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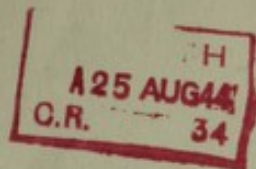
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# BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1943.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration an Interim Report on the Health of the Borough during the year 1943. It is my twenty-second Annual Report; and on account of the abnormal circumstances prevailing, it has been curtailed in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of Health.

The Report is confined to essential matters and, as in my Reports for 1939 to 1942, much of the statistical information normally given has been omitted. After the termination of the war a Report will be made dealing fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year.

### PART ONE

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the Borough: 4,865 acres

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population: 19,930

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943) according to  
Rate Books: 5,555

Rateable Value: £124,206 (1942: £121,541)

Sum represented by penny rate: £488 (1942: £484)

#### Vital Statistics.

Live Births:		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	187	184	371
Illegitimate	..	12	6	18
Total	..	199	190	389

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population: 19.5  
(Rate for England and Wales: 16.5)





Stillbirths:		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	10	5	15
Illegitimate	..	1	2	3
Total	..	11	7	18

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 44.3  
 Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population: 0.91  
 (Rate for England and Wales: 0.51)

Deaths:		Male	Female	Total
All age groups		131	113	244
Infants under 1 year:				
Legitimate		18	4	22
Illegitimate		3	1	4
Total		21	5	26
Maternal deaths		-	1	1

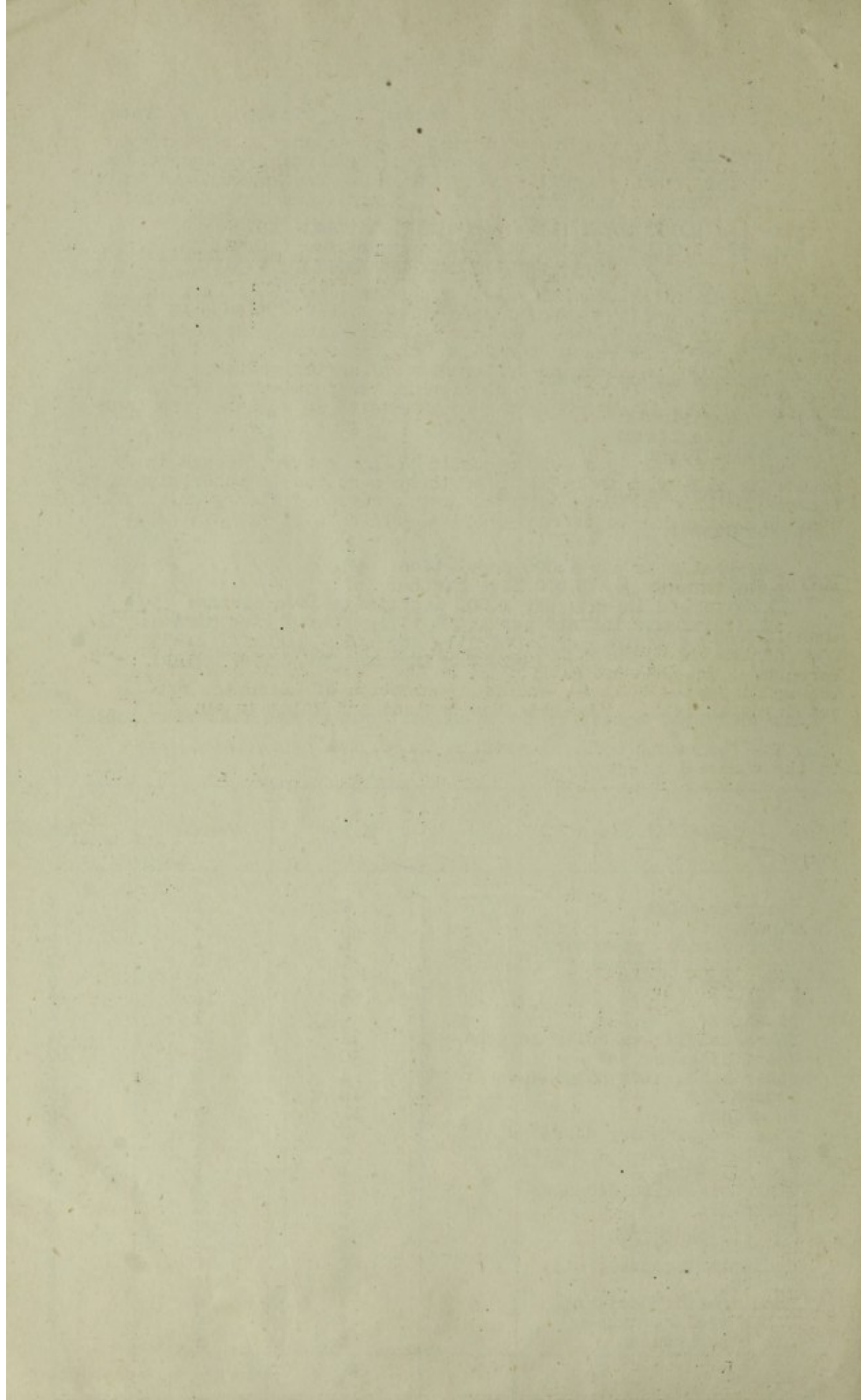
Death Rates:

General Rate per 1,000 population: 12.2  
 All infants per 1,000 live births: 67  
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: 59  
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: 222  
 Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births: 2.45  
 (Rate for England and Wales: 2.29)

The principal causes of death are set out in the following table:

Table I.

Causes of death	Male	Female	Total
Whooping cough	0	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	6	1	7
Syphilitic diseases	1	0	1
Influenza	5	4	9
Cancer	10	16	26
Diabetes	3	1	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	22	34
Heart disease	30	30	60
Other circulatory diseases	1	0	1
Bronchitis	16	9	25
Pneumonia	11	5	16
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4	1	5
Appendicitis	1	3	4
Other digestive diseases	2	2	4
Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal sepsis	-	1	1
Premature birth	5	3	8
Congenital causes, etc.	2	0	2
Suicide	2	0	2
Road traffic accidents	1	2	3
Other violent causes	7	0	7
All other causes	8	9	17
Totals	131	113	244





The 244 deaths registered during the year produce a death rate of 12.2 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population, an increase of 0.2 on the previous year's figure. The rate for England and Wales is 12.1. Female deaths numbered 113, 8 more than were recorded in 1942; whilst 131 male deaths occurred, 10 less than in that year.

Heart disease again yields the highest death rate for individual causes: 60 deaths occurred, 3 less than last year. 34 deaths were classified to intra-cranial vascular lesions, one more than in the previous year, whilst deaths due to cancer decreased from 35 to 26. Cancer is therefore reduced to third place; closely followed by bronchitis which accounted for 25 deaths, an increase of 4 on 1942. Diseases of the respiratory system (excluding tuberculosis) together accounted for 43 deaths, 11 more than in the previous year; and diseases of the digestive system caused death in 13 cases, an increase of 6.

Infective diseases were recorded as the cause of death in 20 cases; 1 more than in 1942: 7 of these were due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system; half the number recorded last year. There were no deaths due to the non-respiratory forms of the disease.

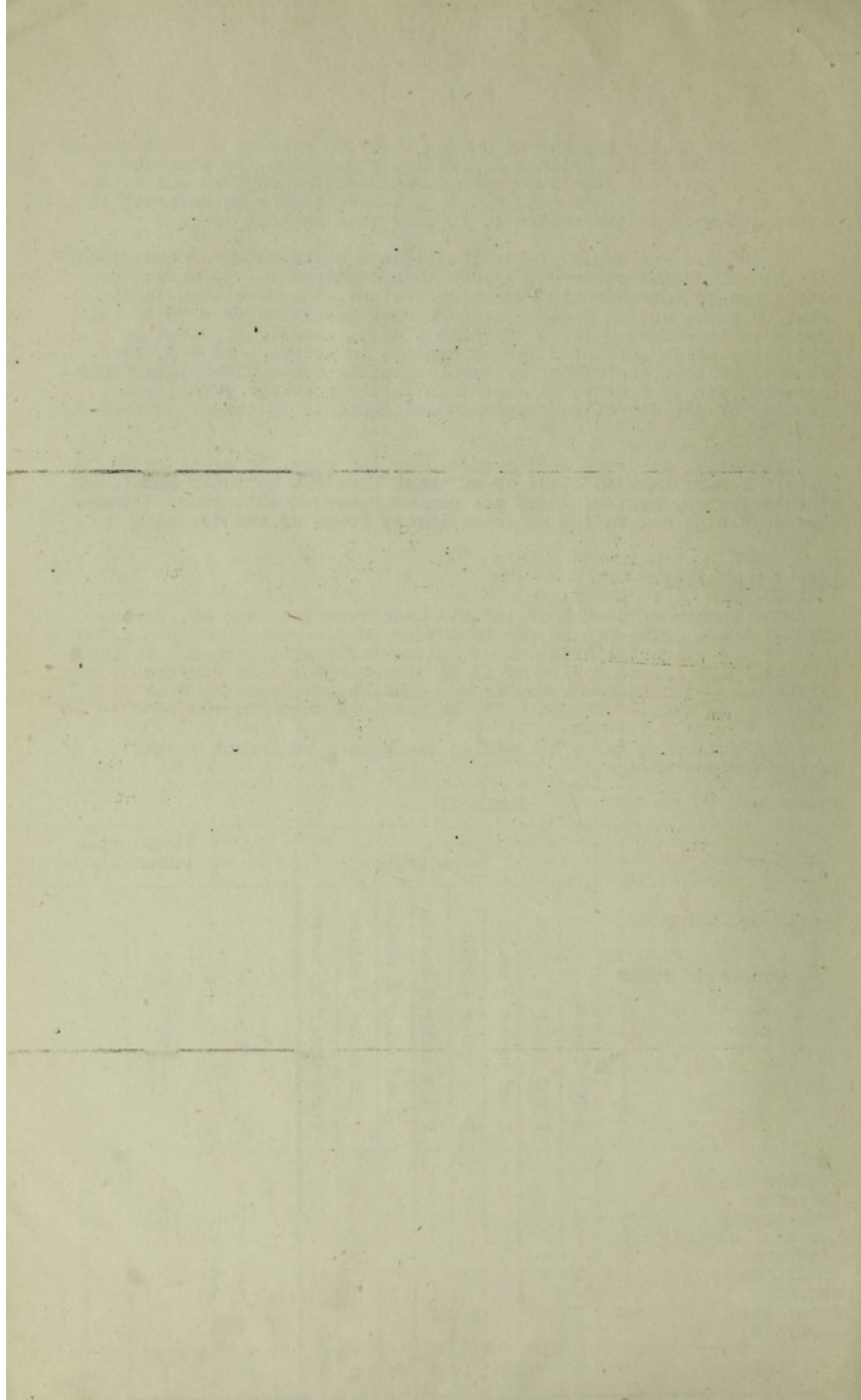
#### Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 26, 7 more than in 1942. The figure for that year gave a rate of 48 per 1,000 live births which was with one exception the lowest recorded in the Borough. The present rate of 67 is the same as that for the triennial period 1940-42, and is a reduction of 12 on the rate obtaining in 1941. The rate for England and Wales is 49.

