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PONTEFRACT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1937.

PONTEFRACT

J. ATKINSON & SONS, PRINTERS, STAR WORKS. Tel. 363.



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To The Pontefract Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1937, in compiling which, I have followed the instructions in the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The Area of the District after 31st March was 36,630 acres.

The population in 1931 was 23,981 and in 1937 was estimated by the Registrar General to be 22,120.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 was 5,744.

Rateable Value, £82,089 (1st April).

Sum represented by 1d. rate £240 (1st April).

About two-thirds of the population is engaged in the Coal Mining Industry. The next largest section is engaged in Agriculture. Other Industries are, Brickmaking, Coking and Chemical Works; Lime Quarrying and Burning; Sand and Gravel Quarrying and a Flour Mill.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	372	186	186	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16·93
	Illegitimate	16	8	8	
Stillbirths	...	14	8	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 34·82
Deaths	...	250	134	116	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10·91

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	1	2'48
	—	—
Total ...	1	2'48

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 61'85.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 61'82.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 62'50.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	29
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

These figures on the Registrar General's Return are corrected for inward and outward Transfers.

The Birth Rate has increased this year from 16'79 to 16.93 and is again higher than the average of England and Wales which is 14.90. The Death Rate, 10'91, has also increased slightly but compares very favourably with that of the Country as a whole which is 12'40.

The Death Rate of children under 1 year, per 1000 live births has decreased considerably since last year, being 61'82 against 85'13 but is a little higher than that of England and Wales, which is 58.

ANALYSIS OF DEATH RETURNS.

The various causes of death are shown in the appended Table, S.D. 30.

The number of deaths from pneumonia, 20, shows an increase on that of last year, when it was 17. Heart Disease, 75, remains the same whilst cancer, 29, shows an increase of 12.

A very satisfactory feature is that there were no deaths from Diarrhœa of children under 2 years old.

CHIEF CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Scarlet Fever, 91 cases, was prevalent throughout the year, the peak month being May. The majority of cases occurred in the

districts of Glasshoughton and Cutsyke (28) and Airedale (26). Only odd cases occurred in various other parts of the District.

Diphtheria, 45 cases in all, shows an increase on last year when 32 cases were notified. These occurred chiefly in Glasshoughton and Cutsyke (24) and Airedale (14).

MEASLES.

In January, only a fortnight after the Christmas holidays, an epidemic of measles occurred which necessitated the closing of Darrington Schools.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES other than Tuberculosis during the year.

	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	91	86	1
Diphtheria ...	45	44	2
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—
Enteric Fever ... (including Typhoid & Paratyphoid).	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	1
Pneumonia ...	24	—	20
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—

AGE & SEX INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Period.	Diphtheria.		Scarlet Fever.		Pneumonia.		Erysipelas.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0				2	1		1	
1			2	2				
2	1	3	3	2		1		
3	2		1	4				
4	1	1	2	1				
5	8	7	22	12	4	2		
10	4	11	9	11	1	1		
15		4	3	9	2	1		
25	1	1		2		1		
35		2			2	1		
45				1	3			3
55 & over					3	1		1

Age Period.	TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								1
1				1				
5	1			1				
10	1	1	1					
15	1	2	1		1		2	
20	5			1	2		1	
25	4	4		1	1		1	
35	1	1			2		2	
45								
55 & over		1		1	1		1	

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

MEDICAL.

Part Time Medical Officer of Health.

J. Kebelly, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

SANITARY.

G. Ledwith, Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
Meat and other foods Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Nursing in the Home. Nature of Arrangements in the Area.

GENERAL.

There are a number of nurses working in the District, supported by voluntary subscriptions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Controlled by the Sanitary Authority. None.

Midwives.

There is no arrangement for the employment of or subsidy to Midwives by the Local Authority.

National Health Insurance.

There is no co-operation with the Local Authority.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried at the Public Health Laboratories, Wakefield.

Legislation in Force.

A list of adoptive Acts and Byelaws and regulations in force in the District is given in table C appended.

Poor Law Medical Out-relief.

This is controlled by the County Medical Authority.

Hospitals in the Area. None.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(1) Tuberculosis.

Controlled by County Council (Public Health Committee).

Middleton-in-Wharfedale Sanatorium.
Cardigan Sanatorium, near Wakefield.
Mitchell Memorial Home, Rawdon.

Notified Cases of Tuberculosis occurring in the District are supervised by the County Council Officers who make arrangements for admission to Sanatoria.

(2) Maternity Hospitals.

