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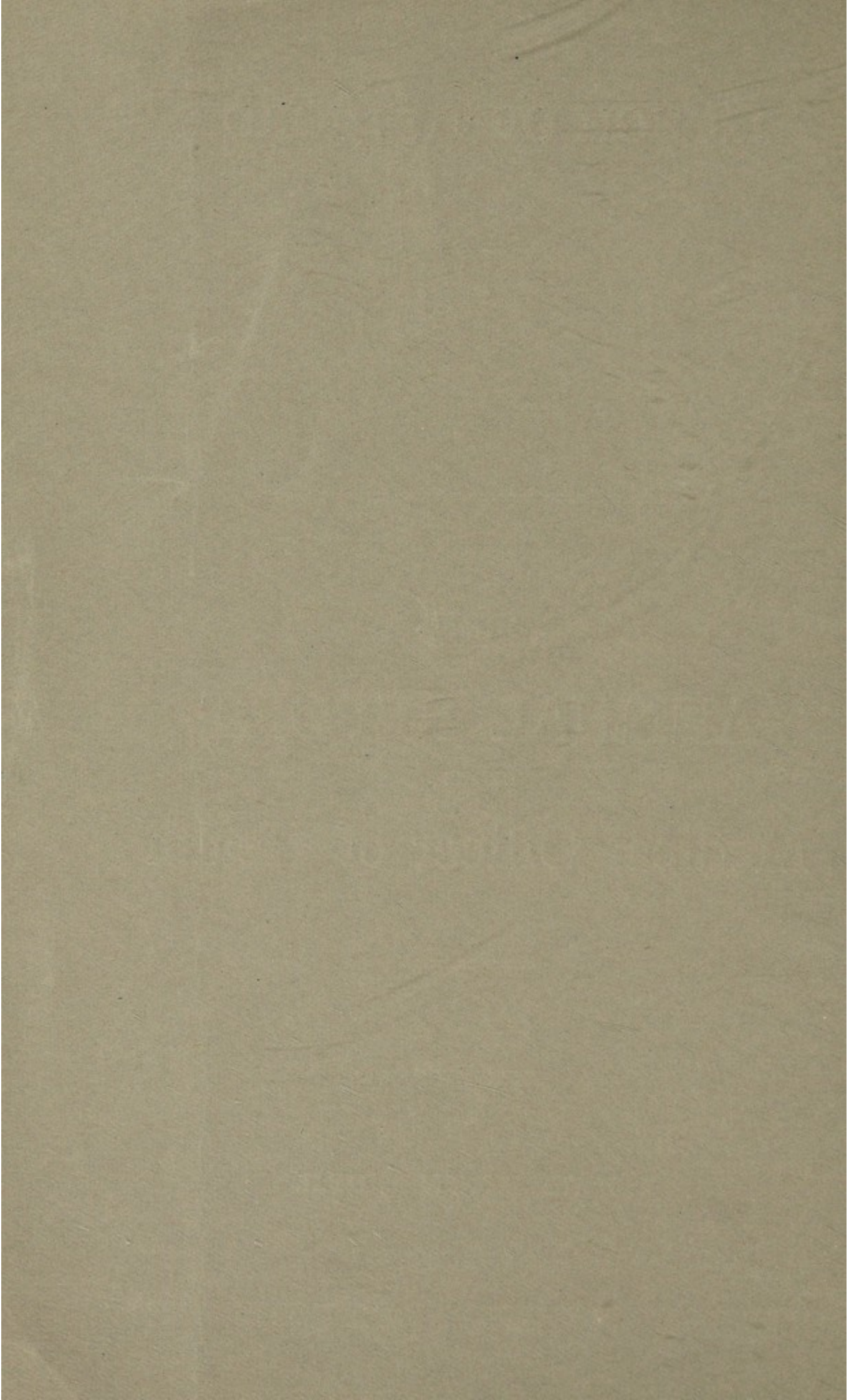
BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN



· THE ·
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

1939

P. HENDERSON, M.D., D.P.H.



BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN



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BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

Health Committee

CHAIRMAN :

COUNCILLOR H. TAYLOR.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

ALDERMAN GOUCKE

„ W. GREENWOOD, J.P.

COUNCILLOR L. F. COCKCROFT

„ W. EGERTON

„ F. W. KNIGHTON

„ F. MORRIS

„ C. F. MORRISON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

„ F. READ.

„ F. SPENDLOVE

„ F. SUNDERLAND

„ E. C. F. NUTTER.

Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

ALDERMAN GOUCKE

COUNCILLOR L. F. COCKCROFT

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„ F. READ.

„ F. SUNDERLAND

„ H. TAYLOR.

MRS. CROSSLEY

„ SUTCLIFFE

„ TUCKER

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent, Fielden Joint Hospital—

P. HENDERSON, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Ante-Natal Clinic—

* M. M. THIERENS, M.B.

Consultant for Difficult Obstetric Cases occurring in Private Practice—

* B. L. JEAFFRESON, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon and Nose and Throat Consultant—

* R. W. GREATOREX, M.B.

Dental Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic—

* E. B. GIBSON, L.D.S.

Sanitary Inspector—

† L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.SAN.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—

† J. PESTER, A.R.SAN.I.

Health Visitors—

*† MRS. A. N. GEE, S.R.N., S.C.M., C.R.SAN.I.

*† MISS F. G. FOTHERGILL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*† MISS A. SMITH, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerical Staff—

* MR. H. MARSHALL.

* MISS G. HENFREY.

MISS E. CROWTHER, C.R.SAN.I.

Dental Attendant—

* MISS W. FIELDEN.

Matron of Fielden Joint Hospital—

MISS E. J. BREW-HUNTER, S.R.N.

Master and Matron of Sourhall Joint Hospital—

MR. AND MRS. KIRKBY.

* **Part Time.**

† Hold Meat Inspection Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Hold Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden,

September, 1940

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors—

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health services of Todmorden for the year 1939.

The year's work was shadowed, first by the threat, and then by the fact, of war. Much additional work, involving long hours and with no extra clerical or nursing assistance, was done by the staff. Although the strain was, at times, severe, all the health services, with the exception of Housing, continued unrestricted throughout the year and it is a pleasure for me to express here my appreciation of the work of the staff.

On account of the war some of the local statistics, especially those concerned with Housing, are less comprehensive than those of former years.

During the year an air-raid precautions scheme had to be prepared and although the West Riding County Council was the scheme making Authority, practically all the work was done by members of your staff. A brief outline of the organisation of the Casualty Services is given in Section XII of this Report.

The vital statistics of the Borough, given in Section I of the Report, merit close attention. There were no maternal deaths and the infant mortality rate was the lowest in the history of the town: the infant death rate reached the astonishingly low figure of 10 per 1000 births. The number of live births was the lowest on record. For the past sixteen years the number of deaths has exceeded the number of births and during the same period there has, undoubtedly, been some emigration of young people from the town. Year by year the population of the Borough shrinks. I very much doubt if the actual population of the town is now much in excess of 20,000. The significance of these figures will be more apparent when it is remembered that in 1880, with an estimated population of 23,255, some 664 children were born and there was an excess of births over deaths

of 203. In 1939, there were only 202 live births, whilst the number of deaths was 325. These facts make plain that, on economic grounds alone, it is imperative that the Local Authority should make every possible provision for the health of its citizens. Each year, increasing use is being made of the health services and each year these services increase in scope.

The work of a Public Health Department touches, at some point, the life of every member of the community. In addition to its intimate concern with the health of mothers and children, it includes in its scope such diverse activities as housing, and the control of infectious diseases, the supervision of water supplies and swimming baths, sewage disposal, general sanitary inspection and the supervision of food supplies. Each of these subjects is discussed in separate sections of this Report.

The ever increasing scope of the Nation's Health Services is one indication of the community's changing attitude to social problems: what was good enough for the past generation is not good enough for this one. And it is this changing attitude which, despite the tragedy of the present war with our lives spent amid the "wreckful siege of battering days," makes one believe that the condition of the people as a whole will continue to improve with the passing of the years, and that To-morrow will be a better day—

"New stars arise to light her to exalt
The Life within her borders above gold ;
New buds are springing from the ancient wood :
That which has been
Is past, another England lies ahead
With beauty on her bosom as a rose,
And sunrise springing at her setting moon."

And in the fashioning of another England the Health Services have their part to play.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for the consideration shown to me and the support given to me by the members of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. HENDERSON.

SECTION I.

VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Area. 12,790 acres.

Population—Census 1931. 22,222 persons.

Registrar General's estimate of

(a) Resident Population, mid. 1939, 20,750.

(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates, 20,620.

Number of inhabited houses. 6,790.

Rateable value £116,990.

Product of a penny rate £429.

Rainfall at Gorpley Reservoir during 1939, 58.63 inches

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Todmorden is an industrial town, its chief industries being connected with the cotton textile trade, including spinning, weaving, bleaching, dyeing, printing, picker making and shuttle manufacturing. There are also factories engaged in manufacturing furniture, ready-made clothing, fireclay goods, etc.

There are about 200 farms situated within the borough boundaries.

Unemployment.

		Dec. 1938	Dec. 1939
Wholly Unemployed	Men	418	260
	Women	152	44
	Juveniles	14	10
Temporarily Suspended	Men	547	166
	Women	354	52
	Juveniles	35	5
	Totals	1520	537

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	195 7	118 4	77 3	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated res- ident population 9.73
Still Births	11	7	4	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 51.6.
Deaths	325	152	173	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15.7. Cor- rected Death Rate (comparability factor 0.95) 14.91.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	nil	... nil
Other Puerperal Causes	nil	... nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

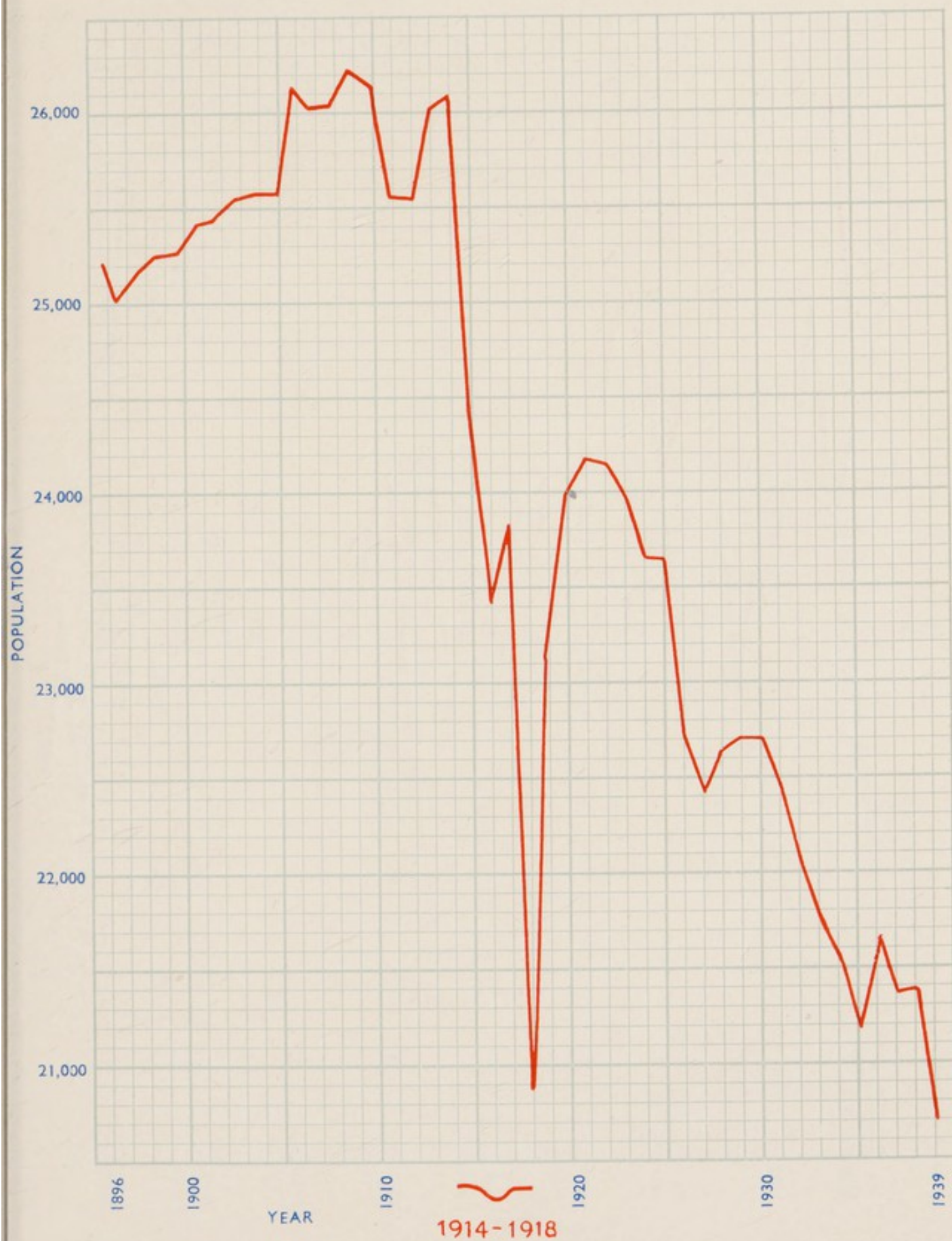
All infants per 1000 live births ...	10
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births...	10
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0

