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SOWERBY BRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

(W. M. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.1.)

for the Year

1949

SOWERBY BRIDGE:
TREW & EDWARDS, LTD., PRINTERS, TOWN HALL STREET
1951.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor J. W. WILEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Councillor H. HAIGH.

Chairman of the Health Committee :

Councillor A. SUTCLIFFE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee :

Councillor S. DAWSON.

Members of the Health Committee :

Ccr. R. Blakeley	Ccr. P. E. O. Bryan
„ W. Crossfield	„ E. Butterworth, C.C.
„ J. Greenwood	„ J. Grayshan
„ W. Greenwood	„ H. Henderson
„ E. D. Hall	„ C. G. Hopkinson
„ F. Lord	„ W. I. G. Moffat
„ S. Muff	„ C. W. Maude, J.P.
„ J. Noble	„ G. Sharpe
„ C. A. Teal	„ R. Tidswell
„ W. Tate	„ P. Thompson

Members of the Health Sub-Committee :

Councillor A. Sutcliffe, J.P. (Chairman)

„ S. Dawson (Vice-Chairman)

„ J. Greenwood

„ P. E. O. Bryan

„ C. W. Maude, J.P.

„ W. Crossfield

„ J. Grayshan

„ J. W. Wiley, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

G. A. WILTHEW, M.B., B.S., B.Sc.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLMES, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL.

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge district—

Divisional Medical Officer : As above (M.O.H.).

Deputy Divisional Medical Officer :

As above (Deputy M.O.H.)

Assistant County Medical Officers : Vacant.

Medical Officers to Sowerby Bridge Maternity & Child Welfare Clinics :

E. DOROTHY SHAW, M.B., Ch.B.

DORIS RAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

County Oculist : R. BURNS, M.B., B.Ch.

School Dental Officer : J. TODD, L.D.S.

Health Visitors :

M. DYSON, S.R.N., S.C.M.

E. B. NOWERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N.

R. I. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

E. A. ROBERTS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Commenced April, 1949).

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker :

Miss S. PENNINGTON, B.A. (Soc. Admin.)

Midwives :

C. BURCHNALL, S.C.M.

A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*F. A. NEAVE, S.C.M.

M. HOLDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Commenced as Relief
Midwife for whole Divisional Area in May, 1949).

Home Nurses :

A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse
(Commenced September, 1949).

A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

*E. S. SIDDALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse
(Became relief Home Nurse for whole Divisional
Area in September, 1949).

Home Nurse/Midwife :

*A. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse
(Appointed full-time Home Nurse in Sept., 1949).

**Have duties in other parts of this Division.*

**HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE.****Consultant Staff.****Ear, Nose & Throat Surgeon :**

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Chest Physician :

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopædic Surgeon : G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

ABRAHAM ORMEROD MEDICAL CENTRE,
TODMORDEN.

October, 1950.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the third Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration. Under this arrangement your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Todmorden Borough, the Hebden Royd and Ripponden Urban Districts, and the Hepton Rural District. The scheme has, I think, led to a closer integration of all local authority health services.

The vital statistics for 1949 show a fall in the birth-rate for the second year in succession, accompanied on this occasion by a rise in the death-rate from 13·8 per 1000 in 1948 to 16·1 per 1000 in 1949. It is interesting to note that whereas in 1947 births exceeded deaths by no less than 144, the corresponding figure for 1949 was only 11. It seems likely that the gap will be further reduced during the next few years and a situation may well be reached where deaths exceed births—a state of affairs already in existence in some neighbouring districts in the Calder Valley. The immediate cause of this phenomenon is the practice of birth-control which is increasingly prevalent in all classes of society. The ease with which women may enter industry in this area must of course encourage this practice and, with a rising cost of living, even more women may decide to get jobs instead of babies. This in turn may lead to a shortage of workers in the next generation—a generation which will have to support an ever-increasing number of old and retired persons, since more and more people are surviving to old age. The encouragement of the employment in industry of young married women may be considered an economic necessity to-day but will reap fresh economic problems for to-morrow.

The social aspects of this important problem are already in evidence; never was there such a large proportion of old people in the Sowerby Bridge community as there is now, and one is appalled by the number of cases reported to me of old people suffering in loneliness, handicapped by physical and often mental infirmity, uncared for and without the capacity to attend to the most elementary of their own needs. In the face of this growing and urgent problem there is, unfortunately, developing an attitude of mind which devolves the entire responsibility for dealing with the situation on to the State. Is it too old fashioned to suggest that the prime responsibility for caring for the aged rests with the relatives where they exist—or have State provisions (such as they are) confused our moral conscience? The community and the State must of course play a part, and it is encouraging to note that a local Old People's Welfare Organisation has been formed. It is equally a relief to learn that the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee have plans for additional accommodation for the aged chronic sick. The District Council, too, must keep in mind the care of this increasing number of aged people when plans for future housing projects are discussed. A place on the waiting list is, to an old person, merely a passport to the Beyond. I would plead for a sense of urgency in dealing with the many and varied aspects of this human problem.

The statistics of infectious disease reveal an increase in the incidence of scarlet fever and measles and a reduction in the number of notified cases of whooping cough. The scarlet fever was generally of a very mild type with no deaths and few complications. Not a single case of diphtheria was notified in 1949, a tribute both to immunisation and the improved health of the children.

Tuberculosis remains a serious problem. Eighteen new cases (fifteen respiratory) were notified during the year, fourteen of these being under the age of 35 years, and there were five deaths. When B.C.G. vaccination is employed on a large scale it may well be that the incidence of tuberculosis will diminish but there is little hope of eradicating the disease as long as housing conditions remain as they are. A high level of nutrition also plays a pre-eminent rôle in the prevention of tuberculosis. Our present day diet is inclined to be monotonous and unexciting but there

is, on the other hand, no evidence of any serious degree of malnutrition in any section of the community. Our school-children are taller, heavier and healthier than their predecessors of 1939, our infants have a much lower mortality rate and, last but not least, maternal mortality is now non-existent in this district. However great the advances of medical science in recent years, these important milestones of health progress could not have been reached had malnutrition been common. We must beware nevertheless of any complacency in our attitude towards nutrition. If the cost of living continues to rise at its present rate, a point may be reached where the lower wage earners cannot afford to buy an adequate diet for themselves and their dependants. Should this occur we might well see a lowering of present day health standards with a consequent overburdening of the expensive curative side of the National Health Service, not to mention increased absenteeism in industry.

A significant feature of recent annual reports is the rise in mortality from cancer. Deaths from this disease numbered 34 in 1947, 39 in 1948, and 41 in 1949. Of course, cancer chiefly attacks the older age-groups and an increased incidence must be expected in an ageing community. It may also be true that certain forms of cancer were not easily ascertained in earlier times even at the time of death but they are now diagnosed more frequently as the result of improved scientific methods. Even after these factors are taken into account, however, some experts believe that the risk of any individual developing cancer is slightly higher than it was a generation or two ago. Some recent research has shown that cancer of lung is much commoner in heavy cigarette smokers—though it also occurs in some non-smokers. Could it be that other products of our modern civilisation are also responsible for increasing susceptibility to cancer? Can we for example attach any responsibility to the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke and other poisonous fumes? I do not pretend to know the answers to these questions but one is of the opinion that more intensive research into the cause and treatment of cancer is now an urgent matter. Some valuable work is being done but, unfortunately, the chief emphasis in modern research appears to lie in the field of human destruction rather than in the higher planes of human preservation.