The following table classifies the causes of infant deaths in the various age-groups.

Table II

Causes of death	Age groups								All ages under 1 year		
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Males	Females	Totals
Convulsions					1		1		1	1	2
Pneumonia				1		3	4		6	2	8
Prematurity	6				1				5	2	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1								1		1
Diarrhoea						3	1		4		4
Inanition	1								1		1
Pyæmia					1				1		1
Bronchitis					1				1		1
Asphyxia								1	1		1
Totals	8	0	0	1	4	6	6	1	21	5	26





## PART TWO

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

#### Health Visiting

Two Health Visitors are employed by the Council, the equivalent of whole-time services devoted by them to health visiting and attendance at the Child Welfare Centre being 1½. No health visiting is done by voluntary agencies. The numbers of visits paid by Health Visitors were as follows:-

	<u>First Visits</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
To expectant mothers	116	243
To children under 1 year	420	3,250
To children of 1 to 5 years		6,062

In accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 2831 special attention was given to homes where the general standard of cleanliness and habits needed improvement.

Fifty-three homes were considered as coming within this category; these were visited and the necessary help and advice were offered. The importance of freedom from lice was stressed, and visits were paid at unusual times, so that help might be given to mothers in establishing the correct hygienic routine in washing, in the care of hair and teeth, etc

Of the 53 houses visited in this connection, the Health Visitor reported lice (in under fives) at 11 on the occasion of the first visit. By the end of the year 10 cases had been cleared up, and in the remaining case considerable improvement had been made.

This investigation is consistent with my experience as School Medical Officer, that children are almost invariably free from lice when they first commence school.

With regard to the other matters dealt with in the Circular no improvement had been shown by the end of the year in 23 cases; and these are still under regular observation.

#### The Welfare Centre

The premises at Headlands Road, centre of all Maternity and Child Welfare activities are, of course, quite inadequate for the large numbers of people now attending the various clinics. This is a matter which has already been considered by you, and which will demand priority action at the cessation of hostilities.

Child Welfare Clinics were held weekly, and attendances were as follows:-

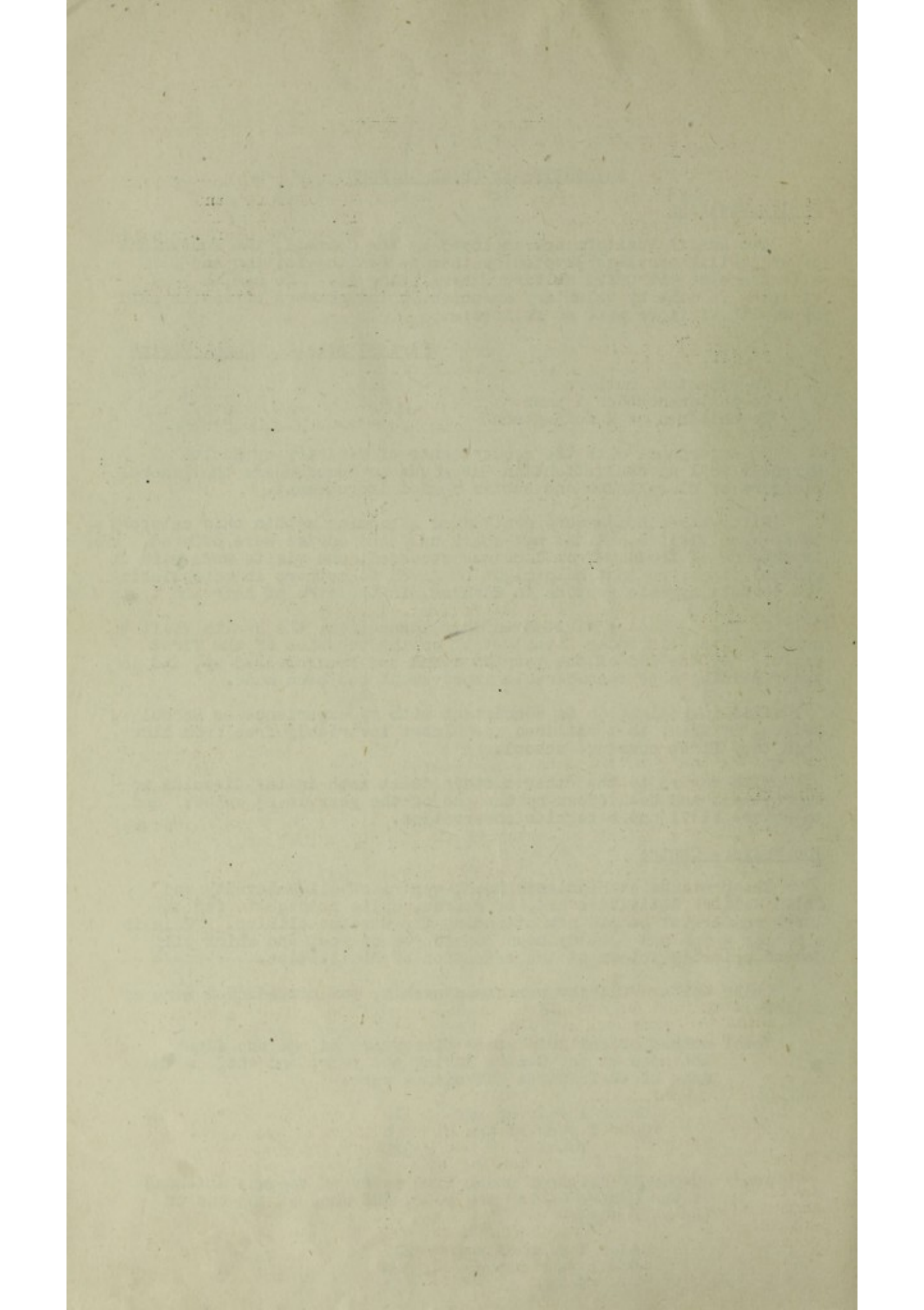
Total number of children under five years of age who first attended at the Centre during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were:-

Under 1 year of age	312
Over 1 year of age	8
Total	320

Total number of children under five years of age who attended at the Centre during the year, and who, at the end of the year were:-

Under 1 year of age	227
Over 1 year of age	324
Total	551





Total number of attendances at the Centre made by children under five years of age, 5,296.

Your thanks are due to the Ladies' Voluntary Committee for valuable services rendered at the Centre during the year.

An Ante-natal clinic is held weekly, and during the year under review 303 expectant mothers attended at the clinic. Ante-natal work was started in 1925, and in that year 20 women attended; by 1933 the figure had reached 100; by 1937, 200; and the present figure is the highest on record: it means that 3 out of every 4 expectant mothers avail themselves of your ante-natal services.

Although no separate post-natal clinic has been established, 14 cases were given post-natal examination.

The following proprietary preparations are available at cost price (free in necessitous cases) to all women attending the clinics:-

Ostermilk (Nos. 1 and 2)	Glucodin
Humanised Trufood	Bemax
Lactogol	Virol
Ovaltine	Virolax

The following are distributed free of charge:-

I. C. D. tablets  
Ferrous Sulphate tablets  
Viteolin tablets

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juice, are also distributed at the Centre.

### Maternity

During the year 11 women were sent to the Maternity Hospital at Leeds, and 3 to the Wakefield Maternity Hospital; but in the great majority of normal cases domiciliary arrangements were made. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, and details of births notified by the local midwives and others are forwarded weekly to the County Authority.

It is unfortunate that the Home Helps Scheme is not in a healthier condition; but with so many women on war work - women who would normally be available for this work - it appears impracticable to operate the Scheme on the scale anticipated.