DEATHS FROM Cancer (all ages) ...	40
Measles (all ages) ...	0
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases) ..	0.48
Respiratory Tuberculosis death rate ..	0.24
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis death rate	0.24
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding tuberculosis)	1.30

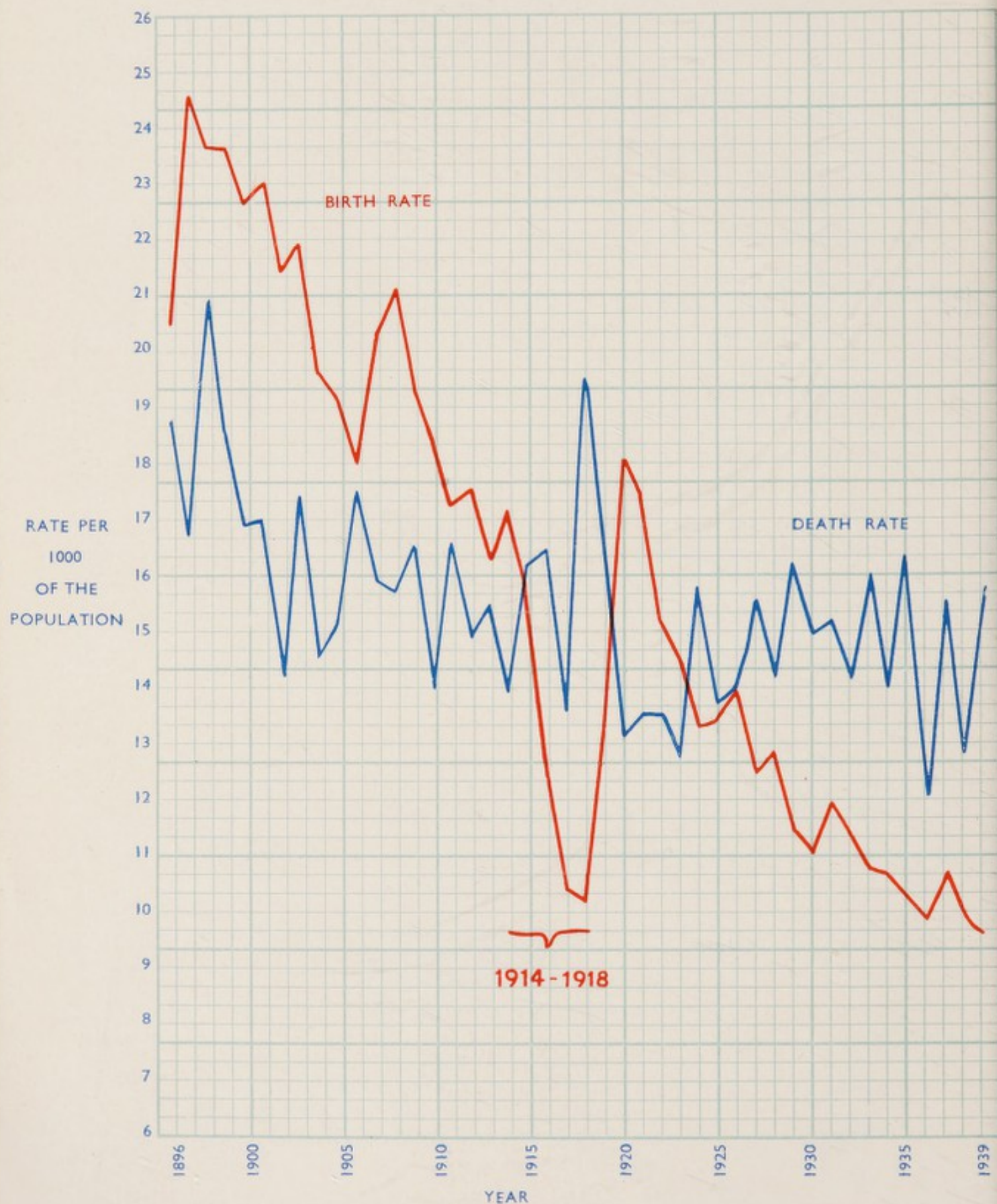
TREND OF POPULATION IN TODMORDEN SINCE 1896

(Date of Incorporation of the Borough)



GRAPH SHOWING THE TREND OF THE BIRTH RATE AND DEATH RATE IN TODMORDEN SINCE 1896

(Date of Incorporation of the Borough)

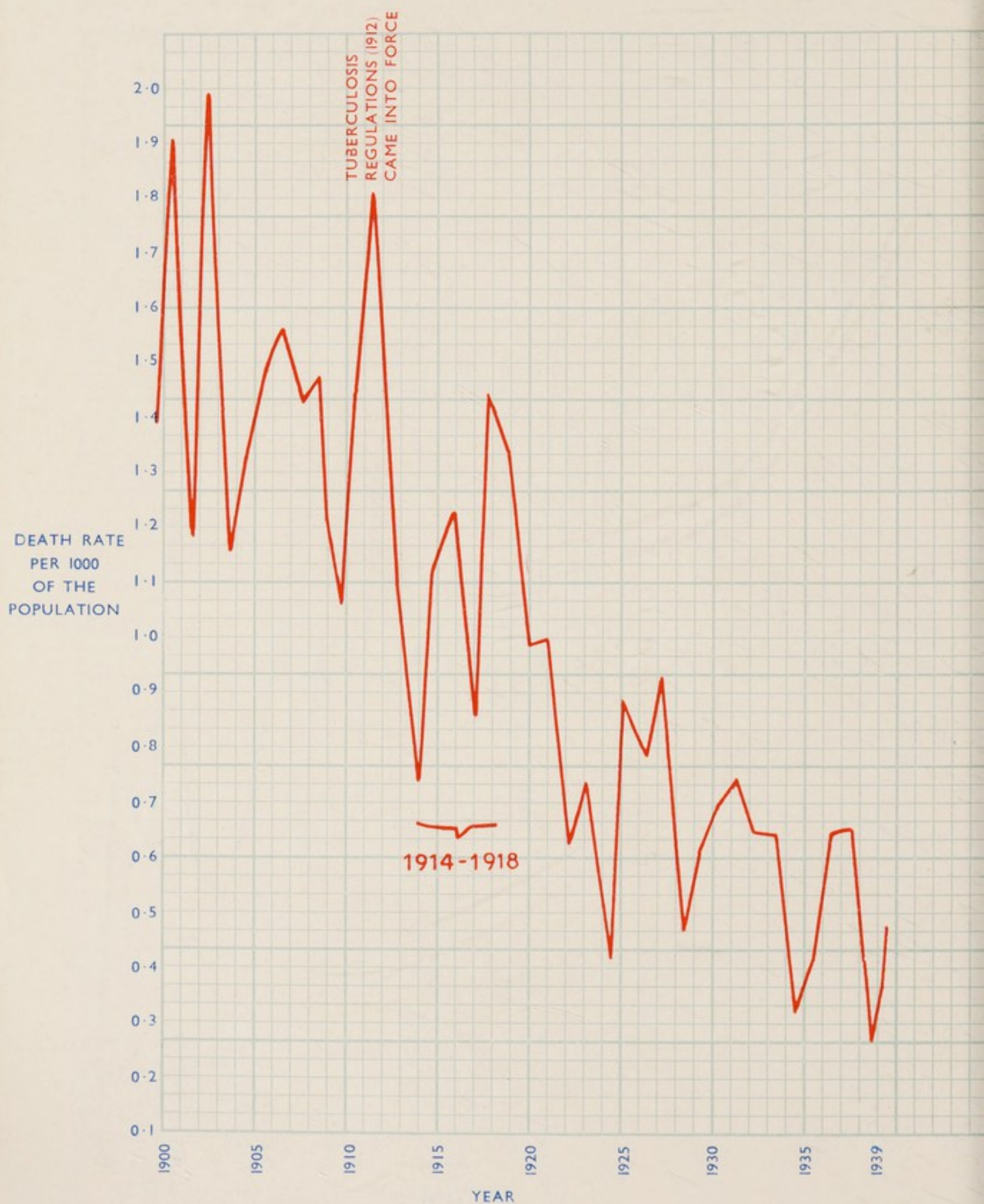


GRAPH SHOWING THE DECLINE IN THE INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE IN TODMORDEN SINCE 1896

(Date of Incorporation of the Borough)



GRAPH SHOWING THE DECLINE IN THE DEATH RATE
FROM TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS) IN TODMORDEN SINCE 1900



CAUSES OF DEATH IN TODMORDEN, M.B.

Causes of Death				1938		1939	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
All Causes	..	..	..	137	137	152	173
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever				—	—	—	—
2 Measles	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	..	..	..	1	1	—	1
6 Influenza	..	..	..	2	3	3	7
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	..			—	—	1	—
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever	..			—	—	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	..	4	1	3	2
10 Other Tuberculous diseases	..			1	—	1	4
11 Syphilis	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis				—	—	2	1
13 Cancer, malignant disease	..			12	14	15	25
14 Diabetes	..	..	..	4	6	1	5
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	..			12	19	15	18
16 Heart Disease	..	..	..	25	30	44	28
17 Aneurysm	..	..	..	1	—	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	..			12	11	14	23
19 Bronchitis	..	..	..	12	10	8	10
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	..			4	1	3	3
21 Other respiratory diseases	..			—	1	2	1
22 Peptic ulcer	..	..	..	1	—	2	2
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)				—	—	1	—
24 Appendicitis	..	..	..	1	1	1	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.				—	2	—	1
27 Other digestive diseases	..			2	7	—	4
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	..			10	8	8	8
29 Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	..			—	1	—	—
31 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	..			4	5	—	2
32 Senility	..	..	..	1	7	5	8
33 Suicide	..	..	..	3	2	3	3
34 Other deaths from violence	..			10	1	8	5
35 Other defined diseases	..			13	6	10	11
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown				—	—	—	—

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1939.

	Rate per 1000 total population		Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population.							Rate per 1000 Live Births		
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15	0.59	12.1	0.00	—	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.21	4.6	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.8	0.59	12.0	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.19	6.3	53
148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931) ...	15.6	0.57	11.2	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.20	3.0	40
TODMORDEN	9.73	0.53	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.34	5.0	10

		Puerperal			Other	Total
		Sepsis				
The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales	(per 1000 Live Births)	0.77	...	...	2.16	2.93
	(per 1000 Total Births)	0.74	...	...	2.08	2.82
The Maternal Mortality Rates for TODMORDEN	(per 1000 Live Births)	0.00	...	...	0.00	0.00
	(per 1000 Total Births)	0.00	...	...	0.00	0.00

- (A) Hospitals.
- (B) Professional Nursing in the Home.
- (C) Ambulance Facilities. General and Maternity.
Infectious Diseases.
- (D) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
- (E) Laboratory Facilities.
- (F) Issue of Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Insulin, etc.

General Hospital.	There is no General Hospital in the Borough. Patients are referred by private medical practitioners, or from the Authority's Clinics, to various hospitals in neighbouring towns. The Council has made arrangements with Burnley Municipal Hospital for the operative treatment of diseased tonsils and adenoids in school and pre-school children.
Maternity Hospital.	There is no Maternity Hospital or Home in the Borough. The Council has made arrangements with the Halifax Corporation for the hospital treatment of maternity patients from Todmorden in the Halifax General Hospital.
Sanatorium and Tuberculosis Hospital.	There is no Sanatorium or Tuberculosis Hospital in the Borough. The West Riding County Council is responsible for the institutional and other treatment of Todmorden residents suffering from tuberculosis.
Venereal Disease.	The hospital and outpatient treatment of Todmorden residents suffering from venereal diseases is the responsibility of the West Riding County Council. The nearest treatment centres are at :—

	Men.	Wmn. & Chldn.
Burnley Victoria Hospital	Mon. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. 5-30 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.	Fri. 11 a.m. to 12 noon. 5-30 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
Keighley Victoria Hospital	Thursdays 6 to 8 p.m.	Tuesdays 6 to 8 p.m.
Bradford St. Luke's Hospital	Mon. & Sat. 9-30 a.m. Tues. 6 p.m.	Mon. 5 to 7 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.
Royal Halifax Infirmary	Thursdays 6 to 8 p.m.	Tues. 3-30 to 4-30 and 6 to 8 p.m.

Eye Hospital. The Council has made arrangements with the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital for the treatment of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

Orthopaedic Hospital. The Council has made arrangements for the treatment of orthopaedic defects in Todmorden children at the Bamford Memorial Home, Rochdale.

Smallpox Hospital. The Sourhall Smallpox Hospital (34 beds) is owned by the Corporation; it is situated in the Borough and is managed by a Joint Hospital Board, comprising the Boroughs of Todmorden and Bacup, the Urban District of Hebden Royd and the Rural District of Hepton.

Infectious Diseases Hospital. The Fielden Hospital (51 beds) is owned by the Corporation; it is situated in the Borough and is managed by a Joint Hospital Board, the constituent authorities being the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban District of Hebden Royd and the Hepton Rural District.

Public Assistance Institution. The West Riding County Council owns and controls the Stansfield View Public Assistance Institution which is situated within the Borough boundary. Its normal accommodation is 97 beds.

B. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

General Nursing. This is provided by the Todmorden Nursing Association and is not subsidised by the Local Authority.