This report cannot be considered complete without further reference to housing, unquestionably the foremost public health problem of to-day in Sowerby Bridge as elsewhere. The Sanitary Inspector refers to the many difficulties involved in his accompanying report — difficulties shared in large degree by every housing authority in the country. We must nevertheless face the fact that the present rate of new building is inadequate to replace in any reasonable period of time the large number of ancient, dilapidated and sub-standard houses in this district. Bad housing alone can cause or aggravate many types of illness, both physical and psychological. Bad housing also produces a strain on other social services which could easily bring them toppling to destruction. Our hospitals, sanatoria, and medical and nursing personnel are being overloaded (at great expense to the taxpayer) by patients, not a few of whom would be requiring little or no medical attention if they had been adequately housed. In the long run houses are more vital than hospitals. The effect on the moral fibre of the community must also not be forgotten. Bad housing is a potent factor in the causation of such social ills as marital discord, family dis-unity, child neglect, immorality, drunkenness, delinquency, and crime. What can the “sanctity of home life” mean to those living in overcrowded, damp, cold, insanitary or dilapidated houses? The problem is of such magnitude and so far-reaching that one must question whether sufficient of the nation’s resources in brains, money, and man-power, are being devoted to its solution.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Foster, Sanitary Inspector, for his kindness and most willing assistance in helping me to tackle the numerous problems of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYONS,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

Vital Statistics.

STATISTICS.

Area	6,966 acres
Population. Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population, mid 1949 ...	19,020
Number of dwelling-houses	6,822
Rateable value... ..	£89,382
Product of a Penny Rate	£341

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—				Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 16·7
Legitimate ...	301	153	148	
Illegitimate ...	17	4	13	
Still Births—				Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 6·3
Legitimate ...	2	1	1	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
All Deaths ...	307	148	159	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... 16·1
Deaths of infants under 1 year—				Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births) ... 35
Legitimate ...	11	8	3	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	

Causes of Death in Sowerby Bridge U.D.

1949

Cause of Death		M.	F.
1	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	—
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	2	—
9	Influenza	3	—
10	Measles	—	—
11	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12	Ac. Infantile Encephalitis	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	1	2
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	3
15	Cancer of Breast	—	3
16	Cancer of all other Sites	13	15
17	Diabetes	1	—
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	19	15
19	Heart Disease	57	67
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System... ..	4	4
21	Bronchitis	5	8
22	Pneumonia	1	5
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years... ..	3	—
26	Appendicitis	1	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	5
28	Nephritis	7	8
29	Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31	Premature Birth	1	—
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infancy Diseases	4	3
33	Suicide	3	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
35	Other Violent Causes	4	4
36	All other Causes	6	13
Total all causes		148	159

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1949

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

Comparison with neighbouring districts in County Health Division 19

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Todmor- den M.B.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton U.D.
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) ...	16·7	14·9	15·9	14·5	13·2
DEATH RATES (all per 1,000 estimated population)					
All Causes	16·1	11·2	17·2	17·7	14·5
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)*	0·16	Nil	0·05	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0·26	Nil	0·26	0·20	0·25
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Respiratory Diseases † (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1·05	0·39	2·91	1·87	1·78
Cancer	2·16	0·78	2·45	2·27	1·78
Heart and Circulatory Diseases ‡	6·94	5·82	4·84	7·20	6·11
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)... ..	35	—	52	14	38
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births) ...	9·43	Nil	3·28	Nil	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Combined death rate from smallpox, scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

† Combined death rate from bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1949
Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

	Sowerby Bridge Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provis- ional figures)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) ...	16·7	16·8	17·2	16·7
DEATH RATES (all per 1,000 estimated population)				
All Causes... ..	16·1	12·5	12·1	11·7
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)*	0·16	0·8	0·8	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0·26	0·32	0·32	0·40
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	Nil	0·05	0·05	0·05
Respiratory Diseases †(excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1·05	1·48	1·44	**
Cancer	2·16	1·88	1·81	1·87
Heart and Circulatory Diseases ‡	6·94	4·36	4·19	**
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	35	37	38	32
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	9·43	3·01	3·27	3·0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	0·15	0·15	0·22
Other Causes	Nil	0·60	0·68	0·76
Total	Nil	0·75	0·83	0·98

* Combined death rate from smallpox (if any), scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

† Combined death rate from bronchitis, pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

‡ Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.

** Figures not available.

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Hospitals.

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopædic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

(b) Professional Nursing in the Home.

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. At the beginning of the year all the nurses were undertaking both midwifery and home nursing work. In February these services were divided, some nurses becoming full-time home nurses and the others becoming full-time midwives, except that this division was not possible in the Luddenden and Midgley area until October, 1949,

(c) Ambulance Facilities.

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighthouse — telephone Brighthouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from their hospitals in Halifax.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres (see following page).

(e) Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

(f) Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Halifax Isolation Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring it. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's scheme of immunisation.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Infant Welfare.

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot.

Thursdays.
Every Tuesday, except
1st in month

2-0 - 4-30 p.m.
2-0 - 4-30 p.m.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal.

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot.

Tuesdays.
1st Tuesday in month.

2-0 - 4-30 p.m.
2-0 - 4-30 p.m.

School Clinics.

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge.

- (a) Minor Ailments.
- (b) Dental.
- (c) Ophthalmic.
- (d) Ear, Nose & Throat
- (e) Artificial Sunlight.

Thursdays.
As required.

9-0 - 11-30 a.m.
By arrangement.

"

"

Mondays and Fridays.

2-0 - 4-30 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot.

At any Minor Ailments
or Welfare Clinics.

—

Tuberculosis.

The Medical Centre, Greenups
Terrace, Sowerby Bridge.

Tuesdays and Thursdays.

By arrangement

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot Ante-Natal Clinics.

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	81
Total number of attendances	332

Child Welfare Clinics.

Number of children seen by doctor during the year ...	2013
Total number of attendances	3615

Home Visiting of Infants.

Total number of births to Sowerby Bridge mothers ...	313
Number of first visits to children under 1 year ...	365
Total number of visits to children under 1 year ...	2097
Total number of visits to children aged 1 - 5 years ...	2995

Day Nursery Accommodation.

There is a Day Nursery situated on the Beech Recreation Ground to which Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden children may be admitted, priority being granted on health grounds.

Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(b) Midwifery Service.

Number of home confinements	85
Number of hospital confinements	238

Analgesia.—The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

(c) **Home Nursing Service.**—See Section II.

(d) **Ambulance Service.**—See Section II.

(e) **Health Visiting.**

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(f) **Home Helps.**

Owing to the severe shortage of labour it was not possible to recruit many home helps and at the end of 1949 there were only two home helps resident in Sowerby Bridge.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households “where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age.”

During the year home helps attended six cases occurring in the area.

(g) **Care and After Care.**

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

(h) **School Health Service.**

Number of schools in district ...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1949	2624				
Number of children examined at school during 1949	...	399			
this figure being made up as follows:—					
Routine examinations	...	...	...	258	
Additional children specially examined					
at request of parent	...	...	...	3	
Re-examinations	...	...	...	138	
Number of children referred for treatment	...	...	...	25	

(i) Immunisation and Vaccination.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against small-pox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time to 31.12.49.

Age at 31.12.49. i.e. born in year.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
No. immunised	118	153	158	253	168	1081	1016	2947

Estimated mid-year population	0 to 4 yrs.	5 to 14 yrs.	Total under 15
	1554	2169	3723

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who completed a full course of Immunisation 1949.

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections 1949	118	81	20	10	13	14	17	12	13	2	10	2	-	-	-

Total ... 312

Immunised in previous years re-treated 1949	-	-	-	1	38	73	78	51	53	48	24	21	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---	---	---

Total ... 387

SECTION IV.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Summary of Notifications received in year 1949.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	39
Diphtheria	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Pneumonia	14
Erysipelas	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2
Measles	173
Whooping Cough	43
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3
	296

Tuberculosis.

The number of new cases notified during 1949 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	—	—	—	—
1 - 5	—	—	1	—
5 - 10	1	—	2	—
10 - 15	1	—	—	—
15 - 20	4	—	—	—
20 - 25	1	1	—	—
25 - 35	1	2	—	—
35 - 45	—	—	—	—
45 - 55	1	1	—	—
55 - 65	—	—	—	—
65 & over	1	1	—	—
Totals	10	5	3	—

There were five deaths from tuberculosis during 1949.

REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending December 31st, 1949

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee of the Local Government Council, and to the Members of the Council.

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, for the Calendar Year ending 31st December, 1949. The Report is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1947.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply to the area is provided by the local waterworks, and is generally of a high standard of purity. The water is distributed through a network of pipes and mains, and is available to all parts of the area. The water supply is sufficient to meet the requirements of the population, and there is no shortage of water at any time.

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REPORT
OF THE
Senior Sanitary Inspector
For the Year ending December 31st, 1949

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, (b) The Cleansing Department, (c) Housing, (d) Inspection and Supervision of Food, for the year ending 31st December, 1949. The details for the Cleansing Department are taken up to the 31st March, 1950.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

There has been no change in relation to the bulk supply of water from Halifax, which is distributed throughout the major part of the district by the Council. An extension of the water main has taken place in the new estate at Sowerby, by providing and fixing 671·5 yds. 6" everite asbestos cement pipes, 28 yds. 6" spun iron pipe, 655 yds. 4" spun iron pipe, 779 yds. 3" spun iron pipe.

The water supply to the Norland area still continues to give satisfaction, and there has been no complaint throughout the year relative to an insufficiency. A small portion of Triangle is supplied from the Ripponden Urban Area, and this again has proved satisfactory, both regarding suitability and sufficiency.

The Council supply approximately two-thirds of the houses throughout the district, whilst the remaining properties rely on private supplies. Many properties still use private supplies, although the public supply is readily available.

I have mentioned on many occasions in these reports, the works which have been completed in an effort to make the private supplies wholesome. Again, during the year, the majority of the private supplies have been sampled, some proving to be satisfactory, whilst others appear to be unsatisfactory. After reconstruction, many of these have proved to be satisfactory, but this has not been maintained, and subsequent samples have been polluted from time to time. The local pollution, as far as possible, has been eliminated by the piping back to the source, or as near as possible to the source, and then conveying the water in cement jointed pipes to the main storage cistern, and thence by way of copper or everite pipes to the property concerned. In the majority of these supplies, the problem of the feed to the cattle troughs in the fields is generally encountered, the farmers insisting upon these troughs being supplied with running water. This is always a weak link in the private supplies, and efforts have been made by the provision of balancing tanks, ball valves, etc., to eliminate this weakness, and in many cases have proved to be quite successful. Many private supplies have again been reconstructed during the year, and although an immediate improvement has again been forthcoming, this, in all cases has not been maintained.

The time has come when the majority of our private supplies have been reconstructed, in order to eliminate as far as possible all sources of pollution. With the reconstruction of the supplies, a considerable amount of money has been spent, and it appears that although the works have been carried out in a satisfactory manner, the source of supply is giving trouble. At the rate of progress of the reconstruction of our private supplies, within a very short time they will all have been either reconstructed or completely overhauled.

With this progress, one would consider that a solution to this vexed question of private water supplies would have been

found. This, unfortunately, is not the case, as it is not possible to state with any degree of certainty that once these supplies have been reconstructed, the water will remain wholesome for all time. Subsequent sampling has proved otherwise. In an effort to find a satisfactory solution, experiments are to be conducted in the near future by fitting small chlorination plants to certain of these water supplies. Although it is hoped to get some satisfaction, and make progress regarding the suitability of the supplies, great reluctance is shown on the part of many owners who, owing to difficulties outside their control, and more recently to high costs of maintenance, find it almost an impossibility to embark upon any major works in relation to these private supplies, especially if the cost is to be a recurring one. It is anticipated that these chlorination plants will find an answer but it is considered impracticable to specify small chlorination plants to every small supply. Rather would we desire to combine a number small supplies and apply chlorination. The reconstruction of these supplies has, however, solved the problem in relation to insufficiency.

The position in relation to the uncertainties of many properties served by these supplies still exists. This position is so dependant upon provision of alternative housing accommodation, that one wonders how long this state of affairs must continue. The position relative to the private water supplies is now becoming a major problem, and although many difficulties are still in the way of providing town's water throughout the area, it is considered that the district will not be adequately served with a suitable and sufficient water supply until each house is provided with the public supply.

Many of these polluted water supplies are the direct result of the lack of adequate sewers in the rural areas. This has resulted in schemes being prepared by the Surveyor to provide proper sewerage facilities to many of these properties.

The Council and the Department are fully alive to the position, and the consumers of any supply considered unwholesome are notified without delay, in order that the necessary precautions may be taken.

During the year it has been necessary to take proceedings in the Courts in two cases relating to unsatisfactory water supply. In one case a suitable alternative supply was obtained, but the other case was defended. The Magistrates, however, gave judgement, and awarded costs to the Council, and ordered the reconstruction of the supply as soon as practicable. The case was taken under Section 140 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The details of the private supplies sampled throughout the area are set out below :—

District	Bacteriological Examination			
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Susp.	Total
Sowerby Bridge	1	—	—	1
Luddenden Foot	4	21	—	25
Midgley ...	3	10	—	13
Sowerby ...	3	5	—	8
Triangle and Mill Bank	1	—	—	1
Norland	10	5	4	19
Totals	22	41	4	67

Plumbo-Solvency - 2, Satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extension of the sewer has been completed on the housing site at Sowerby, where the permanent dwellings are being erected. A further 320 lin. yds. of surface water sewer has been laid at Kershaw House estate. The maintenance of all public sewers has continued, and all observed defects remedied. As a result of surveys in the more rural parts relating to conversion of existing sanitary accommodation, recommendations have been forwarded to the appropriate Department for the preparation of sewerage schemes for many properties which are unable to carry out improvements due to a lack of these services.

Again, a considerable amount of time has been taken up in the overhaul and reconstruction of defective drainage systems, whilst other defects have been reported from time to time and remedied. All major works of reconstruction and extension to existing drainage systems have been subjected to the water test.

During the year two small plants for sewage disposal in the form of the provision of septic tanks and filters have been completed in more remote areas. These are working quite satisfactorily.

Details relative to the inspections and tests are set out separately in the Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Sewage Disposal.

The sewage disposal works at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge, and High Royd, Luddenden Foot, continue to give satisfaction, no complaints being received from the Rivers Board relative to the effluent. The disposal works were designed solely for the reception of domestic sewage, and it has been observed that the trade effluent referred to in the last report is continuing to be received. A scheme for the treatment of the trade effluent throughout the area is being considered by both the Luddenden Foot Joint Sewerage Board and the Council, in order that schemes may be prepared for the reception and full treatment of trade effluent.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The scheme put into operation in 1945 in relation to conversions in the area has continued, but on a slightly reduced scale. The number of pails has now been reduced to 672, a reduction of 11, together with the reduction in the privies of 12, thus leaving 60 now in the districts. Many of these are in the remote areas, where it is not practicable to convert to the water carriage system. No ashpits are in existence in the urban area.

To attain these results, 45 conversions have taken place, together with the reconstruction of the buildings, etc. The total number of closets in the district is 4,571, of which 83·7% are on the water carriage system. During the year 84 water closets were constructed for new houses. The Council grant of £5.0.0 per conversion is still being paid as an incentive to the owners to convert where possible.

The types of accommodation in the Urban Area attended to by the Cleansing Department are set out as follows :—

District	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
Triangle and Mill Bank ...	75	13	—
Sowerby Bridge	34	—	—
Norland	130	8	—
Sowerby and Blackwood ...	173	31	—
Luddenden F't (inc. Butts Green)	160	—	—
Midgley	100	8	—
Totals ...	672	60	—

Public Cleansing.

The Department continues the collecting and part disposal of the house refuse of the area, including the cleansing of pails and privies, whilst the Salvage Department continues its activities on a reduced scale.

The Engineer, however, remains responsible for Highways Cleansing and the supervision of the refuse destructor plant, which, owing to its worn out condition, is gradually being discontinued, and a greater proportion of refuse is being disposed of by controlled tipping.

Refuse Collection.

Throughout the year the collection of refuse has generally continued on a fortnightly basis, although the more congested portions of the East Ward and part South Ward have received weekly attention. These areas, especially the latter, are covered by the communal bin system — a most unsatisfactory arrangement — which essentially requires weekly attention.

Again, I have to report that although a slight improvement has been forthcoming in the use of the communal ashbin accommodation, the position generally leaves much to be desired. The cleansing of the out-buildings from the overspill—not due to insufficient bins, but to thoughtlessness or neglect on the part of the users—causes a considerable amount of extra work for the

employees of the Department. I feel that the only satisfactory solution to this problem will be the provision of separate bins to each house. Unfortunately, at the present time, this is not a practical proposition.

Since the notification to all Contractors relating to the removal of heavy refuse left after repairs, etc., the position has greatly improved, although the odd case of the Tradesman who prefers to place the refuse in the bin instead of making his own arrangements for the removal of the same still exists.

Little abuse of the facilities offered by the Council relating to the removal of garden refuse has been observed. The Department has, in the past, had a considerable amount of difficulty, but gradually, the householders desiring to dispose of garden refuse via the bin are using a certain amount of discretion, which is resulting in very few complaints. The arrangements on the Council estates for the garden refuse to be placed on dumps provided, continues to be collected by the Highways Department, with the result that only a very small amount of this type of refuse finds its way into the bins on these estates.

At the beginning of the year—after very lengthy and careful consideration of the position relative to the provision of dustbins, the Council decided to provide to dwelling houses a standard type ashbin, chargeable to the rate fund. The provision of these bins from the 1st January, 1949, was conditional. Firstly, only standard type bins would be replaced, boxes, tubs, baths, etc.—of which there are very few—would be outside the scheme. Secondly, there must be a sufficient number of bins available. In short—where there are a sufficient number of standard type bins, the Council will provide and maintain as required.

During the year 289 bins have been supplied free, whilst 43 have been provided and charged for by the Council. The cost of the provision of these bins accounts for approximately a penny rate.

The collection and cleansing of pails throughout the district is still completed weekly, whilst the privies (which have again been reduced in number), are cleansed periodically.

Towards the close of the year, a detailed survey of the area was carried out, with a view to the extension of weekly refuse collection to the entire district. Unfortunately, this has not quite worked out as planned, but upon experimenting with new routes, it has been found that with very little extra staff, the entire district, except the more rural parts, including Norland, upper Sowerby, Millbank and Midgley (above Solomon Hill), amounting to some 17% could be cleansed weekly. From the experiments, it has been found that the greatest time-saver has been the fact that the men can handle the bins on a weekly collection separately; cutting out much of the waiting time for that extra man to assist in loading.

Experiments are continuing with a view to the early commencement of the extension of the weekly cleansing as far as possible.

Details of the work of each vehicle is set out as follows:—

Vehicles	Ashbins	Ashpits	Pails	Loads	Tons Cwt.
S. & D. No. 5	90,329	—	—	695	2,096 0
Commer No. 3	10,829	85	—	401	424 8
Karrier No. 6	49,649	28	—	976	1,382 17
Bedford No. 7	18,605	83	24,331	849	1,363 18
Bedford No. 8	2,578	56	12,512	325	512 10
Totals ...	171,990	252	36,843	3,246	5,779 13

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal, for the year ending 31st March, 1950, is approximately £3637, including salvage, and is made up as follows:—

	Dry Refuse Collection £ s. d.	Kitchen Waste Collection £ s. d.	Night Soil and Cesspools £ s. d.	Refuse Disposal including Salvage £ s. d.	TOTALS £ s. d.
Refuse Collection					
Wages (inc. D/Loader) ...	2515 17 6	69 10 7	708 8 4	158 9 10	3452 6 3
Superannuation ...	45 9 10	1 5 4	12 14 10	4 3 5	63 13 5
Mechanical Vehicles					
Petrol, Oils, etc. ...	218 16 0	6 2 6	61 5 7	20 2 6	306 6 7
Licences and Insurances ...	118 10 9	3 10 2	33 6 7	11 2 6	166 10 0
Repairs and Maintenance ...	424 19 2	12 0 5	118 17 2	39 3 2	594 19 11
Hire of Vehicles ...	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Rents, etc. ...	87 10 0	2 9 0	24 10 0	8 1 0	122 10 0
Tools and Equipment ...	30 13 6	— — —	9 17 2	— — —	40 10 8
Disinfectants ...	— — —	— — —	11 10 0	7 0 0	18 10 0
Protective Clothing... ..	28 3 0	16 9	7 18 6	2 12 9	39 11 0
Miscellaneous ...	— — —	— — —	17 10 0	— — —	17 10 0
Gross Cost ...	3469 19 9	95 14 9	1005 18 2	250 15 2	4822 7 10
Receipts ...	45 15 10	191 2 7	— — —	897 10 8	1134 9 1
BALANCE ...	3424 3 11	95 7 10 _C	1005 18 2	646 15 6 _C	3687 18 9

Transport.

Four vehicles are employed on this work, one of these being mainly on the collection of pails, being equipped with a specially designed tank. The privies are also cleaned by this team.

Details of the transport operated by the Department are set out as follows :—

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
5	S. & D. Moveable Floor	1939	16 cu. yards	Ashbins
6	Karrier Bantam	1946	7 cu. yards	Ashb'ns, Salv'ge & Trade Refuse
7	Bedford 7	1947	7 cu. yards	Ashbins
8	Bedford 8	1949	7 cu. yards	Pails and Pits

The Commer vehicle, purchased in 1938, was taken off the road during July, 1949, and replaced by a specially constructed Bedford, in order that this would negotiate the rough and narrow roads of the more rural areas.

The vehicles continue to give satisfaction, and generally speaking, have worked almost continuously, with very little time off for repairs during the working day. The exception was in the case of the 1938 Commer. This, however, has, in the past done yeoman service, and has served the Council exceptionally well. One feels a sense of regret at the scrapping of such vehicles, after such long and efficient service, but unfortunately, they are no longer an economical proposition.

The vehicles continue to be serviced at the local garages, and the position in this respect is quite satisfactory. The vehicles must of necessity be off the road for short periods, whilst repairs are being effected, but by arrangement, this has been reduced to a minimum.

This arrangement continues, in preference to the Department running its own Vehicle Maintenance Department, although some of the essential plant which was used previously still remains, and is proving very useful in the completion of minor repairs and adjustments.

The S.D. rear loading moveable floor vehicle is the next on the list for replacement. It is considered, however, in view of the district to be cleansed, that a rear loading vehicle should be obtained. This should be a ground rear loading vehicle, as the side loaders present certain difficulties both on the estates and in the narrower back passages. With these conditions in mind, several firms specialising in this type of vehicle have been invited to demonstrate in the area. It is hoped that these demonstrations will be completed early in 1950.

At all times, the cleansing of the district has been carried out with specially designed refuse vehicles, either of the side loading or rear loading types, in order to cut down any dust nuisance to an absolute minimum.

Storage.

It is pleasing to observe the continued reduction in the number of privies, etc., in favour of the ashbin, the comparative figures being set out below :—

Year	Pail Closets	Privies	Ash Pits	Ash Bins
1946	688	84	2	6062
1947	694	82	—	6124
1948	683	72	—	6153
1949	672	60	—	6174

From this, it will be observed that the improvement in the sanitary conditions continues, but it must be appreciated that this progress is limited, and dependant upon two necessary requirements :—

- (a) a proper water supply ;
- (b) adequate means of sewage disposal.

As these necessary services become available, so the sanitary conditions will be improved, and the number of more primitive types of conveniences reduced.

Trade Refuse.

In addition to the collection of house refuse, the shops and markets also receive regular attention. In the case of vegetable refuse, this is removed three times weekly, the market receiving two visits, whilst the general traders' refuse is removed weekly. The arrangement of a free bin, and 6d. each additional bin still operates. During the year 155 tons of trade refuse was removed and treated, bringing in a revenue of approximately £42.0.0.

Refuse Disposal.

The disposal of house refuse by controlled tipping has steadily increased throughout the year. Approximately 60% of the refuse was disposed of in this manner, the greater part of which was tipped at the Milner Royd Tip, whilst the newly opened Daisy Bank tip is working satisfactorily. There has been a severe rat infestation at Milner Royd tip, but this has been successfully dealt with, whilst at Daisy Bank there has been no serious infestation. Both tips have been suitably treated with an approved insecticide, and there has been no nuisance from vermin, etc.

Towards the year end, the destructor was thoroughly examined, and it was decided to discontinue the use of this, with the result that the whole of the refuse in the coming year is to be disposed of on the controlled tips, these being handed over to the Department which will control all refuse disposal from 1st April, 1950.

Negotiations are also complete for the purchase of the land, in order to extend the Milner Royd tip.

Salvage.

The collection of salvage has continued on similar lines as in previous years. It is pleasing to report an increase on this occasion of over £200.0.0., the increase being solely due to the increase in waste paper and waste food. All other materials have shown a decrease.

As in previous years, the entire waste paper output was forwarded to Thames Board Mills, as per terms of the contract. Unfortunately, owing to the glut of waste paper during the year, the maximum price was reduced by agreement between the Council and the Board Mills. Even so, it is pleasing to note the substantial increase in revenue from this source. No difficulty in the disposal of waste paper was encountered during the year, due to the arrangement with the paper mills.

Although the amount of waste food collected has slightly decreased, the income has exceeded that of the previous year, due to the increased price. It is very debatable, under the circumstances, and with the small amount of waste food which is now being collected, whether the continuance of the street bin is justified. During the war years, the people had no serious objection to the placing of these bins, although a nuisance was created from time to time, but with the cessation of hostilities one feels that the time has come when the bins should be withdrawn. If, however, it is considered necessary to continue with the collection of waste food, then the position should be very carefully reviewed.

Details relative to the sale of residuals, together with the revenue, are set out below :—

Materials Salvaged.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	155	13	1	897	10	8
Waste Food	77	18	0	191	2	7
Ferrous Metal		12	3	3	5	2
Textiles		4	1	3	7	6
Cullett	2	11	3	1	5	11
Rubber			2		15	0
Total	237	0	2	£1097	6	10

Since November, 1939, when the Council was directed to salvage all useful materials, the table overleaf sets out the work in this respect from that date :—

SALVAGE SALES. 1939 to 1949.

Year	Total Tonnages for all Materials			Waste Paper			Ferrous Metals and Loose Tins			Non-Ferrous Metals			Textiles and Rubber			Cullett			Kitchen Waste and Bones			Value		
	T	C	Q	T	C	Q	T	C	Q	T	C	Q	T	C	Q	T	C	Q	T	C	Q	£	s	d.
1939	9	1	2	7	1	2	2	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	1	0	
1940	380	3	0	240	3	1	106	0	3	13	2	2	3	2	15	15	1	15	6	3	1259	3	7	
1941	453	17	3	281	9	2	90	1	1	1	10	0	7	14	3	55	14	0	17	8	1445	6	2	
1942	380	6	3	286	10	1	66	5	3	1	11	1	5	10	3	15	2	1	5	6	1783	17	3	
1943	382	2	2	196	16	2	125	10	3	6	1	4	13	2	31	12	1	23	3	1	1595	6	6	
1944	428	16	1	148	18	1	9	12	1	—	—	—	16	0	5	5	0	264	4	3	1379	8	5	
1945	506	3	0	112	16	3	6	19	0	6	0	8	0	9	14	2	375	18	3	1315	0	9		
1946	386	7	3	112	19	1	9	4	0	7	3	15	2	16	1	1	247	0	0	1133	3	9		
1947	199	8	0	92	2	3	5	12	0	12	0	11	2	8	15	2	91	14	1	699	1	10		
1948	199	9	0	110	10	3	6	17	3	3	3	6	0	5	1	3	76	9	0	871	6	4		
1949	237	0	2	155	13	1	12	3	—	—	—	4	1	2	11	3	77	18	0	1097	6	10		
Total	3562	16	0	1745	2	0	428	16	1	5	10	2	23	3	3	165	13	2	1194	9	2	12599	2	5

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The Department has been concerned in the investigation of certain types of infectious disease notified through the normal channels, and precautions in order to avoid the spread of the disease have been taken. Disinfection of bedding, together with household effects where necessary have been carried out.

Details of the visits in connection with the notifications are set out below :—

Enquiries into cases of infectious disease ...	...	41
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits ...	...	39
Visits re disinfection, etc. ...	...	28

Smoke Abatement.

The works outlined in the last annual report have been satisfactorily completed, together with two major overhauls which have also been carried out during the year. The pitch burning furnaces in the area appear to work efficiently, without giving rise to any serious nuisance.

Observations of the factory chimneys have continued on a somewhat reduced scale, 17 chimneys having been observed, 7 of which emitted excessive quantities of black smoke — 7 cautions being issued.

The position relative to atmospheric pollution appears to have deteriorated, especially in the more congested areas. This may be due to two reasons :—

- (a) Inefficient or obsolete boiler plant.
- (b) Inferior fuel.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power have been approached on several occasions, and I must record my appreciation of their help and co-operation in visiting and carrying out a series of tests on some of the more complicated boiler installations, in order to effect some improvement. I am pleased to say that in several instances, the desired results have been obtained. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done before the ideal position is reached. Some factories have already converted to electric power, and are using the boiler installations mainly for heating purposes. These, however, are in the minority.

Factories.

As a result of routine inspection and complaint from H.M. Factory Inspectors, 105 inspections have been made, and in 30 cases defects were observed. The majority of these were in connection with unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation. 16 of these contraventions have been remedied, together with those outstanding at the end of 1948. Details of the inspections and defects are set out below :—

Inspections.

Factories	No. on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by L.A.	125	91	30
Where Section 7 is enforced	25	14	—
	150	105	30

Defects Found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness ...	4	2	1
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences			
(a) Insufficient ...	7	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	13	10	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	4	3	1
	30	16	6

Swimming Bath.

The Public Swimming Bath has again functioned during the summer period, and has continued to give satisfaction. Six samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination, three from the inlet and three from the outlet end. In addition to these, two samples for chemical analysis were also obtained. The water in all cases was stated to be satisfactory.

The chlorine content of the bath, which was stepped up last year, has continued to show up to 5 parts per million at the outlet end. Since this stepping up has taken place, there have been no complaints from the bathers.

The filtration and chlorine gas plants continue to give satisfaction, although the former is of an extremely old type.

There are no private swimming pools in the area.

Nuisances.

It has not been possible to continue regular routine inspection of the area under this heading, but many nuisances have been observed whilst on general inspection. These, together with the complaints registered at the Department, total 519. The total number of inspections made in connection with these, together with the inspections of work in course of completion total 837. The nuisances outstanding at the end of 1948 were satisfactorily completed, and during the year some 529 nuisances were abated, leaving 38 outstanding at the end of 1949.

It was necessary during the year to serve 266 informal notices, of which 228 were complied with, whilst statutory action was necessary in 13 instances. All these notices were complied with, although it was necessary to take legal action in one of the latter cases, the Council receiving judgement. The majority of the formal notices were served under Section 75 of the Public Health Act.

Offensive Trades.

• There have been no additions to the register of Offensive Trades during the year, and no applications were received. At the end of the year there were 28 Fish Friers, and one Tripe Boiler in the area.

Thirty-one inspections were carried out on these premises, and no serious contravention was observed. The general cleanliness of the premises was considered to be satisfactory, and the overhaul and replacement of the ranges, as mentioned in the last report, has continued satisfactorily. The position regarding offensive trades can be considered to be reasonably satisfactory.

In these inspections no major rodent infestation was found.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	Visits
Bakehouses	35
Camping Sites	12
Common Lodging Houses	4
Dangerous Buildings	15
Drainage, etc.	380
Factories	20
Fried Fish Shops	29
Houses Let in Lodgings	7
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	49
Offensive Trades	2
Public Conveniences	16
Refuse Collection	541
Refuse Disposal	78
Rodent Control (excluding Sewer Maintenance)	190
Schools	14
Shops	37
Smoke Observations	22
Stables and Piggeries	15
Tents, Vans and Sheds	23
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	3
Visits re Conversions	91
Water Supplies	257
	<hr/>
	1,840
	<hr/>

HOUSING.

General Inspection.

