

**[Report 1919] / Medical Officer of Health, Ulverston U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Ulverston (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1919

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jjuaf4qm>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Urban District Council  
of Ulverston.

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.




**Year ending December 31st, 1919.**

---

ULVERSTON :

FLETCHER & ROBINSON, QUEEN STREET.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30200738>



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

---

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

---

ULVERSTON,

March, 1920.

GENTLEMEN,

The time has again arrived when it is my duty to present my Annual Report which deals with the health and sanitary condition of the district, over which I exercise supervision as your Medical Officer of Health.

The report of the Inspector goes to show that your district is subject to careful inspection, both systematic and special.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Ulverston is situated near the shores of Morecambe Bay and stands in a hollow open towards the sea and at the foot of hills of the Upper Silurian System, partly upon the rocks of this system and partly upon the Magnesian Limestone, and the surface soil is drifted gravel and sand, and alluvial deposit.

The population of the town is not variable to any great extent, although, during the progress of the war, there was an increase, due to the advent of men desirous of engaging in war work at the Barrow works of Messrs. Vickers, Limited. Many of these have returned to their homes, but with the return of the demobilized soldiers I should say that any decrease entailed thereby has been pretty nearly balanced. I estimate the population as being 9,960, distributed according to the various Wards as under :—

			1911	1920
North Ward	...	...	2248	2270
South Ward	...	...	1848	1900
East Ward	...	...	1975	2250
West Ward	...	...	2085	2110
Central Ward	...	...	1396	1430
Totals	...		9552	9960

OCCUPATIONS.—Blast Furnaces, Iron Foundries, Mining, Paper Making, Chemical Works, Tannery, Agriculture, and a considerable number of men are employed at the works of Vickers Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness. None of the occupations named have any injurious influence on public health.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—In the month of May I made a personal inspection of all the premises occupied by Registered Milk Sellers. There are 32 Cowsheds in the district, 2 of these allow under 250 cubic feet per head, 3 under 300, 7 under 350, 3 under 400, 8 under 550, 2 under 600, and 5 over 600. Thus there are, at least, 15 sheds which, from the point of view of air space only, are most unsatisfactory, besides which, the drainage and general condition leave much to be desired. The production of a pure supply of milk from many of these sheds must be well nigh impossible and I cannot conceive that anything short of entire reconstruction would be satisfactory. In the present undefined state of the Law on the point it does not seem to be possible to effect any drastic changes, and one must wait with patience until the Legislature wakes up to the necessity of strengthening the hands of Local Authorities.

It has not been necessary to take any action with regard to Tuberculous Milk.

MILK (MOTHERS & CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.—In conjunction with the neighbouring authorities representing the Ulverston Rural and Dalton Urban Districts, your



Council have supplied Milk free or at less than cost price, in necessitous cases, for children under five years old and to expectant mothers, and the privilege thus afforded, has been pretty freely used.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The Sanitary Staff consists of one part time Inspector, and an Inspector (part time) of the Cowsheds and Dairies. Although, upon general principles I object to a combination of officers, I am bound to admit that the work is done very efficiently. Mr. Hague, the Sanitary Inspector, is most zealous in the performance of his duties, and no whole time official could show better results, and I am sanguine that with a return to more normal conditions the sanitary condition of the town may be brought into a still better condition; at any rate, I shall not be slow to speak if my anticipations are not fulfilled.

SCHOOLS.—The conditions of the Elementary Day Schools is, usually, quite satisfactory, as regards drainage, water supply and ventilation.

SCAVENGING.—The Council undertakes this very important branch of sanitary administration, and, generally speaking, it may be said to be quite satisfactory. Further comment under this heading will be found in the Inspector's Report, who is able to give more details of the work performed. There are 1,475 portable ashbins.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water from the upland service is collected in a storage reservoir situated in the Ulverston Rural District (Township of Pennington) and after filtration through sand filters is discharged into a service reservoir from which it is distributed to the district. The supply is constant and has always been found to be quite pure and sufficient in quality. There has been no trouble from plumbo-solvency.



**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—With the exception of the Town Beck and Levy Beck there are no streams in the Urban District, and these are not liable to any serious pollution..