Nursing of Cases of Infectious Disease. The Council at its meeting on 27th November, 1929 (Council Minute 77(d)) authorised that an arrangement should be made with the Todmorden and District Nursing Association whereby the latter agreed to undertake the home nursing of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough and epidemic diarrhoea for a fee of 2/6 per visit and also the nursing of cases of puerperal fever and ophthalmia neonatorum. The fee to be the actual cost of the nursing on a basis to be agreed on by the Borough Treasurer and the Treasurer of the Nursing Association. No liability was incurred by the Council under this agreement during 1939.

Since the Council has made other arrangements with Halifax General Hospital and the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital for the treatment of puerperal pyrexia and ophthalmia neonatorum respectively it should rarely be necessary for the services of the Nursing Association to be called on for the nursing of cases of these diseases.

C. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The facilities provided are ample for the needs of the Borough. One motor ambulance is provided for infectious cases and two for non-infectious cases (including maternity cases). On those occasions when the ambulance for infectious cases is not available, one of the two ambulances normally used for non-infectious cases is used for the conveyance of cases of infectious disease.

Details of the journeys made by the two ambulances conveying non-infectious patients are given in the following table :—

AMBULANCE JOURNEYS FOR 1939

	Accident	Surgical	Medical	Maternity	Removed from Hospital	Deceased	Total
Birch Hill Hospital	1		1	1			3
Burnley Municipal Hospital...	1	1			2		4
Burnley Victoria Hospital ...	25	8	14		18		65
Cheadle Convalescent Home...					2		2
Christie Hospital, Manchester		1			4		5
Halifax Royal Infirmary ...	49	44	17	3	36		149
Halifax, St. Luke's Hospital	1	4	4	19	5		33
Manchester, Royal Infirmary	8	27	10		38		83
„ Northern Hospital	1	22	1		31		55
„ Roby Street ...		1			21		22
„ High Street ...		2			6		8
„ Whitworth St. ...					9		9
„ Crumpsall Hospital					3		3
„ Withington Hospital					1		1
„ Pendlebury Hospital		2	1				3
„ Nursing Homes (Private) ...		1			2		3
Rochdale Infirmary	2	1			3		6
Stansfield View	2	1	23				26
Fielden Hospital			10				10
Public Mortuary						9	9
W.R.C.C. Clinic, Sowerby Bridge			17				17
Town Removals	8		10				18
Services not required				1			1
	98	115	108	24	181	9	535

In addition to the above patients, 6 children were conveyed to Burnley Municipal Hospital for Tonsillectomy.

D. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following table gives the various clinics and treatment centres in the Borough. Full details of the work of these clinics are given in the body of this report.

Name, Address and Purpose of Clinic	Held by	Nature of Accommodation	Provided by	Times	
				Days	Hours
Infant Welfare Ridgefoot	M.O.H.	Consulting Room, Waiting room and Weighing room	Tod. Corp.	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.
Vale Council School	M.O.H.	Consulting Room and Weighing Room	do.	Thursdays	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.
Walsden Liberal Club	M.O.H.	Consulting Room and Weighing Room	do.	Thurs.	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.
Ante-Natal and Post Natal Ridgefoot	Dr. M. M. Thierens	Consulting Room Dressing Cubicles and Waiting Room	do.	Wednesdays & alternate Thurs.	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.
School Clinics Ridgefoot		Central Waiting Room			
(a) Minor Ailments	M.O.H.	Consulting & Treatment Rooms	do.	(a) & (b) Mondays to Fridays	9 to 12 noon
(b) Dental	(Mr. Gibson)	Surgery and Recovery Room		(c) monthly	By arrangement.
(c) Eye and Ear	Dr. Greateorex	Test and Dark Room		(d) Tues. & Fridays	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.
(d) Orthoptic	Miss Harris	Separate Room		(e) Mons. & Fridays	1-30 to 5 p.m.
(e) Artificial Sunlight	M.O.H.	Waiting and Treatment Rooms			Oct.-March
Dental (M & CW) Ridgefoot	Mr. Gibson	Surgery and Recovery Room	do.	Monthly	2 to 4-30 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation. Ridgefoot	M.O.H.	Waiting and Treatment Rooms	do.	As required	By arrangement
Tuberculosis Masonic Hall	Dr. S. R. Wilson	Consulting Room and Waiting Room	W.R.C.C.	Fridays	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.

Children with orthopaedic defects are sent to the orthopaedic clinic at Rochdale.

All services available to school children are equally available to pre-school children.

E. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided by the West Riding County Council at a central laboratory at Wakefield. The following table gives particulars of the specimens sent to the County Laboratory from Todmorden during 1939.

Blood sera for Widal reaction	..	..	13
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	..	..	18
Swabs for B. Diphtheriae	..	..	234
Urines and Faeces for T.A.B.	..	..	20
Urines for Tubercle Bacilli and organisms	..	..	1
Milks for Tubercle Bacilli	..	..	42
Milks for Methylene Blue test	..	..	64
Waters for Bacteriological examination	..	..	71
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	..	..	4
Urine for Zondek Ascheim reaction	..	..	1
Miscellaneous specimens	..	..	2
Total	..	..	470

F. ISSUE OF ANTI-TOXIN, Etc.

A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Health Department, Ridgefoot, for the use of medical practitioners practising in the area. During 1939 some 148,000 units of diphtheria anti-toxin were supplied free of charge.

A small stock of tetanus anti-toxin is also kept for use in the school clinic.

No applications were received from general medical practitioners, under Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for a free supply of insulin for necessitous patients not being treated under the National Health Insurance Act.

SECTION III.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Authority's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is a comprehensive one and each year increasing use is being made of the various services by the citizens of the town. The War made no change in these services.

A. Ante-Natal Services—

An Ante-Natal clinic was held by Dr. Thierens on Wednesday and alternate Thursday afternoons. The work of the clinic continued to increase and in 1939 approximately 63 per cent of the expectant mothers in Todmorden attended the clinic. A tabular statement of the work of the clinic during the past five years is given below :—

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Number of patients	68	80	92	118	136
No. of attendances	308	366	374	591	683
No. of sessions held	24	30	33	49	65
Patients sent by Midwives	12	15	28	27	45
Patients sent by Doctors	—	1	3	—	6
Patients sent by Health Visitors	} figures not easily available				42
Patients attended on own initiative					40
Patients sent by Hospitals					3
Patients referred to own doctor	8	12	6	10	8
Patients referred to Hospital	10	6	6	9	33
Patients referred to Dentist	16	16	12	20	17
Patients given sun- light treatment	8	5	5	4	9
Patients allowed free milk	9	12	22	19	16
No. of pounds of free milk given	119	52	142	137	128

Consultant Ante-Natal Clinic.

On April 5th, 1939, an agreement made between the Local Authority and Halifax Corporation came into force whereby patients could be referred from the Council's Ante-Natal Clinic to the Consultant Ante-Natal Clinic at Halifax General Hospital. Provision was also made in the agreement for the X-Ray examination of any patient sent to the Consultant Ante-Natal Clinic whose condition appeared to warrant such an examination. The charge for each consultation is 7/6 and for each X-Ray examination 2 gns. During 1939 no patient was referred to the Consultant Ante-Natal Clinic and no X-Ray examinations were made there.

Additional Facilities for X-Ray Examination.

The X-Ray examination of pregnant women is also carried out at the County Medical Centre, Sowerby Bridge. During 1939 some 15 women were sent by the Council's Ante-Natal Medical Officer to the Sowerby Bridge Medical Centre for X-Ray examination. These examinations are carried out free of charge to the Local Authority. Patients are taken to and from Sowerby Bridge in one of the Corporation's ambulances. This service provided by the County Council is much appreciated.

B. Midwifery Services.

On 5th October, 1933, the Local Authority entered into an agreement with the Halifax Corporation for the treatment in Halifax General Hospital of abnormal maternity patients and of patients suffering from puerperal pyrexia occurring among Todmorden residents at the rate of £3 3s. 0d. per patient per week. On 5th April, 1939, the Local Authority entered into another agreement with the Halifax Corporation for the treatment in Halifax General Hospital of normal maternity patients from Todmorden at the rate of £2 12s. 6d. per patient per week. During 1939 some 39 maternity patients were sent to Halifax General Hospital from the Council's Ante-Natal Clinic. The total cost incurred by the Local Authority for the hospitalisation of maternity patients in 1939 was £358 3s. 6d. of which £89 3s. 0d. was repaid by patients during the year. The patient's contribution towards the cost of treatment in hospital was assessed in each case according to the following financial scale :—

SCALE OF PAYMENT.

Where the Total Family Income, after deducting rent and rates paid and 5/- for each child under 14 yrs. and not working and the expected child :—	Amount payable by Patient.
Does not exceed 24/- per week	Nil.
Is between 24/- and 33/11 per week	Amount of Maternity Benefit Received.
Is between 34/- and 43/11 per week	Half Fees.
Is 44/- or more per week	Full Fees.

Consultant Obstetrician.

At its meeting on 21st December, 1938, (C1 Minute 307 (e) (i)) the Council appointed Mr. B. L. Jeaffreson, M.D., F.R.C.S., of the Leeds Maternity Hospital, as consultant for difficult obstetric cases occurring in private practice in the town at a charge of 6gns. per case plus operative fees, where necessary, at an agreed scale. Mr. Jeaffreson was not called into consultation during the year.

Emergency Maternity Unit.

The Council at its meeting held on January 25th, 1939, (C1 Minute 505 (e)) accepted the offer of the Leeds Maternity Hospital to provide the services of an Emergency Maternity Unit at the rate of 6 gns. per visit plus a mileage fee. The unit comprises a consultant and a nurse and the equipment consists of a sterile drum of dressings, gum saline and blood transfusion apparatus. It is available any time during the day or night. No call was made on the service of the Unit during 1939. With the increase in hospitalisation of maternity patients, the services of the Emergency Maternity Unit and Consultant Obstetrician will not be required often, but, on the occasions when they are summoned they should be of great help.

Midwives.

The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority and it re-imburses the Local Authority for the net cost of the service. The bulk of the domiciliary midwifery in the town is carried out by the Municipal Midwife (Nurse Mills), whose fees are collected by the Local Authority, and two midwives employed by the Todmorden and District Nursing Association. The West Riding County Council makes an annual grant to the local Nursing Association for the services of its two midwives. The patient pays a fee of £1/10/0 when the nurse acts as midwife and a fee of £1 when the nurse acts as a maternity nurse: in the latter case a doctor is also in attendance. The proportion of fee paid by the patient was assessed in accordance with the following scale:—

SCALE OF PAYMENT.

Where the total family income, after deducting rent and rates and 5/- for each child under 14 years of age and not working and the expected child	Amount payable by	
	Applnt.	Council
MIDWIFERY CASE—		
Does not exceed 24/- per week	10/-	20/-
Exceeds 24/- per week	Whole Fee.	Nil.
MATERNITY CASES—		
Does not exceed 24/- per week	10/-	10/-
Exceeds 24/- per week	Whole Fee.	Nil.

There was one certified midwife in private practice in the town but the volume of her practice was small.

During 1939 the practising midwives summoned medical assistance to 48 mothers and 2 infants. Medical aid was sent for on account of the following conditions:—

MOTHERS.			INFANTS	
CAUSE.		No.	CAUSE.	No.
Torn Perineum	21		Rash on Body	1
Threatened abortion ..	3		Feeble-ness	1
Transverse lie	3			
Malpresentation	1			
No presentation	1			
Persistent occipito posterior ..	1			
Presentation of cord	2			
Delayed 1st stage	2			
Delayed 2nd stage	5			
Uterine inertia	2			
Post partum haemorrhage ..	3			
Elevation of temperature ..	1			
Born before arrival of midwife	1			
Pain and swelling of leg ..	1			
Abdominal tenderness ..	1			
TOTAL	48		TOTAL	2

A torn perineum was the cause of nearly half the summonses for medical assistance sent by midwives. The following table summarises the midwifery work of the district midwives for the year 1939 :—

Work done within the Borough	Midwvs. empld. by Tod. & Dist. Nursing Assoc.	Municipal Midwife	Total
No. of deliveries made by Midwives	43	63	106
No. of difficult cases met with by midwives where a doctor had to be sent for and who			
(a) Effected delivery	8	2	10
(b) Sent patient to Hospital	2	2	4
No. of cases where midwives acted as a maternity nurse	5	6	11
Medical aid sent for in case of			
(a) mothers	27	21	48
(b) infants	1	1	2

During recent years the number of women having their confinement in hospital has steadily increased and there is no reason to suppose that the hospitalisation of maternity patients will become less with the passing of the years. The following table shows the number of mothers delivered by midwives or by private medical practitioners and the number delivered in hospital during 1939 :—

	No.	%
No. delivered in hospital	77	36
No. delivered by midwives	106	50
No. delivered by doctors (including the 10 difficult cases met with by midwives in their private practice where a doctor had to be sent for to effect delivery) ..	30	14
TOTAL (including stillbirths) ..	213	100

Home Helps.

