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REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Urban District of Wallasey,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1908,

BY

T. W. NAYLOR BARLOW,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

Barrister-at-Law (Lincoln's Inn),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNCIL'S
INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

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* *Hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*

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Officers of Health, and not included in the
body of this Report.**

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The District of Wallasey is a Peninsula, bounded by the River Mersey on the East, the Irish Sea on the North, Birkenhead and Wallasey Docks on the South and South-West, with a mile of flat land on the West between head of docks and sea. The ground rises from Seacombe in a back-bone along the middle of the district, reaching a height of 300 feet above the sea at New Brighton, affording splendid facilities for drainage East and West of this natural ridge. New red sandstone underlies all this district, at a variable depth, with pockets of alluvium, drift clay, gravel and marl.

It is mainly a residential place, a large number of the inhabitants being engaged in business in Liverpool. Some large docks, forming part of the Port of Liverpool, are situated in the district. There are also in the district extensive Lairages, where imported sheep and cattle are killed. There is no occupation which would have any particular influence on the public health.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district is partly from wells in new red sandstone, 600 to 800 feet deep, reinforced by a supply of five million gallons per day from Lake Vyrnwy, upland surface water. No filtration is necessary. The service is a constant one, and the supply ample and pure, but somewhat hard.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The water-carriage system obtains throughout, and the crude sewage is discharged into the Mersey below low water level. Extensive re-construction of sewers has been carried on in the last few years.

The growth of Wallasey has been extremely rapid, with the result that most of the house drains are new, and have been constructed under modern bye-laws and strict supervision. All new house drains are subjected to a smoke test before finally being closed in.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Bins are required in all new property, which are emptied once a week. Many ash-pits still remain and are emptied on an average, every six weeks, by the Council's men. Their number is being steadily reduced.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1908.

Area in acres	3,408
Estimated Population, June, 1908	71,000
Population per acre	20.8
Number of Houses in District	15,224
Rateable Value	£430,876
One Penny in the £ yields for General District purposes..	£1,610
Number of Persons per house at time of last Census ..	4.92
Birth-rate per 1,000 living	24.4
Death rate per 1,000 living	12.7
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	101
Percentage of Uncertified Deaths	2.4
Total Deaths from Diarrhœa.. .. .	17
" " " (under 1 year)	12
Diarrhœa Mortality per 1,000 Births	6
Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 living	0.8
Respiratory Death Rate per 1,000 living	2.0

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

February 22nd, 1909.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the Health of the District, in compliance with the duty statutorily placed upon me.

The Report contains the Vital Statistics for the year, and details of the work carried out in my Department.

It will be observed that the General Death-rate is the lowest on record, and, with the possible exception of the Infantile Mortality Rate (and even this is low compared with the large majority of other populous places), the statistics generally may be said to be highly satisfactory.

I may, perhaps, be permitted to refer you especially to pages 18-24 39-52 of the Report.

The Staff of my Department have worked intelligently and well throughout the year. It would be invidious of me to particularize any person, and I have to thank them heartily for their loyal co-operation, without which the large amount of useful and necessary work set forth in the pages which follow could not have been accomplished.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee in particular, and the Members of the Council generally, for the kindness and courtesy with which they have always treated me, and for the kindly consideration they have invariably given to my suggestions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. W. N. BARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

Part I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

It is an exceedingly difficult matter to accurately estimate the population of a rapidly growing district such as Wallasey. It is at the same time very necessary that this should be done, otherwise the value of the various rates of mortality for comparative purposes between different years and between different places is considerably lessened. For several years past pressure has been put upon Parliament with the object of obtaining a quinquennial instead of a decennial census, and I believe it to be a fact that after the next census in 1911, the census—at any rate a partial census—will be taken quinquennially. The population shown by the last three census returns has been as follows :—

	Census 1881.	Census 1891.	Census 1901.
Poulton-cum-Seacombe	7,640	14,900	20,749
Liscard	11,612	16,356	28,661
Wallasey	1,940	1,971	4,169
Entire District	21,192	33,227	53,579

The method employed for estimating the population in past years has been to multiply the number of inhabited houses supplied from the Rate Books, by the number of people per house as shown at the last census, less a small reduction, which was deemed to be necessary owing to the peculiar character of the population, in that it contains a larger proportion than normal of newly-married people. This method at the time of the last census showed a surprisingly accurate result.

The following table shows the number of **INHABITED HOUSES** for the past three years :—

	Poulton-cum- Seacombe.	Liscard.	Wallasey.	TOTALS.	Increase on Previous Year.
1906	5,002	7,501	1,313	13,816	1,907
1907	5,223	7,911	1,492	14,626	810
1908	5,562	7,976	1,686	15,224	598

If we multiply the number of inhabited houses by 4.92 (the census average per house), the estimated population at the end of 1908 would be 74,902. The population per house, however, for the reason mentioned above, is reduced to 4.75, which would give a population at the end of the year of 72,314. The population at the end of 1907 was estimated at 69,473, an estimated increase during the year of 2,841. Subtracting half that estimated annual increase from the population at the end of the year would give an estimated population at the middle of the year of 70,894, or roughly, 71,000, and it is on this figure that all the rates are calculated.

The population of the district as estimated by the Registrar General is 68,849, but of course the Registrar General assumes that the place is growing at the same rate as it did between 1891 and 1901. Perhaps I may here point out that the local rates as appearing in the daily Press are based on the Registrar General's estimate, which is too low, and therefore makes the rates of mortality higher than they really are, Wallasey thus comparing not so favourably as it should with the other places mentioned, none of which show nearly such a rapid growth as does this district.

The following Table shows the number of houses certified for habitation during the past five years :—

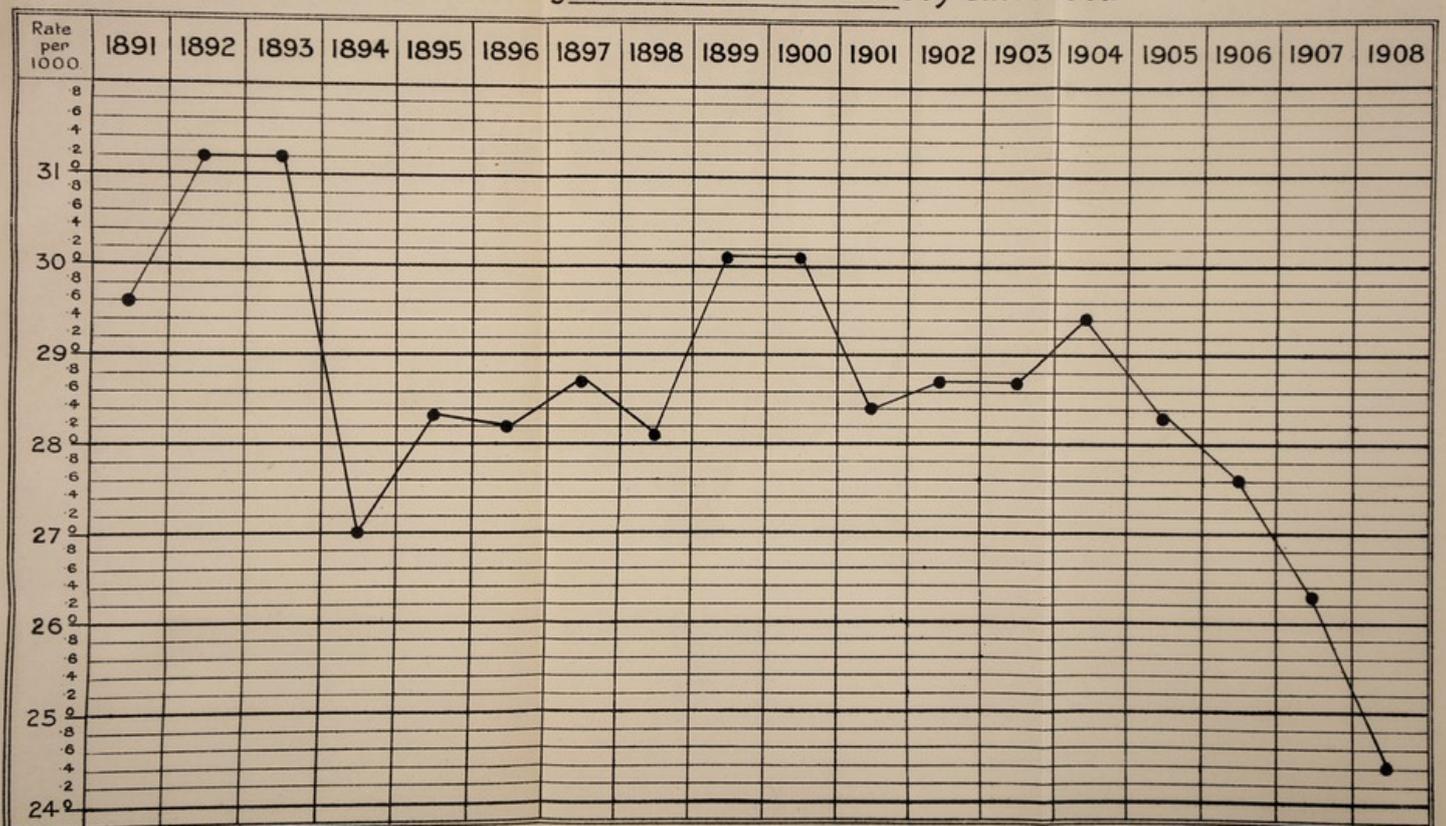
1904	...	...	...	259
1905	...	...	...	432
1906	...	...	...	614
1907	...	...	...	706
1908	...	...	...	604

Births.

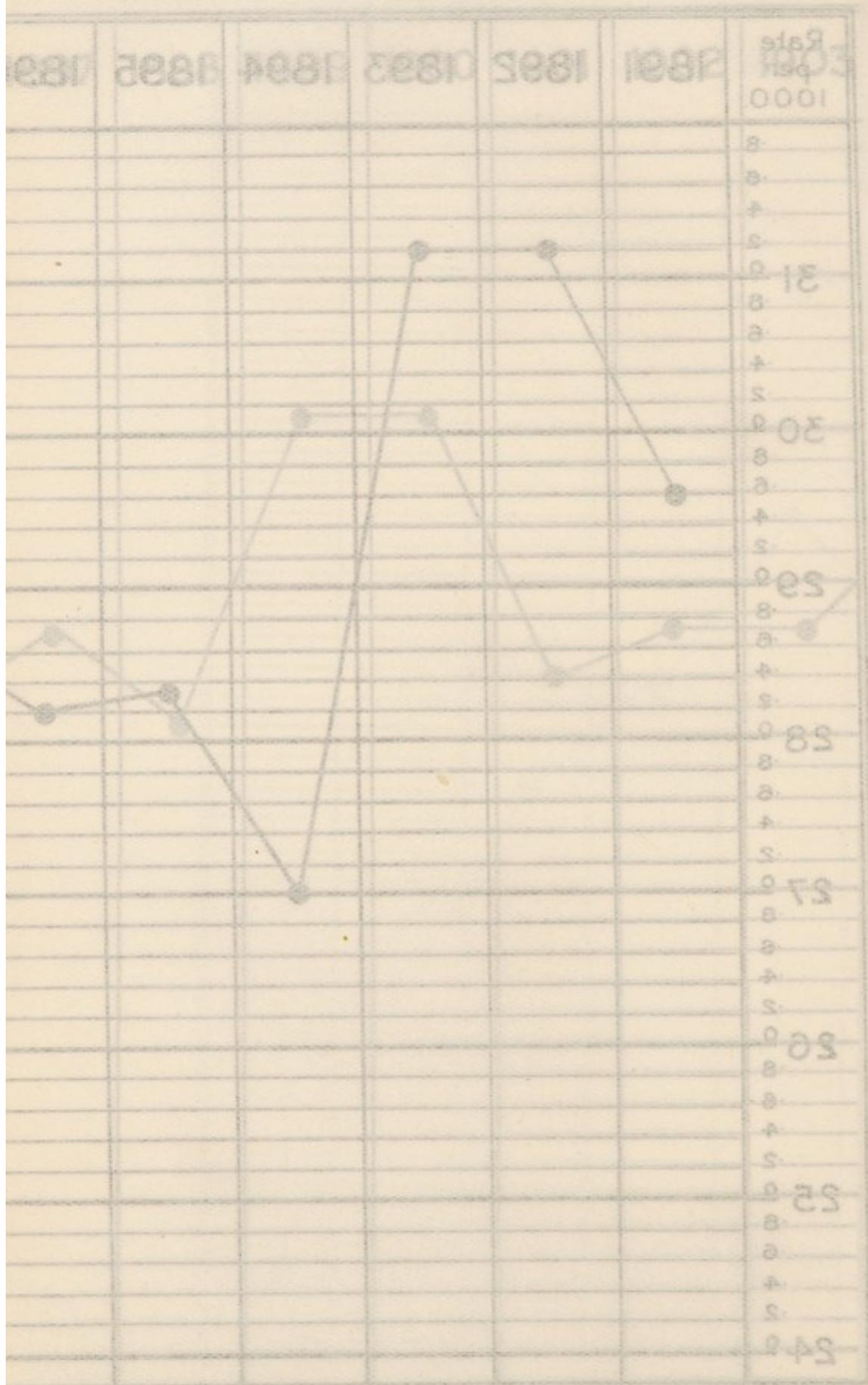
The Births during the year numbered 1738 (891 males and 847 females), giving a Birth Rate of 24.4 per 1,000, compared with 26.5 for the whole of England and Wales. The Births were distributed as follows :—

	Poulton-cum-Seacombe.	Liscard.	Wallasey.
	806	764	168
<i>Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population</i>	31.0	20.5	21.3

Chart showing BIRTH-RATE of Wallasey since 1891.



WORTH of Wallasey since



The Illegitimate Births numbered 54, or a little over three per cent. of the total number of births. This is a somewhat high percentage, but it ought to be pointed out that this district seems to be a particularly popular one for young unmarried women who are about to become mothers to come to to be confined. Not only do these births, as has just been said, make the per-centage of illegitimate births high, but as is well known, the death rate among these illegitimate children is tremendous, and as many of them die in the district, the infantile mortality rate is swelled also. Some of these children after some time are taken to the homes of the mothers, but a large number are lost sight of. They are said to be nursed out in various parts of the country. I made an attempt to trace several of these, but failed. No doubt a recent amendment of the law will enable a better watch to be kept over these undesired infants for the future.

The following table shows the natural increase of population that is, the excess in the number of births over deaths in the different townships:—

	Poulton-cum-Seacombe.	Liscard.	Wallasey.
Births	806	764	168
Deaths	371	465	70
Excess of Births over Deaths	435	299	98

Deaths.

The total number of deaths of residents in the district, including those dying in the Workhouse (51) and in Liverpool Hospitals (8), but excluding those of visitors (22), was 906, equal to a death-rate of 12.7, which is the lowest death-rate for the Wallasey district as far as records go. It is slightly lower than the death-rate of 1907, which then constituted a record.

The death-rate for the district of Wallasey corrected for age and sex distribution in accordance with the method of the Registrar-General is 13.9.

The deaths were distributed as follows in the townships :—

	Poulton-cum-Seacombe.	Liscard.	Wallasey.
	371	465	70
<i>Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population</i>	14.3	12.5	8.9

53 Inquests were held, 45 of these being on residents and 8 on non-residents.

11 of the deaths were those of illegitimate children, all under one year of age. Last year enquiries were made into all deaths of children under one, and several deaths were found to have been registered in the father's name, which were really illegitimate children.

