permitted number" in relation to a dwellinghouse, rooms having a floor area of less than 50 square feet are not taken into account, and therefore such a room must be regarded as redundant accommodation.

OVERCROWDING.

The Overcrowding Survey.

The passing of the Housing Act, 1935, opened the campaign against overcrowding ; a standard was set up by which it could be measured, and machinery was provided for its elimination. The Act received the Royal Assent on the 2nd August, and before the close of the year the campaign in Pontefract had been organised, and the first step taken. The necessary information was collected by three temporary assistants, and

analysed by the permanent staff. The overcrowding provisions apply only to working class dwellinghouses, and houses with a Gross Value exceeding £26 were excluded from the Survey.

Information was obtained which enabled the Council to formulate proper plans for dealing with the problem of overcrowding, and for the first time, a general picture of the housing conditions in the Borough was available. Table C summarises the position discovered by the Survey. Each column shows the number and size of families occupying dwellings of the accommodation shown at the head of the column, and each line of the table shows the number and accommodation of dwellings occupied by families of the size shown at the beginning of the line. Entries relating to overcrowded families fall below the stepped diagonal.

Table C.

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.													Over- crowded	Un- crowded	Total				
	1—	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7				7½	8	8½	9	9½	10+
1	—	18	4	25	5	—	37	—	1	—	41	—	—	—	34	—	1	3	—	169
1½	—	—	—	1	1	2	119	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	360	—	—	32	7	4
2	3	1	10	46	30	—	54	—	2	253	—	—	—	1	165	—	—	9	—	863
2½	2	—	4	—	28	—	114	—	5	137	—	—	—	1	402	—	2	—	—	409
3	—	1	—	—	21	—	39	—	10	295	—	—	—	1	381	—	2	13	—	872
3½	1	—	2	—	10	—	—	—	6	113	—	—	—	1	136	—	1	5	—	306
4	—	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	40	194	—	—	1	1	292	—	1	10	—	576
4½	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	14	60	—	—	—	1	96	—	—	4	—	180
5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	23	104	—	—	2	1	152	—	1	14	—	307
5½	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	14	54	—	—	3	3	60	—	—	2	—	121
6	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	5	8	—	—	6	7	93	—	—	9	—	137
6½	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	4	35	—	1	4	—	50
7	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	10	6	—	—	3	10	46	—	4	3	—	72
7½	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	1	1	20	—	2	2	—	26
8	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	4	3	6	—	4	2	—	16
8½	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	2	2	6	—	2	2	—	15
9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	2	—	1	1	—	10
9½	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	1	2	—	3	—	—	11
10+	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	4	—	9
Overcrowded	6	2	6	1	28	—	1	13	57	3	28	15	13	6	4	3	—	—	—	186
Uncrowded	—	18	14	73	85	—	363	33	97	—	1261	14	13	30	1876	11	11	142	69	411
Dwellings	6	20	20	74	113	—	364	46	154	3	1289	29	26	36	1880	14	11	142	69	4296

The Overcrowding Standard.

The Overcrowding Standard consists of two parts ; the first dealing with sex separation, and the second with capacity. The former requires the segregation of persons ten years old or more of opposite sexes, and not living together as husband and wife. This requirement can be satisfied in all houses consisting of more than one room, and therefore it was not surprising to find that no cases of overcrowding fell solely into this category. The second part of the standard is a "permitted number" standard ; briefly, each dwellinghouse is given a "permitted number," ascertained by certain formulæ, and overcrowding arises when the number of units in the family exceeds this "permitted number." The "permitted numbers" relating to almost all working class dwellinghouses in the Borough have been ascertained, and are supplied to owners and occupiers upon request.

The Extent of Overcrowding.

A glance at Table C will show that 186 cases of overcrowding were disclosed by the Survey in Pontefract. It was not only for this figure, however, that the Survey was carried out. There are degrees of overcrowding, a knowledge of which proved essential when rehousing plans were being formulated ; this knowledge was obtained through the Survey. Furthermore, the exact position in uncrowded houses was disclosed, and in this respect, the fact that many families may be only just uncrowded is of the utmost importance.

If a family is so housed that it is only just uncrowded, any increase in the equivalent number of persons will cause overcrowding, and it is therefore desirable that there should be a margin of accommodation above the overcrowding standard for each family.

The following table indicates the extent of this margin in Pontefract. Thus, for example, the average family with an equivalent number of $4\frac{1}{2}$ * persons occupies accommodation capable of housing 7 persons, and so on. The table shows that the average working class family of normal size is housed well above the statutory minimum standard. In the case of the large families of more than 7 units, however, there is no margin ; thus although 44 per cent. of the families of this size are actually uncrowded, all would be overcrowded if they were spread evenly amongst the houses now occupied by them. This points to an insufficiency of houses for large families.

* Throughout this report children between the ages of 1 and 10 years count as $\frac{1}{2}$ a person, and children under 1 year do not count at all.

