

Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health [1920] : together with the annual report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Contributors

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Perrett, Herbert J.

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Penge Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

ROBERT WILKINSON, (M.D. Brux.)

Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London,

Member of Royal College of Surgeons, England,

Fellow of Royal Society of Medicine, etc.

TOGETHER WITH

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

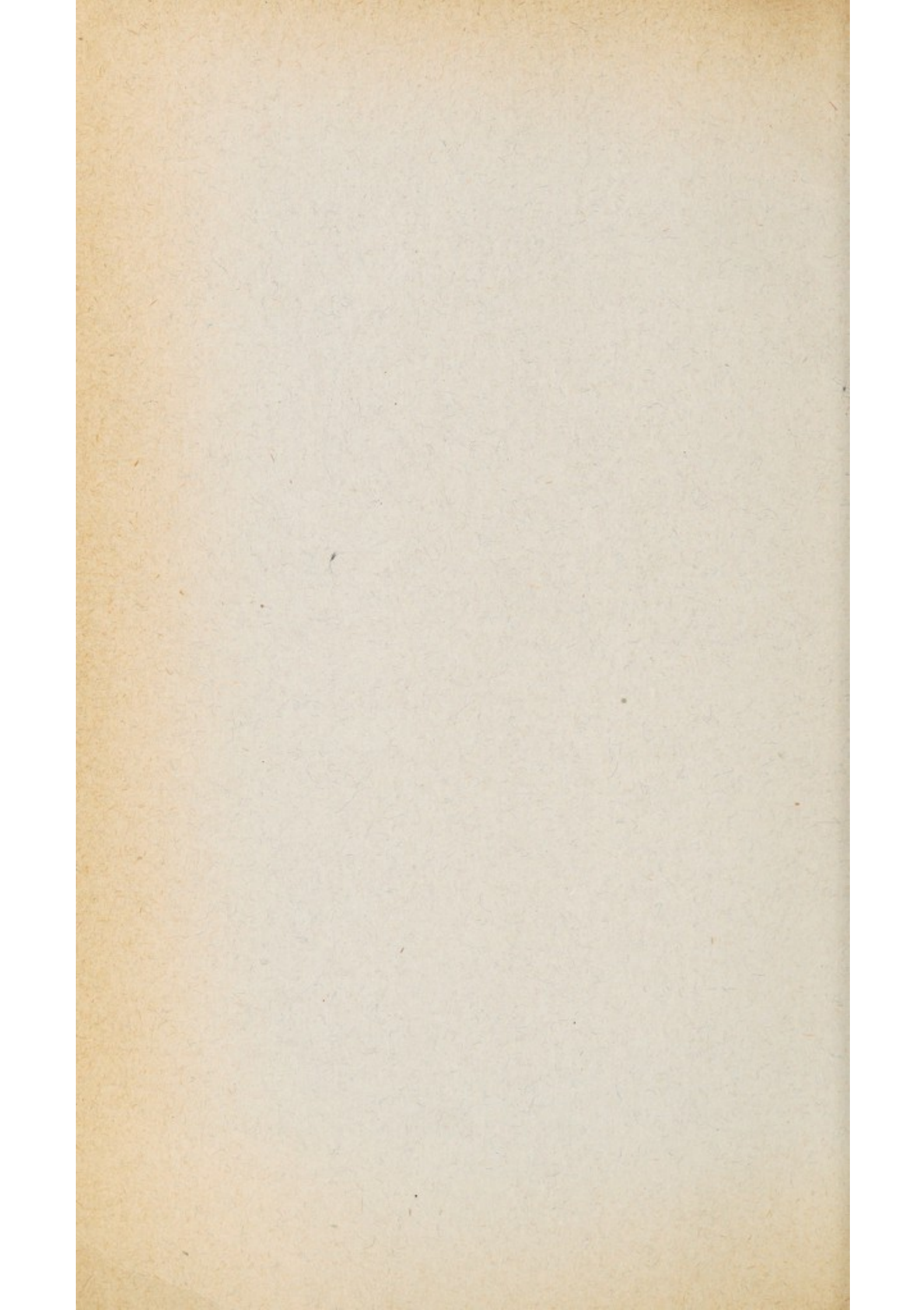
Sanitary Inspector,

HERBERT J. PERRETT,

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Diploma of

The Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and other Foods.

