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Contributors

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URMSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1932.

BY

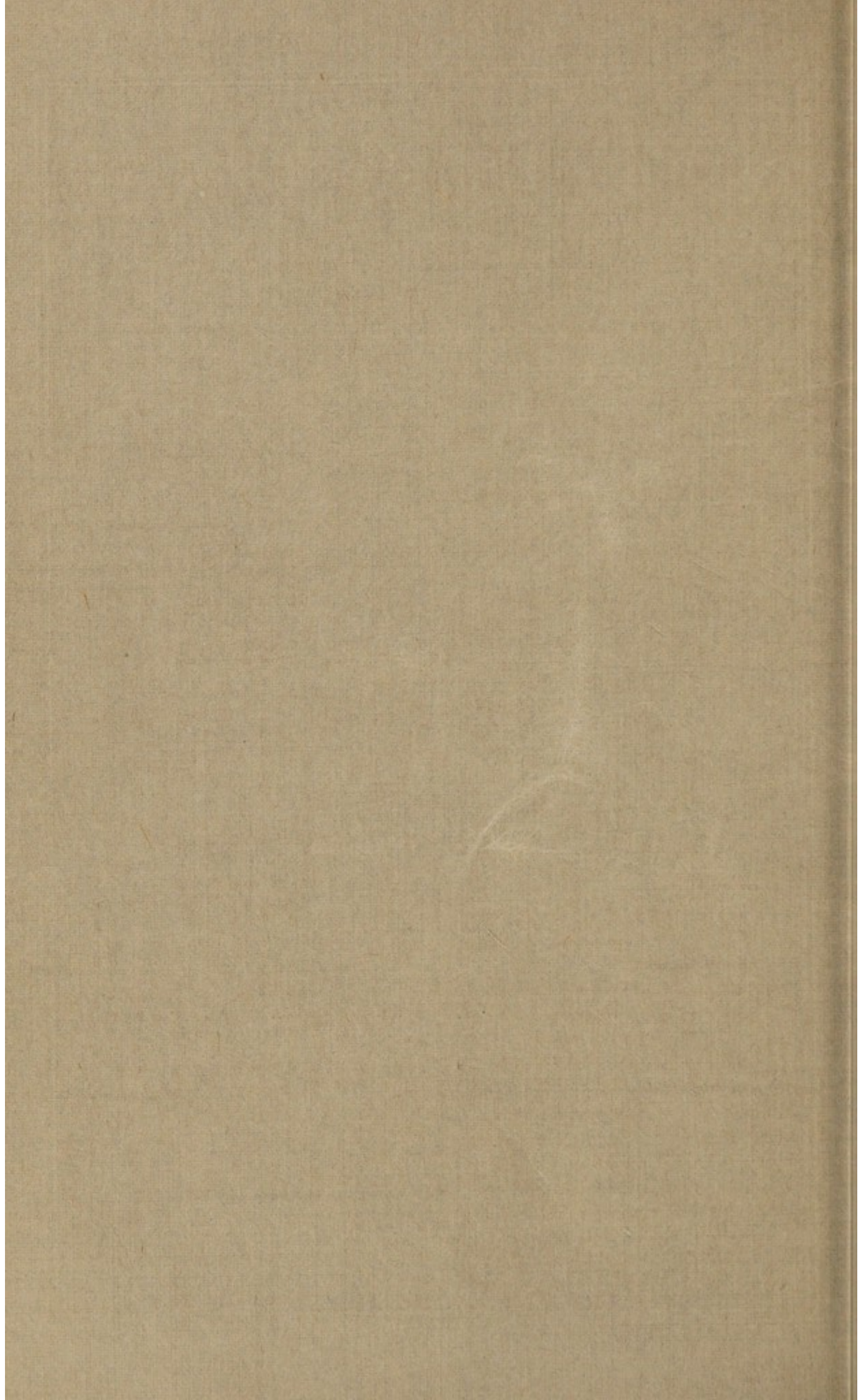
D. W. DAVIDSON,
M.B., CH.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

URMSTON :

“TELEGRAPH” Printing Co. Ltd., Railway Road.