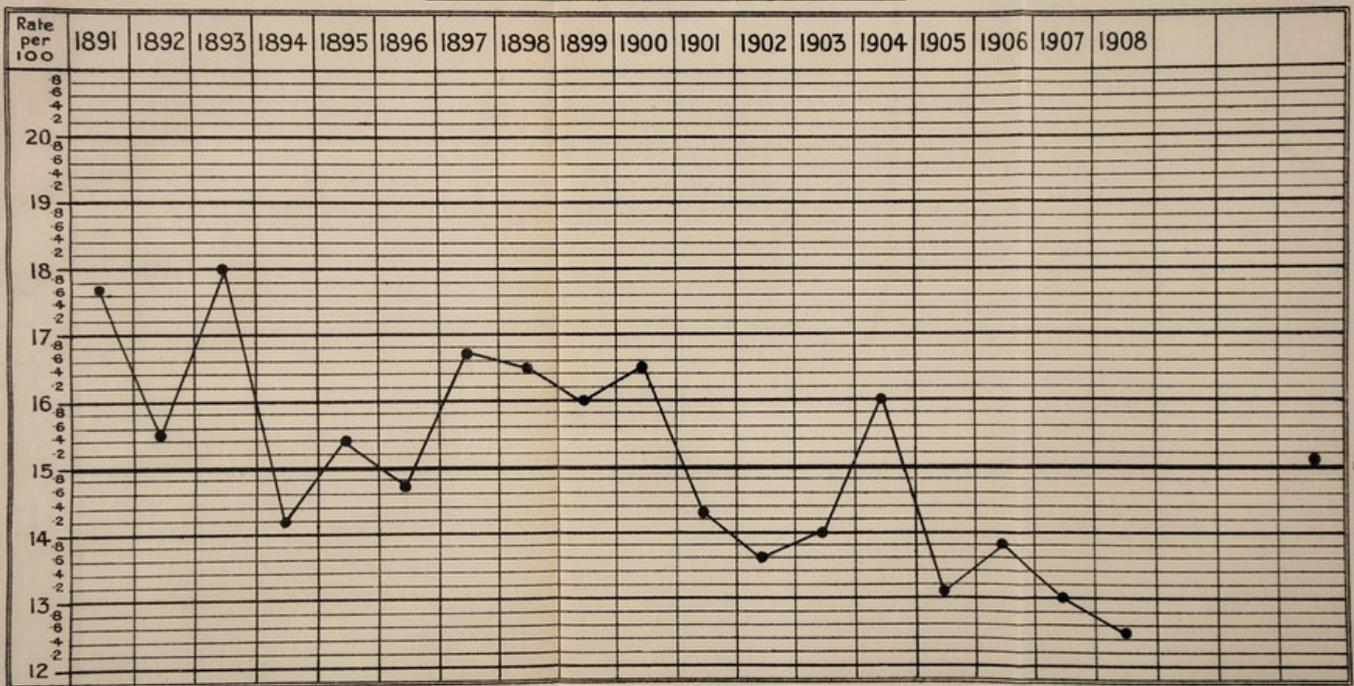
TABLE SHOWING COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF VARIOUS NEIGHBOURING TOWNS WITH WALLASEY.

NAME OF TOWN.	Population.	Gross Death Rate 1908.	Death Rate corrected for Age and Sex Distribution.	Birth Rate 1908.	Infantile Deaths per 1,000 Births.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.
BIRKENHEAD	119,692	16.1	..	31.5	136	1.2	2.2
BLACKBURN	135,278	16.5	15.9	25.2	149	1.0	1.7
BOLTON	185,358	15.5	17.5	24.6	148	1.16	1.6
BOOTLE	70,500	17.3	..	30.9	143	1.4	2.3
BURY	59,064	15.8	..	23.0	129	..	1.2
CREWE	48,359	10.6	11.06	24.2	105	0.4	0.9
LIVERPOOL	753,203	18.5	19.7	31.7	140	1.5	2.4
OLDHAM	142,507	21.1	20.1	28.4	159	1.5	2.6
PRESTON	117,799	18.0	..	27.7	153	..	2.2
SALFORD	239,294	17.9	..	29.8	153	1.6	3.0
ST. HELENS	93,812	15.3	16.0	35.2	122	1.2	1.3
STOCKPORT	102,339	20.2	19.9	27.9	171	1.2	3.1
WARRINGTON	71,268	17.0	..	32.7	134	..	2.4
WIGAN	92,114	18.5	16.9	31.8	154	0.81	1.8
WALLASEY	71,000	12.7	13.9	24.4	101	0.8	1.2

Infant Mortality.

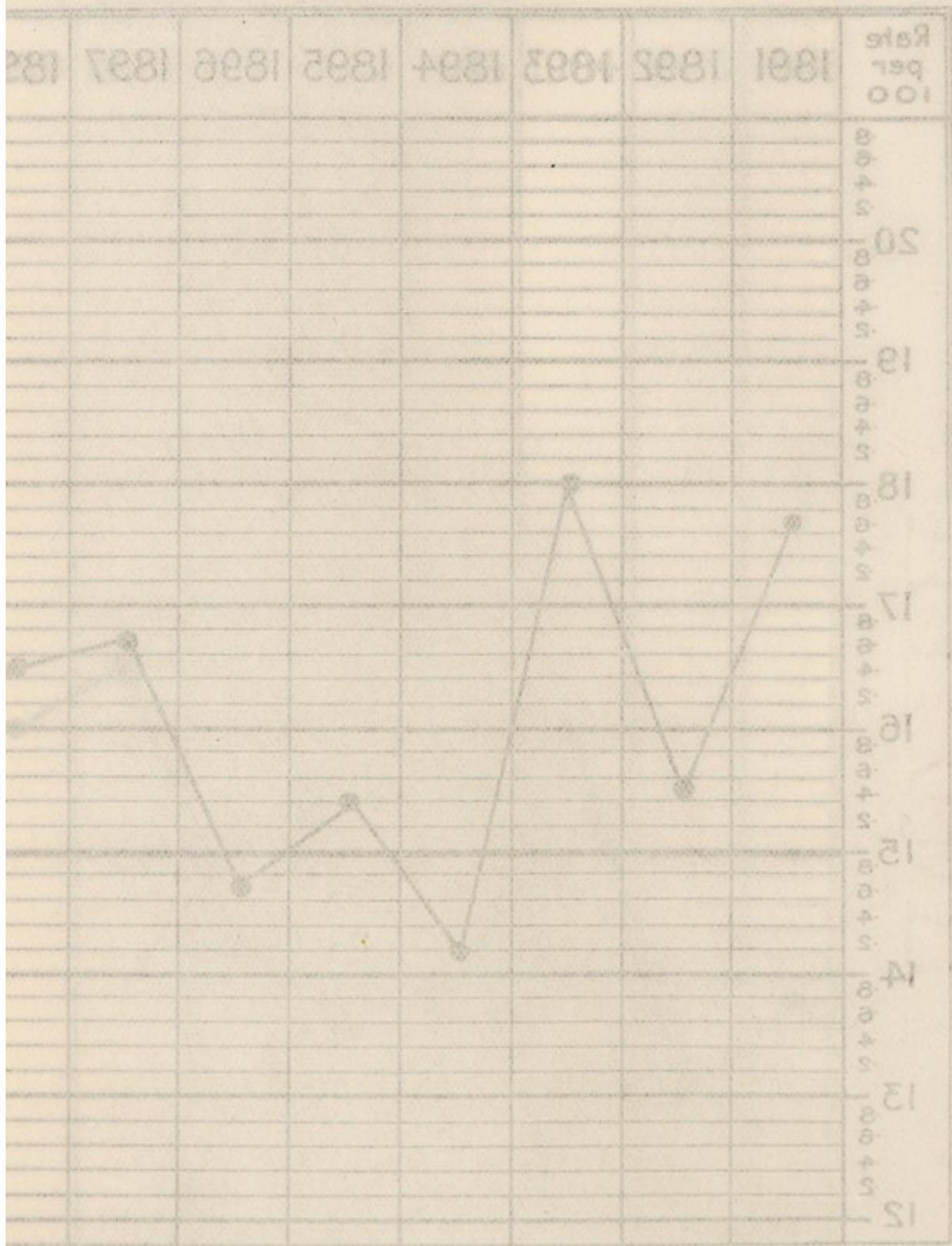
During the year 1908 the deaths of 176 children were recorded, who had not at the time of their death reached the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 101 per 1,000 births.

Chart showing DEATH RATE of Wallasey since 1891.



AVERAGE
FOR LAST
18 YEARS

Line Chart showing the rate per 100 since 1881



Year.	Infants under one year.	Rate of Infant Mortality per cent. of Deaths.	Rate of Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births.	Deaths of Children under 5 Years.
1899	241	30.58	163	328
1900	208	24.18	132	276
1901	219	28.33	142	293
1902	172	22.84	108	242
1903	183	23.92	113	269
1904	265	30.04	157	385
1905	163	21.10	98	240
1906	201	24.39	117	304
1907	179	20.43	101	357
1908	176	19.42	101	284

It has been noted that there were 54 illegitimate births and 11 deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age, which is equal to an Infantile Mortality Rate among illegitimate infants of 203, exactly double that of the infant mortality rate of the district.

In the early part of the year, the question of adopting the Notification of Births Act was under consideration by the Council. The local medical men were invited to express their views at a meeting held in the Council Offices. At this meeting a Resolution was passed stating that in their opinion the adoption of the Notification of Births Act was not necessary in this district. In view of this expression of opinion, the Council decided not to adopt the Act for the present, but arranged that the Registrar should send to me week by week a list of births registered at his office. A selection of these births has been made, and visited by the Lady Sanitary Inspector, who has, where necessary, given the mother advice on the feeding of the child, and left a card giving information on the subject. Her visits have been cordially received, and in many cases she has been asked to look in again. It has occasionally been found on visiting the house that the baby had died before the visit of the Lady Inspector, and perhaps had died from a cause which a little timely advice might have prevented. This, of course, would have been obviated, if the Notification of Births Act had been adopted; but, on the whole, although not by any means perfect, the present method has afforded me a good deal of valuable and necessary information, and I should like to have a little longer experience in the district, so as to be better able to form an opinion as to whether, in a district

such as this, the work in connection with the reduction of Infant Mortality is seriously hampered by the delay in getting information of the births, before recommending the re-opening of the question of the adoption of the Act.

From remarks which are occasionally made, it would appear that in some people's minds Infantile Mortality is synonymous with Summer Diarrhœa. Others look upon a high rate of infant mortality as an evidence of insanitation. When we look, however, at the factors concerned in the high infantile mortality rates, we see that Summer Diarrhœa is but one of many factors, and that the influence of insanitation on the infant mortality rate is apt to be exaggerated.

An examination of the five main sub-divisions of the Table relating to Infant Mortality on page 73 of this Report shews that of the 176 deaths under 1 year—

1.—Common Infectious Diseases, including Whooping-cough, caused	21 deaths.
2.—Diarrhœal Diseases caused	23 „
3.—Wasting Diseases (including Premature Births, 39—Atrophy and Marasmus--25) caused	75 „
4.—Tuberculous Diseases caused	11 „
5.—And other causes, including Respiratory Diseases, Convulsions and Overlying caused	46 „

Of course a certain proportion of children born will die before reaching one year of age, even under the most perfect conditions. For instance, some are born prematurely, others with congenital defects which prevent their survival for more than a few weeks. Babies, like other mortals, are liable to be attacked with grave illnesses. Some authorities say that 10 per cent., or an Infantile Mortality of 100, might be considered a normal rate. That estimate, however, was made a few years ago before the Infantile Mortality Rate generally showed any tendency to decline. During the last five years, however, this rate has shown a marked decrease, and one would be inclined now to fix the normal Mortality Rate at something less than 100. The margin above the normal Mortality Rate indicates the preventable portion.

An Infantile Mortality Rate of 101 for a district such as Wallasey must, I think, be regarded as fairly satisfactory, especially having in view previous rates. In 1897, for instance, it was 168. In 1898, 167. I am of opinion, however, that the rate can be reduced even below its present level.

During the year enquiries have been made into almost every death under the age of one, and the most prominent fact in connection with the enquiries which has been brought to light is the large preponderance of deaths which occur amongst artificially-fed children.

Of the 157 infant deaths visited, 40 were breast-fed children, 75 were wholly bottle-fed, and 24 were fed partly on the breast and partly on the bottle; 18 were never fed at all. These latter were premature children who died almost as soon as born. Excluding these 18, of the remaining 139 children, 40, or only 28 per cent. were breast-fed, 54 per cent. were entirely artificially fed, and another 17 per cent. were partly fed artificially. In other words, the number of deaths of those wholly or partly artificially fed was $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as many as those breast-fed.

It must be remembered that a very large proportion of all the children born are breast fed. So that if one took a percentage death-rate amongst the breast-fed children, and one amongst artificially-fed children, the percentage of deaths amongst the latter would be enormously greater.

From the summary given on preceding page, of the 23 deaths from Diarrhoeal Diseases and 25 from Marasmus—diseases mostly due to errors of feeding—nearly all were artificially fed; and of the 11 deaths of illegitimate children under the age of one year, all but two died from intestinal disorders, and all were artificially fed.

After an examination of these facts, it hardly needs words from me to impress upon mothers the necessity of, if possible, feeding their children from the breast. Not only would breast-feeding save them almost entirely from the risks of the last-mentioned two groups of

diseases, but the figures show that their chances of recovery, if stricken with any other illness, are enormously increased. Breast-fed children have more stamina throughout life than other children.

The Infantile Mortality Rate in the districts is as under :—

Seacombe	114	per 1,000 births.
Liscard	97	„
Wallasey	59	„

Details of Deaths under one year for the last seven years, from those diseases most fatal to infants are given below :—

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Diarrhœa	9	23	50	29	55	14	12
Convulsions	15	14	24	9	14	15	10
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	31	20	31	15	26	30	21
Enteritis	7	11	9	5	11*	11*	11
Premature Birth	26	24	32	29	17	36	39
Atrophy and Debility ...	35	38	44	21	21	26	25
Totals ...	123	130	190	108	145	132	118

*Includes Gastritis.

The Deaths of Children under one year in the four Quarters were as follows :—

First Quarter	49
Second Quarter	42
Third Quarter	45
Fourth Quarter	40

There was very little Summer Diarrhœa last year, with the result that the number of deaths in the third Quarter, as a rule very much more numerous than in the other quarters of the year because of Diarrhœa, did not show the usual excess.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
TOTALS	84	95	122	67	75	163	64	121	51	87
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	16	26	5	12	3	32	1	13	6	27
Scarlet Fever	5	4	5	5	18	8	6	6	6	10
Diphtheria and Croup ..	10	3	12	5	3	12	10	12	7	8
Whooping Cough	3	22	15	17	10	42	2	15	13	21
Fever (Typhoid)	11	17	31	12	5	7	8	5	3	4
Diarrhœa	39	23	54	16	35	62	37	70	16	17
<i>Rate per 1,000 of population</i>	<i>1.71</i>	<i>1.82</i>	<i>2.25</i>	<i>1.21</i>	<i>1.33</i>	<i>2.85</i>	<i>1.09</i>	<i>1.95</i>	<i>0.76</i>	<i>1.22</i>
<i>English Rate do.</i>	<i>2.21</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>2.05</i>	<i>1.64</i>	<i>1.46</i>	<i>1.94</i>	<i>1.52</i>	<i>1.73</i>	<i>1.26</i>	<i>1.29</i>

Infectious Diseases.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1908 shows a decrease of 36 compared with those notified in the previous year.