Housing inspection has continued under legislation provided during the year, and whilst notices in relation to essential repairs have been served promptly, and generally completed with as little delay as possible, the general position has not greatly improved. Maintenance on the older properties has continued, but on a reduced scale. There are, however, many properties which, due to shortages existing during the war years and lack of maintenance since that time, which have fallen into a state of disrepair. The rents of these properties are very low, judging on present day standards, but in certain cases, appear sufficient for the amenities available. Unfortunately, the cost of the repairs now far exceeds the income derived, with the result that many of these properties cannot be made fit for human habitation at a reasonable cost. In view of this, it is becoming increasingly difficult to serve notice under the Housing Act upon the owners, for the repair of such properties, and action under the Public Health Act therefore appears necessary in such cases.

Detailed inspections are, however, continuing, and notices served requiring the completion of the necessary repairs to avoid further deterioration. As a result of this, undertakings from the owners in ever increasing numbers are being received, requesting that these properties should be closed for the purpose of human habitation and the tenants re-housed. In view of the shortage of houses, and the number of urgent cases which already appear on the housing list, together with those brought to light by the continued inspections, it would be some considerable time before the tenants of such properties could be re-housed, with the result that the occupants must continue to live in conditions which are both prejudicial to health and conducive to the spread of disease, until alternative accommodation is available.

It is very debatable whether such undertakings should be accepted, as it is felt that a considerable amount of the cottage property in the area, especially that in the semi-rural parts, would have a prolonged lease of life if the necessary repairs were completed, together with some general improvements in the sanitary conditions, but in view of the uncertainty and high costs, the owners appear reluctant to spend money on a complete overhaul of these properties.

During the year, undertakings in respect of four houses were accepted. Inspections have been carried out on 330 houses, as a result of complaint and routine inspection.

Details of the housing inspections, visits, etc., are set out below:

Houses inspected under—

(a) Public Health Acts			
Number of houses inspected	...	...	200
Number of visits paid to the above houses			205
(b) Housing Acts			
Number of houses inspected	...	...	130
Number of visits paid to the above houses			229
(c) Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	21

Thirteen houses were inspected for verminous conditions, and all were found to be slightly infested. Disinfestation was carried out in a satisfactory manner. Some 31 inspections and visits were made to these dwellings.

Overcrowding.

The half-yearly survey of the overcrowded conditions in the area has taken place, and all the Housing Cards in relation to age increases and increases in family have been completed. The number of houses visited in relation to overcrowding total 157. These consisted of both overcrowded and possibly overcrowded dwellings. The number of visits paid to the houses in question total 281.

At the end of the year there was an increase of six overcrowded houses on the register, making a total of 73. During the year 20 cases of overcrowding have been abated, but for the above reasons, a further 26 cases appeared on the register. It was necessary to take formal action in relation to two cases of deliberate overcrowding. Both were abated.

Details of the numbers, set out in Ward order are shown below :

WARD		Old Cases	New Cases	Total
North	... ..	1	—	1
South	... ..	3	1	4
East	... ..	12	3	15
Central	... ..	11	3	14
Luddenden Foot	... ..	6	6	12
Norland and Triangle		8	7	15
Sowerby	... ..	5	2	7
Midgley	... ..	1	4	5
		—	—	—
Total	... ..	47	26	73
		—	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies.

On 1st October, 1949, the Food & Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Regulations 1949, came into operation, which, in addition to giving greater powers than had hitherto been available, it also transferred the existing powers of Local Authorities in relation to the inspection of dairy farms and the sampling at the producers' premises, to the newly formed section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Many Local Authorities must, however, be very satisfied with the valuable work which has been done in the upgrading and cleaning up generally of the milk producing establishments within the country, with the available legislation, and it is felt that had this new legislation been on the Statute Book during those years, a greater advancement would have been achieved.

Prior to the war years, and since 1945, improvements in the area have been completed in a very satisfactory manner. In addition to the improvement in farm buildings and dairies, steam sterilising equipment has been installed in numerous dairies, and sampling of milk from all producers and retailers within the area has continued up to the date of transfer, and again, as in previous years, the results are encouraging. Up to October, some 292 inspections of cow sheds and dairies have taken place, 150 of these being in connection with the cow sheds of the district. It is pleasing to note that the cleanliness existing in the majority of sheds continues to be satisfactory, together with the general improvement in the storage facilities and the attention given to the cleanliness of equipment.

Approved insecticides, together with the services of a qualified Operative have again been offered to the farmers during May and August, in order to suppress any fly nuisance. Again many farmers have availed themselves of these services, which have proved to be very beneficial.

During the many years in which the Department has carried out the inspection of cow sheds, it has been found that the farmers have generally become more co-operative, looking upon the Inspectors as advisors. This has been the foundation upon which

all the improvements have been based. It is with a deep sense of regret, after such valuable work has been done with such limited powers, that we hand over to another Department. It is sincerely hoped that the high standard which has been set both in regard to the reconstruction of cow sheds and dairies, and cleanliness generally, will be maintained in the future, and the cordial atmosphere in which these matters have been discussed, continued.

Milk Sampling.

Regular sampling of all farms in the area has been continued until October. Details of these are set out below :—

	No. of Sampl's Taken	In District		Out District	
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Tuberculin Tested	35	10	1	20	4
Pasteurised	31	19	1	11	—
Tuberculin Tested/ Pasteurised	9	7	2	—	—
Accredited	35	29	3	3	—
For Accredited Production	1	1	—	—	—
Raw Milk	154	126	11	15	2
Totals	265	192	18	49	6

Once again more than 60% of the producers had a clean record and a further 30% had only one failure. Of all the samples taken during the year, approximately 9% were unsatisfactory. The out-districts milk retailed in the area was sampled, of which six of the 49 samples obtained were found to be unsatisfactory.

Designated Milks.

The results of the sampling of designated milk were not quite, as encouraging as on the last occasion. 111 samples were obtained, of which 11 failed to pass the prescribed test.

Unfortunately, five out of 35 samples of T.T. milk were unsatisfactory. The results in other directions were reasonably satisfactory.

At the present time there are 29 producers of designated milk on the Register, which consists of five T.T. farms, 23 Accredited, and one Pasteurising Plant. This shows an increase of eight on the previous year.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk	...	...	3
Supplementary Licences to Retail Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	4
Supplementary Licences to Retail Sterilised Milk	...	...	1
Dealer's (Bottling) Licence for T.T./Pasteurised Milk...	...	...	1
Dealer's Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised	...	...	7
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Pasteurised	...	...	6
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	1
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Sterilised	...	...	11
Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised	...	...	1
Licence to use the designation Pasteurised	...	...	1

Food Inspection.

Regular inspection of the food shops, restaurants, cafes, etc., has continued throughout the year. Details of the visits, etc., are set out below :—

Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	142
Butchers' Shops	...	...	69
Public Markets	...	...	108
Fish Merchants and Poulterers	...	...	7
Grocers	...	...	26
Canteens	...	...	23
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	47
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	4
Restaurants	...	...	67
Cow Sheds	...	...	150
Pasteurising Plant	...	...	3
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	50
Hawkers' Carts	...	...	3
Public Houses	...	...	55
			<hr/>
		Total ...	<u>754</u>

The general cleanliness of the premises, equipment, utensils, etc., was, in the majority of cases, quite satisfactory. As a result of these inspections, a quantity of food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption, details of which are set out below :—

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat	2	21
Fish	2	2½
Fruit	1	0
Vegetables	2	22
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	2	3½
Total	2	2	21

39 Bottles of Sauce

313 tins of Evaporated Milk. (1 pt.)

Ice Cream.

At the close of the year there were 44 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, for the sale of ice cream. Included in this number were 3 shops, which were also registered for the manufacture of ice cream, the ice cream in each case being made from the cold mix. The premises, generally speaking, were quite satisfactory. During the year 47 visits were made to these premises, and the conditions were reasonably satisfactory.

During the year 37 samples were obtained for chemical analysis, all being satisfactory, whilst 29 were obtained for bacteriological examination. Of these, 13 were in Grade 1, 7 in Grade 2, 4 in Grade 3, and 5 in Grade 4.

Bakehouses.

All bakehouses (14), have been inspected in detail, none of which are of the underground type. The bakehouses vary from the single workrooms, employing one or two persons, to the larger types, employing a manager and up to twelve employees, turning out large quantities of bread and confectionery and supplying many retail shops.