1960





The Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1932.

Council Offices,
Crofts Bank Road,
Urmston.

July, 1933

To the Urmston Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my third annual report on the health and sanitary condition of your district for the year 1932.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres, 992.

Population—Census, April 1931, 9,284; Estimated at 30th June, 1932, 9,393.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	... 2,474
" " " " 31st December, 1932	... 2,625

The rateable value at 31st December, 1932, was £62,900, and the sum represented by a penny rate £245.

Urmston is situated 6 miles W.S.W. from Manchester, and 204 miles from London.

The district is chiefly residential, the residents being mainly dependant on Manchester and surrounding districts for their livelihood.

The chief industries carried on are the manufacture of jams and table delicacies, furniture and clothing warehouse, laundering, motor engineering and dairy farming.

There is no particular occupation bearing influence on the public health.

A park, two recreation grounds and a rest garden have been provided by the Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate { Illegitimate	107	49	58	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 11·9.
		5	4	1	
	Total	112	53	59	
Still Births	...	7	4	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) 58.
Deaths	...	94	42	52	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10·0.
Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births...	...	..	71
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			66
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „			200
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	...	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil.

	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
Mean of 5 years— 1927—1931	13·8	12·7	0·71	1·97	4·85	—	43
Year 1931	14·0	13·8	0·42	2·14	7·63	7·14	76
1932	11·9	10·0	0·31	1·49	Nil.	Nil.	71
Increase or Decrease in 1932 on 5 years average, 1927-1931	-1·9	-2·7	-0·40	-0·48	-0·85	Nil.	+28
Previous Year	-2·1	-3·8	-0·11	-0·65	-7·63	-7·14	-5

There has not been any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has required investigation or any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy.

2—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Council have provided hospital accommodation for the treatment of Small-Pox cases by agreement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board at Ainsworth Hospital, Bury. Two beds are available for the district for which an annual retaining fee is paid, and in addition the Board make a further charge per day for the number of days the hospital is occupied by patients from this district.

For other infectious diseases an agreement exists with the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at their Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford, subject to the accommodation being available.

Patients are not required to contribute towards the cost of treatment.

General hospital accommodation for the use of the inhabitants of the district is available at the hospitals of Manchester and district, Salford, Eccles, and Davyhulme, also the Urmston Cottage Hospital. For the treatment of Tuberculosis the sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council are available. The Council contribute to several voluntary hospitals in Manchester and Salford.

There is no institutional provision in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available. For non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity patients there is an agreement with the Stretford Urban District Council for the use of their motor ambulances.

Although there is not a maternity and child welfare centre in the district, there is such a centre in Davyhulme, provided by the Lancashire County Council. Consultation and treatment is provided each Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m., and which is well attended and much appreciated by mothers and their children in this district.

THE NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.—The powers and duties delegated to local authorities under this Act are administered in your district by the Lancashire County Council.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1932

				Males	Females	
Whooping Cough	...	...		2	1
Influenza	...	...		—	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...		1	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...		1	—
Cancer, malignant disease...	...	...		6	8
Diabetes	...	...		1	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...		3	4
Heart Disease ...	...	...		9	10
Other circulatory diseases	...	...		—	1
Bronchitis	...	...		1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...		3	3
Other respiratory diseases	...	...		2	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	...		1	—
Appendicitis	...	...		1	—
Diseases of liver, etc.	...	...		1	2
Other digestive diseases	...	...		—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...		2	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...		1	4
Senility	...	...		3	6
Deaths from violence	...	...		—	2
Other defined diseases	...	...		4	2
				—	—	
		All causes		42	52	
Deaths of Infants under one year			{	Total	3	5
				Legitimate	2	5
				Illegitimate	1	—
Live Births	{	Total	53	59
				Legitimate	49	58
				Illegitimate	4	1
Stillbirths	{	Total	4	3
				Legitimate	4	3
				Illegitimate	—	—