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—The Sewerage of the town is on the combined system and speaking generally may be characterised as satisfactory, if we except the liability to flooding in the low lying parts of the town. This, it is hoped, will be obviated when the scheme for the re-modelling of the outfall is carried out, and plans for the work have, already, been prepared.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—There are 2,271 W.C's in your distict, 141 privy middens, 10 waste water closets and 7 pail closets.

**HOUSING.**—The Housing problem is one of the greatest responsibilities that has ever been placed upon the shoulders of any Local Authority; more especially is this the case in an ancient town like Ulverston where there is a shortage of dwellings of the working class type and where those that do exist, in some cases fall definitely below a reasonable standard. So far back as the year 1882 an Inspector of the Local Government Board made this remark in his report :—“ House accommodation is on the whole satisfactory. From this statement, however, must be excepted certain houses situated in the few back courts of the town, and in Rattan Row, such houses being from their structural condition and deficiencies unfit for habitation ” If this was applicable 38 years ago it does not require much imagination to conceive what their condition must be now. I may be pardoned if I take leave to doubt whether many of us fully realise the extent of the discomfort which some of the inhabitants have to endure by being compelled to spend the greater part of their lives in dwellings, which I am convinced, none of us, would care to occupy for a single week. I am quite willing to admit that the difficulties



of providing a remedy are very great and have been immensely increased by the shortage and high price of labour and materials brought about by the war. I recognise that the decision of the Council to erect 80 working class houses at an early date is a clear indication of their desire to contribute to the solution of the local housing problem, and I assume they will not hesitate to propound a further scheme should it be found necessary.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTHS**—There have been 218 births registered during the year giving a birth-rate of 21·8 per 1000, in the year 1918 there were 213 births, the birth-rate then being 23·6 per 1000.

There were 113 males born, and 105 females.

Twenty-one illegitimate children were born, 9 males and 12 females.

**DEATHS**—The number of deaths which have, actually, occurred in the district have been 165, but, of these, 27 have been non-residents and have been transferred away, reducing the number to 138, but 6 deaths of residents have arisen outside the district, and to get at the correct number of deaths these must be added, which gives 144 as the net number of deaths and is equal to a death-rate of 14·4 per 1000. In 1918 there were 198 deaths, producing a death-rate of 14·9 per 1000

The deaths have been distributed in the different Wards as follows:—

	1918		1919	
	Deaths.	Death-rate.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
North Ward	35	15·4	46	20·2
South Ward	37	19·4	25	13·1
East Ward	57	25·3	21	9·3
West Ward	48	22·7	26	12·3
Central Ward	21	14·6	26	18·1
Totals	198	19·9	144	14·4



There have been 66 deaths in males and 78 in females. 51 deaths have arisen in public institutions in the district.

In the 1st quarter of the year there were 48 deaths

„	2nd	„	„	„	38	„
„	3rd	„	„	„	26	„
„	4th	„	„	„	32	„
Total					144	

INFANTILE DEATHS.—There have been 14 deaths in infants under one year old which is equal to an Infantile Death-rate of 64·2 per 1000 births. In the year 1918 there were 18 deaths at this age period, equal to an Infantile Death-rate of 76·2 per 1000 birth. Below will be found a table giving the causes of Infantile Deaths, with their distribution as to the Ward in which they occurred.

			North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West & Central Ward.	Total.
Premature Births	...	...	3	—	—	1	4
Diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	—	2	2
Marasms	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Influenza	...	...	—	—	1	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Meningitis	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Convulsions	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Defects	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Totals			7	1	1	4	14

There have been 3 deaths in illegitimate infants.

It is always gratifying to find a decrease in the number of infantile deaths, and it is to be hoped that with the extension of the Maternity and Child Welfare work that this decrease will continue. The work is carried on by the County Council who have appointed one of their Medical Officers and a Female Inspector to take charge of the centre established in the town,

and it is pleasing to know that the work is making very satisfactory progress and that any prejudice which may have existed in the minds of the mothers at its inception is being gradually eliminated.

The Midwives Act is, also, administered by the County Authority who have a Female Inspector working in the district.