Conditions in these bakehouses varied considerably. Whilst in certain instances, exceptionally clean conditions and well equipped premises were observed, with a high standard of modern

equipment, there were, unfortunately, others which left much to be desired. These bakehouses, generally speaking, have been maintained in a reasonable condition, two of which required no alterations, and no defects of any kind were observed, whilst in eight instances, very minor defects were observed. In the remaining bakehouses (four), major repairs were required. The business of one of these was growing so rapidly that new premises were already planned, and a licence awaited to commence building.

Only in one case could the cleanliness of the bakehouse be considered as unsatisfactory, whilst in six instances there was an exceptionally high standard of cleanliness. For the remaining seven, the standard could be considered as reasonable.

Detailed specifications of the works required were issued in all cases, and at the end of the year, the majority of work had either been put in hand or was completed. The occupiers in all cases were most co-operative, and one looks forward with confidence to a high standard of cleanliness being maintained in these premises in the future.

Cafes and Restaurants.

The catering establishments, totalling 72 in the area, have received a detailed inspection. Many of these are in the more rural areas, and cater for weekend teas and snacks, here the standard of cleanliness was found to be quite satisfactory. The cafes and restaurants in the more congested parts of the district serving main meals daily, received greater attention.

Many of the premises were rather small, and in almost every case, whilst the size of the premises in the first instance had been adequate, the business appeared to have increased so much as to outgrow the original meals capacity. This has resulted in extra dining space being provided, which I may say in almost every case has been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. Unfortunately, in certain instances, the food preparing room has not increased proportionately, thus becoming overcrowded with both staff and equipment. The preparation of food in certain of the establishments was found to be unsatisfactory, owing to the lack of accommodation. As a result of the inspections, many of the cafes and

restaurants have been re-planned, and a considerable improvement obtained both in the layout of the preparation room and the storage of foods.

The inspections did not bring to light any major rodent infestation at any of the premises, although there were signs, these were dealt with in the approved manner, the results being quite satisfactory.

The kitchen staffs, generally, were found to go about their work in a satisfactory manner, and clean overalls in all cases were worn.

The occupiers have taken immediate steps to improve the food storage facilities, in order to safeguard the food from contamination. Where food was stored in unsatisfactory conditions, it is felt that this has been done in all innocence, and has been mainly brought about by the lack of knowledge of the danger and possibilities of Food Poisoning from such a source.

The improvements generally required are the reconstruction of floors, the repair by tiling or rendering, of walls, attention to natural lighting and ventilation, the provision of suitable sinks with impervious walls in immediate contact. The need of separate rooms for the storage of vegetables, and the preparation and cooking of food, and the essentiality of a separate room, preferably a cold room, for the cooling and storage of prepared foods. Although all the premises are provided with a supply of hot water, this could not be considered a constant supply, and in the detailed specification, this item has been stressed, together with the provision of a suitable washbowl in addition to the sink, for the use of the Staff. Stricter attention should be paid to the provision of clean hand towels.

I feel that with two exceptions, all these establishments can be made quite satisfactory, accordingly notices and specifications have been prepared and served in order to bring this about. The inspections were made during November, and at the end of the year, many works were in hand.

Bye-Laws.

The Clean Food Bye-Laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions in the practices in connection with the hand-

ling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption, have been adopted by the Council in their entirety.

Public Houses.

All the public houses within the urban area were inspected, special attention being given to:—

1. Washing facilities and the sterilising of equipment.
2. Sanitary accommodation.

There are 44 public houses within the urban area, of which 41 are owned by local Breweries, the remaining three being free houses, privately owned. From the inspections, it was observed that all the houses were generally in a clean condition, although the washing facilities and sanitary accommodation varied considerably.

Fourteen of these houses were considered to be satisfactory, these being brought up to date and modernised, quite recently, ten of the remainder required minor alterations, whilst in 20 houses major repairs were necessary, involving in certain cases partial reconstruction.

Washing Facilities.

At 20 of the houses the bars were found to have suitable sinks provided, either in the form of steel or porcelain, together with suitable drainage boards, hot and cold water being laid on. In eight cases, a constant supply of hot water was available, either a geyser, an immersion heater or other suitable means being provided, the provision of hot water from the back boiler was not entirely relied upon. In a further nine instances, the hot water was obtained solely from the fire-back boiler, in these cases, one could not consider that a constant supply of hot water was readily available. In four instances, only a cold water tap was provided over the sink, the hot water having to be boiled and brought into the bar for cleansing purposes.

Three sinks were found to be in an insanitary condition, two being the lead lined type, and one wooden sink. All required replacement. The 13 remaining houses had neither sink nor hot water supply in the bar, although the sink in certain instances was in close proximity to the same, and information given that all glasses, after use were taken into the kitchen for efficient cleansing. This may be the usual procedure, but it is possible that at peak periods, the old method of rinsing in a bowl or bucket is used. Efficient cleansing of these receptacles cannot therefore be maintained. Although the spread of disease from such a source may be considered remote, nevertheless, it does exist, and it is felt that efficient means of cleansing glasses should be provided in all bars. In order to facilitate this, suitable sinks with a constant supply of hot water should be provided, together with an approved detergent.

At 25 of these licensed houses, an approved detergent was used in washing the glasses.

In 17 instances, separate personal washing facilities were available, and considered to be very satisfactory, whilst in a further nine cases a wash bowl was near at hand in the Landlord's premises. This, of course was not available to the customer. In the remaining houses, no washing facilities for the staff other than the sink was available, whilst the washing facilities for the customers was also non-existent.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The sanitary accommodation also varied considerably. Whilst in some of the houses a very high standard was attained, in others, the accommodation was most unsatisfactory.

At 25 of the public houses, the urinal accommodation appeared to be quite satisfactory, together with the screening, natural and artificial lighting and ventilation, whilst in a further four instances, the screening required improvement to what was otherwise considered to be satisfactory accommodation. The remaining 15 are all in need of improved screening, three of which require minor repairs, whilst the remaining 12 urinals require complete reconstruction.

The water closet accommodation for males at 26 of the houses was considered in all respects to be satisfactory. At 11 public houses no separate accommodation was provided, the only available accommodation having to be shared. In a further three instances, the closet accommodation already provided required complete reconstruction, whilst one was in need of repair. In the remaining three houses W.C. accommodation was not available.

The sanitary accommodation for females was found to be quite satisfactory at 24 houses, and unsatisfactory at the remaining 20. Of these, six were considered to be inadequately screened, and at the remaining 14 the accommodation was unsatisfactory and inadequate.

At 11 houses, there was no separate W.C. accommodation provided for either males or females, the only accommodation being that of the tenants, which meant that this had to be used jointly. In eight instances, there was a common approach to the conveniences of both sexes.

The state of affairs regarding sanitary accommodation is considered to be unsatisfactory, and only adequate accommodation, properly screened, lighted and ventilated for both males and females, with a separate approach, will be considered to be satisfactory. The accommodation where available was situate inside the premises, but in three instances, this was placed at a considerable distance from the premises in an outside yard. Such accommodation was considered to be most unsatisfactory, and adequate accommodation should be made available either within the building or within very close proximity. If outside, adequate artificial lighting in times of darkness should be provided and maintained.

In order to effect these necessary repairs, detailed specifications have been prepared and served upon the owners in question, and I am pleased to say that the Brewers have been most co-operative in coming forward and completing the minor works without delay. Detailed plans have been deposited for the complete reconstruction of many houses. It is most unfortunate that the Ministry of Works after representation by the authority have not considered the work of sufficient importance to grant a licence for the same. Details of the conditions at the public houses within the Urban Area, as a matter of interest, were forwarded to the Licensing Bench.

The requirements outlined in the specifications were generally as follows :—

1. Washing facilities :—

- (a) Provide and fix, in suitable positions, an approved type of sink, properly trapped, made to discharge over a trapped gully in the open air, connected to the existing drainage system.
- (b) Provide a constant supply of hot and cold water over each sink.
- (c) Provide a sufficient number of clean drying cloths, which are readily available.
- (d) It is suggested that an approved type of detergent should be used for the cleansing and sterilisation of all glasses.
- (e) Provide and fix adequate washing facilities, separate for both males and females (Staff and Customers), with a constant supply of hot and cold water and a sufficient supply of soap and clean towels.