The following Table shows the number of Notifications of Infectious Diseases in the last ten years :—

DISEASE	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Small-pox	—	—	1	40	26	6	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	34	25	52	40	38	52	64	57	92	72
Membranous Croup	5	3	3	—	2	3	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	35	34	31	35	41	39	53	28	45	32
Scarlatina	167	119	147	293	440	270	348	266	255	248
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	132	163	257	64	47	39	61	65	31	34
Puerperal Fever ...	1	4	2	4	2	4	6	2	4	3
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	93*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	374	348	493	569	596	413	533	419	427	391

*Chicken-pox made notifiable from June 28th, 1902, to end of year.

Smallpox.

One case of Small-Pox was notified during the year. The patient was a fireman of a ship returned from South America, which called at Lisbon. No sickness among the crew or passengers had been reported to the Port Sanitary Authority on the arrival of this vessel in Liverpool. Several days after arrival a case of Small-pox was discovered amongst the members of the crew. A list of contacts was sent on to me, amongst them, the patient referred to. He had been lying ill at home for several days, and was said to be suffering from Measles. I visited the house and found him to be suffering from Small-pox. The patient was promptly removed to Leasowe Hospital. The contacts, so far as could be ascertained, were vaccinated, and the house thoroughly disinfected, the occupants being temporarily accommodated at North Meade during the disinfecting process. No further case arose.

Scarlet Fever.

Although the total number of Scarlet Fever cases notified during the year 1908 was only seven less than during 1907, until late in the autumn the cases notified were comparatively few, and the Hospital was practically empty. An epidemic wave which had shown itself throughout the year in the neighbouring Boroughs of Liverpool, Birkenhead and Bootle, spread to this district in November, and the number of notifications largely increased. There can be no doubt that the infection was conveyed to this district in a large number of instances through the Christmas shopping in Liverpool. The cases on the whole were of a mild type.

During the year, nine "Return" cases occurred. I made personal enquiries into all, and in six of them, after carefully examining the patients discharged from Hospital, and making thorough enquiries into all the circumstances, I came to the conclusion that they were not genuine "return" cases, although I could not trace the infection to any other definite outside source. It must be remembered, however, that it is rarely one can definitely trace the source of

infection in Scarlet Fever cases. In the remaining three instances, the children discharged had all developed rhinitis since leaving hospital.

Since one does not know the nature of the infection of Scarlet Fever, one is handicapped in devising means to prevent these "return" cases, which are an endless source of worry, and it would appear to be impossible to prevent their occurrence in the present state of knowledge. Thinking that possibly the taking of a bath immediately before discharge might pre-dispose to a chill and subsequent rhinitis and sore throat, I discontinued the practice. The children now are bathed in the ward on the night before discharge, and instead of having a bath in the Discharge Block, are rubbed all over with Eucalyptus Oil.

There are some facts, however, which stand out prominently in connection with "return cases."

- 1.—"Return" cases occur most frequently in the cold months;
- 2.—They occur most often when the Wards are full;
- 3.—They are associated with enlarged tonsils and adenoids almost invariably, and they occur most frequently in connection with children who from some cause or other have been kept *a longer time in hospital than usual*. *They occur very rarely or never in connection with cases discharged before what is known as the normal period of isolation has elapsed.*

They rarely occur in the summer, presumably because there is usually plenty of room in the Wards, the children can get out into the fresh air, and rhinitis is not so common.

I do not suggest that the mere length of stay in hospital is a cause of "return" cases, but that the causes which usually operate to prevent the discharge of a child after the usual period of detention is passed, are exactly those which are most commonly found in connection with "return" cases, viz.: rhinitis, associated with adenoids and enlarged tonsils.

The following are the chief particulars with reference to these Scarlet Fever "Return" Cases :—

No.	Date of Discharge.	Length of stay in Hospital.	Date of second case.	Interval between discharge of patient and onset of 'return' case.	Observations.
1	Dec. 24/07	70 days	Dec. 28	4 days	Doubtful "return" case. Was in Hospital for 10 weeks owing to Chickenpox.
2	Dec. 23/07	82 days	Jan. 14	22 days	Doubtful "return" case.
3	Jan. 18/08	63 days	Jan. 29	11 days	Had Rhinitis while in Hospital, which developed again two days after return home.
4	Jan. 18/08	70 days	Jan. 29	11 days	An exceedingly doubtful "return" case. Was in Hospital ten weeks owing to a second attack while in Hospital.
5	Feb. 15/08	47 days	Feb. 27	12 days	A doubtful "return" case. Another case in same street, but intercommunication denied.
6	April 7/08	42 days	April 13	6 days	Child No. 1, chronic tonsils and adenoids. Rhinitis developed after leaving Hospital.
7	April 8/08	42 days	April 20	12 days	Discharged child had chronic tonsils and adenoids and re-acerbation of the throat symptoms after arrival home.
8	Aug. 11/08	54 days	Aug. 18	7 days	Doubtful "return" case.
9	Sept. 12/08	77 days	Oct. 7	25 days	No. 1 child had chronic tonsils and adenoids. If this is a "return" case, it is the result of infection 102 days from the first onset of the disease.

On the table page 24 infra, it will be observed that 50 days elapsed between the removal of two cases to Hospital. As it happened, Case No. 1 was still in Hospital when the second child became infected, and was not discharged for several days afterwards. If things had been reversed, and the second case had occurred two or three days *after* the return home of the first patient, instead of two or three days *before* the patient came out of Hospital, No. 2 would have been named a "return" case.

Instances such as this are by no means rare, and exemplify one of the difficulties one has to encounter in dealing with "return" cases. The first question to be decided obviously is, does the second case arise from the first? There are no certain means of finding this out. I have no doubt whatever that many cases are classed as "return" cases, which are due to an altogether different source, and the first case just returned home is undeservedly blamed as the cause of the second.

In the foregoing Table it will be noticed that not one of the patients from which a "return" case is supposed to have arisen had been in Hospital less than six weeks (five of them had been in Hospital for nine weeks and longer), while very many cases were discharged in less than that time, some of them in three weeks or a month. In fact, the average number of days during which Scarlet Fever patients were detained during last year was 45, compared with 65 days period of detention in the preceding year.

There were five "return" cases in 1907—nine in 1908; but, on reference to the above table it will be noticed that the two first cases on the list were discharged from Hospital in 1907 and gave rise to "return" cases in 1908, and are included in this year's table. They really ought to be included in that of the previous year, thus making the total "return" cases seven in each year.

Having in view all the facts, it does not appear that there is any evidence to show that the shortened period of detention in hospital has been followed by any untoward events; but on the other hand, there can be no doubt not only that a considerable amount of money has been saved, but that the children themselves have been freer from the complications associated with the disease.

“Return” cases are by no means confined to Hospitals, *but occur in cases treated at home*. Three instances are given below in which infection occurred after 71 days, 85 days and 42 days respectively, after the release from isolation of the first patient. These facts bear out my contention that it is absolutely impossible to arbitrarily fix a period of isolation; each case must be judged on its own merits. In a number of cases the infectivity of Scarlet Fever may be said to become chronic, and under certain conditions, *e.g.*, by catching a cold with accompanying nasal discharge, children who have suffered from Scarlet may give rise to further cases of the disease even after many weeks.

It is not wise to dogmatise too much with regard to this question, but I am strongly of opinion that children, as a rule, are kept too long in hospital. It has been the common practice to fix six weeks as the period of infection in Scarlet Fever. Why six weeks was chosen is a matter for surmise, probably because desquamation usually continues for about six weeks; but no one who has had a large experience of Scarlet Fever in hospital now believes that desquamation *per se* has anything to do with the infection, and my experience teaches me that six weeks in the majority of cases is too long, and in a certain number of cases is too short a period of detention. The fact is, as I have stated above, each case must be judged on its own merits. This is a matter of great importance from a public health and also from a ratepayer's point of view. The longer children are kept in hospital the greater the cost to the ratepayers, and the greater the amount of hospital accommodation required. By disregarding desquamation (especially that of the thick skin on the soles of the feet), but judging each case on its merits as regards the probability of throat and nose infection, it would be possible to send many children home much sooner, and thus keep the Wards less crowded, which would lessen the cost of upkeep and would incidentally also lessen the chance of “return” cases. Several towns have shortened the period of detention, and take no note of desquamation, with no ill results.

It has been usual in our hospital, and indeed it is usual throughout the country, to keep cases with nasal discharge in hospital indefinitely. I am not certain in my own mind that the practice is a good one. In my opinion these cases of nasal discharge kept in the Ward with other recent cases of Scarlet Fever, are continually being re-infected; and I think if they were sent home, allowed to go out into the fresh air, but not allowed to mix with other children for a fortnight or thereabouts, the infection would disappear much more quickly than in a Ward where other cases of Scarlet Fever are continually being admitted.

I have discussed this question of "Return" cases rather fully in this Report because it will be my best means of bringing before the doctors practising in the district my views on the subject. Many of them I know agree with me, but I have not had an opportunity of speaking to all.

There is another point of importance in connection with Scarlet Fever to which attention ought to be drawn, and that is, the absolute lack of that ordinary care which common sense would suggest in the matter of isolating patients from the other inmates of the house before removal to hospital can be effected. No attempt is made by the parents in many instances to carry out the instructions as regards isolation which are, I presume, given by the Doctor when he sees the patient. It is a common occurrence for the Inspector when he goes to remove a child suffering from Scarlet Fever to hospital, to find that child playing with, or in the same bed as other children not so suffering. This negligence costs the ratepayers a large sum of money in the year, and the parents themselves not a little anxiety.

During the year, two or more cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the same house in 28 instances. 8 were associated with previous cases recently discharged from Hospital; three were what might be termed "Home Return" cases. In the first of these "Home Return" cases, the primary infection began on January 4th, being followed by

another case on March 16th—an interval of 71 days. In the second instance, the infection began on March 14th, another case following on June 7th—an interval of 85 days. In the third instance the infection began on August 15th, a second case occurring on September 26th—an interval of 42 days, two others occurring on October 27th.

16 of the cases notified at houses where 2 or more cases occurred were removed to Hospital at the following intervals :—

At an interval of	1 day	..	1 case.
Do.	do.	2 days	.. 2 cases.
Do.	do.	3 days	.. 3 cases
Do	do.	5 days	.. 1 case.
Do.	do.	6 days	.. 1 case.
Do.	do.	7 days	.. 1 case.
Do.	do.	8 days	.. 1 case.
Do.	do.	10 days	.. 2 cases.
Do.	do.	12 days	.. 2 cases.
Do.	do.	14 days	.. 1 case.
Do.	do.	50 days	.. 1 case.

In 5 instances three cases were removed from a house.

In another instance four cases occurred at intervals in the same house, all treated at home ; and in 2 instances six cases were removed at the same time to Hospital from the same house.

These facts lead to the presumption that in many instances ordinary care would have prevented a fair number of the cases.

Diphtheria.

In 1908 the number of cases of Diphtheria notified was 72 (of which number 8 died), compared with 92 notifications in 1907. The

percentage of deaths to cases was 11.1. The distribution of the cases was as follows :—

Seacombe	22
Liscard	46
Wallasey	4

Although the number of cases notified was 20 less than in 1907, the number is still 20 above the average for the last ten years.

49 Cases were admitted to Hospital, of which 7 died.

In 10 instances two or more cases occurred in the same house. In 5 of these the two cases occurring were removed together. In one instance the second case was removed a day afterwards ;

In another instance	2 days afterwards.
Do. do.	5 do. do.
Do. do.	12 do. do.
Do. do.	38 do. do.

On three occasions 3 cases were removed together from one house.

In these 3 instances there had been no attempt at isolating the patient first taken ill, and on removal all were taken from the same bed.

There was one "Return" case, the first "Return" case of Diphtheria I have met with. In that an interval of 23 days elapsed between the discharge of the two cases from Hospital and the admission of the third, and 56 days since the notification of the first case. The 38 days interval between the consecutive cases mentioned above suggests a "Return" case, but case No. 1 died the day after admission to Hospital.

It cannot be too strongly urged, or too often repeated, that the mortality from Diphtheria depends very largely on the promptness with which the disease is cut short by the use of Anti-toxin. From

the Reports of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, it would appear that in cases treated with Anti-toxin on the first day of illness the deaths are practically nil; a low percentage if treated on the second day, with an increasing percentage of deaths for each further day which elapses before Anti-toxin is administered.

Last year there were 10 instances in which a second case occurred but in all these the Doctor was called in too late, and no attempt had been made at isolation before his arrival.

There can be no doubt that the infection of Diphtheria is nothing like so searching or so protracted as that of Scarlet Fever, and experts generally are of opinion that the disease is almost always spread by personal contact and not by means of inanimate objects—of course, utensils actually put into the mouth of a patient, *e.g.*, a cup, spoon, spatula, are excluded—in this generalization.

The enquiries did not reveal any connection between drainage defects or sewer emanations and the disease.

Typhoid.

The number of cases notified was 34, compared with 31 last year. This increase may be more apparent than real, because, of the 25 cases sent to Hospital 12 of them were found on observation not to be so suffering. Enquiries were made into each case. In one case the infection was contracted out of the district. No cases could be definitely traced to the eating of shellfish, though oysters were under suspicion in one case which occurred during the autumn.

As with Diphtheria, the enquiries brought to light nothing which would suggest any connection between the cases of Typhoid and sewer or drainage defects.

Deaths from Typhoid since 1887, with Rates.

Year.	Deaths.	Wallasey Rate per 1,000.	Notified Cases.	English Rate.
1887	11	0.45	—	0.21
1888	9	0.28	—	0.19
1889	12	0.36	— (Act passed in 1889)	0.19
1890	9	0.26	42	0.19
1891	20	0.59	77	0.18
1892	20	0.57	62	0.14
1893	23	0.64	132	0.24
1894	13	0.35	89	0.16
1895	8	0.20	67	0.17
1896	10	0.24	112	0.17
1897	9	0.20	93	0.16
1898	9	0.19	87	0.18
1899	11	0.23	132	0.20
1900	17	0.32	163	0.17
1901	31	0.57	257	0.16
1902	12	0.21	64	0.13
1903	5	0.08	47	0.10
1904	7	0.12	39	0.09
1905	8	0.13	61	0.09
1906	5	0.08	65	0.09
1907	3	0.04	31	0.07
1908	4	0.05	34	0.07

Measles.

During the year, 27 deaths occurred from Measles, equal to a rate per 1,000 living of 0.38.

The diagram on next page shows at a glance the number of deaths of Measles in the past few years. It also shows the tendency of the disease to become epidemic every second year.

Measles is looked upon by the public as a disease of no consequence, and often no attempt is made to isolate a patient suffering therefrom. In fact, in many instances the opposite occurs, and children are often packed together so that they all may have it at the same time. This is a most reprehensible practice. The number of deaths from Measles in 1907 in England and Wales was greater than the number of deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid put together. Practically all the deaths from Measles, and the vast

majority of the cases, occur below the age of five. From a public health point of view it is an unsatisfactory disease to deal with, and very difficult to control. In epidemics one feels utterly helpless with regard to it. Some authorities advise notification, disinfection, and isolation in hospital, but on the other hand, several towns that have had experience in one or all of these measures have given them up after a prolonged trial as having no effect either on the incidence of, or mortality from the disease. As many cases coming to my knowledge as possible are visited by the Lady Inspector, who advises as to isolation, and leaves a leaflet of instructions drawn up by myself.

Schools Closed.

The Infants' Department of the following schools were closed during the year, owing to the incidence of Measles and Whooping-cough amongst the scholars.—

St. Mary's (in March).

Somerville (in April).

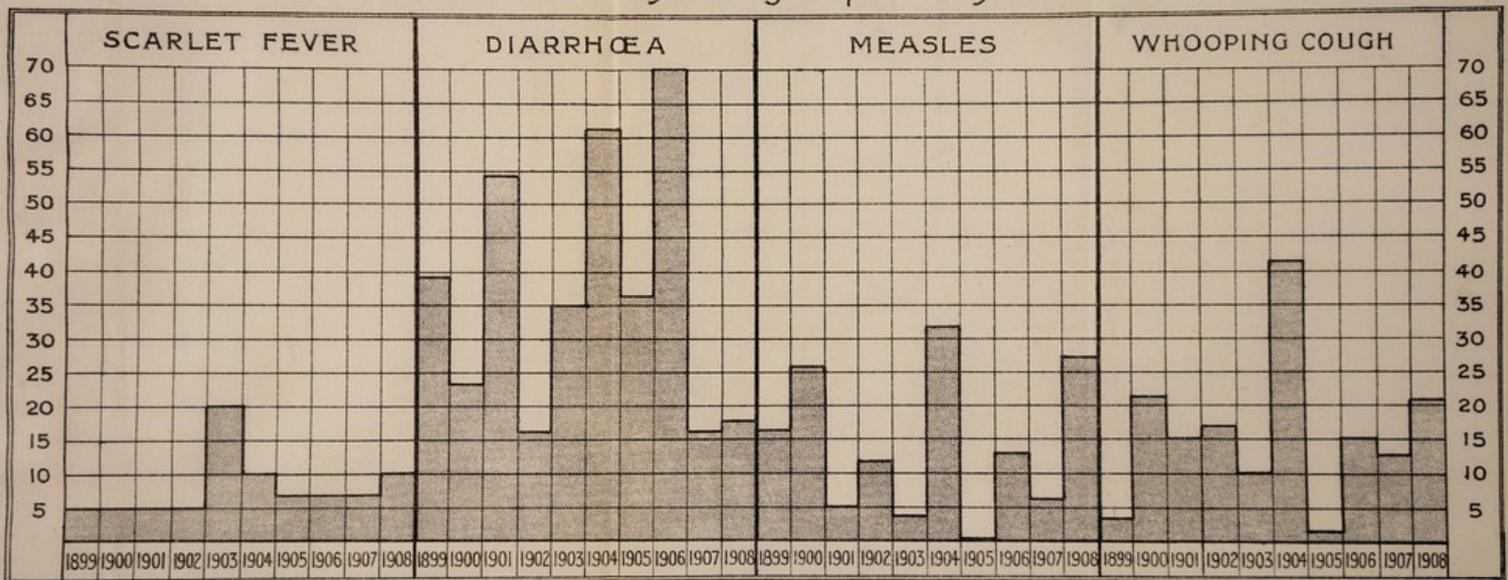
St. Joseph's (in June).

Whooping-Cough.

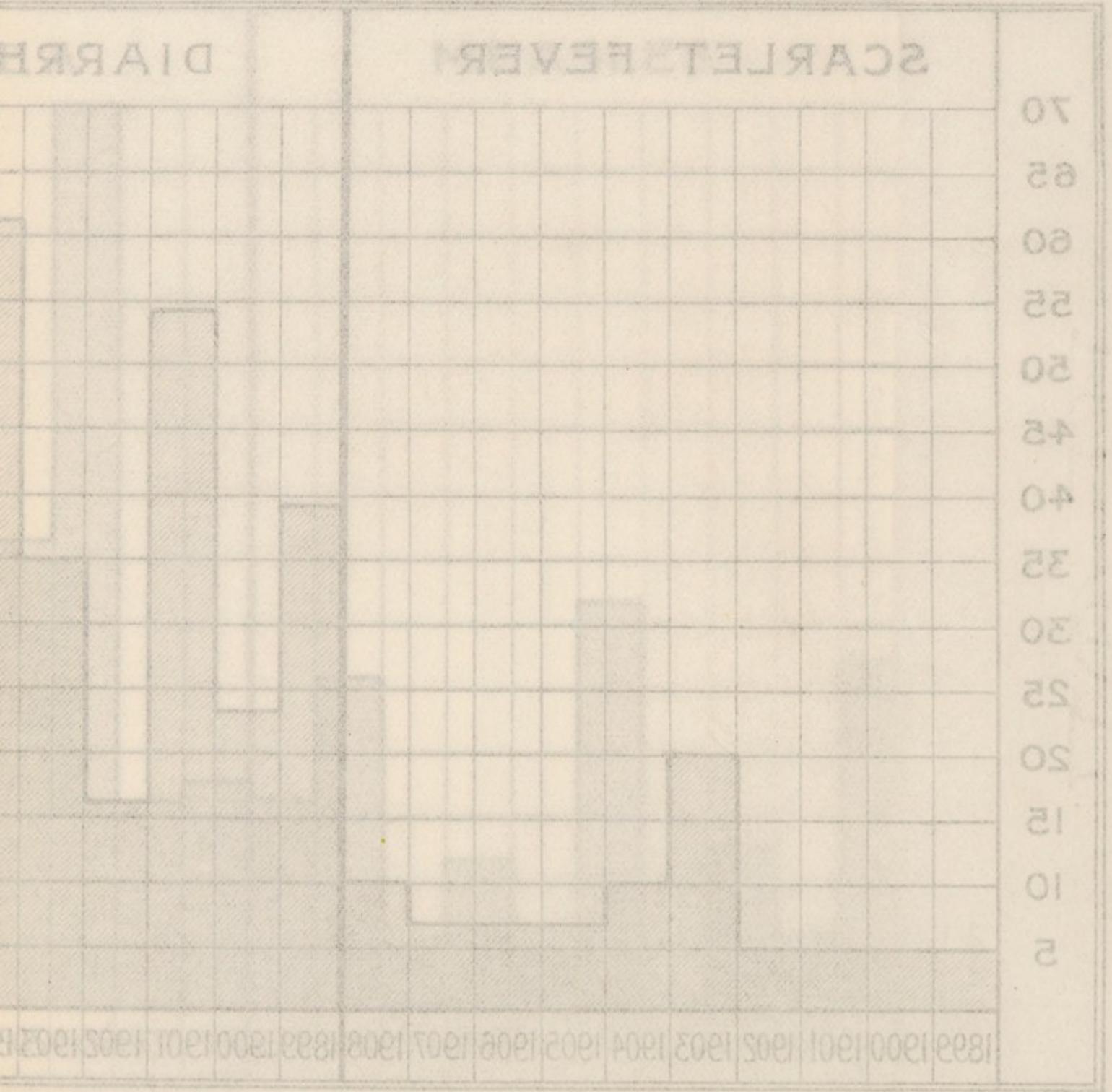
Whooping-cough caused 21 deaths, equal to a rate of 0.29 per 1,000 living.

Whooping-cough, like Measles, is an extremely fatal disease amongst children, and like Measles also, it is exceedingly difficult to control from a public health point of view. Nothing is known as to the nature of the infection, or how long the person remains infected. Although Whooping-cough may attack children at any age, the mortality from the disease is chiefly in the first two years of life. The incidence also is greater amongst very young children; and for that reason it does not so frequently interfere with the working of the Infants' Departments of schools as does Measles.

Deaths in Wallasey during the past Ten years from



Deaths in Wales in the past ten years



As many cases of Whooping-cough coming to my knowledge as possible are visited by the Lady Inspector, and a leaflet left at the house which gives instructions as regards isolation and ordinary precautionary measures to be taken.

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease reported by the School Authorities :—

TABLE I.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified by Elementary Education Authority
(from Medical Certificates received) to the Medical Officer of Health.
1908.

School.	Measles.	Chicken-pox.	Whooping Cough.	Other Diseases.	Total.
St. Paul's.....	24	—	4	7	35
St. Joseph's.....	26	4	9	2	41
Riverside	19	2	8	11	40
Wesleyan.....	6	2	2	4	14
Somerville.....	28	10	19	20	77
Poulton	—	6	10	3	19
St. Mary's.....	29	5	22	16	72
St. Alban's.....	4	3	6	1	14
Manor Road.....	4	13	7	30	54
Rake Lane.....	1	—	2	6	9
Magazine Lane.....	3	—	7	1	11
Egerton Street.....	4	1	1	4	10
S.S. Peter and Paul	2	—	1	1	4
Vaughan Road.....	—	2	—	4	6
Wallasey	1	—	3	8	12
Total.....	151	48	101	118	418
DISTRICT TOTALS—					
Seacombe.....	103	24	52	47	226
Liscard	41	21	44	54	160
New Brighton.....	6	3	2	9	20
Wallasey	1	—	3	8	12
	151	48	101	118	418

TABLE II.

Cases of Suspected Infectious Disease notified by Elementary Education Authority (per reports of Head Teachers or Attendance Officers) to the Medical Officer of Health.

1908.

School.	Measles.	Chicken-pox.	Whooping Cough.	Other Diseases.	Total.
St. Paul's	26	—	4	1	31
St. Joseph's.	—	5	—	1	6
Riverside	—	1	—	5	6
Wesleyan.....	—	—	—	—	—
Somerville	1	—	2	13	16
Poulton.....	2	10	4	3	19
St. Mary's	—	5	1	7	13
St. Alban's.....	—	—	—	—	—
Manor Road.....	—	3	—	5	8
Rake Lane.....	—	—	—	—	—
Magazine Lane.....	—	—	—	—	—
Egerton Street	—	—	—	—	—
S.S. Peter and Paul	—	—	—	—	—
Vaughan Road	—	—	—	—	—
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—
Total.....	29	24	11	35	99
DISTRICT TOTALS—					
Seacombe	29	16	10	23	78
Liscard.....	—	8	1	12	21
New Brighton	—	—	—	—	—
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—
	29	24	11	35	99

TABLE III.
CASES VISITED.

	Total Number visited.	Number found not suffering as reported.
Measles	29	5
Chicken-pox	24	4
Whooping Cough	11	0
Other Diseases	35	12
TOTAL	99	21

Schools.

The medical inspection of School Children in this district is not carried out under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

By arrangement, the names and addresses of children suffering from such infectious diseases as come to the knowledge of the School Attendance Officers and Teachers, have been sent to me by the Director of Education. Those cases in which a Doctor was not in attendance were visited by the Lady Inspector, and steps taken to exclude children whose presence might be dangerous to other scholars.

On several occasions during the year, when certain schools seemed to be instrumental in spreading disease, I visited them for the purpose of making enquiries, and examined suspicious children.

Diarrhœa.

During the year 1908, 17 deaths were returned as being due to Diarrhœa. Of these, 12 were under the age of one year (9 under 6 months and 3 between 6 and 12 months), 4 between 1 and 2, and one was over 65. Two were of twin-births, and 2 were illegitimate children. The deaths occurred in the following districts :—

POULTON-CUM-SEACOMBE (13) :—

Primrose Grove	1
Byron Road	1
Kendal Road	1
Shaw Street	1
Woodview Avenue	1
Rankin Street	1
Edgmond Street	1
Bell Road	1
Mersey Street	1
Brotherton Street	1
Palermo Street	1
Ashville Road	1
Deveraux Drive	1

LISCARD (4) :—

Charlotte Road	1
Greenfield Street	1
Silverlea Avenue	2

The method of feeding the children under 12 months was as follows :—

Breast entirely.	Bottle entirely.	Breast and Bottle.
Nil	8	4

These facts emphasize the remarks which I made with regard to breast feeding on page 15 in connection with Infant Mortality.

The detestable long-tube bottles were used in 9 instances.

The sanitary conditions prevailing in houses where deaths occurred were, as a rule, fairly satisfactory. In two instances yard surfaces were defective, and in another two, defects were discovered in connection with ashpits. Four of the deaths occurred in sub-let houses. The conditions as regards cleanliness were not satisfactory in six instances, and the parents were of intemperate habits in four instances. Soiled clothing was frequently found lying about the yards.

In the following cases three or more deaths had previously occurred in the same family :—

No. of Children.	No. dead.	From Diarrhoea.	Parents Intemperate.	Age at death.	Feeding.
12	5	3	Father intemperate.	5 months.	Breast and Fresh Milk.
6	4	4	Mother intemperate.	1 month.	Fresh Milk.

The probability, almost amounting to a certainty, that flies play an important part in causing food contamination and conveying the infection of gastro-intestinal diseases from one spot to another has been sufficiently exploited in the lay press, and I will not refer to the matter more than to suggest as highly desirable that ashpits should be very frequently emptied, especially in the summer, since ashpits afford a breeding place for flies. It also emphasizes the desirability of keeping the utensils for storing milk covered, and for care to be exercised in the storage of food stuffs generally, so as to prevent, as far as possible, flies from settling on them. I may incidentally mention here that measures were taken throughout the summer to ensure the prompt emptying of manure-pits in connection with stable-yards. Manure-pits have been shown by several observers to be the favourite breeding-place of flies.

My experience here confirms that previously obtained, that the mortality from diseases such as Diarrhœa, is largely due to the carelessness and ignorance of the people themselves as regards the feeding and management of the children. I am afraid that the lessened number of deaths from Diarrhœa in the year under review cannot be ascribed to any radical improvement in that direction, but rather to the fact that the meteorological conditions prevailing in July and August of last year were not such as to be favourable to the development and spread of this disease.

I have mentioned before in this Report that the Lady Sanitary Inspector makes a selection from the births sent by the Registrar, and that she visits as many as possible of the houses, encourages breast-feeding, and gives advice where it is found necessary. Those houses in which the conditions on the first visit were found to be unsatisfactory, were regularly visited as occasion required. Where cases of actual Diarrhœa came to her notice she impressed upon the people the necessity of scrupulous cleanliness in the management of the cases, and recommended that all soiled clothing should be thoroughly washed immediately.

To my mind, Summer Diarrhoea is the one disease which, above all others, is preventable. By that I do not mean by the Sanitary Authority, but by proper attention on the part of the parents themselves.

Phthisis.

The deaths from Phthisis numbered 57, equal to a death-rate of 0.8 per 1,000 of population, a rate much below that of the whole country.

No system of notification of pulmonary tuberculosis, compulsory or optional, is in operation in the district.

Formerly disinfection was carried out after death, only on the request of the medical man in attendance. Latterly it has been the practice to offer disinfection after every death which has been registered.

During the year, 25 houses have been disinfected after Phthisis.

The infected rooms were sprayed with Formalin and the bedding and clothing taken away to be disinfected by steam. Of late the offer has been made to the landlord to strip the paper from an infected room and limewash the ceiling. Permission is being granted in an increasing number of instances.

Midwives.

Under the Midwives Act a Local Authority is either a County Council or the Council of a County Borough. Wallasey is not, therefore, a Local Authority within the meaning of the Act, but the work of supervising the Midwives of this district is placed upon me by the County Council.

During the year, all the Midwives have been systematically visited.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE UNDER THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

Routine Visits paid to Midwives' Houses, Inspection of Bags, Cases, Books, etc.	140
Enquiries <i>re</i> Still-born Children	26
Other Enquiries	170
	—
Total Visits paid under the Midwives' Act ..	336

Under the Rules of the Central Midwives' Board (See E. 18) the following notifications have been received :—

Records of sending for Medical Help	49
Notifications of Still-births	26
Death of Children before Attendance of a Medical Practitioner	1
Cases of Puerperal Fever attended by Midwives ..	1
Cases of other Infectious Diseases notified by Mid- wives	1

Under Sec. 8. I have to keep the Central Midwives' Board acquainted with the death, change of name or address of any Midwife.

The undermentioned changes have been notified :—

Change of Name	0
Change of Address	15
Death of Midwives	0
Notice of intention to cease practice	1

I have in addition called the Midwives together on three occasions, and given lectures to them on various points in connection with their work.

Only one case of Puerperal Fever occurred during the year in the practice of a Midwife.

Summary of Cases Treated in Hospital in 1908.

Disease.	Remain- ing at end of 1908.	Admitted during 1908.	Discharged during 1908.	Died during 1907.	Remaining at end of 1908.	Average resi- dence in days.
SCARLET FEVER	42	174	207	8	38	45
Cases admitted to Hospital as, but sub- sequently found not to be, Scarlet Fever..	...	...	...	...	...	...
DIPHTHERIA	1	37	44	7	3	22
Cases admitted to Hospital as, but sub- sequently found not to be, Diphtheria ..	...	13	...	...	...	...
ENTERIC FEVER	1	13	22	...	2	43
Cases admitted to Hospital as, but sub- sequently found not to be, Enteric Fever	...	12	...	1	...	...
ERYSIPELAS	1	...	...	...	...	...
OTHER ADMISSIONS ..	...	4	4	...	...	...
TOTAL	45	253	277	16	43	...

The following table shows the number of admissions of patients suffering from the various diseases during the years 1902 to 1908:—

Disease.	Cases admitted during the year						
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Small Pox	27	25	5	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	199	309	170	227	178	188	174
Diphtheria	20	27	33	45	30	61	49
Enteric Fever.....	46	31	24	48	48	24	25
Erysipelas	1	3	3	5	3	3	—
Membranous Croup	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Other Diseases	1	2	3	3	3	2	4
Totals.....	294	397	239	328	263	279	253

Vaccination Return for Wallasey from the 1st July, 1907, to the 30th June, 1908.

Supplied by the Vaccination Officer.

Successfully Vaccinated	1,418
Died before Vaccination	135
Insusceptible	4
Conscientious Objections.. .. .	61
Postponed by Medical Certificate	36
Removed, Traced, and Vaccination Officers notified..	26
Not found, or removed to places unknown.. .. .	58
Not Vaccinated, or otherwise accounted for	11
<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto;"/>	
Total Number of Births Registered	1,749

The number of Certificates and Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objection received during 1908 are 77, compared with 13 during 1907, and 56 from the Act of 1898 coming into force until the 31st December, 1907, irrespective of date of birth.

Meteorological Table.

The following Meteorological Table has been kindly supplied by Mr. Plummer, of the Bidston Observatory :—

1908.	Mean Barometer. in.	TEMPERATURE.		RAINFALL.*	
		Mean. °	Difference from Mean. of last year. °	Amount. in.	Difference from Mean. in.
January ..	30.105	37.6	—1.7	1.532	— 0.662
February ..	30.050	42.2	+4.5	1.855	+ 0.134
March ..	29.820	40.3	—3.9	2.923	+ 1.165
April ..	29.970	43.8	—2.4	3.368	+ 1.757
May ..	29.983	54.6	+4.0	2.911	+ 0.996
June ..	30.083	57.1	+2.6	1.982	+ 0.048
July ..	29.985	60.1	+2.2	3.685	+ 0.999
August ..	29.968	58.3	+0.4	2.400	— 0.588
September ..	29.907	56.3	—1.3	2.730	— 0.176
October ..	30.099	53.9	+4.1	1.824	— 1.764
November ..	29.995	45.8	+1.2	1.867	— 0.762
December ..	29.842	40.2	—0.9	1.825	— 0.749
			<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto;"/>		
			+8.8	28.902	+ 0.398

* These differences are from an average of 40 years.

Dr. William Bell, of New Brighton, has kindly furnished me with the following information with regard to Rainfall in this district during the past year.

Rainfall in 1908.

RAIN GAUGE—Diameter of Funnel, 5 in. Height of Top : above Ground, 11 in. ; above Sea Level, 130 ft.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.	Number of Days with .01 or more recorded.
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.
January	1.90	.41	16th 11
February	2.51	.60	16th 21
March	2.75	.67	24th 17
April	2.90	.85	28th 16
May	2.96	.65	2nd 16
June	1.83	.47	16th 11
July	3.32	1.12	16th 11
August	3.18	1.35	20th 16
September	4.70	.90	24th 18
October	2.12	.83	18th 14
November	2.00	.47	21st 10
December	1.72	.30	27th 19
Total	31.89		180

Mussel Gathering.

I have often noticed people gathering mussels from the mussel beds on the Egremont shore and at New Brighton. I desire to draw public attention to the danger of eating shellfish taken from such an obviously polluted source as the River Mersey, receiving as it does, the crude sewage of approximately one million people. In several parts of the country prosecutions have been instituted against the vendors of shellfish which was proved to be taken from water contaminated with sewage. It is a matter for serious consideration whether similar steps should not be taken in this district. Notices prohibiting the gathering of these fish are exhibited in various places, but no notice is taken of them.

Part 2.—GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Insanitary Property.

A large amount of work has been done during the year with respect to improving the conditions prevailing in some of the old property in the district.

Section 30 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, runs as follows :—

“ It shall be the duty of the Medical Officer of Health
“ of every district to represent to the Local Authority of that
“ district any dwelling-house which appears to him to be in
“ a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for
“ human habitation.”

Section 32 imposes the duty on the Local Authority on receipt of the representation of the Medical Officer of Health, if any dwelling-house appears to them to be in such a state to forthwith take proceedings against the owner or occupier for closing the dwelling-house.

In compliance with these provisions the following houses were represented as unfit for habitation and as not being reasonably capable of being made fit for human habitation :—

10 houses in Oakdale Yard, Seacombe.

3 old houses in Birkenhead Road, Seacombe.

8 houses (Nos. 37, 39, 43, 47, 49, 51, 53 and 55) in Mersey Street, Seacombe.

All the above were demolished before the end of the year, with the exception of the last four in Mersey Street, the demolition of which will be proceeded with early in the New Year.

In the pages which follow are shown photos of some of the insanitary houses demolished.

10 houses in Oakdale Road, 11 in Havelock Street, and 3 in Tabor Street, Seacombe, have been so extensively repaired as to be almost new houses.

The following houses have also been represented to the Committee as unfit for habitation :—

109, Wallasey Village.

No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Back Sutton Cottages (off Mount Pleasant Road.)

The house in Wallasey Village is now demolished, and the owner of Back Sutton Cottages has given an undertaking to close them in March, when he has had the value of the local rates which had been paid just previous to my representation.

All this work has been done by agreement with the landlords, without going into Court, and without any friction whatever. It is not to be expected that this work will go on indefinitely in so smooth a manner. The cost to the Council up to the end of the year was nil.

The only other, what I might call big work in connection with the improvement of property, was at the houses known as Shaftesbury Cottages, Wheatland Lane, where two large ash-pits have been abolished, filled up to the ground level, and made into places for keeping the bins.

Six w.c.'s. situated in the cellars of cottages (which were so dark that one could not see across the apartment and which were practically non-ventilated) were put into sanitary condition, and light and ventilation provided.

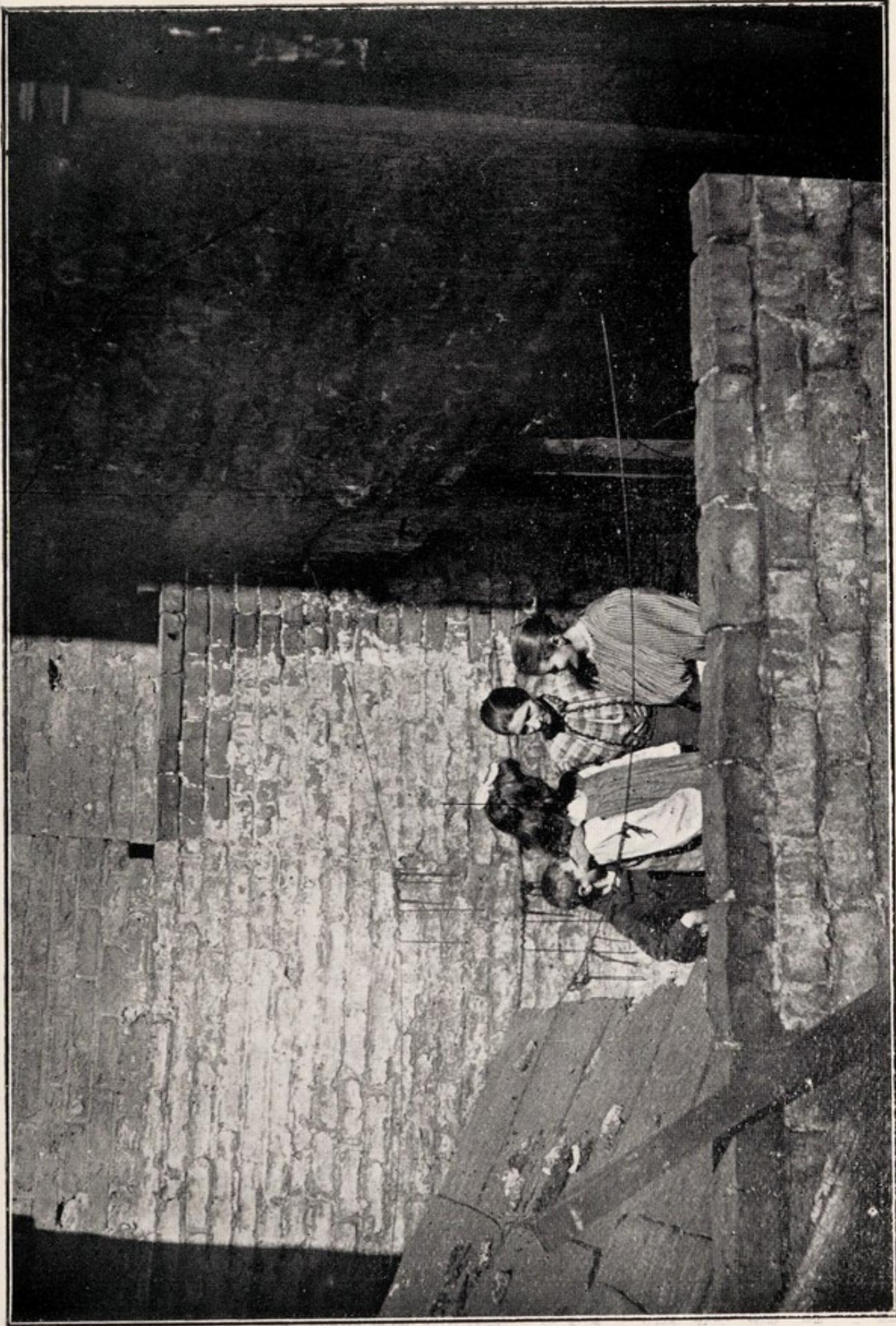
Perhaps I had better repeat here what I have said in other reports, that whatever work of demolition is to be done must not be done too quickly, and that it is very necessary to keep as many as possible of the low-rented houses. If the work proceeds too rapidly it may be that hardship will be inflicted on the tenants of the houses, by their not being able to find in the time at their disposal suitable houses in place of their old ones.



1.—Fronts of houses in Mersey Street, showing covered entrances to a back yard common to two houses.



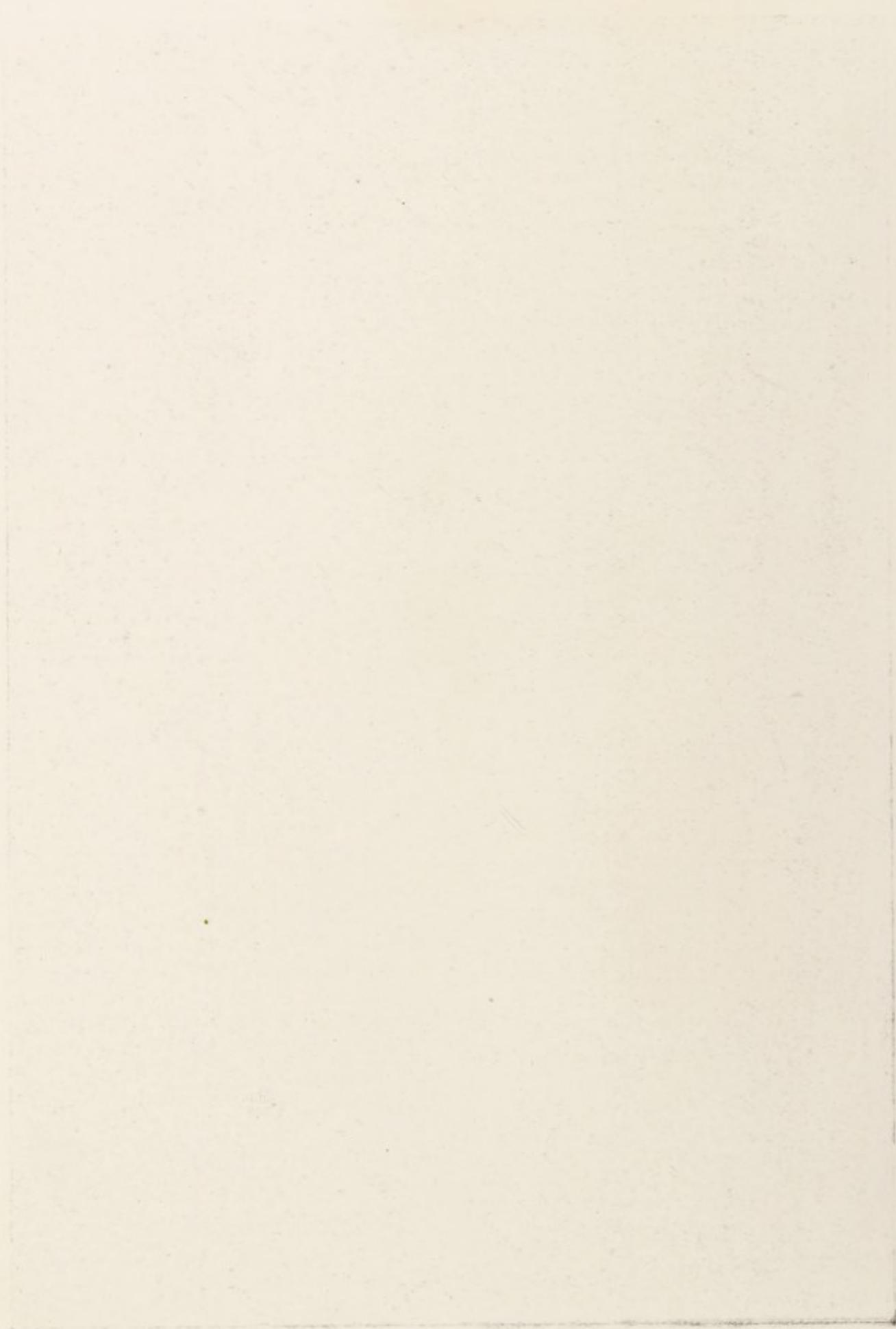
2.—Front view of entrance to common back yard, showing water supply common to two houses.



3.—The yard referred to in No. 2, used by one house in Mersey Street and by another house in Demesne Street. There is one W.C. for two houses. The yard is completely shut in on all four sides by high walls, allowing no circulation of air.

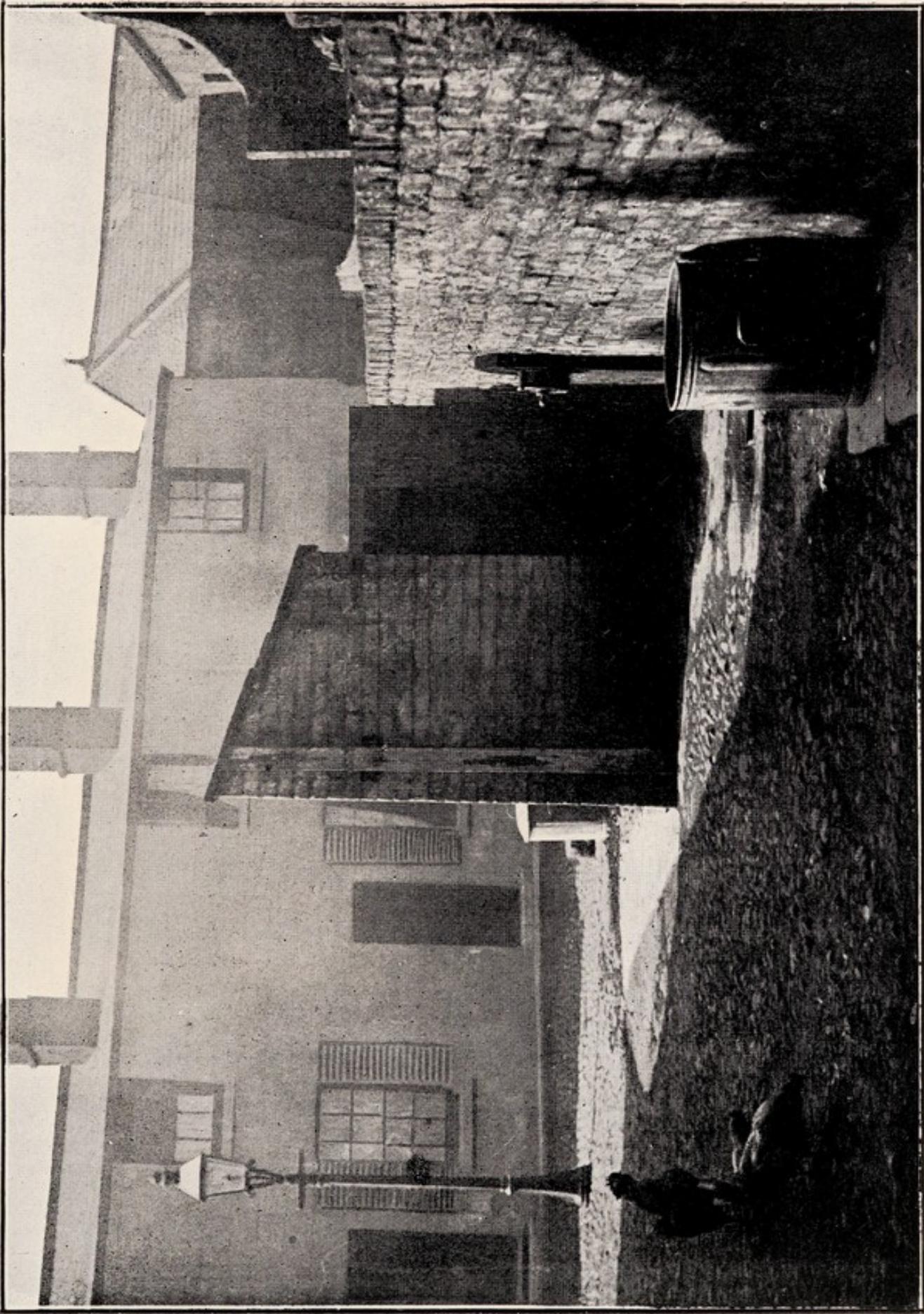


4.—Entrance to Oakdale Yard. Notice house over entrance, and back doors of houses facing front doors of Oakdale Yard houses.





5.—Conveniences, Oakdale Yard. Situate in full view of fronts of all houses in the Yard, and overlooked by the backs of the houses in front street. Notice paving of yard, dust bin, and refuse strewn about.



6.—Side view of conveniences, and fronts of some of the houses in Oakdale Yard. Notice water supply. The houses in photograph face the north, and being solid backed never get any direct sunlight.

Taking everything into consideration the first year's work in connection with Insanitary Property has been highly satisfactory from every point of view.

Sub-Let Houses.

There are 36 sub-let houses on the Register. These houses have been regularly supervised throughout the year.

472 visits have been paid by the Inspectors.

It is exceedingly difficult to keep a proper Register of these houses, as the people inhabiting them are continually changing, and what would be an accurate Register one day would not be so seven days afterwards.

For contraventions of the Bye-laws 32 notices have been served, 31 of which were complied with. It was found necessary to prosecute in one instance, namely for overcrowding and for not keeping the house clean. The defendant was fined 20s. and 8s. 6d. costs.

During the year one prosecution was instituted against a woman for failing to comply with a Nuisance Notice requiring her to cleanse her house. No fine was inflicted by the Magistrates. The woman, however, was cautioned, and a general intimation was conveyed to the public that, in future, similar cases would be severely dealt with.

Sewers and Drains.

The following defective Sewers have been re-constructed or repaired during the past year :—

Folly Lane (from Wallasey Village to St. George's Road).

St. George's Road (from Folly Lane to St. John's Road).

Passage between Tollemache Street and Egerton Street.

Passage between Waterloo Road and Richmond Street.

Passage between Richmond Street and Windsor Street.

Passage at rear of 13 to 29 Trafalgar Road.

Passage at rear of west side of Granville Terrace.

Passage at rear of 67 to 75 Brighton Street.

Passage between Beatrice Street and Platt Street.

Passage at rear of North side of Ball Avenue.

Main Brick Sewer Brighton Street, 120 yards re-inverted and repaired.

A considerable amount of storm water relief work arising out of the rapid development of the district has been carried out.

Twenty-four new Manholes have been built during the 12 months, and a large number of new gullies fixed to replace old defective brick ones.

Special attention has been paid to Sewer Flushing, and 5541 Manholes have been scrubbed down and flushed.

The drainage systems at the following houses have been entirely re-constructed under the supervision of the Health Department :—

POULTON.

Ivy Cottage, Poulton Road.

SEACOMBE.

100, Littledale Road.
 5 and 9, Mersey Street.
 6 and 16, Peter Street.
 25 and 53, Falkland Road.
 5, York Road.
 38, Parry Street.
 71, Wheatland Lane.
 143, Victoria Road.
 17, James Street.
 19, Fell Street.
 141, Brighton Street.
 47, Palermo Street.
 38, Gladstone Road.
 24, Cherrybank Road.

EGREMONT.

44, 57, 59 and 61, Church Street.
 11, Trafalgar Avenue.
 15 to 29, Trafalgar Road.

LISCARD.

- 41, Martins Lane.
 28, Gresford Place.
 "Gowrie" Seaview Road.
 21, Pleasant Street.
 "Woodboro'," Withen's Lane.
 92, Wallasey Road.

NEW BRIGHTON.

- 78-80, Egerton Street.
 1, The Avenue.

The following drainage systems were partially re constructed during 1908 under the supervision of the Health Department :—

POULTON.

- 419, Poulton Road.

SEACOMBE.

- 20, Briardale Road.
 35, St. Paul's Road.
 39, Belle Vue Road.
 7 and 29, Hawthorndale Road.
 18 and 20, Peter Street.
 35, Clarence Road.
 27, Cherrybank Road.
 74, Victoria Road.
 2, Ethel Road.
 1, Jersey Street.
 56, Edgmond Street.

EGREMONT.

- Nelson Hotel, Trafalgar Road.

LISCARD.

- Stanley Cottage, Rake Lane.
 71, Manor Road.
 "Florenceville," Penkett Road.
 17, Greenfield Street.

NEW BRIGHTON.

Cottage adjoining Stable, of
 " Fern Hill," Rowson Street.
 " Belmont," St. George's Mount.
 " The Slopes," St. George's Mount.
 2, Poplar Terrace.

The drains were found on examination to be defective following the onset of

Typhoid Fever,	in	6	instances.
Diphtheria,	„	13	„
Scarlet Fever,	„	14	„

and on inspection following private complaints, in 25 cases.

In this district the drains of all new houses are examined, and must pass a smoke-test before being filled in, and before a certificate of suitability for habitation is granted.

Factory and Work-Shop Act.

The Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of this Act, and to send a copy of such report to the Secretary of State. The chief points to be reported on are as follows :—

- (1) The Sanitary condition of Workshops, including
 - (A) Ventilation.
 - (B) Cleanliness of floors and walls.
 - (C) Lighting.
 - (D) Water-closet provision.
 - (E) Overcrowding.
 - (F) Drainage of floors where wet processes are carried on.
- (2) Special Sanitary Regulations for Bakehouses.
- (3) Homework.
- (4) The keeping of a list of outworkers.
- (5) The keeping of a Register of Workshops.

All these points are dealt with in the Summary.

Factories.

For the most part the law relating to Factories is administered by the Home Office.

96 visits were, however, made to factories, 12 being in reference to sanitary accommodation, and 84 in reference to smoke.

Workshops.

The number of Workshops on the Register is as follows :—

TRADE.	Number of Workshops.	Number of People Employed.	Number of Visits.
Bakers	50	67	403
Confectioners	56	86	245
Laundries	24	66	119
Tailors	13	22	55
Dressmakers	71	158	98
Milliners	18	51	22
Bootmakers	3	6	14
Boot Repairers	29	57	114
Cycle Builders	8	11	28
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers ..	8	15	30
Watchmakers	1	2	3
Photographers	1	8	4
Wheelwrights and Smiths	3	8	11
Joiners	7	14	32
Hairdressers (making up goods) ..	1	12	5
Ironmongers and Tinsmiths.. .. .	1	2	4
Saddlers	1	2	3
Leadlight Manufacturers	2	5	8
Rag Sorters	12	18	174
Picture Framers	2	4	8
Coffin Makers	2	2	8
Wringing Machine Repairers	1	2	2
Electric Fitting Repairers	1	2	2
Disinfectant Manufacturers	1	1	2
Coach Builders	2	8	7
Motor Repairers	2	4	9
Stonemasons	2	1	4

All the Workshops and Workplaces on the Register were regularly inspected, with the result as shown in the Summary which follows :

8 Notices were sent to H.M. Inspector of Factories in accordance with the various requirements of the Act.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS
OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries.)	96	10	1*
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries.)	1131	68	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	94	1	1
Total	1321	79	2

* Black Smoke.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	No. of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	32	32	—	—
Want of Ventilation	8	8	—	—
Overcrowding	3	3	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	2	2	—	—
Other Nuisances	31	31	—	—
<i>Sanitary Accommodation:</i>				
Insufficient	3	3	—	1
Unsuitable or Defective ..	—	—	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes ..	0	0	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i>				
Illegal Occupation of Under-ground Bakehouse (s. 101)	0	0	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100).	36	36	—	—
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report)	8	—	8	—
Total	123	115	8	1

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE SOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.				
	Lists Received from Employers.			Sending once in the year.			Addresses of Outworkers.		Prosecutions.			Inspection of Outworkers' Premises.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110.)	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110.)
	Sending twice in the year.		Sending once in the year.	Received from other Councils.		Forwarded to other Councils.	Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.		Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.								
	Lists.	Con-tractors (3)	Work-men (4)	Lists.	Con-tractors (6)	Work-men (7)	Received from other Councils. (8)	Forwarded to other Councils. (9)	Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists. (10)	Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists. (11)	Failing to send lists. (12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
Wearing Apparel ..	6	—	13	6	—	13	17	4	—	—	80	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
(1) Making, &c. ..																		
(2) Cleaning and Washing																		
Lace, lace curtains and nets																		
Artificial Flowers ..																		
Nets, other than wire nets..																		
Tents ..																		
Sacks ..																		
Furniture and Upholstery...																		
Fur pulling ..																		
Feather sorting ..																		
Umbrellas, &c. ..																		
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c																		
Paper bags and boxes ..																		
Basket making ..																		
Brush making ..																		
Racquet and tennis balls..																		
Stuffed toys ..																		
File making ..																		
Electro-plate ..																		
Cables and chains ..																		
Anchors and grapnels ..																		
Cart gear ..																		
Locks, latches and keys...																		
Pea picking ..																		
Totals ..	6	—	13	6	—	13	17	4	—	—	80	2	2	—	—	—	—	—

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—	Number.
General Workshops	178
Bakehouses, including Confectioners' Bakehouses.. .. .	106
Laundries	24
Total number of Workshops on Register	308

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	8
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)..	8
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	13
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ..	1
Other	—
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	16
In use at the end of the year	16

Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were 106 Bakehouses in occupation, of which 16 were underground.

These places have been regularly inspected, and were, on the whole, kept in a cleanly condition, although in several instances it has been necessary to serve notices or to write letters complaining of the conditions prevailing in certain of them. In some instances better provision for the washing of the bakers' hands should be provided.

During the year, considerable structural alterations have been made in four Bakehouses in accordance with notices served by this Department. They are :—

72, ST. PAUL'S ROAD :—

Two rooms knocked into one, and better provision made for lighting, ventilation and means of cleansing.

101, VICTORIA ROAD, SEACOMBE :—

Cellar used as flour store; walls repaired, floor concreted, improved means of ventilation provided, in addition prism lights instead of dilapidated windows, castors on troughs.

RAKE LANE :—

Space over Oven built over ; division put between firing place and Bakehouse proper.

38, VICTORIA ROAD, SEACOMBE :—

The use of the old Bakehouse (which was too small for the requirements) was discontinued, and in its stead a large modern Bakehouse built.

A few of the existing Bakehouses have been in use a very long time, and are not up to modern requirements. When the tenancies of the present occupiers cease, I think objection ought to be taken to their continued use.

Seats for Shop Assistants Act.

Under the above Act, the title of which reveals its object, the following work has been done :—

No. of shops visited	660.
----------------------	----	----	------

Notices to provide seats were sent in two instances, and both were complied with. The remainder were already provided with seats.

Wallasey Early Closing Order 1906.

The following work has been carried out under the above Order which fixes the hours for closing certain trades each day :—

No. of Visits of Inspection	..	118
No. of Contraventions	..	10
No. of Letters Written	..	—
No. of Prosecutions	..	2

Some amount of dissatisfaction exists in certain trades with regard to this Order, and an attempt has been made to obtain its revocation, a local enquiry by an official of the Home Office having been held, the result of which is not yet known.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

There are 30 Cowsheds on the Register.

The number of Cows in the registered sheds at the end of December was 125.

The Cowsheds have been regularly inspected throughout the year, and an attempt has been made to secure systematic grooming of the cows, the washing of the udders, and the cleansing of the milkers'

hands before milking. A great improvement has been manifested in all these matters, but several cowsheds are very old and dark and ill-ventilated, and the general conditions prevailing are not such as are "necessary or proper for the health or good condition of the cattle therein," nor for the protection of the milk against infection or contamination. Others of the cowsheds are purely temporary buildings, and while they may comply with the letter of the existing regulations they can hardly be described as satisfactory. Some of the shippons again are modern, and are satisfactory in every way.

Having regard to the fact that a new Milk Bill was promised last year, and to the fact that our Regulations will require to be amended, with the approval of the Board of Agriculture (a procedure which would have taken some little time), I thought it expedient to wait for the new Milk Bill, which, however, did not arrive.

My efforts have, consequently, been directed not so much with structural alterations in Shippons, as to insist on the greater cleanliness of the cows and milkers, and the provision of proper receptacles for manure. Entirely new receptacles, made of brick and cement, and rendered watertight, have been supplied in 3 instances.

In addition to the Milk samples examined by the Public Analyst with regard to the quality of the Milk, I have taken 15 samples for bacteriological examination, with the idea of their being examined for the presence of the bacillus tuberculosis and filth organisms. The result of the examination is as follows :—

No. of samples sent.	Filth organisms found in	Bacillus Tuberculosis found in
15	15	0

The figures do not speak favourably for the manner in which the Milk is produced.

All the affected shippons have been constantly re-visited, and there is no doubt that a considerable improvement has taken place.

In addition to the above dairies there are 102 shops registered for the sale of milk, in many of which paraffin oil, potatoes and other dusty things are sold. It is my intention to take action with regard to these at an early date.

Meat Inspection.

There are 4 registered Slaughter-houses, and 3 licensed Slaughter-houses, in addition to those at the Wallasey and Alfred Lairages.

The following are approximately, the number of animals slaughtered :—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.	Total.
Private Slaughter Houses	832	6,240	4,160	832	12,064
*Wallasey & Alfred Lairages	8,620	79,004	..	..	87,624
Totals.....	9,452	85,244	4,160	832	99,688

*These figures are supplied by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

TABLE SHEWING AMOUNT OF TUBERCULOUS MEAT SEIZED AND DESTROYED.

	Private Slaughter Houses.		Lairages.	
BEEF	13 carcasses	3 quarters	1 carcase	3 quarters
MUTTON	—	—	2 carcasses	—
PORK	11 carcasses	—	—	—
LAMB	1 carcase	—	—	—
TOTAL	25 carcasses	3 quarters	3 carcasses	3 quarters

AMOUNT SEIZED AND DESTROYED FOR OTHER CAUSES.

	Private Slaughter Houses.		Lairages.	
	Carcases.	Quarters.	Carcases.	Quarters.
BEEF	17	9	1	3
MUTTON	8	—	22	2
PORK	23	—	—	—
LAMB	2	—	—	—
VEAL	6	—	—	—
TOTAL	56	9	23	5

NOTE.—Not only were inspections made at Slaughter Houses, but at all shops where food is sold. For detailed information see page 66.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

MR. LAIRD'S REPORT *re* WORK CARRIED OUT IN WALLASEY IN 1908.

“ From Table I. it will be seen that 122 samples of various
 “ articles of food were analysed, and seven of these were reported
 “ either as adulterated or below the standard of quality; viz.,
 “ milk (5), rum (1), and yeast (1). The yeast was certified as
 “ adulterated with two per cent. of starch, and this amount was
 “ considered too small to warrant a prosecution. Special
 “ attention has been paid to the sampling of such important
 “ articles of food as butter and milk, and it is satisfactory to note
 “ that all the butter samples were found to be pure. The results
 “ obtained in the case of milk are not quite so satisfactory, but
 “ I think they will bear comparison with those obtained in any
 “ similar district to Wallasey, as although five samples—out of
 “ 70—were reported as adulterated, the extent of adulteration
 “ was in no case high, and it was only considered advisable to
 “ prosecute in two out of the five cases.

“ Particulars of the prosecutions are shown on Table II.
 herewith

TABLE I.

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST
 FROM THE WALLASEY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDING
 DECEMBER 31ST, 1908.

Name of Sample.	No. of Samples.	No. of Samples certified as Adulterated.
Butter	32	—
Coffee	4	—
Flour	3	—
Gin	1	—
Milk	70	5
Rum	2	1
Sugar	1	—
Whiskey	7	—
Yeast, German	2	1
Totals	122	7

NOTE.—Three samples of Margarine were also purchased, and these were served in properly marked wrappers as required by the Act.

PARTICULARS OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS
ACTS IN THE WALLASEY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1908.

TABLE II.

No.	NATURE OF OFFENCE.	RESULT OF PROSECUTION.
1	Selling Milk having a deficiency of 10 per cent. in its fat	Ordered to pay 9s. 6d. costs.
2	Selling Milk having a deficiency of 10 per cent. in its fat	
3	Selling Rum 35 degrees under proof ..	Finued 40s. together with 14s. 6d. costs.

Offensive Trades.

The offensive trades are as follows :—

Trade.	No. of Visits.
Knacker's Yard and Manure Manufacturer	266

266 visits have been paid to these, and wherever a nuisance was discovered, suitable action was taken.

Water Statistics for 1908.

Volume of Water supplied from first of January, 1908, to 31st December, 1908, 818,477,985 gallons, made up as follows :—

From Wells at Liscard	631,539,985 Galls.
From Vyrnwy	186,938,000 „
Average supplied per day	2,236,279 „
Average Consumption per day per head	32.41 „
Divided as follows :—	
Supplied by Meter	6.87 Galls.
Supplied to Shipping .. .. .	.17 „
Watering Streets and Road Making .. .. .	.44 „
Flushing Sewers by Hose and Cart.. .. .	.26 „
Domestic and other purposes, including Drinking Fountains	24.67 „

The quantity of water used for Flushing Sewers and Drains during the year was 6,518,000 gallons.

Summary of General Sanitary Work.

WORK OF THE LADY SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING 1908.

Number of Houses visited	3,273
Do. found dirty	394
Do. families visited	3,816
Do. do. re-visited	2,122
Do. Notices sent to Occupiers for dirty floors and bedding	114
Do. Notices sent to Occupiers for overcrowding	13
Do. do. Owners do. do.	1
Do. do. do. defective sash cords	7
Do. do. complied with	135
Do. References to Sanitary Inspectors	270
Do. do. other Departments	77
Do. Enquiry visits	258
Do. Visits to cases of minor infectious diseases notified by the Elementary Education Authority	99
Do. Sub-let houses visited	323
Do. do. found dirty	75
Do. do. do. overcrowded	9
Do. other infringements	82
Do. Routine visits to Midwives	106
Do. Enquiries <i>re</i> Still-births	26
Do. visits under Midwives' Act	294
Do. schools visited	26
Do. school cases visited	29
Do. visits <i>re</i> registered births	1,992
Do. do. infant deaths	184
Do. do. to Workshops	120
Do. do. Outworkers	43
Do. Special visits <i>re</i> Diarrhoea cases	34

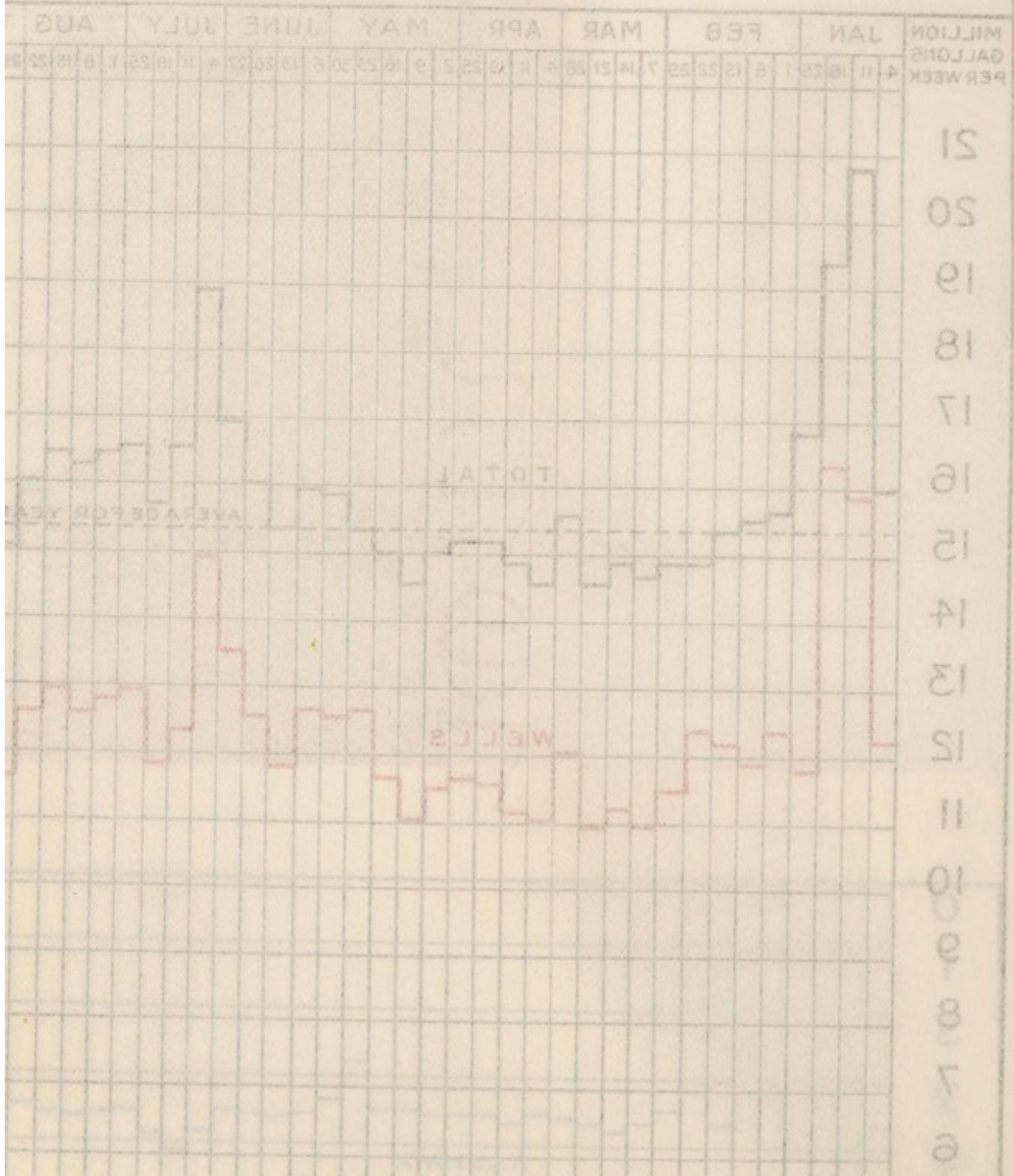
These inspections are in addition to those included in the other summaries.

DIAGRAM SHOWING WEEKLY SUPPLY

INDEX

BLACK LINE = TOTAL WEEKLY SUPPLY
 RED " = WEEKLY SUPPLY FROM WELLS
 BLUE " = " " " " " "

WEEKLY SUPPLY OF WATER



WORK OF THE INSPECTORS DURING 1908.

NUISANCES.

Number of houses found in a dirty condition	224
" " " in an overcrowded condition	11
" " " with defective, insufficient or choked drains ..	831
" " " without supply of water for drinking, domestic or sanitary purposes	139
" " " with defective or insufficient W.C. basins, flushing cisterns, putty joints, traps, waste- pipes, soil-pipes and/or channelings ..	1,745
" " " with defective yard or passage surfaces ..	441
" " " with defective floors	97
" " " vacant or insecure against misuse by general public	5
" " " with damp or defective walls	107
" " " with defective roofs, gutters and downspouts..	577
" " " without proper and sufficient ashpits or ashbins	536
" " " with dirty yard surfaces	46
" " " with offensive accumulations requiring removal	130
Number of offensive ditches and ponds requiring cleansing	11
" animals kept so as to be a nuisance	31
" matters referred to other Departments	430
" informations laid in respect of nuisances	2
" Magistrates' Orders obtained	—
" convictions	2
Amount of fines and costs	19/-

SMOKE NUISANCES.

STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT SMOKE NUISANCES.

Number of observations made	48
" Notices served in respect of black smoke	7
" Informations laid in default of compliance with Notice ..	1
" Informations laid in default of compliance with Order	
Amount of Fines and Costs .. .. .	..9s. 6d.

BYE-LAWS WITH RESPECT TO NUISANCES.

Number of stable yards inspected	1,701
" notices served to empty manure pits	32
" informations laid in default of compliance with notice ..	0

Amount of Fines and Costs	—
Number of Stable yards without manure pits	7
„ notices served to provide manure pits	7
„ notices served to provide stables with sufficient paving and/or drainage	31

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Number of preliminary notices issued for the abatement of nuisances ...	2,248
„ Statutory Notices issued	203

CANAL BOAT INSPECTION.

The number of Boats inspected in 1908 was 345.

INFRINGEMENTS :—

Registration	1
Notification of change of Master	—
Certificates	6
Marking	10
Overcrowding	—
Cleanliness	—
Ventilation	1
Painting	4
Provision of Water Cask	4
Separation of the Sexes	—
Removal of Bilge Water	—
Notification of Infectious Disease	—
Admittance of Inspector	—
Name of Owner on Certificates	1
Sleeping Berths unprotected from dirt and weather	3
Defective Deck Seams	4
Notices sent in respect of infringements	25
Cases of Infectious Disease dealt with, and measures of isolation adopted	—
Detention of Boats for cleansing and disinfection	—

Legal proceedings were not taken in any case.

The Council is not a Registration Authority.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Milkshops on Register	102
„ shippens with Milkstores attached	30
„ inspections made	552
„ notices served for defects.. .. .	1
„ notices complied with	1
„ notices served <i>re</i> utensils and covering of milk vessels	0
„ notices served requiring the removal of manure	0
„ notices served requiring liming or cleansing	1

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Number of workshops on Register	111
„ visits made	422
„ re-visits made	39
„ workshops found defective	—
„ workrooms with dirty walls	16
„ „ with dirty ceilings	16
„ „ with dirty floors	4
„ „ with dirty lavatories	—
„ „ not properly ventilated	8
„ „ found overcrowded	3
„ defective drains and water-closets	19
„ miscellaneous defects found	—
„ notices issued on occupiers	30
„ „ „ on owners	9
„ references to the Factory Inspector	8

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	40
„ of visits made	302
„ re-visits	53
„ bakehouses found dirty (walls and ceilings)	15
„ notices issued for limewashing	10
„ bakehouses limewashed without notice	5
„ notices issued for defective drainage	2
„ „ „ „ walls and floors	6
„ „ „ to repair defective ceilings	1
„ „ „ cleanse tables, utensils, etc.	2
„ „ „ to clean areas	4
„ references to Factory Inspector	—

CONFECTIONERY BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	56
„ of visits made	234
„ re-visits	12
„ found dirty (walls and ceilings)	18
„ notices issued for limewashing	18
„ „ „ defective drainage	3
„ „ „ to cleanse floors, utensils, etc.	4

OUTWORKERS.

Number of Outworkers on Register	20
„ visits made to houses of outworkers	80
„ re-visits	6
„ notices served for sanitary defects at houses of workers	—
„ unwholesome premises	2
„ dirty walls and ceilings	2
„ notices complied with	4
„ outworkers employed in Wallasey for Liverpool Firms—	
Tailors	2
Tailoresses	7
Dressmakers	6
„ outworkers employed in Liverpool for Wallasey Firms—	
Tailors	4
Tailoresses	—
Dressmakers	—

WALLASEY EARLY CLOSING ORDER.

Number of shops visited by day	24
„ „ „ night	94
„ instances in which provisions of the Act were found not to be complied with	10
„ persons warned for contravening Act	10
„ informations laid	2
Amount of fines and costs	10/-

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS.

Number of shops affected	188
„ assistants employed	217
„ seats provided	195
„ visits	554

FOOD INSPECTION.

Amount of Meat seized at the Wallasey and Alfred Lairages and destroyed
as unfit for human food 27,936 lbs.

The detailed amount is made up as follows:—

Beef	1,282 lbs.
Mutton	1,014 lbs.
Veal	1,039 lbs.
Offal	24,601 lbs.

Total 27,936 lbs.

INSPECTION OF CATTLE PENS.

Number of visits paid during the year 2,929

SHOP INSPECTION.

Amount of meat, etc., seized in small quantities and destroyed as unfit
for human food 1200 lbs.

Number of visits to premises where meats are prepared for sale .. 1,968

Number of inspections of hawkers' carts and baskets 568

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE INSPECTION.

Number of visits to Private Slaughter-Houses 1,399

Amount of Meat, etc., seized and destroyed as unfit for human food.. 15,916 lbs.,
consisting of:

Beef	10,423 lbs.
Mutton	793 lbs.
Veal	480 lbs.
Offal	2,486 lbs.
Pork	1,734 lbs.

Total 15,916 lbs.

INSPECTION OF ICE CREAM CARTS.

