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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December 1938.





Borough of Pontefract.



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STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, (Part time) :

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

(Also School Medical Officer, and Medical Officer for
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic).

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

A. B. JACKSON (Retired July 1938).

L. WALSH, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed July 1938),
Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector,
Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

E. W. CLEAVER, A.R.San.I. (Appointed October 1938).
Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector,
Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
(December 1938).

A. SMITHSON, A.R.San.I. (Appointed November 1938).
Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH VISITORS :

L. TOMLINSON,
State Registered Nurse, Certified Midwife.

M. M. SAVILLE, (Part time),
State Registered Nurse, Certified Midwife,
Certificate of R.S.I. as Health Visitor.

CLERK :

R. DURANT.

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1938.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a report on the Health of the Borough during the year 1938. It is my seventeenth Annual Report, and is drawn up on the lines indicated by the Minister of Health in Circular 1728. Matters referred to in Sections C, D and E of the Circular, namely, Sanitary Circumstances and Administration, Housing, and Food Inspection are dealt with 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 4,865 acres. At the beginning of the year the areas of the Wards were as follows, namely :—

			Acres.
Mill Hill Ward	...	...	1,212
West Ward	...	...	1,198
East Ward	...	...	1,026
South Ward	...	...	740
North Ward	...	...	640
Central Ward	...	...	49

On the 23rd June, 1938 a scheme for an alteration of the boundaries of these Wards came into operation. The names and areas of the new Wards are as follows, namely :—

			Acres.
Castle Ward	...	...	1,340
Park Ward	...	...	1,203
Carleton Ward	...	...	961
Tanshelf Ward	...	...	643
Baghill Ward	...	...	536
Central Ward	...	...	182

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population is 21,340, an increase of 180 on the figure for 1937.

According to the rate books the number of inhabited houses was 5,430 at the close of the year. The number in 1937 was 5,296.

The rateable value of the Borough is £116,169 and the sum represented by a penny rate £441. Last year's figures were respectively £113,724 and £415.

Pontefract is a market town serving a large rural area, and a considerable amount of farming and market gardening is carried on within the Borough itself, the outlying districts being essentially agricultural in character.

The main local industry is coal-mining, and although only one colliery is situated within the Borough boundary, other collieries work seams of coal underlying the Borough. Liquorice confectionery is made by several long-established firms whose premises generally are of good type and in healthy surroundings. Confectionery of other varieties is also manufactured in large quantities.

Among other industries carried on in the town are malting, furniture-making, box-making, brick-making and the manufacture of glass-making machinery. The tanning of hides and skins and subsidiary processes is an ancient industry which still flourishes, now carried on under modern conditions.

Through the courtesy of the Manager of the Pontefract Employment Exchange, I am able to give local employment statistics for 1938.

Table I.

Month	Wholly unemployed			Temporarily suspended		
	Men	Women	Juven'ls	Men	Women	Juven'ls
January	682	81	103	63	62	8
February	689	98	55	55	26	3
March	679	95	43	47	10	1
April	664	88	35	39	21	2
May	647	75	62	42	27	4
June	639	68	39	978	16	96
July	627	57	36	375	28	24
August	605	54	82	244	25	17
September	639	56	60	298	14	12
October	628	69	45	82	7	1
November	625	68	46	46	3	1
December	665	64	53	36	37	14

Employment in the area during the period under review was appreciably better than in the previous year, although the figures relating to wholly unemployed persons at the close of each year are about the same. Table II gives the unemployment position at December in each of the past five years, indicating clearly the general improvement since 1935.

Table II.

	Wholly unemployed persons			
	Men	Women	Juveniles	Total
1934	895	78	185	1,158
1935	1,103	88	199	1,390
1936	872	72	118	1,062
1937	687	60	36	783
1938	665	64	53	782

VITAL STATISTICS.**Live Births:**

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	220	174	394
Illegitimate	...	...	6	9	15
Totals...	...	...	226	183	409

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 19.1

Still Births:

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	7	6	13
Illegitimate	...	...	0	1	1
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	7	7	14

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 33.1

Deaths:

			Male.	Female.	Total.
All causes	...	...	121	101	222

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 10.4

Deaths from puerperal causes:

			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	1	2.36
Other puerperal causes	...	...	0	—
			—	—
Total	...	...	1	2.36

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	48
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	67

Deaths from certain other causes:

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	25
Measles (all ages)	...	...	3
Whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	0

NOTES ON BIRTHS.

423 births were registered, 5 less than in the previous year; 14 of these were stillbirths, 3 less than in 1937. The birth rate, 19.1, fell from 19.7. The stillbirth rate continues to decline. In 1934 this rate was 1.5 per 1,000 population; it is now 0.66. In 1934 the stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births was 73; it is now 33.

Table III is introduced for purposes of comparison.

Table III.

	Rate per 1,000 population	
	Live births	Stillbirths
England and Wales	15.1	0.60
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	15.0	0.65
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	15.4	0.60
London Administrative County	13.4	0.48
Pontefract	19.1	0.66

Under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, 411 births were notified to me by doctors and midwives as having occurred in the Borough. This figure differs from the number of registered births by reason of adjustments made in respect of transferred registrations.