The County Council has arrangements with the Wakefield Corporation for admission to their Maternity Home, with 16 beds, for patients in the West Riding, and with Edenfield private Maternity Home, Doncaster, also with Castleford Hospital. These would be the most suitable places for patients from this area.

(3) Children's Hospital.

Acute Surgical Cases—Pontefract Infirmary.

Medical Cases—Leeds Infirmary and Pontefract Infirmary.

(4) Fever Hospital.

Pontefract Joint Hospital, This serves Pontefract Borough, Knottingley Urban District and the Pontefract Rural District for the Isolation of Infectious Diseases, not including Smallpox. This has been found to be sufficient. The Hospital is situated at Baghill, Pontefract.

(5) Smallpox.

Joint Smallpox Hospital, situated at Sherburn-in-Elmet, and also serves the Tadcaster Rural District and other Districts.

Professional Nursing at Home.

A District Nurse, residing at Whitley Bridge, nurses patients at Whitley, Eggborough, Kellington, Beal and Birkin. There are also nurses at Darrington, Monk Fryston, Glasshoughton and Airedale serving their respective localities. All are supported by voluntary contributions.

Maternal Mortality.

Investigation is made by the County Authority.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers.

The Haven, Pontefract supported by voluntary contributions.

Institutional Provision, if any, for the care of Mental Defectives.

This is also under the control of the County Authority.

Ambulance Facilities.**SMALLPOX.**

Motor Ambulance attached to Smallpox Hospital.

GENERAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES.

Motor Ambulance attached to Pontefract Joint Hospital.

NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT.

St. John's Pontefract, and Private Ambulances.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Glass Houghton, St. Paul's Institute.
Ferrybridge, Fishergate.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

Glass Houghton, St. Paul's Institute.
Ferrybridge, Fishergate.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Linden Terrace, Pontefract.

TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES.

Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.

The above are administered by the County Council.

MIDWIVES.

Midwives practising in the area are under the supervision of the County Council.

Ante-natal Clinics are now established in most parts of the District and are being fairly well attended

As regards Housing and Sanitary Circumstances, these are covered by the Sanitary Inspector's report which I endorse and append.

In conclusion, I earnestly thank all the members of the Council for their kind consideration and help extended to me in the discharge of my duties, and also to Mr. Ledwith for his courtesy and valuable help given to me throughout the year.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. KEHELLY, M.O.H.

Pontefract Rural District Council.

Tanshelf House,
Pontefract.

To Dr. J. Kehelly, Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

Annual Report, 1937.

In submitting my Annual Report for the year 1937 it will be appropriate to record that during that year the commencement of a very important change in the District took place. Under the West Riding County Review Order 1937 the parish of Carleton and part of the parish of Ferry Fryston were transferred to the Borough of Pontefract, and part of the parish of Ferry Fryston including the village of Ferrybridge was transferred to the Urban District of Knottingley, the change taking place as from the 1st April.

This involved the Rural District in the loss of 2340 acres in area, 2827 in population and nearly £25,000 in rateable value.

Needless to say this loss was viewed with much concern by those responsible for the administration of the District, and the final settlement of the District is looked for with eagerness and at least some apprehension.

My report includes those particulars which I am required by the Ministry of Health to supply you with, and the figures given include items for the larger population and area before the change and the smaller population and area since the change, unless otherwise qualified.

NUISANCES.

The number of premises inspected or matters examined in respect of nuisances was 1,710, which include 13 cases in which no nuisance was found. Cases outstanding from the previous year numbering 27 made the total cases to be dealt with 1,724. It was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices and the abatement in 1,712 cases after informal action left only 12 cases outstanding at the end of the year.

In 1,640 cases the nuisances related to houses and were nearly all cases in respect of defective roofs, sinks, drains, w.c.'s, etc. A table showing matters to which the nuisances related is appended.

HOUSING.

The number of houses inspected during the year in addition to those mentioned under "Nuisances" was 453. Of these 252 were recorded under the Housing Acts; 193 were inspected under Public Health Acts in respect of water supplies, sanitary accommodation, etc; and 28 in respect of vermin (20 being Council Houses).

Of those recorded under the Housing Acts, 10 were classed as unfit, 111 as defective and 131 as satisfactory. In respect of unfit houses demolition was formally considered in two cases in which the Owners undertaking that the structures, then vacant, should not again be used as dwellings were accepted. After negotiations with the Owners of the other 8 houses (which were at Brotherton) it was decided to schedule the houses for inclusion in Clearance Areas.

The number of outstanding unfit houses was reduced by the demolition of 8 and the transfer out of the District of 1.