1920.



Urban District Council of Penge.

Chairman—

Mr. G. J. GULLY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—

Mr. A. WILKINSON.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—

Mr. S. H. CROUCHER.

Mr. H. CULVER.

„ F. W. FOREMAN.

„ J. B. GEALE.

Mr. F. P. HODES.

„ R. S. JOHNSTON.

„ D. JONES.

Mr. A. WILKINSON.

Co-opted members of Maternity and Child Welfare Section—

Miss F. MOORE AND Mrs. N. WATLING.

Representatives on the Small-pox Hospital Board—

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL (*ex-officio*).

Messrs. H. CULVER and E. G. HOPPER.

Medical Officer of Health—

ROBERT WILKINSON, M.D. (Brux.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Sanitary Inspector—

HERBERT J. PERRETT, Certs. R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—

RICHARD T. PEARCE, Cert. S.I.E.B.

Health Visitor—

Miss E. M. DELL, Cert. C.M.B.

Clerk—

JOHN F. ARMSTRONG.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Penge Urban District

IN THE

COUNTY OF KENT

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1920.

TOWN HALL,

ANERLEY, S.E. 20.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of Penge.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

The principal features of the Vital Statistics for the year are as follows :—

Population	...	...	22,330
Number of inhabited houses	}	Census	4,847
Average number of persons per house		1911	4.61
Density of population per acre			29
Population 1920 (estimated middle of 1920)			25,308
Area of District in Acres	...	...	770
Birth Rate (corrected)	...	...	27.5
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	...		51.6
Under five years.—Death rate per cent. of number of deaths registered (corrected)	...		13.9
Death Rate (corrected)	...	...	13.9
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	0.5
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) Death Rate	...		1.1
" " (other forms)	"	"	0.3

The District is mainly residential and there is no staple industry, a large proportion of the residents being engaged in business in London.

The Metropolitan Water Board supply a constant service of water, the majority of premises being connected directly to the rising main.

The sewage of Penge goes through the Metropolitan Borough of Lewisham into the London County Council system of sewers, and a part of the surface water into a local stream.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population this year at 25,308. This figure is 2,978 higher than that of the Census of 1911.

The Gross rateable value of the District amounts to £214,933 10s. and the Nett rateable value to £168,308 2s. 6d.

The amount of poor law relief given during the year amounted to £1,092 (outdoor relief).

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered in the Urban District of Penge during the year was 294, equal to a death rate of 11.6 per thousand. Sixty three of these were deaths transferable to other Districts, but 121 occurring in public institutions, etc., outside the District were transferred to this.

The corrected number of deaths was therefore 352, equal to a rate of 13.9 per 1,000 as compared with 363 or 14.9 per 1000 for 1919.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of Deaths under one year of age among the residents of the District was 36, corresponding to a rate of 51.6 per 1000 births, this being the lowest since 1908. There were 16 still-born infants.

Of the 36 deaths 5 had been attending at the Child Welfare Centre.

It is to be noted that Penge is the most densely populated area in Kent, viz. :—32.8 per acre.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for the previous 6 years :—

1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
79.62	92.63	55.8	85.8	70.9	163.2

Not including return for Sick Childrens Home 122.4.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

During the year deaths have been attributed to the following Zymotic diseases :—

Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	5
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup			5
Influenza	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	1
			14

This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.55 per 1,000 against 1.7 for 1919 and 3.2 for 1918.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

There have been 17 inquests held in Penge during the year, 1920 as follows :—

Causes of Death.		Males.		Females.		Total.
Natural Causes	...	7	...	5	...	12
Accidental Causes	...	1	...	1	...	2
Suicides	...	3	...	—	...	3
		<u>11</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>17</u>

BIRTH RATE.

The births registered during the year numbered 697, of which 369 were males, and 328 females. This gives a birth rate of 27.5 per 1000, compared with 18.1 for 1919. Of the 697 births registered 547 were visited.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

The following table gives the number of notifications received during the year, and particulars of births notified, together with corresponding particulars for the two previous years.