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

Table IV.

Month	Male		Female		Total births
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
January	16	2	13	0	31
February	15	2	6	0	23
March	23	1	23	2	49
April	18	0	13	1	32
May	15	1	14	0	30
June	17	1	16	1	35
July	19	0	15	0	34
August	20	1	13	3	37
September	16	0	14	2	32
October	26	0	21	1	48
November	16	0	12	2	30
December	13	0	17	0	30
Totals	214	8	177	12	411

NOTES ON DEATHS.

222 deaths were registered, 20 less than last year, giving a crude death rate of 10.4, which when multiplied by the areal comparability factor of 1.10 gives a corrected rate of 11.4.

This is the lowest rate since 1934 when 10.8 was recorded.

Table V shows favourable comparison with other districts.

Table V.

	Death rate per 1,000 population
England and Wales ...	11.6
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	11.7
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	11.0
London Administrative County	11.4
Pontefract... ..	11.4

The principal causes of death classified into age groups are set out in the following table.

Table VI.

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 ...	3								1	2	3
Diphtheria ...				4					2	2	4
Influenza ...			1				1	1	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, pulmonary ...					1	5		1	4	3	7
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary ...			1			1			2	0	2
Syphilis ...				1					0	1	1
Cancer ...						2	1	22	13	12	25
Diabetes ...						1	1	4	5	1	6
Cerebral hæmorrhage ...						1		9	6	4	10
Heart disease ...					1	7	11	49	35	33	68
Other circulatory diseases ...								3	6	5	9
Bronchitis ...	2	2						2	11	6	17
Pneumonia ...	2	2	2		1		4		5	6	11
Other respiratory diseases ...								1	0	1	1
Peptic ulcer ...							1		1	0	1
Appendicitis ...				1		1			1	1	2
Liver disease (not cirrhosis) ...							1		0	1	1
Other digestive diseases ...					2	2	2	1	3	4	7
Nephritis, acute and chronic ...								2	0	2	2
Puerperal sepsis ...					1					1	1
Congenital causes, etc. ...	11								9	2	11
Senility ...								4	2	2	4
Suicide ...						4	1	1	5	1	6
Other violence ...			1	2	1	3		3	9	1	10
Other defined causes ...	2	1		2	2		1	2	6	4	10
Totals ...	20	5	5	10	9	27	29	117	121	101	222

Of the 222 deaths, 117 (53 per cent. of total deaths) were of persons of 60 years or over, whilst 20 were of children under 1 year (9 per cent. of total deaths). Female deaths numbered 101, 12 less than were recorded last year; male deaths decreased from 129 to 121.

Heart disease continues to be the principal cause of death in both sexes, 68 certificates attributing death to this condition. 49 of these related to persons of 60 years or over. The total number of deaths from all diseases of the circulatory system was 77, 2 more than in 1937.

The considerable decrease in 1937 in deaths due to cancer has not continued throughout the year under review, 25 deaths having occurred. 22 of these were of persons of 60 years or over. Further details are given later in the report.

Diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 29 deaths, 5 more than in the previous year. Bronchitis and pneumonia showed slight increases.

11 deaths from diseases of the digestive system were certified, 2 more than in 1937; this number includes 2 deaths from appendicitis.

Infectious diseases were responsible for 20 deaths, 15 less than last year. This is due to considerable reductions in deaths due to influenza and tuberculosis. Deaths due to infectious diseases are dealt with in detail in a later part of the report.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 20, 6 less than in 1937. This yields an infant mortality rate of 49 per 1,000 births, as compared with 63 in the previous year. The average rate for the quinquennium 1934-1938 is 55.

Table VII shows favourable comparison with other districts.

Table VII.

	Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	Total deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales... ..	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	3.6	51
London Administrative County	13.1	57
Pontefract ...	0	49

The causes of infant deaths are classified in age-groups in Table VIII.

It will be noted that 8 deaths occurred in the first week of life, 6 of which were due to premature birth.

Respiratory ailments were responsible for 4 deaths, 1 less than in 1937, and there were no deaths from diarrhoea. 3 deaths were due to measles; there had been no such deaths since 1935. Only 2 infant deaths were due to congenital malformations.

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
Measles ...						1	1	1	1	2	3
Congenital heart disease ...					1				1	0	1
Bronchitis ...						1		1	0	2	2
Pneumonia ...					1	1			1	1	2
Imperforate anus ...	1								1	0	1
Premature birth ...	6								5	1	6
Asphyxia ...						1			1	0	1
Pemphigus ...		1							0	1	1
Inanition ...	1								1	0	1
Convulsions ...			1					1	2	0	2
Totals ...	8	1	1	0	2	4	2	2	13	7	20

Table IX indicates the monthly incidence of infantile deaths.

Table IX.

CAUSES OF DEATH	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Measles ...				2							1		3
Congenital heart disease ...								1					1
Bronchitis ...								2					2
Pneumonia ...	1						1						2
Imperforate anus ...									1				1
Premature birth ...			1		1					1	2	1	6
Asphyxia ...												1	1
Pemphigus ...											1		1
Inanition ...								1					1
Convulsions ...		1				1							2
Totals ...	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	2	20

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was 1 death classified to puerperal sepsis, 1 less than in the previous year; and none to other puerperal causes. The maternal mortality rate is 2.36 as compared with 4.67 in 1937 and 5.62 in 1936.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

There were 3 deaths from measles, 4 from diphtheria, and none from other principal zymotic diseases, giving a zymotic death rate of 0.33 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.48 in the previous year.