Of the other defective houses 52 were repaired, including 13 outstanding at the beginning of the year (some being extensively reconditioned) and 5 transferred with part of the area from the District.

The number of houses to be dealt with under Slum Clearance programme has been reduced by the reconditioning of 3 at Brotherton, the demolition of 1 at Hillam, and 3 at Fairburn, and the transfer of 17 at Ferrybridge to Knottingley U.D.C.

Further houses have been added to the list scheduled for clearance or demolition at Brotherton. Progress in dealing with these houses has been much delayed by the inability to secure a suitable site for rehousing, a remark which also applies to some other parts of the District, though in the latter cases the difficulty is now being overcome. The question of the alteration of the District also has not been without its effect in this respect, the Council being anxious as to the possible reaction regarding financial resources.

With reference to Overcrowding, much the same remarks apply to rehousing here as in Slum Clearance. At Glasshoughton, however, land was obtained without so much difficulty, and a scheme of 67 houses was put in hand, about half of the houses being completed by the end of the year. Many of the overcrowding cases at Glasshoughton had by that means been rehoused and it was anticipated that by April this year (1938) the scheme would be complete and all cases of overcrowding in the Parish disposed of.

On going through the cases of Overcrowding in connection with rehousing it was found that many had themselves found suitable accommodation but a number of fresh cases had arisen.

At the beginning of the year there were at Glasshoughton 87 cases of Overcrowding, and 18 fresh cases during the year brought the total to 105. These were reduced by the end of the year to 40.

The position elsewhere remained much the same, a few cases being overcome by removals in the ordinary way.

Before the Overcrowded families were removed to Council Houses, the furniture and effects were examined for bed-bugs and in cases where found necessary the effects were disinfested. This was done by fumigation, a special portable chamber being erected on the housing site and the effects being taken to the chamber and on completion of fumigation moved into the house. Fumigation was by sulphur generated by a Clayton machine which has been found very effective.

Disinfestation in occupied houses is usually carried out by spraying in conjunction with fumigation, reliance chiefly being placed on the former, which with the removal of picture rails, architrave, etc. when found necessary, has proved efficient.

Turning to new houses, 264 were completed during the year. Castleford Urban District Council erected 130 on the Red Hill Estate, Ferry Fryston; this Council erected 31 at Cutsyke, part of a scheme of 67; the remaining 103 were erected by private enterprise in various parts of the District.

Of those built by private enterprise 67 were in Glasshoughton, 10 in Ferry Fryston, the remainder being distributed throughout the District, including 6 at Sutton and 5 at Beal.

The Council's scheme of 67 at Glasshoughton was to rehouse overcrowding cases and provide for aged people.

The scheme comprised 14 houses with 5 bedrooms, 8 houses with 4 large bedrooms, 14 with 3 large and 1 small bedrooms, 16 with 3 large bedrooms, and 15 aged persons dwellings.

The five bed roomed houses were erected in blocks of two of the large houses and an aged persons dwelling, the later being on the ground floor in the centre of the block, the whole being so arranged that if occasion arose it could readily be adapted to three houses with good bedroom accommodation.

The remainder of the aged persons dwellings were arranged as semi-detached bungalows.

Good progress was made with the making up of the streets at Glasshoughton with corresponding improvement of appearance and general conditions.

WATER.

Further progress has been made in the provision of piped supplies of water in the District. At East Hardwick a main was constructed through the village, a connection having been made with the Hemsworth Rural District Council's main. The main through Womersley was extended to Cridling Stubbs so as to enable a supply to be given to most of the houses in the Parish.

Another extension, from the Brotherton main to serve Burton Salmon, Hillam and Monk Fryston, was approaching completion at the end of the year. The source of supply in each case is the Pontefract Corporation Water Works.

A general statement as to source and distribution of water supplies is given in Table C.

The water from a number of wells has been found unsatisfactory, but the piped supplies are becoming available and are being taken advantage of in most of these cases.

Ample supply has been available throughout the year.

SCAVENGING.

There has been no change in the system of scavenging.

Owing to the loss of Carleton and Ferrybridge there were two Contracts less to arrange for when the time came for making fresh Contracts, commencing in June.

Allowing for certain disadvantages associated with contract work, the work has proceeded satisfactorily. The Cleansing Supervisor has been very assiduous in his attention to the work, which is largely responsible for the good condition generally maintained regarding scavenging.

The cesspool emptier acquired by the Council continued to give good service, though by the end of the year the large temporary cesspools in Park Road, Glasshoughton, had been abolished, a sewer to serve the area having been completed.