	1918	1919	1920
Number of births registered with Registrar	423	441	697
Number of births notified to Medical Officer of Health	397	446	656
Number of first visits	325	285	547
Number of re-visits	952	1183	966
Number of births notified by Doctors	213	276	436
" " " Midwives	166	153	195
" " " Parents	12	12	14
" " " Medical Officers' of Health and Hospitals	6	5	11
Number of births not notified	13	28	30
Number of still-births notified	7	11	16

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

	1917	1918	1919	1920
Examination of Children by Medical Officer of Health ...	497	720	1064	1328
Examination of Nursing Mothers by Medical Officer of Health	55	264	497	690
Examination of Expectant Mothers by Medical Officer of Health ...	--	23	264	137
Attendances of individual Children	214	296	456	474
Total attendance of Children for weighing, etc.	964	1728	1954	2829

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre was opened in 1915, and as will be seen from the table above has steadily grown. Owing to the increase in the attendance, the Centre is now open on Tuesday as well as Wednesday afternoons.

The Medical Officer of Health attends on Wednesday afternoons, examines the infants and advises the mothers. Nursing and Expectant Mothers are also seen and advised.

The Health Visitor, assisted by ladies who kindly volunteer their services and a Ranyard Nurse, manage the weighing, record cards, and provision of teas for the mothers.

Children and Expectant Mothers attending the Centre are visited at intervals by the Health Visitor, and all cases of still-births are enquired into.

Foster Mothers are requested by the Guardians to bring their charges to the Centre, and I have almost invariably found them well cared for.

Final arrangements have been effected for the transference of the Clinic to more commodious premises.

Dried Milk is supplied to Mothers and Children attending the Centre at cost price, and in necessitous cases Fresh and Dried Milk free or at half price.

The following scale is generally followed. Families whose weekly average is less than 7s. per head, after deducting house rent and insurances from amount received by the wife, have been supplied with varying amounts of fresh or dried milk, free or at half price. Where the condition of the child is a serious one and malnutrition pronounced in consequence of absolute lack of food, the scale is not rigidly adhered to.

The following amounts were expended in supplying milk gratis or half-price:—Fresh Milk, £124 Dried Milk, £184.

The cash receipts for Dried Milk were £436. This will give some idea of the work involved in the keeping of accounts, etc.

The Creche, which is a voluntary organization, is doing valuable work. I inspect it at intervals and find it to be well managed and carefully carried on, in the best interests of its inmates. The Local Authority now contributes an annual grant.

JOINT MATERNITY HOME.

The Penge and Beckenham Joint Maternity Home was opened on August 12th, 1920. It is situated in Croydon Road, Beckenham.

Up to the end of December 1920, 31 cases were admitted, 8 being Penge patients. There is accommodation for 10 cases.

Dr. J. M. Clements, Medical Officer of Health for Beckenham, is the Medical Officer for the Home, and the Staff consists of a Matron and Deputy Matron, who are both midwives, three nurses, and a man and wife who act as Caretaker and Cook respectively.

All the cases from my District have expressed themselves as being most comfortable and well cared for during their stay, and it is much to be hoped that the attendance will increase, as the contrast between a well equipped Home and the insanitary surroundings of many houses where women are confined, is obvious, as is the much greater comfort and safety.

Patients can be attended at the Home by their own Doctor if they wish.

One of the main reasons why more patients do not go to the Home is their reluctance to leave their other children and it would be well if some method could be devised for obviating this.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Scavenging.

Part of the house refuse has been carried out of the district by contract, and arrangements have been made with a neighbouring authority to destroy part of the refuse in a dust destructor during the summer six months.

The number of loads collected and taken away by rail was 2,294, and the cost £1,202, and the number of loads collected and taken away to the destructor of a neighbouring authority was 2,281, and the cost £669.

The cost of collection and disinfection of bins amounted to £3,330.

The refuse is removed from the various houses in covered metal receptacles.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Details of this are found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SCHOOLS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 222 notifications have been sent to the School Medical Officer, the Medical Inspectors and head teachers of the various schools, informing them of cases of infectious disease that have occurred in the homes of children attending school, and prohibiting attendance from the infected houses for certain periods.

St. Paul's Schools ...	...	...	19
St. John's Schools ...	...	...	76
Melvin Roan Schools	...	...	30
Oakfield Road Schools	...	...	53
Genoa Road Schools	...	...	2
Other Schools ...	...	...	6
Sunday Schools ...	...	...	36
Total ...			222

The sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools has been satisfactory throughout the year.