PART TWO.

General Provision of Health Services.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements for the submission of pathological and bacteriological specimens to the County Public Health Laboratory are satisfactory, and in 1938 the undermentioned specimens were sent from the Borough for examination :—

Sera for Widal Reaction	...	...	4
Urine and fæces for B. Typhosus	...	...	13
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	19
Swabs for B. Diphtheriæ	...	...	109
Urines for Tubercle Bacilli and organisms			2
Blood films for Cytological examination	...		1
Milks for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	50
Milks for Methylene Blue Reduction	...	...	52
Waters for bacteriological examination	...	...	50
Bio-chemical specimens	...	...	58
Miscellaneous specimens	...	...	7

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There has been no change in the service during the year.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This service is administered by the Pontefract District (Voluntary) Nursing Association, who employ one nurse : 56 cases were attended. There has been no change in this service.

TREATMENT CENTRES, CLINICS AND HOSPITALS.

There is no municipal hospital in the Borough; the Pontefract General Infirmary providing accommodation for general and accident cases and out-patients' clinics.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The Midwives Act, 1936, is administered by the West Riding County Council, who employ three midwives in the Borough.

A weekly ante-natal session is held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; 297 expectant mothers, (representing 75.4 per cent of the total notified births), made 931 attendances. The Council has an agreement for a consultant service at the Ante-Natal Clinic of the Leeds Maternity Hospital.

Arrangements are in operation with Maternity Hospitals at Leeds, Wakefield and Doncaster for the reception of abnormal cases, 28 patients were sent from the Borough to these hospitals during the year.

Home helps were provided by the Council on two occasions during the year.

Health Visitors.

The Council employ two Health Visitors, the equivalent of whole time services devoted to visiting and attendance at clinics being $1\frac{1}{2}$.

The following table gives particulars of the number of visits paid by Health Visitors over the past five years.

Table X.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
To expectant mothers :					
First visits ...	36	24	29	113	121
Total visits ...	71	47	53	156	175
To children under 1 year of age :					
First visits ...	365	346	355	401	438
Total visits ...	2,272	2,176	1,970	2,748	3,039
To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years ...	4,070	3,350	3,433	3,322	4,681

Child Welfare.

A weekly session is held at the centre. Attendances during the year are shown in Table XI; those for the previous four years being given for the purpose of comparison.

Table XI.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
By children under 1 year of age	3,944	3,871	3,655	3,905	4,961
By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	1,871	2,162	1,495	1,686	1,339
... Total number of children who first attended during the year, and on the date of their first attendance were :					
Under 1 year of age ...	236	321	226	265	302
Between the ages of 1 and 5	12	10	14	12	23
Total number of children who attended during the year, and who, at the end of the year were :					
Under 1 year of age ...	195	216	189	245	257
Between the ages of 1 and 5	268	255	211	290	261

The senior Health Visitor is appointed Child Protection Visitor under sections 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Two persons were registered as each receiving one child for reward Home conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Dental Arrangements:

23 persons were supplied with dentures through the Council's scheme for the provision of dental treatment to expectant and nursing mothers.

Supply of Milk and Food.

During the year 1,146½ gallons of fresh milk were supplied free of charge to expectant and nursing mothers. 8,811 lbs. of dried food were distributed, 902 lbs. free, and 7,909 lbs. at cost price.

PART THREE.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and
Other Diseases.

It is pleasing to record a substantial reduction in the number of cases of disease notified during 1938. Primary notifications were received in 295 cases, compared with 392 in the previous year. 102 of these cases were treated at the Baghill Isolation Hospital, this figure being 62 less than that for 1937. The following table shows the cost to the Council for this service during the past three years.

Table XII.

Year ended	Precept			Maintenance of patients			Total		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
31st March 1937	919	0	9	259	16	6	1,178	17	3
31st March 1938	964	16	11	667	1	0	1,631	17	11
31st March 1939	1,298	6	7	463	16	3	1,762	2	10

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1938.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases.

Table XIII.

DISEASES	Total notified cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet fever	34	34	0
Diphtheria	68	67	4
Enteric fever	1	1	0
Puerperal pyrexia	6	2	1
Pneumonia	42	0	3
Acute poliomyelitis	1	0	0
Acute polio-encephalitis	1	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3	0	0
Erysipelas	16	0	0
Chickenpox	92	0	0

The total number of notified cases classified into age-groups are given in Table XIV.

Table XIV.

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 ...		2	2	1	2	10	5	4	8				14	20	34
Diphtheria ...				3	2	33	22	5	3				38	30	68
Enteric fever ...								1					0	1	1
Puerperal pyrexia ...								1	4	1				6	6
Pneumonia ...		4	3		2	8	1	12	2	5	4	1	30	12	42
Acute poliomyelitis		1											0	1	1
Acute polio-encephalitis			1										1	0	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	3												2	1	3
Erysipelas ...							1		3	2	4	6	9	7	16
Chickenpox ...	1	5	10	8	14	39	13	1	1				53	39	92
Totals ...	4	13	15	12	20	90	42	24	21	8	8	7	147	117	264

The following table indicates the monthly incidence of notifiable diseases.