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.—The Order constituting the Township of Urmston an Urban District, was made by the Lancashire County Council on the 28th June, 1894, after a Public Enquiry held at Patricroft on the 29th May, 1894. The Order was confirmed by the Local Government Board on the 6th October, 1894. The first election of the Council was held on the 17th December, 1894, and the first meeting took place on 31st December, 1894.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1890.—

Part III. Adopted 12th January, 1926. Came into force 1st March, 1926.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (AMENDMENT) Act, 1907—

Part VI and Section 95. Came into force 25th September, 1923. Part II (other than Section 31). Part III (other than Sections 39 to 42 inclusive). Part IV. Sections 15, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27, 30, 35 and 38 comprised in Parts II and III with conditions. Came into force 28th June, 1926.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925—

Part II. Part III (other than Section 44). Part IV. Part V. Adopted 11th January, 1927. Came into force 1st March, 1927. Sections 21 and 22 of Part II and Part V. Came into force 1st March, 1927, by order of Ministry of Health.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT, 1892—

Adopted 14th July, 1903. Came into force 1st Sept. 1903.

BATHS and WASH-HOUSES ACTS, 1846 to 1899—

Adopted 8th April, 1930. Came into force 9th April, 1930.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1922—

Adopted 8th May, 1925. Came into force 1st July, 1925. The following Bye-laws and Regulations are in force:—

Common Lodging Houses ; Hackney Carriages ; Omnibuses ; Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops ; Nuisances ; Slaughter Houses ; New Streets and Buildings ; Pleasure Grounds ; Houses Let in Lodgings ; Cemetery.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—For general nursing purposes, nurses from the Urmston Cottage Hospital, and the Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme Nursing Association visit patients when required by the medical practitioners of the district. The Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association and employs one nurse permanently and an additional nurse temporarily as required. The Association does not undertake midwifery cases (*i.e.* attendance at confinement without a medical practitioner) or monthly nursing. As regards the nursing at home of cases of infectious disease, no special arrangements are in operation.

MIDWIFERY SERVICES.—The Council do not employ or subsidise any midwife. The number of midwives on the Lancashire County Council Register, at the 31st December, 1932, and practising in the district was four. The midwifery service is quite adequate for the needs of the district.

HEALTH EDUCATION.—The Council have not taken any further action in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease since the Health Week organised in 1929.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY— This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation, and is of good quality. A constant and direct supply is maintained to each dwelling-house in the district.

There are the usual possibilities of contamination such as are met with on all upland gathering grounds. The land is almost entirely devoted to sheep farming, but the greatest fear of contamination is due to the presence of sea-gulls. The sources of supply are regularly patrolled and inspected.

The question of liability to plumbo-solvent action has been raised from time to time, but it is considered that although the water is very soft no action need be taken with regard to its liability to act on lead pipes.

The water is analysed at regular intervals by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department, and the results both chemically and bacteriologically are quite satisfactory. There are not any wells or private supplies in the district which are used for domestic purposes.

RIVERS AND STREAMS—It was not found necessary to take any action with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—The sewage from the district is treated at the works under the control of the Urmston and Flixton Joint Drainage Committee. The sewage is treated in covered tanks, and automatic sprinkler over a cinder bed and thence by sand filtration. There are no areas without proper drainage system. The sewers are flushed with fresh water as required and all new drains are submitted to water test.

THE Sanitary Accommodation at the end of the year was as follows :—

Privy Middens :—No. of middens, 7. No. of closets attached to these middens, 14. No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens) 41.

No. of fresh water closets, 2,513. No. of movable ashbins for refuse, 2,504. No. of waste water closets, 71.