No schools were closed on account of infectious disease.

I have had periodical consultations with the School Medical Officer, respecting various points from the Public Health aspect of school administration.

FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The bulk of the milk comes from the country; only two milk vendors keep their own cows.

Samples have been periodically taken (informal and formal) and duly analysed, particulars of which appear in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

Reference to action taken under this Order is made under the heading of Maternity and Child Welfare.

(b) Other Foods.

I have inspected the bakehouses and slaughterhouses, and consider them, on the whole, satisfactory.

We have no public abattoir.

The carcase of a bullock (800 lbs.) with generalised tuberculosis was condemned.

I have been appointed Certifying Officer for the District for the Export of Food Extracts.

(c) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

We are not the authority under these Acts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease			Treated at home.	Removed to hospital.	Totals.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	25	58	83
Diphtheria	...	...	15	37	52
Pneumonia	...	...	8	—	8
Malaria (contracted abroad)			2	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			3	1	4
Erysipelas	...	...	8	—	8
Puerperal Fever	...		—	2	2
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	2	2
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)			13	7	20
" (other forms)			5	4	9
			79	111	190

Ophthalmia Neonatorum (4 cases).

In one case the vision was normal; in another the vision was slightly impaired. The other two cases have left the District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of new cases (Pulmonary) notified	20
" " " (other forms) "	9
Number of notifications received	53
Notified by Medical Practitioners	20
" " Dispensaries	2
" " Hospitals... ..	7
" " Poor Law Institutions	10
" " Sanatoria	14
Cases sent to Hospitals, Sanatoria, etc. ...	23

Twenty four of the notifications received had reference to cases previously notified.

The Health Visitor makes enquiries at every house where cases are notified, and advice is given, leaflets left, and where necessary paper handkerchiefs, sputum flasks and disinfectants supplied. The number of visits paid to these cases was 69.

During the year there have been 17 deaths among notified Pulmonary cases, and one death from Tubercular peritonitis.

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of notifiable infectious disease are removed to the Waddon Isolation Hospital, Croydon, when proper isolation cannot be obtained at home.

EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL PRODUCTS.

		Bacillus found.	Bacillus not found.	Total.
Diphtheria.	Clinical Research			
	Association ...	25	55	80
Diphtheria.	County Laboratory	34	61	95
Tuberculosis.	County Laboratory	8	18	26
Enteric Fever.	County Laboratory	—	1	1
"	" Clinical Research			
	Association	—	1	1
		—	—	—
	Total ...	67	136	203
		—	—	—

Anti-Diphtheritic serum was supplied for the treatment of 20 cases of Diphtheria ; 25 vials being supplied, containing 84,000 units.

HOUSING.

(1) General Housing Conditions in the District.

Total number of houses in the district ...	4934
Number of dwelling houses for the working classes	2007
New houses for the working classes built during the year or in course of erection	Nil.

The Council has a scheme in hand for the erection of 200 new houses, and 4 houses have been converted into 8 flats by private owners and 5 houses converted into 13 flats by the Council.

(2) Overcrowding.

It is little use serving notices, as the denizens of an overcrowded house cannot find other accommodation.

(3) **Fitness of Houses.**

The general standard of the housing is good. We have four back-to-back houses, but there is ample open space around them. The usual defect in unsatisfactory cases is dampness, due to leaky roofs, absence of damp-proof courses or lack of through ventilation under floors.

(4) **Unhealthy Areas.**

There are none, beyond isolated houses.

CHANGE OF STAFF.

Mr. A. J. Willett (Sanitary Inspector) resigned in July and I have lost a most capable and helpful colleague. Mr. H. J. Perrett, Certs. R.S.I., the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, was appointed Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. R. T. Pearce, Cert. S.I.E.B., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Nurse Watts (Health Visitor) resigned in October and Nurse E. M. Dell, Cert. C.M.B., was appointed.