Table XV.

DISEASES	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet fever ...	5	2	4	4	4		5	1	2	2	2	3	34
Diphtheria ...	15	4	8	9	3	7	3	4	5	4	1	5	68
Enteric fever ...								1					1
Puerperal pyrexia ...				2		1		2	1				6
Pneumonia ...	7	6	9	3	1	3	3	1	1	2	2	4	42
Acute poliomyelitis ...	1												1
Acute polio-encephalitis ...				1									1
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...			1			2							3
Erysipelas ...	2		1	1	6			3	1	1		1	16
Chickenpox ...	1	4		5	6	8	17	22	13	2	6	8	92
Totals ...	31	16	23	25	20	21	28	34	23	11	11	21	264

NOTES ON NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

There has been a material reduction in the incidence of scarlet fever, 34 cases being recorded, against 114 in 1937. Cases have been of a mild type, with few complications; there were no deaths. All the cases notified were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria.

68 cases were notified, an increase of 18 on last year; 55 cases occurred in patients between the ages of 5 and 15 years. The disease was present throughout the year, incidence being highest in January, when 15 cases occurred. Many cases were of the gravis type. 4 deaths were due to the disease, and were of children who had not been immunised; in each case the disease had reached an advanced stage before the patient's admission to hospital, and although large doses of anti-toxin were given, the patients failed to re-act. 6 children, each with a record of previous immunisation, were admitted to hospital suffering from the disease; the cases were of a moderate type and responded to treatment. One patient, an adult, was successfully treated at home.

There are still a large number of children in the Borough who have not been immunised, and I would advise that, in view of the continued incidence of virulent diphtheria, such children be given protective treatment; this is carried out to the best advantage either before, or as soon as possible after, the child reaches school age. It is the general practice to recommend the injection of 1,000 units of diphtheritic anti-toxin in the case of each child who has been in direct contact with a patient, followed by active immunisation in four to six weeks' time.

Enteric fever.

One case of Paratyphoid B. was notified during August. The case occurred at a dairy farm in the Borough, from which milk was being supplied to some 272 consumers. Some was being used for the manufacture of ice cream. Immediate steps were taken to prevent the dissemination of infection, the whole of the premises being disinfected, and a new staff of milkers being substituted for those who were on duty at the time of the occurrence of the case. Bacteriological specimens from contacts of the patient proved to be negative, and despite exhaustive enquiries it was not possible to determine the source of infection.

Puerperal pyrexia.

6 cases were notified, 3 from the General Infirmary and 1 from the County Infirmary, whilst the remaining 2 cases occurred in private houses and were isolated at Edenfield Maternity Home. 2 patients died, 1 being non-resident.

Pneumonia.

There were 42 cases of acute primary and lobar pneumonia, a decrease of 5 on last year. Incidence was highest in the first three months of the year, when 22 cases occurred. No case was removed to hospital for treatment.

Acute poliomyelitis.

One case was notified, the patient being a child one year of age, who had been admitted to the General Infirmary from a neighbouring district. The case was a mild one, and only part of one leg was affected.

Acute polio-encephalitis.

One case was notified, the patient being a child one year of age, who had been admitted to the General Infirmary from a neighbouring district. The case proved fatal.

Ophthalmia neonatorum.

3 cases were notified, 1 a non-resident from the County Infirmary. In each case the patient recovered, with vision unimpaired.

Erysipelas.

16 cases were notified, compared with 13 last year.

Chickenpox.

Notifications were received in respect of 92 cases, a decrease of 35 on last year. Incidence way highest in July, August and September when 52 cases were recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS.

In the following table new cases and mortality are classified.

Table XVI.

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year				1			1	
1 and under 5			2	3				
5 and under 15	3	2	1	3				
15 and under 25	4	3	1		1			
25 and under 35	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	
35 and under 45	1	1			1			
45 and under 55		1						
55 and under 65	4				1			
65 years and over	1			1				
Totals	14	10	5	6	4	3	2	0

The following table summarises particulars contained on the register.

Table XVII.

Number of cases on register	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total on register
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At the commencement of 1938	76	51	37	28	192
Notified under the Regulations of 1930 for the first time during 1938	12	9	4	6	31
Restored, having been removed previously	1	0	0	0	1
Brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	1	1	1	0	3
Removed during 1938	16	9	5	4	34
At the end of 1938	74	52	37	30	193

The reasons for removal of cases from the register are stated in the following table.

Table XVIII.

Entries relating to—	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Persons who have died	6	3	2		11
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered	6	2	2	3	13
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district	4	3	1	1	9
Notifications withdrawn by the notifying medical practitioner		1			1
Totals ...	16	9	5	4	34

Primary notifications in pursuance of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, were received in respect of 31 cases; in one case a previous patient was re-notified and restored to the register, and 3 cases were brought to notice only upon the deaths of the patients. Notification of cases is generally satisfactory, although non-resident cases are repeatedly notified to me in error, Article 10 (1) of the regulations requiring that each patient shall be notified to the Medical Officer of Health for the district in which the particular patient normally resides.