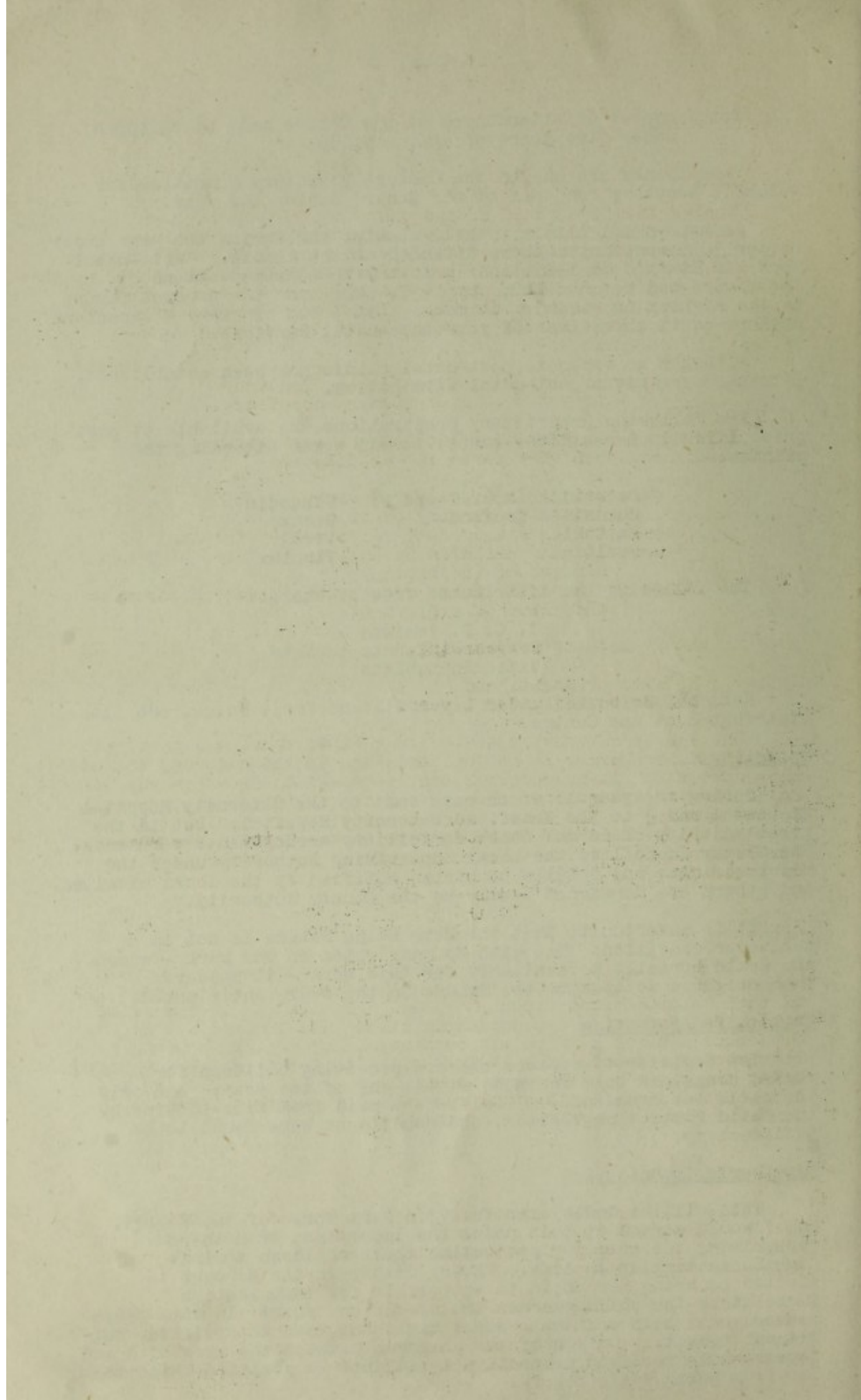
### Child Life Protection

The Register of persons who are receiving children for reward contained only one name at the end of the year; and only one child was concerned. Visits were paid from time to time by the Child Protection Visitor, and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

This will be dealt with fully in Part Three of the Report, but I would stress at this point the importance of mothers recognising the need for protecting their children against diphtheria earlier in life. Every mother in the Borough is invited to bring her child to the clinic for immunisation immediately the child reaches the age of one year: in some cases mothers have been written several times and then interviewed, but without result. Only half the children between the ages of 1 and 5 years have received protective treatment; a position which is far from being satisfactory.





## WAR NURSERIES

### Elm Grove

During the first half of the year the Nursery was used to the extent of only 23% of the total accommodation provided. This was most unsatisfactory, particularly in view of the fact that as the result of a comprehensive investigation made in 1942, 142 mothers had intimated their willingness to take up war work if a Nursery were provided for their children. I therefore organised a further investigation, as a result of which these 142 mothers were classified as follows:-

- 9 were no longer resident in the Borough
- 33 no longer had children under school age.

Only 23 of the remaining 100 mothers were working and in these cases their children were cared for as follows:-

- 3 were using Elm Grove War Nursery
- 6 were using the Nursery Schools
- 8 were taking children to relatives or friends
- 4 were leaving children at home in the care of other members of the family
- 2 (doing domestic work) were taking their children to the place of employment.

Of the 77 mothers not working,

- 10 were pregnant, and
- 18 had babies under 1 year.

One source of trouble seemed to be that there was no night session at the Nursery: in June this was introduced, and attendances were doubled. When Beechwood was re-opened in December the 24-hour children were transferred there; and day children, after meeting in the morning at Elm Grove, were taken daily in vehicles of the local Civil Defence Ambulance Service to the Baghill War Nursery, and returned in the late afternoon, where they were called for by their mothers.

### Baghill

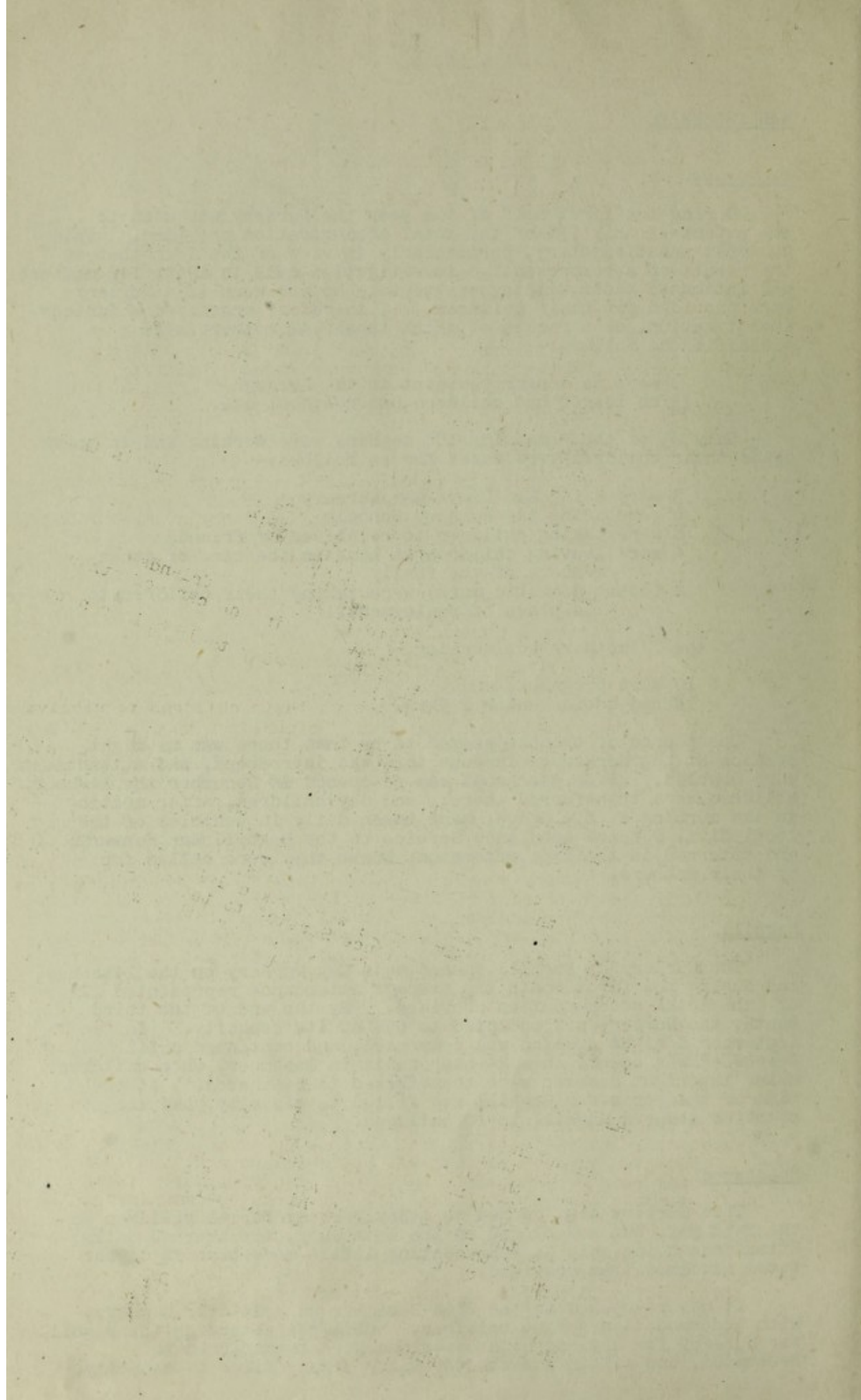
The Nursery at Baghill opened as a Day Nursery on the 24th May, and during the first month the average attendance represented 22% of the total accommodation provided. By the end of the third month, the Nursery was occupied to 65% of its capacity. In September a night session was commenced, and continued until Beechwood was opened on a 24-hour basis in December, when children using the night session were transferred to Beechwood. At the time of this transfer Baghill was filled to capacity, and the transfer reduced Baghill to 20 children.

### Beechwood

This Nursery also opened as a Day Nursery for 40 children on the 24th May, but was closed on the 16th July, the average daily attendance being only 3, representing little more than 7% of the total accommodation provided.

It was re-opened on the 28th December as a 24-hour Nursery, with accommodation for 26 children. Children attending the Baghill War Nursery for day and night sessions were transferred to Beechwood, and within a month the Nursery was filled to capacity.





PART THREE  
PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

964 cases of disease were notified during 1943, an increase of 478 on the previous year's figure. The increase is due to a measles epidemic occurring during the first half of the year; 440 cases were notified in 1943 as compared with 66 in the previous year. 60 cases of scarlet fever were notified, 32 more than in 1942, whilst the number of cases of diphtheria decreased from 55 to 52. There were 4 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum; vision was unimpaired in every case.

Diphtheria Immunisation

In January a list of children in the Borough between the ages of 1 and 5 years was obtained from the Food Executive Officer giving the names of 1,546 children. Their parents were approached by the Health Visitors regarding immunisation, and the results may be classified as follows:-

Children already immunised	607
Children who had received one injection	63
Children not immunised	876
Total	1,546

In 151 cases parents did not wish their children to receive protective treatment, and this left 725 children whose parents expressed the desire to take advantage of immunisation. 134 of these children were to be immunised by their own Doctor, and the remaining 591 were to be brought to the Clinic for treatment.