SENILE DEATHS.—In persons of 65 years of age and upwards there have been 66 deaths as compared with 60 in the year 1918.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.—There have been 3 deaths from diseases which are classified as Zymotic, 1 from Diphtheria in the West Ward and 2 from Diarrhoea in the Central Ward. The Zymotic Death-rate is 30 per 1000. In the year 1918 there were 9 deaths from diseases of this type, equal to a death-rate of 90 per 1000.

#### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Erysip- elas.	Diphth- eria.	Scarlet Fever.	Ophth- almia.	Typhoid Fever.	Phthisis	Measles	Total
North Ward	1	1	—	—	1	1	20	24
South Ward	—	—	5	1	—	2	20	28
East Ward	—	2	4	2	—	6	12	26
West Ward	—	2	—	—	—	3	13	18
Central Ward	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	12
Totals	1	5	9	3	1	15	74	109

The above table shows your district in a very satisfactory light from the point of view of the prevalence of Infectious Diseases, Measles providing the greater proportion of the notifications, of which disease there was an epidemic in the Autumn, necessitating the closure of the Church Walk Infants' School in November.

TYPHOID FEVER.—The case of Typhoid Fever was notified in September and arose in a youth aged 23 living in a modern house with up-to-date sanitary arrangements which



were free from defects, The history of the case left little room for doubt that the infection was contracted in the Isle of Man where the youth had been on a visit and where he commenced to be ill.

**PHTHISIS** — Fifteen certificates notifying cases of Phthisis have been received and eight deaths have arisen from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from Tuberculosis of the Intestine.

The County Council undertake the Tuberculosis work in your district and have appointed a Medical Officer and Female Health Visitor to supervise the district and direct the treatment of cases.

An open-air Sanatorium has been established at High Carley, in the Township of Pennington, and accommodates 120 patients, and my experience as Temporary Tuberculosis Officer was that sufferers from the disease readily availed themselves of the privilege of treatment there. A dispensary has been established at Ulverston, and arrangements are made for regular visitation by the Medical Officer and Nurse. My experience leads me to remark that notification of Tubercular Diseases is not received at a sufficiently early stage to ensure that Sanatorium Treatment shall be satisfactory and I would urge upon Practitioners the necessity of notification at the earliest possible date wherever there is the least reason for suspicion.

**CANCER**.—Twelve deaths have arisen from this disease during the year.

**INFLUENZA**.—Ulverston was troubled with a return of the Influenza epidemic in February, March and April, when 12 deaths were registered as being due to the disease, 2 in February, 6 in March, and 4 in April.

There were two deaths in infants under one year old, 1 between the ages of 2 and 5, 2 between 5 and 15, 4 between 25 and 45, 2 between 45 and 65, and 1 over 65.

## TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—

Provision is made by the Ulverston Joint Hospital Board for the isolation of the ordinary Infectious Diseases at the High Carley Infectious Hospital which is situated in the Parish of Pennington, Ulverston Rural District. I find that, generally speaking, there is little difficulty in prevailing upon parents and guardians to take advantage of the provisions. Arrangements have been made with the Barrow Corporation to provide for the isolation of Small Pox, should the necessity, unfortunately, arise.

In concluding my report, I beg to thank all my colleagues for their hearty co-operation and support at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON,

L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng., D.P.H., Lond.  
Medical Officer of Health.

April 10th, 1920.



# ANNUAL REPORT.

---

## SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR'S DEPT.

---

TOWN HALL,

ULVERSTON,

April, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to submit my Report on the work carried out during the year ended December 31st, 1919, relating to Public Health Administration.

### NUISANCES.

Number of Cases entered in Journal	...	55
„ „ Statutory Notices served	...	6
„ „ Intimations given	...	97
„ „ Nuisances unabated	...	7

### CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS.

Insanitary and Insufficient Refuse Accommodation,  
affecting 33 Houses ... .. 11

Result of action taken : 15 bins provided.

Water Closets with defective flushing apparatus,  
affecting 13 Houses ... .. 8

Result of action taken : All put in order.

Water Closets defective and insanitary, affecting  
11 Houses ... .. 9

Result of action taken : All put in order.

Yard and House Drains, Blockage or other defects 11

Result of action taken : All put in order.

Insanitary and Insufficient Closet Accommodation, affecting 11 Houses ... ..	3
Result of action taken: 2 Privies abolished and 5 New Water-Closets built.	
Defective Floors ... ..	2
Repairs carried out.	
Dampness, including Defective Roof, Gutters, &c., affecting 10 Houses ... ..	5
Result of action taken: All put in order.	
Offensive Accumulations, &c. (Cases) ... ..	3
Nuisance abated.	
Tents and Caravans without Sanitary Accommo- dation ... ..	3
All removed.	

#### HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING &c., ACT, 1909-1919.

At the beginning of the year notices affecting 14 houses were still outstanding. Several of these date back three and four years and at the end of 1919 certain requirements are still outstanding. In several cases windows have not been made to open and in three cases the yard paving needs attention. No statutory notices were served during the year under the above Act, defects being dealt with either by interview, correspondence or under the Public Health Act.

#### SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS, FORM D, 89.

To supply the information required by this form a survey was made of all houses rated at £15 and under, the number inspected being 1,646. The number of houses with more than two occupants per room was found to be 18, 169 people occupying 67 rooms.

The number of houses occupied by two or more families was found to be 30 (a married son or daughter living with their parents are classed as separate families). Included in this 30, are several who are relatives and do not desire a separate house.



The particulars and information in general obtained from this inspection were submitted to the Medical Officer of Health and after very careful consideration and due regard to the physical character and rural nature of parts of the district, it was decided to report to the Housing Commissioner that 24 houses were needed to replace dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit.

36 houses required to replace houses which, although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard, and that 220 are seriously defective but can be made habitable. If progress is to be made with the remedying of the defects of the houses that fall below a reasonable standard, the Council will have to be more insistent in enforcing compliance with the notices. The work of inspecting and reporting in the first instance takes up a very small portion of time compared with the time required for subsequent inspections, interviews, correspondence, &c., and then often ending in nothing being done until the Council intimate that proceedings will be taken to carry out the notices. At the present rate of progress to report new inspections each month would merely result in a long list of defective houses outstanding in the books at the year end. The facilities for getting the works carried out during these abnormal times must of necessity be borne in mind. Viewing the question from both sides I am persuaded that the difficulty in getting repairs carried out is largely due to the following causes, namely: property in the hands of trustees, houses let at a low rent which rent constitutes the main or sole income of the owner, and enhanced prices.

The position is a very difficult one especially for the owners of the class of property under consideration, as will be seen from the figures obtained during the Survey, viz: There are 77 houses let at a rental of 2/- and under per week, 110 at 2/3 to 2/6 per week, 184 2/9 to 3/- per week, 204 3/3 to 3/6 per week, 198 3/9 to 4/- per week, 100 4/3 to 4/6 per week, 83 4/9



to 5/- per week, 104 5/3 to 5/6 per week. I recently interviewed a small property owner in respect to sanitary improvements to two cottages when he showed me the Contractor's Tender which was slightly greater than the rents of the cottages for eighteen months.

The Ministry of Health in the Manual on Unfit Houses and Unhealthy Areas indicates the policy and practice to be adopted in dealing with these matters. The following brief extracts from the Manual will be a guidance to those members of the Council who are not already familiar with the Ministry's requirements when dealing with reports on property submitted by your Medical Officer and Inspector.

#### A FIT HOUSE SHOULD BE—

- (1) Free from serious dampness.
- (2) Satisfactorily lighted and ventilated.
- (3) Properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary convenience and with a sink and suitable arrangements for disposing of slop water; and
- (4) In good general repair; and should have
- (5) A satisfactory water supply.
- (6) Adequate washing accommodation.
- (7) Adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food; and
- (8) A well ventilated store for food.

#### GENERAL REPAIRS.

The following is a list of common defects :—Paving of Yard—broken or defective—causing pools to accumulate.

ROOFS.—Tiles or slates loose or broken; flashings, defective or perished; eaves, gutters or drain pipes defective or broken,

WALLS.—Defective pointing allowing damp to strike through, defective external plaster peeling off in patches or allowing wet to accumulate at the back of the plaster, damp-proof course cracked, perished or



otherwise become effective, ground banked up above the level of the damp-proof course, causing dampness in the walls, defective internal plaster, badly cracked or breaking off in patches, or soft, dirty or loose wall paper.

**CEILINGS.**—Plaster badly cracked, loose, falling off in patches, or dirty or sodden with filth.

**FLOORS.**—Broken, cracked, too thin to be safe or so rough as to be very difficult to keep clean, defective hearths or ash holes.

**STAIRS.**—Broken treads or risers; or broken handrails or balusters, want of handrail or balusters.

**DOORS.**—Doors so swollen or warped that they will not shut properly, broken hinges or fasteners.

**VENTILATORS OR FLUES.**—Stopped up or broken.

**CUPBOARDS.**—Insufficient or defective.

**GRATES, STOVES OR RANGES.**—Broken, badly set or wanting setting; ovens, boilers, or hot plates cracked; fire bars missing.

It will be obvious, of course, that the seriousness of any particular defect may be much greater if that defect is accompanied by others. Minor defects may not cause more than inconvenience, but should nevertheless be put right; on the other hand, the cumulative effect of small defects may become serious. Owners of property sometimes overlook the fact that small defects if dealt with promptly may be repaired at slight cost whereas, if neglected, they may cause serious unfitness and become expensive to remedy.

#### ORDER IN WHICH MEASURES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

(1) The whole situation is conditioned by the shortage of houses. Generally speaking, therefore, Local Authorities



should not undertake measures which involve turning persons out of their present houses, defective even though these may be, until new accommodation (houses or flats) is available, or unless temporary quarters can be provided for the displaced persons.

(2) **MAKING HOUSES FIT.**—In view of present circumstances, the first problem to be attacked will, as a rule, be that of the houses which are now in bad condition but can be made reasonably fit without displacing the tenants. Consistently with securing this object, reasonable consideration should be paid to owners, both as to the time within which, and the manner in which, the necessary works are to be carried out, having regard to present conditions as regards labour and materials.

(3) **HOUSES SO UNFIT THAT THEY SHOULD BE DEMOLISHED.** Until more houses are provided, it is impracticable to proceed otherwise than very cautiously with the demolition of houses. The utmost endeavour should be made to bring houses (even those which under other conditions would immediately be demolished) up to a tolerably good standard. The acceptance of a lower standard than would otherwise be desirable must be frankly adopted as a temporary measure. When the pressing shortage of the present time has been met (and the poor housing which has to be temporarily accepted should provide an incentive to speedy action), the demolition of unsatisfactory houses can be undertaken with general advantage.

(4) It is necessary to distinguish two different standards in regard to housing accommodation. There is what may be termed the standard of mere fitness which implies only that a house is free from any defects such as can be regarded as rendering it unfit for habitation. There is also a higher standard which may be termed the standard of amenity which implies that the house is not only free from defects such as



those mentioned, but has advantages and amenities which tend to promote to the full a healthy and contented home life. The distinction may be regarded as being between what is essential and what is desirable.

(5) The general attainment even of a satisfactory standard of fitness can only be gradual owing to the large number of dwellings in many districts which fall below it. While the present abnormal conditions last, and until the present serious shortage of houses is remedied, there will, as mentioned, be special need for discretion in enforcing the standard, and the difficulties of owners of houses must not be overlooked. Local Authorities should not, however, regard these circumstances as other than a passing phase. They must strive to remove, as quickly as possible, the present obstacles, particularly the shortage of houses, to the enforcement of a proper standard of housing, so that in a few years all the dwellings in their district may be brought up to a good standard.

(6) The particular circumstances of a house may have to be considered in deciding how high a standard it will be wise to demand. Where a house is in such a condition that within a few years it will probably have to be demolished, or is in an area which will soon have to be cleared or re-planned, large repairs or alterations of a permanent nature are likely to be inexpedient, and it may be well to accept such work as will make the house habitable for the time being. It would be unwise to require now heavy expenditure which shortly might itself be a hindrance to a more thorough treatment of the bad conditions.

(7) Local Authorities will, as a rule, find it advisable, before causing any formal notices to be served, to give to the owner an informal indication of any works or measures which they consider to be necessary. Where the works required are extensive it may be expedient to arrange for a period of time within which they, or various parts of them, are to be carried out.



(8) The owner may be helped not only by telling him what works are needed, but also, in suitable cases, by lending him money for carrying out the necessary works (sec. 22/19). It is to be noted, however, that the section allows of the loan of money only when the works amount to re-construction, enlargement or improvement; it does not authorise the loan of money for ordinary maintenance repairs.

### REFUSE REMOVAL.

The collection of the refuse is carried out by the Council's employees; ashbins being emptied weekly, ashpits, privies, &c., emptied on receipt of notice.

Returns are made weekly, and the following is a summary of the year's work :—

Number of Ashbins emptied	...	77,524
„ „ Ashpits „	...	515
„ „ Privies „	...	317
„ „ Pails „	...	272
„ „ Loads of Refuse removed		2,566

The whole of the house refuse is disposed of within the Council's district by tipping on low lying ground rented by the Council on the north side of the Canal adjoining the Railway Bridge. The refuse is soiled over as the work proceeds. The nearest house is a considerable distance away.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION OF INFECTED PREMISES.

Number of Notifications received	...	15
----------------------------------	-----	----

In all cases of Infectious Diseases a personal visit is made to the premises, in the endeavour to trace the origin, inspect the Sanitary Arrangements of the premises and give general instructions of precautions to be taken to prevent its spread.



In most cases the sufferer is removed to the Infectious Disease Hospital.

On the termination of the disease, or when the patient has been removed to the hospital, as the case may be, the rooms and contents are aerielly fumigated with formalin.

Rooms of Dwelling-houses Disinfected after Scarlet Fever	9
„ „ „ „ Diphtheria	5
„ „ „ „ Typhoid Fever	1
„ „ „ „ Cancer	3
„ „ „ „ Pulmonary Phthisis	12
„ „ „ „ Other Reasons	4

Disinfectants are supplied free in all cases of Infectious Diseases.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number of Slaughter Houses on Register 8

The Slaughter Houses are regularly inspected. On a few occasions it has been necessary to call the occupier's attention to the lime-washing and removal of garbage. Generally they may be said to have been maintained in good order.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number of Common Lodging Houses on Register 3

Two of these houses very rarely take in lodgers and the other is also but seldom used. They are periodically inspected and have been found clean and well kept.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number of Factories and Workshops on the Register are as follows :—

Factories	...	...	...	42
Workshops	...	...	...	74

In two cases, it has been necessary to request the provision of Sanitary Accommodation more convenient to the premises. In one case a new Water Closet has been provided, and in the other a promise has been made that the matter shall have immediate attention. A few minor defects, such as lime-washing, &c., have been remedied.

### NEW BUILDINGS.

No. of Plans submitted for approval	...	23
Do. approved	... ..	23

The approved Plans are for:—

1 Dwelling-house.

1 Cinema.

Extension to Tannery.

Do. Iron & Steel Works.

17 Miscellaneous Buildings, Alterations & Additions

One house has been certified for habitation during the year.

### INSPECTION OF PRIVATE DRAINS.

All new drains are tested before the trench is filled in, if practicable with water, where not, with smoke, and in the case of new buildings again with smoke, before the certificate of fitness for occupation is given.

During the year a number of inspections and tests with smoke have been made in connection with extensions and connections to existing drains, alterations to new water closets, &c.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The improvement of the 15-in. C.I. Sewer, Fitz Bridge to Outcast, consisting of taking out the two inverted syphons, improvement of gradient, and provision of inspection chambers has been completed during the year. This sewer works under pressure, and receives the sewage from Swarthmoor Village



and property en route, Low Lightburn Park, Watery Lane, Low Mill Tannery, and a certain volume of the Town's sewage.

The working of this sewer has caused a great deal of trouble and anxiety for some time, and there were only two Manholes or Inspection Chambers, in a length of 2020 feet.

The work was held up for some considerable time through the delay in the delivery of the special pipes and castings. When working on the last length, and about a week or so before the completion of the scheme, the sewer ceased working entirely, and the sewage flow had to be temporally diverted. The blockage was found to be full bore of the pipe and very solid, and to clear it it was necessary to cut into the pipes every 12 to 15 yards, and in cases to take out the pipes. Without bearing the pipes for the whole length which would be very costly and inconvenient to traffic. Owing to curves and great difficulty in diverting the sewage to enable inspection to be made between the chambers, it is not possible to say whether the pipes are perfectly clear or of even gradient throughout the whole length, but I am pleased to be in a position to say that the improvements carried out are giving working results beyond those anticipated, thus allowing a greater volume of the town's sewage to be conveyed by the Outcast Sewer to the outfall, and so to a certain extent relieving the North Lonsdale Road Main Sewer, which is so liable to flooding in times of heavy rains and high tides.

The 18-ins. Sewer in North Lonsdale Road that receives the Paper Mill effluent and the drainage from all property on the south side of the road was thoroughly dredged, also the branch sewers in the streets adjoining. It is necessary to do this at least once during the year. The Paper Mill Co. bear practically the whole of the cost. Other minor lengths of sewer have been dredged, a number of blockages and other defects remedied, and flushing carried out when necessary. The Sewage Settling Tanks at Morecambe Road and Swarthmoor are emptied when required.



During the past year, flooding has not been so bad or frequent as in previous years. The trouble occurs during continuous heavy rains, at high tides, and sudden heavy storms. The Sewers in the lower parts of the district, with flat gradients, being unable to cope with the flow from the sewers with steep gradients, especially when the outfall is tide locked. It is unfortunate that the Scheme prepared in 1913 was not finally approved until 1914, as by the time arrangements had been made for the construction of the works, the Treasury restrictions deferred the carrying out of the Scheme. The pre-war estimate was £5,612, and from prices ruling to-day, the cost would be about £15,000.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of one or two outlying cottages and farms, all dwellings, &c., are connected with the Town's mains. The complaints of poor pressure and intermittent supply from Trinkelt and Colt House District have been remedied by laying 210 1-in. yards of new 3-in. main, linking up the supply with the 3-in. Swarthmoor main.

There has been an ample water supply throughout the year. One or two complaints of poor pressure have been received from houses situated at high levels at certain periods, particularly in the early part of the week when the pull on the mains is the heaviest. I am of opinion that to a certain extent, this is due to incrustation. The matter is noted for attention.

#### HIGHWAYS, &c.

I think I may be permitted to say that the Roads and Streets repairable by the Council are, with a few exceptions, in a good state. A fairly large amount of re-construction and repair work has been carried out during the year, mainly in Tarmacadam and Granite, including Tar-spraying (details of which have been given in the monthly reports), and the Council are fortunately placed in that no extraordinary expenditure is likely to be required in the near future. It is an object



lesson, and shows that with the adoption of modern methods there is considerably less dust, subsequently less scavenging, and for several years now, no watering required and the reduced cost of upkeep (apart from the inconvenience to traffic during road repair) more than counterbalances the extra initial cost. The real cost is not the initial cost alone, but the cost of the road between life and death. Every road costs so much per square yard to construct, so much per yard annually to maintain, and exists a certain number of years before renewal is necessary. The true cost of the road is therefore the first cost added to the total cost of maintenance divided by the years of life.

The Street Scavenging is carried out systematically. The main streets in the town receive daily attention, and the other roads and streets as required. Costs have gone up considerably, yet I am convinced that to neglect this branch of work would not be wise from a health standpoint, apart from the appearance and the town's good reputation in this respect.

It is proposed to improve the condition of a number of Back Streets during the ensuing year, and I hope it will be possible to schedule and prepare a programme for the making up of Private Streets, a number of which badly need attention if only from a sanitary and health standpoint.

It is unfortunate that expenditure applied to the effort of improving the health of the citizens can never show a profit on paper. Nevertheless, Public Health work has its financial side in the saving of health to the worker, in giving him more years of useful employment, and often in the saving of the cost of keeping him or his dependents in Hospitals, Sanatoria, or other Institutions which are a charge on the Rates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. TELFORD HAGUE,

M. INST. M.C.E.