2. Sanitary accommodation :—

- (a) Provide suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation, separate for both males and females, to be properly screened, the approaches to this accommodation to be separate.
- (b) The provision of adequate artificial lighting.
- (c) All sanitary accommodation to be adequately ventilated.

Food Poisoning.

During the year one outbreak of food poisoning was reported, this affecting several schools in the area which were supplied with food from a central canteen, 152 children being affected. Detailed investigations, covering several days were carried out, but the cause of the food poisoning was not ascertained.

Unfortunately, specimen meals were not available, as in many cases they had been destroyed, due to complaints not having been reported earlier.

Detailed investigations were completed both at the schools and the canteen, and efforts made to trace any carrier working in the canteen. These efforts did not bring any definite results.

Rodent Control.

A general inspection of the food shops and factories in the area has been undertaken, from which it was observed that these were comparatively free from rodent infestation. As a result of these visits, and complaint at the Department, 55 premises have been treated. Details are set out below:—

Refuse Disposal Sites	...	2 treatments
Destructor	... ..	1 „
Salvage Depot	... ..	1 „
Private Dwellings	... ..	39 „
Business Premises	... ..	12 „
		<hr/>
Total	... ..	55 „
		<hr/> <hr/>

As in the past, this work is carried out by the Foreman of the Department, who has undergone specialised training by the Technical Staff of the Infestation Branch of the Ministry of Food, and all complaints received have been dealt with on the lines approved by the Ministry.

During the year, two major infestations were dealt with, both being properties owned by the local authority. The results after two treatments were quite satisfactory.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food Circular relating to the baiting of sewers in the area, this was carried out in the approved manner, but as the infestation was considered to be of a minor type, a test bait on 10% of the man holes was undertaken. The results justified this action, as the maintenance treatment was reduced to approximately 33% of the man holes in the area. The pre-baiting with rusk was carried out on the 1st and 3rd days, and a 2½% zinc phosphide was added on the 5th day. The black spots of the area were post baited, the results being satisfactory.

Details of this treatment are set out below :—

Section	No. of Man-holes	No. not baited	No. baited	Pre-bait Taken			
				C	P	Total Takes	N.T.
Mill Bank/Triangle	69	39	30	2	—	2	28
Sowerby/Triangle	65	45	20	2	—	2	18
Luddenden Foot Dist.	77	1	76	6	2	8	68
Sowerby/Ludd. Foot....	99	81	18	—	—	—	18
Sow. Bridge. Sec. 1	92	80	12	4	—	4	8
Sow. Bridge. Sec. 2	124	95	29	12	—	12	17
Sow. Bridge. Sec. 3	121	111	10	3	—	3	7

C—Complete Take P—Partial Take NT—No Take

In conclusion, may I record my appreciation of the keen interest shown by my Chairman, Mr. Coun. Sutcliffe, in all the work appertaining to the Health Department, and also to the Health Committee for their unfailing courtesy and valuable assistance at all times. The assistance and guidance so readily given by the Medical Officer, Dr. J. Lyons, is deeply appreciated. My appreciation is also due to the work of the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Holmes, and to the Clerical Staff of the Public Health Department, together with the Foreman and Staff of the Cleansing Department. In addition, I should like to thank all Officials of the Council who have kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this Report.

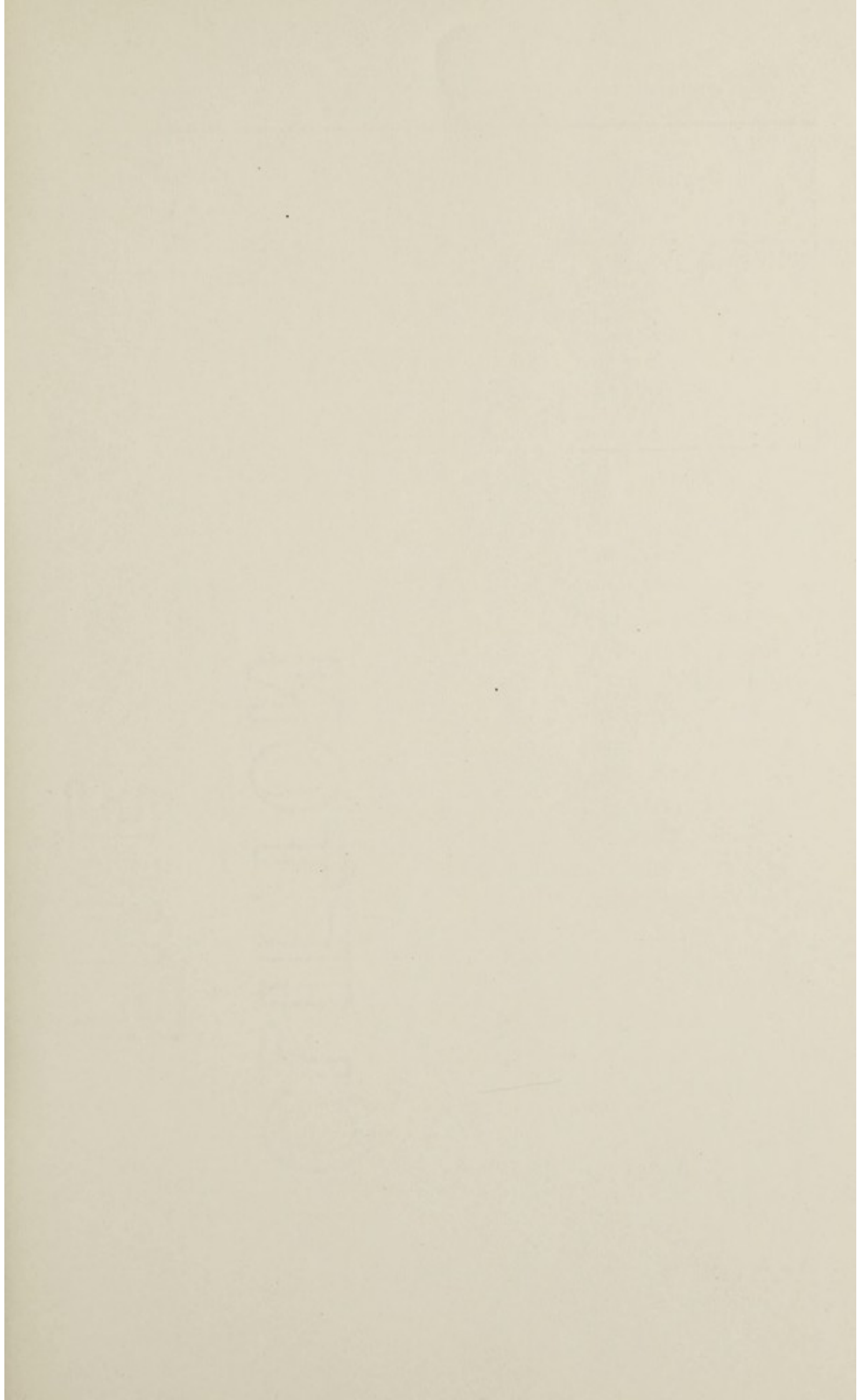
I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. E. FOSTER,
A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector



Year	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
1st Year	100	100	100	100	100
2nd Year	100	100	100	100	100
3rd Year	100	100	100	100	100
4th Year	100	100	100	100	100
5th Year	100	100	100	100	100

The following table shows the amount of the total
 amount due by the various departments for all the
 work performed by the Health Department and also to the
 Health Commission for each year from 1911 to 1915
 and all other. The figures are in dollars and cents
 by the Medical Officers of the Health Department. It
 represents the amount due to the Health Department
 by the various departments and other agencies of the
 Health Department, and the Public Health and
 Charities Department. In addition, I should also mention
 that the Health Department has received from the
 general public a sum of \$10,000.00.

Wm. C. ...

The ...

...

...

11/19/15
 P. ...