The Council at its meeting on 28th July, 1937, (Council Minute 1735 (c) (v)) authorised the provision of home helps in cases of domiciliary midwifery considered suitable by the Medical Officer of Health. The scheme was put into operation for the first time in March, 1939. During the year six home helps were provided at a net cost to the Council of £13 4s. 0d. A panel of home helps is kept and only those women whose character and conduct are considered satisfactory by the Council's Health Visitors are engaged for this type of work. On 31st December, 1939, there were six women on the panel of home helps. The Council at its meeting on 29th March, 1939 (Council Minute 970 (e)) decided that home helps should be paid at the rate of 1/- an hour and that the number of hours to be worked each day should be determined for each case by the Medical Officer of Health. Home helps provide their own meals and they have to conform to a set of rules drawn up for their guidance. Applicants who required a home help

were assessed to pay towards the cost of this service according to the following income scale :—

Where the total family income, after deducting rent and rates paid and 5/- for each child under 14 years and not working and the expected child :—	Amount payable by patient
Does not exceed 34/- per week ..	Nil.
Is between 34/- and 43/11d. per week ..	Half Cost.
Is 44/- or more per week	Full Cost.

Sterilized Maternity Outfits.

Each outfit contains :—

- 1 doz. Large Maternity Pads.
- 1 doz. Extra Large Maternity Pads.
- 1 sheet Gamgee Tissue 36ins. × 36ins.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Absorbent Cotton Wool.
- 1 sheet Tarred Paper 30ins. × 36ins.

These outfits are sold at cost price (3/7d.) by the Municipal Midwife and from the Council's Ante-Natal Clinic. They are not supplied free or at reduced cost. During 1939 ten outfits were sold.

Maternal Mortality.

In 1939 there were no deaths from puerperal causes in Todmorden. The following table gives the number of maternal deaths in Todmorden and England and Wales for the past ten years :—

	TODMORDEN			ENGLAND & WALES
Year	Deaths from :		Rate per 1000 births	Rate per 1000 births
	Puerperal Sepsis	Other Puerperal Causes		
1930	—	1	3.91	4.22
1931	1	2	11.11	3.95
1932	—	—	0.00	4.06
1933	—	1	4.24	4.23
1934	—	—	0.00	4.41
1935	—	1	4.52	3.93
1936	—	—	0.00	3.65
1937	—	2	8.23	3.11
1938	—	1	4.38	2.97
1939	—	—	0.00	2.82

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are none in the Borough.

Post Natal and Gynaecological Clinics.

Gynaecological and post-natal patients are examined by Dr. Thierens at the ordinary ante-natal clinic. During 1939 there was a large increase in the number of post-natal patients who attended the clinic for examination. The big increase in the number of post-natal examinations made in 1939 is a splendid tribute to the work done at the clinic by Dr. Thierens. The following table gives the essential information :—

YEAR.	1936	1937	1938	1939
No. of post-natal patients ..	17	21	34	90
No. of attendances ..	24	24	48	103
Cases referred to Hospital ..	Figs. not available			3

It must be remembered, too, that some of the patients who were confined in the Halifax General Hospital attended that Hospital for a post-natal examination. Thus more than fifty per cent of Todmorden mothers now attend a recognised clinic for a post-natal examination after child-birth.

C. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Infantile Mortality.

Only two infants under the age of twelve months died during 1939, giving an infantile mortality rate of ten per 1000 births. The following table gives the cause of death of these two infants :—

Cause of Death	No. of Infants dying in :—				
	1st. week	2nd. week	3rd. week	4th. week	5th-52nd week
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	—
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	1
Total ..	1	—	—	—	1

Total number of neo-natal deaths (1-4 weeks)—1.

Total number of infant deaths under 1 year—2.

Stillbirths.

There were eleven stillbirths during 1939. All cases were investigated by the Council's Health Visitors and in special cases I communicated with the doctor and mid-wife in attendance. The main known facts about these eleven stillbirths are given in the following table :—

Case No.	Probable Cause	Ante-Natal Care	Obstetric Care	Confined at	Legitimate	Age of Mother	No. of pregnancy	Child desired
1	Hand Presentation	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Hospital	Yes	38	4th	Yes
2	Macerated Foetus	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Hospital	Yes	44	1st	Yes
3	Breech Presentation	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Hospital	Yes	38	3rd	Yes
4	Anencephalic Monster	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Own home	Yes	39	7th	Yes
5	Cord Presentation	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Own home	Yes	31	2nd	Yes
6	Cord tightly round neck	Unsatisfactory	Doubtful	Own home	Yes	38	1st	Yes
7	Unknown	Unsatisfactory	B. B. A.	Own home	No	21	1st	No
8	Hydrocephalic	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Hospital	Yes	27	2nd	Yes
9	Breech Presentation B.B.A. Four weeks premature. Mother of poor intelligence	Satisfactory	B. B. A.	Own home	Yes	18	1st	Yes
10	Positive Wasserman only found a few weeks prior to delivery	Satisfactory (see foll. para.)	Satisfactory	Hospital	Yes	32	3rd	Yes
11	Breech Presentation. Placenta Praevia	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Hospital	Yes	25	3rd	Yes

This series of eleven cases is too small to permit of any precise conclusion being drawn from a study of the individual cases, but, it is legitimate to assume that some of these stillbirths might not have occurred if adequate ante-natal or obstetric care was exercised in those cases where such care was either lacking or imperfectly given. It is disappointing to have to record that in five of these eleven cases the ante-natal care was unsatisfactory: in three of these cases the fault was that of the patient herself. Case number ten in the above table raises the question as to whether a blood Wasserman examination should be made on every pregnant woman on her first attendance at an ante-natal clinic. Though the number of women who would give a positive reaction to the test would be small yet the benefit they would obtain with proper treatment would, in my opinion, justify the expense.

Stillbirth enquiries are valuable in that they emphasise the need for unremitting care in the conduct of midwifery practice if the present wastage of infant life is to be reduced.

Toddlers' Clinics.

On account of the high percentage of mothers who attend the infant welfare clinics and the scattered nature of the Borough, separate 'Toddlers' Clinics are not held. Further, the minimum age of entry to the elementary schools in the Borough is now $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. During 1939 some 400 children over 1 year of age attended the infant welfare clinics for supervision.

Sunlight Clinic.

The clinic was held on Monday and Friday afternoons from January to March and from October to December inclusive. Some 86 children not in school attendance made 1012 attendances at the clinic. A Mercury Vapour Arc Lamp was used. In a town such as Todmorden where the annual rainfall is high and the hours of sunlight few this treatment is of great value in the winter months.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Clinics were held at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and at Walsden Liberal Club and Vale Council School on Thursday afternoons. A record of the work done in 1939 is given in the following table :—

	Medical Centre	Walsden	Vale	Total
No. of sessions ..	101	50	50	201
No. of children who attended :—				
(a) Under 1 year old	118	30	28	176
(b) 1-5 years of age	241	92	67	400
No. of attendances by children :—				
(a) Under 1 year ..	2490	714	689	3893
(b) 1-5 years ..	1326	779	835	2940
Total attendances	3816	1493	1524	6833
Average attendance per session ..	37.8	29.9	30.5	34.0

Orthopaedic Clinic.

On 30th October, 1929, the Council decided (Council Minute 2147 (e) (c)) that arrangements should be made with the Rochdale Crippled Children's Union for the treatment in the Bamford Memorial Home of children with orthopaedic defects. An out-patient clinic was held at the Smith Street Clinic, Rochdale, every Monday afternoon. During 1939 some 9 children made 17 attendances at the Rochdale Clinic and 2 children were admitted to the Bamford Memorial Home. The children who were sent to the Home for operative treatment suffered from infantile hemiplegia and genu valgum respectively.

The net cost to the Authority was £23 17s. 0d. No income scale is in force, each case is considered on its merits by the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1939 some 76 children, not in school attendance, attended for immunisation against diphtheria.

Minor Ailments Clinic.

During 1939 some 88 children, not in school attendance, made 328 attendances for treatment at the Medical Centre.

Dental Clinic.

A Dental Clinic was held by Mr. E. B. Gibson, L.D.S., once a month during the year. The following table gives a record of the work done :—

	Mothers	Pre-School Children
Number	87	42
Total Attendances	160	48
Number of Sessions	13	—
Temporary Teeth extracted ..	—	39
Permanent Teeth extracted ..	863	—
Temporary Teeth filled ..	—	67
Permanent Teeth filled ..	13	—
No. of patients given a general anaesthetic ..	29	—
Dentures supplied—Complete ..	26	—
Partial ..	7	—

In 1939 the McKesson Gas and Oxygen Apparatus was used in the Clinic for the first time: Mr. J. I. Jagger, L.D.S., acted as anaesthetist to Mr. Gibson.

Artificial dentures were supplied by a private firm of dental mechanics: the standard of materials used was not inferior to that laid down by the Joint Dental Board for dentures provided under the National Health Insurance Scheme. The patients (expectant and nursing mothers) were assessed to pay towards the cost of the dentures according to the following scale adopted by the Council on January 25th, 1939 (Council Minute 505 (f)) :—

Where the total family income, after deducting 5/- for each child under 14 years of age and not working :—	Amount payable by patient
Does not exceed 30/- per week Is between 30/- and 50/- per week Exceeding 50/- per week	Nil Half fees (£2 5 0) Whole fees (4 10 0)
Partial dentures to be charged pro-rata.	

The Council agreed to the provision of dentures for nursing and expectant mothers at its meeting held on 21st December, 1938 (Council Minute 307 (e) (2)). During 1939 some 33 patients were supplied with artificial dentures. This scheme involved no charge on the rates ; in fact there was a surplus on the year's working.

Ophthalmic and Aural Clinics.

At its meeting held on July 29th, 1936, the Council decided (Council Minute 1681 (c)) that the services of the Council's ophthalmic surgeon should be made available for pre-school children suffering from diseases of the ear, nose or throat or from abnormal conditions of the eyes. During 1939 some sixteen pre-school children attended Dr. Greatorex's ophthalmic clinic and one pre-school child attended his aural clinic. Dr. Greatorex held a combined ophthalmic and aural clinic for pre-school and school children once a month throughout the year.

Orthoptic Clinic.

No pre-school child was referred to this clinic in 1939.

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids.

The Council at its meeting on October, 30th 1929 (Council Minute 2147 (e)) authorised the Medical Officer of Health to send children under five years of age to hospital for the operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids. In 1939 no pre-school children were sent to Burnley for operation under the Council's scheme.

Provision of Milk, Cod Liver Oil, etc.

The Council at its meeting on 28th April, 1937, (Council Minute 1130 (d)) authorised the Medical Officer of Health to supply "sufficient milk to expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age as is necessary for the maintenance of their health." The following scale was used to assess applicants for a supply of milk free or at reduced cost:—

No. of persons in family	Net income, after deducting rent		
	Free supply	Supply at 25% cost	Supply at 50% cost
2	25/-	26/-	27/-
3	30/-	31/6	33/-
4	34/-	36/-	38/-
5	37/6-	40/-	42/6
6	42/-	45/-	48/-
7	48/-	52/-	56/-
8	56/-	60/-	64/-
9	63/-	67/6	72/-
10	70/-	75/-	80/-
11	77/-	82/6	88/-
12	84/-	90/-	96/-

Each applicant's statement of the total family income was checked by direct reference to the employer at the time application for milk was made and at intervals of approximately three months thereafter. During 1939 some 4115 pounds of dried milk (equivalent to, approximately, 3000 gallons of liquid milk) were supplied free, or at a reduced rate or at cost price to expectant and nursing mothers and to children under 5 years of age, at a net cost to the Council of approximately £150.

In addition, a cod liver oil of known vitamin content was issued from the Infant Welfare Clinics and a preparation containing known amounts of iron, calcium and vitamin D was issued from the Ante-Natal Clinic. In special cases Fertilol, ferrous sulphate and calcium tablets were also issued.

Child Life Protection.

A register is kept in the Public Health Department as required by the Infant Life Protection Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, of all persons resident in the Borough who receive children for reward together with the names of the children concerned. There were no children on the register during 1939. The local press is scrutinised for advertisements asking for, or offering a house for, children for reward or adoption.

Travelling Expenses.

On account of the fact that there are no hospitals in the Borough, patients are sometimes referred from the clinics to hospitals in neighbouring towns. In certain cases the patients or their parents are unable to pay the cost of travelling and to assist such cases the Council at its meeting on 31st March 1937 (Council Minute 890 (f)) authorised the Medical Officer of Health to pay their travelling expenses. During 1939 the sum so incurred amounted to £1 19s. 4d.

Home Visiting of Health Visitors.

Home visiting is an essential part of a Health Visitor's duties. In the course of a year a large number of visits are paid and for a variety of reasons as can be seen from the following table :—

NO. OF ANTE-NATAL VISITS :—	
First Visits	86
Subsequent Visits	72
NO. OF VISITS TO CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR	
First Visits	209
Subsequent Visits	702
NO. OF VISITS TO CHILDREN 1-5 YEARS ..	1228
NO. OF VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH :—	
Infectious Disease	31
Deaths of children under 1 year ..	2
Stillbirths	12
Miscellaneous Visits	1
TOTAL HOME VISITS ..	2343

Voluntary Helpers.

The following ladies assisted in the work of the Infant Welfare Clinics and their help was greatly appreciated :—

RIDGEFOOT :—

Mrs. Crossley, Mrs. Ratcliff.

VALE :—

Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Hodgson.

WALSDEN :—

Mrs. Fielden, Mrs. Heselden, Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Law, Mrs. Crossley, Mrs. Kettley, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Woodhead.

SECTION IV.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

- (a) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED
- (b) VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.
- (c) IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.
- (d) FIELDEN JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL—ANNUAL REPORT.
- (e) SOURHALL JOINT SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease.