Over 80% of the refuse collected by the Council has been tipped at Wheldale Quarry, Fryston. An attendant has been constantly employed to ensure orderly tipping and the keeping of the place tidy. Much of the paper etc. has been burnt, and tins and other rubbish buried as far as possible by the ashes and dust in the rubbish collected, but no other covering material has been used except in a corner by the public road where it was desirable and where some suitable soil was available. The tip has been maintained in satisfactory condition and apart from some inconvenience caused by mischievous interference no trouble has been experienced.

It has not yet been possible to close the tip at Brotherton as was desired, another site not having been acquired, but the tip has been kept in very reasonable condition, and negotiations for a new site were proceeding favourably at the end of the year.

As to privy conversions, the Glasshoughton programme proceeded towards completion, 69 conversions having been completed during the year, leaving about 12 only to be dealt with. Additional W.C.'s. to the number of 15 were also constructed in the Parish.

At Ferrybridge 7 conversions were carried out (now in the Knottingley Urban District). At Beal, W.C.'s. were provided at the Council's 4 houses in Broad Lane, in place of the privies which were abolished. This brought the total of closets converted to W.C.'s. during the year to 80.

In all cases but one, water closets were provided in connection with the new houses. After the loss of area and adjustment of boundaries etc., the number of water closets remaining at the end of the year was 3969; other types of closet 1341; and dust bins 3629.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As usual Scarlet Fever headed the list of infectious diseases notified, the number being 91. This was 9 less than the previous year but taking into account the loss of part of the area during the year the incidence remained about the same. The monthly incidence varied from 1 in August to 20 in May, the number in January being 11. Next to the lowest was 4 in June. On going through records of previous years the incidence appears quite erratic and the peak month does not seem likely to be any particular one. In the year under review, 28 of the cases were in Glasshoughton (12 occurring in May) and 28 in Ferry Fryston (including Ferrybridge up to the time of transfer). Eggborough accounted for 6 cases, the remainder being scattered throughout the district.

The cases of diphtheria increased to 45 from 32. The number in 1935 was 23, and in 1934 was 48. The incidence of this disease has been more variable than that of Scarlet Fever. In spite of the unwelcome increase one could scarcely call it an epidemic. Glasshoughton suffered most with a total of 24 cases spread fairly evenly throughout the year, the highest number being 5 in March. Ferry Fryston accounted for 14 cases (including 1 at Ferrybridge before the transfer). The remaining cases were odd ones very scattered.

The total number of cases of tuberculosis was little altered, the pulmonary form decreasing to 22 by 1 and other forms increasing by 3 to 9. The total in 1935 was 40. Some 27 cases were received in sanatoria from this district during the year.

In connection with infectious diseases other than tuberculosis, disinfection was carried out at 140 houses and 4 schools; and in connection with tuberculosis at 22 houses.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The number of slaughterhouses licensed at the beginning of the year was 13, which was reduced by two on the loss of part of the District in April. Two others were given up during the year and ceased to be used as slaughterhouses. One other has scarcely been used.

One of those which has passed out of the District was the one used for the slaughter of horses for export only.

The only Knackers Yard in the District was also in that part of the District which has been transferred.

The slaughterhouses have been well kept and beyond an occasional reminder of the necessity of limewashing it has been unnecessary to take any steps regarding the structures or the conduct of the business.

Some 345 inspections were made. In 23 cases meat was found unsatisfactory, surrendered and destroyed, particulars being as follows :—

BEEF :—3 carcasses, 5 parts of carcasses, 3 heads, 3 livers, 3 kidneys and one udder on account of tuberculosis; 1 carcass on account of gangrene, 1 carcass on account of emaciation, etc.

PORK :—2 carcasses and 12 heads on account of tuberculosis.

MUTTON :—1 carcass moribund.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 22 notifications were received of intention to slaughter and 2 of emergency slaughter which had taken place, all at premises other than slaughterhouses. The animals affected were 2 beasts, 32 pigs and 2 sheep. Visits were paid and the carcasses inspected in each case, all being found satisfactory.

The number of pigs slaughtered in this way was much lower than usual and is probably accounted for by the higher prices ruling, persons breeding small numbers preferring to sell live pigs to the butchers when satisfactory prices are obtainable.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

At the end of the year there were 102 premises registered for the production of milk, a few less than the beginning of the year chiefly on account of loss of part of the District.

There are 69 persons registered as retailers, 11 having no premises in the District, 9 others having premises in the District but not producing the milk. A number of the remainder although registered as retailers can scarcely be called traders as they merely supply neighbours or sell a few pints which they have surplus to their own needs.