In conclusion I should like to tender my best thanks to Miss Fannie Moore and other lady helpers at the Centre for their very valuable assistance. Also to the Chairman and Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare and Public Health Committees for their cordial help and support at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT WILKINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Children examined by Medical Officer of Health	1328
Children for weighing only	1501
Total attendance of children at Centre ...	2829
Individual children who attended	474
Average weekly attendance of children ...	54.4
Attendance of nursing mothers	690
Individual nursing mothers who attended ...	119
Average weekly attendance of nursing mothers	13.2
Attendance of expectant mothers	137
Individual attendance of expectant mothers ...	93
Average weekly attendance of expectant mothers	2.6

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITOR.

No. of first visits to children	547
No. of re-visits to children	966
Visits to children over one year	382
Visits to expectant mothers	93
Visits re Influenza-Pneumonia	8
Visits to Tuberculosis cases	69
Visits to Registry Offices	10
Miscellaneous visits	88

Causes of Death in Penge Urban District, 1920.

Causes of Death				Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	173	179
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	1	...
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	2
6	Diphtheria and croup	...	...	2	3
7	Influenza	...	...	2	1
8	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...
9	Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	17	11
10	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	1	1
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	4	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	20	24
13	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...
14	Meningitis	...	...	1	1
15	Organic Heart Disease	...	...	18	20
16	Bronchitis	...	...	10	15
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	12	8
18	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	3	3
19	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	2	3
20	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...
21	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	1
21a	Alcoholism	...	...	...	...
22	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	7	6
23	Puerperal fever	...	...	...	1
24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	...	...	...	3
25	Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	9	9
26	Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	3	...
27	Suicide	...	...	4	1
28	Other defined diseases	...	...	56	64
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...
Special causes (included above)					
	Cerebro-Spinal fever	...	...	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age					
	Total	...	...	17	19
	Illegitimate	...	...	2	1
Total Births				369	328
	Legitimate	...	...	353	310
	Illegitimate	...	...	16	18
Population				25,308	

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total Cases Notified in each Ward			Total cases removed to H'sptal
	At all ages.	At ages—Years										
		Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	No. 1 C. Pal. Ward.	No. 2 Penge Ward	No. 3 Anerly Ward	
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	2
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ...	52	2	5	34	4	6	1	...	14	22	16	37
Erysipelas ...	8	...	...	...	1	6	1	...	2	3	3	...
Scarlet Fever ...	83	1	7	60	9	6	...	...	37	27	19	58
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	20	...	...	2	9	7	2	...	2	10	8	7†
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	9	...	...	7	...	2	...	...	4	4	1	4†
Pneumonia ...	8	...	1	1	...	3	3	...	1	6	1	...
Malaria ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	1
Typhoid Fever ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Totals ...	190	7	13	105	25	33	7	—	66	75	49	100

NOTE—There were no cases notified of the following notifiable Infectious diseases :—Cholera, Plague, Typhus Fever, Relapsing Fever, Continued Fever, Poliomyelitis, Trench Fever, Polio-Encephalitis, Dysentery, Small-pox, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Encephalitis lethargica.

Isolation Hospitals.—Croydon Isolation Hospital, Waddon ; Croydon & Wimbledon Joint Small-pox Hospital, Cheam.
Total available beds (the Hospital Authorities provide any beds that may be required).

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 6 ; viz. Small-pox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Puerperal Fever.

† **TUBERCULOSIS**—The following are the Hospitals, etc., to which Tubercular patients were sent :—Croydon Infirmary ; Guy's Hospital ; Brompton Hospital ; Wainwright Home, Broadstairs ; Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton ; Lenham Sanatorium ; Margaret Street Hospital ; Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington ; Lewisham Hospital ; Belgrave Hospital ; Eversfield Chest Hospital ; St. Thomas' Hospital ; Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.

Infant Mortality 1920.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
All Causes	{	Certified Uncertified	9	3	2	5	19	7	3	5	2	36
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	2	...	...	2	4	2	...	1	...	7
Premature birth	...	...	6	1	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	8
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	4
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	4
Totals			9	3	2	5	19	7	3	5	2	36

Nett Births registered during the calendar year:—

Legitimate	663	} 697
Illegitimate	34	

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year:—

Legitimate infants	33	} 36
Illegitimate	3	

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following are the tables required by the Home Office in regard to the administration of the Factory and Workshop Acts in this District.