(a) Notifiable Diseases.

There was no epidemic of infectious disease during the year. On 23rd October, 1939, mainly on account of the Government Evacuation Scheme, measles and whooping cough were made compulsorily notifiable. The following three tables give the number of cases notified, the number admitted to hospital, the number of deaths and the age and ward incidence.

DISEASE	WARD					
	Central	Cornholme	Langfield	Stansfield	Todmorden	Walsden
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	9	16	20	10	7	3
Diphtheria	8	9	6	4	8	3
Typhoid & Para Typhoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	5	4	6	5	5
Erysipelas	—	1	2	3	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—
*Measles	—	—	—	—	—	4
*Whooping Cough	—	1	4	—	—	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	—	2	—	1	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	1	4	2	4
TOTAL	21	37	37	28	24	25

* Compulsorily notifiable since 23rd October, 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1939.

DISEASE.	Total Cases No'fid.	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	65	...	3	2	3	5	24	15	5	6	1	...	1
Diphtheria	38	...	...	...	1	6	19	9	1	1	1	...	...
Typhoid and Para-typhoid .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	27	1	...	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	4	10	...
Pneumonia	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	4	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Measles	10	...	1	...	2	2	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
*Whooping Cough	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	2	4	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
 * Compulsorily Notifiable since 23rd October 1939	172	1	7	3	10	15	51	26	11	11	12	19	6

Disease.				Total Cases Noti- fied	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	65	58	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	38	37	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	27	3	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	7	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	—	—
*Measles	...	...	...	4	—	—
*Whooping Cough	...	...	...	10	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	5	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	14	—	—
TOTAL				172	100	—

(b) Vaccination against Smallpox.

Of the 202 children born alive in 1939 only 11 (5 per cent) were vaccinated against smallpox.

(c) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The method of immunisation now adopted in Todmorden is to give three injections, each of 1 c.c. of toxoid-antitoxin-floccules at monthly intervals. A preliminary Schick Test is dispensed with, but a Schick Test is always made three months after the date of the third injection. Children who show a positive reaction to the test are given a further course of injections and are subjected to a further Schick Test. The ideal course would be to immunise a child when about one year old, to re-test it just before it enters school, and to test it again when about eight or nine years old: a positive reaction to either of the subsequent Schick Tests would be followed by a further course of injections. As far as is practicable that procedure is followed in Todmorden.

On account of pressure of work, diphtheria immunisation clinics were not held until the late Autumn and, consequently no child had completed the immunisation course by the end of the year. Details of the work done in 1939 are given in the following table :—

	NUMBER
Children who received one injection T.A.F. in 1939	23
Children who received two injections T.A.F. in 1939	67
Children who received three injections T.A.F. in 1939	66
Total number of children who attended in 1939	156
Number of children immunised in previous years	1516

In 1939, of the 156 children who attended for immunisation 80 were school children, and 76 were pre-school children. On 31st December, 1939, approximately 47% of the children under 14 years of age in Todmorden had been, or were being immunised against diphtheria. Of the 1516 children immunised in previous years, three were admitted to the Fielden Isolation Hospital in 1939 having been notified as suffering from diphtheria. In only one of these cases was the diagnosis of diphtheria confirmed in hospital and in that case the illness pursued a mild course. Of the other two cases, one was a case of tonsillitis with persistently negative throat swabs and the other was admitted to hospital with a positive throat swab, but no clinical signs of diphtheria. No death from diphtheria has occurred in Todmorden among the immunised group of children.

(d) Fielden Joint Isolation Hospital.

Some 210 patients were admitted to the hospital during 1939. The following table shows the districts from which these patients came and the diseases (as diagnosed in the hospital) from which they suffered.

	Todmorden	Hebden Royd	Hepton R.D.	Sowerby Bridge	Evacuees		
					West Riding	Other Areas	Total
Scarlet Fever	54	64	7	10	1	2	138
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	26	5	2	15	1	2	51
Diphtheria Carrier ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Measles and Broncho Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rubella	5	1	—	—	—	—	6
Tonsillitis	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Rheumatic Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	99	71	9	25	2	4	210
Remaining in hospital on 31/12/39	10	7	3	—	—	—	20
In hospital on 1/1/39	10	3	—	18	—	—	31

(1) **Scarlet Fever.**

Of the 138 patients admitted to hospital with Scarlet Fever, 45 (32.6 per cent) developed complications. The following table gives the details :—

Nature of Complication	Time of onset				Total	%
	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week and later		
Carditis	—	—	2	1	3	2.17
Acute nephritis	—	—	3	1	4	2.89
Rheumatism	4	—	—	—	4	2.89
Otitis Media	1	6	—	1	8	5.79
Adenitis (cervical) ..	2	6	5	2	15	10.79
Rhinitis	—	—	1	1	2	1.45
Symptomless albumin- uria	2	1	—	1	4	2.89
Second attack of scarlet fever	—	2	—	—	2	1.45
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—	2	1.45
Whitlow	—	1	—	—	1	0.72
TOTALS	11	16	11	7	45	32.59

It is quite impossible to prevent the occurrence of complications in every case of scarlet fever ; a patient nursed in a single-bedded ward would, sometimes, develop complications. But there would, undoubtedly, be a reduction in the incidence of scarlet fever complications if adequate cell isolation accommodation were available : there is a real and urgent need for a cell isolation block at the Fielden Hospital.

The majority of the patients from Hebden Royd suffered from a very toxic form of scarlet fever and most of the complications occurred in those patients. The four cases of acute nephritis were seriously ill, but all made a complete recovery. Three of the patients developed a carditis, two were discharged cured but the other patient was still in hospital on 31st December, 1939. One child had a mastoidectomy performed from which he made an excellent recovery.

Return Case Rate.

The return case rate for the year was 5.8 per cent which was not unduly high: no figures are available for the country as a whole.

Average Period of stay in Hospital of Scarlet Fever Patients.

It is the custom to keep a scarlet fever patient in hospital 28 days. In 1939 the average stay in the Fielden Hospital was 37 days. This rather high period of average stay was due to the long period of stay of the three patients with carditis and of the four patients with nephritis.

Deaths from Scarlet Fever.

There were no deaths in 1939.

(2) Diphtheria.

On the whole, the type of diphtheria prevalent in 1939 was of a mild or moderate severity: only nine patients were admitted with the classical signs of grave toxæmia—extensive membrane, “bull neck,” intense foetor and prostration—and of these nine patients two died. One died eleven hours and the other eleven days after admission to the Hospital and neither had been immunised against diphtheria. The following complications occurred:—

Complications					Total	%
Broncho pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2	3.92
Paralysis	{ Heart	..	..	..	2	17.6
	{ Palate	..	..	..	4	
	{ Muscles of eye	..	..	..	2	
	{ Superior laryngeal	..	..	..	1	
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	2	3.92
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	1	1.96
Rubella	..	..	..	..	1	1.96
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	15	29.4

Classification of Diphtheria.

The 51 patients with diphtheria were classified as follows :—

Classification					No.	%
Anterior Nasal	..	..	..	..	16	31.37
Tonsillar	..	..	..	..	18	25.3
Pharyngeal	..	..	..	..	17	33.33
Laryngeal	..	..	..	..	—	—
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	51	

(3) Dosage of Serum given.

(1) DIPHTHERIA. — As far as was practicable the following dosage recommended by the Departmental Committee of the London County Council in its report issued in November, 1936, was given :—

Clinical Severity	Dosage of Anti-toxin
Mild	2,000 — 10,000 units.
Moderate	15,000 — 30,000 „
Severe	30,000 — 100,000 „

A dosage of less than 8,000 units was rarely given.

(2) SCARLET FEVER.—During 1939 ten patients suffering from a severe septic or toxic type of scarlet fever were given refined streptococcus anti-toxin globulins. The dose of serum given varied from 6,000 — 15,000 U.S.A. units. This serum was of undoubted value.

(4) Schick and Dick Testing of Patients.

On admission every diphtheria patient was Dick tested and every scarlet fever patient was Schick tested. These tests were made not as a prelude to artificial immunisation but to enable rapid steps to be taken to control any outbreak of scarlet fever that might have arisen in the diphtheria ward or of diphtheria in the scarlet fever ward.

(5) Immunisation of Staff.

All new members of the nursing staff were Schick and Dick tested when they first entered the hospital and the positive re-actors were immunised.

(6) Conditions of Service.

At its meeting held on 24th April, 1939, the Joint Hospital Committee authorised that the salaries, wages and staffing of the hospital should be on the following basis:—

NURSING STAFF, EXCLUDING THE MATRON.

1 Assistant Matron ..	£105 — £5 — £115 per annum
3 Staff Nurses (State Registered fever-trained nurses) ..	£70 — £5 — £75 do.
7 Probationer Nurses ..	£35 — £5 — £40 do.

DOMESTIC STAFF.

1 Cook (resident) ..	£60 — £70 per annum.
1 Sewing maid (non-res.) ..	£65 „
1 Kitchen maid (resident)	} £35 — £50 „
1 House-maid „	
1 Between-maid „	
2 Ward maids „	
1 Relief maid „	
2 daily Charwomen for laundry (to be employed at the discretion of the Matron)	

On 31st December, 1939, the staff of the Hospital was as follows:—

Matron	Assistant Matron	Staff Nurses (Fever trained)	Probationer Nurses	Cook	Sewing Maid	Maids	Resident Male staff		Daily char-women for laundry & house	Total staff
							Ambulance Driver	Porter		
1	1	2	6	1	1	5	1	1	3	22

The Joint Hospital Committee at its May meeting agreed to the institution of a 96-hour fortnight for both the Nursing and Domestic Staffs. At its November Meeting the Committee decided to grant annual holidays with pay (but excluding payment in lieu of emoluments) on the following basis :—

Matron and Assistant Matron	.....28 days.
Staff Nurses and Probationer Nurses	.....21 days.
Domestic and Male Staff	.....14 days.

(7) Training of Nurses.

The Joint Hospital Committee at its meeting on 28th August, 1939, agreed that steps should be taken to have the Fielden Hospital affiliated to a recognised training school. The Public Health Committee of Manchester City Council at its meeting on 10th October, 1939, agreed to the affiliation of the Fielden Hospital with the Monsall Hospital, Manchester, provided the General Nursing Council gave its consent. The General Nursing Council was approached but it withheld consideration of these proposals, on account of the outbreak of war, until the Spring of 1940. When the Fielden Hospital becomes officially recognised as a Preliminary Training School for Nurses (and there appears to be no reason why formal recognition should be withheld) probationer nurses will work 18 months in the Fielden Hospital and 12 months in Monsall Hospital. They will sit the Preliminary State examination in Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene during their residence at the Fielden Hospital and the Final State examination in Fevers during their residence in Monsall Hospital. The teaching equipment provided by the Committee in 1939 included a skeleton, excellent models of the viscera, charts and a blackboard.

(8) Water Supply.

The hospital receives the bulk of its supply from a moorland spring, but it has also got an auxiliary supply from the Todmorden Corporation. The spring water was bacteriologically examined on 9th November, 1939, and was found to contain no *B. coli* per 100 ml. of water.

(9) Maintenance of Hospital Buildings: New Equipment, etc.

During the year the Committee spent approximately £500 on essential repairs to the buildings. At its December meeting, the Committee decided to have a new internal telephone system installed. New blankets, linen, etc., were purchased at a cost of £250. It is anticipated that in 1940 a calender will be purchased for the laundry and that extensive repairs and re-decoration will be done to the Hospital buildings, at a cost of approximately £1,000.

(10) General.

The year 1939 saw many changes in the Hospital and its staff. The post of Master was discontinued and a new matron and assistant matron were appointed. Practically an entirely new nursing and domestic staff was appointed and the conditions of service were greatly improved. A 96-hour fortnight was instituted. Steps were taken to have the Hospital recognised as a Preliminary Training School for Nurses. Much new equipment was purchased and extensive repairs to the buildings were undertaken. It was a year of progress which necessitated many hours of work by the members of the Joint Committee and it is with real pleasure that I acknowledge the help given to me by the members of the Committee. It is also a pleasure for me to pay tribute to the excellent work of the Matron, Miss E. J. Brew-Hunter.

(e) Sourhall Joint Smallpox Hospital.

The Hospital has 34 beds and there is a resident master and matron. No patients were admitted to the Hospital in 1939.

SECTION V.

CANCER.

Cancer.

In Todmorden, the Cancer death rate has increased from 0.38 in 1875 to 1.94 in 1939. It would be rash to state that this five-fold increase in mortality was due to increased incidence. There may have been an increase in the incidence of cancer but other factors have largely contributed to the increased cancer mortality rate in recent years, e.g., more accurate diagnosis on the part of the certifying medical practitioner, increased facilities for diagnosis and a greater proportion of middle-aged and elderly persons in the population than in former years.

In an attempt to reduce cancer mortality and to relieve suffering, the Cancer Act, 1939, was passed. This Act gives various powers to the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs to enable them (a) to increase the facilities for treatment, especially with X-rays and radium and (b) to take steps to persuade patients to seek advice and treatment at an earlier stage than they do at present. In addition to the provision of well-equipped and expertly controlled regional treatment centres, there will also be district consultative clinics which may be established at the smaller hospitals or Municipal Health Centres. It is to be hoped that the War will not seriously interfere with this proposed extension of the Nation's health service.