9 deaths were classified to Tuberculosis, a decrease of 7 on last year's figure. The continuing decline of the Tuberculosis death rate is very gratifying.

CANCER.

There were 25 deaths registered in 1938, an increase of one on the previous year. Facilities for diagnosis and treatment are available at the Pontefract and Leeds General Infirmaries. The following table gives the location of the disease in persons dying of cancer.

Table XIX.

Location	Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Buccal cavity	2	0	2
Digestive organs	9	4	13
Uterus	—	2	2
Breast	0	4	4
Genito-urinary organs	2	—	2
Skin	0	1	1
Shoulder	0	1	1
Totals	13	12	25

I should like to record my appreciation of the services rendered in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic by members of the Ladies Voluntary Committee. My thanks are also due to the Public Health staff for their consistently good work throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

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 THE 31st DECEMBER 1938.

SIR,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the Borough and the work done in the Department during the year ended 31st December 1938.

PART ONE.

Sanitary Circumstances.

WATER SUPPLY.

The public supply, obtained from deep wells at Roall and Eggborough, was plentiful throughout the year. Bacteriological control was maintained, routine samples being obtained at monthly intervals from different points on the system. The number of samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year was 33.

4 samples submitted to chemical analysis were reported upon as being of good quality. Details of one sample, taken from the town's main, are given below :—

	Grains per gallon.
Total solid matters	17.00
Chlorine (combined)	1.00
Nitrites	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.20
Free Ammonia	0.0014
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0007
Lead, Copper, Zinc	—
Total hardness, Clark's scale	6.0
pH value	7.6

Conclusion drawn from analysis :

An organically pure water, safe and suitable for drinking. Being soft, it is an excellent supply for domestic purposes.

In March the higher reservoir at the Park Hill was emptied, cleansed, repaired and refilled, and the lower reservoir was put out of use.

A sample of water taken from the Butter Cross pump on the 20th April was found upon examination to fall below the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health. The pump was therefore put out of use and a piped supply from the town's main substituted.

3 statutory notices (requiring the provision of proper supplies of water) which were outstanding at the end of 1937 were complied with in 1938. Office records indicate that all houses in the Borough are now connected to the public supply.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

All fully developed areas in the Borough are sewered. It is estimated that 69 houses are not connected to sewers; these comprise 33 houses drained to cesspools and 36 on the conservancy system. Details of the types of closet accommodation in the Borough are as follows, namely :—

Privies with middens	...	...	18
Pail closets	...	...	15
Waste water closets	...	...	8
Water closets (estimated)	...	...	5,736

During the year under review the following were converted to the water carriage system :—

Privies	...	...	...	...	4
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	44

It is pleasing to note that in the Tanshelf district, where there were 100 waste water closets in 1931, the year under review has seen the completion of the scheme for their abolition.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public cleansing is in operation throughout the Borough, refuse being disposed of mainly by controlled tipping.

27 notices were served during the year for the provision of ashbins; 2 notices were outstanding from the previous year, bringing the total number of notices outstanding to 29; all were complied with.

During the year 365 gallons of disinfectant fluid and 2¼ tons of disinfectant powder were distributed free to the public, the cost being £90.

NUISANCES.

439 inspections were made in connection with the investigation and abatement of nuisances (excluding housing defects, which are dealt with later). 160 statutory nuisances were found, which together with 7 outstanding at the close of last year, brought the total requiring abatement to 167. Of these, 165 had been abated at the close of the year, and in no case was it necessary to resort to formal measures to secure abatement.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.**Common Lodging Houses.**

There are now only 3 common lodging houses in the Borough, 1 having been demolished during the year. 4 persons are registered with the Council as keepers or deputy-keepers, as required by section 236 of the Public Health Act, 1936. 12 inspections were made during the year, and the premises were found to be maintained generally in a satisfactory sanitary condition. Means of escape in case of fire are inadequate in each case.

Houses-let-in-lodgings.

6 premises are registered as houses-let-in-lodgings. 12 inspections were made, and the premises found to be in fair condition.

Knacker's Yard.

There is one knacker's yard in the district. It is situated well away from inhabited localities, and no complaints have been received. 3 inspections were made during the year; there is room for much improvement in the general state of the premises.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There has been little cause for complaint in this matter, only one van being on the register at the close of the year. 2 inspections were made and general conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.

There are 25 premises at which offensive trades are carried on, 23 of which are fish frying establishments. At the remaining premises the work done includes bone and tripe boiling, fat melting and extracting, fellmongering, and the making of size and glue. Nuisances arose on several occasions during the year, mainly due, in the case of fish friers, to the storage of fish boxes; and at other premises the storage of raw material over extended periods during hot weather resulted in complaints being received. In each case the nuisance was abated as a result of informal notice. 65 inspections were made during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

On the 1st July 1938 the Factories Act, 1937, a consolidating and amending measure designed to secure safe and healthy working conditions in manufacturing and certain other operations, came into force. The duties placed upon district councils are :

1. The enforcement of provisions as to sanitary conveniences in all factories.

2. The enforcement of provisions as to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, and drainage of floors in factories without mechanical power.
3. The certifying of means of escape in case of fire in factories coming within the meaning of section 34.
4. The certifying of water supplies for drinking purposes in all factories.