<i>Conversions</i> —	During year 1932	During 5 years 1927-31
No. of privy closets	—	2
{ To fresh WC's	—	—
{ To waste WC's	—	—
{ To pail closets	—	—
No. of pail closets ...	—	—
{ To fresh WC's'	—	—
{ To waste WC's	—	—
No. of waste WC's to fresh WC's	—	—
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	—	4

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversion. Water closets are now provided for all new property.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection and disposal of house refuse and scavenging of public roads and streets is undertaken entirely by the Council. Collection of house refuse is made weekly by means of horse drawn vehicles, and the refuse removed to the Council's tip in Cob Kiln Lane.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.—The total number of inspections made for all purposes was 263, and the number of defects or nuisances discovered was 101, of which 97 were abated at the close of the year. In connection with the foregoing it was found necessary to serve 92 statutory notices on owners of property to have the defects remedied.

SMOKE NUISANCES.—The Council is represented on the Manchester & District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. No action was found necessary with regard to nuisances caused by the emission of black smoke.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There are no businesses established in the district to which Section 112 of the Public Health Act, 1875, applies.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.—Thirty visits of inspection were made during the year to these premises and were all found to be in a good sanitary condition.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, &c.—There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., or underground sleeping rooms established in the district.

SCHOOLS.—There are three Elementary Day Schools and one Grammar School in the district. All are in a good sanitary condition and are sufficiently supplied with water.

CANAL BOATS.—There are no canals or navigable waterways in the area.

RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 and 1928—There are not any premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

4.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	...	...	...	...	95
(i) By the Council	...	...	...	..	45
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	50

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

(i) By the Council	...	...	...	...	45
(ii) By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	nil

1—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR—

1—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	38
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	38
2—(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	30
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	60
3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	3
4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	27

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF STATUTORY NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council or their Officers...	Nil.
--	------

3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR—

(A) Proceedings under Section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs	23
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices :—	
(a) By owners	17
(b) By the Council in default of owners	Nil.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | |
|--|--------|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of statutory notices :— | | |
| <i>(a)</i> By owners | ... .. | 4 |
| <i>(b)</i> By the Council in default of owners | | Nil. |

(C) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

- | | | |
|---|--------|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | Nil. |

(D) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—

- | | | |
|--|--------|------|
| (1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | | Nil. |
|--|--------|------|

(E) Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- | | | |
|--|--------|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... .. | Nil. |

(F) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925

- | | |
|--------|------|
| | Nil. |
|--------|------|

(*b*) HOUSING CONDITIONS.—In my opinion the housing conditions in this district may reasonably be considered satisfactory. There are no “back to back” houses, all being of the “through” type and there are no crowded areas. A large proportion of the houses are of the older style but are in an excellent state of repair. There is still a good demand for houses, there being about 150 local applicants on the Council’s waiting list, but in view of the constant building by private enterprise and the houses erected by the Council I consider the requirements of the district are satisfied in face of the scarcity of suitable building land to be purchased at an economic cost. Overcrowding is practically non-existent but such cases which come to light from time to time are given prior claim for council houses. As regards the fitness of the houses, no special difficulties have been found in taking action under the Public Health or Housing Acts, requests to execute repairs usually being complied with by owners of property. Each house has an adequate internal water supply and separate sanitary accommodation. There are no unhealthy areas in the district requiring action under the Housing Acts.

5—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) MILK SUPPLY.—The supply is obtained partly locally and partly from outside districts, and is generally of a wholesome character. The adequacy of the arrangements for supply and distribution are good. One licence to sell “Certified” milk, and one licence to sell “Grade A” milk were granted during the year. The cowsheds, dairies and milk shops are inspected twice annually by the Sanitary Inspector, and are generally in a fairly good condition.

There are seven dairy farms and approximately 100 milch cows kept in the district, and the number of persons engaged in the milk trade on the register at 31st December, 1932, was:—Cowkeepers 6, dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers) 17.