The third column gives the average number of units of accommodation occupied by overcrowded families of the size indicated in the first column ; the excess of numbers in the first column over those in the third being indicative of the extent to which the accommodation occupied by the average overcrowded family falls short of that required by the statutory standard. Thus, for example, the average overcrowded family with an equivalent number of $4\frac{1}{2}$ persons occupies accommodation capable of housing an equivalent number of only three persons.

Table D.

Size of family (i.e. equivalent number of persons).	Average number of units of accommodation (i.e. "permitted number") occupied by families of the size given in first column.	
	All families	Overcrowded families
1	4.8	
$1\frac{1}{2}$	4.4	
2	6.3	1.5
$2\frac{1}{2}$	6.3	1.1
3	6.7	1.0
$3\frac{1}{2}$	6.6	2.8
4	7.1	2.7
$4\frac{1}{2}$	7.0	3.0
5	7.3	4.0
$5\frac{1}{2}$	6.9	4.9
6	7.7	4.6
$6\frac{1}{2}$	7.3	5.4
7	7.5	5.4
$7\frac{1}{2}$	7.4	6.0
8	7.3	6.2
$8\frac{1}{2}$	7.8	7.0
9	7.4	7.0
$9\frac{1}{2}$	7.3	6.1
10 and over	5.8	5.8

Tables E and F classify families according to the proportion which the accommodation they have bears to the minimum accommodation they should have to satisfy the overcrowding standard. Families housed at the minimum standard, i.e., just uncrowded, are entered as having 100 per cent. of the minimum accommodation ; thus families with 200 per cent. of the minimum accommodation occupy double the accommodation required to satisfy the overcrowding standard, and families with

50 per cent. of minimum accommodation occupy half the accommodation required to satisfy the same standard.

Table E.

Percentage of minimum accommodation	Uncrowded families with the accommodation given in the first column	
	Number of families	Percentage of total uncrowded families
Over 300	743	18.1
Over 200 but not over 300	1,001	24.4
Over 150 but not over 200	1,186	28.9
Over 125 but not over 150	600	14.6
Over 110 but not over 125	396	9.6
Over 100 but not over 110	100	2.4
100	84	2.0

From Table E it will be seen that 4.4 per cent. of the uncrowded houses in the Borough are very near the borderline of overcrowding, and that a higher overcrowding standard requiring a 10 per cent. increase in accommodation would have doubled the number of cases of overcrowding. The table also shows that 1,744 families have more than double the accommodation required by the overcrowding standard. These families, constituting over 40 per cent. of all working class families in the Borough, are so well housed that the number of persons in each family could be doubled, and still be uncrowded.

Table F.

Percentage of minimum accommodation	Overcrowded families with accommodation given in first column	
	Number of families	Percentage of total overcrowded families
Under 100 but not under 90	38	20.4
Under 90 but not under 80	58	31.2
Under 80 but not under 70	46	24.7
Under 70 but not under 60	20	10.8
Under 60 but not under 50	13	7.0
Under 50 but not under 40	3	1.6
Under 40 but not under 30	3	1.6
Under 30	5	2.7

Table F indicates the intensity of overcrowding ; thus it will be seen that 51 per cent. of overcrowded families have at least 80 per cent. of the minimum accommodation required by the overcrowding standard ; that 6 per cent. have at least half the minimum required ; and that a lower overcrowding standard allowing a 10 per cent. increase in the "permitted number" of dwellings would reduce the number of overcrowded families by 38.

That the average overcrowded family is 85 per cent. larger than the average family, and occupies accommodation on the average 26 per cent. less, is proved from the following figures calculated from Table C.

Table G.

	Average size of families (equivalent number of persons)	Average size of dwellings ("permitted number" per occupied dwelling)
All families	3.53	6.71
Uncrowded families	3.40	6.79
Overcrowded families	3.54	4.98

Table H gives the number of overcrowded families of each size, and the percentage of the total number of families of the same size.

These figures show that overcrowding in families with an equivalent number of units of between $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 8 account for over 60 per cent. of all overcrowded families. $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 units represent mainly families of 7 to 9 persons.

The final column shows percentage distribution of overcrowding amongst the various sizes of overcrowded families ; for example, 25 per cent. of all families consisting of 7 units are overcrowded. These entries emphasise the insufficiency of large houses.

Table H.

Size of family (i.e. equivalent number of persons)	Overcrowded families of size given in first column		Percentage proportion which the number of overcrowded families bears to the number of all families of size given in the first column
	Number	Percentage of total overcrowd- ed families	
1	0	0.0	0.0
1½	0	0.0	0.0
2	1	0.5	0.1
2½	7	3.7	1.7
3	3	1.6	0.3
3½	12	6.4	3.8
4	9	5.0	1.5
4½	3	1.6	1.6
5	3	1.6	1.0
5½	17	9.1	12.3
6	22	11.8	13.8
6½	19	10.2	27.5
7	24	12.9	25.0
7½	16	8.6	38.1
8	15	8.0	51.7
8½	10	5.4	71.4
9	11	5.9	78.6
9½	9	5.0	69.2
10 and over	5	2.7	100.0
Total	186	100	

Table I gives the size distribution of overcrowded dwellings, and indicates that overcrowding is much more common in dwellings of three and four rooms than in dwellings of any other size, 73.2 per cent. of the overcrowded dwellings being of either three or four rooms, while only 26.8 per cent. of the dwellings were of the other types.

Table I.

Size of overcrowded dwellings (i.e. "permitted number")	Approximate number of rooms in dwelling in first column	Overcrowded dwellings of size in first column		Overcrowded dwellings with approximate number of rooms in second column		
		Number	Percentage of total overcrowded dwellings	Number	Percentage of total overcrowded dwellings	Percentage of all dwellings
0	1	3	1.6	14	7.5	0.33
$\frac{1}{2}$		1	0.5			
1		2	1.1			
$1\frac{1}{2}$		2	1.1			
2	2	6	3.2	29	15.6	0.68
$2\frac{1}{2}$		1	0.5			
3		28	15.1			
$3\frac{1}{2}$	3	0	—	71	38.3	1.65
4		1	0.5			
$4\frac{1}{2}$		13	7.0			
5		57	30.8			
$5\frac{1}{2}$	4	3	1.6	65	34.9	1.51
6		28	15.1			
$6\frac{1}{2}$		15	8.0			
7	5	13	7.0	7	3.7	0.16
$7\frac{1}{2}$		6	3.2			
8		4	2.1			
$8\frac{1}{2}$	—	3	1.6	—	—	—
9		0	—			
over 9	—	0	—	—	—	—

Rehousing.

Table C shows 186 families to be overcrowded, and this is the basis on which the rehousing proposals were constructed. There will be many changes in these families before actual rehousing takes place, but this figure should remain much the same. As indicated in Tables D and H houses will have to be erected for the very large families; and the Council have submitted to the Minister of Health a programme whereby it is proposed to erect thirty five-bedroom and forty four-bedroom houses.

Along with a process of redistribution, it is hoped that this will solve the immediate rehousing problem; that is until a higher standard is introduced, for in this event (vide Table E) the position would be considerably changed. As is demonstrated in Tables F and G, a considerable amount of overcrowding is severe, and although the Council can do no authentic rehousing until the "appointed day" has been fixed, it is anticipated that many cases can be alleviated informally before that time.

One often hears of newly-married couples being unable to obtain the tenancy of small houses; from Table I it may be

deduced that many privately-owned houses of the two-bedroom type will be available after the elimination of overcrowding in the Borough.

PART FOUR.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Routine work in connection with cases of infectious disease has been carried out as usual ; arrangements for isolation, visits to contacts, disinfection and all other action to prevent the spread of disease having received prompt attention.

Of the 68 cases of scarlet fever notified, only one was isolated at home ; the case was visited, advice given, and current and terminal disinfection carried out. 40 of the patients were school-children and in 28 instances it was necessary to exclude contacts from school.

Of the 14 cases of diphtheria, 10 were school-children and in 5 cases contacts were excluded from school.

31 visits were paid in connection with enquiries and disinfection when tuberculous persons were removed to hospitals or sanatoria, and after death. One patient, found to be living under unsuitable housing conditions, was rehoused in a Council house after receiving treatment at a sanatorium.

In 84 instances houses were disinfected, whilst school-rooms in the Borough were similarly treated on 46 occasions. Library books found at infected houses and schoolbooks used by infected children were removed for fumigation at the disinfectant depôt.

Disinfectants distributed free during the year included 320 gallons in liquid form and $2\frac{1}{4}$ tons of powder, costing £70.

PART FIVE.

Classified Lists of Inspections and Visits.

HOUSING.

Dwellinghouse inspections under Housing Acts	...	283
Dwellinghouse inspections under Public Health Acts...		198
Visits and re-visits in connection with removals from slum properties to new houses	... ..	69

Visits for purposes of official counts, and other enquiries	271
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
Investigation into home conditions of tuberculous persons	31
Visits to infected houses for purpose of tracing source of disease, and advising occupants	84
Visits to persons coming into contact with infection ...	33
Visits to schools	13
PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.	
Common lodging houses	18
Houses-let-in-lodgings	22
Vans and sheds	19
Offensive trades	67
FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.	
Visits for meat inspections, slaughterhouses	1,296
Visits for meat inspection, shops and stalls	341
Inspections of slaughterhouses	32
Cattle Market	14
Cowsheds	63
Dairies (including pasteurising plant)	72
Ice cream premises	31
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	
Factories	26
Workshops	29
Smoke observations	16
RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.	
National Rat Week	42
Other visits	26
SHOPS.	
Sanitary matters under 1934 Act	12
OVERCROWDING.	
Visits by temporary staff	7,151
Visits by permanent staff	76

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Visits to Council houses	95
Visits to private houses	15

MISCELLANEOUS.

Public Mortuary	52
Places of entertainment	16
Nuisances (not under previous headings)	261
Works in progress	1,163

TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

By permanent staff	4,786
By temporary staff	7,151
	11,937

In conclusion, I desire to thank you for the help you have given me during the year, the members of my Staff for their consistently hard work, and the heads of other departments of the Corporation for their helpful co-operation at all times.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. B. JACKSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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