Number of visits to premises where Ice-cream is manufactured or sold.. 73

UNFENCED EXCAVATIONS.

Number of quarries found in an unfenced condition 3

„ Notices served to provide proper fences 3

SPECIAL COMPLAINTS.

Number of special complaints received and dealt with 1,200

HOUSES WITH INSUFFICIENT ASHPITS.

Number of houses found without sufficient ashpits or ashbins 536
 „ offensive ashpits abolished 88

DRAIN TESTING.

Number of houses at which drains or branches have been specially tested
 by means of smoke or water 386

EXAMINATION OF UNDERGROUND DRAINS.

Number of applications made to Council under Section 41 of the Public
 Health Act, 1875, to lay bare pipes and traps 43

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of inspections paid to premises used for knackering or fat boiling
 purposes 266

MARINE STORE INSPECTION.

Number of premises entered on Register 8
 „ inspections 171
 „ offensive conditions discovered at time of visit, and for which
 notices were served 18

PETROLEUM INSPECTION.

Number of persons licensed to store Petrol, etc. 16
 „ inspections 37
 „ contraventions discovered (non-renewal of licences) 9

GAME LICENCES.

Number of tradesmen licensed to deal in Game 12

INSPECTION OF TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Number of visits paid to various encampments at Wallasey	24
--	----

DISINFECTION.

Number of Houses disinfected after fevers	256
.. .. . phthisis	25
.. .. . other diseases	9
.. .. . vermin, etc.	1
.. Schools disinfected	1
.. Books from Public, Private or School Libraries disinfected..	240

LIST OF ARTICLES DISINFECTED.

Number of Mattresses	181
.. Beds	591
.. Pillows and bolsters	1,062
.. Blankets	887
.. Quilts	606
.. Sheets	495
.. Articles of wearing apparel	3,435
.. Carpets	48
.. Miscellaneous articles	1,125
Total	8,430

The following is a list of the articles destroyed by request of owners after infectious disease :—

Number of Mattresses	8
.. Beds	21
.. Pillows and bolsters	16
.. Blankets	2
.. Quilts	4
.. Sheets	4
.. Articles of wearing apparel	46
.. Miscellaneous articles	15
Total	116

FLUSHING.

The work of Flushing the Drains from house to house in various parts of the district, has been continuously carried out by four gangs of men throughout the year.

HOUSE TO HOUSE WORK.

Number of streets visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,097
„ houses visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38,716
„ yard W.C.'s flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38,004
„ yard gullies flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113,995
„ drains found choked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,385
„ drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,949

SPECIAL FLUSHING IN INFECTIOUS CASES.

Number of streets visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	430
„ houses visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,124
„ yard W.C.'s flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,124
„ yard gullies flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,356
„ drains found choked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
„ drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84

FLUSHING OF SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ETC.

Number of Streets visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	236
„ schools, public buildings, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	322
„ yard W.C.'s flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,663
„ yard gullies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,871
„ drains found choked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	453
„ drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	451

NUMBER OF PASSAGES SPECIALLY FLUSHED DURING THE HOT WEATHER.. 286

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*	
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Residents and Non-residents Number.	Rate.*						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1898.	46,800	1,319	28.18	221	167.5	774	16.53	46	} Figures not available.				
1899.	49,000	1,476	30.12	241	163.2	788	16.08	41					
1900.	52,000	1,568	30.15	208	132.6	860	16.53	51					
1901.	54,000	1,534	28.40	219	142.7	773	14.31	67					
1902.	55,000	1,579	28.70	172	108.9	753	13.69	71		5	32	752	13.60
1903.	56,000	1,612	28.78	183	113.5	765	13.66	59		5	53	813	14.51
1904.	57,000	1,678	29.43	265	157.9	882	15.47	53		4	60	938	16.49
1905.	58,500	1,657	28.32	163	98.9	748	12.78	79		3	49	772	13.19
1906.	62,000	1,716	27.67	201	117.1	824	13.29	67		3	66	887	14.30
1907.	67,000	1,763	26.31	181	101.5	837	12.49	62		1	60	876	13.07
Averages for years 1898-1907.	55,730	1,590	28.60	205	130.4	800	14.48	59		3 AV. for 6 yrs.	53 AV. for 6 yrs.	839 AV. for 6 yrs.	14.19 AV. for 6 yrs.
1908.	71,000	1,738	24.4	176	101.4	874	12.3	75		5	59	1906	12.7

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

† Excluding the deaths of 22 Visitors who did not die in public institutions.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 3,469. Total population at all ages at Census of 1901 53,580. Number of inhabited houses, 1901 Census, 10,778. Average number of persons per house, 4.97 at Census of 1901.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in Wallasey in 1908 and previous Years.

YEAR.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				POULTON-CUM-SEACOMBE.				LISCARD.				WALLASEY.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1898..	46,800	1,319	774	221	19,400	645	342	..	24,000	566	383	..	3,400	108	49	..
1899..	49,000	1,476	788	241	19,820	690	343	..	25,680	676	385	..	3,500	110	60	..
1900..	52,000	1,568	860	208	20,100	723	381	..	28,000	721	410	..	3,900	124	69	..
1901..	54,000	1,534	773	219	20,900	673	355	..	28,900	733	370	..	4,200	128	51	..
1902..	55,000	1,579	753	172	21,000	721	318	82	29,340	735	381	71	4,660	125	54	19
1903..	56,000	1,612	813	183	21,230	706	318	90	29,900	763	425	84	4,870	143	70	10
1904..	57,000	1,678	938	265	21,470	780	381	143	30,400	760	484	100	5,130	138	73	22
1905..	58,500	1,657	772	163	21,660	758	305	75	31,305	750	392	73	5,535	149	75	15
1906..	62,000	1,716	824	201	22,475	798	319	103	33,750	776	432	86	5,775	142	73	12
1907..	67,000	1,763	876	181	24,000	819	374	85	36,200	779	461	83	6,800	165	61	13
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907. ..	55,730	1,590	817	205	21,205	731	344	96 Av. for 6 yrs.	29,748	726	412	83 Av. for 6 yrs.	4,777	133	61	15 Av. for 6 yrs.
1908..	71,000	1,738	906	176	25,934	806	371	92	37,202	764	465	74	7,864	168	70	10

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table are areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts.
 (b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are included in sub-columns c of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")
 (c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.
 (d) The gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.; thus, the totals of sub-columns a, b, and c agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.; the gross total of the sub-columns c agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns d with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease in Wallasey notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1 Poulton-cum-S'combe.	2 Liscard, Wallasey	3 Poulton-cum-S'combe.	H 1	2 Liscard, Wallasey	H 3	Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.							
Small-pox	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	72	12	42	10	7	..	22	46	4	15	34	..	49	
Erysipelas	32	1	5	1	18	6	19	11	2	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	248	60	147	30	11	..	98	132	18	82	80	12	174	
Typhus Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	34	1	10	8	15	..	10	22	2	11	13	1	25	
Relapsing Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	3	..	..	..	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Totals	391	74	205	49	55	6	152	213	26	109	130	14	253	

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table are the same as those in Tables II. and IV.
 Isolation Hospitals: Mill Lane Hospital (Poulton); Leasowe Road Smallpox Hospital (Wallasey); latter not used in 1907;
 "North Meade House" (Seacombe), used for part of 1908 for housing Smallpox Contacts.

plus 1 Rock Ferry Case
 254

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death in Wallasey during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.			Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	P'ton-cum-S'co'tbe	Lis-card.	Wal-lasey.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	27	8	17	2	..	..	..	14	13	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	10	..	5	5	..	..	..	7	3	..	9
Whooping-cough ..	21	11	8	2	..	..	..	7	12	2	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	8	..	4	4	..	..	..	2	6	..	4
Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus	4	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	3	..	1
Euteric											
Other cont'd ..											
Epidemic influenza..	14	..	..	..	1	4	9	7	6	1	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea	17	12	4	..	..	..	1	13	4	..	..
Enteritis	18	11	3	1	..	2	1	9	9	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Erysipelas	3	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	..
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis.) ..	58	..	..	2	4	49	3	24	28	6	2
Other tuberculous diseases ..	35	10	8	4	4	8	1	18	16	1	..
Cancer, malignant disease	57	1	..	..	1	29	26	19	36	2	5
Bronchitis	56	6	7	1	1	16	25	23	32	1	1
Pneumonia	88	14	27	4	3	30	10	37	42	9	7
Pleurisy	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Alcoholism	14	..	..	..	..	10	4	4	10	..	1
Cirrhosis of Liver }											
Venereal diseases ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Premature Birth ..	36	36	..	..	..	..	..	20	14	2	..
Diseases & accidents of parturition ..	7	1	..	..	..	6	..	6	1	..	..
Heart diseases ..	91	2	3	..	1	43	42	32	46	13	2
Accidents	23	6	4	2	2	5	4	14	6	3	4
Suicides	7	..	..	..	1	6	..	5	2	..	..
Old age	46	..	..	..	..	..	46	15	29	2	..
Not certified.. ..	22	11	1	1	..	4	5	8	11	3	..
All other causes ..	238	44	16	9	8	82	79	83	132	23	39
TOTALS	906	176	108	37	27	298	260	372	465	69	75

TABLE V.
Infantile Mortality during the year 1908 in Wallasey.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
	ALL CAUSES	34	6	6	8	54	19	11	6	10	15	7	15	9	5	4	10	165
	3	..	1	..	4	..	..	1	3	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	11
Common Infectious Diseases.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria: Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea, all forms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	24	4	2	5	35	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Congenital Defects ..	5	1	1	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Injury at Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Want of Breast Milk, Starvation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	4	..	..	..	4	2	5	1	3	3	1	4	1	..	1	..	25
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tubes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mesenterica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions ..	..	1	1	2	4	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation (overlying) ..	2	..	1	..	3	1	1	1	2	..	1	3	2	..	..	2	15
Other Causes ..	2	..	1	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
	37	6	7	8	58	19	11	7	13	15	7	17	9	5	5	10	176

Population estimated to middle of 1908, 71,000.
 Births in the year—Legitimate, 1684, Illegitimate, 54—1,738. Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 165; illegitimate infants, 11.
 Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 906.

APPENDIX.

Copy of Circular Letter sent with respect to Manure Pits.

WALLASEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

EGREMONT, CHESHIRE.

DEAR SIR,

Flies in summer time have always been looked upon as a nuisance. As the result of scientific investigation, proof is rapidly accumulating that they are not only a nuisance, but a real danger to health, inasmuch as they carry the germs of disease to food, and from place to place. It is very desirable, therefore, that the number of flies should be lessened as far as possible. The favourite breeding places of flies are horse-manure heaps. The flies lay eggs there, from which eggs, under favourable circumstances, mature flies are developed in about ten days. Manure, therefore, which is allowed to remain longer than that period is a danger to health. I, therefore, ask for your co-operation with respect to the complete regular weekly removal of dung from your premises, and the thorough cleansing of the manure-pit after such removal.

Yours faithfully,

W. N. BARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

Measles.

Copy of Leaflet left at House.

ADVICE TO PARENTS.

Measles is spread often by the great carelessness of some parents, often by ignorance of the precautions necessary. The popular idea that Measles is a "trifling disease," and "the sooner the children have it and get it over the better," is a very wrong one. The facts are:—

1. Measles kills every year more than twice as many children as Scarlet Fever does, and therefore cannot be said to be a trifling disease.
2. Nearly all the deaths from Measles occur in the first five years of life, most in the first and second years, a decreasing number in third, fourth and fifth, practically none occurring in children over five years of age.

These facts show:—

- (a) How necessary it is to protect the very young from Measles.
 - (b) That the longer children are protected from the disease the less likely they are to die when attacked.
 - (c) That children should not be put together so that all may take Measles, but it is the duty of parents to prevent the disease from spreading among members of their families.
3. Children get sore eyes, running from ears, bronchitis and consumption, after Measles. Proper care at the time of attack will often prevent years of after suffering, to say nothing of expense.
 4. Measles begins like a cold in the head, sneezing, running from eyes and nose, &c. When, therefore, Measles is about, a child thus affected should be isolated at once, without waiting for the rash to appear, as it is especially infectious during this period. The rash appears on the fourth day, and if the child has not been isolated, it may have given the disease to hundreds of children in those four days.

5. A child attacked by Measles should be put by itself, and a fire lighted in the room. If the child cannot be kept by itself, every parent should see that such child does not go into the street, and that other children are not allowed in the house.
6. When a case of Measles occurs in a house all the children under seven years of age attending the Infants' Department of the School should be kept at home and apart from other children until at least 16 days have passed since the last child took the disease.
7. Children attacked with Measles should be kept in bed until all cough has disappeared, and for at least a week after the rash has gone in.
8. No child who has had Measles should attend School or mix with other children for at least three weeks.
9. Sunlight and fresh air are among the best disinfectants. Infected rooms should have the windows thrown widely open for two or three days after being occupied by the patient. All bedding and clothing should be washed with a disinfectant and hung in the open air. The floors of the room should also be washed with a disinfectant.
10. By the exercise of common sense and care a vast amount of sickness, suffering, and loss of life, can be prevented.

T. W. N. BARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

Whooping-Cough.

Copy of Leaflet left at House.

ADVICE TO PARENTS.

Whooping-cough is often spread by the great carelessness of some parents, often by ignorance of the precautions necessary. The popular

idea that Whooping-Cough is a trifling disease is a wrong one. Your attention to the following information is requested :—

1. Whooping-Cough kills every year more than twice as many children as Scarlet Fever, and nearly twice as many as Diphtheria, and therefore cannot be said to be a trifling disease.
2. Nearly all the deaths from Whooping-Cough occur in the first five years of life, most in the first year, a decreasing number in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th years, practically none occurring in children over 5 years of age.

These facts show :—

- (a) That the longer children escape Whooping-Cough the less likely they are to die when attacked by it.
 - (b) How necessary it is to protect young children from the disease, and how careful parents ought to be, not only to prevent the disease spreading among the members of their own families, but also to children of other families.
3. Whooping begins like an ordinary cold in the head, accompanied by a short cough. After a few days the child has long fits of coughing, ending with a long drawn "whoop," often with vomiting. Bleeding from the nose and bloodshot eyes may accompany the fit of coughing.
 4. When, therefore, Whooping-Cough is about, children showing ANY SIGNS OF A COLD IN THE HEAD SHOULD BE KEPT HOME FROM SCHOOL AND APART FROM OTHER CHILDREN. Should Whooping-Cough develop, all children under seven in that house should be kept away from school for at least six weeks, as well as any other older children who have not had the disease.
 5. The child suffering from Whooping-Cough should be put by itself, and a fire lighted in the room. If this is impossible, every parent should see that the child does not go out into the street, and that other children are not allowed in the house.

6. Children are liable to Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Consumption after Whooping-Cough. It is especially when the severity of the attack is over that children take Bronchitis and Pneumonia. Great care should therefore be taken at this time that children should not catch cold, and if the child has a cough of any kind in the intervals between the severe fits of coughing, that child should be kept in a warm room, and on no account allowed out of doors.
7. Owing to frequent vomiting, children suffering from Whooping-Cough often get very thin. It is essential, therefore, that they should have plenty of nourishing food, such as milk, and if old enough, eggs and good soup, with cod liver oil.
8. Seek medical advice early.
9. Infected rooms should have the windows thrown widely open for two or three days after being occupied by the patient. All clothing and bedding should be washed with a disinfectant and hung in the open air. The floors of the room should also be washed with a disinfectant.
10. By the exercise of common sense and care a vast amount of sickness, suffering, and loss of life can be prevented.

T. W. N. BARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.



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