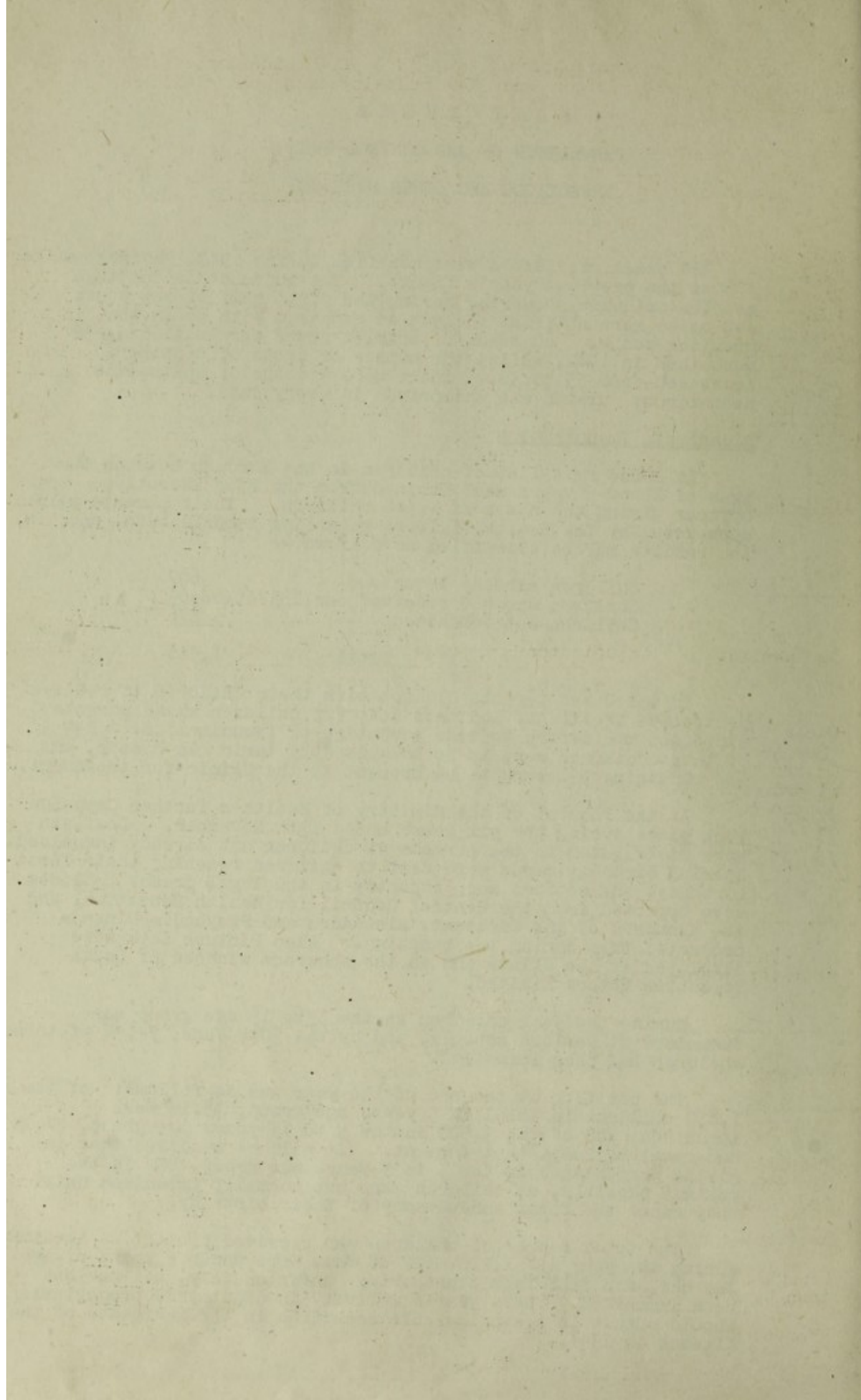
At the request of the Ministry of Health a further Campaign took place during the six weeks ended 13th November. Leaflets were distributed to the parents of children not already immunised. Special birthday cards were sent to children reaching their first birthday, and notices were inserted in the local press. Slides were borrowed from the Central Council for Health Education, and the Managers of the Crescent, Alexandra and Playhouse Cinemas projected them during the campaign. Also Picture Sets were displayed at the Clinic and in the showroom windows of South Yorkshire Motors Limited.

During the year children in the 5 to 15 age group were immunised at various schools, and by the 30th June, 74.4% of these children had been immunised.

The position at the end of the year was as follows: of the 1,850 children in the 1 to 5 years age group, 38.1% were immunised, and of the 3,500 in the 5 to 15 years age group, 77.7% had received complete treatment. It will be realised that in giving percentages in the 1 to 5 years age group, 80% is the maximum possible, as children are not normally immunised until they reach the first anniversary of their birthday.

The total number of children who received protective treatment during the year was 1,210, 527 of whom were under 5 years of age. Two children died from diphtheria; unfortunately, neither had been immunised. This year's activity in diphtheria prophylaxis should result in a considerable reduction in the incidence of the disease in 1944.





The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) among the civilian population.

Table III

Diseases	Total notified cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet fever	60	60	0
Diphtheria	52	52	2
Pneumonia	45	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	7	6*	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	2	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	0	0
Erysipelas	16	0	0
Chickenpox	178	0	0
Measles	440	0	0
Whooping cough	122	0	1

\*One died at home

# TUBERCULOSIS

In the following table new cases and mortality are classified.

Table IV.

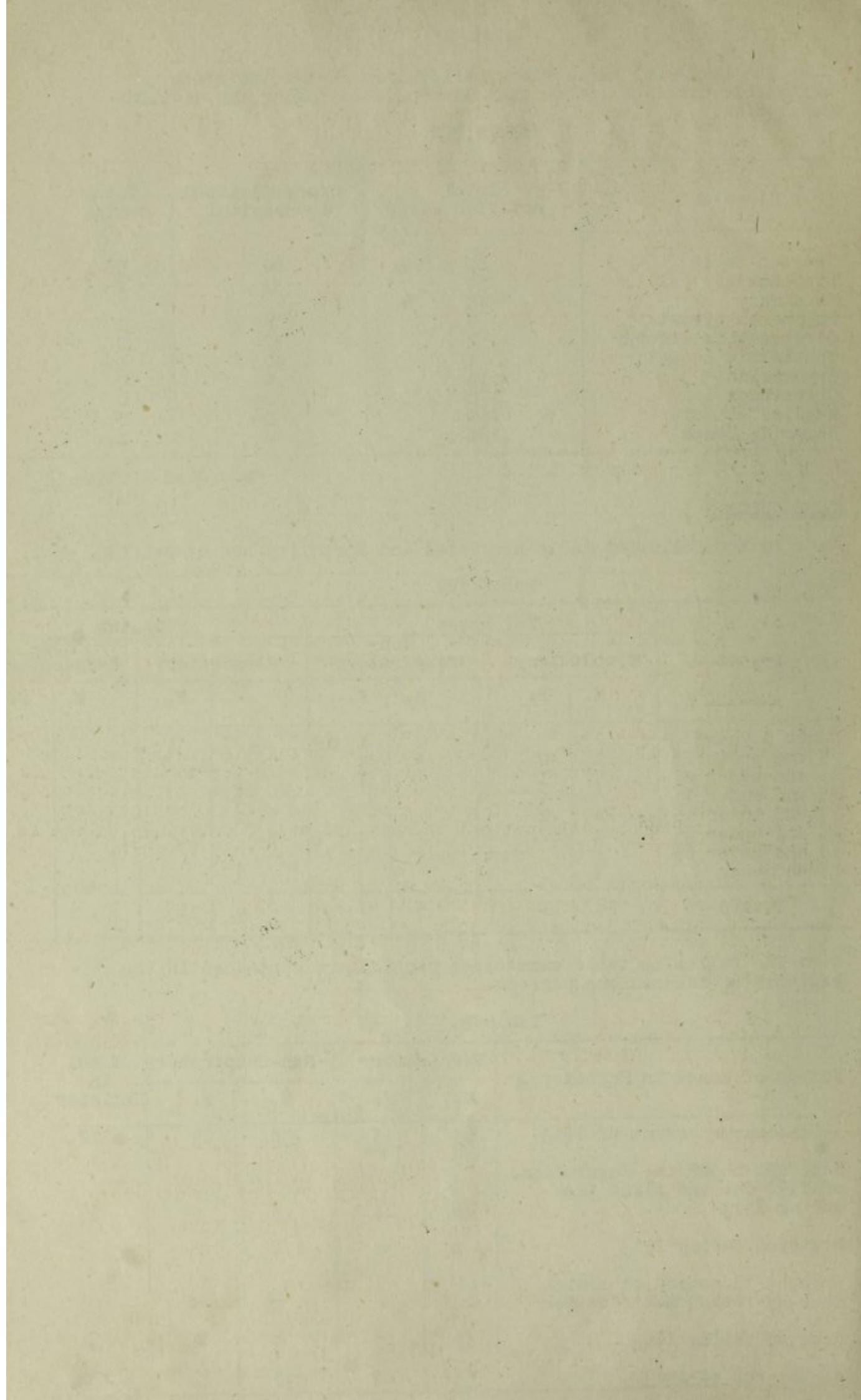
Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	2		1	1				
5 and under 15	1	2	4	2				
15 and under 25	5	1		1	3			
25 and under 35		4			1			
35 and under 45	4	2			1			
45 and under 55	2	2				1		
55 and under 65	1							
65 and over	3				1			
Totals	18	11	5	4	6	1		

The following table summarises particulars contained in the register of tuberculous persons.

Table V.

Number of cases in Register	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total in Register
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At the commencement of 1943	64	45	36	27	172
Notified under the Regulations of 1930 for the first time during 1943	16	11	5	4	36
Restored during 1943	2	0	0	0	2
Brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	0	0	0	0	0
Removed during 1943	17	7	3	4	31
At the end of 1943	65	49	38	27	179





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

Table VI.

Entries relating to -	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Persons who have died	7	2	1	1	11
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered	7	4	2	3	16
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district	3	1	0	0	4
Totals	17	7	3	4	31

Primary notifications pursuant to the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, were received in respect of 36 cases; two cases were restored to the register. 7 deaths were classified to pulmonary tuberculosis, a decrease of 7 on last year's figure.

#### Scabies

Facilities for the out-patient treatment of scabies are provided at the School Clinic, Headlands Road, and at the Baghill Isolation Hospital. This provision has proved adequate for dealing with all cases occurring among women and children. Adult males are normally advised to have domiciliary treatment; but where such is likely to prove inadequate, the patient is admitted to a County Institution in accordance with an arrangement made with the County Council.

Where cases of scabies came to my notice, the houses concerned were visited, and any other members of the family found to be suffering from the disease were advised regarding treatment. Disinfestation of bedding and clothing was also arranged as necessary.