In 1939, in Todmorden, 40 persons died of cancer. The age periods and sites of these 40 cases of fatal cancer are given in the following tables :—

SITES OF FATAL CANCER. — TODMORDEN 1939.

	SITE.	M.	F.	TOTAL	Group Percentg.
Group I. Treatment seldom practicable.	Liver	4	2	6	22 per cent.
	Lungs and Bronchus	1	1	2	
	Oesophagus	1	—	1	
Group II. Treatment may be possible if condition is diagnosed early enough.	Stomach	1	7	8	54 per cent.
	Intestines	2	3	5	
	Rectum	2	2	4	
	Bladder	—	1	1	
	Ovary	—	2	2	
	Brain	1	—	1	
Group III. Treatment will give high proportion of successes if diagnosis is made early enough	Uterus and Vagina	—	3	3	24 per cent.
	Breast	—	3	3	
	Tongue and Mouth	1	1	2	
	Orbit	2	—	2	
	TOTAL	15	25	40	

Age period of fatal cases.—Todmorden 1939.

Age period.	M.	F.	Total	% of total cancer deaths
Under 25 years ..	—	—	—	—
25 — 34	—	—	—	—
35 — 44	1	3	4	10 per cent.
45 — 54	3	5	8	20 per cent.
55 — 64	4	8	12	29 per cent.
65 and over	7	9	16	41 per cent.
TOTALS ..	15	25	40	

From these tables it will be noted that cancer is mainly a disease of middle and late life, though it must not be forgotten that young persons are sometimes affected, and that of the 40 cancer deaths in Todmorden 10 occurred in Group III where treatment would have given excellent results if obtained early enough and 21 occurred in Group II where some cures and a considerable amount of amelioration would have been obtained with early treatment. These figures stress the need for such a measure as the Cancer Act, 1939.

SECTION VI.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis.

The control of tuberculosis in Todmorden is the direct concern of the County Council. A weekly clinic is held on Friday afternoons at the Masonic Hall and X-ray facilities are available at the County Medical Centre, Sowerby Bridge. There is close co-operation between the officials of the two Authorities. Suitable cases are referred from the Tuberculosis Dispensary to the local authority's Open Air School and artificial sunlight clinic.

In Todmorden in 1939, ten persons died from tuberculosis: five died from respiratory tuberculosis and five from tuberculous meningitis. The notification of tuberculosis in the Borough is reasonably efficient: all deaths from tuberculosis occurred in persons who had been notified previously as suffering from the disease.

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Todmorden in 1939 :—

	Respiratory			Non-Resp.			Ttls.
	M	F	Ttl.	M	F	Ttl.	
No. on Register on 1st Jan., 1939 ..	24	28	52	31	39	70	122
No. first notified during 1939 ..	5	—	5	5	9	14	19
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
No. removed from Register during 1939 :—							
(a) Died	3	1	4	—	3	3	7
(b) Removed from district ..	1	1	2	1	2	3	5
(c) De-notified ..	1	8	9	4	3	7	16
No. remaining on Register 31/12/39 ..	24	18	42	32	40	72	114

During 1939 the following number of patients were sent to Sanatoria or other institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis :—

	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Ttls.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Adults	2	—	—	4	6
Children	—	—	1	—	1

The number of new cases and the number of deaths notified during 1939 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3*
5-10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1*
35-45	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	—	1	—	1*	—
55-65	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	5	—	5	9	3	2	1	4

* Tuberculous Meningitis

SECTION VII.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Prevention of Blindness.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The Council, at its meeting on 24th November, 1937, (Council Minute 71) agreed to the arrangement whereby in the case of a child suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum who required hospital treatment, both the mother and the child could be sent to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital at a charge of three guineas per week. No patient was sent to hospital under this arrangement in 1939. During the year no case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified.

TREATMENT OF DISEASES, INJURIES AND DEFECTS OF THE EYES AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

Dr. Greator, the Council's ophthalmic surgeon, held twelve clinics during the year. Some 16 pre-school children, and 122 school children attended these clinics. In addition 45 school children made 443 attendances at the minor ailments clinic for the treatment of eye defects.

SECTION VIII.

WATER SUPPLIES.

- (a) CORPORATION SUPPLY.
 - (b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES.
-

Water Supplies.

(a) Corporation Water Supply.

The following paragraphs describe the various and meticulous steps taken by the Corporation and its officials to give the citizens of Todmorden a water supply of the highest purity.

PROTECTION OF WATERWORKS AND SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

The Corporation water is supplied from Gorpley reservoir. The reservoir and the whole of the Gathering Ground belong to the Corporation. The Gathering Ground contains no farm houses, although sheep graze on it, and it is inspected twice monthly. A coal mine—the Upper Mountain mine—leads off the Gathering Ground and its mouthing opens on to it. Eight men were employed in the mine and a dry closet was provided for their use by the management in February, 1939. This closet is emptied periodically, its contents being buried on land sloping away from and off the gathering ground. There are five sand filter beds surrounded by unclimbable iron fencing. Special boots are provided for the men who work in the filter beds and these boots are cleansed before and after use. The men employed on the filter beds have been strictly instructed not to foul the beds, and a water closet, placed away from and below the filters, has been provided for their use. There are two small service reservoirs on the system, one at Pitts and the other at Portsmouth. Both are covered with concrete and each has a manhole the cover of which can lock. New water mains are flushed out with clean water before the supply is turned through for domestic use. There were sixty-three ball hydrants in use at the beginning of 1939 but they were all replaced during the year. All mains, valves and hydrants are shown on a set of ordinance sheets.

In May, 1939, the Council decided to purchase a chlorination plant and during the summer a chlorinator was installed. It is not kept constantly running but stands ready for use should the filter beds be out of action or should any exceptional circumstances arise.

HEALTH OF WORKMEN.

All workmen employed on the waterworks at Gorpley and on the maintenance or laying of mains as well as the men employed at the Upper Mountain mine have had a blood examination made and have had their urine and faeces examined to exclude the possibility of any of them being typhoid carriers: all these examinations were satisfactory.

In future, any new workman prior to being employed (by the Corporation or otherwise) on any part of the water undertaking or on the Gathering Ground will have his blood,

urine and faeces examined, and his clinical history investigated by the Medical Officer of Health, to exclude the possibility of his being a typhoid carrier. Also, any man attacked by illness associated with looseness of the bowels will be suspended from work until such time as the Medical Officer of Health certifies him free from infection.

WATER ANALYSES.

In February, 1939, it was decided to take, as a routine, monthly samples of Corporation water before and after treatment for bacteriological examination at the West Riding County Laboratory. The results of all these analyses showed that filtered Corporation water was of a "highly satisfactory" quality according to the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health in the revised edition of the memo. on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies" issued in January 1939.

NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED.

Some 4895 houses are on the Corporation supply and the average daily consumption is, approximately 500,000 gallons.

(b) **Private Water Supplies.**

Some 2,042 houses have private water supplies derived mainly from springs. Owing to the scattered and hilly nature of the town some of these houses must always depend on springs for their supply. Complaints are received from time to time, and are investigated. One particular source of complaint has been the Goshen Lodge supply. This lodge lies about 120 feet behind and above the houses in Well Street. It is uncovered, is elliptical in shape and is approximately 100 feet long and 35 feet across at its widest part. Water is piped to the Lodge from Longfield Reservoir which lies in a field slightly below the level of and about 140 feet from Lumbutts road. Longfield Reservoir is fed by pipes from a Spring on Lumbutts moor. As far as can be ascertained, Goshen Lodge supplies 12 houses with drinking water and various other premises with water for trade purposes. For many years the Goshen Lodge supply has given anxiety to the Council and its officials. The following table gives the results of the bacteriological analyses of samples of water taken from the Lodge or from the houses supplied by it since 1933.

PRESUMPTIVE COLIFORM COUNT PER 100 ml. OF WATER.

Total no. of samples	Highly satisfactory (no presumptv. coli.)	Satisfactory (1-2 presumptive coli.)	Doubtful purity (3-10 presum. coli)	Unsatisfactory (greater than 10 presum. coli)
45	3	5	6	31

In the case of 33 samples found to contain presumptive coli differentiation of the individual types of organisms present was carried out with the following results:—

No. of samples showing the presence of presumptv coli that were differentiated into individual types	Differentiation of the presumptive coli showed the presence of:—			
	a	b	c	d
	Faecal type	Intermdt. type	mixed type	aerogenes type
33	20	4	2	7

Following a report embodying the results of these analyses made to the Public Health Committee on 9th Aug. 1939, the

Council agreed on 30th August, 1939, that application should be made to the Todmorden Petty Sessions for a summons to be issued under Section 140 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to the owners and occupiers of the premises to whom the Goshen Lodge water supply belonged. The case came before the Court on 12th October, 1939, and after having heard the evidence the Magistrates adjourned the case for three weeks to enable the defendants to bring other witnesses to Court and to allow of "an independent" analysis of the water to be made. Samples of water were taken by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in the presence of two

of the defendants on 20th October, 1939, from the inlet pipe to the Lodge, from the Lodge itself and from two houses supplied by the Lodge. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. The following table gives the results of these analyses :—

	Probable no. of presumptv coli	Bacteria as- sociated with sewage or faecal pol- lution	Quantity of water in which found	Quantity of water in which not found
Inlet pipe	1	b. coli	100 c.c.	10 c.c.
Goshen Lodge	1	a typical b. coli	100 c.c.	10 c.c.
22, Well St.	3	b. coli	50 c.c.	10 c.c.
2, Prince	—	—	—	100 c.c.

The further hearing of the case took place on November 2nd, 1939. The Deputy Town Clerk, who conducted the Corporation's case, again quoted the memo. on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies" issued by the Ministry of Health "a single laboratory examination of a water, however favourable the result, does not justify the conclusion that all is well and the supply suitable for drinking purposes." But, because the results of the Manchester analyses, of samples of water taken on one single day, were somewhat favourable to the defendants, the Court decided that the Corporation had not proved its case and so dismissed it.

I have discussed the case of the Goshen Water supply in some detail because I consider it to be of great importance, especially to a town such as Todmorden where there are still 2,000 houses with private water supplies. The Corporation's main responsibility is to take every possible step to ensure that its own water supply is of the highest possible purity—and it is so, but the Corporation cannot ignore private water supplies when complaints are received

or evidence is obtained as to the unsuitability of any such supply for drinking purposes. The Corporation must take action, even though it cannot enforce the ultimate decision, which indeed may go against it. But the responsibility for any disaster that may befall cannot then be ascribed to the negligence of the Corporation or its officials.

I am of the opinion, however, that some change should be made in the procedure that a Local Authority has to adopt when it seeks to have a particular water supply discontinued on the grounds of impurity of the water as a source for drinking purposes. When a Local Authority declares a block of houses to be a clearance area a public local enquiry is held by an Inspector specially appointed by the Minister of Health to enquire into the merits of the case, the Inspector being a person with some special knowledge of housing. The Minister of Health gives his decision after considering his Inspector's report. It appears to me that a similar procedure could well be adopted in the investigation of private water supplies. The final decision as to whether a water supply is or is not satisfactory should be made by one or more persons having special experience and knowledge of water undertakings and of the methods of water analyses. But that, of course is my own opinion.

SECTION IX.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Swimming Baths.

The only swimming bath in the Borough is owned by the Corporation. It was built in 1905 and is situated in Shade Council School. The Bath is covered and is 39 feet long, $17\frac{3}{4}$ feet wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{3}{4}$ feet deep: it has a capacity of, approximately, 14,000 gallons. It is of the fill and empty type.

During the year the Bath was open daily, except Saturday afternoons and Sundays, from 17th April, 1939 to 30th September, 1939. Details of the number of bathers using the Bath are given in the following table:—

Total number of bathers in 1939	..	7966
Average no. of bathers per day	Adults ..	25
	Children ..	43
Highest no. of bathers in any one week	..	641

In recent years, and prior to May 1939, instructions were given that the Bath should be emptied on five nights a week, and that the water that was used on Fridays could be used again on Saturday mornings. On Saturday, May 20th, 1939, a sample of water that had been used on the previous day was taken from the Bath and was bacteriologically examined at the West Riding County Laboratory with the following results :—

Presumptive *B. coli*—

1600 in 100 ml. of water.

Following the bacteriologist's report the Council decided (Council minute 1727) that the water was to be changed daily on each week day during the week.

Although all practicable precautions have been taken by the Council to prevent the water in the Swimming Bath giving rise to infectious or other disease, the fill and empty system cannot be regarded, on Public Health grounds, as either safe or desirable. It must be noted however, that there is no record in the Todmorden Public Health Department of any case of disease having occurred in Todmorden that was alleged to have been caused by bathing in the Shade Bath. But, elsewhere in the country, cases have been known where infection has been transmitted by polluted bath water. The aim of every Authority owning a swimming pool should be to ensure "that the water of swimming pools should be free from pathogenic germs, and that its bacteriological count should approximate to that of drinking water. This standard of purity can be maintained by the system of continuous purification, a combination, that is, of efficient continuous filtration, with continuous and accurately controlled chlorination"—Ministry of Health's Report on "The Purification of the Water of Swimming Baths."

It is unfortunate that the war should have frustrated the long cherished plans for the building of an up-to-date swimming pool in Todmorden and towards the cost of which the National Fitness Council offered a grant of £12,500. As a result of the war this offer was withdrawn. It is to be hoped that when peace again comes, Todmorden will not have long to wait before a modern swimming pool is built that will enable its younger citizens to enjoy one of the most healthful forms of recreation and exercise known to man.