There are 36 wholesalers.

Visits to the number of 287 were paid to these premises. In the early part of the year in several cases some of the cows were not clean, and some of the milking stools had the same fault. But later visits showed these matters had been rectified and on the whole conditions could be considered satisfactory.

The expression "satisfactory" must still be qualified, however, by reference to the manure question. The manner of keeping the fold yard and its close proximity to the cowshed very often oppose the principles of hygiene in relation to milk production. At times accumulations become abnormal on account of the difficulties of removing the manure, for weather and other reasons, and at such times the conditions are apt to be disgusting.

Two further licenses for the production of "Accredited Milk" were granted to dairymen in the District during the year, but one of the producers failed to keep up the standard of the milk as to bacterial content and the licence was withdrawn. This left the number of licenses in force as two.

In the two cases mentioned, structural alterations had been carried out to meet the requirements for obtaining the licenses.

A number of other premises have also been improved by the laying on of water from the mains which have now become available.

Two tours of Veterinary Inspection were carried out by a Veterinary Officer of the County Council, during which 19 samples of milk and 4 samples of expectorate, were taken for examination. In 5 samples of milk and 3 of expectorate, tubercle bacilli were found and the cows responsible were slaughtered. Six other cows were reported by their owners and found to be suffering from tuberculosis and were also slaughtered, making a total of 14. The total number of cows inspected was 1801.

Tables giving required information are appended and I shall be pleased to augment these in any way which you may desire.

GORDON LEDWITH,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1937.		Males.	Females.	
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			
2	Measles	...		
3	Scarlet Fever	1		
4	Whooping Cough	...		
5	Diphtheria	1	1	
6	Influenza	4	4	
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...		
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	1	
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	6	
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	
11	Syphilis	1		
12	General Paralysis of the Insane Tabes dorsalis	1	1	
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	11	18	
14	Diabetes	2	3	
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	4	5	
16	Heart Disease	39	36	
17	Aneurysm	...		
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	2	4	
19	Bronchitis	3	3	
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	10	10	
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...		
22	Peptic Ulcer	4		
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...		
24	Appendicitis	1		
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...		
26	Other Diseases of Liver etc.	1		
27	Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	1	
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...		
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	1	
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, Malformations, etc.	11	4	
32	Senility	7	6	
33	Suicide	2	1	
34	Other Violence	8	2	
35	Other Defined Diseases	8	7	
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year				
		Total ...	16	8
		Legitimate	15	8
		Illegitimate	1	
Live Births				
		Total ...	194	194
		Legitimate	186	186
		Illegitimate	8	8
Stillbirths				
		Total ...	8	6
		Legitimate	8	6
		Illegitimate	0	0
Population for calculating vital statistics		...		22,910.
Population Midyear estimate for area as constituted after alteration		22,120.

Table S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates. Analysis of Mortality, } England and Wales; London, 125
 Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain } Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.
 Infectious Diseases in the year 1937 ...

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly returns).

	England and Wales.	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	Pontefract Rural District.
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
BIRTHS—					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	16.93
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.61
DEATHS—					
All Causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3	10.91
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04
Whooping cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.00
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.08
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.35
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.56
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Scarlet fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	3.90
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	1.96
Enteric fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.21
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	1.04
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	5.8	6.2	5.5	6.0	61.85
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0	0.00
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal sepsis	0.97	} Not	available		0.00
Others	2.26				2.57
Total	3.23				2.57
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).					
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal sepsis	0.94	} Not	available		00.0
Others	2.17				2.48
Total	3.11				2.48
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal fever } Puerperal pyrexia }	13.93	17.59	11.52	{ 4.15 14.34	7.46

Statement of notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1936.

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.	Smallpox		
	Scarlet Fever	89	
	Diphtheria including Mem. Croup	46	
	ENTERIC FEVER	Typhoid	
		Paratyphoid	
	Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	24	
	Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	3	
	Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
	Acute Poliomyelitis		
	Acute Polio-Encephalitis		
	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica		
	Typhus Fever		
	Relapsing Fever		
	Continued Fever		
	Dysentery		
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	
	Erysipelas	5	
	Respiratory Tuberculosis <small>(new cases only)</small>	22	
	Other forms of Tuberculosis <small>(new cases only)</small>	7	
	MALARIA	Contracted in this Country	
		Contracted Abroad	
		Induced in Institutions	
	Chickenpox		
Measles, excluding German measles			
Whooping Cough			
Other Diseases			
CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL	Smallpox		
	Scarlet Fever	84	
	Diphtheria	45	
	Enteric Fever		
	Other Diseases	0	

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Table D.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	2113
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	4933
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	252
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	374
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses needing further action ...	121
	(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	10
	(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	111

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their Officers ... 97

Excluding defects under "Nuisances" and including 42 dealt with under "Housing."

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	9
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ...	10
	(a) By owners ...	10
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	22
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	38
	(a) By owners ...	18
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	20

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	2
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	2
(3) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	4

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, relating to underground rooms :— None.

4. Unhealthy Areas.

Have any areas been declared Clearance Areas during the year 1937? No formal declarations were made, but a further 15 houses at Brotherton have been earmarked for Clearance at the appropriate time.

5. Number of new Houses erected during 1937.

(a) By the Local Authority	...	31
(b) By private enterprise	...	103
(c) By other Local Authority	...	130
	TOTAL	<u>264</u>

6. Housing Conditions.

Total number of houses in the District, 5,744.

Number of working-class houses included in the above, 5,119.

General observations. The shortage of houses in the industrial area is being obviated at an appreciable rate by the council's undertaking and private enterprise. General provision of houses at Brotherton is a matter of urgency while a small number of houses in various parts of the rural area is still required. The elimination of unsatisfactory houses can only proceed tardily pending suitable arrangements for rehousing. Overcrowding as Statutorily defined is being much reduced at Glass Houghton but some of the rural areas are still awaiting re-housing arrangements.

Special activity in house building at Glass Houghton and Ferry Fryston. Groups of houses in various parishes but no special activity. The Council have completed 31 at Cutsyke (Glass

Houghton) as part of a scheme of 67 for the relief of overcrowding and housing of aged persons.

Any housing scheme projected by Local Authority? A scheme is being formulated for about 60 houses at Brotherton. Sites have been or are being obtained in other parishes.

7. Town Planning.

The Council have agreed to join the proposed Pontefract and District Town Planning Committee, but this is not yet functioning.

8. Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations.

Gordon Ledwith, Tanshelf House, Pontefract.

9. Has any action been taken to improve the housing conditions of tuberculous families in your district, either by building new or special house or granting special facilities? No.

10. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	145
Number of families dwelling therein	149
Number of persons dwelling therein	1025
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year (6 of which already abated)	18
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	59
Number of persons concerned in such cases	428

No cases of re-overcrowding after the Council had taken steps to abate cases of overcrowding occurred.

TABLE C. Year 1937.

Pontefract Rural Sanitary District.

Nuisance Inspections.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1937, for Nuisances only	...1710	
Nuisances found in 1937	...1697	Total needing abatement 1724
Nuisances in hand, end of 1936	27	Abated during 1937 ...1712
		Oustanding end of 1937... 12
Notices served, Informal...	1697	Complied with...1712
" " Statutory...	nil.	" " ... nil.
No Summonses or other legal proceedings taken.		

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of inspec- tions made	General conditions
Common Lodging Houses	nil	nil	nil	
Canal Boats	"	"	10	Satisfactory, no legal proceedings taken.
Knackers' Yards	"	"	nil	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	38	"	60	Most have become per- manent dwellings and are unsatisfactory as such.
Offensive Trades	nil	"	nil	

No other process declared by the Council to be offensive trades.

Drainage and Sewerage.

New Sewer constructed in Park Road, Glass Houghton, to pumping station in Carr Lane, Glass Houghton. New Sewer to serve development north of Churchfields Lane, Glass Houghton, connected to Castleford sewer.

Newly developed part of Byram-cum-Sutton requires sewerage.

Portion of sewer in Leeds Road, Glass Houghton, needs enlarging.

Sewage Disposal Works.

No extensions made during 1937.

Any inadequacy of Sewerage disposal Works? Brotherton works at limit of capacity. The question of new works is being dealt with.

No complaint received from West Riding Rivers Board.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Privies with open middens—Very few.

„ Pail or Tub Closets—235.

„ Privies with Covered middens—1106.

„ Water Closets—3969; Waste-water Closets—8.

„ Privies re-constructed during 1937—as w.c.'s 80, other 2.

„ *additional* Closets provided for old property—w.c.s' 13, other, none.

„ Closets constructed for new houses—w.c.s' 280, other 1.

Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of privies and pails to W.C. System—Systematic conversion to a programme for which a loan obtained at Glass Houghton.

Scavenging.

Public scavenging is not in operation throughout the whole district.

It is in operation at Glass Houghton, Fairburn, Ferry Fryston, part of Eggborough, Brotherton, Burton Salmon and Darrington.

Refuse disposal—Destruction: None. 95% disposed of by Tipping, which is partly on the controlled system. 5% to Farmers.