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The Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector dealing with Sanitary Circumstances, Housing, and the Inspection and Supervision of Food is submitted along with this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

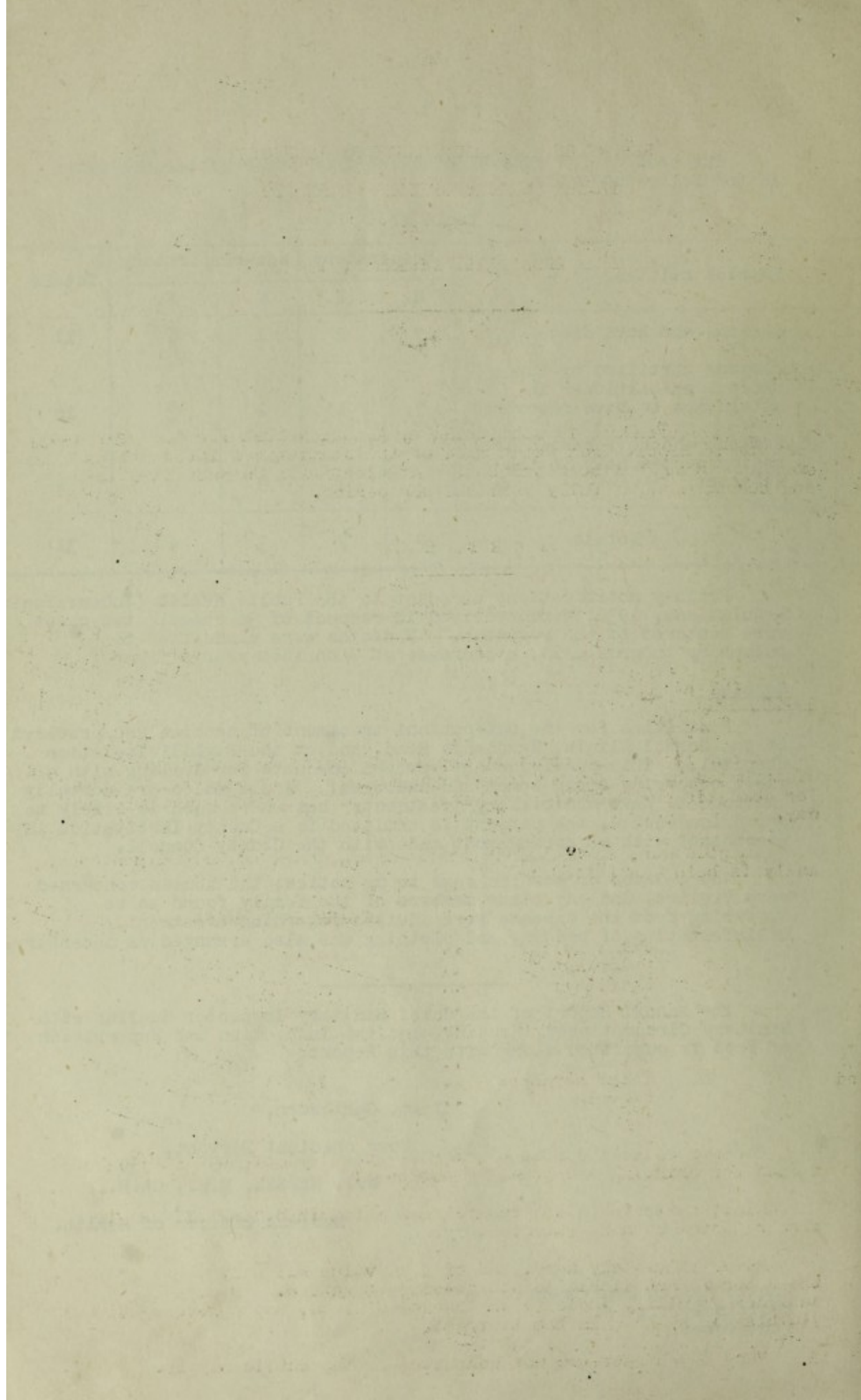
Your obedient Servant,

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

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Pontefract.





REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1943.

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Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1943; an Interim Report from which much of the statistical information normally given has been omitted. A Report will be submitted in due course dealing fully with the war period.

PART ONE

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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Water Supply

A sufficient and constant supply of wholesome water was distributed by the Corporation throughout the year, the consumption for domestic purposes being of the order of 28 gallons per head per day.

Samples were submitted to chemical analysis, details of one such analysis being as follows:-

		<u>Grains per gallon</u>
Total solids	..	25.0
Chlorine	..	1.3
Nitrites	..	-
Nitrates	..	0.200
Free Ammonia	..	-
Albuminoid ammonia	..	0.0007
Metals	..	-
Total hardness	..	13.4
pH value	..	7.2

These results indicate a water of excellent organic purity, well suited for drinking and domestic purposes.

Also, bacteriological control was maintained, and all samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

Being moderately hard, and of a pH value slightly above neutral, the water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action. Reports on analyses regularly indicate an absence of lead, and non-occupational plumbism is unknown in the district.

Very few houses are not connected to the public supply.





### Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage

All built up areas in the Borough are sewered, and almost all houses are on the water-carriage system: less than 1% remain on the conservancy system, and these will be abolished as circumstances allow. Whilst there is little room for improvement in type, the maintenance of existing accommodation at a high level of efficiency is a matter which is receiving constant attention, and despite present difficulties a satisfactory standard has been maintained.

A considerable amount of drainage work of an urgent nature has been done, although plans for many desirable but less urgent improvements have been postponed until a more appropriate time. The lack of adequate means of access for the inspection and cleansing of drainage systems at some of the older properties in the town continues to present difficulties; but again, this matter must wait until after the war, when systematic street-by-street improvements will once more be practicable.

### Nuisances, and Control of Regulated Trades

300 statutory nuisances were abated during the year, the number of inspections involved being 753. 264 informal notices were served, 240 of which were complied with; and a further 46 outstanding from 1942 brought the total number of informal notices complied with to 286. 14 statutory notices were complied with, 5 of which had been served in the previous year. These figures refer only to Public Health Act activities, and not to housing matters dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936.

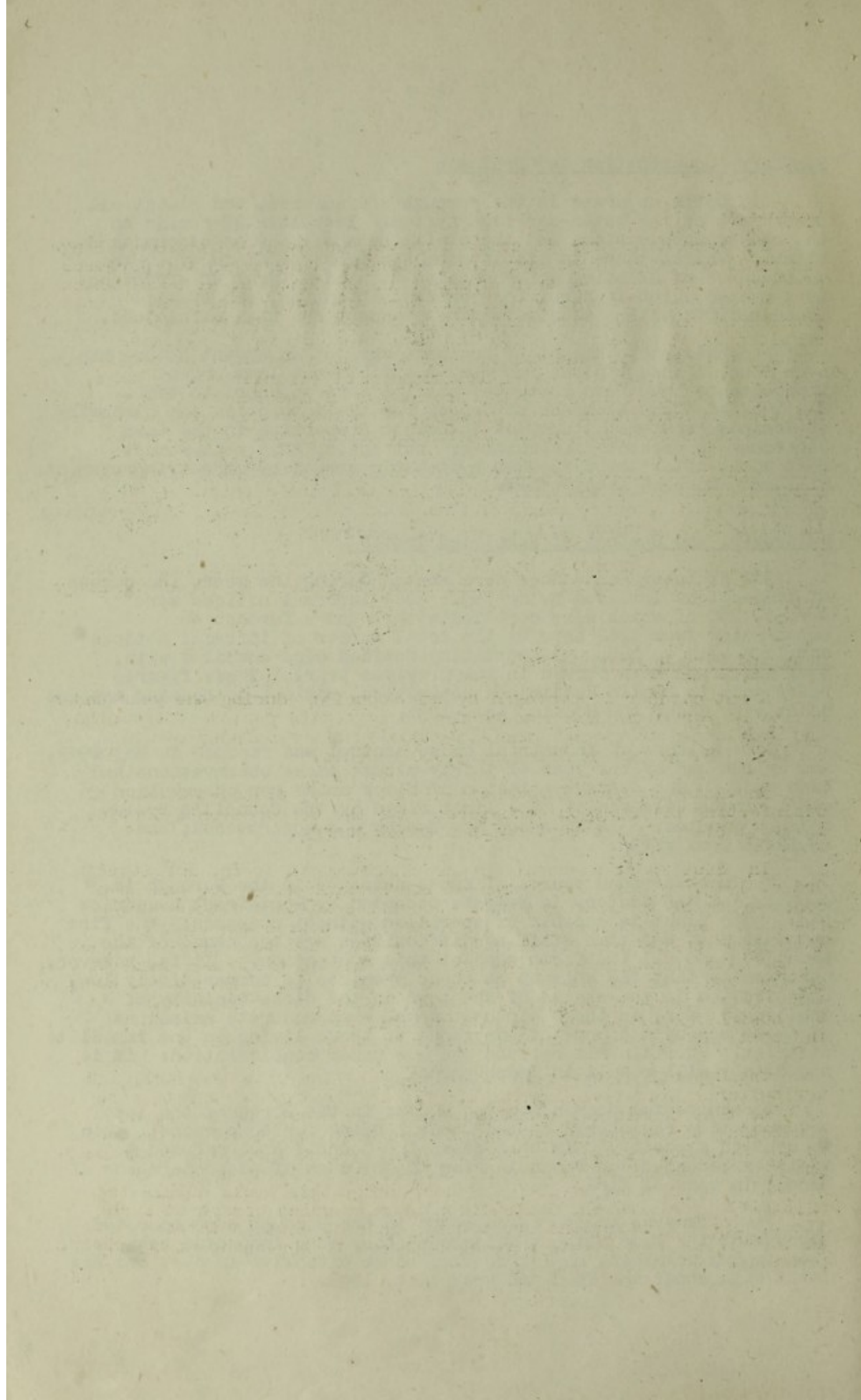
Some measure of industrial smoke control was resumed in May 1943, and by the end of the year 41 thirty-minute smoke observations had been made. The average emission of black smoke per observation was 1 minute 24 seconds: the limit fixed by the Council's Byelaw being 2 minutes. In 10 cases the Byelaw was contravened, and cautions were given.

The most serious source of smoke nuisance in the Borough is, perhaps, at the factory in Newgate occupied by Pontefract Laundries Ltd. The plant is capable of operation without nuisance: the firm complain that war-time staffing difficulties are the cause of the trouble; and all the facts support this contention. It is, however, unfortunate that the chimney at these premises is comparatively low, and situated in the centre of the town in the close vicinity of dwellings; for, in these circumstances, even moderate emissions of smoke may be a source of annoyance to those living in the immediate district. Certain alterations are now under consideration: it is hoped they will result in improvement.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, the total accommodation registered by the Council being for 42 persons; this is used to capacity. In both cases the Council have refused to register second-floor rooms in view of the lack of adequate means of escape in case of fire.

The offensive trades established in the Borough were operated throughout the year without nuisance; they were inspected regularly. Fish-frying premises, no longer classed as offensive trades, are now dealt with under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.





### Factories

The term 'factory' is comprehensive, and includes premises large and small where articles are made, altered, or repaired for purposes of gain. There are 90 such premises in the Borough, at 69 of which mechanical power is employed. All were inspected during the year, and conditions generally were fairly satisfactory. Staffing difficulties resulted in a deterioration in the high standard of cleanliness usually noted at many premises; but in only a few instances was there failure to maintain the essential minimum of cleanliness. Other matters dealt with included the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to sanitation, overcrowding, temperature and ventilation. All defects were remedied as the result of informal action.

During the year a further 10 factories were granted certificates under section 34 of the Act, certifying that the premises were provided with adequate means of escape in case of fire. All premises to which this section applies are now duly certified.

Premises, machinery, utensils, methods, and personnel at food factories and bakehouses were also inspected under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

### Rats and Mice Destruction

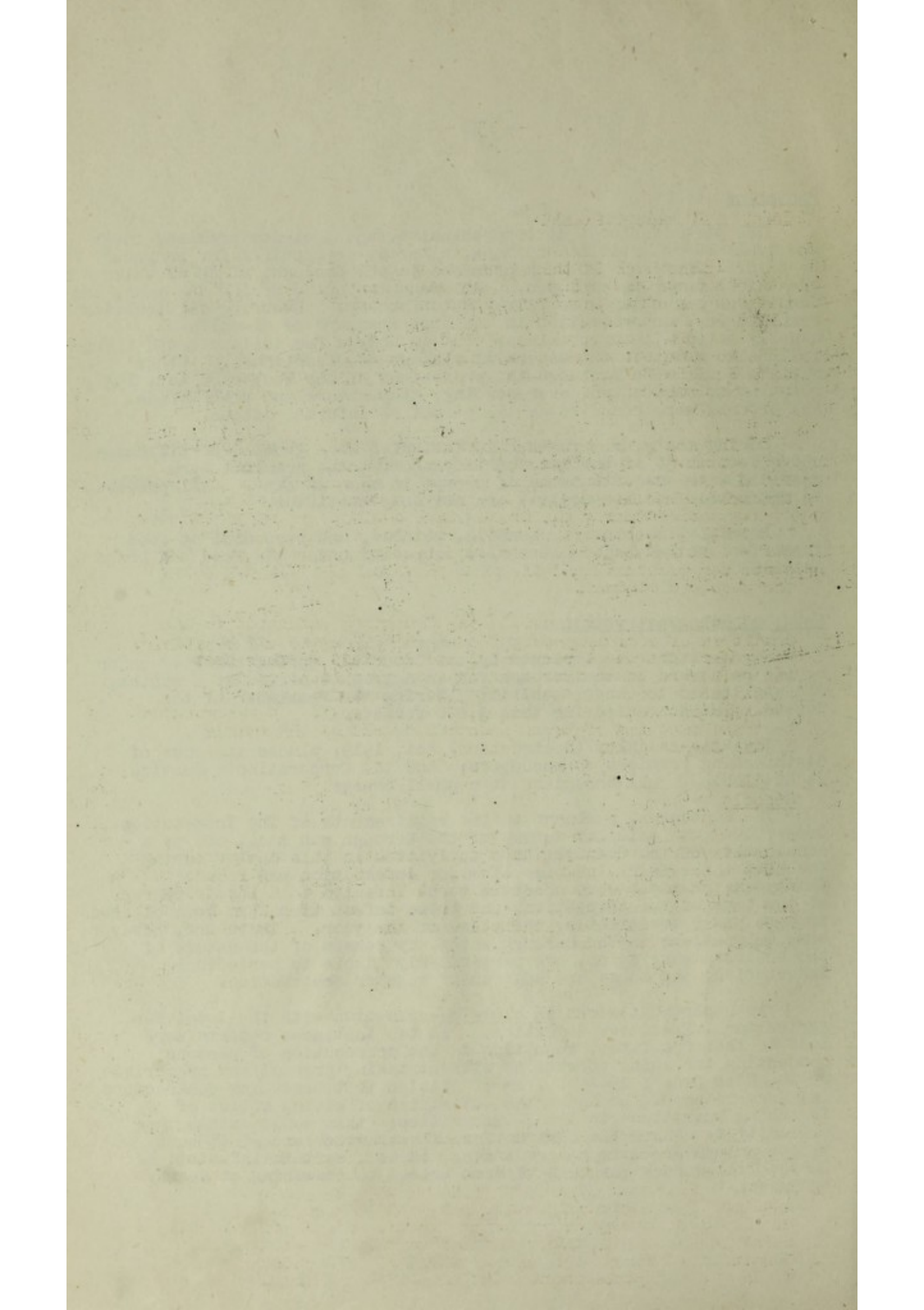
A rat-catcher is employed by the Council: during the year under review he worked in the Borough for an aggregate period of 6 months, and was loaned to other authorities during the remainder of the period. He accounted for some 3,000 rodents.

The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, places the onus of disinfecting premises on occupiers; and the Corporation's Service is available to all occupiers at a small charge.

In September, pursuant to the requirements of The Infestation Order, 1943, a detailed survey of the Borough was made, and as a consequence of the Corporation's activities in this matter during the past three years, no case of major infestation was found. Thirty-one premises were observed to be infested to a lesser degree at the time of the inspection, and these infestations had been cleared or were under treatment by the close of the year. There are, however, some 60 premises in the Borough which, by reason of the nature of the business carried on, are particularly liable to periodic infestation, and these are kept under regular observation.

The Department works in close co-operation with the local War Agricultural Executive Committee. In two instances reports were made to that Committee, resulting in the prosecution of persons conducting threshing operations without taking precautions prescribed by The Rats Order, 1941. I am of opinion that threshing contractors and farmers should be under the obligation of giving notice of threshing operations to local authorities; this would enable the authority to ensure the destruction of rats which escape at such times, unless precautions are taken; indeed, certain infestations in the Willow Park Estate have been traced to threshing at nearby premises.





### Infectious Diseases, etc.

Routine work in this connection was given due attention during the year; all necessary steps were taken to trace the sources of infection in cases of zymotic diseases, and to prevent spread.

Investigations were made in all cases of scabies coming to the notice of the Department, and arrangements made for the treatment of patients and the disinfection of bedding and clothing.

The waters of the Public Swimming Baths, if not kept at a high standard of purity, might readily become a medium for the spread of infection. Bacterial control was maintained throughout the season, and all samples were classified as highly satisfactory, the presumptive coliform count in 100 ml. being nil in each case. Free chlorine content, however, was not always up to the minimum standard required, viz. 0.2 parts per million; and the mean pH value was 7.1, 0.3 below the required minimum.

During the year I called the Council's attention to the condition of various passages connecting Newgate and Beastfair. These were not swept regularly, and in windy weather dust and grit were blown from them in such quantities as to constitute a source of pollution to foodstuffs deposited for sale in premises in this part of the town. I recommended that the sweeping of these passages should be undertaken by the Corporation.

### Schools

At your request all Elementary Schools in the Borough were given a detailed sanitary survey. Some inadequacies were noted, but otherwise general sanitary conditions were satisfactory. Lists of minor defects were forwarded to the Education Department, while matters which would involve considerable alterations were left over for the time being.

## PART TWO

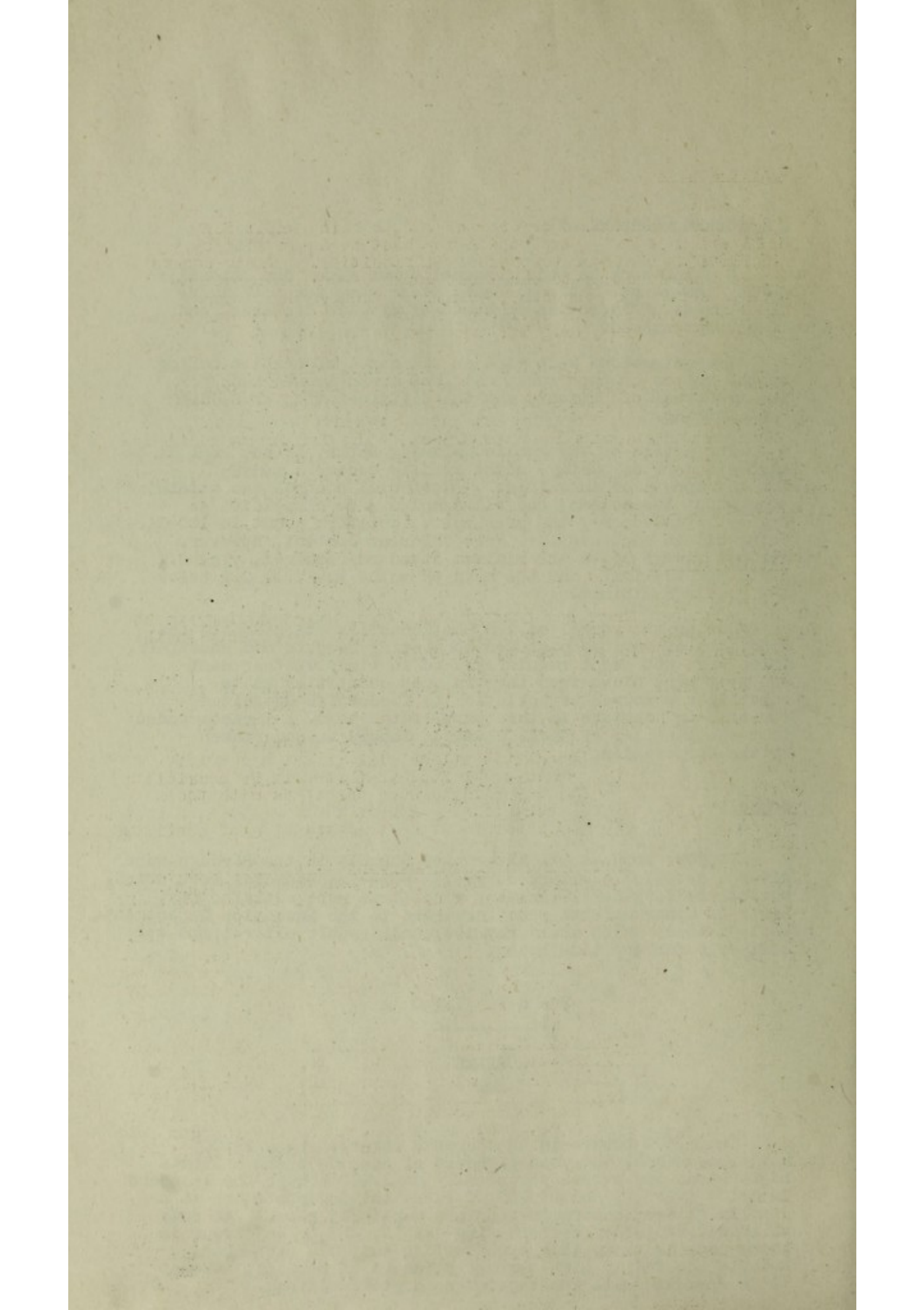
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### HOUSING

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The 5,500 houses in the Borough comprise some 23,000 habitable rooms, the mean standard of housing being a little higher than one person per room. At 1,400 houses the standard is below average, and at 200 of these the occupants are at a density of two or more persons per habitable room. At some of these, statutory overcrowding exists, and an endeavour is being made to abate this by effecting suitable exchanges. Despite the fairly high average standard of housing, there is an obvious acute shortage of separate dwellings.





### Unfit Houses

Houses scheduled before the war as being unfit for habitation and of a type which may best be dealt with by demolition, continue to present difficulties. Their owners are often reluctant to carry out works of any description; and in several cases where, even if extensive works were done the houses would still be of very low standard and in the 'scheduled' class, this attitude can be understood.

The routine inspection of houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations was discontinued in 1939; but on receipt of complaints, and in cases where visits were paid to houses for other purposes, any urgent repairs were noted, and the necessary remedial action taken. The difficulty and delay in getting work done, which have been experienced during war years, were pronounced during the present year. I can report, however, that a large number of defective housing conditions have been remedied.

### Vermin Infestation

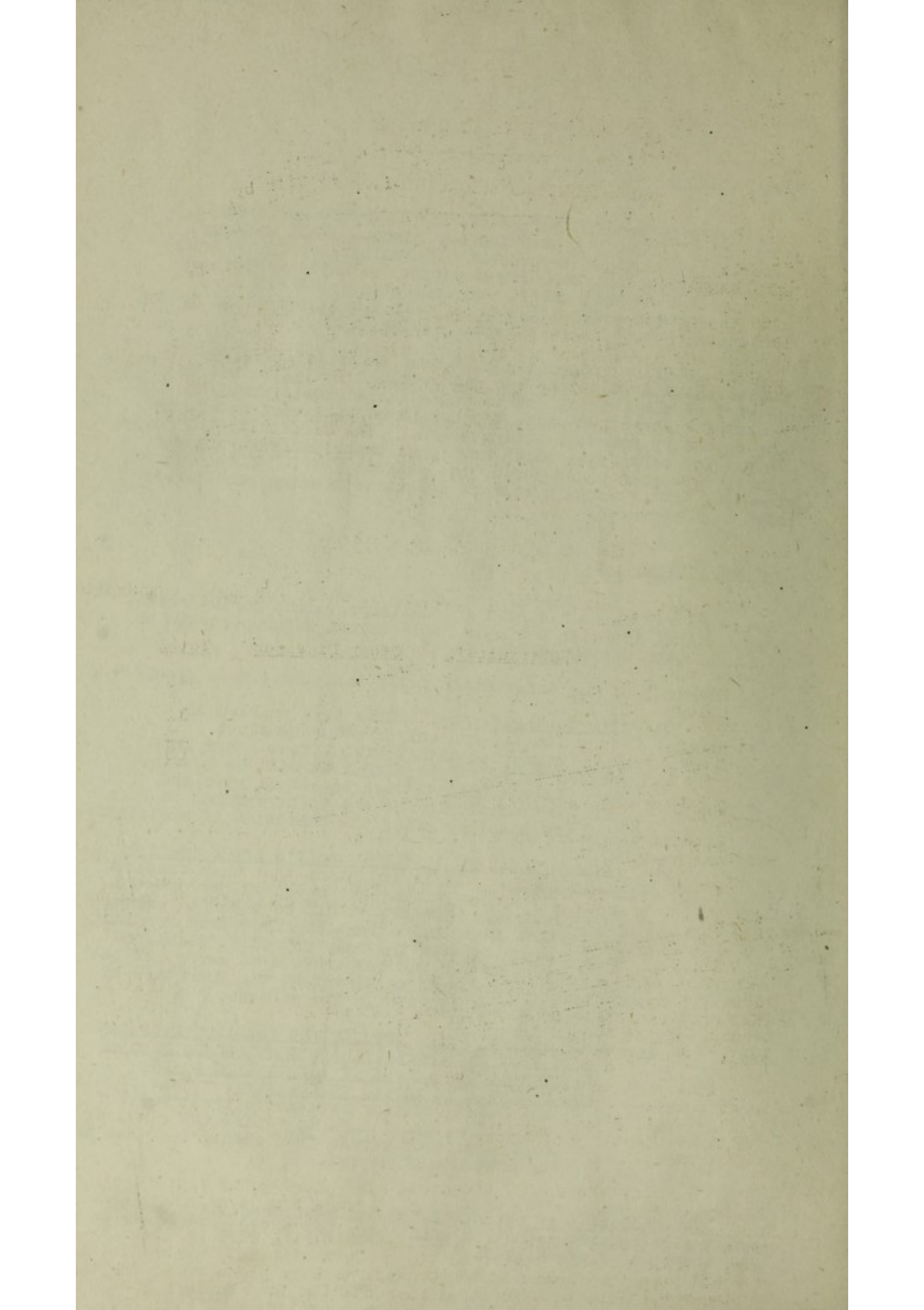
Although there has been gradual improvement during recent years, there is still a considerable amount of property in the Borough which is infested by bed-bugs.

The bulk of the infestation falls into three main groups:-

1. The Tanshelf area. This is a problem in itself, and only a comprehensive, concerted attack will effect a complete remedy. I hope that it will be possible to co-ordinate such an attack with the Reconditioning Scheme to be resumed as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.
2. Houses included in the Council's programme for clearance. It is important that when families from these houses are moved to new estates adequate measures should be taken to ensure that their belongings are free from vermin. In my opinion the only effective solution will be for the Corporation to carry out the removals, and to disinfest the furniture by hydrogen cyanide in the process.
3. Corporation houses occupied by families rehoused from slum properties, where the methods adopted to prevent the spread of infestation to the new houses have proved ineffective. This problem has been receiving systematic treatment for some time, and I hope to report the complete eradication of vermin from such properties in my next Annual Report.

The reduction of potential bed-bug harbourage is a matter which will require attention when plans are being prepared for the erection of new houses.





# PART THREE

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Meat Supply

The Ministry of Food continued to use the Abattoir at Newtown for the preparation of meat for distribution to retailers in the Borough and surrounding districts, covering a population of some 52,000. The whole of the meat slaughtered at the Abattoir was inspected by Officers of the Department.

The numbers of carcasses examined during the year were:-

Beasts	..	1,493	(including 372 cows)
Calves	..	1,050	
Sheep	..	6,598	
Pigs	..	194	

the total number being 9,335.

The numbers of carcasses found to be unfit for human consumption were:-

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Other Diseases</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beasts	42 (35 cows)	4	46
Calves	1	1	2
Pigs	5	7	12
Sheep	<u>—</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>48</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>68</u>

1,243 organs and parts were found to be unfit.

A total weight of 18 tons, 17 cwts., 2 qrs., 19 lbs. of meat was condemned.

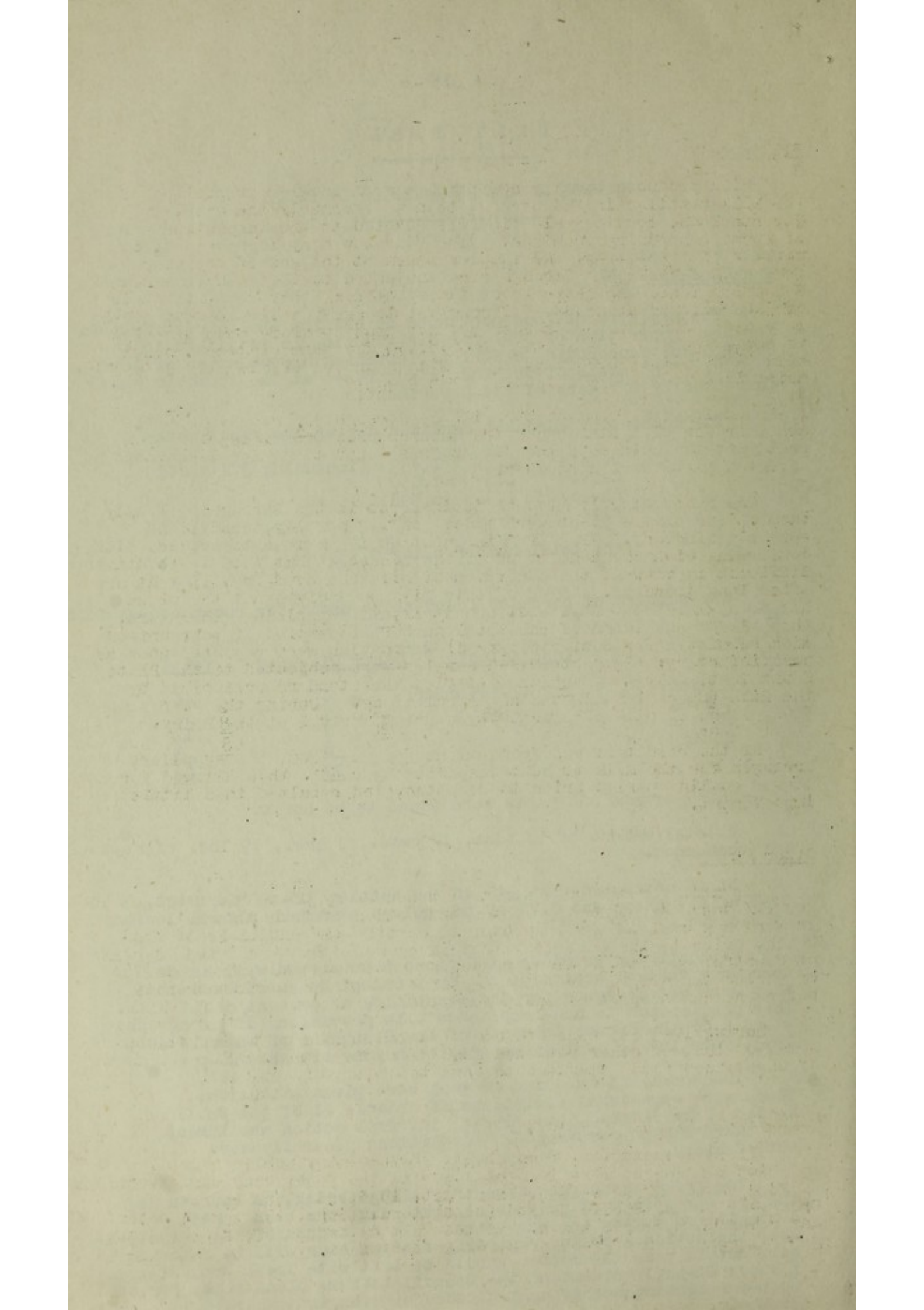
It is estimated that 34% of the cattle, 32% of the pigs, 0.9% of the sheep and 0.7% of the calves examined showed lesions of disease.

Although the premises at Newtown have served well as an emergency central abattoir, the fact cannot be overlooked that they were not designed for the quantities at present dealt with. This predisposes to non-compliance with provisions of paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Second Schedule of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, relating to certain aspects of humane slaughter.

Transport and handling of meat were given attention, There were occasional violations of article 21 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; informal action was taken, and there was no recurrence. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

The great advantage of central slaughtering, as opposed to the pre-war system of private slaughtering, has been amply demonstrated during the war years. It is impossible to anticipate what the National policy regarding slaughtering will be after the war, but in case the matter should be left with local authorities, I would strongly recommend the Council to have plans ready for the post-war continuance of central slaughtering in a Municipal Abattoir.





### Milk Supply

Milk produced locally now forms a much smaller proportion of the milk retailed in the Borough than was formerly the case. Nevertheless, considerable time was devoted to the inspection of farms and dairy premises. The year saw many improvements in methods of production, and samples taken at the end of the year from each farm in the Borough were subjected to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, and shewn to be satisfactory; they were, in fact, of "Accredited" standard. Throughout the year sedimentation tests were made as considered necessary, but gross visible contamination is now extremely rare in the district. Two farms in the Borough hold "Accredited" Licences, and a high standard of cleanliness was maintained at these premises.

A dairy cow from one farm in the Borough was received at the abattoir for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. Upon post mortem examination the disease was found to be localised, and affected parts were condemned.

One Pasteuriser's Licence is in force in the Borough. Weekly inspections of the plant were made; and, generally, conditions were satisfactory. The firm in question is anxious to produce milk conforming with the conditions of the Licence; but this is sometimes difficult in view of the condition of milk received from distant areas after long journeys. Some of this milk on arriving at the plant has been almost two days old, and it is not surprising, therefore, that almost one third of the total number of samples of pasteurised milk submitted for bacteriological examination were reported upon as unsatisfactory: 33 pasteurised samples were subjected to the Plate Count Test, only 24 of which satisfied the standard prescribed by the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. During the year some 500 gallons of milk were actually sour on arrival at the Dairy.

As the result of representations made to them, the suppliers arranged for the milk to be transported by road; this allowed for a longer cooling period prior to despatch, and resulted in a little improvement.

### Other Foods

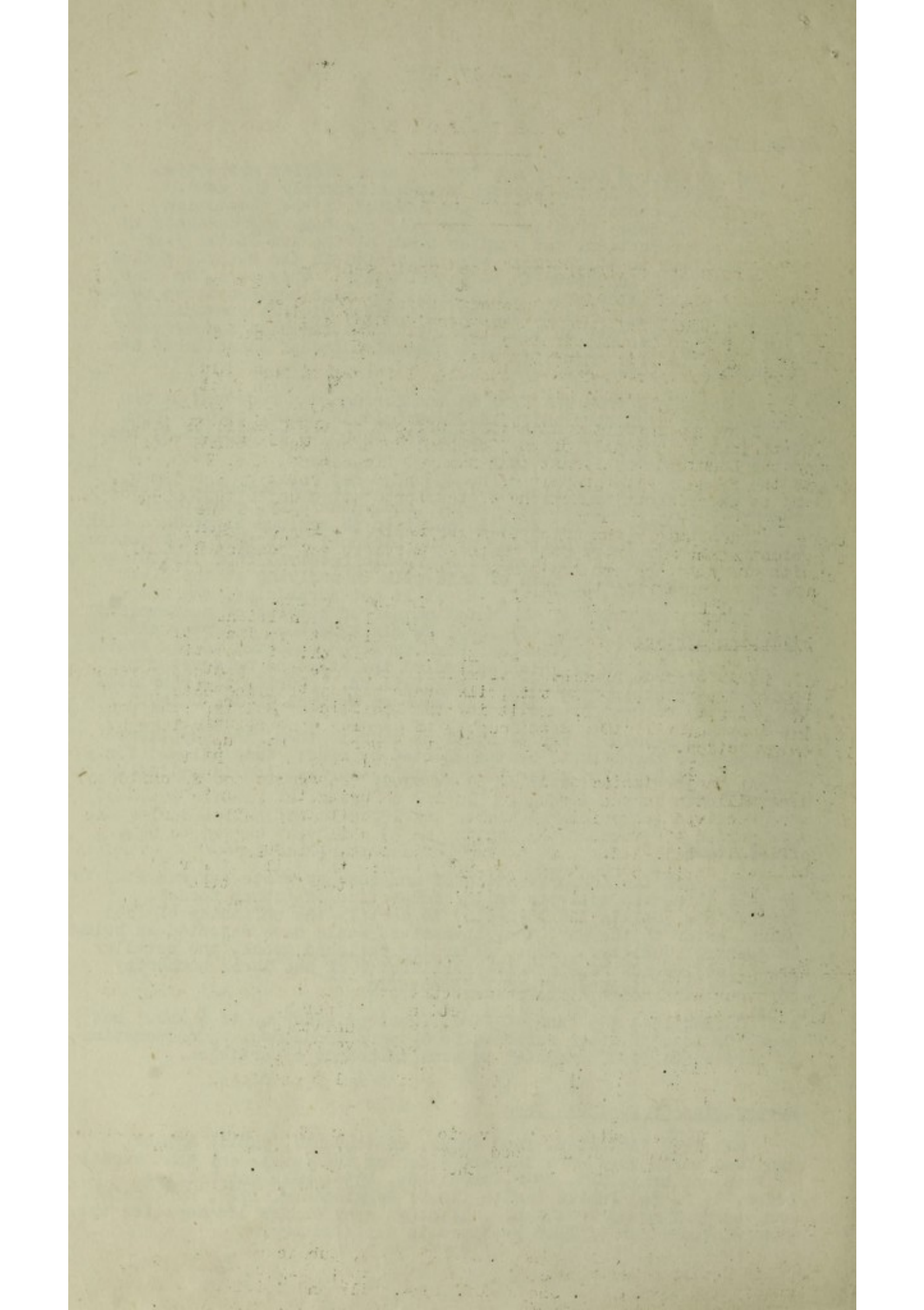
The need for the prevention of unnecessary waste has resulted in greatly increased activity in the inspection of 'other foods'. Traders now call in the Inspector to certify the unfitness of food which, prior to the war, they themselves would have rejected as being of doubtful quality. Also, regarding rationed goods, the retailer or wholesaler now requires the certificate of the local authority before he can dispose of unfit foodstuffs.

During 1943 595 cans of food (various sizes up to 6 lbs.) and some 500 lbs. of other rationed food were condemned. Condemnation of unrationed food amounted to some thousands of articles.

### Supervision of Food Premises

All food factories, food shops, restaurants, public houses, and food warehouses were inspected during the year; any contraventions of Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Shops Act, 1934, Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, were noted, and remedial measures taken. Although many staffs are depleted the general condition of food premises is satisfactory.





PART FOUR

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SPECIAL DUTIES

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I hold the following war-time appointments:-

Civil Defence Ambulance Service Officer,  
Civil Defence Mortuary Service Officer,  
Food Decontamination Officer,  
Chief Billeting Officer,  
Officer-in-Charge, Casualty Information Bureau,  
Food Salvage Officer.

I am appointed the Authorised Officer of the Council to issue Certificates on behalf of the Corporation under Sub-section 5 (1) of the Landlord and Tenant (War Damage) (Amendment) Act, 1941, as to the fitness after repair of houses rendered unfit by war damage, and to exercise the functions of the Corporation under the Sub-section.

The Services for which I am responsible comprise some 150 volunteers. The work done in these Services was connected mainly with organisation and training. The Mortuary Service operated on one occasion during the year.

Billeting Service

This Service provides for the billeting of Civil Defence personnel, homeless persons, war workers, and other persons falling into any of the priority classes prescribed by the Ministry of Health; and for the issue of billeting certificates to persons rendered homeless by enemy action.

At the beginning of 1943, 54 evacuees (26 adults and 28 children) were billeted in the Borough. During the year, 24 further evacuees were received (comprising 9 adults and 15 children) whilst during the same period 45 evacuees (16 adults and 29 children) ceased to be officially billeted. At the end of the year, the number of evacuees billeted in the Borough was 33.

During the year 171 billets were found for war workers at the request of the Ministry of Labour.

Advice and information were given on innumerable problems connected with evacuation, billeting, and allied matters. Every endeavour has been made to prevent the occurrence of overcrowding due to billeting.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

L. WALSH, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