SECTION X.

HOUSING.

- (a) MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION HOUSING ESTATES.
 - (b) INSANITARY HOUSING CONDITIONS.
-

Housing.

- (a) THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATION'S HOUSING ESTATES.

The Corporation owns two housing estates, one at Sun Vale, Walsden, comprising 28 houses, and the other at Ashenhurst, comprising 204 houses. The Council at its meeting on 17th February, 1938, (Council Minute 814) decided that the regular inspection of its housing estates should be conducted by its Health Visitors. The rents are collected by male members of the Borough Treasurer's staff and the Borough Engineer is responsible for the carrying out of repairs. Any disrepair found in a house is reported to the Borough Engineer by the Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, or individual tenant. When the houses were first built all internal walls were painted with water paint. The Council was also responsible for the first internal re-decoration of the houses with wallpaper, subsequent internal re-decoration is the responsibility of the tenant. Before a family is removed to a Council house, it is visited by a Sanitary Inspector, who inspects for vermin and investigates the general condition of the furniture and bedding. The Health Visitor, has, usually, an intimate knowledge of the family and its affairs. All the houses on the Housing Estates are visited by the Health Visitors at least once a year, and those found to be unsatisfactory are visited at frequent intervals. In my opinion, a Health Visitor is a very suitable person for this type of work. She is already well known to the family and her advice is welcomed : indeed, it is frequently sought by house holders.

During 1939 some twenty houses were found to be in an unsatisfactory condition. I visited these unsatisfactory houses twice during the year, my last visit being towards the end of December. On my December visit I found that three of the twenty unsatisfactory tenants had left the estate and that one was keeping her house in a reasonably

satisfactory condition. Several of the other sixteen tenants had improved, but a few were, if anything, keeping their houses in a worse state than formerly. The following table summarises the observations made by me on my December visit :—

Condition.	Number
General uncleanliness	16
Dirty internal walls	13
Dirty bedding	15
Dirty bath	10
Bath not used	1
Dirty W.C.	10
Dirty larder	6
Larder not used as such but as a store for junk	5
Larder clean but not used	2
House " smelly "	9
Badly kept gardens	9

Three of these sixteen unsatisfactory houses were occupied by old men living alone who were too old to keep their houses clean. This problem is not an easy one, but I am of the opinion that, in future, the Council should not permit old men to take over the tenancy of any of its houses. Some of the other thirteen unsatisfactory tenants were simply lazy and shiftless: a few were, undoubtedly, of low intelligence and were indifferent to instruction or threats.

When it is remembered that a large proportion of these 232 tenants came from insanitary dwellings, it is distinctly pleasant to note that 216 (93 per cent) of them kept their

houses in a clean and proper condition. The great majority have taken a pride in their new homes and have responded to their new environment. There can be few housing estates in the country with a more lovely setting than the one at Ashenhurst. Built on a Pennine ridge, 500 feet and more above sea level, it looks southwards over narrow valleys to the rising hills.

It is more than unfortunate that the war has, inevitably, stopped all further housing development. The need for many more new houses in the Borough is great and one can only hope that the rate of re-housing after the war will be at greater speed than it was in the years that have gone. Since all housing activity has ceased, a good opportunity now presents itself for a review of the present housing conditions in the town. A brief outline of the position is given in the following paragraphs.

(b) Insanitary Housing Conditions.

Details of housing surveys carried out by former Medical Officers of Health and the subsequent action taken by the Council are given in the following table :—

	No. included in the 5 years programme adopted by the Council in Oct. 1933	No. reported by M.O.H. to the Council in Sept. 1936	Totals
No. of unfit houses reported to the Council	303	325	628
No. of houses closed, demol- ished or made fit up to 31st December, 1939 ..	264	81*	345
No. of houses included in clearance areas the dem- olition of which having been confirmed by the Ministry of Health has had to be postponed till the end of the war ..	7	52	59
No. of houses where an under- taking to make fit (con- verted into through houses etc.) was accepted by the Council but where all work has had to be post- poned until the end of the war	nil	28	28
No. of houses where no action had been taken by the Local Authority up to 31st December, 1939 ..	32	130	162

* Plus 34 in progress

It must be made clear, however, that all the insanitary houses in the Borough are not included in the above table ; further surveys would reveal many more houses that are

insanitary. Also, there are 2033 back-to-back houses (some are included in the above table) in the town and 713 houses that are not on the water-carriage system. Just before the outbreak of war the Ministry of Health consented to the Council's application for a loan for the conversion of a large number of pail closets to the water-carriage system. Unfortunately, this long overdue improvement has had to be postponed, on financial grounds, until the end of the war. Thus, the housing conditions in Todmorden cannot be regarded with complacency.

The standard of housing required is not an unduly high one, and it is, surely, inexcusable for any community to tolerate in its midst houses that have the following sanitary defects—"lack of air space or ventilation, darkness, dampness, absence of adequate and readily accessible water supply or sanitary accommodation or of other conveniences and inadequate paving or drainage of courts, yards or passages" (1936 Housing Act, Section 188 (17)). And when it is remembered that, in Todmorden, 93 per cent of the tenants transferred from insanitary dwellings to Council owned houses keep their homes in a satisfactory manner, there should be a still greater desire on the part of the Local Authority to provide its less fortunate citizens with comfortable and sanitary houses. It is, perhaps, not often remembered that, "since God spends a good deal of His time in cottages as well as in Churches, He might perhaps like to be a little better lodged there also."

SECTION XI.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

WATER SUPPLY.

See Section VIII of this Report.

RAINFALL FOR 1939 (GORPLEY).

January ..	7.10 ins.	September ..	1.75 ins.
February ..	7.40 "	October ..	2.32 "
March ..	4.26 "	November ..	9.37 "
April ..	2.65 "	December ..	5.23 "
May ..	1.65 "		
June ..	4.42 "		58.63
July ..	8.26 "		
August ..	4.22 "		

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewer extensions for re-housing under the 1936 Act were carried out at Carr House and Castle Estates during 1939. Certain portions of the district still require sewerage, but in all these parts the cost is prohibitive. All defective sewers are improved as required.

All sewage is treated at the Corporation Sewage Works which are adequate for the needs of the Borough.

There have been no complaints from the West Riding Rivers Board in respect of the effluent from the Sewage Works.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No action has been taken during the year to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shows the number of the various types of closets in the Borough :—

Privies with open middens	..	..	..	0
Pail or Tub Closets (a) Houses	..	..	..	430
(b) Workplaces	..	..	..	50
TOTAL	..	..	..	480
Privies with covered middens	..	..	about	70
Water Closets (a) Houses	..	..	..	5008
(b) Workplaces	..	..	..	610
TOTAL	..	..	..	5618
Waste Water Closets	..	..	..	352
Number of additional Closets provided :—				
Old property (a) W.C.'s	3	(b) Others	0	
New houses (a) W.C.'s	16	(b) Others	0	
Number of Closets, other than privies, reconstructed as W.C.'s—10.				

With a view to securing the conversion of privies, etc., to the water-carriage system the Corporation contribute one-third of the cost of conversion to a maximum of £4 per closet. During 1939 there were nine such conversions.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The methods of scavenging of the Borough have been carried out on the same lines as last year; the collection of nightsoil was carried out by motor waggon fitted with

special tank, and a motor waggon and three horse drawn vehicles were used to collect house refuse. Most of the refuse (70.8%) was dealt with at the destructor; the remainder (29.2%) was taken to the tip at Woodhouse: there the refuse was dealt with on the "controlled" system. No complaint as to any nuisance from the tip has been received.

The total annual cost of the collection and disposal of refuse was £3,296.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1939, for Nuis-					
ances only	...	...	...	...	265
Nuisances found in 1939	...	...	...	...	91
Nuisances in hand, end of 1938	...	...	...	...	9
Total needing abatement	...	...	...	...	100
Abated during 1939	...	...	...	...	91
Outstanding, end of 1939	...	...	...	...	9
Notices served, Informal	...	...	...	...	34
Complied with	...	...	...	...	31
Notices served, Statutory	...	...	...	...	4
Complied with	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings	...	...	...	...	—

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, ETC.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	No. of In spections.-	General Conditions	Legal proceed- ings if any
Common Lodging Houses ..	1	1	17	Satisfactory	None
Houses let in Lodgings	0	0	0		
Canal Boats	0	0	0		
Knackers Yards ..	0	0	0		
Tents, Vans & Sheds	2	0	0		
Offensive Trades—					
2 Tripe Boilers	42	42	39	Satisfactory	None
1 Fat Melter					
6 Dressing Hides for Pickers					
33 Fish Friers					

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	34	9	None
FACTORIES without mechanical power	26	None	None
†OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not in- cluding outworkers' premises)... ..	None	None	None
TOTAL	60	9	None
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Pro- secutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	None		None	None
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	None			
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	None			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	None			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)... ..	None			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
insufficient	None	—	—	
unsuitable or defective ...	12	5	—	
not separate for sexes ...	None	—	—	
Other offences	None	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Min- istry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
TOTAL	12	5	None	None

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1939.

Inspections of Premises—			
1.	For nuisances, etc.	...	145
2.	Where infectious disease has occurred	...	97
3.	Where offensive trades are carried on	...	39
4.	Inspections of Workshops	...	2
5.	Inspections of Factories	...	20
6.	Inspections of Bakehouses	...	96
7.	Inspections of Ice Cream Manufactories	...	16
8.	Inspections under Shops Acts	...	1
9.	Inspections of Cowsheds...	...	87
10.	Inspections under Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	1
11.	Inspections of Common Lodging Houses	...	18
12.	Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	722
13.	Inspections of Water Supplies	...	12
14.	Inspections of Work in Progress	...	411
15.	Inspections of Markets	...	93
16.	Inspections under the Housing Act 1936	...	29
17.	Re-inspections under the Housing Act, 1936	...	39
18.	Inspections under the Housing Act, 1936 (overcrowding survey)	...	17
19.	Re-inspections as to compliance with notices	...	110
20.	Inspections of houses under Public Health Acts	...	42
21.	Inspections of Premises used for the Preparation of Food for Sale	...	29
22.	Inspections under Closet Conversion Scheme	...	13
23.	Visits under the Government Evacuation Scheme	...	56
Total Visits...			2095
24.	No. of houses disinfected after		
	(1) infectious disease	...	96
	(2) tuberculosis	...	3
25.	Smoke test applied to drains	...	8
26.	Smoke observations taken	...	25
27.	Samples of milk taken for analysis...	...	17
28.	Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	66
29.	Samples of Water taken for analysis	...	7
30.	Samples of Water taken for bacteriological examination	...	66
31.	No. of complaints investigated	...	144
32.	Cases abated under preliminary notice	...	121
33.	Cases abated under statutory notice	...	44
34.	Cases dealt with under Closet Conversion Scheme	...	9

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE WITH
NOTICES, ETC., DURING 1939.

House Drainage—			
House drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	28
New pipe drains provided	...	...	5
House drains connected to sewer	...	...	5
Drains trapped	...	...	8
Rain Water pipes disconnected	...	...	2
Sanitary Conveniences—			
Tub closets converted into water closets	...	...	3
New water closets provided	...	...	10
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	15
Waste water closets converted into water closets	...	...	7
Tub closets abolished	...	...	1
Water Closets abolished	...	...	11
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses—			
New Sanitary Conveniences provided	...	...	1
Sanitary conveniences cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	...	26
Sanitary conveniences put into proper repair	...	...	4
Workshops cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	...	18
Workshops repaired	...	...	1
Houses dealt with under Housing Act, 1936—			
Houses repaired by informal notice	...	...	2
Houses rendered fit for habitation (Secs. 11 and 12)	...	...	6
Houses demolished	...	...	23
Houses abolished as separate dwellings...	...	...	6
Cowsheds and Dairies—			
Cowsheds provided with improved lighting	...	...	2
Cowsheds provided with improved ventilation	...	...	4
Cowsheds provided with improved drainage	...	...	3
Cowsheds cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	...	3
Shippin floors relaid or repaired	...	...	5
Cowsheds provided with proper middenstead	...	...	2
New dairies provided	...	...	4
New Cowsheds provided	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses			
Slaughterhouses cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses repaired, etc.	...	...	1
Miscellaneous—			
No. of seizures of unsound food	...	...	5
No. of galvanised iron dust bins provided	...	...	9
No. of houses cleansed, limewashed, disinfested, etc.	...	...	11
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	4
No. of accumulations of manure, refuse, etc. removed	...	...	3
No. of Ashpits closed...	...	...	1
Pollutions of water supplies remedied	...	...	1
No. of new sinks provided	...	...	6

HOUSING.

The outbreak of war abruptly stopped all housing progress: schemes for slum clearance, the re-conditioning and demolition of insanitary dwellings will not again be considered by the Local Authority until the war is over.

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION.

For accidents	.. ..	One Mortuary : two slabs.
For infectious cases, other than at hospitals	..	None
For other cases		One Emergency A.R.P. Mortuary with accommodation for 60 bodies.
Facilities for post-mortem examination ?	..	Yes.
Mortuary accommodation sufficient ?	.. ..	Yes.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.**MILK SUPPLY.**

Number of milk cows kept in the district (about)	1000
Number of cow-keepers	152
Number of wholesale traders	9
Number of registered milk sellers	122
Number of cowsheds	257
Number of inspections of cowsheds	87
Number of milk samples taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ..	17
Number of samples found adulterated ..	1
Number of prosecutions	1
Number of samples of ordinary milk taken for Methylene Blue Test	66

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 AND 1938 : —

Production of Milk	No. of Licences in force in area Area	Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically	
		No. satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tstd	None	—	—
Accredited	2	none exmd.	none exmd.
Pasteurised	None	—	—

No. of Licences in force for bottling " Tuberculin Tested " or " Accredited " Milk, other than at the place of production—0.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 15 private slaughterhouses in the Borough, all of which are licensed by the Local Authority, of these five may be termed good, seven fair and three poor. These are widely distributed throughout the Borough, and although each slaughterhouse was inspected weekly on killing days and 722 inspections were carried out during the year, it was impossible to maintain adequate supervision of these premises. This could only be obtained by the provision of a Public Abattoir.

All carcasses were examined to see that the provision of the 1932 Bye-laws and the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, with respect to the use of the Humane Killer were carried out.

There were no prosecutions in 1939 but unsound meat was seized on five occasions, involving a total weight of 566 lbs.

The following table gives the result of Meat Inspection in detail :—

1939	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number Inspected	148	731	38	2403	489
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	3	1	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	34	0	29	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	2.70	4.65	7.90	1.25	0.41
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	1	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	140	0	0	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	3.38	19.29	0	0	11.45

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

No Meat Marking Scheme is in force in the area.

OTHER FOODS.

There are 37 Bakehouses, one of which is underground, in the Borough. The use of three other bakehouses was discontinued during 1939. During the year 96 visits of inspection were made.

ADULTERATION.

Since the West Riding County Council is the authority under the Food & Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, no samples (other than milk) were taken for analysis in 1939 by the Local Authority's inspectors.

Seventeen samples of milk were taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and of these one was adulterated.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Chemical analyses are made by Mr. Richardson, of Bradford, and bacteriological work is done at the County Laboratory, Wakefield. A record of the work done during the year is given in Section 2 of this Report.

SECTION XII.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The following paragraphs describe the stage of development reached in the organisation of the various casualty services in the Borough on the 31st December, 1939.

1. Personnel.

(a) VOLUNTEERS TRAINED IN FIRST AID AND ANTI-GAS.

	War Establishment (no. laid down by Ministry of Health)	En-rolled	Full Time
First Aid Post Men Women	7 33	7 36	2*
First Aid Parties Men	35	36	7
Mobile Unit Men Women	} 18	1 17	1 —
Ambulance Drvrs. Men Women	} 20	13 19	5 —
Ambulance Attendants Women	20	20	—
Drivers of cars for Men & sitting casualties etc. Women	14	15	—
TOTAL	147	164	15

*includes Caretaker.

(b) NURSING STAFF.

The Council's three Health Visitors were detailed for A.R.P. duty. Nurse Gee was allocated to the Fixed First Aid Post and Nurse Fothergill to the Mobile Unit. Nurse Smith acted as a relief nurse. Thus at any one time two trained nurses were always available.

(c) CLERICAL STAFF.

All the clerical work, of which there was a considerable amount, was done by the staff of the Public Health Department, and I must pay tribute to the excellent work done by the two clerks.

(d) MEDICAL STAFF.

The duty of appointing Medical Practitioners to first aid posts was specifically given, by the Ministry of Health, to the Central Emergency Committee of the British Medical Association, which, in turn, delegated the selection to its local Emergency Committees. In Todmorden, the local Committee appointed Dr. Mather to the Mobile Unit and Dr. Thorp to the Fixed First Aid Post. These appointments were confirmed by the Central Emergency Committee of the British Medical Association which notified the West Riding County Council. The Ministry of Health decided that Medical Officers of Health were not to be appointed to first aid posts, but that they were to be given full administrative control of the first aid services in their area.

2. First Aid Posts.

The Ministry of Health decided that there should be one fixed first aid post and one mobile first aid post in Todmorden.

(a) FIXED POST.

This post is situated at the Fielden School of Art. It is fully equipped and ready for immediate use should an air raid occur.

(b) MOBILE UNIT.

A large van is used as a mobile unit: it is completely equipped and ready for instant use.

3. First Aid Points.

Eight first aid points have been established in houses in Walsden, Shade, Lumbutts, Eastwood, Millwood, Town Centre, Cornholme and Portsmouth.

A large first aid box was supplied to each of these houses : three of the points were established at the houses of Medical Practitioners.

4. First Aid Parties.

The Ministry of Health decided that Todmorden should have seven first aid parties. All seven parties have been formed and each is in charge of a leader. Collective training is carried out at regular intervals. A copy of A.R.P. Handbook No. 10 has been supplied to each first aid party leader and his training of his team closely follows the scheme outlined in the handbook. Each first aid party has, on the average, put in one practice a week since the outbreak of war.

5. Ambulance Service.

(1) VEHICLES.

Ten 4-stretcher Ambulances is Todmorden's allotment. On December 31st, 1939, one 2-stretcher and two 4-stretcher ambulances were standing by on full-time service. Mr. Pester, the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, acted as local ambulance officer. The West Riding County Council provided and delivered another two 4-stretcher ambulances, for full-time duty, early in 1940.

(2) DRIVERS AND ATTENDANTS.

There are more than sufficient ambulance drivers enrolled. During the first few weeks of war all volunteers were given practical instruction in driving the heavy vehicles taken over as ambulances. The tuition was given by two experienced drivers who were on the paid staff of volunteers. Practical instruction was continued until petrol rationing came into force, and by that time a good number of the volunteers had been given the opportunity of driving one of the heavy ambulances at night during the period of "black-out." On the whole, the standard of driving among the volunteers was found to be high.

The staff of ambulance attendants is at full strength and only those who were trained in both first-aid and anti-gas were selected for this type of work.

6. Car Drivers for Sitting Casualties and for the Conveyance of First Aid Parties to the scene of Action.

The Ministry of Health decided that fourteen cars should be sufficient for the needs of Todmorden. As the result of private appeals by members of the Council and an advertisement in the local press, some fifteen private cars were volunteered by their owners and in every case the owner volunteered to drive the car. The position is thus very satisfactory.

7. Combined First-Aid Party and Ambulance Depot.

The County Council has taken over part of Messrs. Josiah Halstead's premises at Salford to serve as a garage for the Mobile Unit and Ambulances. Two rooms and a store room in the premises have also been taken over for the use of drivers and first-aid party members and for the storage of equipment.

8. Training of Personnel.

(a) INITIAL TRAINING.

The initial training was carried out under the auspices of the local branch of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

(b) COLLECTIVE TRAINING.

The Ministry of Health (Ministry of Health Circular 1831, June 1939) decided that personnel attached to fixed and mobile first-aid posts must be given collective training at least once each month and that the training must be given by the Medical Officer in charge of each post. An annual fee of twenty guineas each will be paid by the County Council to Drs. Thorp and Mather for their services.

(c) Each first-aid party has a combined practice once a week under the direction of the party leader.

(d) The Council's Health Visitors have given a considerable amount of voluntary tuition and practical instruction to the full-time personnel attached to the first-aid posts. They have also, very willingly, helped in the internal organisation and arrangement of the posts.

9. Mortuary.

An emergency mortuary has been provided behind the Municipal Offices in Rise Lane (as required by the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1779 issued in February, 1939). Provision has been made for the accommodation of 60 bodies in any 48-hour period. Separate accommodation has been provided for gas contaminated corpses. The mortuary is fully equipped and is ready for immediate use should the need ever arise. The local branch of the National Association of Funeral Directors was approached and it nominated four of its members to act as Mortuary Attendants. One of the four men nominated holds a Sanitation Certificate and has been designated " Mortuary Superintendent " and he will be responsible to the Medical Officer of Health. All four men have attended an anti-gas course of instruction. A suitable procedure has been elaborated and necessary rules have been drawn up for the proper conduct of the mortuary. Plans of the premises and the various items of equipment have been approved by the Ministry of Health. The cost of the Mortuary is a direct charge on the local rates, but the approved expenditure will rank for government grant. The mortuary attendants will be paid at the rate of 2/- an hour for any work done consequent on air raids on Todmorden. The Council agreed to the Mortuary Scheme and to the purchase of equipment at its meeting held on September 27th, 1939 (Council Minute 2518 (1)).

10. Expenditure.

(a) PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT.

The only cost which fell on Corporation Funds was that connected with the Emergency Mortuary. The approximate expenditure incurred up to December 31st, 1939, amounted to :—Cost of Equipment £97 ; Cost of adaptation of premises £187 ; this expenditure ranked for grant.

(b) WAGES.

The wages of the full-time volunteers engaged in the Casualty Services are paid by the County Council and do not fall on Corporation funds.

All other expenditure is the charge of the County Council.

11. General.

Some 250 Quarto Cards, giving the addresses of the First Aid Post and the First Aid Points were widely distributed to factories, shops, warden's posts and other premises throughout the Borough.

A list of instructions was drawn up for the guidance of first-aid party members, ambulance drivers and attendants, and telephonists and clerks, and these instructions have been given to the individuals concerned.

The County Council is the scheme-making authority for the Borough, but so far as the casualty services are concerned all the work has been done, with the exception of the adaptation of the Art School, by members of the Borough Council's staff.

I cannot conclude this Report without acknowledging the help given to me, and the interest shown, by the paid and unpaid personnel attached to the various casualty services: if there are air-raids on the town their task will be grim and their responsibility heavy.

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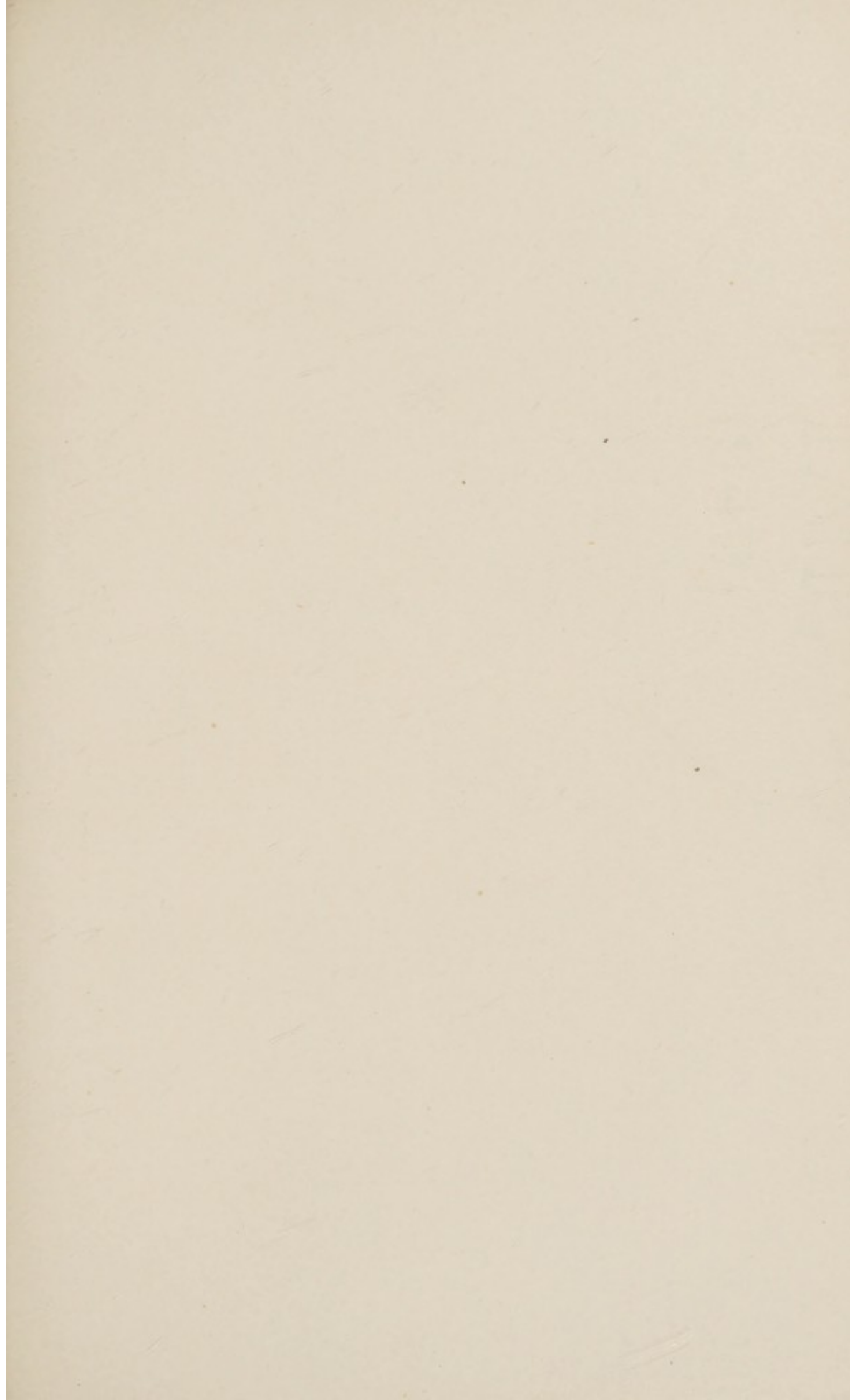
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