Table I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Prosecutions
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	30	—	} Nil.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	150	45	
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	175	30	
Total ...	355	75	

Table 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.*</i>				} Nil.
Want of cleanliness ...	4	4		
Want of ventilation ...	1	1		
Overcrowding ...				
Want of drainage of floors	2	2		
Other nuisances	6	6		
Sanitary accommodation				
Insufficient, unsuitable or defective ...				
Not separate for sexes ...	2	2		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				} Nil.
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	34	34		
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which is included in Table 3 of this Report) ..				
Totals ...	49	49		

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

Table 4.—Registered Workshops, &c.

On Register (s. 131) at the end of the year	Number
Bakehouses	17
Boot Making and Repairing	8
Builders' workshops	7
Dressmaking and Millinery	14
Laundries	13
Tailoring	4
Upholstering	4
Miscellaneous	39
Total number on Register ...	106

Table 5.—Other Matters.

Class	No.	
Matters notified to H. M. Inspector of Factories		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Act (Sec. 133) ...	—	
Action taken in matters referred by		
H. M. Inspector as remediable	Notified by HM Inspector	2
under the Public Health Acts,		
but not under the Factory and	Reports of action taken sent to	2
Workshop Act (S. 5) ...		
Other :	H. M. Inspector ...	Nil.
Underground bakehouses (S. 101) in use at end of year the year		4

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Penge Urban District

IN THE

COUNTY OF KENT

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1920.

TOWN HALL,
ANERLEY, S.E. 20.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Penge.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report upon the work carried out during the year 1920, under the various Public Health Acts and Orders affecting the Department.

Nine hundred and fifty-five letters and 625 forms were written ; 679 Intimation and 233 Statutory Notices were served. In addition there are a number of Government enquiries to be answered, records, registers and other books kept, statistics compiled and general routine work. Much time is also taken up in answering enquiries and in interviewing owners and builders.

The drainage systems of 7 houses have been entirely re-constructed, whilst 24 were partially re-laid.

Although only 4 Certificates have been applied for and issued under Section 2 of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, that the premises were "not in a reasonable state of repair," this Act has resulted in many complaints and requests for inspections, and a large amount of repairs have been executed in consequence. This, of course, has taken up some amount of time that would otherwise have been given to House-to-House Inspection.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACTS.

During the year 54 houses have been inspected, in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Health, in the following roads:—

	No. Inspected.	No. at which defects were found.
Cornish Grove ...	8	8
Lime Tree Avenue ...	11	11
St. Hugh's Road ...	33	33
Various Roads ...	2	2
	—	—
Totals ...	54	54
	—	—

Notices to remedy the defects were served under the Public Health Acts.

No Closing Order was made, but one was determined that had been made in 1919.

Owing to the high cost of material, etc., and the financial circumstances of some of the owners of cottage property, it is still difficult to get the necessary repairs carried out promptly. The procedure generally adopted, is, to meet the owner on the premises and arrange for the defects that are urgent to be remedied at once, leaving the smaller defects to be carried out from time to time.

Two notices were served under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919. Both of the premises have been put into a fit state of habitation by the owners.

Of the 54 houses inspected, 52 were occupied and 2 unoccupied. The unoccupied houses have since been put into repair and are occupied.

The details of the manner and use of the occupied rooms are as follows :—

Number of Living rooms	...	...	...	94
„ „ Sleeping rooms	...	...	...	132
„ used for both living and sleeping				12
„ used as sculleries and for other purposes	...	...	...	59
Total	...			297

The number of inhabitants were :—

Number of persons over 10 years	...	215
„ „ „ under 10 years	...	98
Total	...	314

Average persons per house or tenement occupied	6.0
„ „ „ „ „ over 10 years	4.1
„ „ „ „ „ under „	1.9
„ „ „ room	1.3
„ „ „ sleeping room	2.1

The defects discovered were as follows :—

Water Closets—

Defective basins and traps	...	...	...	5
Insufficiently lighted and ventilated	...			3
Pans foul	...	...	...	2
Defective flushing apparatus	...	...		2

Drainage—

Defective drains	...	...	...	6
Defective soil and vent pipes	...	...		5
Choked drains	...	...	...	5
Gullies without grids	...	...	...	7

Sinks—

Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	3
Defective waste pipes	...	...	...	...	4

Dampness—

Leaky roofs	...	...	...	...	15
Absence of, or defective damp-proof course					4
Defective gutters, rainwater pipes, etc.	...				21
Decayed external plaster	...	...	...		2
Through walls, etc.	...	...	...	...	8

Cleanliness—

Dirty rooms	...	...	...	...	51
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Paving, etc.