Each of these matters has received consideration and the following is a summary of work done during the year under review.

68 inspections were made of factories having mechanical power and 40 inspections of factories without mechanical power. Notices were served requiring provision of efficient sanitary accommodation in 3 instances, and requiring the remedy of unsuitable or defective accommodation in 4 instances. In 5 further cases it was necessary to serve notices owing to lack of cleanliness in premises. All the notices served were complied with, and 3 notices outstanding from 1937 were also complied with during 1938.

There are 15 bakehouses in the district; 43 inspections were made and conditions found to be satisfactory.

Preliminary surveys of certain factories have already been made at the request of occupiers, and advice given on the provision of suitable means of escape in case of fire. Occupiers are now recommended to provide means for escape on the lines indicated by the Home Office Circular of October 1938. Details of further action taken will be given in my next report, by which time all the factories concerned will have been examined, and any necessary action taken.

Applications were made pursuant to Section 41 for certificates approving sources of drinking-water supply at three premises in the Borough. The source in each case was a private borehole, and series of samples were taken from various points on the supply and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of 11 samples reported upon, 7 were unsatisfactory, and certificates were not granted. Subsequently a supply of water from the town's mains was laid to each of the premises.

SHOPS.

Inspections of shop premises, excluding food inspection visits, numbered 29. 7 informal notices were served requiring the remedy of defects, and were complied with.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

26 observations, each of 30 minutes duration, were made of boiler chimneys, and in 2 of these cases there was excessive emission of black smoke; cautions were issued.

There is far too much smoke emitted from factory chimneys in the Borough. Much of this excessive emission is due to irregular and unsystematic firing; also, some occupiers of factories do not appreciate the necessity for substituting a person with a knowledge of boiler firing technique when the regular fireman is relieved from duty.

One particular boiler chimney in the centre of the town was the cause of a constantly-recurring nuisance, despite the issue of repeated cautions to the occupier of the premises. I therefore arranged that the chimney should be observed continuously for a period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and for a further hour covering the "cleaning-out" period. These arrangements were notified in advance to the occupier of the factory and his fireman, so that the best possible performance might be obtained. The result of this experiment proved the efficiency of the plant to consume its own smoke; in no observation period did a nuisance arise, the average output of black smoke per half-hour for the 7 half-hourly periods of observation being only 48 seconds.

Subsequent observations have shown a remarkable improvement, and in 1939 it is proposed to carry out similar preliminary tests at other factories in the town.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The only swimming baths in the town which are open to the public are owned by the Council and situated at Headlands Road. The large swim is 75 feet long by 30 feet wide, varying in depth from 3 feet to 6 feet and having a capacity of 65,000 gallons, and the small swim 30 feet by 15 feet, with a capacity of 15,000 gallons. Shower- and foot-baths are provided for the use of bathers before entering the water. Water is obtained from the town's main, and purification is by continuous rapid filtration, combined with continuous chlorination and aeration. The plant is capable of dealing with 15,000 gallons of water per hour. 15 samples submitted for bacteriological examination gave the following results:—

Table A.

Date Sample was obtained	Presumptive B. coli in 100 ml. of water	pH value	Free chlorine content in parts per million
6th April	5	*	*
13th	0	6.6	0
4th May	0	7.2	0.5
25th	0	6.8	0.3
15th June	0	6.5	0
27th July	0	7.1	0
12th August	180+	*	*
17th	0	7.5	0.2
24th	0	7.5	0.2
31st	0	7.2	0
7th September	0	7.5	0.3
14th	0	7.4	0.5
21st	0	7.3	0.5
28th	0	*	*
5th October	0	7.6	0.2

* Not submitted to these tests.

The Ministry of Health recommend that swimming bath water should have a pH value of 7.6 to 8.0, with 0.2 to 0.5 parts of free chlorine present in one million parts of water. There should be an absence of presumptive B. Coli in 100 ml. of water. From the above table it will be seen that of 12 samples chemically examined for alkalinity and free chlorine content, 11 samples gave an insufficiently alkaline reaction, and 4 samples showed a deficiency of free chlorine.

The great improvement shown between the first and last samples tested for pH value and free chlorine content is very gratifying.

Eradication of Bed-bugs.

The following table gives particulars of cases of bed-bug infestation dealt with during 1938.

Table B.

	Council houses	Other houses	Total
Found to be infested	23	14	37
Disinfested :			
(a) by Council	23	10	33
(b) privately	0	4	4

Of the 10 privately-owned dwellinghouses disinfested by the Council, 5 were treated at the request of owners; in the remaining 5 cases the work was done by the Council after notices pursuant to section 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936, had been served on the occupiers and not complied with. The following methods were employed: pre-heating of rooms, removal of wallpapers, woodwork and other fittings, application of heat locally by blowlamp, application of proprietary contact insecticide in the form of a spray, and fumigation by gas generated from a proprietary block preparation.

52 families were rehoused in new houses built by the Council for the abatement of overcrowding, and the household effects of each new tenant were examined prior to removal, disinfestation being carried out where necessary. A further 23 families rehoused at existing Corporation estates were dealt with similarly.

Much time has been spent in giving advice to tenants on the prevention of infestation. Particularly is emphasis laid on the risk incurred by trading in second-hand furniture. In many cases tenants, realising their responsibilities, seek the assistance of the Council's officers, and it is then often possible to prevent considerable dissemination of vermin.

I am of the opinion that the Corporation would be well advised to give consideration to the adoption of hydrogen cyanide fumigation.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the 14 elementary schools in the Borough remains satisfactory. It was not necessary to close any school on account of the occurrence of infectious disease.

PART TWO.**HOUSING.**

There has been considerable activity in housing matters during the year, mainly in connection with overcrowding, housing repairs, and the completion of previous clearance schemes. Housing inspections and results compare favourably with the previous year :—

	1937.	1938.
Housing inspections	451	567
Houses inspected	204	291
Defective dwellinghouses rendered fit	109	158
Unfit dwellinghouses demolished ...	34	65

A further schedule of unfit dwellinghouses has been prepared, and by the close of the year 116 of these had been inspected and recorded. At the same time a scheme for the progressive re-conditioning of 327 houses in the Tanshelf district was formulated and preliminary work has been completed.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

Although a further programme is in course of preparation, the original programme is not quite completed. The position at the end of 1938 is shown in Table C.

Table C.

Position at 31st December 1938.	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	40	49	173	11	12	15	38	95	52	64	211
Dwellinghouses vacated but not demolished	—	21	8	29	2	2	—	4	2	23	8	33
Dwellinghouses respecting which Clearance Orders have been confirmed ; but not yet vacated,	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Dwellinghouses closed on undertakings that they will not again be used as such	—	1	1	2	4	3	1	8	4	4	2	10
Dwellinghouse added to adjoining dwellinghouse	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Dwellinghouses vacated and respecting which an undertaking to convert two dwellinghouses into one has been accepted	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Dwellinghouses made fit	—	7	—	7	—	1	—	1	—	8	—	8
Dwellinghouses not yet formally dealt with	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	10
Total number of dwellinghouses included in Slum Clearance Programme	84	81	58	223	17	20	16	53	101	101	74	276

It will be seen that of the 276 houses scheduled as unfit, 211 have been demolished; that 10 dwellinghouses have been closed on undertakings that they will not again be used as such, whilst 33 are vacated and awaiting demolition. 11 houses have been rendered habitable. 1939 should see the completion of the programme.

Details of housing activities during 1938 are tabulated below :—

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	291
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	567
Number of dwellinghouses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	122
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	130
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	136
Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	155

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

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	141
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

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

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	17
Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit (all by owners) after service of formal notices ...	3

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11
--	----

Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(i) by owners	7
(ii) by Local Authority in default of owners	7
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	12

No proceedings were taken under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	23
Number of families dwelling therein	24
Number of persons dwelling therein	159
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	31
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	83
Number of persons concerned in such cases	712

No cases have been recorded of dwellinghouses having again become overcrowded after the Council have taken steps for abatement.

At the end of the year the 52 houses erected on the Churchbalk estate for the rehousing of overcrowded families had been let. These comprise 30 five-bedroom type houses, each with a permitted number of 13, and 22 four-bedroom type houses, each with a permitted number of 11½. 47 of them became occupied by families who were statutorily overcrowded; 31 of these families had been discovered by the Overcrowding Survey of 1935-6, and 16 had become overcrowded since the survey. The remaining 5 houses were let to families, who, although not overcrowded according to the standard set down by the Housing Act, 1936, had inadequate bedroom accommodation for proper segregation of the sexes. It is the policy of the Council to give special consideration to such cases, one of which is cited by way of illustration :

The following persons were found to be living in a house having two livingrooms and two bedrooms (permitted number 7) :—

Tenant and his wife ;

Daughters aged 14 years, 8 years, and four months respectively ;

Sons aged 12, 11, 7, 4 and 2 years respectively.

Reckoning children under 10 as half a unit and disregarding the child under 1 year (in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act), the equivalent number of persons living in the house was 7. Thus, although there were only two bedrooms for 10 persons, the house was not overcrowded according to the standard laid down by the Housing Act.

11 "sex separation" cases were dealt with during the year.

186 cases of statutory overcrowding were discovered by the Survey and 41 have been added to the register since, giving a total of 227 ; of this number 47 families were accommodated in new houses (already referred to) and 32 families were rehoused on existing Corporation Estates. 125 cases have been abated by tenants themselves, and at the end of the year there remained 23 cases of overcrowding on the register.

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

169 houses were erected in the Borough during the period under review, 53 by the Corporation and 116 by private enterprise.

184 houses were provided by private enterprise in 1936 ; in July 1937 the Council ceased to make advances under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and the number fell to 152, whilst this year's figure has been reduced to a similar extent.

There are now 5,430 houses in the Borough, 4,760 of which may be said to be of the working-class type.

PART THREE.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 20 cowkeepers registered, 10 of whom are wholesale traders ; 25 cowsheds are occupied, and the approximate number of cows kept in the Borough is 207. At 2 farms "Accredited" milk is produced and in both cases a high standard of hygiene is maintained. All premises were visited during the year, inspections made for the purpose numbering 58. Structural defects exist at 7 premises ; methods and cleanliness are fairly satisfactory.

There are 32 retail purveyors of milk registered, 5 of whom are from other districts.

One licence has been granted by the Council in respect of the production of pasteurised milk, and 2 dealers' licences in respect of premises where such milk is retailed. Each of these premises was visited during the year and samples obtained. Of 48 samples taken from the plant, 6 fell below the required standard; on each occasion minor defects were located and subsequently rectified.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Of the 9 slaughterhouses in the Borough, only 1 is registered, the remaining 8 being subject to annual licence. There is no public abattoir. The following table gives particulars of carcasses inspected and condemned during 1938.

Table D.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	972	131	77	1,769	1,768
Number inspected	972	131	77	1,769	1,768
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	4	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	111	3	0	17	41
Percentage of the number of inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11.4	2.2	—	1.2	2.4
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	1	0	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	57	24	0	0	73
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.9	18.3	1.3	—	4.2

Thus, 4,717 carcasses were inspected during the year, an increase of 114 on 1937; 1,292 visits were made for the purpose. Upon post-mortem examination 4,384 carcasses were found to be free

from disease, and were passed as fit for human consumption. The remaining 333 carcasses showed evidence of disease which is classified as follows :—

Tuberculosis :

Beasts—

Forequarters	...	...	...	...	6
Heads	...	...	...	...	57
Lungs (pairs)	...	...	...	...	40
Livers	...	...	...	...	7
Mesenteries	...	...	...	...	2
Spleens	...	...	...	...	3
Udders	...	...	...	...	2

Calf—

Carcase and all organs	1
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Pigs—

Carcase and all organs	...	...	...	...	1
Heads	...	...	...	...	56
Lungs (pairs)	...	...	...	...	16
Livers	...	...	...	...	14
Mesenteries	...	...	...	...	20
Spleens	...	...	...	...	3

Abscesses :

Beast head	...	...	...	...	1
Beasts' lungs (pairs)	...	...	...	...	3
Beasts' livers	...	...	...	...	12
Pig head	...	...	...	...	1

Actinomycosis :

Beast head	2
Beast lungs (pair)	1

Cirrhosis, biliary :

Beast livers	32
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Cirrhosis :

Pig livers	7
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Congestion :

Beast lungs (pairs)	2
Pig lungs (pairs)	11

Distomatosis :

Beast lungs (pairs)	24
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Echinococci cysts :

Beast lungs (pairs)	2
Pig lungs (pair)	1

Emaciation :

Sheep, carcasses and all organs	4
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Emphysema :					
Beast lungs (pair)	1
Pleurisy :					
Beast lungs (pairs)	14
Pneumonia :					
Pig lungs (pairs)	22
Strongylosis :					
Sheep lungs (pairs) ...	...	...	...	...	17
Uraemia :					
Pig, carcase and all organs	...	...	...	...	1

Meat brought into the market hall was carefully inspected; on two occasions unsound meat was found deposited for sale and was voluntarily surrendered. This comprised :

- 230 lbs. beef—decomposition.
- 1 pig head—tuberculosis.

The provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations have, on the whole, been well observed, minor breaches being rectified informally. No contravention of the Slaughter of Animals Act was observed. At the close of the year 40 licences, issued by the Council, were in operation.

Premises used for the preparation of other foods were inspected from time to time. General conditions were good, and no formal action was necessary. The following food was surrendered and destroyed. :—

- 6½ lbs. salmon.
- 14 couples rabbits.

PART FOUR.

Classified List of Inspections and Visits.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS.

Water supplies ...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Closet conversions ...	...	...	...	...	...	159
Swimming baths ...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Premises controlled by byelaws :						
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Houses-let-in-lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	12
Knacker's yard	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	65

Factories :

Factories with mechanical power	68
Factories without mechanical power	40
Fire escapes	9
Private water supplies	17
Smoke observations	26
Boiler-houses	17
Shops	29
Verminous Premises :	
Council houses	77
Privately-owned houses	45
Rats and Mice Destruction	79

HOUSING.

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Visits and re-visits in connection with removals from slum properties to new houses	8
Inspection of effects before removal to Corporation houses	105
Visits for purposes of official counts, dates of displace- ment, and other enquiries	85
Overcrowding	446

FOODS AND FOOD PREMISES.

Milk Supply :

Cowsheds	58
Sampling	50
Pasteurising plant	63

Meat Supply :

Slaughterhouses	36
Meat inspection at slaughterhouses	1,292
Meat inspection at other premises	1,176

Other Foods :

Ice-cream premises	31
Other premises	17

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Isolation of patients, etc.	135
Contacts	71
Schools, workplaces, libraries, etc.	34

MISCELLANEOUS.

Public Mortuary	52
Places of entertainment	16
Nuisances (not under previous headings)	317
Works in progress	599
Others	39
Total number of inspections and visits	<u>5,914</u>

In conclusion, I desire to thank you for the help you have given to me during the year; members of the staff for their continued loyalty; and heads of other Departments of the Corporation for their helpful co-operation at all times.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

L. WALSH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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