The veterinary inspection of dairy cows in this district is under the jurisdiction of the Lancashire County Council Public Health Department.

(*b*) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Periodical visits of inspection are made by your Veterinary Inspector to a private slaughter house, and also the various butchers shops in the

district. No diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption. There are five bakehouses in the district, all of which are kept in a good sanitary condition. The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Constabulary.

6—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Each acute case notified is visited at once by the Sanitary Inspector and isolation is arranged either at the patient's home or by removal to Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford. When cases are isolated at home all children from the infected house are prevented from attending school until such time as the house is free from infection. On termination of the case by removal to hospital, recovery or death, the room and its contents are thoroughly fumigated under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, and the bedding is submitted to super-heated steam disinfection at the Salford Corporation's Disinfecting Station, Mode Wheel Road, Salford. Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by the Council and a constant supply is always kept in the district.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are undertaken by arrangement with the University of Manchester Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, 38 specimens being examined for diphtheria bacilli, during the year.

It has not been considered necessary to make any use of the "Schick and Dick" tests for diphtheria and scarlet fever or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

No arrangements are available in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons as such arrangements have not been found necessary. During the year 15 rooms and also the bedding which had been exposed to infection were disinfected.

The suppression of rats on the Council's refuse tip is carried out periodically, and such cases of premises infested with insect pests which come to notice from time to time are fumigated under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1932.

Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.											HOSPITAL.				
	Total cases at all ages.	under 1	YEARS.									65 and over	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45					45-65
Scarlet Fever...	10		2	1	6	1									8	
Diphtheria ...	7		2	1	2	1	1								6	
Acute Primary Pneumonia	10							2	3	5					8	6
Acute Influenzal "	1									1					1	6
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1							1							1	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1							1							1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2													1	
Erysipelas ...	2								1	1					1	
Totals ...	34	2	4	2	8	2	1	4	4	7		6	27	6		

CANCER.—No special enquiries such as those outlined in the Ministry of Health circular 1136 dated 31st July, 1930, have been undertaken on behalf of the Council. Research work and treatment is constantly being undertaken by the Manchester and District Radium Institute, and also the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.—It has not been found necessary to take any action in connection with tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compulsory removal to hospital has been required under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

There were not any cases of deaths from tuberculosis which had not been notified previously. The notification of Tuberculosis in this district may be considered reasonably efficient, although there are instances in which it would appear that notification has not been made until after the notifying practitioner has become aware of the death of the patient.

There is not any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1932.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-1 ...								
1-5 ...			1	2			1	
5-10 ...		2		1				
10-15 ...				1				
15-20 ...		1						
20-25 ...				1				
25-35 ...	1					1		
35-45 ...								
45-55 ...	2				1			
55-65 ...		1				1		
65 & upwards								
Totals	3	4	1	5	1	2	1	—
	7		6		3		1	

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the year 1932.

England and Wales, 118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 126 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1932, but those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1931. The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population, but for London and the towns to civilians only).

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.				
	Live Births.	Still-Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths under One year.	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M.	No Inquest.	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England and Wales...	15.3	0.66	12.0	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.07	0.06	0.32	0.53	6.6	65	91.1	6.2	1.8	0.9	0.9	
118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London...	15.4	0.70	11.8	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.08	0.07	0.28	0.48	8.9	69	91.3	5.9	2.3	0.5	0.5	
126 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.4	0.69	10.8	0.00	—	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.31	0.42	4.5	58	91.9	5.8	1.3	1.0	1.0	
London	14.2	0.51	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.27	0.53	12.6	66	89.4	6.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows:—

	per 1,000 Live Births	Others	Total
Puerperal Sepsis	1.61	2.63	4.24
Total Births	1.54	2.52	4.06

I am, Lady and Gentlemen, Your Obedient Servant,
D. W. DAVIDSON, M.B., CH.B., Medical Officer of Health.