Defective yard or forecourt paving	...				42
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Arrangements for deposit of Refuse and Ashes—

Defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	13
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Other Defects—

Dilapidated plaster	...	...	...	...	39
Defective yard or scullery paving	...				33
Defective kitchen stoves	...	...	...		10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	40

COMPLAINTS.

Complaints were received and investigated during the year with respect to the following matters :—

Accumulation of refuse	...	...	4
Non-removal of house refuse	...	...	7
Dampness in houses	..	...	21

Overcrowding	...	...	...	5
Smells from sewers	...	...	...	5
Smells from drains	...	...	...	5
Rats and vermin	...	...	...	43
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	14
Water supply	...	...	...	12
Absence of, or defective dustbins	...	...	...	9
Insanitary premises	...	...	...	9
Defective W.C.'s	...	...	...	15
Smells from trade premises	...	...	...	12
Defective flushing apparatus	...	...	...	5
Leaky roofs	...	...	...	29
Various other complaints	...	...	...	130
Total				325

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Seventy-three samples were obtained within the District by Mr. Alexander Quinlan, the County Council Inspector for the division of Kent in which Penge is situate. He has kindly furnished the following particulars:—

All the samples were returned as genuine, viz:—

No. of Samples.		No. of Samples.	
2	Arrowroot	3	Flour
3	Baking powder	2	Ground ginger
2	Beef dripping	2	Ground rice
6	Butter	1	Jam (Raspberry)
1	Cayenne pepper	4	Lard
1	Cocoa	12	Margarine
3	Coffee	2	Mustard
2	Cream of tartar	21	New milk
2	Fine oatmeal	4	Pepper

One hundred and ten test samples of new milk were purchased by your Inspector. Of these 105 samples were reported genuine, 4 deficient in fat and 1 not a fair sample.

Four formal samples of new milk were also purchased from the purveyors from whom the inferior milk was purchased, and all were found to be genuine, although two were of fair quality only.

FOOD.

The following list shows the amount of food which was surrendered and condemned:—

Beef	...	800 lbs.
Mutton	...	62 "
Bacon	...	80 "
Butter	...	29 "
Herrings	...	420 "
Witches	...	112 "
Haddocks	...	14 "
Mackerel	...	162 "
Tomatoes	...	56 "
Plums	...	2800 "
Apples	...	120 "
Ox-hearts	...	12 "
Oysters	...	100 "

It is increasingly difficult to dispose of unsound fish or other food that has to be destroyed. If we had suitable land it could be buried, although burning is the best method; as it is we are under obligation to occupiers of land for its disposal.

TRADE INSPECTIONS.

Dairies—

There are two cowsheds in the District and 12 premises registered as dairies and milkshops.

Regular inspections of these premises have been made, and particular attention is given, especially in the summer months, to the removal of the manure from cowsheds and receptacles belonging thereto.

Slaughter Houses—

The number of slaughter houses in use at the dates mentioned is as follows:—

		In 1914.		In January, 1920.		In December, 1920.
Registered	...	3	...	2	...	2
Licensed	...	—	...	2	...	2
		3		4		4

These have been periodically limewashed, and inspection is frequently made during the time slaughtering is taking place.

The approximate number of animals slaughtered during the year is:—

Cattle	...	134
Pigs	...	335
Sheep	...	317
Total	...	786

Bakehouses—

There are 17 bakehouses in the district, 4 are underground, the other certificated underground bakehouses being now disused.

The limewashing has been duly carried out twice in the year.

Petroleum Acts—

Fourteen licenses for storing an aggregate of 2718 gallons of petroleum, have been renewed, and 3 new licenses for storing an aggregate of 114 gallons of petroleum, have been granted during the year. With the exception of a dry cleaner's store, and at a depôt of a carriers, the petroleum is not stored in bulk, but contained in two-gallon cans. Regular inspections of the stores are carried out.

Rag Flock Act—

There are no flock manufactories in the District. The black flock or "shoddy" is, however, used by some upholsterers. I have found that in all cases the bags which contain the flock bear a label "Washed flocks, Guaranteed up to L.G.B. Standard." It has not been deemed necessary to have samples analysed.

Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers.

Eight persons are registered. Books are kept by them in accordance with the Act, and periodical inspections have been made of the premises and books.

Factories and Workshops—

There are 106 factories and workshops on the register, which have been inspected, special attention being directed to the provision of ventilation, sanitary accommodation and air-space.

LODGING HOUSES.

The number of Common Lodging Houses is five. They are all situate in Arpley Road and are registered for 61 male lodgers. Day and night inspections were made.

There are 21 houses in Arpley Road registered as Houses let-in Lodgings. These contain 105 furnished rooms.

The cleansing has been carried out in accordance with the by-laws and inspections regularly made.

RATS ORDERS.

The Kent County Council delegated its powers to the Council.

Poisons and traps have been purchased and issued to the occupiers of premises who complain that they are troubled with rats or mice.

It does not appear that there is an "infested area" in the District.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection has been carried out at 50 premises after cases of Cancer and Phthisis, in addition to those premises where other notifiable diseases occurred.

Where vermin are discovered, disinfection of rooms, bedding and clothing is carried out. This has been done in 39 cases.

The following list shows the number of rooms fumigated and of beds and other articles steam disinfected during the year.

Number of rooms fumigated	...	...	266
„ „ beds disinfected	...	...	292
„ „ blankets disinfected	...	...	603
„ „ pillows „	...	...	576
„ „ sheets „	...	...	290
„ miscellaneous articles disinfected			1196

A tabulated statement of the works effected will be found at the end of the Report.

In conclusion, I have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the able assistance I have received from the Assistant Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk to the Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT J. PERRETT,

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED DURING THE YEAR.

Water Supply—

Water supply reinstated to houses	...	15
Water service pipes repaired	... ..	24
Cisterns covered or covers repaired	...	6

Water Closets—

New pans and traps	... ..	39
Flushing apparatus renewed or repaired	...	55
Foul pans and traps cleansed	... ..	15
Connection of flushing pipes to pans made good	... ..	15
Seats and doors provided or repaired	...	27
Ventilation provided or improved	...	14

Drainage—

Drains cleared	... ..	40
Houses provided with new drains	... ..	7
Houses with drains partially relaid	...	24
Aggregate length of 4", 6" and 9" pipes relaid	835 ft.	
Inspection chambers constructed or improved		29
Soil and ventilation pipes fixed and repaired		36
Waste pipes renewed, repaired or trapped		50
Fresh air inlets provided or repaired	...	16
Number of syphon gullies provided	...	38
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains		2
Gullies removed from inside of houses	...	4
Interceptors fixed	... ..	9

Dampness—

Dampness in premises remedied	... ..	45
Damp-proof courses inserted	... ..	5
Roofs repaired	... ..	123
Gutters, rainwater pipes, etc., repaired	...	91
Ventilation under floors provided and improved		31

Cleanliness—

Dirty rooms cleansed, whitewashed, etc. ...	626
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Miscellaneous—

Premises with dilapidated floors, plaster, etc. repaired	218
New dustbins provided	177
Yards and forecourts to houses paved or repaired	61
Overcrowding abated	3
Animals removed	15
Accumulation of manure, stagnant water, animal or other refuse removed ...	27
Ventilation and light provided or improved	10
Kitchen stoves and scullery coppers repaired or renewed	45
Miscellaneous	117

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The following summary shows, to some extent, the number of inspections and visits made:

Miscellaneous inspections	289
Inspections through complaints received ...	304
Inspections under the Housing, etc., Acts ...	54
Visits re cases of Infectious disease	360
Houses Let in Lodgings and Common Lodging Houses	115
Food Trade Inspections (including Bakehouses, Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, etc.)	290
Trade Inspections under the Petroleum Acts, Rag Flock Act, Marine Store Dealers Act, Game Dealers Act, etc.	95
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces (excluding inspections in previous items)	355
Inspections and re-inspections of work in hand and various visits	1560

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

1. *Inspection.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 520

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 52

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —

(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 518

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

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers 370

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

(a) Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses 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 —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 518

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :

(a) By Owners 455

(b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners —

(c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18, of the Housing and Town Planning, &c. 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 —

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... 1

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —