

[Report 1923] / Medical Officer of Health, South Shields County Borough.

Contributors

South Shields (Durham, England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1923

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1923.**

—♦—
WILLIAM NICOLL,

M.A., D.SC., M.D., D.P.H.



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WILLIAM NICOLL,
M.A., D.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Health Committee—ALDERMAN W. L. ROBERTSON, J.P.

Hospital and Sanatorium Sub-Committee—ALDERMAN W. L. ROBERTSON, J.P.

Veneral Diseases Sub-Committee—COUNCILLOR SUTCLIFFE, L.D.S., J.P.

Slaughterhouses Sub-Committee—ALDERMAN RICHARDSON, M.B.E., J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee—

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DRUERY, J.P.

Education Committee—ALDERMAN RICHARDSON, M.B.E., J.P.

Medical Inspection of School Children Sub-Committee—COUNCILLOR EVANS.

Housing and Town Planning Committee—ALDERMAN DUNLOP.

Town Improvement Committee—ALDERMAN GIBBON, M.B., M.R.C.S., J.P.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Post or Appointment.	Name.	Qualifications.
* Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Principal School Medical Officer, Bacteriologist, etc.	William Nicoll	M.A., D.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.
Clinical Medical Officer, Venereal Diseases	J. G. Walker	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Tuberculosis Officer, and Resi- dent Medical Officer, Cleaddon Park Sanatorium	E. T. D. Gaspey	M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Assistant School Medical Officer	Bryce R. Nisbet	M.B., Ch.B.
Assistant Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme & School Medical Service	Susan M. S. Jamieson	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Operating Surgeon, School Sur- gical Clinic	R. Crosby †	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.
Consultant Ophthalmologist ..	T. Gowans †	M.B., Ch.B.
School Dental Officers	P. W. Diack †	L.D.S.
	G. G. Robertson † . .	L.D.S.
Borough Analyst	J. T. Dunn †	D.Sc., F.I.C.
Superintendent of Public Abattoir, and Inspector under the Food & Drugs Acts, etc.	M. J. Pollock . . . . .	.....

Staff of Public Health Department.—Continued.

Post or Appointment.	Name.	Qualifications.	
District Sanitary and Housing Inspectors, etc.	W. Clark	Certificate R.S.I.	
	R. W. Weir	Do.	
	R. Ayre	Do.	
	W. Hill.....	Do.	
Inspector under the Shops Acts	W. Smith.....	Do.	
Inspector of Midwives.	Mrs. M. W. Arthur ..	Hospital Trained and C.M.B. Certificate.	
Health Visitors, etc.	Miss P. M. Winter ..	Hospital Trained.	
	Miss A. Smyth.....	Hospital Trained and C.M.B. Certificate	
	Mrs. T. Tubb	Do. do.	
	Miss A. Rothwell ..	Do. do.	
	Miss J. Pottinger ..	Hospital Trained and R.S.I. Certificate (H.V.)	
	Miss E. J. Smith....	Hospital Trained and C.M.B. Certificate.	
	Miss M. Munro	Do. do.	
Chief Clerk.....	J. Yeoman	Certificate R.S.I.	
Clerks	C. Hymers .....	....
	J. Hilton .....	....
	G. A. Campbell ....	....
	F. H. Day.....	....
	H. Eardley .....	....
	Miss M. Shorey ....	....
	Miss G. C. Cooper ..	....
	Miss E. Park .....	....
	Laborant	W. Combey
	Matron, Deans Isolation Hospital	Miss H. Powell Evans	General and Fever Trained.
Sister-in-Charge, Cleadon Park Sanatorium	Miss L. Allison	Hospital Trained.	
V.D. Clinic Nurse	Miss H. H. Coats ..	Hospital Trained and C.M.B. Certificate.	
Tuberculosis Clinic Nurse	Mrs. N. F. Cordner ..	Do. do.	

* Also Medical Officer to North East Durham Joint Smallpox Hospital Board.

‡ Part-time Officials, also in private practice.

Contribution is made by Exchequer Grants, &c., towards the salaries of the above-mentioned members of the staff excepting the Public Analyst, the Shops Inspector, and the Matron of the Isolation Hospital.

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SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough (including inland water but excluding foreshore and tidal water) ..		3,183 acres.
Population at 1921 census		118,599
Population, mid-year 1923 (Registrar General's estimate)		124,500
Density of population per acre		39
No. of insured persons, 1st January, 1924 (*Decrease due to unemployment).		43,530*
	Census 1921, (Old Borough).	Estimate 1923, (Extended Borough).
No. of buildings containing dwellings.....	14,005	14,900
No. of dwellings occupied by private families	24,355	25,300
No. of private families therein	26,054	27,000
Rateable value for Poor Rate at April, 1923		£519,085
Sum represented by a penny rate (Estimate for year 1923-24)		£1,905
Births during 1923	3,144	Birth-rate .. 25.3
Deaths during 1923.....	1,714	Death-rate .. 13.8
Infant mortality rate	94	
Tuberculosis death-rate : Pulmonary	1.40	
Non-Pulmonary.....	0.43	

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

As the greater part of the work embodied in this report was done under the supervision of my predecessor, Dr. Lyons, I have adhered as far as possible to the form of his previous reports. This, however, has necessarily been modified in accordance with the current recommendations of the Ministry of Health. It has also further been curtailed by the exigencies connected with the alterations in staff during the year. These alterations have been so numerous and so frequent that the work accomplished during the year cannot be regarded as attaining the normal standard. All divisions of the service have been affected but that most seriously inconvenienced was the School Medical Service.

Throughout the country there has been a continued fall in the birth-rate. The rate for England and Wales was 19.7 per thousand, as compared with 20.6 per thousand in the previous year. The birth-rate in South Shields is still considerably above the average, the figure for the year being 25.3 per thousand.

The death-rate for South Shields has remained at the same figure (13.8 per thousand) as in the previous year, which was the lowest on record. This is not so satisfactory as might appear, in view of the fact that the death-rate throughout the country has shown a very considerable decrease from 12.9 in 1922 to 11.6 per thousand in 1923.

Somewhat similar comment may be made with regard to infant mortality. The rate for South Shields was 94 per thousand births, which is the same rate as was recorded in the previous year. The rate for the whole country has reached the remarkably low figure of 69 per thousand births, and it is evident, therefore, that South Shields is still very far behind the times in the matter of coping with infantile mortality.

It is more than probable that the interruption of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services during the course of the year may have had the result of retarding normal progress in this department. In view of the persistently declining birth-rate it is obvious that every effort must be made to promote the health and efficiency of the children born into the community.

I regret that I have to record a further slight increase in the number of deaths from tuberculosis, the number being 228 as

compared with 206 in the previous year. This is one of the most disturbing features in the health of the community, and it is probably largely connected with the undesirable housing conditions which continue to prevail within the Borough. It is unfortunately not sufficiently realised that the provision of hospitals and sanatoria will do little to eradicate this disease if at the same time the most thorough attention is not paid to the general domestic and sanitary conditions under which the population is living. Any burden thrown on the ratepayers through housing and town improvement schemes will be amply repaid in the future by better health and by proportionately reduced charges for hospital and sanatorium accommodation.

The figures available appear to show a reduction of 150 in the total number of tuberculous subjects within the Borough during the year. At first sight this might seem matter for congratulation, but personally I feel constrained to reserve judgment in this respect.

Special reference may well be made to the work of the Venereal Diseases Clinic. The difficulties associated with this class of Public Health work are well known.

The important matter of privy conversions has been effectively tackled by the Corporation with the result that considerable progress has been made especially in Deans and Rekendyke Wards. This has involved an increased amount of work on the part of the Sanitary Inspectors.

It affords me great pleasure to place on record the satisfactory work of all members of the Public Health Staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM NICOLL,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(A) POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates the population of the Borough at June 30th, 1923, as 124,500.

This estimate is based on the "adjusted" population for 1921, after allowance for the rate of natural increase as evidenced by the excess of births over deaths and of migration as indicated from other sources of information such as the changes in the numbers on the Parliamentary Register of Electors, and the migration returns obtained from the Board of Trade.

The estimate of population is for the Borough as extended in November, 1921.

(B) BIRTHS.

Birth-rate.

The number of births registered in the Borough during the year 1923 was 3,152. From this number has been deducted 29 births which occurred in Harton Institution and other addresses in the town of children whose mothers were non-residents of the Borough. On the other hand there have been added 21 births among residents of the Borough who were temporarily away from the town. The net number of births was thus 3,144, corresponding to a birth-rate of 25.3 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 26.6 per thousand in the previous year.

This birth-rate is the second lowest in the last fifty years, and is 10.8 per thousand below the average for that period.

The annual rates since 1871 are shown in the table on page 25.

The number of births reported to the Health Department under the Notification of Births Acts, etc., is referred to on page 50.

Distribution (Sexes : Legitimacy).

The distribution of the births with regard to sex and legitimacy is shown in the following table :—

Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	1,558	1,456	3,014
Illegitimate	64	66	130
Total	1,622	1,522	3,144

The proportion of male to female births was 1,066 to 1,000.

The percentage of illegitimate births was 4.1, as compared with 4.0 in 1922, 4.4 per cent in 1921, 4.5 per cent. in 1920, and 5.0 per cent. in 1919. The average percentage for the five years 1910 to 1914 was 3.7.

The total number of births in each of the wards of the town is given in the table on page 58.

Comparison of Birth-rate with rates for Country generally.

	Per 1,000 population.
England and Wales.....	19.7
105 Great Towns, including London	20.4
157 Smaller Towns	19.8
London	20.2
South Shields	25.3

The birth-rate throughout the country has been continuously declining during the past fifty years. South Shields, however, still shows a comparatively high rate as compared with the rest of the country, and also as compared with other large towns.

(C) DEATHS.

Death-rate.

1,714 deaths occurred during the year, the death-rate being 13.8 per 1,000 of the population.

The rate for England and Wales was 11.6 ; for the 105 Great Towns, 11.6 ; for the 157 Smaller Towns, 10.6 ; and for London, 11.2.

The South Shields death-rates since 1871 are given in the table on page 25.

The death-rate is practically the same as during last year. This compares unfavourably with the general decline of 1.4 per thousand in the other great towns. This fact is to some extent accounted for by the still excessive infantile mortality which occurred in South Shields during 1923 ; 94 as compared with 72 per thousand in other towns. It may be noted, however, that this comparatively high rate is shared with certain other towns in the vicinity.

Causes of Death.

Among the chief causes of death—

Tuberculosis caused 228 deaths or about 13 per cent. of the total deaths in the Borough.

Bronchitis (128) and pneumonia (131) together caused about 15 per cent. of the total deaths.

Cancer caused 126 deaths as compared with 119 in 1922.

Heart disease caused 146, infantile debility, etc., 113, whooping cough 57, measles, 83.

There were 56 deaths from accidents, injuries and violence, 31 from diarrhoeal diseases and 34 from nephritis.

Age at Death

Of the total deaths, 297 (*i.e.*, 17 per cent.) were of infants under one year old; 225 (13 per cent.) were of children between the ages of 1 and 5 years; 104 (6 per cent.) were aged 5 to 15 years; 98 (6 per cent.) were from 15 to 25 years; 111 (7 per cent.) were aged 25 to 35 years; 112 (7 per cent.) were aged 35 to 45 years; 240 (14 per cent.) were aged 45 to 60 years; and 527 (31 per cent.) were over 60 years of age.

These figures correspond very closely with the respective figures for the previous year. Rather less than one-third of the total deaths were of children under 5 years, and the same proportion in people over 60 years of age.

The infant mortality rate (*i.e.*, the rate of deaths of children under one year old) is referred to in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the report (page 50). The rate for 1923 was 94 per 1,000 births.

Sex-Distribution of Deaths.

Of the total deaths, 917 were males and 797 were females, a proportion of 1,151 males to 1,000 females. This proportion is practically the same as in the previous year.

Seasonal Death-rate.

The following gives the deaths and death-rates for each quarter of the years 1922 and 1923.

	No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
First Quarter	*601	‡500	19.6	16.1
Second Quarter . . .	365	444	11.9	14.3
Third Quarter	328	357	10.7	11.5
Fourth Quarter . . .	391	413	12.8	13.3

* 229 of these deaths were due to influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis.

‡ 108 " " " " " "

Transferable Deaths.

58 deaths occurred outside the Borough among persons whose fixed or usual residence was in the town. These 58 are included in the total number of deaths (1,714) stated above, on which the death-rate of the town is based.

On the other hand, 110 deaths occurred within the Borough—principally in the Harton Hospital (98)—among persons belonging to other districts. These have been transferred to the districts concerned, and are not included in the total deaths for South Shields.

Deaths in Public Institutions.

The number of deaths of South Shields residents which occurred in public institutions during the year is as follows :—

In the South Shields Union Poor Law Institution.....	203
In the Ingham Infirmary, South Shields.....	60
In the Deans Hospital, South Shields.....	11
In Cleadon Park Sanatorium, South Shields	1
In institutions outside the Borough.....	39

This makes a total of 314, which is 18 per cent. of all the deaths during the year. In the years 1920, 1921, and 1922, the percentage was 17, 18, and 20 respectively.

Coroner's Inquests.

Coroner's inquests were held regarding 75 deaths—that is in 4.4 per cent. of the total deaths during the year.

55 of these deaths were due to various forms of violence, accidents, etc., (See table 1, page 21).

Uncertified Deaths.

72 deaths (4.2 per cent of the total deaths) were not certified by medical practitioners or by the Coroner. Of this number 15 were infants under one year old ; and 4 were children aged one to five years.

The following statement shows the high percentage of such deaths in South Shields as compared with the country generally :—

England and Wales.....	1.1 per cent.
105 Great Towns	0.6 „
157 Smaller Towns	1.3 „
London	0.1 „

Deaths from Principal Epidemic Diseases.

The seven "principal epidemic diseases" caused 183 deaths, as follows :—

Measles	83
Whooping cough	57
Diarrhoea and enteritis (under two years)	28
Diphtheria	10
Scarlet fever.....	5
"Fever" (enteric, typhus, and simple continued fever)	0
Smallpox	0

This corresponds to a death-rate from these diseases of 1.47 per 1,000 of the population. This figure is nearly three times as great as that of the equivalent figure for the previous year, a circumstance almost entirely due to the very serious epidemics of measles and whooping cough which occurred throughout the first six months of the year.

Comparison of South Shields Death-Rates with those of the Country generally.

The following table shows the annual death-rates in England and Wales for 1923 :—

	Death-rate per 1,000 Population							Deaths per 1,000 Births.	
	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Infant Mortality Rate.
England and Wales	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.07	7.7	69
105 Great Towns, including London	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.12	0.09	9.9	72
157 Smaller Towns	10.6	0.01	..	0.19	0.02	0.10	0.06	6.4	69
London	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.13	10.2	60
South Shields	13.8	..	..	0.67	0.04	0.46	0.08	8.9	94

TABLE 1.—CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.	All Ages.	AGES AT DEATH.												55 to 60 upwards			
				0-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-12 Months.	Total under 1 year.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Total under 5 years.	5.	10-15.	20-25.		35-45.	55-65.	75-85 and upwards
143. Carbuncle, boil.....	1	1	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
144. A. Phlegmon .....	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
145. C. Pemphigus .....	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX.—DISEASES OF THE BONES AND OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION.																			
146. Diseases of the bones	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
X.—MALFORMATION.																			
150. A. Congenital hydrocephalus.....	2	1	3	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
C. Congenital malformation of heart	2	3	5	1	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
D. Other congenital malformations	1	1	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XI.—DISEASES OF EARLY INFANCY.																			
151. A. Premature birth.....	37	35	72	71	1	..	72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B. Infantile atrophy, debility, and marasmus	15	14	29	27	2	..	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
C. Icterus neonatorum	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
E. Want of breast milk.....	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
152. A. Diseases of umbilicus, etc.....	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B. Atelectasis	2	2	4	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
C. Injuries at birth	2	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XII.—OLD AGE.																			
154. A. Senile dementia	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
B. Senile decay	49	55	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	29	60	10	..

TABLE 2.—DEATHS DURING 1923: SEASONAL AND WARD DISTRIBUTION.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	YEAR, 1923.					WARDS.															
	Total.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Shields.	Beacon.	St. Hilda.	Hadrian.	Holborn.	Laygate.	Victoria.	Bents.	Rekendyke.	Westoe.	Deans.	Tyne Dock.	Simonside.	West Park.	Harton.	Unknown.*
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	1642 72	477 23	422 22	350 7	393 20	125 8	113 3	100 2	104 7	122 6	148 4	122 5	110 3	132 9	82 4	148 8	122 6	88 4	90 2	28 1	8
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	83	...	60	23	...	3	4	9	4	8	12	3	...	9	2	11	8	8	2	...	...
Scarlet fever	5	...	1	2	2	6	1	1	5	7	1	4	...	5	1	1	7	1	1	...	...
Whooping cough	57	...	43	12	1	6	4	1	5	7	8	4	...	5	1	8	7	1	2	...	...
Diphtheria and croup	10	...	3	3	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	3	2	...	...
Influenza	19	...	7	7	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	2	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	174	...	56	41	31	14	15	10	5	23	19	11	8	17	3	17	11	7	11	3	...
Tuberculous meningitis	15	...	4	4	3	1	...	1	1	1	3	2	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	1	...
Other tuberculous diseases	39	...	10	9	14	2	1	5	1	2	6	5	1	1	2	4	3	4	2	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	126	...	36	32	35	13	6	9	12	6	9	14	9	7	9	10	7	5	10	...	...
Rheumatic fever	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	12	...	1	2	3	...	...	2	3	...	...	1	...	3	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
Organic heart disease	134	...	36	32	23	11	12	4	15	2	9	12	17	7	7	10	8	10	8	1	1
Bronchitis	128	...	58	29	11	16	7	9	8	13	11	6	10	11	14	14	4	2	6	5	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	151	...	43	37	25	16	9	14	6	10	11	8	6	9	5	14	13	8	2	1	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	15	...	6	5	2	...	1	1	3	...	3	2	2	3	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and enteritis	31	...	5	4	12	10	6	2	1	4	...	3	1	3	1	5	4	1	...	...	...
Appendicitis and typhlitis	11	...	5	1	3	2	1	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver	6	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's disease	34	...	6	11	3	3	...	1	1	1	3	2	5	3	5	3	1	2	3	1	...
Puerperal fever	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	8	...	2	2	4	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital debility and malformation, including premature birth	113	...	31	23	29	10	5	6	5	9	12	8	5	7	6	16	8	3	5	8	...
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	49	...	16	11	14	8	6	2	3	4	2	4	4	5	1	4	2	4	2	1	...
Suicide	7	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
Other defined diseases	481	...	123	108	142	32	37	22	33	30	37	35	39	41	31	32	41	27	31	6	7
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	21	...	5	6	3	...	...	1	2	4	1	1	...	2	1	3	3	...	2	1	...
Total	1714	500	444	357	413	133	116	102	111	128	152	127	113	141	86	156	128	92	92	29	8

* Deaths in Union Hospital of persons with no fixed abode.

TABLE 3.—DEATHS DURING 1923 IN INSTITUTIONS ; UNCERTIFIED DEATHS, etc.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in Institutions in the Borough.		Deaths of S.S. residents outside the Borough.*	Deaths Certified by Coroner.		Uncertified Deaths.		Transferable Deaths.	
	Residents	Non-Residents		Residents	Non-Residents	Residents	Non-Residents	Inward.	Outward.
Enteric fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet fever	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping cough .....	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria and croup	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	31	8	5	1	2	...	...	6	8
Tuberculous meningitis	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Other tuberculous diseases	8	7	...	...	1	...	...	2	7
Cancer, malignant disease	23	9	7	...	1	...	...	8	9
Rheumatic fever .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Organic heart disease	14	13	...	...	7	...	...	1	13
Bronchitis	11	5	...	...	4	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	3	2	...	2	...	...	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory organs	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	...
Diarrhoea and enteritis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis and typhilitis	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cirrhosis of liver .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
Nephritis and Bright's disease	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Congenital debility and malformation including premature birth	6	4	1	...	...	...	...	1	5
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	13	4	5	48	8	6	...	15	8
Suicide	1	1	...	7	1	...	...	...	1
Other defined diseases	121	40	13	10	1	25	...	16	41
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .....	...	1	...	...	...	18	...	2	1
Total	275	101	39	75	10	72	...	58	110

* The Union Poor Law Hospital is now situated within the Borough.

TABLE 4.—POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS FOR 1923 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths registered in the Borough.		Transfer- able Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the Borough.			
		Uncor- rected Num- ber.	Net.		Num- ber.	Rate.	Of Non-Residents registered in the Borough.	Of Residents not registered in the Borough.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At All Ages.	
			Num- ber.	Rate.					Num- ber.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Num- ber.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1911	108,844	3,279	3,300	30.3	1,687	15.5	13	216	484	147	1,890	17.4
1912	109,678	3,322	3,352	30.6	1,550	14.1	18	220	356	106	1,752	16.0
1913	110,513	3,478	3,495	31.1	1,803	16.1	21	229	408	117	2,011	17.9
1914	110,604	3,503	3,517	31.8	1,753	15.9	15	217	482	137	1,955	17.7
1915	109,855	3,265	3,275	29.6	1,871	17.0	28	287	468	143	2,130	19.4
1916	109,332	3,091	3,093	26.0	1,649	14.9	44	257	369	119	1,862	17.0
1917	106,500	2,699	2,714	22.8	1,750	16.4	33	271	362	133	1,988	18.6
1918	105,659	2,979	3,005	25.4	2,122	20.1	41	313	359	118	2,394	22.6
1919	111,502	3,104	3,130	26.9	1,687	15.1	37	242	370	118	1,892	17.0
1920	115,945	3,922	3,966	34.2	1,738	15.0	26	288	479	121	2,000	17.2
1921	118,400	3,464	3,507	29.6	1,541	13.0	12	272	335	96	1,801	15.2
1922	122,400	3,287	3,257	26.6	1,738	14.2	109	56	307	94	1,685	13.8
1923	124,500	3,152	3,144	25.3	1,766	14.2	110	58	297	94	1,714	13.8

NOTES.—(A) The rates in Columns 5, 7, and 13 are calculated per 1,000 of the population.

(B) The populations for the years 1915 onwards are the Registrar General's estimates of the *civilian* population.

For each of the years 1916, 1917, 1918, and 1919, the Registrar-General supplied two estimates of population:—

(1) for calculating birth-rates,

(2) „ „ death-rates.

The birth-rate population for those years was respectively 118, 955; 118, 717; 118, 387; and 116, 152. The *death-rate* (or *civilian*) population is shown in the table above.

The population for 1923 is for the Borough as extended in November, 1921.

(C) "Transferable Deaths" are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided.

The large increase in the number of non-residents recorded since 1921 in column 8, and the decrease in the number of transferable deaths in column 9, is due to the Harton Poor Law Institution now being situated within the Borough.

YEAR.	Estimated Population.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.										Deaths under 1,000 births.			
				Total.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	"Rever."	X Diarrhea.	Phthisis.	Other Tuberculous Diseases.		Cancer.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Influenza.
Mean 1871-1880	50,580	43.1	25.5	6.0	.86	.42	1.44	.12	.78	.79	1.59	1.91	—	—	—	—	164
Mean 1881-1890	66,520	38.8	20.5	2.3	.01	.34	.45	.10	.44	.19	.78	1.84	—	—	—	—	140
Mean 1891-1900	87,022	36.1	20.1	2.45	.00	.44	.22	.11	.46	.28	.93	1.60	1.00	.63	2.00	1.47	166
1901	97,800	36.8	20.6	3.36	..	.68	.60	.14	.10	.22	1.60	1.63	.71	.68	1.35	1.19	169
1902*	101,801	36.9	19.8	2.66	.04	.93	.38	.06	1.02	.06	.17	1.81	.66	.65	1.36	1.54	149
1903	102,561	35.4	17.6	1.04	.01	.15	.12	.16	.03	.10	.49	1.72	.73	.71	1.70	1.37	132
1904	103,327	35.9	18.9	1.84	.07	.27	.08	.12	.62	.09	.60	1.59	.85	.65	1.69	1.42	144
1905	104,099	33.6	17.1	2.07	.04	.23	.06	.23	.61	.22	.68	1.21	.62	.68	1.56	1.31	145
1906	104,876	33.7	19.0	2.94	..	1.04	.06	.29	.37	.09	1.10	1.58	.72	.68	1.39	1.35	150
1907	105,659	31.0	18.0	1.53	..	.46	.09	.18	.51	.04	.26	1.69	.75	.73	1.43	1.33	133
1908	106,448	32.7	16.8	1.98	..	.30	.08	.22	.46	.08	.85	1.29	.67	.82	1.24	1.04	133
1909	107,244	31.6	16.6	1.50	..	.35	.18	.19	.34	.04	.41	1.21	.63	.73	1.27	1.13	138
1910	108,045	31.5	15.2	1.50	.02	.16	.06	.06	.59	.06	.56	1.25	.70	.87	1.10	1.17	111
Mean 1901-1910	104,186	33.9	17.9	2.03	.02	.45	.17	.16	.47	.10	.66	1.50	.71	.72	1.41	1.28	140
1911	108,844	30.3	17.4	2.07	..	.37	.01	.08	.21	.04	1.36	1.19	.58	.82	1.33	1.56	147
1912	109,678	30.6	16.0	1.39	..	.58	.05	.05	.46	.05	.18	1.53	.39	.71	1.50	1.25	106
1913	110,513	31.1	17.9	1.59	..	.51	.28	.07	.10	.06	.57	1.33	.66	.90	1.48	1.28	117
1914	110,604	31.8	17.7	2.23	..	.27	.22	.14	.52	.14	.95	1.31	.58	.84	1.49	1.67	137
1915†	109,855	29.6	19.4	1.84	..	.46	.17	.07	.41	.02	.70	1.67	.67	1.07	2.21	2.07	143
1916	109,332	26.0	17.0	0.83	.01	.07	.08	.11	.19	.01	.36	1.73	.68	1.01	1.81	1.50	119
1917	106,500	22.8	18.6	1.74	..	1.14	.01	.07	.12	.01	.38	1.96	.71	.96	1.83	1.81	133
1918	105,659	25.4	22.6	1.11	..	..	.02	.11	.47	..	.51	1.93	.61	.91	1.85	2.01	118
1919	111,502	26.9	17.0	1.04	..	.37	.04	.09	.01	.01	.53	1.30	.63	.86	1.53	1.56	118
1920	115,945	34.2	17.2	0.90	.01	..	.01	.11	.15	.04	.58	1.35	.41	.91	2.16	1.98	121
Mean 1911-1920	109,843	28.9	18.1	1.47	.00	.38	.09	.09	.26	.04	.61	1.53	.59	.90	1.72	1.67	126
Mean 1871-1920	83,630	36.1	20.4	2.78	.10	.41	.47	.12	.48	.28	.91	1.68	—	—	—	—	147
1921	118,400	29.6	15.2	1.37	..	.37	.03	.10	.23	.02	.62	1.44	.36	1.07	1.23	0.89	96
1922	122,400	26.6	13.8	0.51	..	..	.02	.07	.17	.01	.24	1.29	.39	.97	1.30	1.30	94
1923	124,500	25.3	13.8	1.47	..	.67	.04	.08	.46	..	.22	1.40	.43	1.01	1.03	1.05	94

* The Borough was extended, November, 1901, and again in November, 1921.

† Since 1891, Membranous Group has been included under Diphtheria.

X Diarrhea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age) since 1905.

† See note (B) to Table 4, as regards population since 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

There were no additions to or removals from the list of notifiable diseases during the year.

Prevalence.

The following table shows the number of cases of acute infectious disease notified during each of the past ten years :—

Disease.	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Smallpox .....	..	1	5	2	..	1	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox .....	..	..	210	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	1023	925	363	128	76	146	146	601	210	364
Diphtheria	72	35	41	36	26	40	34	49	61	77
Measles .....	..	..	429	3936	57	2396	..	..	..	..
German measles .....	..	..	32	199	11	14	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever	65	9	7	5	12	7	10	5	5	9
Continued fever .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .....	..	..	..	..	..	8	5	2	1	..
Malaria .....	..	..	..	..	..	36	14	5	2	2
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	..	1	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Polio-myelitis	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	1
Polio-encephalitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Encephalitis lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	7	3	3
Pneumonia : primary .....	..	..	..	..	..	64	264	185	352	336
Pneumonia : influenzal ..	..	..	..	..	..	78	60	40	81	15
Puerperal fever	4	4	5	..	..	2	4	3	2	3
Erysipelas	70	57	55	35	27	41	28	36	27	29
Ophthalmia neonatorum	19	36	52	23	26	36	50	26	25	32

The age-incidence of the cases notified in 1923, the number which occurred in each ward of the town, together with the number removed to hospital, and the deaths from each disease will be found in table 6, page 35.

Reference to notification of tuberculosis is made on page 38.

There were no cases of smallpox, continued fever, dysentery, relapsing fever, cholera, plague, cerebro-spinal fever, polio-encephalitis, trench fever or typhus fever reported during the year.

Seasonal Incidence.

The following table shows the number of cases notified in each month of the year:—

DISEASE.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Scarlet fever	11	18	17	16	37	17	30	32	39	37	51	59	364
Diphtheria	7	5	3	10	7	7	4	5	6	4	6	13	77
Enteric fever .....	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	9
Dysentery .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Polio-myelitis .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Encephalitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis lethargica	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Primary pneumonia	44	30	24	37	30	45	32	18	19	30	13	14	336
Influenzal pneumonia	4	..	3	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	15
Puerperal fever .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3
Erysipelas	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	1	6	2	..	29
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....	..	3	2	5	4	1	..	6	3	3	1	4	32
TOTAL	70	62	52	72	86	74	70	65	68	82	75	95	871

Diseases in detail.

SMALLPOX.—No cases of this disease were notified in the Borough during the year, but 25 persons who had been in contact with cases elsewhere, or who had arrived in the Borough from infected ports or ships, were kept under observation for the prescribed period.

From outside areas adjoining South Shields 26 suspected cases and one contact were admitted to the North East Durham Joint Smallpox Hospital. Of these cases only six were eventually diagnosed as smallpox and these cases were all from Southwick. In every instance the disease was of a mild and discrete type and all the patients recovered.

SCARLET FEVER.—364 cases were notified during the year. This figure shows an increase of 154 on the previous year, but is 108 below the average for the preceding 10 years. 305 (84 per cent.) of these cases were removed to the isolation hospital. Towards the end of the year, owing to lack of accommodation in the hospital, a number of cases had to be treated at home. In spite of this, however, 13 per cent. more cases were removed to hospital than in the preceding year.

There were 6 deaths from the disease ; 3 in the hospital (including a non-resident), and 3 at home. The case mortality rate was therefore 16 per 1,000 cases.

Apart from patients in institutions, 52 of the cases were secondary to previous cases in the same house, of which number 22 were notified at the same time as the primary cases. In a few instances the secondary cases occurred at such a long interval after the primary as to suggest independent infection.

There were 11 instances in which patients discharged from hospital appear to have infected other members of their family ("return" cases).

About two-thirds of the cases of scarlet fever occurred in children of school age (5-15 years).

The districts most heavily affected were Deans and Beacon wards with incidence rates of 5.3 and 3.7 per thousand population respectively. The least affected area was Tyne Dock ward, with an incidence rate of 1.7 per thousand.

PNEUMONIA.—This disease was somewhat less prevalent in 1923 than in the preceding year, the decline being chiefly in the influenzal type. 351 cases were notified of which 15 were diagnosed as influenzal (as compared with 81 in 1922). Two-thirds of the cases occurred in the first six months of the year. The total deaths from pneumonia numbered 131 (65 males and 66 females) which is a decrease of 75 on the previous year.

There were nine deaths from pneumonia which had not been notified previous to death. In such cases letters were sent to local practitioners calling attention to the notification regulations.

Arrangements were made whereby pneumonia jackets were furnished to necessitous patients. These were provided by voluntary workers, whose efforts should be recorded with gratitude.

The wards most heavily affected were Shields and St. Hilda wards. The healthiest parts of the town, so far as pneumonia was concerned, were Westoe and West Park.

The greatest incidence of pneumonia was in the first three years of life.

ENTERIC FEVER.—9 cases were notified, of whom 7 were removed to the isolation hospital. In several of these cases the diagnosis appeared to be doubtful. Eight houses were affected, and in these the sanitary conveniences were as follows:—In three cases there were water closets, in 4 cases privy receptacles, and in one case a privy midden. None of the cases were fatal. An analysis of the clinical history of these patients subsequent to notification appears to indicate that probably only four or at most five were genuine cases of enteric fever. Careful enquiry into the previous circumstances of these patients failed to disclose the sources of infection. In one instance, however, husband and wife were both affected, and there is presumption that the wife was infected from the husband (a fisherman). In another case there is ground for suspecting that the disease was contracted outside the Borough. Of the other patients two were later found to be suffering from pneumonia, one from influenza and one from jaundice.

DIPHTHERIA.—There was a further increase in the number of cases of diphtheria notified during the past year, the figures being 77 as compared with 61 in 1922, and 49 in 1921. This is the largest number of cases which has been recorded in any of the past ten years, and exceeds the number recorded last year by 16. The previous worst year was 1912, in which 72 cases occurred.

Six of the cases were secondary to cases in the same house.

There was a further improvement in the facilities for removal and isolation of diphtheria cases, 44 having been accommodated at the Deans Hospital. It is not improbable that a considerably larger proportion would have received isolation hospital treatment had it not been for the epidemic of scarlet fever at the end of the year which monopolised the whole hospital accommodation.

There were ten deaths from diphtheria during the year, a rate of .08 per thousand, which is practically the same rate as in the previous year.

The only suspicion of any epidemic was in the case of the Girls' High School, where 6 children were affected. Investigations showed that each of these children were also pupils at a private dancing class, one of the teachers of which had had diphtheria during the year. This teacher was resident in a neighbouring borough, and the facts were communicated to the Medical Officer of Health for that area.

In spite of the increased number of cases there was a slight falling off in the demand by medical practitioners for antitoxin. The amount distributed during the year was 238,000 units as compared with 272,000 in the previous year.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.—Three cases of this disease were notified, of which two were removed to the isolation hospital. Of the hospital cases (both adults) one died and the death was certified as due to "meningitis." The other recovered, and was eventually diagnosed as "pleuro-pneumonia." The home-treated case was a child of two years, who died.

There was also one death, in the person of an Arab seaman, certified as due to "anterior poliomyelitis."

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—32 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified during the year. The following table shows the condition of the eyes with regard to vision at the end of the year.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.	Left the town.
Notified.	Treated.						
	At home.	In hospital.					
32	30	2	25	2	..	3	2

The hospital cases are exclusive of 6 cases treated at out-patient departments. The three deaths were certified as due to zymotic enteritis, premature birth and congenital specific disease respectively. The two who left the town include one non-resident in the Union hospital.

19 cases were notified by doctors only (7 were called in by midwives).

7 " " midwives only.

6 " " doctors and midwives.

It is unsatisfactory to note that there has been a slight increase in the prevalence of this affection, but it fortunately has been accompanied by increased attention on the part of both medical attendants and midwives.

There was one other case of ophthalmia neonatorum which was not notified. The medical attendant explained the oversight to the Health Committee. There was no damage to the child's eye.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Three notifications were received. Two of the cases occurred in the practices of midwives: both patients died. The other case was in the Union hospital in a non-resident of the Borough. The birth occurred at Hebburn; the patient was removed to the Union hospital subsequently.

One matter to which special reference must be made is the fact that a considerable proportion of the cases of this disease are not notified, and their occurrence only becomes known to the health department on receipt of the death returns. This circumstance is not confined to South Shields. Part of the difficulty is certainly attributable to the interpretation put upon the term "puerperal fever" by medical practitioners. The occurrence of fever following abortion or miscarriage is recognised by the Ministry of Health as coming under the definition of puerperal fever.

ERYSIPELAS.—29 cases were notified. There was one death.

MALARIA.—Two cases were notified. Both patients were ex-service men who had contracted infection abroad.

Certain Non-notifiable Diseases.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This disease was prevalent in the latter part of the previous year, and continued so for the first three months of 1923. Altogether a total number of 344 cases were reported during the year by teachers, parents, and others; 290 of which occurred in the first quarter. This number is slightly less than in the previous year. Visits were paid to all these cases by the health visitors, who, in addition to giving directions and advice, urged the advisability of calling in medical assistance in such cases as were not already attended by doctors. About two-thirds of the cases were actually in receipt of medical treatment.

It was not considered advisable to close any particular schools.

There were 57 deaths, namely 28 males and 29 females, 43 of which occurred in the first quarter.

MEASLES.—This disease was much more prevalent and dangerous during the year than it had been in the previous twelve months. There was an extensive epidemic during the months of April to July, during which time over 1,500 cases were reported. The total reported for the year by school teachers and others was 1,595. All the cases were seen by the health visitors. It was not found desirable to close any schools.

The number of deaths from the disease was 83, viz., 44 males and 39 females.

INFANTILE DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS.—There were 28 deaths from this disease in children under two years of age. This is one less than in the previous year, which was the best year since 1912. It is satisfactory to note the continued decline in the incidence of this scourge of infancy.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

Accommodation.

The accommodation provided for the treatment of acute infectious diseases in the Borough still remains inadequate. As a result, during certain parts of the year it is impossible to admit cases of diphtheria or indeed to deal with any other disease than scarlet fever.

Cases treated during 1923.

The following table shows the number of cases treated at the Deans Hospital during 1923.

Notified Diseases.	Remain- ing in on Dec. 31st, 1922.	Ad- mitted during 1923.	Dis- charged.	Died.	Remain- ing in on Dec. 31st, 1923.
Scarlet fever	13	305	249	3	66
Enteric fever	1	7	7	1	..
Diphtheria	13	44	51	6	..
Encephalitis lethargica	1	2	2	1	..
Measles .....	..	2	2	..	..
Tuberculosis .....	..	5	4	1	..
Suspected enteric fever	1	1	2	..	..
" diphtheria ..	..	3	3	..	..
" cerebro-spinal fever .....	..	1	1	..	..
Diphtheria contact	1	..	1	..	..
Total	30	370	322	12	66

The average daily number of cases under treatment in hospital is shown below.

Notified Diseases.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet fever	12	14	24	23	34	40	30	34	43	51	57	74	36
Enteric fever	2	1	1	0	0	1	..	0	1	1	1	0	1
Diphtheria..	9	5	2	5	8	7	3	3	4	5	2	2	5
Other	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	3	2	1	..	1	1
Totals	25	21	28	29	42	49	35	40	50	58	60	77	43

SCARLET FEVER.—305 cases were admitted to hospital. The highest number of cases in the hospital at any one time was 80, on December 20th; the lowest number was 10, on January 25th-27th. The average length of stay in the hospital (excluding cases that died) was 49 days, as compared with 48 days during the previous year.

During the course of the year a few cases of chickenpox found admission to the hospital and gave rise to a mild epidemic of this disease. Owing to the limited accommodation in the hospital it was impossible to segregate these cases and so control the spread of the infection. This circumstance may to some extent be accountable for prolonging the period of stay in hospital in certain cases.

There were 3 deaths from scarlet fever after intervals of 9 hours, 2 days and 11 days treatment respectively.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Seven cases were admitted to hospital, in most of which the diagnosis was doubtful. One of these patients died within five days of admission to hospital. Death was certified as due to pneumonia.

DIPHTHERIA.—44 cases were admitted to hospital. The highest number of cases in hospital at any one time was 13 in January. In December no cases were admitted owing to the demand on accommodation for the treatment of scarlet fever.

There were 6 deaths in hospital from the disease. Three of these occurred within 8 hours of admission; the others occurred within intervals of 5, 6, and 10 days after admission respectively.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA, ETC.—Two cases diagnosed as suffering from this disease were admitted. One died within two days from "meningitis." The other was later re-diagnosed as "pleuro-pneumonia."

There were five other suspected cases, but all proved to be negative.

Two cases of measles and 5 of tuberculosis were admitted. Of the latter, one died.

SMALLPOX.—No cases or suspected cases from the Borough were admitted to hospital during the year.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—There are no arrangements for providing nursing assistance, voluntary or otherwise, in the Borough, except any such provision which may be made by the Poor Law Authority.

The local Nursing Division of St. John's Ambulance have a store of nursing requisites and sick room utensils which are loaned to patients at a small charge, or free in necessitous cases. The local Division have no trained nurses for domiciliary cases, but some of their ambulance sisters visit homes of patients for dressings, etc.

MIDWIVES.—No midwives as such are employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. There were 24 midwives practising in the Borough at the end of the year, apart from midwives on the indoor staff of the Poor Law Union Hospital.

CLINICS.—The following clinics are provided by the Council :—

Tuberculosis Clinic—Town Hall.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (Treatment and consultation) (1)—Town Hall.

(2)—St. Hilda's School, Coronation Street.

School Clinics (1)—Town Hall (Minor Ailments, X-ray).

(2)—Wesley Street (Dental and Surgical, and Cleansing Station).

Venereal Diseases Clinic—Deans Hospital.

There are no Day Nurseries.

HOSPITALS.—The hospitals provided by the Local Authority are the Isolation Hospital, Dean Road, and the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Cleadon Park.

The Council is one of the constituent authorities of the North East Durham Joint Smallpox Hospital Board, which maintains the Whiteleas Smallpox Hospital. The Medical Officer of Health of South Shields at present acts as Medical Superintendent of this Hospital.

There are no maternity or children's hospitals in the Borough.

The Ingham Infirmary (voluntary institution) contains 80 beds, mostly for surgical cases. The Council have an agreement with the Governors of the Infirmary whereby cases of surgical tuberculosis referred by the Tuberculosis Officer are treated at the expense of the Council.

Other hospitals used by the inhabitants are :—

The Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Fleming Memorial Hospital for Children, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Eye and Ear Hospital, Sunderland.

The Harton Hospital (Poor Law) which serves a large area of N.E. Durham, (including South Shields County Borough, South Shields Rural District, Borough of Jarrow, and Urban District of Hebburn), is situated within the Borough.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.—No institutional provision is made by the Local Authority.

St. Verca's Home (Church of England), the Salvation Army Home, and the Edward Brough Home (Poor Children's Holiday Association) are maintained in South Shields by the respective authorities mentioned.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Council provide a motor ambulance at the Deans Hospital for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

The police motor ambulance is maintained for accident and other non-infectious cases.

Two motor ambulances are provided by the Poor Law Guardians, and a horse-drawn ambulance by the local branch of the St. John's Nursing Association for general purposes.

LABORATORY WORK.—The following table shows in detail the examinations of pathological material carried out during the year in the Municipal Laboratory at the Health Department, Town Hall. In addition, specimens were sent from the Venereal Diseases Clinic to the College of Medicine, Newcastle, for examination :—

Nature of Examination.

Swabs for diphtheria bacilli	368
Sputum for tubercle bacilli.....	269
Blood for Widal re-action	5
Faeces for B. typhosus	2
Pus for gonococci.....	9
Hair for ringworm	2
Urine for chemical and microscopical examination.....	24

Preparation of tuberculin.

Preparation of media.

Small stocks of diphtheria antitoxin for the use of general practitioners are maintained at the Health Department, Town Hall, and at the Deans Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Staff.—During the year Dr. A. H. Wear resigned his appointment as Tuberculosis Officer, and was succeeded by Dr. E. T. D. Gaspey. In the interim, during June and July, the duties were carried out by local practitioners.

Incidence of Tuberculosis.

Number of South Shields residents on tuberculosis Register on 1st January, 1923	1,792
Number of cases notified during 1923	349
Number of cases removed from Register during 1923....	499
Total number of South Shields residents on Register on 31st December, 1923	1,642
Number of ex-service men at the end of 1923 who were suffering from tuberculosis due to or aggravated by service	89

The reasons for removal from the Register were :—

Died from tuberculosis	196
Died from causes other than tuberculosis.....	7
Found on examination not to be suffering from tuberculosis	2
Left the town	48
Two years untraced.....	21
Three years free from symptoms of the disease..	225

Notification.

Of the 349 cases notified during the year, 227 had pulmonary and 122 non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the 228 deaths from tuberculosis, 32—that is, 14 per cent.—had not been notified before death. Of the 196 notified cases who died :—

15 died before the notification was received.	
31 „ within one week of notification.	
27 „ „ one week to one month of notification.	
24 „ „ one month to three months of notification.	
23 „ „ three to six months of notification.	
30 „ „ six to twelve months of notification.	

These figures indicate a further slight improvement in notification of the disease.

The following table shows the number of "new cases" classified according to sex and age groups.

Age-periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	..	1	2	2	..	..	1	1
1—5 years	9	7	12	6	4	1	6	4
5—10 years ..	9	17	15	20	3	3	6	7
10—15 years ..	15	12	8	15	6	5	3	3
15—20 years ..	12	9	4	11	10	8	..	5
20—25 years ..	21	14	3	5	9	15	4	4
25—35 years ..	27	29	11	10	27	27	2	3
35—45 years ..	24	15	4	2	23	11	..	..
45—55 years ..	16	2	1	2	12	2	..	2
55—65 years ..	7	1	1	2	7	..	1	2
Over 65 years ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals	140	107	61	75	102	72	23	31

The term "new cases" includes all *primary* notifications (349 as above) and 34 other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health otherwise than by notification on Form A. or Form B. under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.

These 34 cases were made up as follows :—

- (a) two changes of address reported under Article 5 of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1921.
- (b) 32 deaths in cases not previously notified, including 5 transferable deaths in other districts reported in lists received from the Registrar-General.

Included in the summary of new cases for the year are 22 cases of tuberculosis in Arab seamen resident in the Borough, viz. :—19 notified, and 3 deaths in non-notified cases, as under :—

		Notified cases.	Non-Notified.
Pulmonary	Aged	20—25....	3
		25—35....	10
		35—45....	3
		45—55....	1
Non-pulmonary	Aged	20—25....	..
		25—35....	2

The question of the earliest possible diagnosis and notification of tuberculosis has again been adverted to in a circular issued by

the Ministry to all medical practitioners. They point out the much increased facilities which are provided by local authorities for consultation with the Tuberculosis Officer. These facilities are probably not taken fullest advantage of. There is an urgent need for earlier diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis. The general purpose of the sanatorium is the treatment of incipient cases and its real value can only be judged in such cases. It is unfortunate that a larger proportion of cases do not seek medical treatment, or are not diagnosed until such time as they are beyond reasonable chance of complete recovery.

The decrease in the number of notifications may in some measure be due to the interruption of the work of the clinic and of the school medical service last year. On the other hand, it may be due to a greater accuracy of diagnosis. Thus there was a decrease of 61 in the number of cases actually notified by the Tuberculosis Officer himself as compared with the previous year. The total number of cases of tuberculosis notified during each of the past 10 years is as follows :—

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Pulmonary	354	437	294	331	227	268	270	283	283	227
Non-pulmonary	133	235	203	173	119	94	90	111	146	122

Mortality.

During the year there were 228 deaths from tuberculosis, 174 pulmonary and 54 non-pulmonary, a death-rate of 1.83 per thousand of the population as compared with 1.68 for the previous year. There were 18 deaths from tuberculosis among Arab seamen or 8 per cent. of the tuberculosis deaths. Arabs constitute only about 0.4 per cent. of the total population.

The death-rate from tuberculosis during each of the past 10 years is shown below :—

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Pulmonary	1.31	1.67	1.73	1.96	1.93	1.30	1.35	1.44	1.29	1.40
Non-pulmonary .....	.58	.67	.68	.71	.61	.63	.41	.36	.39	.43

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.—During the year 212 cases of tuberculosis were known to have been admitted to

institutions for treatment. Of these, 125 were treated at the cost of the Town Council, as follows :—

At Cleadon Park Sanatorium (99 pulmonary ; 10 non-pulmonary)	109
At the Ingham Infirmary (surgical cases).....	10
At other Sanatoria	6

The following table shows the distribution and classification of South Shields patients admitted to institutions during 1923, and includes those treated at the expense of the Corporation :—

	Ex-Service Men.	Insured.		Non-insured.				Total
		Men.	Women	Men.	Women	Boys	Girls.	
Approved Sanatoria, etc.—								
Cleadon Park	13	36	11	..	16	10	23	109
Stannington .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	9
Ingham Infirmary	1	7	1	..	4	10	6	29
Royal Victoria Infirmary ..	..	5	..	..	4	2	1	12
Other Sanatoria	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	8
Poor Law Hospitals .....	..	*22	1	..	11	3	1	38
Other Hospitals .....	..	1	1	..	2	2	1	7
Total	20	72	15	..	37	28	40	212

* Includes 13 Arab seamen.

The number of individual patients referred to in the above statement was 207, of whom 151 were pulmonary and 56 non-pulmonary cases. Five of the patients received treatment in more than one institution during the year.

A further increase in the number of beds provided at the Council's Cleadon Park Sanatorium, from 29 to 45, has been found possible owing to the fact that accommodation previously used by the resident medical officer has been made available, and by re-arrangement of the existing premises.

The average length of stay in Cleadon Park Sanatorium was 104 days. Of the 92 patients discharged during the year, 34 were very much improved ; 38 others were improved ; 20 were not improved.

Included in the cases treated in other sanatoria are four ex-service patients, two of whom completed a year's course of concurrent treatment and training at Papworth Colony, Cambridge.

and two others were admitted to Hollywood Sanatorium for vocational training. One of the men admitted to the last-mentioned institution who was making good progress in the work chosen was unfortunately unable to complete his course owing to his physical condition necessitating his discharge.

MUNICIPAL CLINIC.—370 suspected cases and 56 contacts were examined at the clinic. Of these 170 were found to be suffering from tuberculosis; 96 tuberculosis of the lungs, and 74 tuberculosis of other organs. In 256 cases no evidence of the disease was found.

The following tables summarise the work of the clinic during 1923 :—

Total number of attendances at the clinic	15,435
" " examinations " 	1,479
Number of new cases examined	426
" examinations of ex-service men	237
Number on clinic treatment register on 1-1-23.....	405
" taken on for treatment during 1923.....	158
" discharged	203
" remaining under treatment during 1923	360
" of home visits paid by the Health Visitors :—	
First visits.....	345
Subsequent visits.....	3,329
" of premises disinfected after removal to sanatoria	28
" " " after death of patients ..	144

64 school children were sent by the School Medical Officers during the year for diagnosis. Of these 26 were found to be tuberculous.

EXAMINATION OF NEW CASES.

		Found to be tuberculous.		Not tuberculous.	Total.
		Pulm.	Non-pulm.		
Insured	Men	42	7	28	77
	Women	4	3	9	16
Non-insured	Men .....	..	..	1	1
	Women	15	12	35	62
	Boys	10	20	87	117
	Girls	25	32	96	153
Total		96	74	256	426

One of these cases was an ex-service man referred to the Tuberculosis Officer by the Deputy Commissioner of Medical Services, South Shields area.

TREATMENT AT CLINIC.

	Under treatment on 31-12-22.	New cases.	Cases taken off Register.	Cases remaining 31-12-23.
INSURED :				
Pulmonary—				
Men	82	29	53	58
Women	22	2	8	16
Non-pulmonary—				
Men	5	3	7	1
Women	2	2	2	2
NON-INSURED :—				
Pulmonary—				
Men	1	..	..	1
Women	48	14	24	38
Boys	66	14	31	49
Girls	73	20	25	68
Non-pulmonary—				
Men .....	..	..	..	..
Women	12	9	12	9
Boys	53	26	23	56
Girls	41	39	18	62
Total	405	158	203	360

15 cases, mostly of glandular infection, were treated with tuberculin (B.E.) The results, on the whole, have been favourable.

Three patients were provided with surgical appliances, *e.g.* splints, surgical boots, etc. In one case a patient contributed half the cost. 1,314 surgical dressings were supplied and applied at the clinic. Eight plaster casts were also made for patients attending the dispensary.

26 cases were treated by Finsen light apparatus, with a total of 451 exposures.

35 screen examinations and X-ray photographs were made at the clinic.

Two open-air shelters belonging to the clinic were on loan during the year to patients residing in the Borough.

74 patients received extra nourishment under the Council's scheme, and 110 others were recommended to the Poor Law Guardians for such increased food supply by the Tuberculosis Officer.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Changes in the staff of the Venereal Diseases Clinic occurred during the year 1923. Dr. J. G. Walker was appointed Clinical Medical Officer for Venereal Diseases in succession to Dr. A. B. McAulay Lang, who left at the end of February. Dr. Walker commenced his duties on June 18th, and during the interval the work was carried out by a rota of local medical practitioners.

Nurse Nixon left the clinic in April, and her duties were taken over by Nurse H. H. Coats.

The attendances on the whole have been satisfactory, taking into consideration the large number of sea-faring men who attend at the centre.

It was noted that a considerable decrease in the attendances occurred during the period in which the rota of local practitioners was in force. This was no doubt due to the fact that many patients resident in the town are undesirous that their condition should become known to more than one doctor. The total figures for the year show a slight increase in the number of new cases, and a substantial decrease in the total attendances. The decrease is due to the fact that non-residents only made 5,425 attendances, against 9,352 in 1922. The attendance of residents was about the same as last year.

Accommodation.

The increasing volume of work necessitated alterations to the clinic to provide separate entrance and waiting-rooms, etc., for females. These are now in progress, and should greatly improve the efficiency of the clinic. The effects will not be felt until 1924, but it is expected that a larger proportionate number of female patients will now attend, and that a larger number of congenital cases (children) will be dealt with.

Scope of the Work.

The examination of patients and their subsequent treatment has been carried out on lines similar to those mentioned in previous reports. It is satisfactory to note that enquiries regarding prophylactic measures are becoming more numerous, and that seamen are making extended use of the information available concerning treatment abroad. Every effort is made to find out the destination of travellers, and to equip them with such information as may be useful.

The cases designated non-venereal consist for the most part of men who have exposed themselves to the risk of infection, and were given prophylactic treatment and kept under observation.

It is now possible to compare the number of new cases treated at the clinic year by year since it was opened on May 10th, 1919. Taking the figures as a whole there is a marked decrease in the number of new cases. This is due to the apparent decrease of the diseases locally, and as the number of residents attending other centres remains about the same, it is reasonable to believe that at any rate so far as residents are concerned, there is less venereal disease in the Borough.

It will also be noted that there is an increase in the number of new cases amongst non-residents. I believe this to be due to the centre becoming better known by those in the vicinity and by seamen.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW CASES TREATED AT THE DEANS HOSPITAL CLINIC SINCE IT WAS OPENED ON MAY 10TH, 1919.

	1919*.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Residents.	Non-residents.	Residents.	Non-residents.	Residents.	Non-residents.	Residents.	Non-residents.	Residents.	Non-residents.
Syphilis	151	24	131	109	147	82	122	79	86	150
Soft chancre.....	23	11	51	30	7	12	4	9	5	17
Gonorrhoea	153	42	248	162	207	188	190	186	158	219
Non-venereal diseases..	63	17	180	50	111	80	97	76	99	47
Total	390	94	610	351	472	362	413	350	348	433
Grand Total	484		961		834		763		781	

*May 10th to December 31st.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ATTENDANCES.

	Resident.	Non-resident.	Total.	Male.	Female.
1919	2,707	274	2,981	2,547	434
1920	13,674	1,163	14,837	14,017	820
1921	12,687	5,470	18,157	16,709	1,448
1922	18,123	9,352	27,475	24,074	3,401
1923	16,876	5,425	22,301	19,564	2,737

It will be noted that there has been a proportionate increase in attendance by women. There is likely to be a further increase when the alterations now in hand at the clinic are completed, to give separate entrance for women.

New Cases.

Table (a) summarises the new cases during 1923. The total figure shows an increase on that of 1922; but it is to be noted that the increase is due to non-residents. The actual number of new cases amongst residents who came to the centre was 348 or 65 less than in 1922. It is also worthy of note that of these 348 residents 99 were non-venereal cases. The heading "total cases" in the following table includes cases remaining from 1922.

(a) CASES TREATED AT THE SOUTH SHIELDS CLINIC DURING 1923.

	NEW CASES.				TOTAL CASES.	
	Male.	Female.	Residents.	Non-residents.	Male.	Female.
Syphilis	191	45	86	150	330	81
Soft chancre	22	..	5	17	28	..
Gonorrhoea	352	25	158	219	572	44
Non-venereal diseases ..	126	20	99	47	129	21
Total	691	90	348	433	1059	146

Table (b) gives an analysis of the attendances made by patients at the clinic throughout the year, attendances to see the medical officer being shown separately.

(b) TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT THE CLINIC.

	Males.		Females.		Total.		Average Attendance per patient.	
	M.O.	Others	M.O.	Others	M.O.	Others	Male	Female
Syphilis	1,895	1,714	645	420	2,540	2,134	10.9	13.1
Soft chancre	101	187	..	..	101	187	10.3	..
Gonorrhoea	2,832	12,281	419	1,222	3,251	13,503	26.4	37.3
Non-venereal diseases ..	222	332	31	..	253	332	4.3	1.5
Total	5,050	14,514	1,095	1,642	6,145	16,156	18.5	18.7

The attendances made at the clinic by patients from other parts varies considerably. This is largely due to the movements of shipping. The number of new cases from other parts was 433, being 83 more than in 1922, whilst the actual number of attendances made by these cases was 3,927 fewer than in 1922.

The attendances of non-residents is shown as under :—

	Attendances.
From 17 counties in England and Wales.....	1,661
„ 18 county boroughs	1,425
„ Scotland	1,017
„ Ireland	36
„ 7 colonies and dependencies	530
„ 19 foreign countries	756
TOTAL	5,425

Disposal of Cases.

Table (c) shows the number of cases discharged during the year. It is a regrettable fact that a large number of patients cease to attend in spite of medical advice to the contrary. A number of these cases return later to undergo further treatment. The largest number of such cases as shown by the table are individuals who have finished their treatment, but who have not had the final tests of cure, which are of a high standard. There is good reason to believe, however, that most of these cases are non-infectious.

(c) DISPOSAL OF CASES :

	Syphilis.		Soft chancre.		Gonorrhoea.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Ceased attending :						
(a) Before completing first course of treatment	69	14	6	..	230	10
(b) After one or more courses but before completion of treatment	54	5	..	..	..	..
(c) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure	148	23	7	..	140	13
Transferred to other centres ..	16	..	..	..	16	1
Discharged after completion of treatment and observation	3	3	9	..	39	8
Under treatment 31-12-1923..	40	36	6	..	147	12

In-Patient Treatment.

There were 10 new cases (all males) treated as in-patients. These are detailed in table (d).

(d) IN-PATIENT TREATMENT.

	No. of In-patients.		No. of In-patient days.	
	Residents.	Non-residents.	Residents.	Non-Residents.
Syphilis	2	1	12	6
Soft chancre.....	..	1	..	8
Gonorrhoea	2	2	21	33
Non-venereal diseases..	..	2	..	76
Total	4	6	33	123

Arsenobenzol Compounds.

There were 1,395 doses of Neokharsivan, Novarsenobillon and Arseno-argenticum administered during the year, 1,038 being to residents. In addition to this 130 doses were supplied to five local practitioners who applied for them. The local practitioners co-operate in the work of the clinic, referring cases for diagnosis and treatment. During the year three practitioners and one senior student attended the clinic for instruction.

Pathological Examinations.

The Wassermann tests are carried out at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 364 specimens were sent from the Clinic.

In addition to these examinations, specimens were examined at the clinic for:—

Spirochaetes	6	specimens.
Gonococci	127	„
Other organisms	10	„

The clinic laboratory is being further improved, and it is hoped to extend the pathological work.

The following table shows the total number of specimens from South Shields residents examined at the College of Medicine.

The figures include specimens sent by other clinics, and those sent by 12 practitioners, 9 of whom were South Shields doctors.

Source of Material.	Nature of Examination.	
	Wassermann Re-actions.	Microscopical.
South Shields V.D. Clinic	346	..
Newcastle V.D. Clinic.....	64	..
Sunderland V.D. Clinic	4	..
Tynemouth V.D. Clinic	1	..
Harton Hospital, South Shields	14	..
Ingham Infirmary, South Shields.....	13	..
Eye Infirmary, Sunderland	5	..
Private Practitioners (12)	48	2
Total	495	2

South Shields Residents treated at other Centres.

These are detailed in the following table, the total number of new cases being 49.

	Newcastle.	Sunderland.	Tynemouth.	West Hartlepool.	Greenwich.	Total.
(a) Number of persons dealt with during the year for the first time and found to be suffering from—						
Syphilis	20	..	..	..	4	24
Soft chancre .....	..	..	..	..	2	2
Gonorrhoea	8	..	1	2	7	18
Non-venereal diseases	3	1	1	..	..	5
(b) Total number of attendances at out-patient clinic	348	50	9	3	116	526
(c) Aggregate number of in-patient days..	49	..	..	..	32	81
(d) Number of doses of arsenobenzol compounds given in the—						
(1) Out-patient clinics.....	77	3	..	..	10	90
(2) In-patient department	5	..	..	..	..	5

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.

The number of births reported to the Health Department during 1923 was 3,123, as under :—

(a) Notified under the Notification of Births Acts :—	
by midwives.....	1,758
by doctors.....	452
by relatives and others	126
	2,336
(b) Reported by local Registrars (not previously notified)	787
	3,123

This total includes 39 live twin births and one triplet birth— but is exclusive of 89 still-births (23 notified by doctors and 66 by midwives). In addition to the 39 live twin births there were two instances of still-born twins and two cases of multiple birth where one child was born alive and the other dead. On enquiry I am informed by the Superintendent of the local cemeteries that 106 still-born children were buried during the year, so that it would appear that all such births were not notified to the Health Department.

The still-births amounted to 2.8 per cent. of the total registered live births as against 3.7 per cent. in 1922 and 3.0 per cent. in 1921.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths during 1923 among infants under one year was 297.

The principal causes of death were :—

Premature birth	72
Debility	31
Malformation, atelectasis and injuries..	16
Bronchitis	32
Pneumonia	30
Gastro-intestinal disorders.....	22
Convulsions	19
Syphilis	13
Whooping cough	22
Measles	17
Infant mortality rate	94
Infant mortality rate in illegitimate infants.....	154

The number of deaths from prematurity, debility, malformations, and syphilis is 132, or 44 per cent. of the total deaths of infants, while chest diseases caused 62, or 21 per cent.

It is a significant fact that 10 deaths of children under three years of age were due to rickets. This disease is essentially one of underfeeding or rather malnutrition, and is the result of deprivation of certain constituents of the infant's food. The matter of infant feeding should be one of the most important items in any scheme of infant welfare work.

The causes of death and age incidence are given in greater detail in the tables on pages 57 and 58.

There were 157 deaths among male children under one year old, as against 140 among female children; the infant mortality rate in boys being 97 and in girls 92.

Deaths of Mothers during Labour and Puerperium.

Ten deaths occurred from the following causes :—

Puerperal fever	2
Haemorrhage of pregnancy	1
Puerperal embolism	2
Puerperal insanity	1
Puerperal convulsions.....	1
Abortion	2
Other accidents of childbirth.....	1

This is equal to a rate of 3.2 deaths of mothers per thousand births.

In addition to these 10 deaths, there were three others in women recently confined, the primary cause of death being certified as heart disease in two cases and pulmonary tuberculosis in the other.

The circumstances in connection with one of the deaths from abortion were the subject of a Coroner's inquest, but there was not sufficient evidence to commit for trial the person suspected of procuring the abortion.

Another woman was charged before the magistrates on three counts of using instruments with intent to procure miscarriage, and was committed for trial; but at the Assizes the judge stopped proceedings as there was no corroborative evidence, and the case was dismissed.

Inspection of Midwives and Administration of the Midwives Acts.

Apart from the midwives at the Union Hospital, at the end of 1922 there were 22 midwives practising in the Borough, all of whom were practising independently of any association, hospital or voluntary agency. During 1923, in addition, six trained midwives commenced working in the town, including one who came to a local midwife for one month's post-certificate work. Four midwives removed from the town. At the end of 1923 there were 24 practising midwives in the Borough, of whom two were untrained.

The total number of cases attended by midwives during the year was 1,686, *i.e.*, about 52 per cent. of the total births; the same proportion as in the previous year.

Had these cases been equally apportioned amongst the practising midwives each would have attended about 62 cases during the year, but as a matter of fact one midwife attended as many as 200 cases, while another attended only 3 cases, and 3 midwives had no cases at all during the year. This appears to call for some readjustment, or limitation in the number of midwives.

Two of the local midwives are recognised by the Central Midwives Board as teachers of pupil midwives.

The Inspector of Midwives paid 125 visits of inspection to midwives, of which 95 were routine visits and 30 special enquiries. The number of interviews with midwives at the Health Department was 23.

Four midwives were temporarily suspended from practice on account of infectious disease. In two cases these suspensions were due to puerperal fever in the midwives' practice and in the other two, to cases of infectious disease—scarlet fever in the family of the midwife or her patient.

Two other midwives were warned by the Medical Officer of Health regarding observance of the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

Notifications from Midwives.

The following notifications from midwives were received during 1923 in accordance with the Central Midwives Board Rules :—

Sending for medical help.....	346
Still-birth notifications	29
Deaths of infants.....	4
Deaths of mothers .....	..
Artificial feeding.....	11
Infectious cases	4
Laying out of dead body.....	5
Intention to practise	27

The reasons assigned by midwives for the calling in of medical help included practically all the emergencies as laid down in the Rules. In 225 cases the emergency was in some way connected with maternal conditions, the causes being :—

Instrumental assistance for prolonged or difficult labour, malpresentations, etc.	127
Abortion and miscarriage	9
Torn or ruptured perineum	17
Increased pulse or temperature.....	16
Retained or adherent placenta	14
Ante-partum haemorrhage	4
Placenta praevia.....	4
“ Haemorrhage ”	2
Eclampsia	4
Other and ill-defined conditions.....	28

In 121 cases help was required for some abnormality of the child ; the chief conditions were :—

Feebleness or weakness and premature babies	33
Still-births	20
Injuries or deformities	7
Inflammation of or discharge from eyes.....	38
Convulsions	6
Skin eruptions	4

The doctors who were called in to the emergencies sent their accounts to the Local Supervising Authority in 201 cases, as against 129 in 1922. The total amount of fees claimed was £310. The Authority decided to recover £140 (93 cases) from the patients or the persons responsible for their maintenance. The amount actually recovered during the year was £66.

During the war, when so many doctors were on military service there was a considerable shortage of midwives, but now it would appear that most practitioners are prepared to undertake midwifery cases without recommending the additional services of a midwife. Moreover, the rules of the C.M.B. are particularly strict in regard to the calling in of medical men in cases of emergency. This obviously entails double expense to the patient.

Municipal Infant Welfare Centres.

The work of these centres was carried on under much the same arrangements as in the previous year, but it was handicapped to a large extent by the fact that for the last quarter of the year the

welfare centres were without the services of a medical officer, and there was, in consequence, a falling off in the attendances of over 200 during that quarter. In spite of this, however, the attendances at the St. Hilda Clinic increased by over 20 per cent.

The following is a summary of the attendances at the Town Hall and St. Hilda Centres for the years 1922 and 1923. Usually four clinics a week are held at the Town Hall, and one at St. Hilda Schools :—

	Town Hall.		St. Hilda.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
No. of mothers on register	1,459	1,141	136	188
No. of infants on register	1,459	1,150	136	188
Attendances of mothers	8,218	7,197	957	1,161
Attendances of infants	8,174	7,248	957	1,158
Attendances of expectant mothers	70	66	22	12
Average weekly attendance—				
(mothers)	158	138	18	22
(infants)	157	139	18	22

519 infants were treated for minor ailments.

Supply of Milk.

Under the scheme approved by the Ministry of Health the following quantities of milk, free or below cost price, were distributed through the Health Department :—

Fresh milk 464 gallons.

Dried milk 24,833 lbs.

The total number of applications for free milk granted during the year was 1,060.

In addition to the free milk, 25,792 lbs. of dried milk were sold at prices slightly above cost price. The total quantity of dried milk dealt with at the Health Department was thus nearly 23 tons.

There has been a reduction in the distribution of free milk compared with 1922 of about 4,000lbs. of dried milk and 1,300 gallons of fresh milk.

Co-operation with the Guardians regarding applications was maintained. From September the onus was put entirely upon the applicants to produce bona-fide evidence of earnings, and also to complete the form of application instead as heretofore this being

There was a decrease of about 1,100 visits under this scheme. This has been partly due to a decrease in the total number of births, and partly to the fact that it was necessary to employ the services of the nurses to a greater extent in epidemics of whooping cough, pneumonia and measles.

Work of Voluntary Agencies.

Under the auspices of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee a "Baby Week" was organised in July, the Honorary Secretary being Miss Blair, Sea View Terrace. The Stevenson Memorial Hall was engaged, and in the afternoon and evening a number of speakers addressed the mothers who were present. Each meeting was well attended, and the effort was apparently much appreciated.

It would seem that such meetings achieve some useful purpose, but it is doubtful if they greatly enhance or extend the work of the Council's Infant Welfare Centres, whose work is their chief and best advertisement.

TABLE 7.—DEATHS DURING 1923 OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:
CAUSES AND AGES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes : Certified	74	23	11	6	114	34	42	48	44	282
Uncertified	6	1	..	..	7	3	5	..	..	15
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	9	17
Scarlet fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping cough .....	..	..	1	..	1	2	5	8	6	22
Diphtheria and croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal tuberculosis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Other tuberculous diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Meningitis (<i>not tuberculous</i>) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Convulsions .....	..	5	..	..	5	7	4	2	1	19
Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bronchitis .....	..	2	1	..	3	7	8	9	5	32
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	9	12	30
Diarrhoea .....	..	..	..	1	1	..	4	..	2	7
Enteritis	1	..	1	1	3	1	3	..	2	9
Gastritis .....	..	..	2	..	2	2	1	..	1	6
Syphilis	1	2	..	1	4	1	4	3	1	13
Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
Suffocation, overlying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at birth	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Atelectasis	3	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	4
Congenital malformations	1	1	..	..	2	1	2	4	1	10
Premature birth	56	6	3	2	67	4	1	..	..	72
Atrophy, debility & marasmus ..	13	8	3	..	24	4	3	..	..	31
Other causes	3	..	..	1	4	4	2	3	2	15
Total	80	24	11	6	121	37	47	48	44	297

Net Births in the Year :—

Legitimate 3,014
Illegitimate 130

Net Deaths in the Year :—

Legitimate Infants 277
Illegitimate Infants .. 20

TABLE 8.—DEATHS DURING 1923 OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:
CAUSES AND WARD DISTRIBUTION.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	WARDS.														Total	
	Shields	Beacon	St. Hilda.	Hadrian	Holborn	Laygate.	Victoria.	Bents	Rekerdyke.	Westoe	Deans	Tyne Dock.	Simonside.	West Park.		Harton.
ALL CAUSES— Certified.....	25	20	15	16	20	31	17	11	22	8	33	25	10	15	13	282
Uncertified.....	4	...	...	1	2	...	2	...	2	1	2	...	1	...	...	15
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	1	1	1	...	4	1	...	3	...	...	4	1	...	...	17
Scarlet fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	3	2	1	2	5	...	2	...	3	...	4	2	...	...	...	22
Diphtheria and croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous meningitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Abdominal tuberculosis .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other tuberculous diseases.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meningitis (<i>not tuberculous</i>) .....	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Convulsions	1	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	1
Laryngitis .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Bronchitis	4	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	4	2	1	3	2	30
Pneumonia (all forms).....	3	3	4	1	3	3	2	...	2	...	4	4	...	1	...	7
Diarrhoea .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	9
Enteritis .....	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	6
Gastritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	13
Syphilis †	5	2	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Rickets .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suffocation, overlying .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Injury at birth.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
Atelectasis.....	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	10
Congenital malformations .....	...	1	2	...	2	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	72
Premature birth.....	9	2	3	5	3	5	4	3	4	4	12	6	1	4	7	31
Atrophy, debility and marasmus	1	2	1	...	4	5	3	2	2	1	4	2	2	1	1	15
Other causes.....	...	1	...	1	1	2	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	3	2	...
Total Deaths under one year †...	29	20	15	17	22	31	19	11	24	9	35	25	11	15	13	297
Number of Births*	233	201	171	199	196	265	246	147	270	143	299	284	190	166	96	3123
Infant Mortality Rate*	124	100	88	85	112	117	77	75	89	63	117	88	58	90	135	94
Total Deaths at all ages †	133	115	102	111	128	152	127	113	141	86	156	128	92	92	29	1714

* The births dealt with in this table are (a) 2336 live births notified under the Notification of Births Acts, including 17 births in Harton Institution among "non-residents" of the Borough, and (b) 787 registered and not previously notified. Elsewhere in this report the Registrar-General's figures of births registered during the calendar year have been used for the calculation of birth-rates.

† Includes 1 death under one year, and 8 deaths at all ages respectively in Harton Institution among persons with no fixed abode.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

During 1923 changes in the medical staff interfered very seriously with the work of the school medical department. Dr. J. G. Walker was transferred to the venereal diseases department in June, and Dr. Dorothy Blair resigned in September. Subsequent to these changes difficulties arose in the appointment of successors, with the result that no appointments were made during the remainder of the year. On this account the work of routine school medical inspection was practically at a standstill for a considerable part of the year. The services of a temporary assistant school medical officer were engaged in November, but the work carried out under this arrangement did not materially alter the position of affairs. Local practitioners were meanwhile engaged for the work of the eye clinic and minor ailments clinic. Dr. Lyons, principal school medical officer, resigned his appointment in July, and thereafter continued to supervise the work as part-time officer until October.

From the foregoing it is obvious that the work of the department has been seriously disorganised during the greater part of the year. The following report can, therefore, only be considered as fragmentary. It has been submitted to me by Dr. Walker, who was assistant school medical officer until June, 1923.

(A.) THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Medical Inspection.

Number of children on the registers at the end of 1923	21,675
Average attendance for the year (91.3 per cent.)	19,833
Number of elementary schools	25
Number of departments	55

(1) ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS—

No. of Code Group Inspections :

Entrants	2,026
Intermediates	1,491
Leavers	1,477

Total 4,994

No. of other Routine Inspections Nil.

(2) OTHER INSPECTIONS :

No. of Special Inspections	4,007
No. of Re-inspections	3,757

Total 7,764

At all the infants' schools the group of entrants were examined but at several schools the intermediate and leaver groups were not medically inspected. The decrease in the number of routine inspections was due to the shortage of medical staff. The decrease in "specials" is partly accounted for by the same cause. Moreover dental inspections which, in previous years, had been included under this heading, have in the present report been omitted, following the definitions in the recently issued memorandum by the Board on medical statistical tables.

Attention has been drawn in previous reports to the inadequate accommodation at the school clinic, and the crowding of children into small spaced and draughty corridors which serve for waiting rooms is not without its own special dangers.

As in the last two years, it is regrettable that reference must again be made to the necessitous circumstances of many deserving people due to the lack of employment which causes them to seek medical advice for their children at the school clinics, whereas normally they would go to their family doctor. It is to be hoped that in the near future some scheme for a children's hospital will be proceeded with, as the accommodation for medical and surgical cases is at present very limited in the Borough.

The general hygienic condition of the schools was fairly good. Severe outbreaks of measles occurred in two infant schools, but after consideration of the matter school closure was not adopted, largely on the ground that owing to the crowded areas in which the schools were situated there was as much danger outside as inside the school.

I have pleasure in recording with grateful thanks the help of teachers, attendance officers and the public health staff during the year.

Findings of Medical Inspection :

UNCLEANLINESS.—Whilst at routine inspections personal cleanliness is satisfactory owing to special preparation for the event, inspection at clinics often reveals an unsatisfactory state of affairs in this respect. The cleanliness surveys of the health visitors at the schools will undoubtedly yield good results in the course of time.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.—Abnormal conditions under this heading are frequently combined with deafness, bronchitis or defective speech, conditions which retard the development of the child. For this reason it not infrequently becomes classed amongst

the dull and backward. The numbers observed to be suffering from these defects were :

Enlarged tonsils	188
Adenoids	72
Enlarged tonsils plus adenoids	84

TUBERCULOSIS.—36 definite and 58 suspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were detected during the year : there were 65 cases of tuberculosis of organs other than the lungs.

SKIN DISEASES.—Impetigo, ringworm and scabies are the most common of these. Scabies has considerably declined during the last two years. During the past year only 23 had to be referred for treatment as compared with 48 in the previous year, and 176 in 1921.

Many of the skin cases marked "observation" in the tables were under treatment by parents or others at the time of routine inspection or were very mild cases.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.—Many of these can be avoided by proper nutrition and cleanliness. Blepharitis is a common and unsightly defect, often due to the lack of preventive measures. Conjunctivitis is also common and corneal ulcers unfortunately only too frequent. The remark regarding cases under observation in the preceding paragraph also applies to several of the external eye diseases detected during the course of the year.

DEFECTIVE VISION.—338 cases of defective vision and 50 cases of squint were referred for treatment. 59 cases of squint were marked for observation.

MYOPIA.—As a result of investigations into this condition last year, the sanction of the Board of Education to establish a special school for myopes was obtained. A specially trained teacher was appointed, and the new method of teaching myopic children will be carried out in 1924.

DENTAL DEFECTS.—At the routine dental inspections the school dental surgeons inspected 2,806 children during the year, of whom 1,400 were found to require treatment for defective teeth. In addition, at routine school medical inspections 2,917 out of 4,994 children (58 per cent.) were found to have dental defects.

CRIPPLING DEFECTS.—Tuberculosis, infantile paralysis, rickets and accidents account for most of these defects.

OTHER DISEASES.—Bronchitis and anaemia are prominent items in the return of defects. Much can be done to lessen their incidence by attention to clothing, fresh air and suitable feeding.

PREVIOUS INFECTIOUS FEVERS.—Information obtained at routine inspections showed that :—

32	per cent.	had previously had measles.
18	”	” whooping cough.
7	”	” chickenpox.
5	”	” scarlet fever.
0.5	”	” diphtheria.

From this it would appear that although diphtheria may be the most dangerous disease of childhood, measles and whooping cough are each responsible for a much greater amount of illness amongst children.

VACCINATION.—44 per cent. of the children examined at routine inspections were unvaccinated. In 1920, 27 per cent. ; in 1921, 34 per cent. ; and in 1922, 40 per cent. were the respective figures. It is thus evident that an increasingly large percentage of the population is in an unvaccinated state. It was pointed out last year, and I have to repeat here that this state of affairs has become a danger to the public, and in the event of smallpox occurring in the Borough might be fraught with serious consequences.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year, in children of school age, the number of cases of acute infectious diseases notified was as follows :—scarlet fever, 241 ; diphtheria, 46 ; influenzal pneumonia, 1 ; acute primary pneumonia, 55 ; enteric fever, 1 ; erysipelas, 1. As previously mentioned there was an outbreak of measles in May and June, which, in two infant schools, assumed large proportions. Whooping cough and mumps were prevalent during the early part of the year and chickenpox later. On the whole the incidence of infectious diseases in schools was considerably heavier this year than in the previous year.

Medical Treatment.

In table 12 (page 73) are details of the treatment and results. The number of individual children who attended the general clinic was 2,892 ; the number of attendances was 14,622 and 2,259 children received treatment at the general clinic. This represents a decrease of about 20 per cent. on the previous year, a result due to the interruption in the work of routine school medical inspection.

MINOR AILMENTS.—Under this heading are included cuts, bruises, sprains, skin diseases, constipation, etc. Treatment

consisted of advice to parents and simple medicine. There is urgent need for some adequate accommodation for the minor ailments clinic and other clinics. The present waiting room accommodation is absolutely inadequate and unsuitable. This was commented on by Dr. Lyons last year.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS—Previous reports have given details of the arrangements at the surgical clinic. The number of children who received operative treatment under the Authority's scheme in clinic or hospital was 74. Those treated other than by operation numbered 35, including 25 under the Authority's scheme. There were 4 cases that obtained operative treatment by private practitioners apart from the Authority's scheme.

TUBERCULOSIS.—All cases of tuberculosis, definite or suspected, are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer who arranges for their treatment or observation as may be required. During the year 64 children were so referred, of whom 6 were found to have pulmonary and 20 non-pulmonary forms of the disease.

Seventeen cases of tuberculosis were treated at the clinic by the "Finsen" light apparatus.

SKIN DISEASES.—The majority of cases are caused by impetigo: often several members of one family are affected. Ringworm of the scalp and of the body forms another large group of cases. The undermentioned cases were treated at the school clinic:—

Ringworm of scalp.....	99
" body	82
Scabies	22
Impetigo	490
Other skin diseases	672

EAR DISEASES.—151 cases of chronic otitis media, wax in the ear and furuncle of meatus were treated at the school clinic, principally the first-named disease. Much propaganda remains to be done among parents before they realise the possibility of the serious effects which may arise from inflammation of the middle ear.

DENTAL DEFECTS.—883 children were treated by the school dentists, including 253 special cases. The work performed included 813 extractions and 699 fillings. Other operations on teeth numbered 34. In 4 cases a general anaesthetic was required, which was administered by one of the assistant school medical officers.

VISION.—361 cases were submitted to refraction, including 3 cases done by private practitioners. Spectacles were prescribed for 346 of these children. 344 children obtained glasses during

the year under the authority's scheme and 3 otherwise. In a number of these cases the glasses were prescribed in the previous year, but were supplied in the year under report.

OTHER DEFECTS.—The following table gives details of these. Of the 797 defects referred for treatment, 465 were treated at the school clinic, or, in cases of tuberculosis, at the tuberculosis dispensary. There is a large number of children examined suffering from bronchitis due to climatic conditions and often aggravated by bad housing conditions, insufficient food and unsuitable clothing.

Disease or Defect.	No. of defects treated.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Other-wise.	Total.
Anaemia and debility	130	12	142
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary—			
Definite	31	..	31
Suspected	62	..	62
Non-pulmonary	43	2	45
Lung disease (not tuberculous).....	49	10	59
Enlarged glands	68	2	70
Acute infectious diseases	18	14	32
Heart diseases.....	2	2	4
Diseases of nervous system	3	3	6
Gastritis	42	4	46
Diarrhoea	5	1	6
Thread worms	3	..	3
Incontinence of urine.....	..	5	5
Rheumatism	2	1	3
Other diseases and defects (hernia nephritis, phimosis, periostitis, etc.)	7	12	19
Total	465	68	533

TREATMENT OF UNCLEANLINESS.—The method adopted in the cleanliness survey was detailed in the 1921 report. During 1923 similar methods were adopted. There is still a certain amount of carelessness on the part of some parents, but on the whole there is a marked improvement since the scheme was adopted. A summary of the year's work in this respect is given in table 12 : group V : (page 75). It was necessary to serve notices under Section 87 of the Education Act, 1921, upon the parents of three children to have the persons or clothing of the children properly cleansed. This was done only after two or more informal warnings had been given in each case. No further action was necessary.

OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.—The scheme for the provision of an open-air school has been in abeyance since 1920, but at the end of 1923 the Local Education Authority proposed to obtain sanction from the Board to proceed with the scheme.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.—The conditions remain precisely the same as in last year's report.

PROVISION OF MEALS.—232 children were provided with free meals during the year at a cost of £633 15s. 0d. for the 25,350 meals so provided. There are two feeding centres in the town and one meal—dinner—is given.

SCHOOL BATHS.—One school is provided with baths. During 1923 school children made 37,098 attendances (boys, 28,513 ; girls, 8,585) at the Derby Street baths under the supervision of the special swimming instructor appointed by the Local Education Authority. The swimming bath was closed during the early part of the year, but it was re-opened in April.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.—The great majority of parents attending the routine medical inspections expressed their satisfaction with the proceedings, and are grateful for any advice tendered regarding the health of their children. Parents attended in 72 per cent. of the examinations. In no case was any objection made by parents to the examination of a child. The amount contributed by parents towards the cost of treatment was :—

	£	s.	d.
Eye Clinic.....	24	19	6
Surgical Clinic	4	4	6
Dental Clinic	15	12	3
General Clinic	12	14	2
Total	£57	10	5

The amount for 1922 was £72 18s. 8d.

The reduction in the amount received is due largely to trade depression and to the decrease in the numbers treated for the reason previously stated. A scale of income was adopted on the suggestion of the Board, and brought into use towards the end of the year. It is too early yet to form an opinion as to how this will affect the amount of treatment given.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.—The interest taken by teachers in the medical inspections has been referred to in previous reports, and it continues to be maintained. Although it often involves a considerable amount of extra work for them, their assistance is willingly offered. In certain matters, *e.g.*, detection and estimation of mental defects, the observations and opinions of the teachers not infrequently afford much guidance. It is to be hoped that this will continue, because the accurate estimation of such a serious condition as mental deficiency cannot always be made as a result of one or two medical examinations.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.—Mr. Willits and his assistants have given the school medical department invaluable assistance, particularly in the case of cripples and defective children.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.—Cases of actual neglect are fortunately few, but in such cases the local inspector has rendered very much assistance.

THE SHOELESS CHILDREN'S FUND.—The Chief Constable, Mr. William Scott, who is the honorary secretary of this fund, informs me that 1,067 children were supplied with boots and stockings during the year.

POOR CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION.—Forty school children were given a holiday in the country, extending to two or three weeks or more under the auspices of this Association, and several other scholars were admitted to the Brough Holiday Home in South Shields. The children appear to have derived much benefit.

(B.) BLIND, DEAF, AND DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Table 9 (page 71) gives details of exceptional children in the Borough at the end of 1923, and particulars of their disposal. It has not been found possible to give the information under the headings of the Board's new classification.

It should be noted regarding physically defective children that the numbers given include the whole of the children of school age (5—16) on the register of the tuberculosis clinic. Many of these cases would not be certifiable as physically defective within the meaning of the Education Act. With regard to blind, deaf, and mentally defective children, the table is incomplete in so far as there is a number of children who have been reported as a result of periodical returns from the head teachers but who, owing to the

absence of assistant school medical officers during last year, had not been medically examined and classified at the end of the year for the purposes of this table.

(C.) SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Owing to the changes in the medical staff it was found impracticable to carry out the usual arrangements as regards routine inspection, etc., at higher schools: only 6 entrants were examined, and 2 secondary school children were seen at the clinic.

(D.) EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Three licences were granted during the year under the Employment of Children in Entertainments Rules, 1920.

(E.) MISCELLANEOUS.

Examination of Pupil Teachers and Scholarship Candidates.

54 pupil teachers and bursar candidates were medically examined during the year; 4 were found to have defective vision. 41 scholarship candidates were also inspected, one of whom had defective vision.

Visits of School Nurses.

There were 886 visits to schools in connection with routine medical inspection and cleanliness surveys. The number of visits to the homes of children in connection with "following-up," was 684.

Deaths of Children of School Age.

The following table is an analysis of the causes of death during 1923 of children aged 5—14 years. It will be seen that more than one-third of all deaths of children of school age were due to one or other form of tuberculosis. This circumstance is practically the same as last year. In addition, over one quarter of the deaths were due to acute infectious diseases, *e.g.*, measles, diphtheria, pneumonia, and influenza. The chief other causes of death were heart diseases and accidents.

The deaths are 22 in excess of the number for the previous year, but the increase cannot be attributed to any one particular disease or condition, apart from adverse circumstances operating within the borough generally.

Cause of Death.	Boys.		Girls.		Total.
	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	
Measles	5	..	3	..	8
Scarlet fever .....	..	..	1	..	1
Whooping cough.....	1	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria	2	1	4	..	7
Influenza	1	1	2	..	4
Tuberculosis : of lungs	3	6	3	5	17
of other organs	6	3	7	3	19
Syphilis .....	..	..	1	..	1
Meningitis.....	..	..	4	..	4
Ear disease .....	..	..	..	1	1
Endocarditis.....	..	..	1	..	1
Valvular disease of heart .....	..	2	2	2	6
Laryngitis	1	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis.....	..	..	1	..	1
Pneumonia	4	..	2	2	8
Pleurisy	1	..	..	..	1
Gastritis	1	1	1	..	3
Appendicitis	1	4	..	..	5
Intestinal obstruction.....	..	1	..	..	1
Acute nephritis .....	..	2	..	..	2
Phlegmon .....	..	1	..	..	1
Disease of bones .....	..	1	..	..	1
Food poisoning .....	..	1	..	..	1
Burns	1	..	1	1	3
Accidental drowning .....	..	1	..	..	1
Run over by vehicles .....	..	2	..	..	2
Heart failure	1	1	1	..	3
Total	28	28	34	14	104

ELEMENTARY AND HIGHER SCHOOLS.

TABLE 9.—RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

	<i>Elementary.</i>	<i>Higher.</i>
Number of Code Group Inspections—		
Entrants	2,026	6
Intermediates	1,491	—
Leavers	1,477	—
Total	4,994	6
Number of other Routine Inspections	—	—

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	4,007	2
Number of Re-inspections	3,757	—
Total	7,764	2

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE 10.—(A.) RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

Defect or Disease.		Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
		No. of defects.		No. of defects.	
		Re-quiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Re-quiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
	Malnutrition .....	..	..	..	..
	Uncleanliness .....	..	289	27	..
Skin	Ringworm—				
	Scalp	1	3	105	..
	Body .....	..	2	84	..
	Scabies	1	2	22	..
	Impetigo	6	57	491	..
	Other diseases (non-tuberculous) ..	..	53	680	..
Eye	Blepharitis	6	59	120	..
	Conjunctivitis .....	..	7	78	..
	Keratitis	1	1	1	..
	Corneal opacities ..	..	..	..	..
	Defective vision (excluding squint) ..	204	..	134	..
	Squint	31	59	19	..
	Other conditions ..	1	34	61	..
Ear	Defective hearing ..	12	100	25	..
	Otitis media	6	60	113	..
	Other ear diseases ..	1	5	21	..
Nose and Throat	Enlarged tonsils only	53	102	33	..
	Adenoids only	14	29	29	..
	Enlarged tonsils & adenoids ..	53	..	31	..
	Other conditions ..	3	89	68	..
	Enlarged cervical glands (non-tuberculous)	1	682	87	..
	Defective speech .....	..	45	1	..
Teeth.	Dental Diseases	13	2904	354	..
Heart & Circulation.	Heart Disease—				
	Organic	1	21	3	..
	Functional .....	..	18	12	..
	Anaemia .....	..	79	236	..
Lungs	Bronchitis	1	1068	100	11
	Other non-tuberculous diseases ..	..	..	25	80

TABLE 10. (A)—CONTINUED.

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Specials.			
	No. of defects.		No. of defects.			
	Re-quiring treat-ment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Re-quiring treat-ment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.		
Tuber- culosis	Pulmonary—	Definite	3	33	..	
		Suspected	3	29	26	
	Non-pulmonary—	Glands	4	22	..
		Spine	2	..
		Hip	1	6	..
		Other bones & joints	5	5	1
		Skin	1	5	..
Other forms	1	8	4	..		
Nervous System	Epilepsy .....	..	1	1	..
	Chorea	1	3	11	..	
	Other conditions ..	..	6	2	..
Deformi- ties.	Rickets .....	..	56	3	..
	Spinal curvature ..	..	5	..	..
	Other forms	3	23	9	..	
Other defects and diseases	20	87	490	..		

(B.) NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding uncleanliness and dental diseases).

GROUP.	Number of Children.		Percentage of children found to require treatment.
	Inspected.	Found to require treatment.	
Code Groups :			
Entrants	2,026	97	4.8
Intermediates	1,491	156	10.4
Leavers	1,477	98	6.6
Total (Code groups)	4,994	351	7.0
Other routine Inspections .....	..	..	..

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

Of the six children inspected at Routine Inspection one was referred for observation (dental disease).

The two children examined at Special Inspections were referred for treatment (dental disease).

TABLE 11.—RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA IN 1923.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Blind (including partially blind within the meaning of the Education Act, 1921).	Attending public elementary schools		4	1	5	
	Attending certified schools for the blind		5	1	6	
	Not at school		5	1	6	
Deaf and Dumb (including partially deaf) within the meaning of the Education Act, 1921.	Attending public elementary schools		2	4	6	
	Attending certified schools for the deaf		7	7	14	
	Not at school		2	5	7	
Mentally Defective.	Feeble minded.	Attending public elementary schools	22	13	35	
		Attending certified schools for mentally defective children ..	..	..	..
		Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year	1	1	2	
		Not at school	9	3	12	
	Imbeciles.	At school .....	..	..	..
		Not at school	2	1	3	
		Notified to Local Control Authority .....	..	..	..
	Idiots.	Notified to Local Control Authority .....	..	..	..
		Not at school .....	..	..	..
	Epileptics.	Attending public elementary schools		2	1	3
		Attending certified schools for epileptics
		In institutions other than certified schools.....	
Not at school			1	1	2	

TABLE 11.—CONTINUED.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Physically Defective.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis *	Attending public elementary schools	89	68	157
		Attending certified schools for physically defective children	..	..	..
		In institutions other than certified schools.....	2	10	12
		Not at school	52	62	114
	Crippling due to Tuberculosis *	Attending public elementary schools	78	72	150
		Attending certified schools for physically defective children	..	..	..
		In institutions other than certified schools.....	7	2	9
		Not at school	70	71	141
	Crippling due to other causes than tuberculosis, i.e., paralysis, rickets, traumatism.	Attending public elementary schools	20	17	37
		Attending certified schools for physically defective children	1	..	1
		In institutions other than certified schools.....	..	..	..
		Not at school .....	..	1	1
Other physically defectives, e.g., delicate and other children suitable for admission to Open-air schools, children suffering from severe heart disease.	Attending public elementary schools	18	8	26	
	Attending Open-air schools ..	..	..	..
	Attending certified schools for physically defective children other than Open-air schools..	..	..	..
	Not at school	9	9	18	

* See note on page 66.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE 12.—RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS
(Excluding Uncleanliness).

Disease or Defect.	Number of defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
SKIN—			
Ringworm: Scalp	99	7	106
Body	82	2	84
Scabies	22	..	22
Impetigo	490	2	492
Other skin diseases	672	8	680
MINOR EYE DEFECTS— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	253	7	260
MINOR EAR DEFECTS	151	3	154
MISCELLANEOUS (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	209	31	240
TOTAL	1,978	60	2,038

GROUP II.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or Disease.	Number of defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital apart from the Authority's scheme.	Other-wise.	Total.
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	358	3	..	361
Other defect or disease of the eyes .....	..	..	..	..
Total	358	3	..	361

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :	
(a) Under the Authority's scheme	343
(b) Otherwise	3

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :	
(a) Under the Authority's scheme	*344
(b) Otherwise	3

*Includes cases for whom spectacles were prescribed in the previous year.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Number of children—

(1) Received operative treatment—	
(a) Under the Authority's scheme, in Clinic or Hospital ..	74
(b) By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme	4
(2) Received other forms of treatment.....	35
	—
Total number treated.....	113

GROUP IV.—TREATMENT OF DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :

	Age.	No.		
	5	—		
	6	1,138		
	7	1,493		
	8	172		
	9	3		
Routine age-groups	10	—	Total 2,806	
	11	—		
	12	—		
	13	—		
	14	—		
Specials				253

Grand Total 3,059

(b) Found by Dentist to require treatment.....	1,653
(c) Actually treated (by School Dentist)	883
(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination	—

(2) Half-days devoted to—			
Inspection	51		
Treatment	117	—Total	168
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment			1,002
(4) Fillings : Permanent teeth	699		
Temporary teeth	—	—Total	699
(5) Extractions : Permanent teeth	114		
Temporary teeth	699	—Total	813
(6) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions.....			4
(7) Other operations : Permanent teeth ..	20		
Temporary teeth ..	14	—Total	34

GROUP V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

1st Survey. 2nd Survey.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	5	5
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses—		
(a) Children examined	16,978	15,311
(b) Examinations made	20,622	18,152
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	2,412	1,878
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	—	—
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken—		
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921.....	—	—
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	—	—

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The details of the visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors, together with the number of notices served, and the sanitary improvements effected are set forth in the tables on pages 81 to 84.

A list of the adoptive acts, byelaws and regulations in force in the Borough was given in the Annual Report for 1920, and one or two additions made during 1921 and 1922 were referred to in the reports for those years. There have been no further additions during the past year.

Water Carriage System.

A very substantial advance was made in the scheme for the replacement of privies by the water carriage system. The scheme referred to in the Annual Report for 1922 was put into effect in January, 1923, with the result that 1,098 conversions were completed in Deans and Rekendyke Wards during the 12 months. With one exception all these conversions were carried out by the Corporation. In every case one ash-bin in addition to a w.c. was provided for each privy converted.

The district sanitary inspector reports that the improvement in the sanitary condition of the back lanes is most noticeable. The tenants have been cautioned that they will be held responsible for any choking of drains, and printed instructions have been supplied for posting on the w.c. doors. Speaking generally, the tenants have so far shown a desire to look after these conveniences properly. Only a few cases of choking have come to the inspector's notice, and some were found to be due to the defective condition of the old drains to which the w.c.'s had been connected.

This scheme of conversions will be further developed during the coming year.

The Unemployment Grants Committee have promised grants towards the conversion of another 1,300 privies, in addition to the 1,000 mentioned in the Annual Report for 1922. The sanction of the Minister of Health has also been obtained.

Apart from the systematic conversions referred to above, additional w.c.'s were provided in 72 cases where the existing accommodation was inadequate. In this figure is included 20 public houses where additional sanitary accommodation for women customers and employees was provided, as a result of a report made by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, who wrote to the Chief Constable on the matter. The Licensing

Justices subsequently made recommendations accordingly to the license holders. 14 w.c.'s were provided in place of privies, which were a nuisance or unsatisfactory.

Theatres, Cinemas, and Music Halls.

There have been no important changes in the number of, or accommodation in, these places during the year. These premises are inspected regularly by the sanitary officials. There is, however, little doubt that such places tend to foster the spread of epidemic diseases.

Offensive Trades.

The new applications during the year have been six in number, of which five were for the trade of fish frying, and one for a rag and bone business. Of these, two applications for fish frying were refused as unsuitable; the other applications were granted.

The following is a statement of the character and number of the offensive trades that were in existence at the end of the year :

Fish friers	81
Tripe boilers.....	4
Gut scrapers.....	2
Tallow melter	1
Rag and bone dealers.....	5

Two notices were served during the year regarding nuisances caused by fish frying.

Common Lodging Houses.

There were 14 occupied common lodging houses in the Borough at the end of the year. These contained 107 registered rooms with accommodation for 606 lodgers. Only one of these houses caters for female lodgers, accommodation being provided for seven.

Under Section 69 (2) of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, the registration of eleven of the keepers of these houses is renewable annually.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 55 visits to these premises, and the special officer of the police made 610 visits.

Seamen's Lodging Houses.

At the end of 1923 there were 43 seamen's lodging houses within the Borough, with accommodation for 533 seamen. 168 visits were paid by the sanitary inspectors.

The police paid 1,908 visits to these lodging houses, and took proceedings in two cases for offences against the byelaws. Fines of £5 and 10s. respectively were imposed.

Factories, Workshops, etc.

VISITS.

The Inspectors paid 952 visits during the year. Written notices were sent in 19 cases. There were no prosecutions. The details are as follows :—

1. Factories (including Factory Laundries).
Inspections, 72 ; Notices, 4.
2. Workshops (including Workshop Laundries).
Inspections, 502 ; Notices, 11.
3. Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises).
Inspections, 378 ; Notices, 4.

DEFECTS FOUND.

The defects and nuisances found are summarised below :—

Particulars of Defect.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Receiving attention.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	4	4	..	..
Want of ventilation	3	3	..	..
Overcrowding .....	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors ..	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances.....	7	5	2	..
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	7	..	7	..
Unsuitable or defective..	10	4	4	2
Not separate for sexes ..	1	1	..	..
<i>Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (s. 97 to 100)	3	3	..	..
Other offences (excluding offences relating to Out-work) .....	..	..	..	..
Total	35	20	13	2

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

The number of workshops on the Register at the end of the year was 394. The principal trades are :—

Dressmakers	52
Tailors	33
Milliners	36
Boot repairers	22
Bakers	71
Joiners	27
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	12
Smiths	13

OUTWORK.

Only one employer sent in lists of Outworkers, in February and August, as provided by the Order. These lists contained only one name (a contractor) employed in the making of wearing apparel.

There is apparently very little outwork in connection with factories and workshops in the Borough.

Inspection under the Shops Acts.

The nine local Orders in force in the Borough were detailed in the Annual Report for 1922.

The following is a summary of the work of the Shops Inspector during the past year :—

Number of shops on the Register at 31st December, 1923.	2,563
(In about 45 per cent. of these shops assistants are employed).	
Number of visits paid to shops by the Inspector (including stalls in Market Place and stalls and cafes on North and South Beach)	5,623
Interviews and appointments	284
Complaints received and investigated	83

 Infringements of the Shops Acts and Orders—

Assistants employed about the business of the shop on their weekly half-holiday	5
Prescribed forms as to assistants' half-holiday not exhibited	43
Prescribed forms not kept up to date	80
Assistants not having proper meal hours	4
Young persons working excessive hours .....	..
Non-observance of weekly half-holiday	17
No weekly half-holiday notices exhibited ..	30
Selling non-perishable goods on closing day	6
Infringements of Early Closing Act, 1920	31
Infringements of Butchers' Closing Order	4
TOTAL	220

The whole of the above-mentioned infringements were first offences. In each case the person in default was cautioned by the Shops Inspector. All the cases were reported to the Health Committee.

Of the four offenders under the Butchers' Closing Order, one was cautioned by letter from the Town Clerk; one was proceeded against and fined 5s. Two cases were pending at the end of the year.

Of the 31 infringements of the Early Closing Act, 1920, 29 of the tradesmen were under the impression that the closing hour on the Thursday before Good Friday was the same as on Saturday evenings. They immediately closed their shops on their attention being drawn to the contravention. No further action was taken by the Committee. In the other two cases (grocers) proceedings before the magistrates resulted in a fine of 10s. and dismissal respectively.

TABLE 13.—SUMMARY OF NOTICES ISSUED BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

	W. Clark	R. W. Weir.	R. Ayre.	W. Hill.	Totals
<i>Preliminary Notices were served on 290 Property Owners for—</i>					
(A.) Houses not kept in all respects reasonably fit for habitation ..	43	14	35	39	131
(B.) Nuisances caused by—					
Drains, defective or choked.....	5	7	20	7	39
W.C.'s, defective .....	..	4	1	4	9
Privies, insanitary pail.....	1	..	..	..	1
Privy accommodation insufficient ..	..	..	3	..	3
Scullery sinks, insanitary.....	23	4	5	16	48
Underground rainwater cistern, foul	1	..	1	4	6
Ashbins, absence of .....	..	2	..	..	2
Water supply, none for house ....	..	3	1	5	9
Drain, absence of proper	1	..	..	..	1
Yard paving defective	10	4	4	4	22
Minor defects.....	92	42	33	41	208
<i>Preliminary Notices were served on 258 Tenants for—</i>					
Dwellings overcrowded .....	..	..	..	3	3
Rooms dirty	2	1	6	11	20
Cellar used as sleeping place.....	..	..	1	..	1
Filthy yard, privy, etc.....	..	4	15	7	26
Privy overflowing.....	..	4	2	..	6
Drains and w.c.'s choked	3	2	19	7	31
Keeping animals .....	..	..	4	8	12
Manure and refuse accumulations ..	..	2	8	3	13
Broken w.c. pan (stable) .....	..	..	..	1	1
Workshops (for details see p. 78)..	..	..	4	4	8
Nuisance from frying (fried fish shop) .....	..	..	2	..	2
Dust from vacuum cleaner (picture hall) .....	..	..	1	..	1
Black smoke nuisance .....	..	..	1	..	1
Undrained land.....	1	..	..	..	1
<i>Statutory Notices : On Owners—</i>					
Under Public Health Acts*.....	..	..	..	..	17
Under Section 28, Housing Act, 1919.....	..	..	..	..	3
<i>Statutory Notices : On Occupiers—</i>					
Under Public Health Act, 1875 ..	..	..	..	..	6

* Exclusive of notices served by Town Clerk for privy conversions.

TABLE 14.—SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS PAID
BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

NATURE OF VISIT.	W. Clark	R. W. Weir.	R. Ayre.	W. Hill.	Totals
General district inspection (including housing inspection and inspection of underground rooms)	3,835	2,799	4,808	2,730	14,222
Inspection of repairs to property	1,109	219	1,205	392	2,925
Interviews and appointments . . . . .	..	275	..	109	384
Investigation of complaints of nuisances	160	109	244	246	759
Testing drains	12	3	12	7	34
Smoke observations . . . . .	..	6	..	..	6
Exhumations	6	..	..	..	6
Special Inspections —					
Re Inhabited house duty	11	..	24	13	48
Re Rent Act certificates	5	..	13	5	23
Seamen's lodging houses . . . . .	..	140	7	21	168
Common lodging houses . . . . .	..	17	22	16	55
Furnished rooms	8	..	3	..	11
Van dwellings, etc.	4	13	..	..	17
Picture halls	19	29	4	1	53
Bakehouses	12	2	27	2	43
Fried fish shops	94	9	78	54	235
Ice cream shops	4	..	21	..	25
Tripery . . . . .	..	..	2	..	2
Piggeries . . . . .	..	1	..	..	1
Marine stores . . . . .	..	..	12	..	12
Stables	133	24	77	6	240
Allotments	108	892	..	..	1,000
Refuse tips	45	4	..	..	49
Re rat repression	52	5	26	18	101
Other factories	62	..	4	1	67
Other workshops . . . . .	..	2	30	30	62
Other workplaces . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..
Re food poisoning cases . . . . .	..	..	17	..	17
Re conversions to water carriage system . . . . .	..	..	..	1,852	1,852
Other visits	5	306	..	..	311
Taking samples with Food Inspector . .	136	..	..	..	136
Visits re cases of infectious disease : on notification of cases ; or on disinfection of premises	173	225	185	162	745
Re home-treated cases	18	99	7	19	143
,, cases of tuberculosis	52	38	59	106	255
,, contacts of smallpox	1	3	19	13	36
,, " plague	4	1	2	..	7
,, " cholera	6	4	2	8	20
,, " other infectious diseases	1	..	1	23	25
Total visits	6,075	5,225	6,911	5,884	24,095

TABLE 15.—STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

NATURE OF WORK.	W. Clark	R. W. Weir.	R. Ayre.	W. Hill.	Totals
Houses : generally improved.....	94	23	21	91	229
rooms and cellars closed.....	..	..	..	11	11
Factories, Workshops, etc. : repairs to roof, etc.....	..	..	..	3	3
additional sanitary accommo- dation provided.....	..	..	8	1	9
ventilation improved .....	..	..	1	1	2
Fried Fish Shop : steamless stove in- stalled .....	..	1	..	..	1
Public Houses : additional sanitary accommodation pro- vided for women ....	..	..	20	..	20
additional sanitary accommodation pro- vided for men .....	..	..	2	..	2
Theatre : sanitary accommodation im- proved .....	..	..	1	..	1
Ballroom : additional sanitary accom- modation provided .....	..	..	1	..	1
Church Institutes : additional sanitary accommodation provided .....	..	..	2	..	2
Drains : abolished .....	..	..	..	2	2
provided	9	2	..	3	14
relaid	5	1	24	4	34
repaired	10	4	23	68	105
chambers, gullies, traps, etc., provided or renewed.....	11	8	..	10	29
Yards and Areas : relaid	3	1	15	4	23
repaired	16	1	..	1	18
provided .....	..	1	..	..	1
Privy Receptacles : abolished (see also below) .....	..	..	1	5	6
rebuilt or repaired..	66	46	12	22	146
W.C.'s : newly provided (complete)....	11	5	11	11	38
provided in place of— privy receptacles .....	..	2	12	1,097 ^a	1,111
“Fowler” closet.....	..	..	..	1	1
“Fowler” closet abolished ..	..	..	1	..	1
basins, cisterns, etc., replaced or repaired	2	10	..	15	37
Dustbins : provided (fixed, 4; portable 1,109)	4	2	10	1,097 ^a	1,113
Urinals : reconstructed or repaired	1	..	..	..	1
provided .....	..	3	..	..	3
Baths : wastepipes or traps provided ..	7	..	..	..	7

TABLE 15.—Continued.

NATURE OF WORK.	W. Clark.	R. W. Weir.	R. Ayre.	W. Hill.	Totals.
Washups : abolished .....	..	..	..	1	1
of metal, replaced by stone- ware	6	2	..	4	12
newly provided (complete) traps, wastepipes, etc., pro- vided or repaired.....	..	6	5	..	11
Lavatories : traps, wastepipes, etc., provided or repaired..	4	6	..	5	15
Rainwater Cisterns (underground) :					
filled in .....	..	1	5	2	8
Wash-houses : rebuilt or repaired.....	17	8	..	16	41
floors relaid or repaired..	4	6	..	4	14
Outbuildings : provided .....	..	1	..	..	1
rebuilt or repaired.....	31	18	..	20	69

a Under Council's conversion scheme (See page 76).

HOUSING.

In extension and amplification of my remarks which follow on page 88 with regard to the census return, the following points may well be borne in mind :

Under the Housing Act of 1919, the Council were authorised to build 1,000 houses, but this number was subsequently reduced to 600. The latter number of houses were duly completed during 1923, and comprised 305 houses of 4 rooms ; 225 houses of 5 rooms and 70 houses of 6 rooms.

It is evident from this that the aim of the Ministry and of the Council has been to obviate the disastrous overcrowding which has prevailed for so many years past, but personally I believe that there is a much greater demand for houses of 2 and 3 rooms to accommodate small families.

I find in my experience that newly married people and others who have only recently entered on married life cannot afford to live in excessively rented houses. Such persons will inevitably continue to inhabit houses of the lowest rental, and consequently of the worst sanitary description.

For my part, I believe that housing should be the first and chief concern of the Sanitary Authority, but it should undoubtedly be coupled with the most strenuous endeavours of the individual citizen.

The position, which some years ago was a straight issue between owners and occupiers, has now become extremely complicated by the intervention of the Council and the Ministry of Health.

On the existing housing conditions the Sanitary Inspectors report there is continued difficulty in getting very necessary repairs and alterations done to dilapidated dwellinghouses. This is due to several important causes such as unemployment and the shortage of alternative dwelling accommodation. There is an increasingly large number of houses which should be demolished, especially in the areas scheduled as unhealthy, and which meanwhile must continue to be inhabited although quite unfit for the purpose. Overcrowding continues to get worse in many parts of the town, and this in itself is a very serious state of affairs. One obvious nuisance overcrowding causes is the large amount of domestic refuse, extra ashes especially, from the abnormal number of families per house. As a direct consequence, receptacles cannot contain the week's accumulation, and very many privies are quite unusable on several days in the week. This leads to ashes being stored in large accumulations on the yard surface or to piling up in the back

lanes. The progress of the water carriage system will ultimately remedy the privy trouble, but until the number of families per house is reduced to normal it would be very desirable to have the privies and ashbins emptied oftener; how often depends on the varying needs of different districts.

There have been numerous cases of sub-letting of houses by tenants who, owing to unemployment, have adopted this means to get money to pay the rent. In other instances rooms have been sublet to provide housing accommodation for some friend or relatives. In many instances tenements are small and unsuitable for sub-letting, and consequently overcrowding and other insanitary conditions exist which are difficult to remedy in such circumstances. Complaints have been frequent regarding nuisances arising from families not having access through the house to the yard and conveniences—such conditions emphasize the fact that there is still an acute shortage of housing accommodation and the building of more houses should be pressed forward.

In this respect I have to report that in addition to the 600 houses referred to above, the Council received permission of the Ministry of Health during the year to proceed with the erection of 290 houses under the Housing Act of 1923 and the Ministry's Circular 388a. 130 of these houses were in course of erection at the end of the year. The approval of the Ministry has also been given to the proposal of the Council to make lump sum grants of £100 per house to private builders under the 1923 Act for 400 houses.

Work in unhealthy areas has been confined to doing only necessary and temporary repairs in order to make the houses tolerable to live in until housing conditions have improved to such an extent that the Council can deal more drastically with houses unfit for human habitation.

Action regarding the remedying of housing defects is detailed in the following table. Under the Rent Restrictions Acts 12 certificates were granted and 3 refused. In seven other instances the work was done by owners on reference from this department.

SUMMARY.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(1) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—	
(a) by the Local Authority	237
(b) by other bodies or persons	—
(2) Without State assistance	47
	<hr/>
Total	<u>284</u>

Nine of the houses in (2) were houses of flats. The other 275 houses were self-contained.

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION—

The four Sanitary Inspectors made about 20,000 inspections of dwelling houses but many were duplicate visits to the same house.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). See note above.	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	114
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	259

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	*213
--	------

3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	2

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	14
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .... ..	..

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders .....	..
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit .....	..
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	8

*Drainage defects and external nuisances excluded.

COMMENT ON THE DURHAM COUNTY CENSUS FOR 1921.

(The references to South Shields are for the County Borough as before the extension of 1st November, 1921).

POPULATION.—All the county Boroughs in Durham show increase in population during the intercensal period. With an increase of 7,988 (or 7.4 per cent.) on the 1911 figures South Shields occupies an intermediate position, the greatest increase having taken place in Darlington (14.9 per cent.) and the least in Sunderland (5.2 per cent.) The increase in South Shields is roughly 1.2 per cent. below the average increase for the other county boroughs.

In spite, however, of the fact that the rate of increase of population in South Shields has been below the average the borough occupies the unenviable position of being the most overcrowded in the county (48.6 persons per acre, compared with the next highest, Sunderland, 47.4 per acre). Another unenviable distinction which South Shields holds is that it contains the most densely overcrowded ward (Laygate) in the whole county, the density of population in Laygate Ward being 206.8 persons per acre.

It is pointed out by the Registrar-General, however, that density of population alone does not necessarily provide an index to overcrowding from the housing point of view. A more approximately accurate idea of the overcrowding problem is obtained from a consideration of the average number of rooms per person in inhabited houses. In this respect South Shields is again the worst, the figure being .71 room per person. It is, however, closely approximated by Gateshead with a figure of .72 room per person. Viewed from this aspect, however, it must be noted that the average for the whole county (.77 room per person) is materially better than South Shields.

BUILDINGS, DWELLINGS, ROOMS, AND FAMILIES.—There has always been some confusion in such terms as “house,” “tenement,” etc., when used for comparative statistical purposes. The Registrar has on this occasion endeavoured to avoid this ambiguity by the introduction of a new term, namely, “structurally separate dwelling.” This term is defined as “any room or set of rooms having separate access either to a street or to a common landing, or staircase accessible to visitors.” Thus a private house which has not been structurally divided is regarded as a single unit whether occupied by one family or more, but where there has been structural division each portion is regarded as a separate unit. This procedure has been designed to throw as much light as possible upon the problems arising out of the present housing difficulties. Further, the “buildings table” has been developed so as to exhibit for various types of buildings not only the number of structurally separate dwellings within them, but the sizes of such dwellings and the manner of their occupation.

A summary of the figures obtained discloses the fact that in 1921 there were, within the county, 27,823 families in excess of the total number of houses available as compared with 20,463 in 1911, thus showing an increased lack of housing accommodation to the extent of 7,360. On the other hand there were nearly 10,000 fewer vacant dwelling houses in 1921 than in 1911.

In view of the present housing shortage some explanation appears necessary of why there should have been 6,747 unoccupied dwellings. Part of these, of course, would be only temporarily vacant owing to the absence of their tenants and a small part owing to lapse or change of tenancy. We are offered no information as to how many houses were actually without “occupiers” or “tenants” or were uninhabitable.

Commenting on the general housing conditions in the county the Registrar points out that in 1911 they were amongst the worst in the whole country, and that there has been little if any improvement during the ensuing ten years. This statement would certainly appear to apply to South Shields.

A summary of certain other particulars regarding the census figures for South Shields may be of interest :—

POPULATION AND INTERCENSAL VARIATIONS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1891.....	39,381	39,010	78,391
1901.....	50,193	50,665	* 100,858
1911.....	53,286	55,361	108,647
1921.....	57,580	59,055	† 116,635

* Borough as extended on 9th November, 1901.

† Borough as before extension of 1st November, 1921.

WARD POPULATIONS AND ACREAGE: FAMILIES AND DWELLINGS.

WARDS.	Area in Statute *Acres.	Total Population.						Private Families and Dwellings.				
		1911.		1921.				Private families	Popula- tion in private families	Structur- ally separate dwellings occupied.	Rooms occupied	Rooms per person.
		Persons	Persons	Persons	Males.	Females	Persons per acre.					
Beacon	141	8,576	8,629	4,221	4,408	61.2	1,947	8,586	1,855	6,230	0.73	
Bents	284	6,983	7,125	3,312	3,813	25.1	1,712	7,063	1,605	7,476	1.06	
Deans	64	10,400	11,166	5,546	5,620	174.5	2,420	11,091	2,279	6,655	0.80	
Hadrian	120	7,530	8,432	4,031	4,401	70.3	1,945	8,296	1,748	6,447	0.78	
Holborn	90	6,108	6,245	3,352	2,893	69.4	1,339	5,626	1,309	2,793	0.50	
Laygate	36	6,801	7,443	3,745	3,698	206.8	1,660	7,344	1,352	3,703	0.50	
Rekentyke	47	8,163	8,679	4,259	4,420	184.7	1,856	8,667	1,755	4,952	0.57	
St. Hilda	93	4,822	5,436	2,791	2,645	58.5	1,187	5,152	1,071	3,019	0.59	
Shields	63	6,505	7,012	3,636	3,376	111.3	1,564	6,590	1,532	3,246	0.49	
Simonside	350	7,331	7,563	3,776	3,787	21.6	1,723	7,562	1,642	5,475	0.72	
Tyne Dock	444	9,628	10,335	5,317	5,018	23.3	2,142	9,887	1,997	6,260	0.63	
Victoria	77	10,030	10,482	5,125	5,357	136.1	2,228	10,482	2,062	6,806	0.65	
Westoe	315	7,570	9,091	4,143	4,948	28.9	2,177	8,953	2,126	9,920	1.11	
West Park	275	8,200	8,997	4,326	4,671	32.7	2,154	8,991	2,022	8,260	0.92	
Total	2,399	108,647	116,635	57,580	59,055	48.6	26,054	114,290	24,355	81,242	0.71	

* Land and inland water.

BUILDINGS, DWELLINGS, ROOMS, AND FAMILIES.

(A.) Buildings not containing dwellings—Shops, 1,024 ; others, 697 ; Total, 1,721.

(B.) Buildings containing dwellings :—

	No. of Buildings.	No. of dwellings.	
		Occupied.	Vacant.
I.—Undivided private houses	4,050	4,050	201
II.—Structurally divided private houses	880	2,941	32
III.—Blocks of flats, tenements, etc. ..	7,080	16,907	388
IV.—Shops	1,053	1,053	34
V.—Others	142	142	2
Total	14,005	25,093	657

PRIVATE FAMILIES, AND ROOMS OCCUPIED.

Where more than one family is enumerated within a structurally separate dwelling, each is classified according to the rooms it severally occupies, and not to the total number of rooms in the dwelling.

No. of Persons in Family.	No. of private families occupying the following number of rooms.										Total No. of private families.	Popula- tion in private families.
	1	2	3	4	5	6-7	8-9	10 and over.				
1	466	425	195	114	33	48	11	4	1,296	1,296		
2	726	1,285	868	638	217	193	51	8	3,986	7,972		
3	678	1,648	1,133	886	304	278	89	27	5,043	15,129		
4	367	1,614	1,124	959	294	311	78	21	4,768	19,072		
5	174	1,302	920	830	297	272	62	19	3,876	19,380		
6	90	979	681	547	195	196	60	19	2,767	16,602		
7	54	709	463	410	104	125	45	12	1,922	13,454		
8	18	412	293	238	68	75	27	6	1,137	9,096		
9	6	234	180	148	58	45	12	3	686	6,174		
10	1	93	98	78	28	28	9	5	340	3,400		
11 .....	..	26	40	35	10	13	7	..	131	1,441	
12 .....	..	9	18	23	3	13	2	1	69	828	
13 .....	..	1	9	5	..	4	2	..	21	273	
14 .....	..	..	1	2	1	2	1	2	9	126
15 and over .....	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3	47
Total private families	2,580	8,737	6,024	4,915	1,612	1,603	456	127	26,054	..		
Population in private families	7,416	38,481	27,500	22,987	7,444	7,587	2,232	643	..	114,290		
Rooms occupied	2,580	17,460	18,067	19,658	8,060	10,156	3,787	1,474	..	..
"Overcrowded" families ..	1,388	3,765	1,103	293	14	..	..	..	6,563	..
"Overcrowded" population	5,498	24,086	8,987	2,896	160	..	..	..	..	41,627

16,034	persons	were	living	in	dwellings	with	less	than	0.3	room	per	person.
25,647	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.3	and	under	0.5
31,765	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.5	"	0.7	"
12,269	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.7	"	1.0	"
Again,	9.9	per	cent.	of	the	families	were	living	in	1	roomed	dwellings.
33.4	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	"	"	"
23.1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	"	"	"
18.9	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	"	"	"
14.7	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	dwellings	of	more
											than	4
											rooms.	

Taking a definition of "overcrowding" which has been adopted by the Registrar-General in the previous Census Reports, viz., a ratio of more than two persons per room, it will be seen that there were 6,563 families (25 per cent. of the total families) which were so overcrowded, and that the total population living in such overcrowded dwellings was 41,627 (36 per cent.)

POPULATION, AGES AND SEX.

<i>Age. Years.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Under 1.....	1,606	1,552
1	1,678	1,723
2	1,139	1,179
3	1,126	1,078
4	1,109	1,086
5-9	6,339	6,221
10-14	6,265	6,271
15-19	5,826	6,036
20-24	5,014	5,306
25-34	8,669	9,055
35-44	7,315	7,690
45-54	5,831	5,713
55-64	3,490	3,625
65-74	1,726	1,851
75-84	422	606
85-94	25	62
95 and over	—	1
TOTAL	57,580	59,055

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS OVER 12 YEARS OF AGE.

MALES.

Fishermen	85
Agricultural occupations	108
Mining and quarrying occupations	8,826
Workers in chemicals, paint, etc.	147

Metal workers	6,381
Electrical apparatus makers, fitters, etc.....	396
Makers of textile goods and articles of dress, including tailors (107), and bootmakers (90)	274
Makers of foods, drinks, and tobacco	197
Workers in wood and furniture.....	1,338
Paper workers, printers, etc.....	155
Builders, bricklayers, etc., including bricklayers and masons (273)	993
Painters and decorators	488
Transport workers, including seamen, firemen, etc.	7,970
Commercial and financial occupations.....	2,088
Public administration and defence	512
Professional occupations.....	507
Persons employed in entertainments, etc.	171
Persons employed in personal service	670
Clerks, draughtsmen, typists, etc.....	901
Warehousemen, packers, etc.....	191
Stationary engine drivers, etc.	740
All other occupations, including general or undefined labourers	4,276
Total occupied.....	37,414

FEMALES.

Textile workers	83
Makers of textile goods and articles of dress, including tailoresses, dressmakers.....	676
Makers of foods, drinks, and tobacco	210
Workers in wood and furniture.....	40
Paper workers, printers, etc.	71
Transport workers (including telegraph and telephone operators (44)	157
Commercial and financial occupations (including shop assistants, etc., 1,747).....	2,276
Public administration and defence	80
Professional occupations (including midwives, nurses, etc. (111), teachers (407)).....	552
Persons employed in entertainments, etc.	106
Persons employed in personal service, including domestic servants (2,216), charwomen (286), innkeepers, barmaids (253), waitresses (93)	3,494
Clerks, typists, etc.	824
Warehousewomen, packers, etc.	94
All other occupations	178
Total occupied.....	8,841

FOOD.**Meat Inspection.**

There are no private slaughterhouses in the Borough. All slaughtering in the way of trade must be done at the Public Abattoir, except with the consent of the Corporation. Such permission is occasionally given to members of the Arab community.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered during the last 8 years. The Abattoir was erected in 1906.

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Beasts	5,113	*5,494	4,760	3,858	3,348	3,394	2,988	2,940
Calves	46	487	35	357	193	203	189	413
Pigs	4,576	3,980	1,725	2,043	4,184	5,406	4,989	4,569
Sheep	32,463	31,368	23,812	16,911	19,985	32,996	27,901	19,197
Total	42,198	41,329	30,332	23,169	27,710	41,999	36,067	27,119

* Excluding 2,531 beasts slaughtered for the military authorities.

The decrease in the number of animals slaughtered during 1923 is due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, and probably also to some extent to the depression in trade, and to the increase in recent years in the amount of imported meat.

Visits of Inspection to Premises.

The following is a summary of the visits paid by the Food Inspector to the various premises under his supervision :—

	<i>No. of Premises at end of year.</i>	<i>No. of Visits.</i>
‡ Butcher's shops	173	
Pork butchers' shops	18 [†]	1,582
Fresh fish shops	31	882
Fried fish shops	81	141
Fish curing places	5	14
¶ Milkshops and dairies	276	459
† Ice cream shops	24	18
Cowsheds	9	38
Bakehouses	71	123
Tallow boiling places	1	..
* Triperies	4	81
* Gut scraping places	2	30
Other premises and shops . . . . .	..	1,555

* Inclusive of two tripe preparers and two gut-scrapers who use premises set apart at the public Abattoir.

† Number varies considerably - does not include stalls on beach in summer.

‡ Includes stalls in Market Place (average 25).

¶ Includes 80 milk shops registered for the sale of bottled milk only.

These premises are also visited by the Sanitary and Shops Inspectors.

Food Condemned and Destroyed.

The following are particulars of the food condemned and destroyed during the year—

AT THE ABATTOIR.

Beasts : 12 carcasses of cows (Tuberculosis).
 2 carcasses of stirks (Tuberculosis).
 4 forequarters and offal (Tuberculosis).
 8 sets of lungs (Tuberculosis).
 2 livers (Ulcers 1, Cirrhosis 1).

(In all, 24 beasts were condemned, in whole or in part, on account of Tuberculosis).

Sheep : 3 carcasses (Dropsy).
 Pigs : 2 carcasses (Found dead).

OUTSIDE THE ABATTOIR :

The whole of the undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned on account of decomposition or unsoundness, except where otherwise stated :—

Beasts : 1 carcase (imported) of a stirk.
 2 cwt. 26 lbs. home-killed beef (Bone Taint).
 5 cwt. 102 lbs. imported beef (Bone Taint).
 1 cwt. 62 lbs. do. (Nodules).
 3 cwt. 98 lbs. do.
 44 lbs. imported tripe.

Calves : 28 imported carcasses.

Sheep : 1 leg imported mutton (Tuberculosis).

Pigs : 4 carcasses (Constipation 2, found dead 2).

Tinned goods, etc : Beef (22 tins) ; Meat paste (18) ; Ham paste (1) ; Tongue (6) ; Salmon (20) ; Crab (1) ; Tomatoes (26) ; Tomato ketchup, etc., (38) ; Beans (22) ; Peas (1) ; Pineapple (14) ; Apricots (7) ; Pears (3) ; Condensed Milk (470) ; Mustard (1).

Other food : 5,170 eggs ; 20 crabs.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The number of samples taken during the year and submitted to the Borough Analyst was 152, eighteen of which were taken informally. The following are particulars of the samples, results of analyses and of the action taken in certain cases.

All the samples of butter, milk, and margarine were examined for preservatives, with the results as detailed below.

MILK :

23 samples of fresh milk were taken, 4 of which were informal samples.

18 were genuine.

5 were deficient as under :—

(1) 9.5 per cent. in non-fatty solids ; (2) 8.3 per cent. in milk fat ; (3) 10 per cent. milk fat ; (4) 21.6 per cent. milk fat ; (5) 6.1 per cent non-fatty solids and 15 per cent. milk fat. Proceedings were taken in these cases. In case No. 5 a fine of 20s. was imposed ; the other cases were dismissed. An appeal against the decision of the magistrates in case No. 4 was lodged by the Council and was pending at the end of the year.

19 of the samples of milk, including the five non-genuine samples referred to above, were taken in the course of delivery at the railway station.

4 samples of condensed and evaporated milk were taken. They were genuine ; one of the samples of evaporated milk was reported by the Analyst as " very acid when received."

BUTTER :

18 samples were taken, including two informal samples.

17 were genuine.

1 contained 0.12 per cent. boric acid—No action taken.

MARGARINE :

12 samples were taken, including two informal samples.

10 contained boric acid in the following proportion :—
.09 per cent., 0.16 per cent., 0.17 per cent., 0.25 per cent. (two samples), 0.27 per cent., 0.30 per cent., 0.31 per cent., 0.33 per cent., 0.35 per cent.—No action taken.

DRIED EGG :

1 informal sample taken. It contained 0.17 per cent. boric acid.—No action taken.

" SPONGE FINGERS " :

1 informal sample taken. It contained 0.12 per cent. boric acid.—No action taken.

JELLY :

1 sample of table jelly was taken. It contained 0.0016 per cent. copper, equivalent to 0.11 grains per lb. The Analyst reported that copper is very frequently found in minute amount in these substances, but having regard

to the quantities in which table jelly would be consumed he did not consider that the amount of copper found in this sample would be harmful. No action taken.

BAKING POWDER, ETC. :

5 samples of baking powder were taken. One taken unofficially and another as a result of this informal sample were certified by the Analyst to be useless as baking powder; they contained neutral phosphate instead of acid phosphate. The vendor's attention was drawn to the matter by letter from the Town Clerk, and a reply was received stating that the makers guaranteed that the phosphate used was of 2 per cent. acidity; the vendors would in future increase the acid phosphate.—No further action taken by the Council.

3 samples (one informal) of self-raising flour and bun flour were also taken. They were genuine.

NITRE :

1 sample of sweet spirits of nitre was taken. The Analyst certified it to be 91.5 per cent deficient in ethyl nitrite. It was purchased at a small general dealer's shop. On the vendor's attention being drawn to the result of the analysis the remainder of the stock of nitre was withdrawn from sale as the Analyst was of opinion that it might be dangerous to children as it was strongly acid. A letter of caution was subsequently sent to the vendor by the Town Clerk.

SAGO :

1 sample was taken. It was certified as 100 per cent. tapioca. No action was taken.

OTHER SUBSTANCES :

82 samples of the following substances were taken, all of which were genuine:—Barley, 1; Boracic Powder, 2; Camphorated Oil, 1; Cassia, 2; Cheese, 1; Cinnamon, 2; Cocoa, 2; Cocoa Essence, 1; Cornflour, 1; Cream of Tartar, 2; Currants, 1; Custard Powder, 1; Epsom Salts, 1; Flour (1 informal sample), 13; Ground Ginger, 2; Gravy Salt (informal sample), 1; Jam, 1; Lard, 6; Lemon Curd, 1; Liquorice Compound Powder, 1; Mustard, 2; Ground Nutmeg, 1; Oatmeal, 1; Olive Oil, 2; Pepper, 9; Pickles (informal sample), 1; Potato Flour, 1; Rice (1 informal sample), 2; Rice, Ground, 2; Sauce, 2; Soda Carb. and Bi-carb., 2; Suet, Shredded (informal samples), 2; Sweets, 4; Tapioca, 4; Tea, 2; Vinegar, 2.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

All the samples of milk (27) taken for the purpose of chemical examination under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts were examined for the presence of preservatives. None contained preservatives. No samples of cream were taken during the year.

Food Poisoning.

During the first week of August information was received at the Health Department that four cases of apparent food poisoning had occurred in a family residing in Morton Street. The persons affected included the mother, aged 47, and three sons aged 11, 14, and 18 respectively. The father and a young infant were not affected. Two of the cases had a fatal termination.

A careful investigation of the facts of the case was made by the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Lyons) who submitted samples of suspected articles of food for bacteriological examination. Investigations apparently narrowed the suspected material to some linseed and liquorice "tea," of which the four affected persons had each partaken.

Post mortem examinations were made of the organs of the two deceased boys and specimens were forwarded to Mr. Bruce White of the Pathology Department, University of Bristol for bacteriological examination. Samples of blood from one of the patients who recovered, and from the father were also forwarded to Mr. Bruce White.

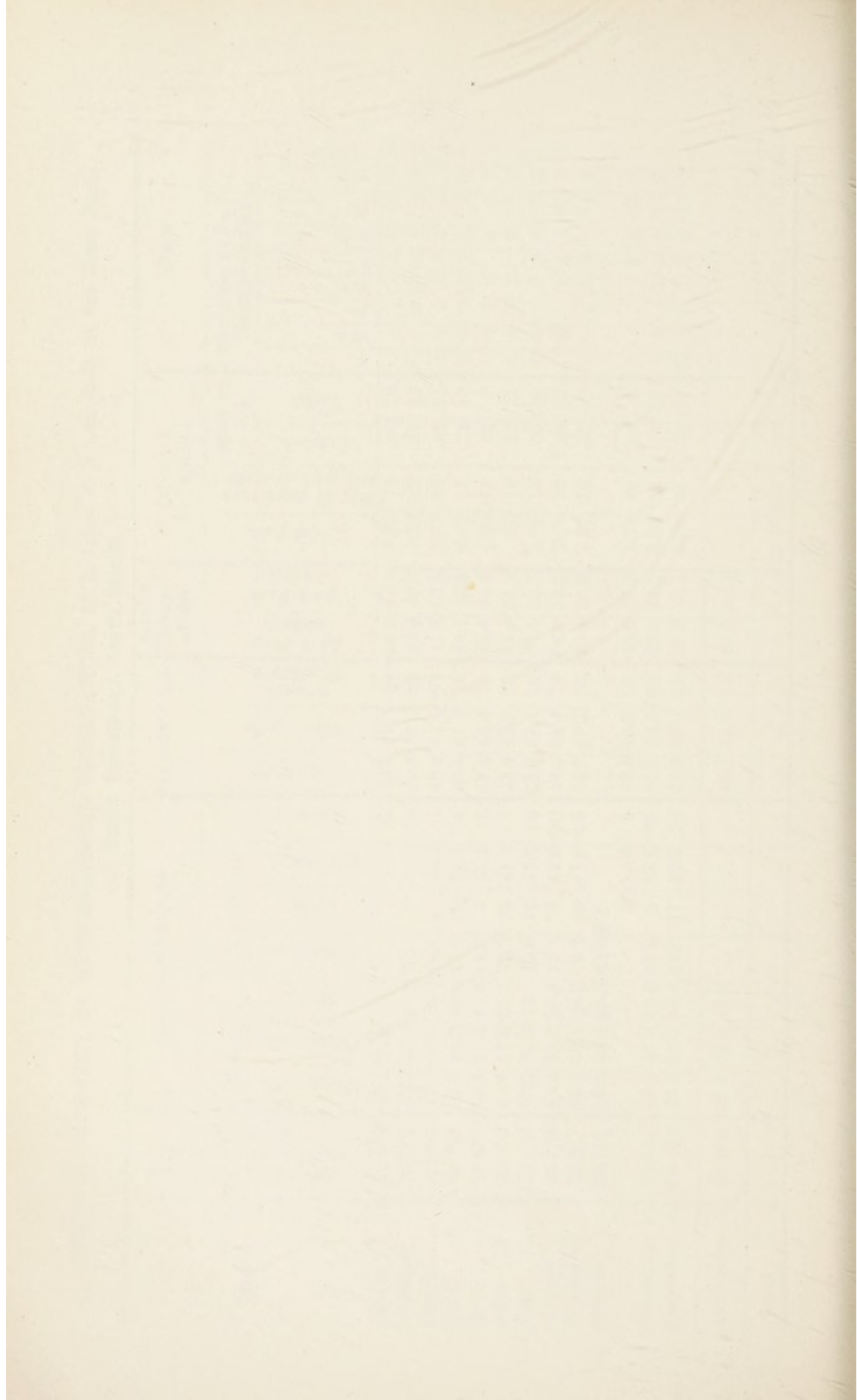
The results of the bacteriological examinations may be stated briefly as follows:—No bacteria of the true food-poisoning group (*Salmonella*) were observed. On the other hand dysentery bacilli (*B. dysenteriae* Flexner, type W) were isolated in large numbers.

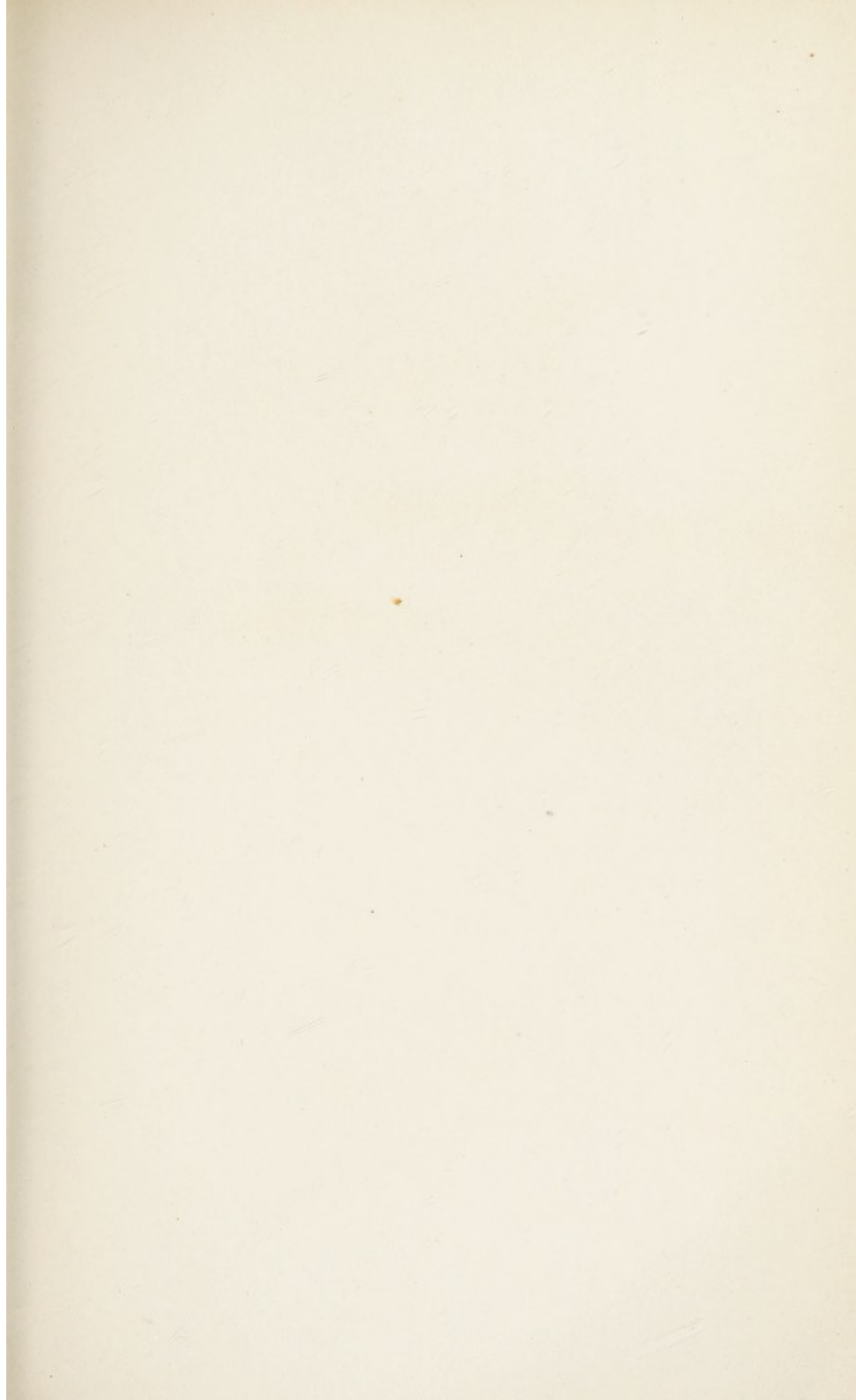
It was found that the blood of one of the sons gave a slightly positive agglutination re-action with bacillus dysenteriae Flexner, but according to Mr. White's opinion the reaction was not sufficiently marked to indicate that he was a "carrier" of the germs.

The result of the bacteriological enquiry was therefore inconclusive.

The conclusion reached by Dr. Lyons was that the linseed tea had become contaminated by infected flies, but absolutely no information could be obtained as to the original source of infection.

An inquest was held by the Coroner, whose verdict was that "the two boys died from septic absorption from ptomaine poisoning caused by drinking linseed "tea" which had become decomposed."





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