Water Supply.

Source of Supply and by whom distributed.

The parishes of Glass Houghton, Ferry Fryston, Brotherton, Kellington, Eggborough, Beal, Whitley, Womersley, Cridling Stubbs, East Hardwick and part of Byram-cum-Sutton are supplied from the Pontefract Corporation Works, the water being distributed by the Rural District Council.

The majority of the houses at Eggborough are supplied from the Council's mains, though there are a few houses supplied by a private piped scheme which is satisfactory, and a few houses supplied by private wells.

A small group of houses in Ferry Fryston parish is also supplied by a private piped scheme.

The parish of Fairburn is supplied by water derived from a spring, pumped to a storage reservoir and distributed by the Council.

The bulk of the houses in Monk Fryston were supplied from a private estate works recently taken over by the Council, but at the end of the year a scheme of supply from the Pontefract Corporation works by the Rural District Council was approaching completion. This scheme also includes Burton Salmon and Hillam Parishes which until then were entirely dependent on local wells.

The parish of Darrington is chiefly supplied by a private estate water works, water being pumped from a spring to a reservoir and thence distributed, the supply being satisfactory. The Wentbridge portion of the parish is supplied via the Hemsworth Rural District, from the Pontefract Corporation Works.

With few exceptions the remainder of the houses, about 9%, are supplied by private wells.

Any extension of supply during the year ?

A scheme to supply East Hardwick by a connection from the Hemsworth Rural District Council's mains extended through the village, and a scheme to supply Cridling Stubbs by an extension of the main from Womersley were both completed during the year.

A scheme to supply Burton Salmon, Hillam and Monk Fryston by an extension of the main from Brotherton was approaching completion at the end of the year as already mentioned.

In all these cases the source of supply is the Pontefract Corporation Water Works.

Extensions to serve building developments were also carried out at Glass Houghton and Byram-cum-Sutton.

Has the supply been satisfactory ?

(a) In quality. The piped supplies are good though in some cases hard.

(b) In quantity. Yes.

Any examinations made during the year ?

(a) Chemical. Two from taps at Glass Houghton, Pontefract Corporation Works—Satisfactory.

One from private estate works—Satisfactory.

Thirteen from wells—Ten unsatisfactory or doubtful. These are mostly being dealt with by taking supplies from newly available mains

(b) Bacteriological. Four from wells following doubtful results mentioned under (a) Chemical.

There have been no supplies restricted or closed, apart from wells going out of use on account of mains water being taken.

Milk Supply.

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922? (a) For Retailers—Yes. (b) For Cowkeepers or Wholesale Traders—Yes.

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—No.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER 1936.

1. No. of Licenses in force in area for production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk—Nil. "Accredited" Milk—2. Pasteurised Milk—Nil.

2. Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically and found satisfactory—10. Unsatisfactory—10. Total samples examined—20.

Any special examination of milk for dirt?—No.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1937?—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district—102. No. registered—102.

Total No. of cowsheds—125. Total No. of milk cows—930.

Total No. of cowsheds inspected during the year—125.

Total No. of cowshed inspections—373.

No. of wholesale traders registered—36.

No. of retail milk sellers registered—69.

Any other observations?—See Inspector's Report.

Meat Inspection.

No public abattoir in the District.

There are 8 private slaughterhouses, all licensed.—Satisfactory.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected at Slaughterhouses...	412	8	252	437
Occasional Slaughter elsewhere ...	3	—	2	32
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	—	1	—
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	—
Percentage of the number of inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	0.96%	—	0.39%	—
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	—	—	13
Percentage of the number of inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.17%	—	—	3.19%

Other Foods.

No. of Samples (other than milk) taken by officers of L.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1928, Nil.

No. of Bakehouses in district, 1. None underground. Total inspections, 4.

Schools.

No. of Schools in the district, 16. No. visited by M.O.H., 6 (8 visits).

Action taken: Sanitary alterations. Arranged for disinfection after infectious diseases. 1 school was closed.

Factories and Workshops.

No. of smoke observations (of 30 minutes) taken, 4. Black smoke excessive in 1 case. No. of cautions issued, 1.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3).

No. of visits paid during 1937, 11. Unsatisfactory, 1. Remedied, 1.

Van Dwellings.

No. in District, 38. Very little increase in this type of dwelling.

No bye-laws made by Council under Section 268 (4), Public Health Act, 1936.

No action under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936.

Has any trouble been experienced in controlling this type of dwelling?

Tendency to improvise dwellings which comply with no particular standard, and when established, are difficult to deal with; sometimes difficulty in determining whether they are buildings to which Bye-laws apply.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Council Houses found to be infested, 20. Disinfested, 20.

Other houses found to be infested, 8. Disinfested, 8.

The methods employed for freeing infested houses of bed bugs are spraying with insecticide, and/or fumigation (not H.C.N.)

Where considered necessary the belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses, are put into a specially constructed chamber and subjected to sulphur gas generated by a hand machine.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.

Adoptive Acts.

Parts or Sections in force. Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1890, Sections 28, 48 & 49. Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1907, Sections 19, 20, 30 & 32. Public Health Act, 1925, Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 26, 29, 33 & 34.

Bye-laws in force in the District.

New Buildings, 27th April, 1907. Slaughterhouses, 7th April, 1912.

Tents, Vans & Sheds, 4th Nov., 1911. Smoke Abatement, 15th June, 1929

Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever specially prevalent during January, May & October.

No diseases specially added to notifiable list.

No influences threatening the health of the district.

Isolation Hospitals.

GENERAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

Address of Hospital, Joint Isolation Hospital, Baghill, Pontefract.

No change or extensions in 1937.

Any disease in addition to scarlet fever, enteric fever or diphtheria (*e.g.* pneumonia) treated in infectious diseases Hospital. Not this year.

Name of Authority controlling: Pontefract Joint Hospital Board.

SMALLPOX.

Address of Hospital, Sherburn-in-Elmet.

No change or extension in 1937.

Name of Authority controlling: Tadcaster etc., Joint Smallpox Hospital Committee.

Hospitals and other Institutions.

General and Accident, General Infirmary, Pontefract.

Children's do. do.

Maternity Homes...Facilities available at Castleford and Wakefield by arrangements with County Council.

Ambulance Services.**FOR GENERAL SICK AND ACCIDENT CASES.**

Pontefract and District Motor Ambulance Committee. Council contribute £100 per annum. Committee make a charge according to the circumstances of patients. Also private Ambulances owned by Collieries.

FOR GENERAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES.

Pontefract Joint Hospital Board's Motor Ambulance, at Baghill Hospital with arrangements for nurse to accompany patient.

FOR SMALLPOX.

Smallpox Hospital Sherburn, Tadcaster etc., Joint Smallpox Hospital Committee, Motor Ambulance with arrangements for nurse to accompany patient. No charge to patient in last two instances.

Mortuaries. What accommodation—

For accidents and post mortem examinations, at Glass Houghton and Brotherton Mortuaries.

For Infectious and other cases—None.

Burning Spoil Banks.

Any nuisances therefrom—One burning at Glass Houghton, away from houses: no complaints made.

Sanitary Staff.

Present Annual Salary of M.O.H.—£120.

Sanitary Inspector—Gordon Ledwith. Annual Salary £400.

Other appointments held—Officer under Housing Acts, Meat Regulations, Canal Boats, etc. Salary for such other appointments—Inclusive.

Assistants—A Draughtsman-Clerk, and a Cleansing Officer to superintend the work of Scavenging Contractors.

M.O.H. receives copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health.

NUISANCES.

The nuisances dealt with during the year were in respect of the following matters:—

Sewers	...	...	...	35
Drains	...	...	...	193
Water closets	...	...	...	152
Sinks	...	...	...	222
Baths	...	...	...	29
Spouting	...	...	...	283
Roofs	...	...	...	318
Chimneys	...	...	...	74
Dampness	...	...	...	117
Set pots	...	...	...	138
Ranges	...	...	...	86
Floors	...	...	...	17
Privies	...	...	...	11
Gas leakages	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	16
				1697

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Writ'n Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	6		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	6		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	5		
Total	17	Nil.	Nil.

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Sanitary accommodation, unsuitable or defective:—Found, 1.

(Signed) J. KEHELLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Canal Boats.

REPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

The number of boats inspected during the year, was ten.

With the exception of the registration marks being temporarily missing from the boat in one case on account of painting operations, all were satisfactory.

Notice was sent to the owner calling attention to the contravention.

The numbers which the boats were registered to house varied from 2 adults and 2 children to 4 adults in the aft cabins, and from 2 to 4 adults in the fore cabins.

In one case 2 adults and one child and in another case one adult and one child occupied the aft cabin. In the other eight cases one adult occupied the aft cabin.

In only three cases was the fore cabin occupied, and in each such case the cabin was occupied by one adult.

There are no boats registered with this Council and no application for registration has been received by the Council.

Gordon Ledwith.

4th Jan., 1938.

Canal Boats Inspector.



